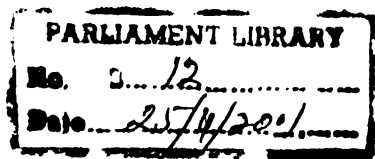


# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Third Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. VI contains Nos. 21 to 30)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Friday, May 5, 2000/Vaisakha 15, 1922 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

#### Shortage of Coal Stocks in Coal Mines

\*561. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any shortfall in the coal stocks of the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) has been found;

(b) if so, the number of cases of shortage in coal stocks detected in various coal mines of CCL and BCCL during the last three years and the current year alongwith the number of persons penalised in this regard;

(c) the existing rules to penalise the guilty officers/employees for the shortage in the coal stocks; and

(d) the measures taken so far by the Government to check the irregularities in the coal stocks?

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

#### Statement

(a) During the last three years of 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, coal stock shortages to the extent of 18.00 lakh tonnes of coal in 24 collieries of BCCL and 0.14 lakh tonne of coal in 2 collieries of CCL were detected.

(b) For the above cases of coal stock shortages, 4 employees of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and 64 employees of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) were proceeded against. While the disciplinary cases against 4 employees of CCL are continuing, penalties were imposed and administrative action taken against 8 employees of BCCL. As regards the remaining employees of BCCL, cases against 7 of them were closed, 13 of them were

exonerated and cases against 36 employees are in progress.

(c) Whenever there is shortage of more than 5% and the absolute quantum of shortage is more than 1,000 tonnes, disciplinary action is initiated against the delinquent employees as per the relevant provisions of the Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules, 1978 applicable to executives of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries. For the non-executive employees, disciplinary action is taken as per the certified standing orders applicable to the employee concerned.

(d) To check the irregularities in the coal stock following steps have been taken:

- (i) Monthly measurement of coal stock at colliery level.
- (ii) Quarterly measurement of coal stock by the area level teams.
- (iii) Half yearly measurement of coal stock by respective company headquarter level teams.
- (iv) Annual measurement of coal stock of all the mines of CIL, from CIL level coal inventory teams.
- (v) Checking measurement of around 10% of the stock measurement at the mines being carried out by engaging outside personnel i.e. team leaders and surveyors from M/s. Indian Bureau of Mines, M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited and M/s. Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited who have competent personnel for this specialised job.
- (vi) Check measurement to check the credibility of measuring team in case of units having large stocks.
- (vii) The pit head stocks have been reduced to around normative level in order to have better management stock. In CCL, stocks holding came down to 5.05 million tonnes in 1996-97 to 4.34 million tonnes in 1999-2000. Similarly at BCCL, stocks holding came down from 5.38 million tonnes during 1997-98 to 3.28 million tonnes in 1999-2000 and in ECL, from 4.30 million tonnes in 1998-99 to 3.06 million tonnes in 1999-2000.

- (viii) Installation of electronic rail weighbridges with print out as well as road weighbridges whereby now around 90% of total despatches are passing through weighbridges.
- (ix) It has been decided to engage an outside independent agency as a consultant for the year 2000-01 to suggest accounting system relating to coal stocks.

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister to part (b), (c) and (d) of my question. My supplementary question is whether a total of 49 lakh tonnes of coal shortage was written off in January, 1991 and higher officers were not punished despite framing a code in January, 1992. The coal shortage rose to 65 lakh tonnes as on 1.4.95 due to the violation of the recommendation of R.N. Mishra Committee and CCL vigilance. Even after a lapse of approximately five years, no action has been taken against the guilty officers and they were chargesheeted only after being promoted? If so, what is the punishment given to the guilty officers postwise in each of the CCL project in light of the existing rules and the recommendations of the Committee.

**PROF. RITA VERMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring in the knowledge of the hon. Member that his question relates to 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and R.N. Mishra Committee Report referred by him came earlier than that. The R.N. Mishra Committee Report gave its recommendations about BCCL in 1993, about CCL in 1994 and about ECL in 1995. Action was taken on the report of the Committee and the replies in regard to those will be sent to the hon. M.P. separately. His question relates to the inquiry into the stock shortage of BCCL. Inquiry was also conducted into the matter of 27th August, 1992 and the report on it was received in 1993. Action was initiated against 222 officials after the recommendations of the Committee were received. Action was taken against 220, out of which major penalty was imposed on 41 persons, minor penalty was imposed on 45 persons. A total of 86 persons of BCCL were penalised. Proceedings were initiated against 190 officials in CCL, action was taken against 166 out of which 41 persons were penalised with minor penalty and five with major penalties. A total of 46 officials were penalised. Besides, I can also give whatever information the hon. Member wants.

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know at what level of officers action was taken? Whether it was against the officers of the Manager rank, under Manager rank or the officers of CMD Director level?

The code which has been mentioned in the R.N. Mishra Committee Report pertains to this matter and it was formed at that time only and it is formed on that basis but no action was taken on its basis. The action which should have been taken on that basis is nil.

**PROF. RITA VERMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring to the notice of hon. M.P. that the complaints regarding the stock shortage have kept on coming from time to time and similarly the Committees which look into these complaints too have been constituted on that basis from time to time. If we take all the committees simultaneously, the matter will become very complicated.

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER:** What action has been taken in this regard?

*[Translation]*

**PROF. RITA VERMA:** As far as the question of the hon. Member regarding R.N. Mishra Committee report is concerned where he has sought to know the rank and file of the officers against whom action has been taken. I would like to tell that action has been taken against very senior officer too. Two officers of G.M. rank have been dismissed and action is being taken against the officers of lower level also. I have a very long list of those officers against whom action has been taken. It would be very difficult for me to read out that entire list here but I will send the reply of the question asked by hon. Member and a copy of this list to him. To apprise him about this matter I would like to tell him that officers at both the levels i.e. junior and senior levels have been punished.

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:** The second supplementary of my question is that...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** No, you please sit down. You can ask only one supplementary which you have asked.

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, CCL has been running into losses for the last three years...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go into record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in her reply that the action is being taken against 36 employees. I would like to know the nature of the action being taken and the time since when it is going on. The high officials of collieries are doing side business and have nexus with coal mafia and are protecting them when the senior level officers are engaged in such activities does the Government intend to set up a high level committee or a parliamentary committee to probe into the matter.

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the concern expressed by the hon. Member. He is right in saying that such kind of complaints have been coming over the years in which the major complaints revolve around the issues of over-writing, stock-shortage and corruption. Such kinds of complaints have been coming continuously.

As far as our Government is concerned, we have already admitted what is happening there and fully agree with what the hon. Member has said though, keeping only this thing in mind, I conducted an inquiry into the stock-shortage of ECL and Singrauni unit and from time to time this process has been conducted through IRM. As this thing failed to settle the complaints, I have ordered to conduct an inquiry into it through an outside credible agency. I had been in the opposition and I have raised these matters several times myself, so I understand the sentiments of the hon. Member. The agency would make assessment for the entire one year and take all the aspects into account and then submit its report. I will present all those facts before the House which will be known after the inquiry. We do not want to conceal any thing. Why should we suffer for the mistake committed by others.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that all the hon. MP's of Bihar are aware as to how pilferage of coal is done and coal is illegally transported through trucks and rickshaws under the protection of the Government officers coal is produced in abundance while on the paper coal shortage is shown. What is the objection in conducting an inquiry into it through a parliamentary committee. We are witness to all kinds of scandals and irregularities then why is the Government

objecting to conducting an inquiry through a parliamentary Committee?

PROF. RITA VERMA: I do not have any objection for we have nothing to conceal. But let an outside agency which is technically qualified and is credible first conduct an inquiry into it on the basis of assessment of one year.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, with your permission, if I may say we are quite aware of the problem. It is just to assist my hon. colleague. Let me make it very clear that we are quite aware of the problem. In fact it is a very serious problem in the nationalised Coalfields. It is happening in the name of shortages of stock. By the way, what the Mishra Committee says is not safe. But I am personally not totally convinced about it. It is a serious situation. We decided to have a professional independent agency not only to look and take inventories, etc., independently but also create a system which is proper. In this House, I wish to make it clear that we will have a Committee of Members of Parliament to look into the proposed system because I think it is serious enough across the Party line to look into the matter, and the Consultant report can also be put before to this Committee which we will constitute.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This question of shortage of coal stock in Central Coalfields and Bharat Coking Coal Limited as well as in Eastern Coalfields is arising out of over-reporting of the stock where there is no production. In order to report in regard to production, the General Managers over-report. That problem was inquired into by Shri R.N. Mishra, former Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Eastern Coalfields Limited. He made certain recommendations. I know about some officers whose names were specifically mentioned in regard to over-reporting; and subsequently, coal stock was not found. There was specific recommendation to take action against those officials. After the recommendation of R.N. Mishra Committee, some of the officers have been given promotion. The GM became CGM and the Manager became General Manager. I can give the names. She is nodding her head. She also asked the same question.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please put the supplementary question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In 1978, the same question was asked by the Minister of State for Mines and Minerals. She also knows the names. The same

\* Not recorded.

question was asked in 1998. She also knows because what she is replying today is prepared by the Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please put the supplementary. There are other Members also. You please give opportunity to other Members also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In the reply also, it has been stated that this stock holding has come down from 5.05 million tonnes to 4.34 million tonnes. The target is 30 million tonnes. Out of 30 million tonnes, the stock holding is 4.34 million tonnes because this is going on for the last several years. A Parliamentary Committee also inquired into this. Sriballabh Panigrahi Committee also inquired into the over-reporting and shortage of coal stock. Other Committees also recommended it.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But no action has been taken on the recommendations of various Committees.

There is no need for any professionals because everyone knows what is happening in the coal industry and the coal companies. I want to know from the Minister whether the Government will act on the specific recommendations of the Mishra Committee and the other Committees to check cases of over-reporting which are still going on. I can mention them. The shortage of coal, over-reporting, pilferage and corruption in the coal companies are all there. Will the Government act on the specific recommendations?

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jaitleyji is sitting here. I am of the view that live telecast of Question Hour is done on DD-1 Channel on Doordarshan. If this telecast is stopped, hon. Members would ask the Question in brief.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Replies too will be short and brief.

PROF. RITA VERMA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the concern of hon. Member Shri Achariji and he is also aware that I have deeply thought over this subject and had asked several questions regarding it. If I want to give on one word reply to his question then it would be 'yes sir'. We all know that the dimension of this problem is very vast. I also know that the previous Governments have also made a lot of efforts in this regard, yet we have not been able to check this malady. Therefore, there is a proposal to constitute an independent agency in this regard. As far as your question of ECL

and implementation of the recommendations of Mishra Committee is concerned, I would like to tell you that the Mishra Committee had submitted its report on 31 January, 1997. To apprise you of the action being taken as per the recommendations of the report, I would like to tell you that major penalty has been imposed on 12 officers and a special inquiry was conducted into the acts of officer in charge of collieries, chitra A and chitra B and the guilty have been identified.

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How many have been discussed?

*[Translation]*

PROF. RITA VERMA: First, you listen to what I want to say. Departmental inquiry started in 33 cases was completed. Major penalty was imposed in 12 cases...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Madam, how will you answer your own question of 1998?

*[Translation]*

PROF. RITA VERMA: I am replying what he has asked for...*(Interruptions)* You ask him whether I am replying properly or not? He had asked about R.N. Mishra Committee, I am replying about it. Major penalty was imposed on 12 persons. The bungling which took place in Persia OPC, was also investigated. All the remaining cases have been mentioned in the 13.6 statement of the recommendations of the committee. That was also investigated. I would also like to tell that a system to combat the problem of stock shortage has been evolved in the light of the recommendations of the Panigrahi Committee. As all the members are becoming restive, hence I would like to tell in short that the Panigrahi Committee had recommended that as the variation below 5 per cent does not make big difference, hence no inquiry should be conducted if variations are below 5 per cent. If the shortage is above 5 per cent then the responsibility of Manager, Agent and General Manager should be fixed for this shortage. Disciplinary action should be taken against them as is provided in the Rules of Coal India in 1998. The hon. Member has just said that those who were indicated also got the promotion, this is neither the policy of Coal India and nor can such thing taken place. If you have any individual case please bring it to our notice. We will certainly take action on such cases.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now we are dealing with the first question. My question is at number seven which is very important.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the extent of damages that have taken place due to underground coal fires and what preventive measures are being taken to stop the recurrence of such incidents? Besides, there is a general complaint that the labourers working in collieries become afflicted with asthma. Do the Government have any information as to how many labourers have fallen victim to asthma? Are they being provided with medical aid and masks or not?

Thirdly, I want to know whether our technology has become obsolete. How much losses are being suffered due to it? How much coal is being damaged and how much sub-standard coal is being produced?

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, with your permission, I would like to answer this question though it is beyond the scope actually of this question. However, it is a very fundamental issue.

We have a major problem with the older underground mines essentially because they are narrow and have been designed for earlier equipment. We are trying our best to modernise the equipment in the new mines, which are there. It is true that a large amount of areas are having good coking coal especially under Jharia township. In that area there is a fire. We are trying to handle it in various forms using various fire-fighting equipment, blocking of areas, using water-flooding, etc. But we do believe that the ultimate answer would be that we build a fresh township to ensure that the fire is put off, which is impossible to put-off as long as the township exists on top of the fire. In fact, there is a tremendous danger there. We have a situation almost volcanic in size wherein one day the whole township may go straight into a fireball. We are seriously considering building a complete township to help people to move, put-off the fire, and handle that situation.

The underground coal mine is a serious problem. We are giving medical aid as well as financial aid to those who get asthma because of the internal problems and the old-fashioned mines, which are there. This is something, which we have inherited from the days of nationalisation. We are addressing the issue and we are quite conscious of the problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri G.J. Javiya.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, when the house of then CMD, ECL was raided by the CBI, some crores of rupees were found. He has been transferred with higher promotion. So, I want a CBI inquiry in this matter.  
...(Interruptions)

### Royalty on Minerals

\*562. <sup>†</sup>SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the rates of royalty on minerals, which are the main source of income of State Governments, are being fixed by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the justification thereof;

(c) whether representations have also been received in this regard from the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) whether royalty rates of some minerals which were due for revision have also not been revised; and

(f) if so, the details of such minerals and the reasons for delay in this regard?

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

### Statement

Under the provisions of Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), the Central Government may amend the Second Schedule to the Act so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of major minerals (minerals other than minor minerals defined under Section 3(e) of the MMDR Act) with effect from such date, as may be specified in the notification, provided that Central Government shall not enhance the rates of royalty in respect of any minerals more than once during any period of three years. Royalty on minerals is one of the important sources of revenue for the State Governments. The State Governments approach the Central Government from time to time for revising the rates of royalty on minerals. While revising the rates of royalty on minerals as per provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957, *inter-alia*, the suggestions of the State Governments are considered by the Government.

The provisions of Section 9(3) of the MMDR Act do not stipulate any specific periodicity for carrying out revision of royalty rates. The rates of royalty for major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing) were revised by the Government in 1997. The rates of royalty for Coal and lignite were revised in 1994 and 1990 respectively.

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: The Union Government revises the royalty of minerals after every three years and decides new rates. May I know from the hon. Minister as to when the last revision took place during the last three years.

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Member that the period of three years is not mandatory. It is not that this cannot be revised before three years. The revision in regard to major minerals took place three years ago in April 1997 and is due in April 2000. For this a Committee has already been constituted. This Committee is functioning under Additional Secretary Department of Mines. Therefore, there is no need to worry about this. If you ask a specific question then I am ready to reply.

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: The revision of major minerals took place in 1996. If the Government agrees that lignite is 'E' grade coal then why has the revision not been done till now. I want to know about it.

PROF. RITA VERMA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I understand the concern of my friend. I agree that there was some delay in the revision of lignite royalty. Revision in the rates took place in 1990 which was Rs. 2.50 per tonne. It is very less keeping in view the prevailing situation. Our Government and my colleague Minister has done a lot of work about revision of lignite royalty. Very soon we are going to present our recommendations to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. I am feeling happy to give this news to my friend.

*[English]*

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Sir, in the reply given to Question No. 856, on 3rd December, 1999, it was stipulated that the next revision of royalty was due on 10th April, 2000. As the States are losing royalty, which is their main source of income, I would like to know what are the reasons for not adhering to the schedule and what is the programme of the Government now to revise the royalty rates which are overdue. Also I would like to know how the Government will compensate the State Governments for the loss incurred by them due to non-revision of the rates of royalty on due dates.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, again I would like to emphasize once again in the House that due to the restriction of three years, the rates of royalty cannot be revised before three years, it can be revised only after three years as has been the case often. The rates of royalty with regard to coal were revised in 1981 after that they were revised in 1991. Hence there is no restriction on time. My friend is rightly concerned when he said that rates were revised in 1997. I would like to say that these revisions were in regard to the other major minerals which were categorised and the fuel minerals were not included in it. The question of increasing the royalty is complicated which may sometimes prove as counter-productive. I would like to bring this thing to the notice of my hon'ble friend that recently the coal industry has been passing through a critical phase. If we increase the pressure of royalty at such a time then we may lose international competitive edge. We do not want to lose this advantage. Right now the prices of domestic coal should not be increased if it is to stay in the competition. If the royalties increase ultimately this burden has to be borne by the States because if the royalty is increased the States will be forced to increase the prices of coal. If the coal price increases then the electricity boards of the States will have to pay more.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Ten per cent rebate is given on imported coal.

PROF. RITA VERMA: Let me reply, this royalty has to be borne by the States. Committee has been constituted for revision of royalty regarding major minerals. We are also considering coal.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam,<sup>1</sup> brief reply is always better.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It should be looked into that how much is spent. The entire job is not completed.

PROF. RITA VERMA: I would like to say that during this critical phase I would like to seek the cooperation of everybody to maintain the international competitiveness for the coal industry and domestic coal.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: A Secretary level Committee was constituted in 1997 for the revision of royalty of coal. The people of the concerned departments of other States were also included in it. At that time

recommendations from each State were received that it be made *ad-valorem* i.e. royalty shall be fixed on the basis of price. At that time it was decided to take this matter to the Cabinet but it could not be referred to the Cabinet.

I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government is considering the recommendation made by various concerned Departments regarding the royalty of coal so as to make it *ad valorem* as the coal companies are deriving benefits all over the country in the absence of any such measure whereas the State Governments have remained deprived of any benefits so far. Hence would the Hon'ble Minister accept those recommendations?

PROF. RITA VERMA: Hon'ble Member had herself constituted a Committee when she was the Minister of Coal. That Committee had made recommendation about revision of rates. I would like to remind you that several points will have to be kept in mind before the royalty is revised and the most important point in the present perspective is that it should not become counter-productive. Two coal companies are running in heavy losses in Bihar. The third company, E.C.L. is also partially running in losses. In such circumstances, the burden of revised royalty...(Interruptions) So far as the issue of West Bengal is concerned, apart from misappropriation...(Interruptions) If you ask me, the State like West Bengal...(Interruptions) West Bengal generates revenue by levying cess in place of royalty and I would also submit that E.C.L. did not have the capacity to bear the burden of increased cess and that is why it is in a bad position now due to increased cess. Having realised it, subsequently the Government of West Bengal was compelled to reduce cess from 48% to 25%. E.C.L. became sick due to your policies...(Interruptions) That is why cess was scaled down from 48% to 25% but still it is not in a position to bear the surcharge of 25%, hence the cess on E.C.L. should be reduced to 0%. There is no scope for its revival. It is the responsibility of the Government of West Bengal to show magnanimity and help E.C.L. in becoming viable...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, you are always disturbing the House. This is not the proper way.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This is absolutely wrong ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat. How are you speaking?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Lakshman Singh.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had promised to implement the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission, as per which during elections, more powers were to be granted to the States, however that promise was not fulfilled but leaving aside that issue, I would like to know from the Government and several members also want to know that no time limit has been fixed for revision of rates of royalty under Section 9 clause 3 of the Mines and Minerals Act, in the absence of which all the backward States such as Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and other such States are suffering heavy losses. Would the Government make an amendment in Section 9 clause 3 of the Act so that the royalty rates are revised in time and States are benefited. Whether any decision is being taken by the Government regarding fixing a time limit for revising the rate of royalty? Whether this issue is under consideration of the Government?

PROF. RITA VERMA: So far as the issue of empowering the State Government to revise the royalty is concerned, the entire system is not working properly as there are many such States which may have a different point of view whereas uniformity is a must in such legislation regarding such matters as revision of royalty etc. The Chief Ministers of all the States do not have the same view point in this matter. Hence the Union Government plays the role of a judge. It elicits the opinion of all the States, evolves a common viewpoint and finds the way out. I hope that Hon'ble Member is satisfied with the reply...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Government, through you, whether it is a fact that the Sarkaria Commission in 1988 had recommended for revision of royalty on minerals every two years and if so why has it not been implemented so. Secondly, is it a fact that there is a huge disparity between the royalty on 'A' grade coal and that on power grade Coal 'D', 'E' and 'F' grades? I also want to know whether it is a fact that the royalty on 'A' grade coal has been raised in 1994 by 102.6 times over the royalty of 1971 whereas the royalty on grades 'D' and 'E' was

\*Not recorded.



raised by 41 times and that on 'F' and 'G' grades only 21 times? Why is it so?

When is the Government going to revise royalty of coal upward?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you can answer only one question.

Shri Kanungo, please take your seat. What is this?

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Sir, I am asking only one question whether the Government is going to revise royalty upward.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Otherwise, I will disallow your supplementary. Please understand.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Sir, this is a very important question. A State like Orissa is losing Rs. 500 crore every year. Therefore, I am asking this question. This is pertinent question which I have asked. I want to know whether the Government is considering to bridge the gap. My point is ...

MR. SPEAKER: There is no supplementary.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: What is this?

MR. SPEAKER: You should follow the procedure in Question Hour also. What are you speaking?

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: I have asked only one question. This is a very pertinent question and should be answered. If this question is not answered, then which question will be answered?

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary properly; otherwise, you will not get any answer.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as I understand, he was enquiring about the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission. Sarkaria Commission had recommended that the rate of royalty should be revised every two years but there was a provision in the M.M.D.R. Act enacted in 1957 that the rates should be revised after four years. The Government has adopted a middle path and has pagged it at three years.

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, royalty on the minerals is collected in some States of our country through contract system and several such cases have come to light in Rajasthan that the earning from

the royalty is being pocketed by contractors instead of being paid to the Union Government. Whether the Union Government propose to check it? I would like to know as to whether the royalty will be collected under the orders of the Union Government.

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it to the notice of Hon'ble Member that most of the powers have been granted to the State Governments as per the amendment made in M.M.D.R. Act and the State Governments themselves collect royalty in case of minor minerals and take a decision regarding granting of lease. The State Governments have been granted more powers in case of major minerals also. An appeal can be made to the Union Government, however most of the powers are with the States now. Hence if you find any shortcomings in the system, a complaint can be made to the State Government as well as the Union Government. I hope that this satisfies his query.

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Whether the contract system can be abolished? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA: It depends on the State Government. How can I abolish it? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Mr. Speaker Sir, Andhra Pradesh is also equally concerned about revision of royalty. I will not go into the details nor ask any question because the hon. Minister has already answered that.

Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, the limestone furnaces is one of the major problems. This is such a minor mineral that it has almost become a cottage industry. There are about one lakh entrepreneurs who have installed limestone furnaces and they have to come to the Government of India for either grant or renewal of their licences. A small entrepreneur has to go through this process. I would like to know whether the Government of India is thinking of decentralisation of renewal of licence in respect of this minor mineral. In places like Sattenapalli and Piduguralla in Guntur district, hundreds of these people, who have been laying their furnaces and preparing limestone, are coming all the way to Delhi to get their licences renewed. I want to know whether the Government of India is thinking of decentralising it by giving these powers to different States because the income and the royalty go only to the State.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State Governments grant and renew the lease in the case of minor minerals. It is a State subject.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: No. Madam, they are coming here.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government does not frame rules in case of minor minerals and most of the powers have been granted to State Government. However if there is any specific complaint, Hon'ble Member may bring it to our notice.

[English]

### **New Exim Policy**

\*563. \*SHRI R.L. BHATIA:  
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have announced the new Exim Policy recently;

(b) if so, whether it will have adverse impact on small scale industries and agriculture as well as on self reliant development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

### **Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir, the Government has announced the Revised Exim Policy on 31.03.2000. This Policy incorporates various measures to promote exports.

(b) and (c) The Policy is not likely to have an adverse impact on small scale industries and agriculture as well as on self reliant development.

Removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on imports in relation to 714 tariff lines in the Revised Exim Policy is in tune with the policy of liberalisation which has been pursued over the years and is a part of our international commitments. There has been no surge in imports as a consequence of removal of QRs in the past. However, the Government is maintaining a constant vigil.

The customs duties on most of the items for which Quantitative Restrictions have been removed, have already

been raised to the peak level of 35%. On rice, duty has been raised upto 80%; on apples to 50%, on maize to 50%, on wheat to 50%, and on sugar to 60%. The imports are 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 producers. Moreover, in the event of unfair trade practices being adopted by exporters of other countries or if there were to be a sudden surge in imports causing injury to the domestic industry, sufficient provisions are available in the form of anti-dumping/safeguard measures to protect the domestic industry.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his statement, the Minister has stated that the country was obliged to remove the Quantitative Restrictions because the Dispute Settlement Panel of the WTO had ruled against India continuing with the Quantitative Restrictions (QRs). This is the statement which the Minister has made. Now, Sir, the country has signed an agreement with the U.S. for removing restrictions on 1,429 items, out of which restrictions on 714 items have already been removed. The industries that are going to be affected by your signing this agreement are apple, processing food, footwear, electrical fittings, watches etc. Now, all these things are manufactured in the small-scale sector. The small-scale sector employs about six crore people and contributes 40 per cent to the GDP and 60 per cent to our exports. Now, all these small-scale industries will be affected by these agreements. What measures will you adopt to see that the small-scale industries are not affected by dumping of goods by the multinationals in the country?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: The hon. Member is right. The small-scale sector plays a key role in the economy of this country. Not only that, 35 per cent of the exports are by the small-scale sector alone. So, they are better than the big industrial houses, which never bothered about exports. We have to salute the small-scale sector and we have to protect them. But I would tell the hon. Member that this is not the first time when the Quantitative Restrictions have been removed. We have started removing QRs from 1980s. If you want, I will give the figures. In 1996, Quantitative Restrictions on 6,161 items were removed.

SHRI A.C. JOS: You people are only quoting the previous figures. The present position is that QRs on 1,400 and odd items have been removed. Yesterday also, the Finance Minister was referring to the 1980s and quoted old stories.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: This is not the first time when QRs have been removed.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The present situation is that you have totally removed the Quantitative Restrictions.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Yes, we have to because we have committed ourselves. We have inherited a legacy. In 1947, we have signed GATT, and then we are a party to the WTO. Therefore, under the balance of payments considerations, we have to remove it. But at the same time, I will assure the House that we will protect the small-scale sector.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How will you protect it?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, I am not satisfied with the answer which the Minister has given. The most affected sector will be our agricultural sector. Some of the items, which you have agreed to import on the OGL basis, are wheat, maize, rice etc., which will affect our agricultural economy. Seventy-five per cent of the Indians depend on agriculture. I do not know whether you have consulted your Food Minister or not. At present, 205 lakh tonnes of wheat and 118 lakh tonnes of rice are lying in your godown. Our national consumption is about eight million tonnes. You have got more than 30 million tonnes of wheat rotting in your godowns. Now, the new crop has come, but you are importing wheat from other countries. How will you save our farmers?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, we have enhanced the tariff for all agricultural products. For example, on 15 products, we have raised the bound rate. So, there is no question of lowering the rate for agricultural products. Yesterday, we have passed the Finance Bill. On spelt wheat, for example, the bound rate is 80 per cent; on maize, it is 60 per cent; on rice, it is 80 per cent; on husked brown rice, it is 80 per cent; on semi-milled or wholly-milled rice, it is 70 per cent. So, we have increased the tariff. We have passed the Finance Bill, and all these items are there in that Bill. The famous Economist, Shri Gulati, has stated that this was not necessary, and that even 50 per cent tariff would do. That is the position. We need not worry. Nobody can overwhelm our market.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, the Minister has said that there is 50 per cent tariff on wheat. Does he know that in America the farms are of the size of 10,000 to 20,000 acres and the farming activity there is totally mechanised? They can supply wheat to India at a very low price. Last year, wheat was imported from America at Rs. 450 per quintal while we are giving minimum price to our farmers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: The hon. Member need not panic. We have raised the bound rates. We have made the imports costlier and so they will not take place.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has formulated an Import-Export Policy recently. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how this policy is likely to affect cotton producers or cotton industry and sugar mills.

*[English]*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the bound rates have already been increased. So, we will protect our agriculture; that is our primary duty.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the deadline for raising a very large number of these QRs was the year 2003 and there was scope for negotiation within the larger agreement. If this is so, and the deadline was the year 2003, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why this date was preponed, and why were these QRs lifted two years before the deadline was met. Secondly, the Minister has just talked about raising tariffs on a lot of products that may be imported into this country. But, what I think my colleague was trying to make out was that a large number of these agricultural products that come in are highly subsidised from the countries from which they are exported. In other words, they come in so cheap that in spite of the raised tariffs they undercut and bring down the prices of the domestic producers in the market. Is this not the case? If this is the case, how is the Minister saying that he is going to protect our own farmer and our own agricultural producer?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I will answer the second question first. If subsidised items flood the market, we have got sufficient weapons in our hands to prevent that. We can impose anti-dumping duty immediately in such a situation. We have got several measures, which I can tell the hon. Member, and he himself knows about them. According to Article VI of GATT, anti-dumping duties can be imposed if a product is dumped in the importing country at less than its normal value, provided it causes material injury to domestic industry. The same article allows us to impose countervailing duties if a product is subsidised by the exporting country, provided it causes us material injury to the domestic industry. These are the weapons in our hands.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, from the past history and the Government's track record our experience has been

something else. A lot of sugar was being imported into the country, a lot of us were asking the Government to bring in this anti-dumping duty. The Government took almost ten or eleven months to move in this regard, and that too in slow stages until it finally reached a higher figure of 50 per cent or 60 per cent. It started with 27 per cent. But the Government took so long to do it. Is the Government going to assure the House that there will be tremendous vigilance on this and the moment it looks as if there is undercutting our market you will immediately move? Will the Minister give that assurance to the House?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: The hon. Member is very right. We have to be vigilant because this is a cruel world. So, if there is a flood of imports, if there is a surge, we have to take immediate action. Somebody should blow the whistle and that is why we want to strengthen the Tariff Commission. We will be cautious...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: You have a mechanism for anti-dumping...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jos, how can you obstruct the Minister while he is replying to a question? What is this?

The Minister need not respond to this.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: So, we will be vigilant. We will take immediate action. We propose to strengthen the Tariff Commission so that it can blow the whistle and it can watch the situation.

SHRI A.C. JOS: What about the first part of his question?...(Interruptions)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Yes, Sir, I have not yet answered the first part of his question.

Sir, he was right...

MR. SPEAKER: You should answer only one part.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some pressures. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the first part of my question is also very important. The hon. Minister is

a very experienced man. He should be able to answer it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, the other questions listed in the question List are also very important. Please understand that.

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, this is the occasion to clear misconception. As per the bilateral agreement with European Community, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Canada and Japan, we started negotiating with them. They have accepted it for six years. But the USA did not accept it. They wanted lesser time...(Interruptions)... Yes, they went to the Disputes Panel. We argued the case, we failed. Again, we appealed. Then, it went to the Appellate Tribunal. There also, we failed.

Finally, according to the WTO rules, we have to negotiate with the party, that is, the USA to fix the reasonable period of time. So, finally, we negotiated with them and came to this conclusion because the USA refused to accept it. They put conditions. We insisted that it should be six years. They said, 'no'. They behaved in such a manner that we have to reject all the proposals. They said, "Every year, you have to appear before the WTO and say that your Balance of Payments position is poor." So, they wanted to put all those conditions. They wanted to front-load things which are very important to us, which we wanted to remove later. So, we could not fulfil these impossible conditions. Moreover, it has been accepted by all that the QRs should go one day or the other. Therefore, there was no other alternative which was accepted. But the reasonable time was 15 months...(Interruptions)... Usually, it is 15 months ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, what is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the hon. Minister to give reply. What is this? You are all senior Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you please finish your reply now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.C. Jos, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand the logic of disturbing the House. You are asking the questions but not allowing the hon. Minister to reply. Every time, you are doing the same thing.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to run the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, now you may complete your reply, please.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, between the two countries — India and the USA — the rule is that they should fix a reasonable period of time...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the hon. Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is there to give the reply. Why are you unnecessarily involving yourself?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may finish your reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the hon. Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Regarding the reasonable period of time they asked for 15 months. But we wanted more. Finally, we agreed to this kind of time-table. Now, we have gained 18 months. There is nothing wrong in that...(Interruptions)

Sir, who signed the WTO?... (Interruptions)... They signed it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasgupta, this is not proper. You are asking the question but you are not allowing the Minister to give the full reply. What is this? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Kirit Somaiya.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you unnecessarily involving yourself? Please take your seat. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you unnecessarily complicating the matter? Please take your seats. What is this? I have called now Shri Kirit Somaiya.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Kirit Somaiya says.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any pressure from the developed countries to relieve more items for agricultural products in the second round of the WTO talks; and what is the Government's policy about that?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, he is talking about future policy. The dialogue is going on in Geneva...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Already half-an-hour is exhausted over this question. Please understand that.

#### **Fiscal Deficits**

\*564. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the combined fiscal deficits of the Centre and the States during the last five years, year-wise; and

(b) the factor of inflationary pressure on the expenditure side?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### *Statement*

(a) As per the latest information available with the Reserve Bank of India, the combined gross fiscal deficit of the Centre and States for the last five years is as follows:

#### *Gross Fiscal Deficit of the Centre and States*

	Rs. Crore	As per cent of GDP
1995-96	77671	6.6
1996-97	87244	6.4
1997-98	110743	7.3
1998-99	158055	9.0
1999-2000 (RE)	176981	9.1

(b) The increase in aggregate expenditure reflects increase in real as well as in nominal terms. The rupee value of expenditure (nominal value) reflects both the increase due to inflation as well as the increased quantity of goods and services purchased.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: As per the statement made by the Finance Minister, the Gross Fiscal Deficit is increasing year after year. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. You cannot dictate terms to the Chair. It is not your duty. Please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Gross Fiscal Deficit during 1995-96 was 77,671 crore. It was 6.6 per cent of GDP. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, what is this running commentary?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Gross Fiscal Deficit of the Centre and States during 1999-2000 was 1,76,981 crore. Percentage-wise it is 9.1 of the GDP. May I know from the Finance Minister (a) what are the factors that

contributed towards the increase in the fiscal deficit of both the Centre as well as the States? (b) What concrete steps Government propose to take to contain the fiscal deficit of the Centre and whether any guidelines have been issued to the State Government so that their fiscal deficit can be contained?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The hon. Member is quite right in expressing his concern at the rising fiscal deficit of the Central and the State Governments. This is an issue that we had discussed when we were discussing the General Budget in this House. This is an issue which we discussed day before yesterday and yesterday also. I had mentioned in this House earlier that one of the major reasons for a sudden spurt in the fiscal deficit of the Central and the State Governments in the year 1997-98 and thereafter has been the impact of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations. I gave figures yesterday how the Fifth Pay Commission has added to the burden of salaries, wages and pension and this has been reflected in the fiscal deficit of the Central Government as well as the State Governments. So, this is one of the most important reasons.

The second part of the question of the hon. Member is this: What steps we are taking to contain the fiscal deficit? When we have just discussed the Budget, I have enunciated in the Budget a number of steps to control the fiscal deficit at the Central level. As far as the State Governments are concerned, I also mentioned that we are in constant touch with them. We have not issued any directives. There is no need to issue any directives because we do not want to impose our will on State Governments. But we are discussing this issue with them on a continuous basis and I had mentioned in the House yesterday that every Chief Minister, cutting across political lines, is absolutely aware of the problem that the State is facing including West Bengal and, therefore, we have reached an understanding with the State Governments in regard to the measures that they have to take in order to rein in fiscal deficit. The State Governments are fully on board. The State Governments have taken a number of very unpleasant decisions in order to control fiscal deficit.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission was implemented in 1997. The Finance Minister says that there is increase in expenditure of the Central Government as a result of the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission and the State Governments have also to increase the pay scales of their employees as well as the pay scales of the employees of Central public sector undertakings.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you have to look at the clock also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is not yet twelve o'clock.

May I know from the hon. Minister, how, after 1997-98, the increase in the pay scales of the Central Government employees has been reflected in 1999-2000 and in the current year? I would also like to know the quantum of impact on the inflationary pressure.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over. The hon. Minister can send the reply to the hon. Member.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Loans Under DRI Scheme

\*565. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of banks in public and private sector which have failed to achieve their targets of disbursing DRI loans during each of the last three years;

(b) the target fixed by the Government for the banks and the loan actually distributed by these banks under various provisions made in the scheme;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the targets by these banks; and

(d) the action the Government propose to take against the defaulting banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The target fixed by the Government for the banks for lending under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) scheme is one percent (1%) of the aggregate advances as at the end of the previous year. State Bank of Hyderabad for 1997, 1998 and Indusind Bank for 1998, 1999 only, were able to achieve the target. Loans actually distributed by all the banks under this scheme for the last three years are given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) Banks have not been able to achieve their targets under this scheme because beneficiaries find other credit-linked subsidy schemes such as IRDP, PMRY, SLRS, SJSRY etc. more attractive as compared to this scheme.

### Statement

*Public Sector Advances Under DRI Scheme for the years March 1997, 1998 & 1999*

(Amts. in crores)  
(A/c in lakhs)

Name of the Bank	March 1997			March 1998			March 1999		
	No. of A/c	Balance O/s	% of DRI to total advances	No. of A/c	Balance O/s	% of DRI to total advances	No. of A/c	Balance O/s	% of DRI to total advances
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
State Bank of India	4.10	71.00	0.14	4.10	59.39	0.11	3.65	60.65	0.10
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	0.19	11.88	0.45	0.16	11.89	0.39	0.11	8.19	0.21
State Bank of Hyderabad	0.76	21.25	1.25	0.90	19.45	1.25	0.90	23.42	0.48
State Bank of Indore	0.23	10.00	0.67	0.21	8.69	0.54	0.15	7.86	0.41
State Bank of Mysore	0.21	8.02	0.41	0.20	6.86	0.31	0.21	11.18	0.44
State Bank of Patiala	0.33	12.30	0.37	0.31	13.00	0.34	0.25	8.00	0.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
State Bank of Saurashtra	0.18	2.00	0.10	0.01	1.35	0.06	0.01	0.86	0.03
State Bank of Travancore	0.64	5.69	0.25	0.63	5.00	0.22	0.45	4.35	0.18
Allahabad Bank	0.91	24.60	0.50	0.84	21.44	0.42	0.39	22.33	0.38
Andhra Bank	0.53	18.00	0.65	0.19	15.00	0.54	0.18	12.84	0.38
Bank of Baroda	0.55	68.37	0.58	0.45	63.85	0.51	0.35	52.09	0.40
Bank of India	0.85	65.20	0.63	0.67	54.01	0.48	0.25	60.80	0.47
Bank of Maharashtra	0.12	10.00	0.32	0.14	9.90	0.29	0.04	5.20	0.13
Canara Bank	0.95	40.53	0.35	0.86	41.00	0.36	0.84	34.20	0.25
Central Bank of India	0.99	27.55	0.29	0.81	20.10	0.22	0.56	16.90	0.16
Corporation Bank	0.09	3.14	0.13	0.03	2.37	0.41	0.02	1.10	0.04
Dena Bank	0.32	12.16	0.33	0.12	8.35	0.19	0.01	6.14	0.12
Indian Bank	0.36	21.00	0.31	0.26	16.48	0.29	0.24	12.31	0.22
Indian Overseas Bank	0.38	33.50	0.71	0.37	32.00	0.61	0.35	31.50	0.51
Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.11	17.50	0.37	0.10	15.00	0.31	0.70	12.50	0.22
Punjab National Bank	1.17	73.35	0.57	0.91	62.70	0.45	0.68	50.57	0.32
Punjab & Sind Bank	0.04	19.59	0.58	0.03	20.61	0.67	0.02	17.96	0.54
Syndicate Bank	0.20	20.00	0.40	0.11	23.00	0.18	0.06	12.00	0.22
Union Bank of India	0.23	21.49	0.27	0.18	17.70	0.22	0.16	14.73	0.16
United Bank of India	0.55	9.45	0.26	0.51	8.00	0.21	0.06	4.00	0.10
UCO Bank	0.71	9.88	0.24	0.67	8.40	0.19	0.28	8.14	0.16
Vijaya Bank	0.11	11.50	0.49	0.30	10.25	0.46	0.04	8.18	0.28
Total	15.81	648.95	0.35	14.07	575.79	0.30	10.98	507.97	0.23

*Private Sector Bank's Advances (Outstanding) under DRI Scheme for the year March 1997, 1998 & 1999*

(A/c in Thousands)  
(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the Bank	March 1997			March 1998			March 1999		
	No. of A/c	Balance O/s	% of DRI to total advances	No. of A/c	Balance O/s	% of DRI to total advances	No. of A/c	Balance O/s	% of DRI to total advances
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	0.65	82.00	0.11	0.77	67.00	0.05	1.00	54.00	0.05
Bank of Rajasthan	0.24	0.05	0.00	0.26	6.00	0.01	0.20	4.00	0.01



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1.00	15.00	0.1	1.00	10.00	0.01	—	10.00	0.01
Vysya Bank Ltd.	2.44	1031.00	0.44	1.64	861.00	0.31	1.57	813.00	0.35
Catholic Syrian Bank	3.00	78.00	0.9	2.00	59.00	0.06	1.00	39.00	0.04
Dhanalakshmi Bank	10.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00
Federal Bank	3.00	221.00	0.10	3.00	323.00	0.11	2.00	173.00	0.04
Lord Krishna Bank	—	0.40	—	0.00	0.40	—	0.00	0.47	0.00
Nedungandi Bank	0.59	11.80	0.5	0.57	12.90	0.05	0.57	14.63	0.04
South Indian Bank	4.37	56.00	0.7	3.55	64.00	0.10	4.22	69.00	0.08
Ratanakar Bank	9.00	0.09	—	0.02	0.10	—	0.01	0.10	0.00
Sangh Bank	1.00	52.00	0.12	1.00	49.00	0.11	0.01	43.00	0.10
United Western Bank	0.53	16.00	0.5	0.37	13.00	0.11	0.27	9.00	0.01
Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
Bank of Madura	1.00	15.00	0.2	0.00	5.00	0.01	1.00	36.00	0.03
Bharat Overseas Bank	0.73	12.50	0.7	0.71	13.46	0.06	0.71	13.55	0.03
Karur Vysya Bank	3.04	29.23	0.4	3.03	19.36	0.02	3.03	10.50	0.01
Lakshmi Vilash Bank	0.03	25.37	0.5	0.55	23.18	0.05	0.57	20.21	0.03
City Union Bank	—	87.61	0.23	0.00	173.40	0.36	0.18	157.61	0.33
Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank	4.50	284.63	0.39	4.01	145.95	0.18	3.63	165.62	0.19
Bareilly Corporation Bank	0.20	4.21	0.2	0.15	4.00	0.04	0.15	4.00	0.04
Beneras State Bank	0.48	13.47	0.5	0.54	13.00	0.01	4.23	8.95	—
Nainital Bank	0.11	2.87	0.3	0.13	3.27	0.04	0.13	3.47	0.04
Indusind Bank	—	—	—	63.37	2509.19	1.88	63.37	2509.19	1.40
Bank of Punjab	—	—	—	0.00	0.08	—	0.00	0.07	—
Dev. Credit Bank	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.08	0.00
Punjab Co-op. Bank	0.00	0.01	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	45.91	2038.54	—	86.66	4375.64	—	87.85	4158.73	—

**Revival Plan of NTC Mills**

\*566. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide Rs. 3,300 crores for implementation of revival

plan including voluntary retirement scheme of about 73,000 employees of National Textile Mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other steps being considered for revival of the sick textile mills in the country;

(d) to what extent these initiatives have been implemented and the results thereof;

(e) the total number of sick NTC mills at present in the country; and

(f) the details of NTC mills which are proposed to be revived under the plan in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth turning positive within the stipulated period. Govt. has been providing budgetary support to NTC to meet the shortfall in wages and salaries. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

(e) NTC has 9 subsidiaries with 119 mills. Out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC Ltd., 8 subsidiaries of NTC have been declared sick under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 by the BIFR.

(f) Government have not yet finalised the turn around plan.

#### **Quality of Programmes on Doordarshan**

\*567. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:  
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the very bad quality of telecast by Doordarshan *vis-a-vis* other telecasting channels of private companies, viz. Zee, Sony etc.;

(b) whether dependence on cable operators for improved quality of telecast has resulted in erosion of telecasting ability of Doordarshan;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) despite the use of satellite, the reasons of the low range and poor quality of our telecast and the efforts being made to improve the quality and range?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER

OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Doordarshan uses both the terrestrial and satellite modes of transmission and the signals emanating from the Doordarshan transmitters and satellite transponders are of the same quality as of the signals of other broadcasters. However, there could be some distortions at the television receivers end. For terrestrial signals this distortion can come from not using the proper antenna and for satellite signals the distortions are mostly introduced at the cable operator's end.

(b) and (c) Since Doordarshan has a large nation-wide terrestrial network covering nearly 87.9% of population, it is not dependent on cable operators for telecast/distribution of its programmes, particularly in respect of its national channel i.e. DD-I. However, consumers having cable connections prefer to receive all the television channels through cable. In order to ensure that cable operators provide a good quality signal of DD channels, the Cable Television Network Amendment Rules 1999 makes it mandatory for cable operators to take signals of Doordarshan channels only from satellite place them in the prime band and not transmit any channel in the same band in which DD transmits its channels terrestrially. However, it is reported that many cable operators are not meeting these requirements resulting into distorted signals of DD-I and DD-II.

(d) Range of terrestrial transmitters is not dependent on use of satellite as the latter is used only for purposes of their networking. DD has taken a number of steps to improve the quality of its signals. These include digital transmission of channels in satellite mode, replacement of low power transmitters by high power transmitters, expansion of network to provide better coverage to fringe and uncovered areas and campaign to educate cable operators and public about the provisions of the Cable TV Act and rules made thereunder. DD also proposes to set up a monitoring system to ensure compliance with the provisions of Cable TV Act and rules.

#### **Review of Handloom Schemes**

\*568. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various welfare schemes are being implemented for the benefit of handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of these schemes in various States;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following Welfare Schemes are being implemented by the Government of India for the benefit of handloom weavers:

1. *Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme:*

This Scheme was introduced with the objective of providing a dwelling unit and suitable work place to weavers to improve their productivity, quality of life and earnings. The assistance under the Scheme is Rs. 7000/- for Rural Workshed and Rs. 10,000/- for Urban Workshed. The assistance is Rs. 18,000/- for Rural Workshed-cum-Houses and Rs. 20,000/- for Urban-Workshed-cum-Houses.

2. *Thrft Fund Scheme:*

The Scheme envisages the creation of a type of provident fund with contribution from the weavers, for facilitating them to meet expenses towards children's education/medical expenses of family members and expenses in connection with marriage, and other religious ceremonies. The weavers contribute 8% of the wages and the Central and State Governments contribute 4% each.

3. *Health Package Scheme:*

This scheme extends financial assistance to weavers for the treatment of diseases like asthma, TB, inflammation of the respiratory system, cost of testing of eyes and

spectacles, supply of drinking water, maternity benefits to women weavers, payment of additional compensation for adopting permanent family planning measures and infrastructure for primary health care.

4. *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. Under the scheme a weaver is provided an insurance coverage of Rs. 10,000/- for an annual premium of Rs. 120/-. The premium is shared equally among the beneficiary, State and Central Governments.

5. *New Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers:*

In order to provide relief to handloom weavers, a New Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers was introduced during the year 1997-98 through United India Insurance Scheme. 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.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Central Government reviews the implementation of these schemes from time to time. Such reviews are an on going process. The details of the performance of the States in the implementation of these schemes is given in the Statement attached.

**Statement**

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme			Thrft Funds Scheme		
		Amount Released	Amount utilised	No. of units sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount utilised	No. of weavers to be covered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1708.83	1368.63	16143	490.60	404.68	294614
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	122.39	50.31	1169	—	—	—
3.	Assam	469.55	394.45	6099	39.60	—	39600
4.	Bihar	269.00	80.00	7433	—	—	—
5.	Gujarat	—	—	—	16.39	6.39	14160

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	185.27	142.35	3653	—	—	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	26.59	10.95	1009	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	671.23	538.84	11472	85.00	5.60	14510
10.	Kerala	384.36	294.36	4211	2.49	—	3298
11.	Madhya Pradesh	370.79	170.79	4893	36.61	33.85	25141
12.	Maharashtra	213.46	88.47	4580	61.41	35.53	106335
13.	Manipur	349.10	221.80	6986	2.65	—	2650
14.	Meghalaya	8.13	2.80	223	—	—	—
15.	Mizoram	27.60	14.00	670	—	—	—
16.	Nagaland	711.03	517.03	6332	—	—	—
17.	Orissa	614.54	428.48	11944	170.00	114.00	150875
18.	Rajasthan	284.50	185.76	4689	6.65	4.65	6200
19.	Sikkim	100.00	24.46	1000	—	—	—
20.	Tamil Nadu	1100.20	900.28	10458	1399.27	1158.12	1183982
21.	Tripura	110.55	96.50	2930	0.23	—	36
22.	Uttar Pradesh	594.50	391.43	11637	59.10	27.12	58530
23.	West Bengal	250.22	250.22	6700	69.00	42.54	77405
24.	Delhi	—	—	—	1.50	—	1500

(Amounts Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Health Package Scheme			Group Insurance Scheme			New Insurance Scheme	
		Amount Released	Amount Utilised	No. of weavers to be covered	Amount Released	Amount utilised	No. of weavers to be covered	Amount Released & utilised	Weavers covered
1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	724.48	637.49	140302	104.41	88.41	276000	60.45	100756
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.35	—	11600	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	274.52	250.12	68829	3.00	—	7500	0.24	409
4.	Bihar	269.00	84.97	77850	5.28	—	16300	5.94	9888
5.	Gujarat	23.20	16.16	3870	5.10	3.51	14295	5.42	9027

1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
6.	Haryana	7.88	—	1100	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.63	0.59	290	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	14.99	4.35	2746	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	121.83	91.68	32204	60.00	40.00	150000	—	—
10.	Kerala	165.63	159.25	23000	—	—	—	3.00	5000
11.	Madhya Pradesh	39.44	24.01	119825	5.22	5.22	13052	4.38	7302
12.	Maharashtra	70.35	50.14	22781	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Manipur	52.35	38.08	12000	0.72	—	1800	—	—
14.	Meghalaya	7.44	5.48	2803	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Nagaland	108.06	88.69	17630	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Orissa	124.00	91.98	29373	38.80	38.80	97000	18.00	30000
18.	Rajasthan	50.50	36.94	9384	—	—	—	3.04	5059
19.	Sikkim	37.60	18.80	6000	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Tamil Nadu	543.79	460.73	69862	245.69	209.00	822622	—	—
21.	Tripura	99.34	88.76	19940	—	—	—	0.51	850
22.	Uttar Pradesh	356.78	305.82	68759	32.00	12.00	80000	0.29	490
23.	West Bengal	39.30	25.25	7700	15.46	12.58	40750	—	—
24.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

### Export Processing Zones

\*569. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the Export Processing Zones (EPZ) situated at present in the country, State-wise and location-wise with details of export potential and their performance, specifying in terms of export material, quantity and value;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more Export Processing Zones in the country;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to set up EPZ in Dharmapuri or Salem district to facilitate the export of agro and rural industrial products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) There are seven Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in the country set up by the Government in Kandla (Gujarat), Santa Cruz, Bombay (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). The EPZ units broadly fall under the product groups of gem and jewellery, electronics, textile and garments, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, engineering goods and plastic and rubber goods. Exports made from EPZs during the last three years are as under:

Year	Exports from EPZs (Rs. in Crores)
1997-98	4817.30
1998-99	5252.48
1999-2000 (Provisional)	6160.66

(b) to (d) It was decided in 1992 not to set up any new EPZs under Government of India. However, Export Processing Zones can be established by State Governments or in joint/private sector with the prior approval of the Central Government. No proposal has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu or private promoters for setting up of an EPZ at Dharmapuri or Salem District.

#### **Navratnas**

\*570. SHRI RASHID ALVI:  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a high powered Responsibility Fixing Committee to look into the delay in completion of projects which were sanctioned before granting them Navratna status;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the new directives issued in this regard;

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether the technical persons, Chartered Accountants, representatives of employees have been involved in such appraisals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Loans Under PMRY**

\*571. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the educated unemployed youths are facing problems in getting loans from the nationalised banks for starting business under PMRY;

(b) if so, the nature of the problems;

(c) the State-wise number of educated unemployed youths who applied for loan under this scheme;

(d) the State-wise target fixed by each bank for providing loan under PMRY and the amount actually sanctioned and disbursed by the said banks during the above period and the number of youths benefited therefrom;

(e) the State-wise number of applications pending, as on date, and the reasons for delay in sanctioning loans to them; and

(f) the steps taken to simplify the procedure in respect of loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per report received from RBI, educated unemployed youth generally do not face problem in getting loans from the Nationalised Banks for starting business under PMRY. However, sometimes some borrowers take more time to obtain the documents or complete the required formalities which delays disbursement of the loan amount by banks. Sometimes delay also occurs due to recommendation of the non-viable projects by the authorities viz. District Industries Centre (DIC), delay in training of the beneficiaries, delay/difficulty faced in obtaining necessary approval for undertaking the activity from concerned local authorities and delay in allotment of shed, power connection, water supply, etc.

(c) to (e) A statement showing State-wise target, applications received, sanctioned, disbursed and pending during the year 1999-2000 is enclosed. The reasons for delay in sanctioning loans have been mentioned in part (a) & (b) of the reply.

(f) The Government have taken following steps to simplify the procedure in getting the loans sanctioned:

- Constitution of Task Force Committee for selection of eligible persons and viable activity at block level/sub-divisional level.
- Preparation of project profile/list of income generating activities at district level.
- Rendering assistance to borrowers for completing requisite formalities for sanction of their applications and disbursements etc.
- Reserve Bank of India have also advised the banks that in case no reply is received from other banks within one month from the date of reference regarding no dues from the applicant, the bank may sanction the loan under the scheme provided all other

conditions of the loan have been met. The RBI have also advised the Banks not to insist for an affidavit on a stamped paper at the time of submission of applications; the same

may be called for when the loan is sanctioned to the borrowers.

Above simplifications in the procedure is expected to help eligible applicants in getting loans from the banks.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Target	Appl. Recd.	Sanctioned		Disbursed		Appl. Pending
				No.	Amount	No.	Amount	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33600	28239	13735	8167.71	6512	3886.92	7680
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	500	57	26	19.60	21	14.00	20
3.	Assam	12800	10213	3974	3198.52	1772	894.13	4356
4.	Bihar	21800	13723	5168	4350.23	2666	1976.55	5725
5.	Gujarat	14600	15356	8648	4028.88	7640	3520.94	1459
6.	Goa	600	668	345	324.25	295	276.94	132
7.	Haryana	7500	10148	4726	2895.51	2822	1627.49	1578
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2500	2783	1531	1036.01	1182	801.54	439
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4000	2284	1074	952.90	715	582.95	546
10.	Karnataka	22200	20666	8130	4733.04	2986	1787.29	8501
11.	Kerala	24000	18113	8996	4792.25	4930	2611.11	5497
12.	Manipur	1350	814	131	76.76	21	8.08	525
13.	Maharashtra	43600	51905	21876	12749.87	13307	8298.55	16172
14.	Madhya Pradesh	31600	50351	16975	12673.34	5645	3913.31	15331
15.	Meghalaya	550	160	88	71.18	47	29.24	64
16.	Mizoram	350	498	2	1.80	1	0.95	496
17.	Nagaland	200	33	18	15.25	7	6.75	14
18.	Orissa	12150	11375	1566	1320.90	254	140.75	3608
19.	Punjab	9000	16427	7714	5254.71	5005	3111.94	3512
20.	Rajasthan	16100	22900	10440	5819.06	5106	2784.21	6697
21.	Sikkim	150	119	52	23.99	24	17.93	41
22.	Tamil Nadu	15000	21361	8362	4407.82	5001	2515.85	3776
23.	Tripura	1300	1135	271	170.74	16	9.58	640
24.	West Bengal	22800	9673	2168	1412.24	1220	743.68	4057
25.	Uttar Pradesh	52000	68125	29925	19798.64	19558	12152.25	14870

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
26.	NCT of Delhi	4800	3998	574	380.49	338	212.92	1479
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	200	268	77	59.59	62	41.78	106
28.	Chandigarh	100	107	59	45.52	32	22.89	13
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50	41	17	10.36	15	8.32	20
30.	Daman & Diu	50	22	12	7/08	10	5.63	1
31.	Lakshadweep	50	50	12	10.51	12	10.07	17
32.	Pondicherry	550	462	185	66.54	74	26.06	89
All India		354450	380074	156877	98875.89	87296	52040.40	107461

### Linking of Environment and Labour in WTO

\*572. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether America has attempted to link environment and labour laws with the foreign trade under the WTO agreement reached in Seattle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a follow up meeting was recently held in Geneva;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to safeguard the national interests against the pressure being exerted by the developed countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) USA had made proposals for further strengthening of the trade environment linkage in WTO rules as well as for discussions for introducing a linkage between trade and core labour standards during the Third Ministerial Conference of WTO at Seattle, USA from 30th November to 3rd December 1999. No decisions were taken at the Conference, as it was inconclusive.

(c) and (d) The General Council of WTO has held various informal and formal meetings with a view to evolve a broad consensus on the future work programme of WTO. The focus of these meetings has not been particularly on the issues of environment and core labour standards.

(e) India has been consistently taking a stand against the enlargement of the environmental window in the WTO as a protectionist measure and against any attempts to link trade with core labour standards in bilateral discussions with USA as well as in WTO.

[English]

### Reduction in Interest Rates of Banks

\*573. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has further reduced the bank interest rates and Cash Reserve Ratio by one per cent;

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

(c) the impact of reduction of CRR and interest rate on the profitability of banks;

(d) whether the Savings deposit rates have also been reduced from 4.5 per cent to 4 per cent;

(e) if so, whether it would hit hard the middle class depositors, especially the retired people;

(f) whether the Government propose to roll back the Savings deposit rates in the interest of middle class depositors; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?



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

(b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have announced on April 1, 2000 a reduction by one percentage point in the Bank Rate from 8.0 per cent to 7.0 per cent. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was also reduced by 1.0 percentage point in two stages of 0.5 percentage point each effective from fortnights beginning April 8, 2000 and April 22, 2000 respectively. These measures are intended to enhance liquidity and reduce the cost of funds to banks.

(c) These measures are expected to have a beneficial impact on the profitability of banks.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Savings banks accounts are used by middle class depositors mostly for meeting their day-to-day transaction needs. Depositors have options to invest their money in term deposits of any maturity above 15 days at higher rates of interest.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise in view of reply to (e) above.

#### **Increase in Prices Due to Disinvestment**

\*574. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any targetted amount to be achieved through disinvestment process during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to achieve the disinvestment target;

(d) whether the Government have examined the impact of disinvestment process on the wholesale price index; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to control the wholesale price index?

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) An amount of Rs. 10,000 crores is targetted to be raised through disinvestment during the year 2000-2001.

(c) This is to be achieved through disinvestment of Government shareholding in non-strategic PSUs.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Disinvestment Shares of ITDC**

\*575. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sell off the shares of ITDC after separating each Hotel into subsidiary; and

(b) if so, 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 has accepted the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission in regard to disinvestment in ITDC. So far hotel operations of ITDC are concerned, the main recommendations of the Commission are as under:—

(i) Hotels situated in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore may be handed over to established hotel chains through a competitive bidding process to be run on a long term structured contract on lease-cum management basis.

(ii) Other hotels may be de-merged into separate corporate identities and the disinvestment in the new companies will be through sale of 100% Government shareholdings in them.

#### **Export/Import of Tobacco Products**

\*576. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tobacco and tobacco products imported and exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the countries from which these products have been imported and to which exported;

(c) whether there is a sharp increase in the import of these products during the last three years;

(d) if so, whether the tobacco growers all over the country are protesting against the import of tobacco; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The quantity of tobacco and tobacco products imported and exported during each of the last three years are as follows:

Year	Import Quantity (in tons)	Export Quantity (in tons)
1996-97	720	116,910
1997-98	397	144,697
1998-99	2839	91,123
1999-2000	Not Available	109,730

(Source : DGCI & S)

The country-wise details of import and export of manufactured and unmanufactured tobacco and tobacco products are available in the monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

(c) There was a spurt in import of tobacco during 1998-99.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Barter Trade with Myanmar**

\*577. SHRI TARUN GOGOI:  
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to open barter trade with Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details of border towns from which the barter trade is likely to be opened;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from the traders to give up barter deals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The existing Border Trade Agreement signed on 21st January, 1994 between India and Myanmar provided for the exchange of locally produced commodities by people living on both sides of the border, including through the barter mechanism. Provision was also included for conducting such trade through designated Customs posts of Moreh in India and Tamu in Myanmar, and also Champai in India and Rhi in Myanmar. While Border Trade through Moreh and Tamu is open, the Champai-Rhi route is still to be operationalised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Incentive on GPF and Savings Accounts**

\*578. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme of incentives has been worked out to counter the disincentives raised by lowering the interest rate on Savings Accounts and General Provident Fund, in respect of savings of workers and the common man;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the overall percentage loss of interest to an average worker caused by such disincentives during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rates of interest on small savings schemes and General Provident Fund have been marginally reduced so as to align them with the overall interest rate structure in the country. The existing incentives including risk free returns, tax concessions and easy accessibility continue to boost investor confidence with the result that deposits in small savings schemes have increased even after the rates of interest have been reduced.

(c) The lowering of interest rates on GPF and Small Savings must be weighed against the larger benefits that will accrue due to the expected growth in the economy.

#### **Allocation of Newsprint**

\*579. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small newspapers are demanding more and equitable allocation of newsprint;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to allocate adequate quantity of newsprint to small newspapers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The small newspapers have been making such demands in meetings. This Ministry has not received any demand in writing.

(b) and (c) The import of glazed/standard newsprint is permitted without an import license, subject to actual user condition, to those who hold a "Registration Certificate", issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) and on the submission of other necessary documentary evidence including "Eligibility Certificate", issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India. To safeguard the interests of small and medium newspapers/periodicals whose annual requirement of newsprint is 200 MT or less, one-third quantity of the annual production of indigenous newsprint, of every scheduled newsprint mill is reserved to meet the demand of small and medium newspapers/periodicals.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to the (b) & (c) above.

#### **Uniform VRS for Public Sector Undertakings**

\*580. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether the Government have introduced a new uniform Voluntary Retirement Scheme for all Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees of MTNL are covered in this Scheme;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the trade unions have opposed the uniform VRS for ailing PSUs;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the criteria adopted in categorising the PSUs;

(h) the extent to which this scheme is advantageous to the employees in comparison to the earlier one; and

(i) the details of the action plan for 2000-2001 for reducing surplus staff in PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Government have decided to modify the existing Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) which is applicable to the employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). Under the existing scheme compensation is permitted on a scale of 45 days salary for each completed year of service subject to the quantum not exceeding the salary which the employee is to draw for the balance of service left. An employee should have put in a minimum of 10 years of service or attained the age of 40 years.

Under the modified scheme, enterprises, which are financially sound and capable of funding scheme on their own resources, may implement their own variants of the existing VRS. The compensation, however, will not exceed 60 days salary for each completed year of service or the salary for the number of months' service left before superannuation, whichever is less.

Enterprises that are marginally profit making or incurring losses are to adopt a revised and improved pattern of VRS modelled on a scheme introduced in Gujarat. Under this arrangement 35 days salary will be offered for each completed year of service and 25 days of salary for each year of service left until superannuation. The compensation will not however, exceed the total salary of the employees for the balance of service left.

In the case of units under the Department of Heavy Industry facing closure, a Scheme of Voluntary Separation (VSS) has already been introduced as a safety net to the workers offering them higher compensation relief than statutory retrenchment compensation. This scheme is to be extended to other CPSU as well and modelled on the new VRS.

Budgetary support is visualised in case bank credit or other means are not available for funding the VRS.

(c) and (d) Only the regular employees of MTNL will be covered under the Scheme.

(e), (f) and (h) The scheme of VRS/VSS now proposed improves upon the existing arrangement having due regard to the views expressed.

(g) For implementing variants of VRS scheme, the criteria adopted in categorizing PSUs are (i) financially sound, (ii) marginally profit making or loss making and (iii) sick and unviable.

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

[*Translation*]

#### High Level Committee

6080. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level Committee constituted to look into the matters relating to issuance of licences for foreign-trade, tax related intricacies, banking problems and to cut delays and reduce the rising cost involved in such matters, has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A High powered Committee under the chairmanship of Revenue Secretary had been constituted 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. The Committee was to examine the issue of transaction costs in terms of additional time and resources invested in non-production/non-price factors arising out of procedural complexities and obstacles associated with administrative process and procedural bottlenecks in relation to foreign trade licensing, custom clearance, refund of duty drawback, infrastructure constraints directly affecting the physical taking out of exports at ports, airports, inland container depots, warehousing and inland transportation etc. The Committee has since submitted its report in which wide ranging recommendations have been made aimed at reducing the procedural complexities, in order to minimise delays, reduce multiplicity of rules and regulations and infrastructural bottlenecks etc. These have been referred to the concerned agencies/Departments for implementation within specific deadlines.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### Cross Border Smuggling

6081. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out a fresh special plan to deal with the cross border smuggling on Indo-Pak border and Indo-Nepal border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the special plan is likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) In order to check cross border smuggling and other anti-India activities on Indo-Pak border, fencing/flood lighting works in Punjab and Rajasthan sectors has been completed. Further, Government has recently approved a comprehensive proposal for construction of fencing/flood lighting on a raised embankment, link roads, border roads and BOPs in 310 kms of Rann area of Gujarat sector at an estimated cost of Rs. 380 Crores. This project will be executed approximately in 5 years. Similarly, a multi-modal approach for sealing the Jammu International Border has been approved by the Government recently. This work will be executed in one and a half years to two years time. DRI & field units under Customs having jurisdiction over Indo-Pak border are also on high alert and vigilant to detect and prevent cross border smuggling of contraband goods.

As for Indo-Nepal border, to check cross border smuggling and other anti-India activities, States bordering Nepal have been advised to strengthen policing/patrolling and maintain strict vigil on the border. Customs formations & DRI officers are also keeping strict watch on the movement of third country goods to Nepal on import from Calcutta port, to prevent deflection/diversion into India.

#### Export of Fruits and Vegetables

6082. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States producing fruits and vegetables and are exporting to other countries;

(b) whether the Union Government provide financial assistance to States for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The major States producing fruits and vegetables are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and some States in the North Eastern Region. While State-wise export statistics are not maintained, from the available information, the above mentioned States are also involved in exporting

fruits and vegetables.

(b) and (c) The Government is providing financial assistance to States under the Central Sector Schemes on Development of Vegetables and on Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits. The amount of assistance released to various States during the last three years has been as follows:

(Amount: Rs. Lakhs)

State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	51.69	80.00	118.98
Arunachal Pradesh	24.05	43.64	61.77
Assam	5.00	20.00	5.00
Bihar	71.72	20.00	10.00
Goa	2.79	2.94	12.17
Gujarat	6.50	32.61	45.00
Haryana	37.79	80.99	53.50
Himachal Pradesh	22.00	00.00	52.19
Jammu & Kashmir	236.00	0.00	7.50
Karnataka	88.79	150.00	223.10
Kerala	102.62	220.69	91.50
Madhya Pradesh	144.91	133.00	128.00
Maharashtra	109.50	214.00	218.00
Manipur	205.30	0.00	86.50
Meghalaya	13.10	15.70	27.00
Mizoram	33.30	22.45	38.18
Nagaland	55.80	122.00	64.20
Orissa	299.00	515.00	743.81
Punjab	32.50	39.08	9.40
Rajasthan	45.47	79.00	90.46
Sikkim	10.30	17.82	46.77
Tamil Nadu	86.90	183.00	157.03
Tripura	16.70	31.98	37.90
Uttar Pradesh	40.78	20.00	137.44

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	70.00	0.00	18.00
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13.45	4.99	17.69
Chandigarh	12.50	1.00	5.00
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.80	2.50	8.41
Daman and Diu	6.30	2.50	11.20
Delhi	5.00	2.97	6.30
Lakshadweep	10.90	9.00	14.09
Pondicherry	3.00	2.50	9.00

(Source: Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation)

The Government has been providing assistance for promotion of exports of fruits and vegetables under its various schemes to growers/exporters. However, no specific assistance to States is provided directly.

#### **Special Central Assistance**

6083. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Special Central Assistance for BMS, Slum Development, HADP, RADP, ATRP, TSP Control of shifting cultivation and assistance under Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for each of the Special Category of States within the North Eastern Region and Sikkim and the Special Central Assistance to the NFC given by the Union Government during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and the current financial year, till date;

(b) the details of Additional Central Assistance for External Aided Project to any of the North Eastern States;

(c) whether any Central Assistance indicating allocation to autonomous Councils in Sixth Schedule in some States and to any local body in any of the State had been provided as additional assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

#### **Kumaramangalam Birla Report**

6084. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has received the Kumaramangalam Birla Committee's report on corporate governance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main recommendations and suggestions of the said Committee;

(d) the details regarding the suggestions and recommendations accepted by SEBI for implementation and those which have been turned down; and

(e) the latest position in regard to the implementation of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report of the Committee was considered and adopted by the SEBI Board at its meeting on January 25, 2000.

(c) and (d) The recommendations in the report have been grouped into two categories, namely, mandatory and non-mandatory recommendations. The mandatory recommendations are to be implemented through amendments to the listing agreements of stock exchanges. These include, *inter-alia*, the composition of the board of directors with an optimum mix of executive and non-executive independent directors; board procedure, compliance report on corporate governance,

constitution of an audit committee to oversee the company's financial reporting and disclosures and adequacy of internal control.

Other recommendations, such as setting up of a remuneration committee of the board of directors and option of postal ballot in some matters, have been classified as non-mandatory recommendations, with which compliance is voluntary.

On February 4, 2000, SEBI issued directions to stock exchanges to amend their listing agreements to implement the mandatory recommendations of the Committee.

(e) The amendments to the listing agreement are to be implemented in a phased manner by:

- Companies seeking listing for the first time, at the time of listing;
- Group 'A' companies in the BSE or in S&P CNX Nifty Index, as on January 1, 2000, latest by March 31, 2001;
- Presently listed companies with paid up share capital of Rs. 10 crore and above, or networth of Rs. 25 crore or more, latest by March 31, 2002;
- Listed companies with paid-up share capital of Rs. 3 crore and above, latest by March 31, 2003.

[English]

#### **Land Acquired by WCL**

6085. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the land acquired by the Western Coalfields Limited for coal mines;

(b) whether the full compensation has been given to the land owners by WCL;

(c) if so, the rate and the amount of compensation provided to the land holders;

(d) whether WCL has promised to provide service to one member of the family of land holders;

(e) if so, whether this promise has been fulfilled; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA):  
(a) The details of the land acquired by the Western Coalfields Limited for coal mines under different modes is as under:

(i) Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957	9,131.895 HA.
(ii) Land Acquisition Act, 1894	3,352.210 HA.
(iii) State Code	1,437.370 HA.
(iv) By mutual negotiation	1,581.800 HA.
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,503.275 HA.</b>

(b) Full compensation as per law is paid to the land owners on acquisition of land.

(c) Rate of compensation varies from case to case depending, *inter alia*, on the following factors:

- (i) Classification of land
- (ii) Year of acquisition
- (iii) Site of land
- (iv) Location of village where the land is situated
- (v) Access to irrigation
- (vi) Proximity to commercial centres
- (vii) Status of basic infrastructure in the area etc.

The total expenditure incurred by WCL against acquisition of land till February, 2000 works out to Rs. 7,247.84 lakhs.

(d) to (f) As per the Resettlement & Rehabilitation policy of Coal India Limited, WCL has been offering one employment to each land oustee family losing minimum 3 acres of non-irrigated land or 2 acres of irrigated land either to self or lineal eligible dependent nominee of the oustee, except in cases of disputes among family members and consequent on submission of suitable nomination.

[Translation]

#### **Merger of Banks**

6086. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the banks running in losses in the country and the total loss suffered by each of the bank, separately;

(b) whether any scheme to merge such loss making banks with other financially sound banks is under consideration;

(c) if so, the names of the banks to be included in this scheme and the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the scheme of the Government to safeguard the interests of the bank employees likely to be affected by this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Information in respect of the public sector and private sector banks running in loss, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is as under:

(Rs. in crores)		
Public Sector Banks	Net Loss (1998-99)	Accumulated loss as on 31.3.99 (latest available)
Indian Bank	778.50	3181.88
UCO Bank	67.77	1803.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>848.27</b>	<b>4985.78</b>
Private Sector Banks		
Beneras State Bank Ltd.	20.31	74.57
Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	67.46	157.05

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Mixing of Chicory in Coffee

6087. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of chicory permitted to be mixed with coffee under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;

(b) whether the Govt. are aware that high percentage of chicory is mixed with coffee and sold as pure coffee;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per the provisions of the Prevention of the Food Adulteration Act, 1954, chicory is permitted to be used upto 49% in coffee.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Regional Rural Banks

6088. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from All India Regional Rural Bank's Employees Association for National Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon, so far; and

(c) the views of the Government regarding restructuring of Regional Rural Banks?

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

(b) and (c) After considering a number of alternative models including creation of National Rural Bank of India (NRBI), it was decided to revamp Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on a "Stand alone" basis by way of infusion of additional capital for cleansing of balance sheets of selected RRBs. Out of 196 RRBs, 187 have been covered under recapitalisation Programme and an amount of Rs. 2188.42 crore including Government of India share of 50% has been provided to these RRBs. Of 187 RRBs, 158 stand fully recapitalised whereas 29 RRBs have been partially recapitalised. Apart from recapitalisation of RRBs several other policy changes have been initiated to facilitate strengthening and revitalising RRBs. The main features are as under:

- (i) Introduction of Development Action Plan and Memoranda of Understanding (DAPs/MOU) on an annual basis for bringing improvement in the performance of the RRBs in a planned way and introduction of prudential norms covering income recognition, assets classification and provisioning norms;
- (ii) Diversification of business portfolios and activities;
- (iii) Increased avenues for investment of surplus Non-SLR funds;
- (iv) Rationalisation of branch net-work including relocation and merger of loss making branches;
- (v) Deregulation of interest rate structure;
- (vi) Providing greater role to the sponsor banks in management of the affairs of RRBs.



### Changes in Doordarshan News Unit

6089. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the popularity of Doordarshan news programme is on the decline;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there has been frequent changes in the Doordarshan News Unit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed to improve the News Unit and to stop frequent postings/transfers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Prasara Bharati has intimated that no frequent transfers of staff are done in the News Wing of Doordarshan. However, changes in this regard are effected as and when necessary in the interest of Service. Prasara Bharati has further informed that Doordarshan is taking all measures to improve its news programmes further. For this purpose, young officers of Indian Information Service are being trained and used for news reporting. Casual Reporters are also being engaged as and when required. New anchors of repute are also being engaged on contract basis. Specialists from various fields are invited to discuss and debate issues with anchors. The facility of hot switching between Delhi and Studios located in other parts of the country is also being provided to give the news programme a national look.

### Involvement of RBI Officials in Fake Currency

6090. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some RBI officials have been found involved in the printing and circulation of fake currency notes helping the Pakistani ISI agency in weakening the Indian economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken against those officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Writing off of Loans

6091. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to write off Rs. 3491 crores from the total outstanding loan due from the State Government on account of expenditure incurred on anti-extremist operations being a national problem; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) 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. Any debt relief to State/States will have to await the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

### Motor Claims on Net Salvage Basis

6092. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidiary companies of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) are settling motor claims on net on salvage basis;

(b) if so, the details and numbers of claims settled and the total amount paid during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, company-wise;

(c) whether complaints of corruption by officials and surveyors in collusion with the buyers of salvage have been received by the Insurance Companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken to curb the corrupt practices in the settlement of motor claims?

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

### Industrial Investment Bank of India

6093. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has complained that the performance of Industrial Investment

Bank of India has steadily deteriorated due to rampant malpractices by its management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether out of Rs. 75 crores capital base, Rs. 50 crores were doled away to shady companies, thus turning it to Non-Performance Asset within a month;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken against the officials who received generous kickbacks by giving the bad loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has informed that they had received a source information regarding irregularities in sanctioning of credit in certain cases and alleged involvement of Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI) officials. CVC had sought a factual report from the Department of Banking Supervision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Investigations were carried out by the RBI and a report has been sent to CVC for appropriate Action.

(c) IIBI has reported that they have not doled away their capital to shady companies. Though assistance to companies is extended after thorough appraisal and scrutiny, there have been cases of Non-Performing Assets due to various reasons like, temporary cash crunch, business failure, recession in industry, economic condition in the country as a whole.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Urban Haat Scheme**

6094. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch Urban Haat Scheme in every State;

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

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, 18 Urban Haats are proposed to be set-up during the 9th Five Year Plan in the metropolitan cities and important tourist places all over the country.

In order to provide direct marketing facilities to the craftpersons/weavers and eliminate middle agencies, Urban Haats are being set up at prime locations in the country in line with Dilli Haat.

(c) The scheme for setting up of Urban Haat is under various stages of implementation. Eight such haats have already been sanctioned at Ahmedabad, Agra, Bhubaneswar, Calcutta, Ranchi, Karnal, Jammu and Tirupathi. The rest will be set up during the remaining period of 9th Five Year Plan.

[*English*]

#### **Rubber Cultivation**

6095. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under rubber cultivation in the country;

(b) the yield of rubber per hectare in the country;

(c) whether there is any gap between demand and production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand and production of rubber?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Total area under rubber cultivation in the country during 1999-2000 was 5,63,000 ha. with an average yield of 1588 kg/ha.

(c) and (d) The production and demand of natural rubber during 1999-2000 is estimated at 6.22 lakh MT and 6.28 lakh MT respectively.

(e) The Government of India through Rubber Board has been implementing various schemes including financial and technical assistance to the rubber growers to boost the production of natural rubber in order to meet demand of natural rubber in the country.

#### **ETV Channels**

6096. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Government have accorded its approval to start ETV channels in Marathi and Kannada during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these channels are likely to be commenced; and

(d) the extent to which these channels are useful for the people of Maharashtra and Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Norms to Foreign Channels**

6097. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prescribed any norms to have a check on foreign channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of the channels which have violated these norms during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The programmes of foreign satellite channels are uplinked from outside the country and therefore, do not fall under the ambit of Indian laws as of now, unless decoders are required for their reception in which case their programmes/advertisements, when transmitted through a cable operator, are required to adhere to the programme/advertisement codes prescribed under sections 5 and 6 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. Further, under section 19 of the Act the authorized officers of State Governments may prohibit any cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any particular programme on various grounds and under section 20, the Central Government can prohibit the operation of cable networks in public interest in any area.

(d) The Central Government, vide a notification issued under section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 on 20.10.1999 prohibited the operation of cable television networks which were carrying the programme containing the foreign satellite channels "TB-6" throughout the country, as it contained pornographic and obscene matters affecting public morality. Also, during the Kargil conflict, in view of anti Indian nature of programmes of Pak TV, the Central Government had advised State Governments to prohibit, under section 19, the transmission/re-transmission of programmes of PTV. After the cessation of the conflict, the State Governments were advised to withdraw the prohibition on distribution of PTV programmes.

*[English]*

#### **Assistance to States for Industries in Rural Sector**

6098. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total assistance provided to States during each of the last three years, particularly to Uttar Pradesh for industries in rural sector;

(b) whether Union Government have sought district-wise progress reports from the State regarding utilisation of funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Central Government does not release funds directly to the State Governments for industries in the rural sector. The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is implementing the growth centre and the transport subsidy scheme for the development of backward areas. The details of grants released to Uttar Pradesh for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

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

#### **Statement**

##### **Statement No. 1**

##### **Growth Centre Scheme**

(Rupees in lacs)				
Uttar Pradesh	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Total
	Nil	220	Nil	220

**Statement No. 2****Transport Subsidy Scheme**

(Rupees in lacs)

Uttar Pradesh	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total
	0.92	45.14	—	1582.44

**Acceptance of Spoiled Notes**

6099. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to banks to accept spoiled/torn currency notes of small denominations from the customers;

(b) if so, the date on which the orders in this regard were issued to banks;

(c) whether inspite of such orders some banks do not accept spoiled/torn currencies from the public;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the RBI to ensure that the orders should be implemented by all the banks in true spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to all banks, vide their circulars dated 9.8.76, 2.4.85, 15.1.86, 12.1.88, 25.5.88, 28.6.88, 7.5.90 & 3.12.96, to accept spoiled/torn currency notes of all denominations from the customers.

(c) and (d) The RBI has received a few complaints from the public citing deficiencies in exchange of soiled/torn currency notes from the banks.

(e) The RBI has initiated the following steps to ensure that the instructions pertaining to exchange facilities are implemented by the branches of public sector banks and those of private sector banks having currency chests:

(i) In order to mop up the soiled notes of Rupee 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 denominations from circulation, Regional Offices of RBI and some important currency chests have opened Special counters for exchange of these notes.

(ii) After ensuring that adequate supply of coins are available in each of the denominations, at

RBI chests, advertisements were issued in the local newspapers and also through electronic media so that the facility was duly brought to the notice of the public.

(iii) Some of the public sector bank branches as also the Regional Offices of the SBI have arranged mobile counters (vans) in city/mandi/market area etc. for distribution of coins in exchange of spoiled notes.

**Coffee Growers**

6100. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Federation of India has submitted a Memorandum to the Government regarding grievances of the Federation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the problems of the Federation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Coffee Federation of India has recently represented to the State Govt. of Karnataka and Coffee Board for amending the Karnataka Sales Tax Act to allow exemption from payment of purchase/sales taxes on coffee sold in the course of export from India.

(c) The Govt. of Karnataka have recently exempted coffee from purchase tax if such coffee is exported outside the country within 4 months from the date of purchase of coffee and have also reduced the rate of sales tax on coffee including coffee beans and seeds from 8% to 4%.

[Translation]

**Mineral Reserves**

6101. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new mineral reserves have been found in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken for the exploitation of the same;

(c) the names of places where mining is in progress, till date;

(d) the achievements made in this regard;

(e) whether any technical assistance has been sought or proposed to be sought from certain foreign institutes for the mining work in Bihar; 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. Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) and Department of Mining and Geology (DMG), Bihar have been carrying out exploration of minerals. GSI has established 668.84 million tonnes of coal reserve in East Bokaro Coalfield, West of South Karanpura Coalfield and Rajmahal Group of Coalfields areas. Further, GSI has located 243 prospects of commercial granite over an area of 2675 sq. km. in Chhota Nagpur Gneissic Terrain in Dumka, Koderma, Deogarh, Hazaribagh, Giridih, East and West Singhbhum districts.

MECL has estimated reserves of Coal — 4230.51 m.t, Copper — 9.25 m.t. and Bauxite — 7.94 m.t.

DMG, Bihar has reported occurrences of Galena in Banka area and Pyroxenite in Singhbhum East, Jamshedpur.

Any Indian National or a Company as defined in the sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder.

(c) and (d) Information is given in enclosed Statements.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

### *Statement*

#### *Mineral Production 1997-98 & 1998-99*

*(By State/District/Minerals)*  
*(Value in Rs. "000")*

District/ Minerals	Unit Qty.	Mine	1997-98 Qty.	Value	Mine	1998-99 Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>*Bihar</b>							
<b>*All Districts</b>							
Coal	000 t	173	81035	47105970	173	76349	44130444
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		173		47105970	173		44130444
<b>*Deoghar</b>							
Felspar	Tonne	2	1570	141	2	1610	127
Quartz	Tonne	0	2984	179	0	3140	169
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		2		320	2		296
<b>*Dhanbad</b>							
Silver	Kg.	0	9073	67004	0	7179	53017
Fireclay	Tonne	2	1690	136	3	2907	285
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		2		67140	3		53302

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>*Dumka</b>							
Felspar	Tonne	0	818	82	0	1304	98
Quartz	Tonne	2	3951	395	2	4041	222
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		2		477	2		320
<b>*Garhwa</b>							
Dolomite	Tonne	1	288532	154076	1	356547	212502
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		1		154076	1		212502
<b>*Giridih</b>							
Mica	Tonne	4	215	452	4	178	401
Mica (Waste & Scr)	Tonne	0	34	0	0	85	0
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		4		452	4		401
<b>*Gumla</b>							
Bauxite	Tonne	18	575972	123630	18	732232	149093
Laterite	Tonne	0	10	1	0	0	0
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		18		123631	18		149093
<b>*Hazaribagh</b>							
Felspar	Tonne	1	604	79	1	2273	280
Fireclay	Tonne	1	100	6	1	485	20
Garnet (abrasive)	Tonne	1	0	4	0	0	0
Lime-stone	000 t	6	116	24983	6	102	21233
Quartz	Tonne	0	1662	216	0	2500	312
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		9		25288	8		21845
<b>*Kodarma</b>							
Mica	Tonne	9	338	4356	9	314	4065
Mica (Waste & Scr)	Tonne	0	340	0	0	232	0
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		9		4356	9		4065

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>*Lohardaga</b>							
Bauxite	Tonne	11	540845	113382	9	509769	109182
Kaolin	Tonne	0	955	965	0	106	106
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		11		114347	9		109288
<b>*Munger</b>							
Quartzite	Tonne	4	8266	1748	7	17771	2008
Steatite	Tonne	1	1090	65	1	863	45
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		5		1813	8		2053
<b>*Nawada</b>							
Mica	Tonne	11	334	3118	8	98	1015
Mica	Tonne	0	0	0	0	18	0
<b>(Waste &amp; Scr)</b>							
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		11		3118	8		1015
<b>*Palamau</b>							
Iron Ore	000 t	1	7	2081	2	6	1749
Felspar	Tonne	0	5748	611	0	2906	410
Fireclay	Tonne	9	16060	1846	7	5990	812
Graphite	Tonne	5	7979	2328	4	9906	1964
Lime-stone	000 t	2	157	74640	2	99	42908
Quartz	Tonne	6	910	79	6	851	68
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		23		81585	21		47911
<b>*Ranchi</b>							
Kaolin	Tonne	1	2550	332	1	900	117
Lime-stone	000 t	2	25	3873	1	25	4178
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		3		4205	2		4295
<b>*Rohtas</b>							
Lime-stone	000 t	6	523	168571	6	433	139382
Pyrites	Tonne	1	125474	78919	1	88738	83580
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		7		247490	7		222962

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>*Sahebganj</b>							
Kaolin	Tonne	3	33662	21995	4	17097	19116
Silicasand	Tonne	3	81215	19263	3	77354	17457
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		6		41258	7		36573
<b>*Singhbhum</b>							
<b>East</b>							
Copper	Tonne	5	945827	1073782	5	647844	723526
<b>Ore</b>							
Gold	Kg.	0	684	254827	0	505	176222
Silver	Kg.	0	6399	46287	0	5127	38742
Kyanite	Tonne	1	4831	2614	1	4920	2662
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		6		1377310	6		941152
<b>*Singhbhum</b>							
<b>West</b>							
Iron Ore	000 t	17	12495	2270902	19	11997	2220725
Manganese	Tonne	3	8132	3013	2	13115	4367
<b>Ore</b>							
Kaolin	Tonne	11	21411	7917	11	12341	6710
Kyanite	Tonne	1	86	170	1	73	138
Lime-stone	000 t	9	533	67776	8	415	64957
Ochre	Tonne	1	220	12	1	747	112
Quartz	Tonne	1	5700	234	1	3398	469
<b>*Subsub-total*</b>		43		2350024	43		2297478
<b>**Sub-total*</b>		335		51702860	331		48234975

*[English]***Financial crisis to Coal Society**

6102. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal society in Andhra Pradesh has been passing through severe financial crisis with no source of income to pay salaries to its employees;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has sought help from the Union Government in this regard; and



(c) if so, the extent to which the Union Government have agreed to help the coal society of Andhra Pradesh to meet the financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) No information is available in the Department of Coal in the Union Government as to whether any coal society in Andhra Pradesh has been passing through severe financial crisis with no source of income to pay salaries to its employees. The Union Government has no scheme under which financial assistance can be given to any coal society of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also not sought for any help from the Union Government for providing financial assistance to any coal society in Andhra Pradesh. However, Government of India has recently approved a capital restructuring plan of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) on 21.6.99. SCCL is a Government company of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in which the State Government and Government of India share the equity in 51:49 ratio. As per the capital restructuring plan, the investment of Government of India in the equity of SCCL during IX Plan period has been raised to Rs. 257.51 crores. During the IX Plan period the Government of India would also provide loan to the extent of Rs. 77.50 crores and another financial assistance of Rs. 61.62 crores by way of bilateral credit. SCCL has been allowed moratorium upto 31.3.2007 on payment of outstanding interest of Rs. 663.34 crores (as on 31.3.97) accruing on Government of India loans sanctioned to the company during the VIII Plan period.

#### Assessment of Viewers

6103. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is overall increase in the viewers of DD-I during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the comparative figure of viewers in regard to channels like Zee TV and Sony TV and DD-I;

(c) whether it is a fact that DD is likely to increase its advertisement rates keeping in view its increased viewers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and extent to which these are likely to be increased;

(e) the total revenue generated by DD-I through advertisement during the last two years and percentage increase thereof; and

(f) the criteria adopted by DD to assess its viewers?

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. Recent survey (during Oct. 24 to Nov. 27, 1999) done by Television Audience Measurements (TAM) through 'People Meters' in 27 towns indicates that Doordarshan is far ahead of private channels in terms of viewership. The TAM measurements also indicate that the overall viewership of Doordarshan channel DD-I has increased by 26% between June 1999 and January, 2000.

(b) Details as per TAM study mentioned above are as under:

Channels	Minutes of daily viewership
DD-1	54
ZEE	7
STAR PLUS	2
SONY	7
SUN TV	8

(c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that presently there is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The total commercial revenue earned by the national network during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 211.55 crores and 317.50 crores respectively. The increase was approx 50.08%.

(f) Doordarshan has its own system known as DART for getting comparative rating of its programmes. However, to know changes in viewership over periods of time, Doordarshan monitors data from TAM system (Television Audience Measurement system) which now covers 27 cities of the country.

#### Telecasting/Broadcasting Stations in Manipur

6104. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of broadcasting/telecasting stations working in Manipur, district-wise;

(b) whether the telecasting and broadcasting services are sufficient to the needs of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps being taken by the Government to open some new stations in tribal areas of the State?

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) At present, 1 Radio Station with 2 High Power Transmitters at Imphal and 9 TV Transmitters of varying power are functioning in Manipur. The District-wise details of TV transmitters are as under:

District	No. of TV Transmitters
Chandel	2
Churachandpur	1
Imphal	3
Senapati	2
Ukhral	1

(b) and (c) Radio and TV coverage is presently available to 88% and 67% of population of the State respectively. In addition, a Local Radio Station with 6 KW FM Tr. alongwith studio and a High Power TV Transmitter is being set up at Churachandpur. Also the existing 50 KW MW Tr. at Imphal is proposed to be replaced by 300 KW MW Tr. during 9th Plan. On completion of these projects, Radio and TV coverage in the State is expected to improve to a great extent. Further expansion of the Radio and TV coverage will depend on availability of resources.

#### **Export of Rose Onion**

6105. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters from Karnataka have been exporting the special quality of Rose onions to Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Singapore, Sri Lanka etc.;

(b) whether there is great demand of Rose onions in these countries due to its high degree of pungency;

(c) whether this quality of Rose onions are exclusively grown for exports and not for the local market;

(d) if so, whether the recent ban on onion, exports has adversely affected the growers/exporters; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to lift the ban on export of Rose onions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Bangalore Rose Onions are exported to destinations including Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Singapore and Sri Lanka, as it is a preferred variety due to its pungency. There is a limited domestic demand for Bangalore Rose Onion.

(d) and (e) Ban on export of Bangalore Rose Onion have been removed with effect from 26.4.2000 so as to eliminate any adverse effect on growers and exporters.

[Translation]

#### **Export of Spices**

6106. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds received by the Spices Board from the Union Government to encourage exports;

(b) whether the quantum of export of spices has declined this year;

(c) if so, whether the Government have constituted any Committee to find out the reasons of this decline; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Spices Board has received Rs. 1300 lakhs from the Government during 1999-2000 towards plan expenditure including schemes for encouraging exports.

(b) While there has been a marginal decline in the quantity of spices exported in 1999-2000 compared to the previous year, in terms of value the export of spices has gone up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Manganese Ore Mines in Orissa**

6107. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manganese ore mines in Orissa, location-wise; and

(b) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of those manganese ore deposits in those mines?

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 office of Department of Mines, the number of manganese ore mines reported to have worked in Orissa during 1998-99 is as follows:

District	Number of Mines
Keonjhar	21
Sundergarh	19

(b) For conservation and systematic development of minerals and also for environmental protection, Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 1988 have been framed under Section 18 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. MCDR is monitored by the Central Government through IBM. Mining operations are carried out according to the mining plan approved by IBM. Compliance of the mining plan stipulation is being checked from time to time through inspections by IBM officers. In case of irregularities, the same are pointed out by IBM under the appropriate provisions of MCDR for compliance/rectification.

#### Promotion of Export

6108. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have outlined a long term strategy for promotion of exports to Latin America;

(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) to (c) The Focus: LAC programme, launched by the Ministry of Commerce in 1997 to significantly enhance India's trade with the Latin American countries has been extended upto March, 2003. This special package provides, *inter-alia*, better interaction and liberal support through Market Development Assistance, for buyer-seller meet, participate in foreign fairs, support for setting up of warehouses in Latin America and inviting buyers from Latin America to India. Details of this package are also available on the web site of the Ministry of Commerce. The data of trade with Latin America has been analysed by National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI). A product catalogue for the

products having potential for export to Latin America has also been prepared. In addition, Ministry has taken initiative in facilitating resolution of infrastructural bottlenecks in exports to LAC.

#### Excise Duty in North East

6109. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central Excise refunded to Assam and North-Eastern States during 1999-2000 after Central Excise exemption was implemented in July, 1999;

(b) the number of new units registered with the CBEC office for availing refunds under the new policy;

(c) whether any estimate has been made of the refunds which will be released during 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) During the period 8th July 1999 to 31st March, 2000, an amount of Rs. 32.55 crore of excise duty has been refunded to the industrial units in Assam and other North-Eastern States.

(b) 36 units have been registered under the jurisdiction of Commissionerate of Central Excise, Shillong for availing of refund under the new policy.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

#### Growth of Media

6110. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Government are going to encourage growth of media as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated April 9, 2000 captioned "Centre to encourage growth of media, says I & B Minister"; and

(b) the extent to which it is likely to improve the quality of media?

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) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to bring about quantitative and qualitative improvements in the working of various

media units. Prasar Bharati Corporation has been set up as an autonomous body so that Doordarshan and All India Radio can function in a professional manner. FM Radio Stations are being allocated to private parties. Special packages are also being worked out for J&K and North-Eastern Region to improve the reach and quantum of programming in the area.

#### **Import of Used Tyres**

6111. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to include import of used tyre under OGL;

(b) if so, the impact of this on the domestic tyre industry and the rubber growers; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avert the dumping of tyres and to save the environment of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Import of used/ retreaded tyres was allowed to be imported vide Notification No. 11/97-02 dated 8.8.97. However import of used/retreaded passenger vehicles tyres below a value of US\$ 25 per piece is restricted. Similarly import of used/retreaded bigger size tyres below a value of US\$ 175 per piece is restricted.

As per import data of these items available with the government, no significant import of these items have taken place to have any adverse impact either on domestic tyre industry or on rubber growers.

[*Translation*]

#### **Consumption of Cement**

6112. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption of cement in the country as on 31.3.2000 and the manner in which this demand is met;

(b) the steps likely to be taken by the Government to meet the increasing demand of cement in the country during the next two years;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the price of cement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Cement consumption in the country for the year 1999-2000 is 98.12 million tonnes as against a total production of 100.25 million tonnes.

(b) Cement industry is delicensed and decontrolled. The industry has adequate capacity to meet the demand in the country and is capable of increasing the capacity to the extent required.

(c) to (e) At present there is no control on the price and distribution of cement. Therefore, the demand and supply, price etc. are determined by the market forces. However, Government has been encouraging creation of additional installed capacity and higher production of cement so that there is a healthy competition in the market.

[*English*]

#### **Disinvestment of Profit Making PSUs**

6113. SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether sale of shares of selected profit making PSUs viz. VSML, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum, IPCL, HOCL, IOC, ONGC, etc. is oriented to meet the deficit financing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether disinvestment of the above profit making units was made much below to the market price; and

(d) if so, the sale value of shares vis-a-vis market value of the profit making Central PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The sale of shares of the Public Sector Enterprises results in generation of revenue to the Government, which is *inter-alia* used for meeting expenditure in social sector, restructuring of public sector undertakings and retiring of public debt.

(c) and (d) Out of the above companies, part of the shares of VSNL, BPCL, HPCL, IPCL and HOCL were sold in bundles with the shares of other companies. Hence the price of shares of individual companies is not

ascertainable. In case of IOC and ONGC, the average price at which shares were sold is above the current market price of these shares.

[Translation]

#### **Corrupt Bank Officials**

6114. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission have suggested the names of officers of banks against whom the action can be initiated to eradicate corruption;

(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) The Central Vigilance Commission has reported that it does not suo-moto suggest action against any official. However, the Commission tenders appropriate advice to the banks on action proposed to be taken against their officials as a result of investigation carried out by the banks or the Central Bureau of Investigation.

[English]

#### **CBI Raids on PSUs Officials**

6115. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by CBI on the premises of Senior Officers of Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years and chargesheets filed, year-wise;

(b) the details regarding investigation of these cases, charges levelled and cases filed in the court; and

(c) the number of cases have been disposed of by the court during the last three years and the rate of conviction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The CBI has reported that 235 searches were made during the last three years up to 31.3.2000 and that 124 cases have been registered against senior officers of PSUs. The details regarding action/prosecution launched against the

functionaries of PSEs is available in the Annual Report of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which is laid on the Table of the House. The CBI adopts operational modalities as are warranted by the circumstances of each case including the conduct of raids.

[Translation]

#### **Imports through Duty Entitlement Pass Book**

6116. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the importers are facing difficulties in imports through Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Income Tax Department is asking to deposit 40 percent cash amount on imports being made through DEPB and the imported goods are not being released for not depositing the cash amount in this regard;

(d) whether the goods worth crores of rupees are lying at the ports and the demurrage charges and pest expenditure is going up; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No large scale difficulties faced by the importers in imports through Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) have come to the notice of the Government. The DEPB Scheme is administered by Director General of Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Commerce under the extant Export Import Policy but clearances under this Scheme are handled by Customs. Certain difficulties have come to the notice of various Custom Houses in imports through DEPB Scheme against DEPB Licences issued for exports of certain sectors from time to time. As soon as these difficulties were brought to the notice of the Ministry by the Custom Houses or the exporters, the same were expeditiously resolved in consultation with the Director General of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Commerce.

(c) There is no provision in the Income-Tax Act for levy of 40 percent on imports being made through DEPB Scheme.

(d) and (e) The DEPB Licences which are issued by the regional offices of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade are submitted to the respective Custom Houses for verification as per the provisions of the extant Export

Import Policy. A DEPB Licence becomes valid only after due verification by the Custom House. No delay in clearance of imported goods takes place against a duly verified DEPB Licence. However, there are certain consignments lying uncleared at certain ports which have been detained on charges of mis-declarations and investigations in these cases are in progress. The importers of such consignments are given option to transfer their goods to warehouses to save port demurrage charges.

[English]

### **Seized Smuggled Goods**

6117. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of smuggled goods and foreign currency seized by customs officials during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, State-wise;

(b) the number of arrests made in each of the smuggled goods and foreign currency cases; and

(c) the steps taken to check the entry of smuggled goods and foreign currency in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### **Smuggling of Gold**

6118. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Dainik Jagran" dated February 17, 2000 captioned "Sone Ki Taskari Mein Custom Afsaron Ki Bhi Chandi";

(b) if so, whether now the customs officers given priority to the seizure of gold and electronic items as compared to that of charas, hashish and other narcotics since the reward on these is much more;

(c) if so, the reasons for which the Government give reward to the customs officers on the seizure of these items;

(d) whether the Government propose to abolish this system; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No Sir. The field formations and intelligence agencies of Customs engaged in the prevention of smuggling of contraband goods do not make any such distinction while effecting seizures of different items of smuggling.

(c) The reward to Customs officers and informers in cases involving seizures of contraband items like Gold, electronic goods or narcotic drugs as per detailed policy guidelines laid down by the Government, is given essentially as a measure of incentive to motivate them to put in extra special efforts and work, outside the normal call of their duties, and at times at considerable personal risk, to check and detect smuggling/evasion of duties. The reward to officers in seizures of contraband goods is generally based upon the sale value of the goods on disposal after all legal proceedings are over. In the case of narcotic drugs, even though these are ultimately destroyed still a reward scheme based upon the quantum and quality of the seized narcotics is in vogue to motivate the officers and informers in detecting and preventing their illicit trafficking.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) There is no proposal to abolish the existing reward scheme as it could act as a serious damper to anti-smuggling and enforcement activities of the concerned Departments. It could demotivate the informers and even officers in unearthing and detecting smuggling and serious commercial frauds and Drug abuse which may endanger Government revenues apart from having serious impact on the health of the economy and even society at large — in drug smuggling/abuse cases, if these go undetected.

[English]

### **Import from Nepal**

6119. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports from Nepal under bilateral treaties are exempted from basic customs duty;

(b) if so, whether the cost of most of the items are cheaper than the goods produced by Small Scale Industries;

(c) whether SSIs are affected adversely because of cheaper rates of goods imported; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to save the Small Scale Industries?

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

(b) Various factors like the import duty, scales of production, cost of labour, banking charges and cost of infrastructure, etc. determine the cost of an item. Government have no data about the cost of production of goods in Nepal and therefore the comparison of the cost of production of goods in Nepal with that of goods produced by Small Scale Industries in India is not possible.

(c) and (d) As and when representations are received in this regard, the issue is taken up with His Majesty's Government of Nepal as provided in the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade.

[Translation]

#### Non-Availability of Loan

6120. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of loan earmarked for agricultural sector was not provided during the last few years;

(b) if so, the percentage of loans earmarked for Agricultural Sector but diverted to other sectors during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, separately;

(c) the percentage of loans fixed to be provided to this sector during this year; and

(d) the reasons for which the loan was not made available to the agricultural sector as per the percentage fixed therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A target of 18 percent of Net Bank Credit has been stipulated for lending to agriculture under the priority sector by the domestic scheduled commercial banks: Performance of public sector banks in lending to agriculture as on the last reporting Friday of March 1997,

1998 and 1999 and September 1999 is furnished below: (Data Provisional)

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Advances Outstanding to agriculture	Achievement as % of NBC (Target 18%)	Shortfall as % of NBC
March 1997	31012.11	16.35	1.65
March 1998	34304.50	15.72	2.28
March 1999	40077.64	16.28	1.72
Sept. 1999	40660.00	16.16	1.84

Performance of private sector banks in lending to agriculture as on last reporting Friday of March 1997, 1998 and 1999 is furnished below: (Data provisional)

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Advances Outstanding to agriculture	Achievement as % of NBC (Target 18%)	Shortfall as % of NBC
March 1997	1953	9.1	8.9
March 1998	2746	9.7	8.3
March 1999	3286	9.5	8.5

This shortfall in lending to agriculture sector has been attempted to be met by way of contributions made by public and private sector banks to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to the extent of their shortfall in lending to agriculture with a ceiling of 1.5% of their NBC.

(c) Stipulation of lending 185 of NBC to agriculture sector continues in the current year.

(d) Agricultural advances of public sector banks have increased from Rs. 15,857 crores in 1991 to Rs. 40,077.54 crores in March 1999. But due to steep increase in the Net Bank Credit of public sector banks from Rs. 1,17,443 crores in 1992 to Rs. 2,46,203 crores in 1998-99, there has been marginal shortfall in achieving the target of 18%.

### Protection of Intellectual Property

6121. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI TARUN GOGOI:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bharat Mein Hamari Bauddhik Sampada Ko Poora Sanrakshan Nahin Mil Raha — America" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated April 2, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allow unhindered import of American films and invasion of our culture in the name of protection of intellectual property;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any review of its likely adverse impact on the Indian culture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

### India's Attitude on Issues Like IT and E-Commerce

6122. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR:

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

(a) whether India has decided to adopt the positive stand in Geneva on the issues like Information Technology (IT) and E-Commerce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to persuade other developing countries to raise the issue along with India in the WTO meeting?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) India's positive

commitment to Information Technology is reflected in India being a signatory to the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) which is a plurilateral agreement under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The ITA aims to expand World Trade in information technology products by providing enhanced market access opportunities while facilitating the growth and usage of Information Technology for the dynamic expansion of world economy.

In respect of e-commerce, the Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organisation at Geneva in its "Declaration on Global Electronic Commerce" adopted on 20th May 1998, had declared that without prejudice to the work programme on electronic commerce or to the rights and obligations of Member countries under WTO Agreements, the Member countries would continue their current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions and that the extension of this non-imposition of customs duties on electronic transmissions would be reviewed in the next Ministerial Conference.

WTO has established a work programme to examine all trade-related issues related to global electronic commerce. India has actively participated in the discussions. India's concerns are with respect to issues relating to the developmental dimension of electronic commerce, applicability of existing WTO rules to electronic transmissions, domain names, jurisdiction and enforcement of intellectual property rights, etc. India would like the work programme to address these concerns. However, the discussions are still in an initial stage and India will continue to seek support from other countries on specific issues and concerns.

The Third Ministerial Conference of WTO at Seattle was inconclusive and hence no specific decision about extending the practice of non-imposition of customs duties on electronic transmissions was taken.

### Consolidated Fund of India

6123. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the year-wise amount of assistance granted to various States particularly to Rajasthan during the last three years from the Consolidated Fund of India, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Central assistance for Annual Plans of the States is released by the Ministry of Finance as per allocations made by the Planning Commission. A statement indicating release of Central assistance to various States including Rajasthan by the Ministry of Finance during the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) is enclosed.



**State/ent****Central assistance released for States' Annual Plans by Ministry of Finance**

(Rs. in crore)

State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1. Andhra Pradesh	2153.64	1935.42	2557.04
2. Arunachal Pradesh	450.19	525.57	559.73
3. Assam	1207.66	1343.13	1439.45
4. Bihar	1384.33	1952.84	2196.95
5. Goa	77.43	71.65	69.56
6. Gujarat	855.15	1135.48	1371.92
7. Haryana	446.80	411.52	500.40
8. Himachal Pradesh	546.16	757.98	945.67
9. Jammu & Kashmir	2259.72	2383.72	2895.57
10. Karnataka	858.50	1019.66	1236.28
11. Kerala	546.45	679.99	719.87
12. Madhya Pradesh	1216.11	1366.37	1668.10
13. Maharashtra	1858.15	1527.25	1207.10
14. Manipur	393.42	417.51	551.85
15. Meghalaya	261.33	336.88	375.82
16. Mizoram	326.30	328.92	406.76
17. Nagaland	309.50	367.89	450.59
18. Orissa	1154.17	1200.15	1197.50
19. Punjab	525.65	438.31	400.97
20. Rajasthan	973.37	1169.76	1101.43
21. Sikkim	209.66	253.39	296.36
22. Tamil Nadu	1405.22	1169.13	1454.36
23. Tripura	385.02	523.55	642.26
24. Uttar Pradesh	3072.22	3191.12	3767.85
25. West Bengal	1567.12	2152.16	2145.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>24423.27</b>	<b>26659.35</b>	<b>30358.55</b>

**No Industry Districts in Orissa**

6124. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of "No Industry Districts" in Orissa;

(b) whether the proposal to set up some industry in those districts are pending with Government; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to clear those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) With the introduction of the new Growth Centre Scheme in 1988, the old No Industry District Scheme of 1983 was discontinued. Under the new Scheme four growth centres have been sanctioned in Orissa so as to attract industrial units in backward districts. These are at Chhatrapur (district Ganjam), Kalinganagar-Duburi (district Cuttack), Jharsuguda (district Jharsuguda) and Kesinga (district Kalahandi).

(c) Does not arise.

#### Houses for Employees of GIC

6125. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and its four subsidiary companies have purchased houses for their officials in Delhi, NOIDA, Faridabad and Ghaziabad;

(b) if so, the number of houses purchased, location-wise and the total amount spent thereon by each subsidiary company;

(c) whether a number of houses are either lying vacant or allotted to officials who are not eligible;

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

(e) the details of officials who have not been allotted company owned houses despite their applications for allotment of house at the above places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) have reported that the four subsidiary companies of GIC have purchased residential flats for their officials. However, GIC have not purchased any flat. The details are given as under:

	No. of flats	Amount Rs. (Lacs)
Delhi	76	204.69
Noida	45	101.63
Faridabad	2	3.35
Ghaziabad	36	69.93

(c) and (d) None of the noneligible officers has been allotted the house. The details about the vacant houses are given as under:

*National:* One flat has been kept vacant under management discretionary quota for Senior Transferred Officers.

*New India:* Four flats are vacant of which two are under repairs and one each reserved for Transferred Managers and Asstt. General Managers.

*Oriental:* Two flats are vacant of which one is earmarked for Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Company and another is under repair.

(e) The requisite information is as under:

*New Delhi:* Two officials are in waiting list at Ghaziabad.

*Oriental:* 67 officials have applied for company-owned accommodation.

*United India:* 9 Officers have applied for company owned accommodation.

#### Library Staff

6126. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:  
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission have made some recommendations for library staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not implementing the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission in regard thereto;

(d) the time frame worked out for early implementation of the recommendations;

(e) whether the Government have received any demands/grievances from the Central Government Librarians Association;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken thereon?

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

(b) The recommendations of the Fifth CPC regarding Library Staff working in Government of India are contained in Chapter 55 (paras 55.155 to 55.180 - Vol. II) of their Report.

(c) and (d) Recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission are under consideration of the Department of Culture which is the nodal agency for processing various recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission in regard to the Library Staff in consultation with Ministry of Finance and other concerned Ministries. Therefore it may not be possible to indicate time-frame for taking a final decision thereon.

(e) to (g) The Government of India Librarians Association have submitted a Charter of Demands. The demands include (i) constitution of a Group 'A' Central Library Service; (ii) provision of higher pay scales for the posts of Librarian, Library-in-charge and Library Attendants; (iii) introduction of Merit Promotion and Flexible Complementing Schemes for Government Librarians; (iv) implementation of the Chattopadhyay Committee Report; (v) provision of minimum staff in different categories of libraries; etc. These demands are under consideration of the Government.

#### **Import of Spares by NCL**

6127. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA:  
DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:  
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:  
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL) is continuing to import spares for walking draglines from US based Bucyrus International instead of placing orders to indigenous PSU namely Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), Ranchi;

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

(c) whether HEC has also offered its services to get the job of reconditioning of draglines at five percent less cost than quoted by the US based Bucyrus International;

(d) if so, the reasons for not helping the ailing HEC by placing orders for repairs, reconditioning etc. to make it viable;

(e) whether the Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Ministry has also requested his ministry to place the orders to HEC; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by his ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Draglines designed and manufactured by M/s. Bucyrus, U.K. have been supplied by M/s. HEC. NCL is procuring spares both from Bucyrus and HEC. The critical spares originally manufactured by Bucyrus are being procured from them directly. The two draglines which were received during 1981-82 had indigenous components of less than 10 percent. The draglines received subsequently had indigenous components progressively increasing up to 72 percent. The performance of the first lot of draglines received with higher percentage of imported components was better compared to draglines with higher percentage of indigenous components. The critical items of the draglines, therefore had to be imported from the OEM M/s. Bucyrus due to poor performance of the indigenously developed/manufactured spares supplied by HEC in order to improve the reliability of the dragline and also to minimise the down time of the dragline. As the down time cost particularly for the dragline is very high.

(c) In December, 1997 HEC offered a proposal to undertake refurbishment of draglines in collaboration with OEM M/s. Bucyrus indicating that they had entered into an MOU with M/s. Bucyrus to refurbish the draglines based on a joint working proposal to be drawn up by M/s. Bucyrus Europe Ltd., U.K. and HEC. NCL board of directors approved this arrangement for refurbishment of draglines by M/s. Bucyrus/HEC. Subsequently HEC vide their letter dated 17-02-1998 withdrew the aforesaid offer. M/s. Bucyrus also intimated that the MOU with M/s. HEC has expired in February, 98 and has not been renewed. As per the decision taken in the review meeting of NCL by the Ministry of Coal on 23-12-1997, NCL was to take up rehabilitation of equipment where possible in the form of life extension programme with the help of original equipment manufacturers. The OEM M/s. Bucyrus was invited to submit their offers for refurbishment of the draglines in August, 1998. Their offer (including technical & service facilities by BEML, their manufacturing partner in India and a public sector undertaking of Government of India) was subsequently approved by NCL board. M/s. HEC of their own sent out a letter in September, 1998 indicating that HEC is prepared to undertake the job at a price 5% lower than any other bidder. No techno-commercial offer was submitted by them. Since their collaboration agreement with OEM M/s. Bucyrus had expired and HEC did not have any commitment for technical upgradation, their letter was considered as an un-solicited and un-qualified one.

(d) The quality of spares manufactured and supplied by HEC has been very disappointing. This is evident

from the fact that the life of spares manufactured and supplied by HEC is much less than that of imported spares manufactured and supplied by M/s. Bucyrus. Performance of imported spares manufactured and supplied by M/s. Bucyrus is 150% to 1600% higher than those manufactured by HEC. Further, there is a case of premature failure of rails and rollers of 20/90 dragline at Nigahi procured from HEC at a cost of more than Rs. one crore against commitment of guaranteed life of 30,000 hours. The rail failed after 1195 hours only. The latest dragline supplied by HEC, i.e. 'JWALA' dragline which has more than 70% indigenously manufactured components was erected, put on trial on 17-10-1999 and finally commissioned on 15-01-2000. The dragline

continues to give troubles frequently because of the failures of various items manufactured by HEC. In spite of the failures as stated above, NCL is continuing to place orders on M/s. HEC for supply of spares of non critical nature regularly. Details of orders placed on HEC during the last four years and in the current year is given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) Yes, the Minister of Industry has through a D.O. letter requested the Minister of Mines & Minerals to extend their support to HEC by favouring it with orders from Companies under its command.

(f) The reference has been forwarded to Coal Companies.

### **Statement**

*Order Placed on HEC by NCL from April 1995 to April 2000*

(Value in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	99-2000 (Till April 2000)
1.	HQ	21609959.00	83255356.00	42984006.00	76352338.00	33427865.00
2.	Jhingurdah	5861688.00	858797.00	1469605.00	1208000.00	0.00
3.	Bina	3761517.00	3695152.00	6006794.00	10832830.00	2809950.00
4.	Kakri	0.00	0.00	0.00	568759.00	594860.00
5.	Khadia	37859800.00	6584684.00	3933575.00	4073857.00	3984953.00
6.	Jayant	1758780.00	6080148.00	22347330.00	7730839.00	5962820.00
7.	Dudhichua	0.00	0.00	1522750.00	1841330.00	292474.00
8.	Nigahi	0.00	1016124.00	1147440.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Amlohri	0.00	83200.00	897208.00	273680.00	2374135.00
10.	Gorbi-B	0.00	468520.00	1125734.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>70851744.00</b>	<b>102041981.00</b>	<b>81434442.00</b>	<b>102881633.00</b>	<b>49447057.00*</b>

\* In addition, NCL has given an additional amount of Rs. 3 crores as advance to M/s. HEC to meet its financial crisis.

### **District Cooperative Banks**

6128. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has directed the District Cooperative Banks not to deposit their surplus funds with District Treasuries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide its circular letter dated February 28, 2000 has advised all the District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in the country not to deploy their funds in deposits with or loans to the State Governments, as doing so would tantamount to

indirect loaning to the State Governments, which is not the function of cooperative banks. The banks have also been advised to withdraw such funds, if any, placed as deposits in the treasury savings account, etc. within 90 days of the issue of the letter. Further, the banks have been advised to note that no concessional refinance from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) can be provided to banks which place deposits with or make loans to State Governments. In terms of RBI instructions contained in its circular letter dated October 16, 1992 the cooperative banks were not permitted to lend to the State Governments either directly or indirectly since the resources of the cooperative banks comprise, *inter alia*, deposits mobilized from general public, deposits from cooperative institutions and borrowings at concessional rates from NABARD.

[Translation]

#### **Loan at Lower Interest Rate to Farmers**

6129. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide loans at lower rate of interest to the farmers, particularly to farmers belonging to the areas affected by floods, soil erosion or famine, each year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) At present, the interest rates of banks are fully deregulated. However, it has been stipulated that commercial banks are to advance agricultural loans at rates not exceeding their prime lending rate (PLR) for amount upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs. The prime lending rates of many banks have come down after recent steps taken by Government/Reserve Bank of India. At the same time, to mitigate the hardship caused to farmers due to natural calamities, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued standing guidelines to commercial banks for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities which, *inter-alia*, 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]

#### **Identification of PSUs for Disinvestment**

6130. DR. V. SAROJA:  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:  
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI KAMAL NATH:  
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified certain public sector units for strategic sale in the current year;

(b) if so, the details of PSUs with percentage of shares in each of these companies to be sold;

(c) the total amount the Government expect to mop up by this exercise;

(d) the modalities by which these shares would be sold;

(e) the manner in which the transparency in the whole process is maintained;

(f) the steps taken to protect the interests of employees working in these units;

(g) the details of the PSUs which have become more efficient after disinvestment;

(h) whether in some cases the PSUs could not achieve the disinvestment target from sale of equity; and

(i) if so, the details thereof, PSU-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Government has decided to disinvest its shareholding in non strategic Public Sector Undertakings only, as per its declared policy on

disinvestment. The percentage of shares to be disinvested and the modalities of sale are decided, keeping in view various factors including the market conditions, financial performance of the company and the views of the concerned Ministries/departments at appropriate time. The budgeted target is to raise Rs. 10,000 crores through disinvestment during the year 2000-2001.

(e) The manner in which disinvestment takes place largely depends on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission other expert committees and the advice of the professional consultants/global advisers for the specific transaction. The procedures followed for disinvestment of Government Equity in PSEs are similar to those followed in other parts of the world and are carried out with the assistance of professional advisors of repute, selected through the process of competitive bidding. These procedures are completely transparent in nature.

(f) The Government shall protect the legitimate interests of the employees through the Shareholding Agreement with the strategic partner.

(g) Disinvestment of more than 51% of the Govt. held shareholding has been done in only one PSU viz. Modern Food Industries Ltd. so far. It has been done recently and its performance after transfer of management can be judged only after sufficient period of time.

(h) Government held shares are sold by the Government and not to PSUs.

(i) Does not arise.

#### **Cases Referred to Debt Recovery Tribunals**

6131. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of big business houses against whom the outstanding loan of banks and Financial Institutions is more than 100 crore; and

(b) the number of cases out of those referred to Debt Recovery Tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate the information in the manner asked for. The total amount involved in public sector banks NPAs exceeding Rs. 100 crores as on 31.3.1999 is Rs. 1401.56 crores.

(b) Since information in the manner asked for in Part (a) of the question is not available, it is not possible to furnish the information. However, the total number of cases referred by public sector banks to DRTs as on 31.3.99 and the amount involved therein are follows:

No. of accounts	Amount
21781	17920.95 crores

#### **Reward to Informer**

6132. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy or guidelines to pay the item-wise rewards to the informers who give information of smuggled goods/black money;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases pending in the country as on January 31, 2000 for payment of such rewards to the informers who gave information of smuggled good/black money, particularly in Saurashtra, Gujarat and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Guidelines called "Guidelines for Grant of Rewards to Informants, 1993" are in force with effect from 1.12.1993, for grant of rewards to informants who have furnished specific information of undisclosed income, wealth, gift and estate duty. Guidelines are also in force with effect from 30.3.1985, in respect of grant of rewards to informers who provide information on infringement or evasion of customs and excise duty or education of FERA provisions. These guidelines lay down the policy and procedures for grant of rewards, and also specify the authorities competent to grant the rewards.

(c) The number of cases pending in the country as on 31st January, 2000 for payment of rewards to the informers in respect of smuggling is 323, out of which cases relating to Gujarat and Maharashtra are 8 and 17 respectively. The number of cases pending in respect of informers who have furnished information on unaccounted income in Gujarat and Maharashtra are 100 and 416 respectively.

#### **Economic Growth**

6133. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economic growth rate has lagged behind from 5.9% in the first quarter and 6.0% in the second to 5.8% in the third quarter; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the Quarterly Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the Third Quarter (October-December), 1999-2000 released by the Central Statistical Organisation the growth in overall real GDP at 1993-94 prices is estimated at 5.9 per cent in the first quarter (April-June), 6.0 per cent in the second quarter (July-September) and 5.8 per cent in the third quarter (October-December) of 1999-2000. The slowdown in overall GDP growth in the third quarter of 1999-2000 is largely due to a slow down in GDP growth originating in agriculture, forestry and fishing from 1.7 per cent and 1.8 per cent in the first quarter and second quarter respectively to 0.5 per cent in third quarter of 1999-2000.

[Translation]

#### **Industrial Sickness**

6134. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made the analysis of the reasons for industrial sickness in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether its main reasons have been identified; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for proper industrialisation in the country, particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to the RBI report, a number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness. The main causes include deficiencies in planning, management, marketing, etc.

The Government provides a policy regime that facilitates and fosters growth and development of industry. For balanced development and dispersal of industry in the country, including Bihar, the Government has schemes for setting up Growth Centres and for providing financial, entrepreneurial, technical and institutional support, both

at Central and State level. In Bihar, 6 Growth Centres, viz., Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Chhapra, Muzaffarpur, Hazaribagh and Darbhanga have been sanctioned for implementation.

The Government has also taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *inter-alia*, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985, National Equity Fund etc.

[English]

#### **Export Promotion Council for Bulk Drugs**

6135. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute an independent Export Promotion Council for bulk drugs and pharmaceuticals with headquarters at Hyderabad to boost international trade and pharmaceuticals; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard keeping in view the special needs of pharmaceutical industry?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Export of Items Made by SSIs**

6136. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives and facilities available for promotion of export of items manufactured by small scale industries at present;

(b) the extent to which these incentives and facilities will increase export of the country during the current and next financial years;

(c) whether any increase in export has been recorded from this sector during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Government is presently implementing two Export promotion Schemes for the Small Scale Industry, namely (a) Participation in International Fairs and Exhibitions and (b) Training Programme on Packaging for Exports. These schemes are implemented through a network of 28 field offices called Small Industries Service Institute (SISI), spread all over the country. Simultaneously, the Government has taken several measures to help the Small Scale Industry in becoming globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technological upgradation, infrastructural assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of IT etc. The Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG) has been liberalised to include SSI sector, which can now import capital goods required for export production at the concessional duty rate of 5%.

(b) The Government is confident that these measures will increase the exports of the country and in particular of the SSI sector.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The detailed year-wise statistics are as follows:

Year	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Exports by SSI (Rs. in crores)	39248.54	44442.18	48979.23

[English]

#### **International Coffee Organisation**

6137. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, which is a member of International Coffee Organisation (ICO) a body of 83 countries has submitted a proposal to the International Coffee Organisation a 7.5 million dollar grant to develop domestic consumption of coffee; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the ICO thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. Govt. of India has not submitted any such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Broadcasting/Telecasting Stations In Tamil Nadu**

6138. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI:  
DR. V. SAROJA:  
DR. C. KRISHNAN:  
DR. C. SREENIVASAN:

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

(a) the number of Broadcasting/Telecasting stations functioning in Tamil Nadu, location-wise;

(b) the population covered by the said stations;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up TV studios and Radio stations in the State, particularly at Salem and Madurai;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in setting up the studios and Radio station there; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be set up/operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) 44 Doordarshan Transmitters (including 2 Transposers) and 8 AIR Stations are presently functioning in Tamil Nadu. The location-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) At present, Radio and TV coverage is available to 99% and 91.3% population of Tamil Nadu respectively.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to set up any new Radio Station and TV Studio at Salem. However, following projects relating to new Radio Stations & TV Studios are under various stages of implementation in the State:

(i) Radio Stations at Kodaikanal, Dharmapuri and Coimbatore (Vivid Bharati).

(ii) TV Studios at Madurai & Coimbatore Radio Stations at Kodaikanal & the Vivid Bharati Service at Coimbatore are technically ready. The remaining projects are targeted to be completed by 2002.



**Statement****Doordarshan**

1. DDK, Chennai [Studios, HPTs (DD 1 & DD 2)]
2. HPT Kodaikanal
3. HPT Rameshwaram
4. LPT Arani
5. LPT Arcot
6. LPT Attur
7. LPT Cheyyar
8. LPT Coimbatore
9. LPT Coonor
10. LPT Courtalam
11. LPT Cuddalore
12. LPT Dharmapuri
13. LPT Gudiyatam
14. LPT Krishnagiri
15. LPT Kumbakonam
16. LPT Marthandam
17. LPT Mayuram
18. LPT Nagapattinam
19. LPT Nagarcoil
20. LPT Neyveli
21. LPT Pattukottai
22. LPT Pudukottai
23. LPT Rajapalayam
24. LPT Salem
25. LPT Shankaran Kovil
26. LPT Thanjavur
27. LPT Thiruvaiyaru
28. LPT Tindivanam
29. LPT Tiruchirappali
30. LPT Tiruchendur
31. LPT Tirunelveli
32. LPT Tirupattur

33. LPT Tiruvannamalai
34. LPT Tuticorin
35. LPT Udagamandalam
36. LPT Udumalpet
37. LPT Vaniyambadi
38. LPT Vellore
39. LPT Villupuram
40. VLPT Vallur
41. VLPT Valparaj
42. VLPT Vazapadi
43. Transposer Dindigul
44. Transposer Kanchipuram

**All India Radio**

1. Coimbatore
2. Chennai
3. Madurai
4. Nagarcoil
5. Tirunelveli
6. Tiruchirappalli
7. Ootacamund
8. Tuticorin

**Export of Various Products**

6139. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of various products during 1999-2000;

(b) the achievements made in this regard, till date;

(c) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of various products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data the total exports for April-March, 2000

has been estimated at US \$ 37538 million registering a growth of 11.6% over the provisional estimates of the same period last year against the export target growth of 11.3%.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

#### **Suggestion for Economy in Government Expenditure**

6140. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had announced a modified scheme in 1998 for giving suggestions to bring economy in Government expenditure; and

(b) if so, the number of suggestions were received in that behalf and the number out of these helped in bringing economy in Government expenditure?

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

(b) A number of suggestions were received for reduction in Govt. expenditure such as, reduction in posts, restriction on purchase of vehicles/use of staff cars, restriction on holding seminars, conferences, foreign travel etc., and these are being taken into account to the extent feasible while issuing economy instructions from time to time.

[*Translation*]

#### **Regional Channel**

6141. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:  
DR. ASHOK PATEL:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether to have a check on the anti-India propaganda on Pakistani T.V., any regional channel has been launched or proposed to be launched in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch regional channels in the country during 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount estimated to be spent thereon, State-wise;

(e) the time by which these are likely to be launched; 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) To popularize Doordarshan coverage in Jammu and Kashmir, a refurbished Kashmir Channel in terrestrial mode with extended transmission time from two hours to 15 hours per day has been launched from 26.1.2000. Entertainment oriented programmes including programmes on women, youth, children, sports, current affairs etc. are being telecast on this channel.

(c) to (f) Other than the Kashmir Channel and the terrestrial regional networks (national terrestrial network gets disaggregated into regional networks during certain hours of the day), there are 10 Regional language satellite channels being operated by Doordarshan which provide adequate coverage, throughout the country. Since January, 2000, the telecast duration of seven Regional language satellite channels, i.e. Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu, have been increased to 24 hours. There is a proposal to increase the telecast duration of Punjabi Channel to 24 hours during the current financial year. However, there is no proposal to launch any new regional channel during 2000-2001.

#### **Survey for Exploration of Minerals in Maharashtra**

6142. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of surveys conducted for exploration of mineral deposits, particularly in the Sahyadri, the hilly areas of Maharashtra, during the last three years;

(b) whether any feasibility study has been made to start mineral mining projects there;

(c) if so, whether any report has been prepared in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to implement the mining projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducted following survey/investigations around the Sahyadri hills in West Maharashtra, during the last three years.

- (i) Reappraisal of manganese and iron ore in Sindhudurg district.
- (ii) Study of dimension stones (decoration stones) in Dhule, Nasik and Thane districts.
- (iii) Study of magnesium rich dykes in Deccan traps near Thane and Raigarh districts, to explore Ni-Cu-Platinum group minerals.

(iv) Preliminary assessment of bauxite (in laterite cappings) near Rajapur, Ratnagiri district.

Directorate of Geology and Mining, Maharashtra, has carried out exploration work for Bauxite mineral on Jambhe-Kushi plateau of Satara District and Chitale-Watangi area of Kolhapur district. On the basis of this work 0.6 M.T. reserves of bauxite have been proved. The exploration work in Chitale Watangi area has been started during 1999-2000 field season only and assessment of potential of this deposit is under progress.

(b) to (e) The following mining plans for fresh grant of leases have been approved by Indian Bureau of Mines in the said area during the last three years.

Year	Name of the fresh M.L. area and applicant	Date of approval of Mining Plan by IBM
1997-98	NIL	
1998-99	Applied ML area for Quartzite/Sand stone situated in Kudal tq, Sindhudurg district submitted by Shri Pramod K. Sawant over an area of 12.09 Hect.	5.3.1999
	Applied ML area for Iron and Manganese, situated in Sawantwadi Tq, Sindhudurg District submitted by M/s. Minerals and Metals over an area of 32.25 Hect.	20.10.1999
1999-2000	Udagiri Bauxite ML area, situated in Kolhapur district submitted by Shri Prakash A. Gawandi over an area of 254.51 Hect.	6.7.1999
	Applied ML area situated in Kudal Tq, Sindhudurg District for Mica and Quartz submitted by Shri Sunil D. Waghdhare over an area of 52.5234 Hect.	10.1.2000

[English]

#### **Creation of Pollution by Handloom Industry**

6143. SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN:  
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom industry is ejecting heavy chemical substances creating pollution problem in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to help the handloom industry to meet this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a)

and (b) No, Sir. The pollution caused by dyeing units of the Handloom industry is negligible and the units do not eject heavy pollutants. However, in Tamil Nadu effluent treatment plants are being installed wherever large quantities of effluent is discharge by dyeing units.

#### **Trade Agreement with US**

6144. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:  
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

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

(a) the total value of trade on which agreement has been reached between India and the U.S. at present in monetary terms;

(b) whether the trade between the two countries is likely to have great potential in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the salient features of the agreement signed between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Trade between India and the USA has great potential and the trade balance is in India's favour. The value of trade in rupees during the last three years along with the trade balance, can be seen in the statement below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
1997-98	25276.65	13813.69	(+) 11462.96
1998-99	30841.56	15319.25	(+) 15522.31
1999-2000 (P) (April-December)	26621.25	12607.52	(+) 14013.73

(P) Provisional Data.

For further promoting bilateral trade, India and the United States of America have agreed to set up the India-US Commercial Dialogue and its Terms of Reference were signed on 23.3.2000. The framework aims to (a) facilitate trade (b) maximise investment opportunities across a broad range of economic sectors, including information technology, infrastructure, biotechnology and services.

#### **Weak Public Sector Banks**

6145. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:  
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:  
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:  
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the weak public sector banks that have been considered non-viable by the Government;

(b) the quantum of outstanding loans given by these weak banks, bank-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposed to allow foreign banks to take over these weak banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide funds for recapitalisation of these weak banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) None of the weak public sector banks has been considered non-viable.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to allow foreign banks to take over any public sector bank.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Recapitalisation of the weak banks will be considered provided restructuring programmes acceptable to the Government and the RBI are made available by the concerned banks.

#### **Overdraft by State Governments**

6146. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of over drafts drawn by the State Governments during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(b) the interest paid by the States in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Statement showing the position of overdraft availed by the States and interest on overdraft paid by the States during the financial year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000*

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	States	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Amount of Overdraft	Interest on Overdraft	Amount of Overdraft	Interest on Overdraft	Amount of Overdraft	Interest on Overdraft
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12436.78	3.14	12979.85	3.9	23258.15	6.79
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	36.12	0.01	0.37	—
3.	Assam	34626.74	11.73	49424.92	14.83	53578.84	17.19
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	114.27	0.08
5.	Goa	114.00	0.04	—	—	250.63	0.07
6.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	20.44	0.01
7.	Haryana	240.79	0.09	2689.54	0.77	4128.77	1.21
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1012.17	0.73	5089.39	1.51	11745.77	3.40
9.	Karnataka	142.01	0.05	—	—	—	—
10.	Kerala	—	—	2520.25	0.78	5261.11	1.51
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2871.76	0.89	11729.97	3.54	11643.18	3.29
12.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Manipur	2160.03	0.75	3359.99	1.01	13801.94	4.17
14.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Mizoram	1865.07	0.63	3858.39	1.18	1230.04	0.36
16.	Nagaland	2067.76	0.67	2327.81	0.72	3355.04	0.97
17.	Orissa	7198.69	2.35	6414.12	1.95	12446.55	3.59
18.	Punjab	4658.87	1.47	21688.4	6.56	24637.45	4.95
19.	Rajasthan	14972.10	4.95	8849.82	2.7	16150.52	5.44
20.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	4788.00	1.36
21.	Tripura	17.27	0.01	306.35	0.09	—	—
22.	Uttar Pradesh	211.46	0.06	23575.36	7.01	57724.59	16.58
23.	West Bengal	2051.04	0.64	653.33	0.19	11832.97	3.67
Total:		86646.54	28.20	155503.61	46.75	255968.63	74.59

J&amp;K and Sikkim don't Bank with RBI.

**Private Sector Growth Plan of ADB**

6147. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has finalised private sector development strategy for India in the first half of this year as active private sector participation;

(b) if so, the main points of the Asian Development Bank's proposals;

(c) the main items on which the Asian Development Bank would help the private sector to grow its plan;

(d) whether the Government have approved these proposals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Asian Development Bank has adopted its Private Sector Strategy on 30th March 2000 for the whole region and *NOT* specific to India. The strategy is a general statement that will guide Bank's overall operations.

(b) and (c) The Bank's Strategy consists of a systematic and coherent framework that will guide its activities to promote private sector development across the region. The thrust will be on (a) creating enabling conditions; (b) generating business opportunities; and (c) catalysing private investments. Under the above strategic thrust the primary focus will be on governance in the public and private sectors, financial intermediation, public private partnership and regional and subregional cooperation.

(d) and (e) While taking note of the Bank's strategy the Government has requested the Bank to ensure that the proposed strategy does not affect India's portfolio for public projects.

[*Translation*]

**Allotment of Coal**

6148. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:  
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) the names of coal producing States in the country alongwith their share in the total production of coal during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the norms fixed in regard to quarterly allotment/supply of coal linkage for power generation projects, domestic consumption and industrial sector;

(c) the quarterly demand and actual allotment/supply of coal made for various power projects, domestic consumption and industrial sector, separately, during the last three years, State-wise and project-wise;

(d) whether the allotment of coal linkage is not sufficient for some power projects, especially in Bihar and Rajasthan;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of coal for power projects especially for the projects located in Bihar and Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) The names of coal producing States in the country alongwith their share in the total production of coal during the last three years, State-wise is shown in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Quarterly allotment of coal for power generation projects are accorded by Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term) on quarterly basis for individual power stations. The norms for deciding linkages for thermal power stations are as follows:

1. Generation target of power stations.
2. Coal required to meet the generation target.
3. Coal stock available with different thermal power stations.
4. Availability of coal with different coal producing companies.
5. Available infrastructure for transportation of coal to power station.

The Standing Linkage Committee is an Inter-ministerial body of representatives from Ministries of power, railways, Deptt. of Coal, Central Electricity Authority and coal producing companies amongst others. All concerned bodies jointly decide the monthly linkage for individual powerhouses for a quarter.

There is no system of providing quarterly linkages for domestic and non-core industrial consumers in Coal

India Limited. Allotment of coal to non-core industrial consumers are made on the basis of linkages established by a competent linkages committee and on the basis of sponsorship issued by the concerned sponsoring authorities.

(c) The details regarding linkages sanctioned to thermal power stations and despatches from Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Ltd. during the years

1997-98 to 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Coal despatches to non-core sector consumers including domestic consumers from Coal India Ltd., are given in enclosed Statement-III.

(d) to (f) No Sir. Sufficient coal was supplied to the power stations of Bihar and Rajasthan. Besides coal supplies to power houses are reviewed regularly by an Inter-ministerial committee, and appropriate action is taken to step up supplies, wherever necessary.

### **Statement-I**

*Names of Coal Producing States in the Country alongwith their share (%)*

(Production: million tonnes)

Names of States	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (Provisional)	
	Total production	% share	Total production	% share	Total production	% share
Andhra Pradesh	28.94	9.74	27.33	9.35	29.56	9.85
Assam	0.69	0.23	0.64	0.22	0.57	0.19
Bihar	81.27	27.35	76.16	26.06	76.95	25.64
Madhya Pradesh	84.75	28.52	84.94	29.06	87.94	29.30
Maharashtra	26.17	8.81	25.28	8.65	27.70	9.23
Orissa	42.16	14.19	43.51	14.89	43.55	14.51
Uttar Pradesh	15.78	5.31	15.65	5.35	16.20	5.40
West Bengal	17.40	5.85	18.76	6.42	17.59	5.86

### **Statement-II**

*Power House-wise Linkages Sanctioned and Despatches made during the year 1997-98*

(In '000 Tonnes)

S.No.	Name of TPS	Linkage	Despatch
1	2	3	4
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>			
<b>DELHI</b>			
1.	Badarpur	4170	3666
2.	I.P. Station (DVB)	110	1073
3.	Rajghat (DVB)	810	682
<b>HARYANA</b>			
4.	Faridabad	810	624

1	2	3	4
5.	Panipat	3090	2559
<b>PUNJAB</b>			
6.	Bhatinda	1890	2333
6.	Bhatinda Ext.	—	—
7.	Ropar	5625	5967
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>			
8.	Kota	4425	4613
8.	Suratgarh	50	0
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>			
9.	Anpara	8160	8037

1	2	3	4
10.	Harduaganj	570	925
11.	Obra	5220	4067
12.	Panki Old	60	17
13.	Panki Extn.	530	817
14.	Paricha	600	737
15.	Tanda	1190	1448
16.	Unchahar	2480	2317
17.	Rihand STPS	4935	4852
18.	Singrauli STPS	9120	9496
19.	NCTPC (Dadri)	4770	4521
WESTERN REGION			
GUJARAT			
20.	Ahmedabad	1920	1556
21.	Gandhinagar	2925	3018
22.	Sikka	990	1101
23.	Ukai	3525	3822
24.	Wanakbori	5790	6483
MADHYA PRADESH			
25.	Amarkantak	1185	602
26.	Birsingpur	2040	1560
27.	Korba East	2700	2083
28.	Korba West	4290	3692
29.	Satpura Sami	6585	6920
30.	Korba STPS	11310	11436
31.	Vindhyachal STPS	6105	5605
MAHARASHTRA			
32.	Bhusawal	2490	2425
33.	Chandrapur	10650	9336
34.	Koradih	5040	6665
35.	Khaperkheda	2160	1997
36.	Nasik	3600	4053
37.	Parli	3750	3282
38.	Paras	180	195

1	2	3	4
39.	Trombay	450	57
40.	Dhanu	2130	1549
SOUTH REGION			
41.	Kothagudam	5940	5100
42.	Ramagundam 'B'	360	281
43.	Vijayawada	8100	8757
44.	Ramagundam STPS	10660	11050
45.	Nellore	120	32
46.	Rayala Seema (Mudanoor)	2655	1495
KARNATAKA			
47.	Raichoor	5970	4431
TAMIL NADU			
48.	Ennore	2550	2575
49.	Mettur	5250	5705
50.	Tuticorin	5850	3933
51.	North Chennai	2520	1644
EASTERN REGION			
BIHAR			
52.	Barauni	570	306
53.	Muzzafarpur	465	138
54.	Patratu	1650	1261
55.	Patna	60	10
56.	Kahalgaon STPS	4680	2976
57.	Tanughat	1740	1236
DVC			
58.	Bokaro	2130	2019
59.	Chandrapur	1556	1396
60.	Durgapur	1440	1167
61.	Mijia	960	245
ORISSA			
62.	Talcher	2220	2065
63.	Talcher STPS	3090	2752
64.	Eeb Ghati	2790	2169



1	2	3	4
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>			
65.	Bandel	1380	1275
66.	Santhal Deeh	1125	1159
67.	Kolaghat	5400	3801
68.	Calcutta (CESC)	930	1254
69.	Titagarh (CESC)	1065	817
70.	South Zone (CESC)	630	445
71.	Budge-Budge	450	222
72.	Durgapur BPL	1320	613
73.	Farrakka STPS	7800	5409
<b>NORTH EASTERN REGION</b>			
74.	Bongai Gaon	555	172

*Power House-wise, Linkages sanctioned and  
Despatches made during the year 1998-99*

( In '000 Tonnes)

S.No.	Name of TSP	Linkage	Despatch
1	2	3	4
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>			
<b>DELHI</b>			
1.	Badarpur	3840	3099
2.	IP Station (DVB)	945	664
3.	Rajghat (DVB)	630	528
<b>HARYANA</b>			
4.	Faridabad	810	806
5.	Panipat	2490	2844
<b>PUNJAB</b>			
6.	Bhatinda	1605	1843
6.	Bhatinda (Extn.)	810	281
7.	Ropar	4950	4823
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>			
8.	Kota	3360	3254

1	2	3	4
8.	Suratgarh	690	436
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>			
9.	Anpara	7725	7570
10.	Harduaganj	570	730
11.	Obara	4650	3726
12.	Panki Old	0	0
13.	Panki (Extn.)	680	536
14.	Paricha	655	792
15.	Tanda	1590	1574
16.	Unchahar	2070	1995
17.	Rihand STPS	4980	4078
18.	Singrauli STPS	9615	9644
19.	NCTPC (Dadri)	4500	4045
<b>WEST REGION</b>			
<b>GUJARAT</b>			
20.	Ahmedabad	1590	1557
21.	Gandhi Nagar	3150	3544
22.	Sikka	390	306
23.	Ukai	3750	3363
24.	Wankabori	5700	6042
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>			
25.	Amarkantak	1320	768
26.	Birsingh Pur	1890	1856
27.	Korba East	2250	1639
28.	Korba West	4080	4146
29.	Satpura Sami	6570	6118
30.	Korba STPS	11385	11380
31.	Vindhyachal STPS	6270	6169
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>			
32.	Bhusaval	2190	2128
33.	Chandrapur	10500	9846
34.	Koradeeh	5160	6169

1	2	3	4
35.	Khapar Khera	1950	1734
36.	Nasik	3600	3651
37.	Parli	3660	3289
38.	Paras	240	230
39.	Trombay	120	16
40.	Dhanu	1500	1565
SOUTHERN REGION			
ANDHRA PRADESH			
41.	Kothagudem	7050	4891
42.	Ramagundam B	315	275
43.	Vijayawada	6900	7273
44.	Ramagundam STPS	11400	10227
45.	Nellore	150	73
46.	Rayalaseema (Muddanur)	2625	2504
KARNATAKA			
47.	Raichur	5160	4354
TAMIL NADU			
48.	Ennore	2130	3577
49.	Mettur	3930	5398
50.	Tuticorin	4500	3789
51.	North Chennai	2880	0
EASTERN REGION			
BIHAR			
52.	Barauni	705	493
53.	Muzzafarpur	570	427
54.	Patratu	1845	1662
55.	Patna	36	2
56.	Kahalgau STPS	3930	3409
57.	Tanughat	1740	1064
DVC			
58.	Bokaro	1350	1803
59.	Chandrapur	660	1192
60.	Durgapur	870	775
61.	Mejia	1020	570

1	2	3	4
ORISSA			
62.	Talcher ..	2100	2068
63.	Talcher STPS	3780	3357
64.	IB Valley	2370	2410
WEST BENGAL			
65.	Bandel	1260	948
66.	Santalidih	960	1221
67.	Kolaghat	5220	3207
68.	Calcutta (CESC)	900	1061
69.	Titagarh (CESC)	1020	1080
70.	South Gen. (CESC)	645	347
71.	Budge Budge	855	495
72.	Durgapur (DPL)	840	337
73.	Farakka STPS	5970	4905
NORTH EASTERN REGION			
74.	Bongaigaon	270	74

*Power House-wise Linkages Sanctioned and  
Despatches made during the year 1999-2000*

(In '000 Tonnes)

S.No.	Name of TPS	Linkage	Despatch
1	2	3	4
NORTHERN REGION			
DELHI			
1.	Badarpur	4300	3601
2.	I.P. Station (DVB)	795	711
3.	Rajghat (DVB)	765	754
HARYANA			
4.	Faridabad	885	806
5.	Panipat	2475	1888
PUNJAB			
6.	Bhatinda	1830	1853

1	2	3	4
6.	Bhatinda (Exten.)	2175	2148
7.	Ropar	5325	5401
	RAJASTHAN		
8.	Kota	4470	3867
8.	Suratgarh	1440	907
	UTTAR PRADESH		
9.	Anpara	8880	7947
10.	Harduaganj	750	717
11.	Obra	4950	4379
12.	Panki Old	0	0
13.	Panki Extn.	810	1076
14.	Paricha	990	526
15.	Tanda	1380	1020
16.	Unchahar	3180	2972
17.	Rihand STPS	4950	4782
18.	Singrauli STPS	9825	10031
19.	NCTPC (Dadri)	5190	4969
	WESTERN REGION		
	GUJARAT		
20.	Ahmedabad	1110	1110
21.	Gandhi Nagar	3960	3661
22.	Sikka	765	718
23.	Ukai	2900	3137
24.	Wankabori	6450	7521
	MADHYA PRADESH		
25.	Amarkantak	990	874
26.	Birsinhpur	3030	2471
27.	Korba East	2310	2093
28.	Korba West	4890	4216
29.	Satpura Sami	7500	6137
30.	Korba STPS	11715	11458
31.	Vindhyachal STPS	6720	6243

1	2	3	4
	MAHARASHTRA		
32.	Bhusaval	2580	2500
33.	Chandrapur	11340	11613
34.	Koradeeh	5710	5259
35.	Khaperkheda	1800	1587
36.	Nasik	3880	3816
37.	Parli	3240	3074
38.	Paras	330	312
39.	Trombay	120	3
40.	Dhanu	1760	1311
	SOUTHERN REGION		
	ANDHRA PRADESH		
41.	Kothagudem	6465	5736
42.	Ramagundam B	360	344
43.	Vijayawada	6450	6753
44.	Ramagundam STPS	10800	10452
45.	Nellore	210	94
46.	Rayalaseema (Muddanur)	2700	2718
	KARNATAKA		
47.	Raichur	7050	5529
	TAMIL NADU		
48.	Ennore	990	3162
49.	Mettur	3690	4749
50.	Tuticorin	3660	3515
51.	North Chennai	2670	0
	EASTERN REGION		
	BIHAR		
52.	Barauni	750	410
53.	Muzzafarpur	750	427
54.	Patratu	2280	1631
55.	Patna	0	0
56.	Kahalgauon STPS	3900	3525
57.	Tanughat DVC	1580	763

1	2	3	4
	DVC		
58.	Bokaro	1950	1708
59.	Chandrapur	1110	1233
60.	Durgapur	1140	895
61.	Mejia	1455	1503
	ORISSA		
62.	Talcher	2310	2247
63.	Talcher STPS	3675	4058
64.	IB Valley	2400	2752
	WEST BENGAL		
65.	Bandel	1200	1057
66.	Santalidih	870	949
67.	Koiajhat	5610	3220
68.	Calcutta (CESC)	735	692
69.	Titagarh (CESC)	960	762
70.	South Gen. (CESC)	570	419
71.	Budge Budge	1545	1255
72.	Durgapur (BPL)	800	631
73.	Farakka STPS	6300	5465
74.	Bakreshwar	645	86
	NORTH EASTERN REGION		
75.	Bongaigaon	240	112

**Statement-III****Coal Despatches to Non-Core Sector***(from Coal India Limited)**(Figures in lakh tonnes)*

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
SSF Units	17.77	14.33	13.61
Briquetting units	22.83	29.27	40.18
Soft Coke	0.33	0.10	0.03
Others	321.67	335.93	407.97
Total Non-core	362.60	379.63	461.79

**Excise on Biscuit**

6149. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the livelihood of the employees working in biscuit manufacturing industry has been affected due to the increase made in the excise duty; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) It is difficult to say whether increase in excise duty *per se* is a factor affecting, if any, the livelihood of employees working in the biscuit manufacturing industry. However, the excise duty on biscuits put up in retail packs of weight not exceeding 100 gms. and the retail sale price each such packet not exceeding Rupees Five has been reduced to 50% of 16% CENVAT with effect from 4th May, 2000.

*[English]***Export of Blended Fabrics**

6150. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of the blended fabrics exported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of percentage of Indian share in such fabrics as part of the total export in the world market;

(c) whether the share of export is adequate and satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the details of 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) The total quantity and value of blended Textile fabrics exported during the last three years are as follows:

(Quantity: in Million Sq. mtr.)  
(Value: in Million US\$)

Year	Cotton/Polyester blended fabrics		Cotton/Viscose blended fabrics		Cotton fabrics blended with other fabrics		Total Cotton Textiles fabrics exports (incl. Blends)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1999-2000	5.81	8.08	3.84	3.95	4.84	7.26	2226.78	1094.78
1998-1999	6.41	4.76	0.97	1.10	2.68	4.99	2204.75	1100.98
1997-1998	5.94	5.38	3.11	3.51	1.57	2.71	1902.20	1113.75

Source: The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.

(b) As per available data for 1997, India's share of the world textile exports including blended fabrics is about 2.5%.

(c) and (d) Government have been taking several steps from time to time for increasing our share in the global textile trade. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

- (1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector.
- (2) The New Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 has been announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
- (3) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.
- (4) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.
- (5) Exports 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.

[Translation]

#### Coal Mines in the Country

6151. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have explained the total number of coal mines in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise number thereof and the number out of these mines are under operation; and

(c) the estimated coal reserves therein and the quantity of coal production estimated on the basis of research in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) The number of existing coal mines in the country is given below State-wise:

State	No. of existing coal mines
Andhra Pradesh	69
Assam	6
Bihar	169
Jammu & Kashmir	3
Madhya Pradesh	127
Maharashtra	53
Orissa	22
Uttar Pradesh	4
West Bengal	108
Total	561

(c) The coal reserves of India, upto the depth of 1200 meter have been estimated by the Geological Survey of India as 2,11,593.61 million tonnes as on 1.1.2000. The 1998-99 coal production in the country was 292.27 million tonnes. The coal production is targetted keeping in view the coal demand from the consumers.

[English]

#### **Funds Under Health Package Scheme to Orissa**

6152. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 72.00 lakh sanctioned during the year 1999-2000 to Orissa Government covering 4269 weavers has still not been released by centre under Health Package Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons thereof and the time by which the amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No funds were sanctioned to the State Government of Orissa under Health Package Scheme during the year 1999-2000. A request for providing borewells to 200 Villages was made by the State Government of Orissa. However due to non-submission of detailed proposal and utilisation of earlier releases, funds could not be released. Funds will be made available on submission of detailed proposals.

#### **Broadcasting Legislation**

6153. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:  
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to draft a comprehensive broadcasting legislation;

(b) if so, the main objectives of this legislation;

(c) whether through the new Broadcasting Bill, the Government propose to take a strict stand on obscenity on TV and cover private TV channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also propose to provide better access to the maximum viewers, particularly living in rural areas;

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which this legislation is likely to be introduced in the House?

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 (g) The Government proposes to bring before the Parliament a comprehensive legislation which will, *inter-alia*, provide for regulatory mechanism for various aspects of broadcasting, particularly the private broadcasting. However, the exact details are yet to be finalized and no time frame can be indicated for the same as yet. Opening of the sector to private broadcasters together with appropriate regulatory mechanism will help in promoting better access to and choice of broadcasting programmes to large number of viewers/listeners including those living in rural areas.

[Translation]

#### **Joint Venture with France with PSUs**

6154. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

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

(a) whether the Government and Public Sector Enterprises have approached the French Companies to have collaboration in their 24 Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, whether any joint ventures have been set up with them;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of PSUs;

(d) the percentage of Foreign Direct Investment is likely to be increased from France as a result thereof;

(e) whether the Government have received their response in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (f) Government have accorded in principle, approval for induction of Joint Venture partners with majority equity participation in respect of 24 Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of this Ministry. In most cases, Consultants have been appointed. In some cases bids have been invited from prospective Joint Venture partners. French Companies have not been approached in particular. No bid from French Companies has been received so far in respect of these PSUs.

[English]

#### **Carpet Weavers**

6155. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deplorable condition of carpet weavers in the country;

(b) if so, whether the carpet weavers throughout the country are neither getting raw material at a subsidised rates nor any finances from banks/financial institutions;

(c) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to encourage and provide assistance to carpet weavers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) While there is a need to improve the condition of carpet weavers in the country, as per available information, the per capita income of artisans including weavers has not declined during the past few years.

The carpet weavers are being provided assistance by way of various schemes of the Government, which include training; design development; support for marketing development; common facility centres and opportunities for direct marketing; workshop-cum-housing group insurance; health package and pension under indigent circumstances to National Award winners.

In so far as financial support is concerned, loans are being provided by commercial banks under the refinance facilities of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Refinance facilities to the Banks facilitates charging of lower interest rate not exceeding Prime Lending Rates by the Banks from artisans/units availing loans upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

#### **Insolvent Financial and Industrial Institutions**

6156. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public financial and industrial institutions are in the grip of insolvency;

(b) if so, the names of such institutions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No All India Public Financial Institution is reported to be under a threat of insolvency in view of the fact that all the All India Public Financial Institutions fulfil the capital adequacy ratio requirements as of end March 1999 in accordance with RBI norms and guidelines in this regard.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Powers to PIB**

6157. DR. (COL. RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give more powers to Press Information Bureau to oversee the functioning of Press in India;

(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) The Press Information Bureau is the nodal agency of the Government to disseminate information to the media about Government's policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements and provide feedback to the Government about the people's reaction as reflected in the media. The Press Information Bureau does not oversee the functioning of the Press in India and there is no proposal to give it this role.

[Translation]

#### **Branches of SBI**

6158. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India has taken a decision to increase its branches; and

(b) if so, the State-wise number of branches proposed to be opened, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, during 2000-2001?

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

(b) The State-wise number of branches proposed to be opened by State Bank of India including in Uttar Pradesh is given below:

Name of State	No. of branches
Andhra Pradesh	7
Assam	3
Bihar	2
Chandigarh	1
Delhi	4
Goa	1
Gujarat	5
Haryana	3
Himachal Pradesh	1
Karnataka	1
Kerala	3
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	10
Orissa	1
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	1
Tamil Nadu	5
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	8
West Bengal	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

### **Expenditure of Banks on Administration**

6159. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the total income permissible under the Administrative Expenditure Head in rural banks alongwith the actual amount spent/being spent by these banks;

(b) whether these banks are spending more than the amount permissible therefor; and

(c) if so, the necessary steps being taken by the Government to reduce this expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) There has been no specific limit prescribed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for expenses in respect of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). The establishment cost of individual RRB depends upon many factors such as size of RRB, staff strength, level of business, etc. The Board of Directors of each RRB is the appropriate authority to monitor and control the expenditure in respect of each RRB. As reported by NABARD the actual expenditure by all RRBs towards administrative expenses for the year 1998-99 was Rs. 982.66 crore which is approximately 29% of the total income for the year.

(c) RRBs are required to prepare Development Action Plan incorporating strategies for improving operational efficiency by increasing business and reduction of cost. Sponsor Banks also conduct quarterly review meetings of their sponsored RRBs to monitor the progress in this regard.

[English]

### **Ban by USA on Import from India**

6160. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of U.S.A. has restricted the import of certain goods from India;

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

(c) whether Bidi Industry has been adversely affected considerably due to these restrictions; and



(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for its smooth running and bringing about improvements in the Bidi Industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The US Customs has issued detention orders against import of beedis from a specific Indian exporter namely, M/s. Mangalore Ganesh Bidi Works on the basis of 'reasonable suspicion' that forced child labour is being used by the company in manufacturing beedis. The company and the Government of India have taken up the matter with the appropriate US Government authorities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Strategy to Increase Handloom Exports

6161. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have adopted any new strategy to increase handloom exports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, In order to promote export of handloom products in the light of challenges posed by the world market, efforts are being made to make the sector more competitive. Effective measures are being initiated to increase productivity and improve quality, and introduce modern designs in the handloom sector to suit the requirements of international market. The strategy includes providing exposure to International market through participation in International fairs etc.

In order to give substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabrics, made-ups and other handloom items for the country, a Scheme for 'Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing' has been introduced during 1996-97. Under the Scheme assistance is available for developing exportable products, building up of production capability for export and thereafter marketing it in the International fairs abroad. So far 55 projects have been sanctioned under the Scheme to various Handloom Co-operatives/Apex/Corporations/Councils etc.

#### FDI

6162. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundred per cent foreign direct investment is being permitted in highly profitable consumer goods industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) In case of foreign direct investment participation in 22 specified consumer goods, the condition of balancing of dividends over a period of 7 years from commencement of production is applicable. Foreign equity upto 100% is allowed in the said consumer goods industry with a view to bringing modern technology, capital and competition to this industry.

#### Minimum Support Price Operation of Jute

6163. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Minimum Support Prices (MSP) operation, the Government reimburse entire loss incurred by the nodal agency for MSP operations;

(b) if so, the details of procurement of raw jute by JCI, total losses and reimbursement made by the Govt. under MSP during each of last three years;

(c) whether the Commission for Agriculture Cost Prices observed that MSP operations of the JCI was poor for want of funds and recommended for release of funds of losses of earlier year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the entire losses are likely to be reimbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The JCI has been set up as a nodal agency to undertake MSP operations for raw jute. The losses incurred by the Corporation for undertaking such operations are reimbursed by the Government. Details of procurement, losses & amounts provided by Govt. to JCI are given below:

Year	Procurement Quantity/ procured	Quantity in lakh bales of 180 kg each Rupees in crore	
		Losses as reported by JCI (Rs.)	Loans (Rs.)
1997-98	9.85	13.98	26.00
1998-99	0.13	62.06	20.00
1999-2000 (Provisional)	0.18	54.69	16.00

(c) As the Govt. provides Bank guarantee to JCI for undertaking MSP operations every year, the question of the MSP operation of the JCI being poor for want of funds, does not arise.

(d) Against a claim of Rs. 353 crores up to 1998-99 as Subsidy by JCI, the Govt. has already released Rs. 222.40 crores to JCI as subsidy and Rs. 125.18 crores as loan upto 31.3.2000. A proposal is under consideration of the Ministry to adjust the loans given to JCI as subsidy towards the losses incurred by the Corporation on account of MSP operations.

[Translation]

### Foreign Trade

6164. DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy loss in foreign trade of the country; e

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the country's balance of payment is also heading for huge deficit;

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

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to check the balance of payment deficit and loss in foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data, trade deficit during the year 1999-2000, has been to the tune of US\$ 8616 million which is higher than the corresponding figure of the previous year. The reasons for trade deficit in foreign trade are international factors such as recession in the world market, economic crisis in some partner countries, and infrastructural constraints.

(c) and (d) The deficit in the current account of the balance payments declined significantly to US\$ 4.0 billion in 1998-99 from US \$ 5.5 billion in 1997-98. This current account deficit was only 1% of the GDP in 1998-99. With the sharp increase in oil prices, the current account deficit is expected to be in the range of 1.6 to 1.8% of GDP during 1999-2000.

(e) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated

in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Measures have also been taken to keep the balance of payments under control by cautious approach towards the capital account convertibility, a tight control on short term external debt and medium term commercial borrowings, appropriate policy measures to encourage non-debt creating financial flows and close monitoring on the movements of exchange rate of Rupee.

### Rehabilitation Programme for Mines Workers

6165. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated/propose to formulate any scheme for the rehabilitation of the workers, who have been retrenched and are on the verge of starvation or likely to be retrenched due to closure of the mines of the Coal India Limited;

(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) As reported by Coal India Limited, there has neither been any retrenchment of workers nor any retrenchment is proposed in the near future in Coal India Limited. If and when such contingency arises, a suitable scheme can be formulated.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

[English]

### Supply of Coal to Steel Plants

6166. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigenous supply of coal to the steel plants is adequate;

(b) if not, the total monthly demand of coal in steel sector; and

(c) the steps being taken to fulfil their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Coking coal of required quality for supplying to steel plants is not adequately available in the country.

(b) The demand for steel plants (inclusive of Durgapur Coke over plant) for washed and direct feed coal as per Coal India Limited's annual action plan target, and despatches during the year 1999-2000 is as under:

(Figures in '000 tonnes)  
(Data provisional)

Year	Annual Action Plan target	Actual Despatch
1999-2000	7550	6441

(c) There is a gap between demand and production of coking coal. There is only limited scope for closing this gap due to nature of the coking coal deposits and its inadequate reserves and production capacities in the country.

However in order to improve dispatches of washed coal, two washeries at Kedla (Central Coalfields Ltd.) and Madhuban (Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.) had recently been commissioned. Government has also reduced the import duty on coking coal so that steel sector may import the desired quality coking coal for blending with indigenous coal.

#### Stock Exchange in Tamil Nadu

6167. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a stock exchange at Madurai in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) SEBI has informed that no application regarding setting up a stock exchange at Madurai in Tamil Nadu is pending with them.

#### Loans Under IRDP

6168. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has directed all the banks in public and private sector to clear the loan applications under IRDP within a fortnight;

(b) if so, whether the banks are not following the directions of RBI and a large number of loan applications are still pending over a long period;

(c) if so, the State-wise number of loan applications pending for clearance and the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared;

(e) the State-wise amount of loan disbursed during the last three years under IRDP, particularly in Bihar and Karnataka; and

(f) the time limit for repayment of such loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has instructed banks to sanction the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) loan applications within a fortnight. Generally, banks adhere to the time schedule. However, delays occur on account of various reasons such as non-submission of required documents, bunching of applications in the last quarter of the year, etc.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that data regarding the State-wise number of loan applications pending and the time by which they are likely to be cleared are not available.

(e) The details of the State-wise amount of loans disbursed during the last three years under IRDP, including that of Bihar and Karnataka are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(f) The repayment period under IRDP may vary between 5 to 10 years depending on the activity undertaken by the borrower. Banks have also been advised that wherever necessary suitable moratorium should be provided.

#### Statement

*State-wise details of amount of loans disbursed under IRDP during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/Union Territory	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29088.27	27072.69	23157.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	614.60	829.36	788.34

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Aesam	3160.32	6651.26	7871.27
4.	Bihar	34625.37	33781.31	38243.75
5.	Goa	272.07	223.43	167.66
6.	Gujarat	7369.74	8267.46	8266.60
7.	Haryana	3335.39	2463.52	4116.55
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1779.11	1558.10	2429.63
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1231.28	1904.60	2265.17
10.	Karnataka	16287.33	14691.76	14470.36
11.	Kerala	9231.00	9417.76	9376.77
12.	Madhya Pradesh	33113.08	32448.55	31544.46
13.	Maharashtra	26870.43	28233.31	31853.17
14.	Manipur	503.73	304.88	188.19
15.	Meghalaya	698.43	595.63	536.17
16.	Mizoram	274.68	248.83	250.06
17.	Nagaland	440.76	156.16	509.97
18.	Orissa	16823.79	16254.46	20159.01
19.	Punjab	1667.86	1476.00	2441.72
20.	Rajasthan	17226.15	17168.14	19835.87
21.	Sikkim	288.17	339.29	383.36
22.	Tamil Nadu	18293.71	23782.03	22351.36
23.	Tripura	2324.75	1306.37	2846.15
24.	Uttar Pradesh	68461.88	68467.42	78354.65
25.	West Bengal	14027.83	12258.74	10744.92
26.	A&N Islands	67.17	77.96	67.40
27.	D&N Haveli	36.23	38.74	20.88
28.	Daman & Diu	32.29	32.86	20.33
29.	Lakshadweep	6.04	6.77	5.75
30.	Pondicherry	143.37	131.61	133.75
All India		308294.83	309688.81	333400.19

**FDI in Tea Plantation**

6169. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government have allowed upto 74% FDI in tea plantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact on the domestic tea growers as a result thereof;

(d) whether various issues of foreign ownership of Indian land is yet to be resolved; and

(e) if so, the time by which these are likely to be resolved?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected.

[Translation]

**FDI**

6170. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign proposals received so far to set up industries in the country;

(b) the joint collaboration-wise details thereof, if any, and the names of the concerned countries;

(c) the State-wise total investment proposed to be made;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the outcome likely to be with the setting up of these industries in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Sir, during the period August, 1991 to January, 2000, a total number of 10,382 proposals have been approved. Out of these, Joint Collaborations are 8,216 involving investment intentions amounting to Rs. 1,33,888.56 crore. A statement showing State-wise details is enclosed. Details of country-wise break-up are given in the Monthly SIA Newsletters brought out by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which are widely circulated including to the Parliament Library.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

**Statement**

*State-wise Break up of Foreign Collaboration & Foreign Direct Investment  
Proposals Approved during (August 1991 to January, 2000)*

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI Approved (Rs. crore)	% to Total
	Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	711	197	514	8763.88	4.16
Assam	17	13	4	1.50	0.00
Bihar	111	65	46	831.67	0.39
Gujarat	859	432	427	11092.32	5.27
Haryana	650	251	399	2938.92	1.40
Himachal Pradesh	85	51	34	360.61	0.17
Jammu and Kashmir	5	3	2	8.41	0.00
Karnataka	1254	367	887	15978.83	7.59

1	2	3	4	5	6
Kerala	170	51	119	811.75	0.39
Madhya Pradesh	238	94	144	9491.52	4.51
Maharashtra	2527	889	1638	28919.41	13.73
Manipur	1	0	1	3.19	0.00
Meghalaya	4	0	4	52.96	0.03
Nagaland	2	1	1	3.68	0.00
Orissa	128	48	80	7986.74	3.79
Punjab	157	51	106	1933.72	0.92
Rajasthan	276	93	183	2443.71	1.16
Tamil Nadu	1496	462	1034	14122.64	6.70
Tripura	2	1	1	0.68	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	648	254	394	3767.87	1.79
West Bengal	461	166	295	7687.80	3.65
Andaman & Nicobar	7	0	7	13.79	0.01
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	2	11.06	0.01
Chandigarh	25	3	22	140.03	0.07
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	65	42	23	123.94	0.06
Delhi	1066	129	937	30338.99	14.40
Goa	132	51	81	502.36	0.24
Lakshadweep	1	0	1	0.50	0.00
Pondicherry	81	33	48	393.73	0.19
Daman & Diu	33	14	19	42.59	0.02
Others (States not indicated)	5405	2476	2929	61880.80	29.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>16619</b>	<b>6237</b>	<b>10382</b>	<b>210649.60</b>	

*[English]***Production of Textiles by Handloom Sector**

6171. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
 SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:  
 DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
 SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of handloom industries is about 20 percent of the total textile production in the country;

(b) if not, the assessment of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether percentage of the people engaged in handloom sector is maximum as compared to that in the mill and powerloom sectors in the textile industry;

(d) if not, the percentage of people working in the mill, powerloom and handloom sector, separately;

(e) whether the possibilities to increase the percentage of production of handloom sector have been ascertained; and

(f) if so, the extent to which it can be increased alongwith the scheme of the Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has endeavoured to increase the percentage of handloom production by extending financial assistance under developmental and welfare schemes to the handloom industry through the State Governments. These schemes include Project Package Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme etc.

#### **Trade Agreements with U.S.**

6172. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trade agreements made during the recent visit of US President; and

(b) the manner in which it is likely to help the balance of trade of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) For promoting bilateral trade, India and the United States of America have agreed to set up India-US Commercial Dialogue and its Terms of Reference were signed on 23.3.2000. The framework aims to (a) facilitate trade (b) maximise investment opportunities across a broad range of economic sector, including information technology, infrastructure, biotechnology, and services. The balance of trade is in India's favour so far.

[Translation]

#### **Sick NTC Mills in Rajasthan**

6173 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the NTC mills in the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether representations in this regard have been received from the people and the workers' unions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to merge the two mills of Beawar into one; and

(f) if so, the details of the scheme in this regard and whether the concerned workers' unions have been taken into confidence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No such proposal has been finalised by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Some representations have been received from the workers' union regarding revival of the mills in Rajasthan.

(e) and (f) There was a proposal of merger of Edward Mills, Beawar with Mahalakshmi Mills, Beawar. However, this plan could not be implemented on account of non-disposal of surplus land/assets of the mills in the absence of permission of the concerned State Government and non-approval of the modernisation scheme by the BIFR.

[English]

#### **Subsidies on Merit/Non-Merit Goods/Services**

6174. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified merit and non-merit goods and services with a view to provide subsidy on these items;

(b) if so, the names of items in each category and the basis of selection;

(c) the amount of the States and Central Government subsidies on the above mentioned items and services, item-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to dispense with State and Central subsidies on these items and services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) An Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up by the Government of India to *inter-alia* review the

framework of all subsidies, both explicit and implicit, examine the economic rationale for their continuance and make recommendations for making subsidies transparent and suggest measures for maximising their impact on the target population at minimum cost. The Commission would also review the framework of user charges of Departmental and commercial entities and suggest an effective strategy for cost recovery through user charges.

### **Surplus Employees of SBI**

6175. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of employees of State Bank of India, as on March 1, 2000;

(b) whether there is any surplus staff in SBI;

(c) if so, the estimated number thereof;

(d) whether SBI is planning to redeploy its surplus staff in the proposed insurance ventures; and

(e) if so, the details including terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) According to State Bank of India (SBI), their staff strength as on 31.12.1999 is 2,34,667.

(b) A detailed study is in progress in SBI in this regard. SBI are initially looking at the staffing pattern and business level at their computerised branches (aggregate number of which is 2115 as of now).

(c) Surplus staff will be identified after the study is completed.

(d) According to SBI proposed insurance venture will be launched only after the approvals from the Regulatory Authorities are received. SBI would, at the appropriate time, examine the feasibility of drawing on their staff resources for insurance business.

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

### **Special Import Licensing Scheme**

6176. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have dismantled the Special Import Licence (SIL) Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the items allowed under SIL have been put under the Open General Licence (OGL) scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Special Import Licence Scheme was devised as an intermediate step before restriction on import of any item was to be removed completely. In view of India's commitment to remove all quantitative restrictions on imports by 31.3.2001, the scheme has lost its relevance. Hence it has been decided to discontinue the Special Import Licence Scheme with effect from 1.4.2001.

Out of 685 tariff lines, which were allowed to be imported against SIL, 481 tariff lines have been allowed to be imported freely with effect from 31.03.2000. However, another 24 tariff lines have been shifted to SIL category, with effect from 31.03.2000. These items will continue in SIL category till the scheme continues.

### **Guidelines for Navratna PSUs**

6177. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any guidelines for the Board of Directors of Navratna Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The guidelines provide that the Boards of Navratna PSEs should be restructured by inducting non-official Directors as the first step before the exercise of the enhanced delegation of authority and that each of these PSEs should induct, in the first instance, at least four non-official part-time Directors of an impeccable stature and background. Within six months, the number of non-official part-time directors is to be increased to reach at least 1/3rd of the total strength of the Board. The guidelines also provide for setting up a Search Committee comprising Chairman (PESB), Secretary (DPE), Secretary of the administrative Ministry and eminent person(s) to be nominated by Industry Minister, for selection of non-official



part-time Directors in these Companies. The final selection based on the recommendations of the Search Committee shall be made by the administrative Ministry. There shall be no separate requirement for any specific clearances for vigilance for non-official part-time Directors and the stipulation of the Companies Act regarding qualifications/disqualifications for Directors as applicable to public limited companies would apply in these cases also.

### **Spices Cultivation**

6178. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give encouragement for cultivation of spices for domestic use and exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly reference to cardamom, pepper, ginger, cloves and nutmeg;

(c) whether there is a proposal for setting up of processing industries of these spices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to increase production, productivity and quality of the spices produced in the country including pepper, ginger, clove and nutmeg, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for development of spices is under implementation in the country. This programme implemented in the 8th Plan has been continued during the 9th Plan with wider area of operation accommodating various components to meet the current development needs of the commodity. Steps taken to encourage spice cultivation in general, include:

- (i) Production of nucleus planting materials of high yielding varieties in the nursery centres under ICAR and State Agricultural Universities.
- (ii) Large scale multiplication and distribution of planting materials of high yielding varieties in the nursery centres attached to the State Government farms.
- (iii) Adoption of integrated pests and disease management.
- (iv) Adoption of improved package of practices including integrated nutrient management for sustainable development.
- (v) Scientific post-harvest handling of the produce through transfer of technology.

Steps taken by the Spices Board for development of cardamom, in particular, include production of planting materials, replanting of senile gardens of cardamom, irrigation and land development in cardamom and extension advisory services.

As regards exports, beside the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of spices include rationalisation of cess on export of spices @ 0.5% to make them price competitive in the overseas market, implementation of brand promotion schemes like "Logo Promotion", grant of "Spices House Certificate" as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products, setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

(c) and (d) Private enterprise is encouraged to take the initiative in food processing activities, including spices processing. Assistance, if any, is extended upon confirmation of viability of a spice processing proposal.

### **FDI**

6179. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating Foreign Direct Investment in trading Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Foreign Investment upto 51% for trading is allowed through the automatic route subject to the condition that the undertaking concerned should be an export house, registered under the provisions of the Export & Import Policy in force. Foreign Direct Investment upto 100% is permitted in case of trading involving the following:

- (i) exports;
- (ii) bulk imports with export/exbonded warehouse sales;
- (iii) cash and carry wholesale trading;

- (iv) other import of goods or service provided at least 75% is for procurement and sales of goods and services among the companies of the same group and not for third party use or onward transfer/distribution/sales etc.

(c) to (e) Government has received representations from various quarters against permitting FDI in retail trading. Under the current policy, foreign direct investment (FDI) in retail trading is not permissible.

#### **Licences to Car Manufacturers**

6180. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of licences issued by the Government for manufacture of car in the country during the last three years alongwith their production capacity;

(b) the details of applications seeking licence for car manufacturing pending with the Government;

(c) whether any assessment of petrol/diesel requirement has been made before issuing the car manufacturing licences;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to meet the demand of petrol in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The manufacturing of car is delicensed and hence no licence is issued for the same. However, as per the existing industrial policy for the delicensed items, the manufacturing company has to file an Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) for which an acknowledgement is issued and no further approval is required.

The details of IEMs filed, during the last three years, for the manufacture of motor cars including light duty utility vehicles, station wagons and racing cars along with the production capacity is as follows:

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Number of IEMs filed	5	2	1
Proposed production capacity (in Numbers)	9,00,000	1,60,000	10,000

(c) to (e) Sizeable refining capacity has been created and more is planned to take care of the projected demand

of petrol and diesel in the country. Currently supply of petrol from the Indian refineries has outstripped the demand by 25% to 30%. Similarly indigenous production of diesel is marginally more than its demand.

#### **Privatisation of Metro Channel**

6181. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise the Metro Channel of Doordarshan during non-prime time slots i.e. 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a move;

(c) whether the Metro Channel has been running in losses; and

(d) if so, 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) No, Sir. However, a change in methodology of sourcing of programmes is being affected; Earlier the slots were being offered to individual producers on the basis of fixed telecast fees, with specified number of episodes, ranging from 13 to 260. However, now the slots shall be offered through 'bids' to prospective producers/production companies in order to generate maximum revenue for a period of one year i.e. 365 days w.e.f. 1.8.2000.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati being a national broadcaster does not operate on profit making basis.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Import Duty on Coffee**

6182. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the import duty on coffee;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme for coffee growers to overcome their crisis situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government any proposal to procure coffee through NAFED and export to consumer countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of India through the Coffee Board, besides operating several plan schemes and developmental activities aimed at intensive cultivation, replanting programmes, quality improvement programmes and water augmentation programmes, 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. Further, the Govt. monitors the price situation of the commodities including coffee and takes appropriate steps, if necessary.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Salaries of IDBI Staff**

6183. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wages, allowances and other benefits being paid to the staff of all the Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions viz., EXIM Bank, National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD), Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Unit Trust of India (UTI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Industrial and Investment Bank of India (IIBI) are at par with the Staff of Reserve Bank of India (RBI);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, whether the Pension Scheme has also been introduced in all these institutions on the lines of RBI;

(d) if so, whether the Management of IDBI has decided to increase the wages of its staff at least double and approached the Banking Division of his Ministry for approval to delink the wages structure of the staff of IDBI with RBI;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the Government's stand on this issue?

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

(b) The wages, allowances and other benefits payable to the officers/employees of Public Sector Banks are decided in pursuance of understandings/settlements reached by the officers' associations/workmen unions with the Indian Banks' Association representing the banks' managements. Export-Import Bank of India also broadly follows the pay and allowances applicable to Public Sector Banks. The financial institutions like NABARD, IDBI, UTI and IIBI follow the pattern of pay and allowances adopted by Reserve Bank of India. As the IFCI Limited is a public limited company incorporated under the Companies Act, the wages and allowances and other benefits being paid to its staff are decided by their board of directors and the same at present are generally on the lines of IDBI.

(c) A pension scheme in lieu of Contributory Provident Fund has been introduced in all the Public Sector Banks (except State Bank of India which was already having a pension scheme), on the lines of pension scheme in Government. However, pension scheme in NABARD and IDBI is on the lines existing in RBI. In the case of IFCI Ltd., the pension scheme was decided by the board of directors. Pension scheme is yet to be introduced in EXIM Bank and IIBI Limited.

(d) to (f) Government had received a proposal from IDBI vide their communication dated June 1996 for revised wage structure for its officers on the basis of package then prevalent in ICICI. The matter was examined and it was felt that it would not be desirable to consider higher pay package for one Government owned financial institution as the same may have repercussions on other public sector financial institutions/banks.

#### **Transport Subsidy in West Bengal**

6184. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Centrally sponsored scheme on Transport Subsidy is under implementation in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received from West Bengal under the scheme during the last three years;

(c) the details of amount released to West Bengal during the period under the transport subsidy scheme;

(d) whether the Government is satisfied with the progress of the scheme in West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Transport Subsidy Scheme introduced in July, 1971, was applicable to the District of Darjeeling in the State of West Bengal. The validity of the scheme for the States other than States in North Eastern region has since expired on 31.3.2000.

(b) and (c) The scheme is operated through the agency of the State Government. Reimbursement claim for an amount of Rs. 79.70 lakh pertaining to one industrial unit was received from the State of West Bengal during the last 3 years and the amount was released to the State Government.

(d) and (e) The industrial development of a State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Central Government supplements their efforts by providing fiscal and other concessions. The Transport Subsidy Scheme was one of such incentives available for promoting industrialisation in the Darjeeling District of West Bengal.

#### **Bangalore Exhibition Complex**

6185. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when the foundation stone for the proposed Bangalore Exhibition Complex was laid near White Field, Bangalore;

(b) the estimated cost of the proposed Complex building;

(c) the amount so far spent by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The foundation stone for the proposed exhibition centre in Bangalore, was laid on 8th July, 1999.

(b) and (c) The estimated cost for the proposed project (exhibition hall & related facilities) is Rs. 12 crores. The Government has so far released an amount of Rs. 2 crores to India Trade Promotion Organisation for undertaking this project.

(d) The project is likely to be completed within the financial year 2001-2002.

[*Translation*]

#### **Loans to Sick Industrial Units**

6186. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have estimated the amount involved in the sick industries of the nationalised banks and other Government Financial Institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years in this regard;

(c) whether the banks and other financial institutions have got their loan amount back from these sick units following disposal of their cases during the above period; and

(d) if so, the year-wise details of the amount received as payment of loans by them during the above period?

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

[*English*]

#### **Bilateral Trade Relations**

6187. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of trade delegations have visited India during 1999-2000 for development and promotion of bilateral trade relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of each such visit, country-wise;

(c) whether similar number of Indian Trade delegations which visited the number of friendly countries for development and strengthening of bilateral trade and economic cooperation; and

(d) the action plan formulated and the fresh strategies adopted for developing bilateral trade with number of friendly countries during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (c) Yes Sir, a number of trade delegations have visited India during the year 1999-2000 and similarly, Indian Trade Delegations

have visited a number of friendly countries for development and promotion of bilateral trade relations and economic cooperation.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(d) For developing bilateral trade with all the countries. Meeting of Joint Commissions, sub-groups, working groups and buyer seller meets and fairs are being held on a

regular basis to discuss various issues regarding trade. To understand the problems at primary level frequent exchange of business delegations is also one of the strategies. The trade enquiries as well as other information which are helpful for the trading communities of either side are given due attention with the help of representatives of our Mission in the country. The Govt. of India works towards the improvement and expansion of trade which is a continuing process.

#### *Statement*

Name of the Country	Trade Delegation Visited India	Details
1	2	3
Poland	Polish Deputy Minister of Economy visited on 28th April, 1999.	Discussed matter relating to bilateral cooperation on Trade & Economic issues.
Romania	Minister for Industry and Commerce visited India on 15-16 November, 1999.	14th Session of Indo Romanian Joint Commission Meeting held.
Nepal	Delegation led by Commerce Secretary visited India on December 10-12, 1999.	Indo-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee Meeting held
Russia	Delegation led by Russian Deputy Health Minister visited India in the month of January 2000.	4th Meeting of Working Group on Pharmaceuticals held. Protocol on bilateral cooperation signed.
	Delegation led by Russian Deputy Trade Minister Visited India in the month of January 2000.	6th Meeting of Working Group on Trade & Economic Cooperation held. Protocol on bilateral cooperation signed.
	Governor of Tula region, Russian Federation visited India in March 2000.	MOU with PHD Chambers of Commerce & Industry for Cooperation in different areas to promote bilateral trade signed.
Turkmenistan & Iran	A Joint Delegation from Turkmenistan & Iran visited India in the month of January-February 2000.	Meeting of Joint Committee under the aegis of Trilateral Agreement on International transit of Goods between India, Iran & Turkmenistan.

1	2	3
Netherlands	Minister for Foreign Trade visited India during January 2000.	For promotion of Bilateral Trade.
UK	British Secretary of State for Trade & Industry visited India during January 2000.	For Promotion of Bilateral Trade.
European Commission	Vice-President & Trade Commissioner of the European Commission visited India in April 1999.	For Promotion of Bilateral Trade & discussion on multilateral trade issues.
	Trade Commissioner of European Commission visited India during March 2000.	For Promotion of Bilateral Trade and discussion on multilateral trade issues.
Switzerland	Swiss Minister for Economy accompanied by President of Swiss Federation of Commerce and Industry visited India during February 2000.	For Promotion of Bilateral Trade.
Cuba	Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India in November 1999	Foreign office level consultations.
Uruguay	Vice President of Uruguay led a delegation to India in December 1999	To attend a seminar on "Uruguay and Mercosur".
USA	US President visited India from 22-27th March, 2000.	For promoting bilateral trade India & United States have agreed to setup the India-US Commercial dialogue & its terms of reference were signed on 23/3/2000.

Name of the Country	Indian Delegations visited Abroad	Details
Romania	An official and business delegation headed by Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Commerce visited Romania on 15th September, 1999.	To attend inter Session consultation on Trade related issues.
Hungary	An official & business delegation led by Addl. Secretary visited Hungary on 13th Sept. 99.	Working Group Meeting on Trade.
Thailand	Delegation led by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce visited Bangkok from 19-21st Sept. 99	9th Meeting of Joint Trade Committee and 3rd Meeting of Joint Business Council held.
China & Honkong	Delegation led by Honourable Commerce and Industry Minister visited China & Hong Kong in February 2000.	Visited Special Economic Zones and held the sixth Session of India China Joint Group on Economic Relations & Trade, Science & Technology. Bilateral Agreement on China's accession to WTO and MOU for cooperation in the metallurgy sector was signed.
Austria	An official & business delegation led by Addl. Secretary visited Austria during 13-15th October, 1999.	To attend 6th Session of Indo Austrian Joint Economic Commission.
Belgium	A delegation led by Minister of State for Commerce & Industry visited Brussels on March 2-3, 2000.	For participation in the Business Promotion meeting.
Greece	Commerce Secretary led a delegation to Athens during July 8-9, 2000.	For attending 4th Session of Indo-Greece Joint Economic Commission.
UK	Commerce Secretary led a delegation to London during July 5-7, 2000.	Indo-British Round Table on Trade Policy.
Egypt	A delegation led by Joint Secretary visited Cairo in April-May, 1999.	Partnership Agreement with Egypt finalised

1	2	3
Yemen	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce accompanied an MEA delegation to Sana'a in July 1999.	Sub-Committee on Trade under the Indo-Yemen Joint committee reviewed bilateral trade and cooperation.
Iraq	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce accompanied an MEA delegation to Baghdad in July 1999.	Sub-Committee on Trade under the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission reviewed bilateral trade and cooperation.
Russia	An Indian delegation led by RBI visited Moscow in the month of June 1999.	Third Meeting of Sub-Group on Banking and Financial matters. Protocol to expand cooperation in banking sector and streamline financial bottlenecks coming in way of trade signed.
	An Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce visited Moscow in March 2000	Delegation of Tobacco Exporters explored ways & means to increase exports.
Tanzania	Minister for Law, Justice & Company Affairs led the Indian delegation to Dar-e-Salam from 26-29 August, 1999.	Inauguration of Made in India Show.
	Minister of State for Commerce & Industry visited Dar-e-Salam on 14-16 January, 2000.	To discuss Trade issues to improve the Bilateral Trade
Nigeria	Secretary, Deptt. of Electronics led the Indian delegation to Lagos during India-Tech. 99.	To attend India Tech. 1999.
Cuba	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce visited during April 1999	To attend the Indo-Cuban Joint Commission Meeting.
Suriname	A representative of Ministry of Commerce visited during April 99.	To attend Indo-Suriname Joint Commission.



[Translation]

### Dhoti Order by Bihar to ACASH

6188. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of Corporation and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) which is an authorised agency of the Ministry of Textiles, received any instructions from the Bihar Government to issue orders to all the State handloom agencies to produce cloth for poor people of Bihar at cheaper rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ACASH had not purchased 60 per cent stock of sarees and dhotis produced by the weavers of Madhya Pradesh resulting in the heavy financial loss to the weaving agencies and rendering thousands of weavers jobless; and

(d) whether the Union Government propose to direct the ACASH to purchase the remaining stock of sarees and dhotis produced by weavers of Madhya Pradesh and to instruct this agency to pay the dues of the weavers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Government of Bihar had placed an order on the Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) in March 1997 for production and supply of 81,38,400 sarees at Rs. 87.50 per piece and 94,54,391 dhoties at Rs. 73.00 per piece. ACASH had placed order on handloom agencies of various States, including Madhya Pradesh, for production and supply of these sarees and dhoties.

(c) The number of dhoties and sarees ordered to supplying agencies based in Madhya Pradesh and the actual dhoties and sarees supplied by them is as under:

	Quantity ordered	Quantity supplied
<b>M.P. State Textiles Corporation Ltd.</b>		
Sarees	1,16,200	12,800
Dhoties	1,16,200	25,000
<b>M.P. Rajya Bunkar Sahkari Sangh</b>		
Sarees	1,00,000	3,246
Dhoties	1,00,000	7,975

(d) The Government of Bihar has cancelled the order and as such, purchase of remaining stock by ACASH does not arise. The payment of dues by ACASH to the agencies of Madhya Pradesh can be made as and when payment is received from Government of Bihar.

[English]

### Prices of Rubber

6189. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the agencies which are responsible for export and sale of rubber;

(b) whether the prices of rubber have declined; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to arrest the decline in the prices of rubber and to help the rubber farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Export of Natural Rubber is free under the EXIM Policy. Any person/agency can sell or dispose of or buy or acquire rubber after obtaining a licence from the Rubber Board.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. To ensure a remunerative price to the rubber growers, the Government of India through STC has made a market intervention to procure natural rubber on Government account. So far STC has procured 30,623 MT of natural rubber. The import of Natural Rubber by Advance Licence Holders has also been banned since February 1999 and STC continues to procure to meet the demands of this sector.

### Tobacco Stock in A.P.

6190. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have requested the Union Government to ensure that the STC has intervened the market to absorb surplus tobacco stocks lying unsold due to glut in the tobacco market; and

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

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

(b) State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) has been directed to intervene in the Andhra Pradesh tobacco auctions as a measure to try and lend buoyancy to tobacco prices in a situation of over supply.

### **Understanding the NPAs by Banks and Financial Institutions**

6191. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "RBI finds ICICI window dressed NPAs to jack up net by Rs. 403 crores" appearing in "The Economic Times" dated March 7, 2000;

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

(c) the names of other public and private sector banks and financial institutions which have understand their NPAs; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by RBI against such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) RBI has reported that the said News Item refers to a supervisory letter from RBI to ICICI, based upon a financial inspection report. Findings of the financial inspection report were discussed with ICICI and the compliance of ICICI in respect of deficiencies observed in the inspection report has been subsequently examined by the RBI and suitable instructions thereon issued to ICICI.

(c) and (d) RBI conducts financial inspection of banks and financial institutions (FIs) annually. The inspection report includes RBI assessment on various aspects including NPAs. Findings of the inspection are discussed with the chief executive of the institution concerned. The inspection report is also placed before the Board of Directors of the institution and action taken report is sent by the institution to RBI. RBI follows up with the institution for corrective action, till the discrepancies have been rectified to the satisfaction of RBI.

### **Unemployment Due to Disinvestment**

6192. SHRI GEORGE EDEN:  
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian industries so far have been sold/transferred to foreign multinational corporation/foreign companies since the opening of the economy to global competitions;

(b) whether any study has been made to find out the effect over unemployment after the entry of multinational companies; and

(c) 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) After 1991-92, when the process of disinvestment was started in Central PSEs, Government has sold only shares of the various PSUs, as a part of the disinvestment exercise. Of the 58 companies examined by the Disinvestment Commission only in case of Modern Food Industries Ltd., 74% shares have been sold to Hindustan Lever Ltd.

(b) No such study has been conducted. However, the Government's policy clearly lays down that the interest of workers will be protected in all cases.

(c) Does not arise.

### **Licences to Private Banks**

6193. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for granting licences for operation to private/foreign banks are pending with Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such licences are likely to be issued?

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

(b) and (c) RBI have reported that 11 applications are pending for setting up of new banks in the private sector. These applications were made on the basis of 1993 guidelines. Consideration of the pending applications for setting up new private sector banks await the finalisation of revised guidelines. In addition the application of one foreign bank to set up a branch is pending for production of the home country regulators permission. The details of these 12 pending applications are furnished in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement****Category-wise list of pending applications**

Sr. No.	Name of applicant and date	Headquarters of proposed bank
<b>(I) Large Industrial/Business Houses</b>		
1.	Reliance Industries Ltd. 19.11.1993	Ahmedabad or Gandhinagar
2.	Iqet Finance Ltd. 17.11.1994	Pune or Visakhapatnam
3.	Caparo Group, London (Shri Swaraj Paul) 296.1994	New Delhi
4.	Birla Growth Fund Ltd. 12.8.1994	Bhubaneswar
5.	Shri Dattaraj Salgaonkar (Salgaonkar Group) 11.10.1994	Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
6.	Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd. 24.2.1995	Bhopal
<b>(II) Finance Companies</b>		
1.	Apple Industries Ltd. 7.7.1994	Bhubaneswar
2.	Hathway Investments Pvt. Ltd. 16.2.1995	Nashik, Maharashtra
<b>(III) Individuals</b>		
1.	Shri Ziaulla Sheriff 30.1.1995	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
2.	Ashok Kapur 5.2.1998 (Rabco Bank-Technical Collaborator)	Shimla-HP Changed to Lucknow-UP
<b>(IV) Others</b>		
1.	Exim Bank 21.1.1993	Not finalised
<b>(V) Foreign Banks request for Opening Branch</b>		
1.	Hatton National Bank, Sri Lanka	

**[Translation]****Loan to Priority Sector in U.P.**

6194. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of public sector banks functioning in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there is a decrease in providing loans to agricultural and industrial sector and other areas of priority by most of these banks; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) District-wise number of branches of public sector banks functioning in Uttar Pradesh is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Disbursement of loan under Annual Credit Plans for the various categories of agriculture, SSI and other priority sector by all scheduled commercial banks in Uttar Pradesh have increased during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 as given below:

(Rs. in crore)			
Sector	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Agriculture	2452.73	2540.73	3261.81
SSI	952.80	961.91	1248.11
Services	742.87	741.71	975.99
Total	4148.40	4244.35	5485.91

**Statement****State of UP—Public Sector Banks—No. of Offices**

S.No.	District	Branches
1	2	3
1.	Agra	189
2.	Aligarh	122
3.	Allahabad	206
4.	Almora	62

1	2	3
5.	Ambedkar Nagar	36
6.	Azamgarh	107
7.	Bahraich	66
8.	Ballia	55
9.	Banda	38
10.	Bara Banki	41
11.	Bareilly	116
12.	Basti	73
13.	Bhadohi	33
14.	Bijnor	93
15.	Budaun	63
16.	Bulandshahr	146
17.	Chamoli	35
18.	Dehradun	147
19.	Deoria	55
20.	Etah	52
21.	Etawah	62
22.	Faizabad	53
23.	Farrukhabad	49
24.	Fatehpur	52
25.	Firozabad	51
26.	Garhwal	65
27.	Ghaziabad	247
28.	Ghazipur	75
29.	Gonda	105
30.	Gorakhpur	123
31.	Hamirpur	27
32.	Hardoi	73
33.	Haridwar	91
34.	Jalaun	45
35.	Jaunpur	92
36.	Jhansi	77

1	2	3
37.	Kanpur City	298
38.	Kanpur Dehat	46
39.	Lakhimpur Kheri	35
40.	Lalitpur	23
41.	Lucknow	297
42.	Maharajganj	42
43.	Mahoba	16
44.	Mainpuri	28
45.	Mathura	144
46.	Mau	42
47.	Meerut	246
48.	Mirzapur	59
49.	Moradabad	126
50.	Muzaffarnagar	157
51.	Nainital	52
52.	Padrauna	43
53.	Pilibhit	58
54.	Pithoragarh	35
55.	Pratapgarh	58
56.	Raibareli	57
57.	Rampur	59
58.	Saharanpur	143
59.	Shahjahanpur	84
60.	Sidharthnagar	46
61.	Sitapur	51
62.	Sonbhadra	53
63.	Sultanpur	48
64.	Tehri Garhwal	49
65.	Udham Singh Nagar	69
66.	Unnao	68
67.	Uttar Kashi	23
68.	Varanasi	176
Grand Total		5793

*[English]***Memorandum of Understanding with Assam**

6195. SHRI ABDUL HAMID:  
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any Memorandum of Understanding with Assam Government for the financial arrangement; and

(b) if so, the modalities of the said MoU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Based on the decision taken in the NDC Sub-Committee meeting chaired by the Union Finance Minister on 20.03.1999, an Official Committee was set up to monitor and review the fiscal reform programmes of the States. The process of fiscal reform initiated by several States during 1999-2000 envisaged formulation and implementation of a credible and monitorable programme to achieve fiscal stability. State Government of Assam had also drawn up their fiscal reform programme in consultation with the Official Committee. This programme includes administrative reforms/economy measures, rationalisation of man power in Government, tax and non-tax reform, expenditure reform, reform in public sector and reform in transport sector etc. The Official Committee approved an extended Ways and Means Advance of Rs. 300 crores to the State Government of Assam during the year 1999-2000 as medium term assistance to assist the State in implementing their fiscal reform programme.

**Relief Measures for Ramagiri Gold Mine**

6196. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Worker's Union of Ramagiri Goldmine in Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government to extend certain relief measures like exemption in payment of royalty to avoid closure of mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to rehabilitate goldminers of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) The Ramagiri Goldmine Workers Union, Andhra

Pradesh had submitted a representation in June, 1998 to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requesting for waiver by the State Government of royalty on gold ore mined in Andhra Pradesh by Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) and subsidy on the power consumed by BGML. The Central Government had advised the State Government that the issues were to be addressed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) As efforts to rehabilitate BGML including through the joint venture route were not successful, the Government felt that revival of the Company was not feasible. The Government submitted to the Board for Industrial and Financial Restructuring (BIFR) that it would have no objection to winding up of the Company under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), and that the Government was ready to offer to all the employees on rolls of the Company as on 31st March, 1999 the benefit of the separation scheme on the lines of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) package approved for the Public Sector Enterprises of the Department of Heavy Industry. The Government has already offered, in December 1999 the benefit of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to all those employees of BGML who opt for the same by 31.3.2000.

**Projects in Marathwada Region**

6197. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of ongoing projects in Marathwada region in Maharashtra are languishing far behind the schedule and the region continues to remain neglected in terms of electronic media infrastructure as before;

(b) if so, the details regarding review of implementation of the projects in the region, project-wise, with the reasons for delay; and

(c) the details of action plan finalised to expand/strengthen electronic media network in the region during 2000-2001 alongwith the number of proposals received in this regard and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The region is fully covered by Radio Service. For television coverage 14 Transmitters (2 HPTs, 10 LPTs, one VLPT and one Transposer) are functioning in the region providing T.V. coverage to about 96.5% of the population which is better than national average of 87.9%. New Radio Stations/TV transmitters are planned keeping in view the existing coverage in the area, availability of financial resources, infrastructural facilities and inter-se priorities. However, the requests received from People's representative and other bodies working in the area are given due consideration while finalising the expansion plan. At present, there is no proposal to set up any new Radio Station or TV transmitter in the region.

**National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Limited**

6198. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Limited has requested the Government for acceptance of Demand Draft/Pay Orders issued by its banks to the Public Sector Undertakings/Governments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Federation of State-Co-operative Banks Ltd. has in its Report of the Working Group on Co-operative Credit and Banking Institutions made various recommendations/suggestions concerning the working and the problems faced by the Co-operative Banks, including request for acceptance of demand drafts/Pay Orders issued by these banks to the Public Sector Undertakings/Government Departments. A copy of the Report alongwith the various suggestions contained therein has been forwarded by Government to the Task Force constituted for the purpose of studying the problems of Co-operative Banks in the country for its consideration.

**Export Promotion Council**

6199. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the exports made, in terms of Rupees, during each of the last three years;

(b) which items of exports have increased in quantity and fetched more value;

(c) whether the Export Promotion Council have succeeded in its mission during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per the estimates of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) Calcutta, export value in Rupee terms during the last three years are—

Year	Export value (in Rs. crore)
1997-1998	130101
1998-1999	139753
1999-2000	162738 (Provisional)

(b) Major items of exports have shown varying growth in both quantity and value in the last three years. As per the provisional figure available from DGCI&S, Calcutta for the period April-December, 1999-2000, major items of exports which have shown significant increase in value terms include marine products, gems and jewellery, chemicals and related products, engineering goods, electronic goods, textiles, handicrafts and carpets, etc. Details on value & quantity are given in last issue of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by DGCI&S Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) Export promotion is a continuous process. The Export Promotion Councils have continued their efforts to achieve a high value of exports during the last three years by providing the interface between Government and exporters and providing a range of services to the exporter members.

[Translation]

**Gross Domestic Product**

6200. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:  
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product in the country during 1999-2000 has declined as compared to the previous year;

(b) if so, the details of the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) the main reasons behind the decline in growth rate; and

(d) the details of the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product during the above years in the service, industry and agriculture sectors, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated at 5.9 per cent during 1999-2000 compared with an increase of 6.8 per cent in 1998-99. The deceleration in the growth in GDP during 1999-2000 is mainly due to decline in the growth of GDP originating in the agriculture sector. The details of annual overall and sectoral real GDP growth rates at factor cost at 1993-94 prices based on the information available with the Central Statistical Organisation are given below:

*Growth over previous year in per cent*

	1998-99 (Q)	1999-2000 (A)
<b>Sectors</b>		
I. Agriculture	7.2	0.8
II. Industry	4.0	6.9
III. Services	8.3	8.2
IV. Total GDP	6.8	5.9

Note: Q: Quick Estimates; A: Advance Estimates

- I. Includes agriculture, forestry and fishing
- II. Includes mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas & water supply and construction.
- III. Includes trade, hotels, transport and communications, financial services, real estate and business services, community, social and personal services.

[English]

**Merger of Banks**

6201. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge all the Nationalised banks into four main banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be derived as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**T.V. Producers**

6202. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether T.V. producers are not paid extra money for telecasting their programmes more than once;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up fact finding task force to remedy the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) All the rights of commissioned programmes vest with Doordarshan, and there is no question of making any payment to the producers for their telecast. However, the producer is paid for the production of the programmes as per agreement. In case of sponsored programmes, the agency sponsoring the programmes pays the telecast fee to Doordarshan and no payment is made by Doordarshan to the producers. In case of royalty programmes, producer or the right holder, is paid for each telecast as a compensation for his rights over the content.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Mechanism for Non-Banking Financial Companies**

6203. SHRI C. SPEENIVASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI is absolving itself from the responsibilities of regulatory mechanism for non-banking financial companies and on the contrary leaves it to the self-discipline of these institutions;

(b) whether such an attitude on the part of RBI is resulting in gross violation by some cash rich companies in the matter of commercial paper (CP) business;

(c) whether during the course of inspection, RBI had found that CP's issued by several cash rich companies did not contain full details;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if so, whether RBI envisages any disciplinary action against the said violators followed by an investigation by CBI; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. RBI have reported that it is their experience that raising of resources by issue of Commercial Paper is resorted to only by a few cash rich companies. These are subscribed to generally by banks and corporates and do not fall within the purview of public deposits and thus fall beyond the Directions on acceptance of deposits.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

#### **LIC Agents**

6204. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
SHRI BASANGOUDA R. (YATNAL) PATIL:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has directed LIC to revamp its agent force of over six lakh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the LIC has asked its agents to fall in line with new rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the new standards fixed for the agents; and

(f) the extent to which the turn over of LIC is likely to be increased consequent upon a renovation of agent force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority would be specifying the model agents regulations which have to be followed by all life insurers including Life Insurance Corporation of India. The IRDA has informed that they had discussed the draft agents regulations with LIC of India. They have also requested LIC to arrange its recruitment programme in conformity with the new agents regulations when they are brought into effect.

(c) to (f) LIC has informed that the existing agents are not going to be adversely effected by the new provisions of the agents regulations as far as qualification and practical training is concerned. However, the provision regarding Code of Conduct that may be framed by the IRDA will be applicable to them. LIC feels that the business of the Corporation will keep its pace as market will also expand when the sector is opened for other players.

#### **New Patent Legislation**

6205. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to submit new patent legislation in Parliament by December 2000 in order to enter into product patent regime by 2005, as per TRIP agreement under WTO; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) In order to meet India's international obligations which came into force from 1.1.2000 under the agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), a Bill to amend the Patents Act, 1970, namely, the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20.12.1999. The said Bill is presently under consideration of a Joint Committee of Parliament.

As per the transition period available under the TRIPS Agreement, India has time till 31.12.2004 to introduce product patent protection in areas of technology not protected so far.

#### **Tyre Industry**

6206. DR. C. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a tyre manufacturing industry in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu in view of heavy production of rubber there;



(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For setting up a rubber based tyre industry, no permission or licence from Government of India is required. Since 1st August, 1991 till 31st January, 2000, 24 proposals to set up various industries covering various sectors including one proposal to manufacture rubber wood and another to manufacture surgical gloves have been recorded for Kanyakumari district by way of Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda filed with the Secretariat of Industrial Assistance, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

#### Investment in Kerala

6207. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Sector Investment in Kerala has steadily declined over the past few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the amount of assistance disbursed by all India financial institutions to Kerala has also shown a declining trend over the years;

(d) whether in Kerala the per capita State Plan outlay is consistently lower than the national average; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to Public Enterprises Survey, 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98 the quantum of investment in Central public sector enterprises in terms of gross block in the State of Kerala was Rs. 3390.02 crores, Rs. 3991.76 crores and Rs. 4715.80 crores as on 31.03.1996, 31.03.1997 and 31.03.1998 respectively.

(c) According to the Report on Development Banking in India, 1997-98 assistance disbursed by All India Financial Institutions in the State of Kerala increased from Rs. 354.3 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 617.5 crores in 1996-97 but declined to Rs. 542.7 crores in 1997-98.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Taking the population figures of 1991 census into account, the per capita approved plan outlay in Kerala was higher than the national average as indicated below:

	(in Rupees)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Kerala	981.77	1067.06	1120.33
All States & UTs *	757.08	953.86	1048.70

#### Funds to Assam

6208. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total funds sanctioned and released to Assam under Central Assistance the share of States in taxes, grants in aid, the Prime Minister Special economic package, on the basis of Shukla Commission Recommendation and under the North Eastern Council Head, separately, during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): The details of the funds allocated and released to Government of Assam under various heads during the year 1999-2000 is given in the statement enclosed.

#### Statement

##### *Funds allocated and released under various items during 1999-2000*

	(Rs. in crores)		
Items	Allocated	Released	
1	2	3	
1. Normal Central Assistance	1149.85	1090.64	
2. Externally Aided Projects	106.77	41.19	
3. Basic Minimum Services	183.53	183.53	
4. Slum Development Scheme	3.12	2.81	
5. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	25.00	14.54	
6. Border Area Development Programme	7.20	7.20	
7. Hill Area Development Programme	50.90	50.90	
8. Additional Central Assistance	16.50	16.50	
9. Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (State Plan)	37.35	37.35	

	1	2	3
10. Share in Central taxes including taxes in lieu of Railway passenger fare grants	1453.98	1453.98	
11. Calamity Relief Fund	43.37	43.37	
12. Grants as recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission:			
(i) Local Bodies	36.89	—	
(ii) Upgradation Grants	36.71	22.27	
(iii) Special Problems	15.00	—	
13. North Eastern Council Head	19.37	19.37	

[Translation]

### Import of Sugar

6209 SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sugar is imported in the country;
- (b) if so, the names of the countries from which the sugar is imported; and
- (c) the total foreign exchange spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Sugar is on the free list of imports.

(b) It was imported from the following countries during the year 1998-99.

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chinese Taipei, China P. R.P., France, German F Rep., Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea R.P., Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, UAE and U.K.

(c) The total foreign exchange spent on sugar during 1998-99 was Rs. 1111.22 crores.

[English]

### Delay in Censor of Film in Trivandrum

6210. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is delay in getting regional films censored in Trivandrum;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to nominate more members to the regional Censor Board to avoid delay in getting films censored in Trivandrum; and

(c) 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 regional office of the Central Board of Film Certification at Trivandrum normally certifies films within seven days from the date of receipt of applications which are complete in all respects. Delays in issue of certificate, if any, arise due to non-compliance of procedural formalities like submission of censor cuts and master video copy of the film by the applicant.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Funds by SEBI to Investors Association

6211. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount of aid/grants given by SEBI to Investors Associations during 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(b) the details of financial aid given by various Stock Exchanges to Investors Associations during the above period Exchange-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) SEBI has informed that the amounts reimbursed by SEBI to the Investors' Associations recognised by it during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 are Rs. 36,375.85 and Nil respectively.

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

### Fund Allotted Under Destitute Handloom Weavers Scheme

6212. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance given by the Government under the Destitute Handloom Weavers Scheme in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) details of the weavers Co-operative Societies which have been benefited under the scheme;

(c) whether the Government are opening dispensaries and hospitals to serve the weaving class under Health Package Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the housing schemes for weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The scheme of Margin Money for Destitute Weavers has been discontinued from 1st April, 1997 and was merged with Project Package Scheme. No fresh proposals for the weavers cooperative societies/State Govt. have been considered thereafter. However, funds have been released as second and final instalment for the proposals sanctioned earlier. State-wise assistance released under this scheme during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	26.50
2.	Gujarat	—	—	0.70
3.	Himachal Pradesh	2.22	—	—
4.	Kerala	12.85	—	—
5.	Karnataka	—	2.50	—
6.	Nagaland	5.00	—	—
7.	Orissa	—	72.50	—
8.	Punjab	—	—	0.50
9.	Tamil Nadu	33.80	—	—
10.	Tripura	—	2.50	—
11.	Uttar Pradesh	1.00	—	—
12.	West Bengal	—	0.90	—
Total:		54.87	86.50	27.70

(c) and (d) There is no provision for opening of Dispensaries and Hospitals under the Health Package Scheme, however assistance is provided for setting up of Primary Health Centre.

(e) The Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme was introduced with the objective to provide a dwelling unit and suitable work place to weavers to improve their productivity, quality of life and earnings. The Central assistance under the Scheme is provided for construction of Rural and Urban Workshed @ Rs. 7000/- and Rs. 10,000/- respectively and Rs. 18,000/- for Rural Workshed-cum-Houses, Rs. 20,000/- for Urban Workshed-cum-Houses (per unit).

#### Taxation of ESOPs

6213. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has submitted a proposal to the Government regarding taxation of employee stock option plans (ESOPs) which envisages a levy of income tax at the time of sale of the option with the tax liability being split into two parts - perquisite and capital gains;

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

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

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

(b) The issue has been duly considered by the Government.

(c) The Government's response is reflected through Government amendments to the Finance Bill, 2000 moved in this session of Parliament.

#### **Privatisation of CCI**

6214. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to privatise some units of Cement Corporation of India (CCI); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Since Cement Corporation of India (CCI) had been continuously incurring losses, various remedial measures were considered by the Government, including the feasibility of selling individual units. Accordingly, one unit, viz., Yerraguntla (with expansion) was sold to a private bidder during 1997 on open tender basis. Further, global bids for the sale of three unviable units, viz. Akaltara, Mandhar and Charkhi Dadri have been invited. CCI Stands referred to BIFR since April, 1996 under the provisions of SICA and, therefore, privatisation of units is now dependent on BIFR's orders regarding revival of the Company. The sale of Yerraguntla Unit and the proposed sale of three unviable units is with the concurrence of BIFR.

#### **Trade Fairs**

6215. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of national and international trade fairs sponsored, organized and hosted by the India Trade Promotion Organisation during the last three years in India and abroad;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the establishment staff and maintenance of Pragati Maidan during the last three years;

(c) the total income likely to be generated by ITPO by way of organizing the trade fairs during the current year;

(d) whether the ITPO has leased out some space permanently for purposes other than promotional to various parties at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi; and

(e) if so, the details of the area with its unit rent, party-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) *Events organized in India*

Year	National	International	Total
1997-98	7	9	16
1998-99	8	9	17
1999-2000	8	10	18

#### *Events organized abroad*

Year	National Participation	Exclusive Exhibitions Hosted by ITPO	Total
1997-98	46	5	51
1998-99	45	3	48
1999-2000	50	1	51

#### *Details of expenditure are as under:*

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Establishment cost Excluding Foreign Offices	Maintenance of Pragati Maidan Complex
1997-98	21.94	7.75
1998-99	28.08	6.38
1999-2000	28.38	9.11

*As per budget estimates for 2000-2001, the total income likely to be generated is as under:*

(Rs. in crores)	
(i) Income from fairs abroad	29.83
(ii) Income from fairs organized by ITPO in India	28.98
(iii) Income from fairs organized by other agencies in Pragati Maidan	36.00

*Details of space leased out by ITPO permanently are as under:*

Sl. No.	Name of the organization	Area allotted	Objectives of the Organisation
1.	National Science Centre under the Ministry of HRD, Department of Culture	7000 Sq. Mtrs.	The centre has set up the Museum for development of creative talent in the children and creation of scientific temper in the adult visitors.
2.	Crafts Museum under the Ministry of Textiles	3945 Sq. Mtrs.	Museum is promoting crafts of different parts of India and gives opportunity to rural artisans and Master craftsmen to display their products

Both the organizations are not paying any rent to ITPO and the matter has been taken up with the concerned Ministries.

### **Production and Export of Coffee**

6216. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under the coffee plantation in the country;

(b) the details of the coffee production per hectare;

(c) whether the coffee is exporting to other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The total area under coffee plantation in the country is 3,29,238 hectares with average productivity of around 877 kg./ha.

(c) and (d) Indian coffee is exported to over 40 countries. Some of the countries are Italy, Germany, Russian Federation, U.S.A., Belgium, Spain, Slovenia, Netherlands, Poland and Japan. During the last three years, a quantity of 1,79,054, 2,11,623 & 2,18,269 tonnes respectively has been exported.

[Translation]

### **Fire in Madhuban Coal Washery**

6217. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incident of fire has taken place in the coal washeries of Bharat Coking Coal Limited during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the causes for the incident;

(c) the amount of loss suffered due to incident;

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

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether on the basis of primary estimate, Madhuban Coal Washery was slated to start functioning since March, 1995 but the construction of this coal washery could not be completed in the stipulated time; and

(g) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) During the last 3 years there have been two instances of fire in coal washeries of BCCL. Details and causes of these fires are as under:

(i) At Rhojudih washery, on 6.5.98 there was a minor fire in starter board in electrical control room. The cause of fire was short circuit in the control panel of the starter board.

(ii) At Madhuban Washery, fire broke out after 10.30 P.M. on 10-12-1998 in the main raw coal feed conveyors (902 A&B). As a result of this

fire, the belt conveyors 902 A&B were completely burnt and major portion of the conveyor gantry collapsed. A committee which enquired into the cases of the fire has found that the most probable reason for the fire was the heat generated due to the friction between rollers and conveyor belting on account of jamming of rollers resulting in ignition of coal dust.

(c) The estimated loss is estimated at Rs. 166 lakhs in Madhuban washery involving the gantries including civil, structural, mechanical and electrical equipment. There was practically no loss at Bhojudih washery. In addition, there was loss of production at Madhuban washery for 245 days and at Bhojudih washery for 1 1/2 days.

(d) and (e) A committee was constituted to inquire into the accident of Madhuban washery. The Committee held that most probably the reason for fire was ignition of coal dust accumulated in the conveyor gantries. Heavy deposition of coal dust between idlers and conveyor belting would have caught fire due to friction developed between the moving belts and idlers. The fire in the coal dust must have spread below the conveyor. After stoppage of belting, the belting would have caught fire from the coal dust, which was already under fire. With the heating, whole steel structure would have buckled under load and collapsed along with the trestles carrying the conveyor gantry. The fire would have further compounded with burning of two numbers of conveyor belting. The Committee held seven officers responsible for the incident. Disciplinary action has been initiated against all the seven officers.

The committee also suggested the following remedial measures to avoid such mishap.

- (i) Proper cleaning of machineries and its surroundings.
- (ii) Maintenance of records regarding cleaning.
- (iii) Dust suppression by creation of water mist.
- (iv) Installation of dust extraction system.
- (v) Special attention to be paid to inspect places where oil is likely to drip.
- (vi) Fixation of skirt boards to avoid spillage.
- (vii) Installation of fire detection devices.
- (viii) Installation of fire extinguishers.

- (ix) Upkeep of fire tenders and internal fire fighting system in the plant.
- (x) Use of fire resistance belting.
- (xi) Display of sign boards showing periodicity of cleaning.
- (xii) Proper elimination.
- (xiii) Well structure organisation chart for entire washery organisation.

(f) and (g) The work of construction of Madhuban washery on turn key basis was awarded to M/s. Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd. a public sector undertaking in December, 1988. As per RCE '93 this was to be completed by March, 1995 but the work could not be completed within the revised stipulated time due to following reasons:

- (1) Delay in placement of order for imported and indigenous equipment by MAMC.
- (2) Delay in submission of GA drawing by MAMC.
- (3) Delay in completion of construction and commissioning of plant by MAMC.
- (4) Delay in availability of forest land, which affected the works at cross country conveyors.
- (5) Inadequate resource mobilisation by M/s. MAMC and its sub-contractors.
- (6) Precarious financial condition of MAMC and non engagement of sufficient agencies with required manpower by MAMC.
- (7) Some individuals claimed ownership of the land handed over to BCCL by Forest Department, Govt. of Bihar in October, 1985. The matter is sub-judice in the court of law.

[English]

#### Customs Shops of Arms and Ammunitions

6218. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the current stock of arms and ammunitions in the Customs Shops;

(b) the details of the persons who are entitled to purchase arms from the customs department;

(c) the manner in which the price of arms sold to MPs is determined;

(d) whether some concession is given to MPs for the purchase of weapons for self defence; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The current stock of confiscated non-prohibited bore arms and ammunition ripe for disposal, available with various Custom Houses/Commissionerates is reported to be as under:

	Nos.
(i) Assorted arms such as Pistols/Revolvers/ Rifles/Guns etc.	572
(ii) Assorted Ammunition	1,67,646

(b) It has been the policy of the Govt. to consider individual requests of VIPs after meeting the departmental requirements. The weapons sold are for their personal use/safety and carry a condition of "No resale". For security considerations and lack of sufficient availability, very restricted sales to VIPs only are permitted.

(c) The sale price of the particular model/category of confiscated non-prohibited bore weapon (pistol, revolver or rifle) sold to an MP, is determined taking due note of the prevailing likely CIF price of the weapon for import into India plus the customs duty element (@150%) plus 10% of the CIF cum duty price (for the sale margin). Sales Tax, as applicable, is chargeable on this total price in addition.

(d) and (e) The sale to MPs is only for self defence and the price is determined as at (c) above.

### **Financial System of Country**

6219. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up an action plan to form the basis of architecture of financial system of the future of the country as well as of each of the State;

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

(c) the time by which it will be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The key components pertaining to reform of architecture of the International Financial System are choice of an appropriate exchange rate regime, management of capital flows and liberalisation of capital markets, strengthening of domestic financial systems involving the private sector in crisis resolution, adequacy of the IMF's resources and reform of international institutions. Steps taken by the international community in this regard involve development of data standards (the Special Data Dissemination Standard and General Data Dissemination Standard) fiscal transparency and monitoring codes and principles for banking supervision. India is a subscriber to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and has fulfilled all the requirements of the system. The Reserve Bank of India formulates from time to time prudential norms and standards for effective supervision and monitoring of the banking sector.

[Translation]

### **New Industrial Policy**

6220. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes launched by the Government under New Industrial Policy in rural and tribal areas. State-wise, particularly in Bihar;

(b) whether the people living in rural and tribal areas are getting benefits of these programmes; and

(c) if so, the number of persons benefited or likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Statement on Industrial Policy laid before Parliament on 24th July, 1991 lays down a broad framework for accelerating industrial development in the context of economic liberalisation and globalisation.

With a view to promoting balanced regional development, the Government have launched various programmes such as Growth Centre Scheme, Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme, Transport Subsidy Scheme, Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana, Rural Employment Generation Programme and the National Programme on Rural Industrialisation.

To lay particular emphasis on tribal areas, the Government have recently announced a New Industrial Policy for the North Eastern Region which comprises

several incentives such as Capital Investment Subsidy, Transport Subsidy, tax exemption, interest subsidy and enhanced central assistance in respect of Growth Centres and Integrated Infrastructural Development Centres. Apart from this, there exist inbuilt criteria in these programmes to ensure adequate concentration in backward areas. Similarly, Khadi and Village Industries Commission's activities are also specially concentrated in backward areas, including Bihar. Bihar has also received central assistance for setting up 6 Growth Centres in the State.

Since these programmes are being implemented by different Ministries/Subordinate Organisations, State-wise details are not centrally maintained by this Ministry.

The impact of Government's initiatives has been positive as could be gauged from steady industrial growth and employment growth particularly in the small, rural and tiny sector.

[English]

#### Hyderabad DD Kendras

6221. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total telecast capacity of DD Kendra in Hyderabad;

(b) the percentage of time allotted to the programmes of different languages *i.e.* Hindi, English, Telugu and Urdu from that DD Kendra;

(c) whether a less time has been allotted to the Urdu programmes by that Kendra; and

(d) if so, the efforts being taken by the Government to increase the telecast time for Urdu programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad originates on its terrestrial network programmes for a duration of 29 hours 25 minutes per week, at present.

(b) The details are as under:

Hindi	2%
Urdu	6%
Telugu	80%
Others (English etc.)	12%

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Gratuity to NTC Workers

6222. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of days from 15 to 45 as regards payment of gratuity to the workers of NTC mills in the country, particularly in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) No Sir. Payment of gratuity is made as per the provision of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

[Translation]

#### Quality of Transformer by BHEL

6223. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality standard of the transformer manufactured by the Bhopal unit of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. has been deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether BHEL is suffering heavy losses for not getting orders;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir. All transformers manufactured at Bhopal unit of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) are tested as per International standards in the presence of customers and are sent to site only after acceptance by customers. Failure rate of BHEL transformers has been considerably lower than the International level.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. BHEL's Bhopal unit continues to remain profitable and had earned Profit Before Tax of Rs. 4492 lakhs (provisional; subject to audit) for the year 1999-2000.



*[English]***Extraction of Bauxite in Orissa**

6224. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of bauxite extracted from various bauxite mines in Orissa during last three years;

(b) the quantum out of that exported and total quantum of bauxite used for domestic need; and

(c) the details of programme of the Government with regard to bauxite mining and export in the Ninth plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, the total quantity of Bauxite extracted from various Bauxite mines in Orissa during the last three years is as follows:

Year	No. of Mines	Total production of Bauxite in tonnes
1997-1998	2	26,64,251
1998-1999	5	28,17,819
1999-2000 (Provisional)	2	28,60,115

(b) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines there has been no export of Bauxite from Orissa. The quantity of Bauxite used for domestic need is as follows:

Year	Despatches for internal consumption (in tonnes)
1997-1998	26,63,118
1998-1999	28,17,535
1999-2000	28,59,255

(c) NALCO, the only public sector Aluminium producing company in Orissa has no plans to export Bauxite in Ninth Plan. Its programme for Bauxite mining in the remaining period of Ninth Plan is as follows:

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)
2000-2001	28,72,500
2001-2002	34,87,500

**Jobs on Compassionate Grounds in MMTC**

6225. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to provide jobs on compassionate grounds to the dependents of the employees of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) who died during service;

(b) if so, the number of such persons provided jobs during the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide job to the dependents of the employees of MMTC who died during service?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) No Sir. The scheme of providing jobs to the dependents of the employees who died in harness was discontinued w.e.f. 6.2.1996 after introduction of benefits under Family Benefit Scheme introduced in lieu of compassionate appointments. During the last three years no appointments have been made except two appointments in 1999, which pertain to the period prior to introduction of the Family Benefit Scheme.

Apart from benefits available to dependents of the deceased employees under the Family Benefit Scheme, viz., 60% of the last drawn salary (Pay+DA) from the 1st of the month, following death of the employee till the notional date on which the employee would have retired on attaining the age of superannuation from the services of the company and in the event of the death of the spouse to legitimate children, if any, they are also entitled to pension from the date of death of the employee as per the provision of MMTC Employees Contribution Superannuation-cum-Family Annuity Fund Scheme which is providing ample monetary benefits to the dependents.

**Modernisation of Mills**

6226. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to modernise the textile mills of the country in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the names of such mills, States and Territory-wise and phase-wise;

(c) the details of allocation of funds, phase-wise; and

(d) the benefits to be accrued due to this move to the workers as well as to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Government have launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) which is in operation since 1.4.1999 for modernisation of textile/jute industry for a period of 5 years i.e. up to 31.03.2004. Any eligible textile/jute unit can avail of funds within the framework of the aforesaid scheme and normal financial norms of the concerned financial institution/bank. It is an open-ended scheme depending on the capacity of the industry to absorb funds in bankable and techno-economically feasible proposals. Government funding is limited to reimbursement of interest at 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technogloy upgradation in conformity with the scheme. The Scheme has only completed one year, and therefore, it is premature to draw any conclusive assessment of the Scheme.

#### **NABARD Assistance to Maharashtra**

6227. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:  
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:  
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has refinanced in several projects in the States, particularly in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and Haryana during the last three years;

(b) the criteria and procedure set for selection of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the State-wise total amount disbursed during the above period, particularly to above States;

(d) the sectors in which the disbursement was made;

(e) whether refinance by NABARD during 1999-2000 is higher than the previous two years;

(f) if so, to what extent; and

(g) the details of achievements made by these States in those sectors for which disbursement has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has extended refinance assistance under schematic lending to commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperatives in all the States of the country, including the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and Haryana, for various projects during the last three years.

(b) While selecting projects for refinance NABARD has been considering the following aspects:

- (i) Refinance is provided only to those projects which are technically feasible and financially viable;
- (ii) Refinance is allocated to the States and the same is disbursed through various financing banks depending upon their absorption capacity and previous year's achievements;
- (iii) Ensuring that maximum refinance is disbursed through the cooperative sector and in those States where cooperatives are weak, more allocation is made to commercial banks;
- (iv) Refinance is aimed at maintaining continuous and sustained growth as well as reducing regional and sectoral imbalances;
- (v) Not less than 50% of the refinance under certain schemes is channelised to weaker section of the society including small and marginal farmers;
- (vi) 100% refinance is provided under thrust area projects like watershed project, wasteland development, etc. in all States;
- (vii) Refinance ranging from 90% to 100% is provided to all agencies in North Eastern Region aimed at increasing the flow of credit in the region;
- (viii) In view of Government's policy for doubling the foodgrain production in the country within the next ten years a thrust/priority is given for schemes under minor irrigation by providing increased quantum of refinance.

(c) The details of the State-wise total amount of refinance provided by NABARD during the last three years to all the States are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) NABARD has been disbursing refinance under schematic lending for all agricultural and allied activities like minor irrigation, land development, seed processing, farm mechanization, dairy development, poultry, fisheries, storage and market yard, cold storage, agro processing including hi-tech schemes, forestry, Government sponsored programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (presently Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana), SC/ST Action Plan, Non-farm sector activities, etc.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. The refinance provided by NABARD during 1999-2000 was higher than that provided during the year 1998-1999. There has been a growth of 11%, 15% and 15% at the All India level over the previous last three years. The refinance disbursed to the above mentioned four States has also increased as indicated in the enclosed Statement.

### **Statement**

*Details of the State-wise disbursements made by NABARD to all agencies during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000*

(Rs. lakhs)				
S.No.	State/Union Territory	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A & N Islands	156	234	247
2.	Andhra Pradesh	40074	43105	49771
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	509	459	461
4.	Assam	8133	10343	6625
5.	Bihar	15967	17230	7590
6.	Chandigarh	0	3	0
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	17	3	24
8.	Goa	669	1313	1502
9.	Gujarat	23110	27238	31998
10.	Haryana	25683	28819	29668
11.	Himachal Pradesh	5050	6416	7622
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	2036	2570	2932
13.	Karnataka	29085	31968	35114
14.	Kerala	20439	15878	21284
15.	Lakshadweep	15	20	21
16.	Madhya Pradesh	15896	19014	24203
17.	Maharashtra	33260	36655	49858
18.	Manipur	258	325	206
19.	Meghalaya	788	796	944
20.	Mizoram	222	351	478
21.	Nagaland	203	149	315

1	2	3	4	5
22.	NCT of Delhi	0	104	100
23.	Orissa	12825	15599	20054
24.	Pondicherry	196	247	409
25.	Punjab	28688	40025	44145
26.	Rajasthan	27471	34188	38545
27.	Sikkim	134	167	210
28.	Tamil Nadu	31345	33832	39420
29.	Tripura	1625	1735	2004
30.	Uttar Pradesh	54237	68426	77333
31.	West Bengal	14100	15855	19378
Total		392191	452067	521468

#### **Privatisation of Insurance Sector**

6228. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL:  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "The Observer" dated April 5, 2000 captioned "Foreign Insurance brokers seek more say";

(b) the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein?

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

(b) and (c) The Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority is in the process of formulating regulations on insurance broking in consultation with the Insurance Advisory Committee under the IRDA Act, 1999.

[Translation]

#### **Review of Export Companies**

6229. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government reviews from time to time the functioning of the Export Companies;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken against the companies found guilty during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Government do not interfere with the day to day functioning of the export companies. There is an in-built system for the monitoring of the export obligation when undertaken by an individual exporter under the specified Schemes of the Exim Policy. Cases of individual defaults are adjudicated for imposition of appropriate penalties under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and Rules made thereunder.

[English]

#### **Shifting of Items Under OGL**

6230. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of items shifted to OGL;

(b) the names and number of items which have been transferred to Small Scale Industries (SSIs);

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of SSIs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Import restrictions on 714 tariff lines, at 8 digit level, were removed on 31.03.2000. Out of these 714 tariff lines, 58 tariff lines are of interest to small scale industries. The list of these 58 tariff lines is enclosed. Import restrictions on these 58 tariff lines have been removed as part of our International obligations. However, all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of custom duties.

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 upgradation, 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.

The government also proposes to take following specific steps for helping the SSI Units:

- (1) A scheme of credit guarantee is being launched shortly, for which a provision of Rs. 100 crores has been made in the Budget for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) In the Union Budget 2000-2001 the operation of the special scheme called the Technology Development and Modernisation Fund of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), is proposed to be extended by another three years.
- (3) The Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries is planning to introduce a scheme of interest support to small scale entrepreneurs going in for technology upgradation and modernization.
- (4) In the amendments to the Export and Import Policy, announced on 31.03.2000, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme has been liberalized to include SSI Sector, which now can import capital goods required for export production at a concessional duty rate of 5%.

#### **Statement**

*List of 58 items of interest to SSI where Import Restrictions have been removed with effect from 31.03.2000 (at 8 DIGIT Level)*

S.No.	Exim Code	Item description
1	2	3
1.	Ex 400591.09	Other plates, sheets and strips of compounded rubber.
2.	Ex 401610.00	Other articles of cellular rubber.
3.	401699.06	Rubber cushion.
4.	482090.00	Other articles of stationery of paper or paper board.
5.	482360.00	Trays, dishes, plates, cups and the like, of paper or paper board.
6.	Ex 482370.09	Other moulded or pressed articles of paper pulp.
7.	640319.01	Other sports footwear with outer soles of leather and uppers of leather.
8.	640319.02	Other sports footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of leather.
9.	640319.02	Other sports footwear with outer soles of plastics or composition leather and uppers of leather.

1	2	3
10.	640320.01	All leather closed toe footwear.
11.	640320.02	All leather open toe footwear.
12.	640320.03	Footwear with leather soles and embroidered uppers.
13.	640320.09	Other footwear with outer soles of leather and uppers which consist of leather straps across the instep and around the big toe.
14.	640340.00	Other footwear with outer sole of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather, incorporating a protective metal toe-cap.
15.	640351.01	All leather shoes, covering the ankle.
16.	640351.09	Other footwear with outer soles of leather, covering the ankle.
17.	640359.00	Other footwear with outer soles of leather and uppers of leather.
18.	640399.01	Leather sandals with rubber soles.
19.	640399.02	Leather sandals with plastic and synthetic sole.
20.	640411.01	Sports footwear; tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes, training shoes and the like, rubber sole with canvas upper.
21.	640411.02	Sports footwear; tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes, training shoes and the like, rubber sole with leather cloth uppers.
22.	640411.09	Sports footwear; tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes, training shoes and the like, others.
23.	640419.01	Other sports footwear, rubber sole with canvas uppers.
24.	640419.02	Other sports footwear, rubber sole with leather cloth uppers.
25.	640419.09	Other sports footwear, other.
26.	640420.00	Footwear with outer soles of leather or composition leather.
27.	680221.01	Marble blocks or tiles, polished.
28.	680223.01	Granite blocks or tiles, polished.
29.	681019.01	Cement tiles for mosaic.
30.	681130.01	Asbestos-cement pipes.
31.	690490.00	Ceramic flooring blocks, support or filler tiles, and the like.
32.	690510.00	Ceramic roofing tiles.
33.	690790.00	Unglazed ceramic flags and paving, earth or wall tiles, unglazed ceramic mosaic cubes and the like.
34.	690810.01	Ceramic mosaic cubes, the largest surface area of which is capable of being enclosed in square the side of which is less than 7 cm.
35.	690810.02	Ceramic mosaic tiles, the largest surface area of which is capable of being enclosed in a square the side of which is less than 7 cm.
36.	690810.09	Other glazed ceramic tiles, cubes and similar articles, the largest surface area of which is capable of being enclosed in a square the side of which is less than 7 cm.

1	2	3
37.	690890.01	Ceramic mosaic cubes, other.
38.	690890.02	Ceramic mosaic tiles, other.
39.	690990.00	Ceramic troughs, tubs and cellular receptacles of a kind used in agriculture; ceramic pots, jars and similar articles of a kind used for the conveyance or packing of goods.
40.	691010.00	Ceramic sinks, wash basins, wash basin pedestals, baths, bidets, water closet pans, flushing cisterns and similar sanitary fixtures of porcelain or china.
41.	691090.00	Ceramic sanitary fixtures, other.
42.	691190.00	Tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles, of other ceramics.
43.	691200.03	Clay articles as tableware, kitchenware and other household articles.
44.	691200.09	Other ceramic household articles, other than of porcelain or china.
45.	691310.00	Statuettes and other ornamental articles, of porcelain or china.
46.	691390.00	Statuettes and other ornamental ceramic articles.
47.	700910.00	Rear view mirrors for vehicles.
48.	701321.00	Drinking glasses, of lead crystal.
49.	701339.00	Other glassware of a kind used for table or kitchen purposes.
50.	701399.00	Glassware of a kind used for toilet, office, indoor decoration or similar purposes, other.
51.	701810.02	Glass beads, imitation pearls, imitation precious and semi precious stones.
52.	701810.09	Other similar glass small wares.
53.	Ex 702000.00	Other articles of glass.
54.	841451.02	Ceiling fans, with a self-contained electric motor of an output not exceeding 125 W.
55.	841451.03	Pedestal fans, with a self-contained electric motor of an output not exceeding 125 W.
56.	Ex 850410.00	Ballasts for discharge lamps or tubes, other than for compact fluorescent lamps.
57.	851679.09	Other electrothermic appliances.
58.	853110.00	Burglar or fire alarms and similar apparatus.

**Textile Policy**

6231. SHRI R.L. BHATIA:  
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Weavers feel

threatened by textile policy" appearing in "The Hindu" dated March 6, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the remedial measures taken by the Government to protect the interests of weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The issues pertaining to Textile Policy highlighted in "The Hindu", mainly relates to recommendations concerning Hank yarn Obligation Order and Handloom Reservation Act. In order to protect the interest of handloom weavers, Hank Yarn Obligation Order and Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 are in operation.

### **Creation of Free Trade Zones**

6232. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for creation of Free Trade Zones in the country;

(b) the cities, twons or areas which have demanded for creation of such Free Trade Zones there; and

(c) the latest proposals with the Government for creation of Free Trade Zones in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per EXIM Policy, "Free Trade Zones" (FTZs) and "Export Processing Zones" (EPZs) are synonymous terms. The criteria kept in view while locating an Export Processing Zone include 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.

(b) Some specific locations for setting up of Free Trade Zones recently received include Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh) and Gummidipoondi (Tamil Nadu).

(c) There is no proposal to set up any new EPZ/FTZ under Government of India. However, Export Processing Zones can be established by State Governments or in joint/private sector.

### **Foreign Trade**

6233. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the list of products and the names of countries with which the foreign trade of India has increased during the last two years;

(b) the percentage of increase in various products during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any new schemes to improve the export/import of such products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The list of principal commodities indicating positive growth in exports and imports in dollar terms during April-December 1999-2000 and their performance during the year 1998-99 as per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data is as under:

#### *Export growth (%)*

Items	1998-99*	1999-2000* (April-Dec)
Chemical products	(-) 8.1	10.6
Engineering goods	(-) 14.2	22.3
Electronic hardware	(-) 34.3	19.7
Marine products	(-) 14.0	7.8
Gems & jewellery	10.4	22.1
Textiles	(-) 1.1	8.9
Handicraft	19.0	7.8
Carpets	(-) 2.0	21.1

#### *Import growth rate (%)*

Items	1998-99*	1999-2000* (April-Dec)
Fertilizers	(-) 3.9	46.0
Petroleum crude & products	(-) 21.2	58.3
Pearls & Precious & Semi-precious stones	12.6	44.1
Organic & Inorganic Chemicals	(-) 8.1	10.8
Artificial resins etc.	(-) 4.5	9.1
Electronic goods	4.1	19.7

\*The data are provisional and the growth rates indicated are over the corresponding period of the previous year.



Major trading partners with whom our exports have shown positive growth during April-December, 1999-2000 are Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, U.K., Switzerland, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Australia, China PR, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Nigeria, Canada, USA, Russia, etc. and those from whom our imports have shown positive growth are Netherlands, China P.R., Hongkong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Israel, Nigeria, South Africa, USA, Brazil and Russia.

(c) and (d) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

Imports are made by the trade and industry according to the needs of the economy.

#### **Surplus Staff of Newsreaders in DD**

6234. SHRI RASHID ALVI:  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether there is any surplus staff of newsreaders in Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total expenditure thereon during the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard including implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Development of Forest Tribal Villages**

6235. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Madhya Pradesh Government in regard to the development of forest tribal villages for the upliftment of the tribals;

(b) if so, the amount demanded for development of tribal dominated Betul district; and

(c) the time by which the said amount is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No proposal for development of forest tribal villages for the upliftment of the tribals has been received in the Ministry of Finance from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Import of Agro Products**

6236. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of milk powder, wheat, sugar and other agro products imported during each of the last three years, upto March 2000;

(b) its impact on domestic market; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to contain the above imports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The requisite information is furnished in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Policy of import of agricultural products forms an integral part of the Export-Import Policy of the country. The import policy on agro products is primarily aimed at augmenting domestic supplies to meet the local requirements and providing inputs at reasonable prices to the producers/manufacturers of food items. All imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of customs duty as well as provisions of all domestic laws, rules, orders and regulations etc. Interventions by the Government are made whenever warranted. In the recent past customs duty has been raised to 50% on wheat, 60% on Sugar, 70-80% on rice, 50% on Maize and 27.5% on edible oils.

**Statement***Import of agro products during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April-Feb. 2000)*

			(Qty. Tons)
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (April to Feb, 2000) Provisional figures
Milk Powder	692	1858	18226
Wheat	1485781	1803699	889756
<i>Other Agro Products</i>			
Rice	54	6636	22904
Other Cereals	1121	2023	153156
Pulses	1008121	563536	188799
Oil Seeds	247.34*	851.97*	1338.58*

\*Quantity figures are not available. Value figures are shown in Rs. Lakhs.

*[English]***Reduction of Disinvestment Committee**

6237. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of committees are handling disinvestment in various public sector undertakings within the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the number of such committees to speed up the process of disinvestment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have identified some Public Sector Undertakings for substantial equity sale alongwith management transfer during the current financial year; and

(f) 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) Disinvestment is carried out keeping in view various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the company and the views of the concerned departments. Disinvestment is a continuous process. The decision to disinvest in a company is taken on the basis of various factors like above, based on professional advice and inter-ministerial consultations.

(f) Does not arise.

**Limit of Foreign Currency taken Abroad**

6238. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering its earlier decision to increase the limit of foreign currency to be taken abroad from \$2500 to \$5000 on request of customs department;

(b) the details thereof and its likely impact of foreign exchange reserves; and

(c) the likely revenue loss to the Government per year in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No proposal of Customs Department is under consideration of the Government to increase the limit of foreign currency to be taken abroad from \$2500 to \$5000.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

#### **Kannada News on Bangalore DD**

6239. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present duration of telecasting of Kannada news on Bangalore Doordarshan every day;

(b) whether there is any proposal to telecast Kannada news after every one hour in Bangalore Doordarshan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The present duration of Kannada news on Bangalore Doordarshan is 25 minutes everyday. The break-up is as under:

(i) 10 minutes at 7.45 am — DD-9 (Regional Language Satellite Service)

(ii) 15 minutes at 7:00 pm in DD-I & DD-9.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is not possible to do so due to non-availability of resources and infrastructural facilities.

[Translation]

#### **Economic Reforms**

6240. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:  
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits earned by the country from economic reforms adopted by the Government in the era of liberalisation and globalisation;

(b) the measures being taken to safeguard the interests of down-trodden section of the society; and

(c) the measures being taken to prevent the economic set up of the shattering small and cottage industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The economic reforms initiated in the last few years have had a favourable impact in terms of acceleration in overall growth of the economy, build up of a comfortable foreign exchange reserve position, lower rate of inflation and substantial inflow of foreign capital.

The goal of economic reforms is faster growth with employment and equity. Unless the economy grows in the coming years at a rate of atleast seven to eight per cent, it will be difficult to eradicate poverty and unemployment. For achieving rapid and multi-sectoral growth, it is necessary to pursue a bold strategy of economic reforms.

(c) The strategy in this regard is to support the sector through promotional policies of credit and technology. The Union Budget 2000-01 proposes a number of measures for improving credit to small scale units, including diluting the requirements for collateral security and formulating a credit guarantee scheme.

[English]

#### **Separate Censor Board for TV Programmes**

6241. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a separate Censor Board for television programmes considering its volume;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Television channels, by and large, broadcast programmes round the clock everyday. These channels are numerous and so are their programmes. It is neither

practically feasible nor desirable to subject them to pre-censor. Channel owners and/or their distributors are expected to broadcast/distribute programmes in accordance with pre-determined programme codes and be responsible in case of their violation.

#### **Automatic Teller Machines in Banks**

6242. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and location of nationalised banks having Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) facilities in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether any more ATMs are proposed be set up by the nationalised banks in the State in the near future;

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

#### **Export of Agro Products**

6243. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chances of India benefitting by the world trade in agriculture have not seen to be very bright;

(b) if so, the details of exports of potatoes, onions, and other perishable items made by the Government during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government have removed curbs on export of edible oil, onions, sugar and tomatoes keeping in view the interests of farmers and the nation;

(d) if so, the reasons for declining the export of these items during the above period;

(e) whether the Government have made any export oriented policy for exporting these items particularly processed food items to fetch good return as the Indian prices are far below in comparison to European Union nations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The chances of India benefitting by the world trade in agriculture depend on prevailing international demand coinciding with domestic ability to supply, prevailing world prices of commodities, varieties being traded and consumer preferences. Exports of perishables such as fruits, vegetables and flowers for the last three years are as below:

Commodity	Value in Rs. Crores		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Apr.-Dec.)
Vegetables	319.45	274.86	222.34
Fruits	268.98	260.04	191.93
Floriculture	81.21	97.22	63.71

Source: DGC&S, Calcutta

Country-wise export details of the above mentioned agro-items are available in the monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) The current Export Policy Status of edible oil, onion, sugar and tomato is as below:

Commodity	Status	Remarks
Edible Oil	Export of vegetable oils is free. Groundnut oil—in consumer packs above 5 Kgs. — Restricted.	Export of groundnut oil permitted under licence only
Onion	All varieties other than Bangalore rose and Krishnapuram onions canalized.	A total quantity of 50,000 MTs of all varieties of onion shall be allowed to be exported during April-May, 2000 through designated agencies.
Sugar	Export restricted. Quantitative ceilings as may be notified by DGFT from time to time.	This licencing year 25,000 MTs of sugar in 2 Kg packs has been allowed besides export to EU and USA under preferential quota.
Tomato	Export free	—

(e) and (f) Policy of exports of agriculture products forms an integral part of the Export-Import Policy of the country. The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making agriculture exports increasingly viable. The details of the Export-Import Policy of Agricultural items is available in ITC (HS) Classifications of Exports and Import items published by Ministry of Commerce, copies of which are supplied to Parliament Library.

#### **Tax Evasion by Private Telecom Operators**

6244. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has urged the Government to make necessary amendments in the Income Tax Act, 1961 which exempts the private telecom operators from payment of tax on licence fees or revenue shared by DoT;

(b) if so, whether the private cellular and basic services telecom operators in the country are evading taxes to the tune of crores of rupees;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and details in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on the amendments in the Act?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **EU to Provide Flexibility in Export Quota**

6245. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union propose to provide flexibility quota to Indian Textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan drawn by the Government to derive maximum benefit out of this flexibility offer; and

(d) the additional export earnings likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Government have requested European Commission (EC) to grant exceptional flexibilities as per Clause 6 of the India-EU MoU, which was signed in December, 1994. However, the release of exceptional flexibilities from EC are still awaited.

(c) and (d) As and when additional flexibilities are made available the same would be distributed according to existing quota policy. As the exact quantities are not yet known, it would be difficult to assess the additionality in exports to be accrued therefrom.

#### **Revision of Industrial Policy**

6246. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the existing Industrial Policy in view of the achievements made in the industrial sector since inception of structural reforms, especially on the unemployment and regional imbalances;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The industrial development in the country is governed by the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991. Various initiatives in respect of policies relating to industrial licensing, foreign investment, foreign technology agreement and public sector policies etc. have been taken. Review of the policy, procedure and their implementation has been an ongoing process in response to emerging situations.

#### **Subsidy to Small Coffee Growers**

6247. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board plans to provide subsidy to small coffee growers with ten hectares of plantations and below for their cultivation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) During the Ninth Plan, the Coffee Board has been providing subsidy for small coffee growers at the rate of Rs. 15,000 per ha. for expansion and consolidation of coffee in the Non-Traditional coffee growing areas including North East Region. The rate of subsidy in the Traditional areas is Rs. 7,500 per ha. Coffee Board also provides to the small growers input subsidies required for controlling pests, subsidies for replanting, quality upgradation, setting up coffee effluent treatment systems etc.

#### Trade with China

6248. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether Sino-India trade is likely to get much required political backing when top trade leaders of both sides met in February 2000;

(b) if so, whether during the visit of Commerce Minister to Beijing, high level talks were held with the Chinese authorities;

(c) if so, what were the agreement reached between the two countries;

(d) whether both the countries have agreed to improve their trade relations;

(e) whether at present the Sino-Indian trade is around two billion dollars; and

(f) to what extent it will be more after signing of agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Commerce & Industry Minister visited China in February, 2000, when the Sixth Session of the Indo-China Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade, Science and Technology was held in Beijing. During the visit discussions were held with Chinese Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation and State Councilor of the People's Republic of China.

(c) and (d) The following Agreements were signed during the visit:—

1. Bilateral Agreement relating to China's accession to the WTO.

2. The Agreed Minutes of the Sixth Session of the Indo-China Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade, Science and Technology.

3. An MoU on Ferrous Metallurgy.

Both the countries agreed that specific measures should be implemented to raise India-China Trade and Economic Relations to a higher level.

(e) and (f) The Sino-India trade during 1998-99 was of the order of US\$ 1470 million - imports from China US\$ 1060 million & exports to China US\$ 410 million. The signing of the Agreements will have a trade encouraging effect.

#### External Debt

6249. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:  
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of external debt outstanding against India, as on March 31, 2000 indicating the names of countries/institutions to which India owes a debt;

(b) the total amount paid back during 1998-99 and the amount due for the next three years, year-wise; and

(c) the amount of balance of payment, deficits in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and the amount and type of capital flows through which these deficits were met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As per latest information available, the total outstanding external debt of India as on September 30, 1999 was US\$ 98.87 billion. The composition of debt by major creditor sources is given below:

	(US\$ billion)
1. Multilateral:	30.84
of which*	
IDA	18.69
IBRD	7.88
ADB	3.77
2. Bilateral:	18.39
Of which*	

Japan	9.29
Germany	3.31
USA	1.51
France	0.93
3. IMF	0.13
4. Export Credit	6.89
5. Commercial borrowings	20.47
6. NRI & FC (B&O) Deposits	13.00
7. Rupee Debt	4.54
8. Short Term Debt	4.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>98.87</b>

**Total Debt Service Payments during  
1998-1999 to 2001-2002**

(US\$ billion)

	Actual <sup>⊙</sup>		Projected <sup>*</sup>	
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
<b>Total Debt Service Payments</b>	10.73	9.14	8.72	8.08

⊙ Data on actual debt service payments for 1998-99 have been taken from RBI Annual Report, 1998-99.

\* Data on projected debt service payments for the periods 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 have been taken from Status Report on External Debt, June 1999 and is based on the external debt stock as on December 31, 1999. The projections on debt service payments exclude NRI Deposits, Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds, Self Liquidating Loans and FI investment in Govt. securities.

\*On Government & Non-Government Account.

(b) The estimates of total external debt service payments (principal and interest) during 1998-99 to 2001-02 are as under:

(c) The estimates of balance of payments during 1996-97 to 1998-99 and the financing pattern of deficits are summarized as under:

**Financing of BOP Deficits during 1996-97 to 1998-99**

(US\$ million)

S.No.	Balance of Payments	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Deficit on the Current A/c.	4619	5500	4038
2.	Net Outflows on Capital A/c. (A to C):	2833	1991	1369
	A. Repayments to IMF	975	618	393
	B. Debt Service Payments on Rupee Debt	727	767	802
	C. Other Capital Outflows, including errors & Commissions	1131	606	174
3.	Total Financing Requirements (1+2)	7452	7491	5407
4.	Financed by Net Capital Inflows (A to D):	13270	11384	9236
	A. External Assistance	1109	907	820
	B. Commercial Borrowing	2848	3999	4362
	C. Foreign Investments	5963	5353	2312
	D. NRI Deposits	3350	1125	1742
5.	Increase in Foreign Exchange Reserves (4-3)	5818	3893	3829

Source: Economic Survey 1999-2000.

**Farmers and Tobacco Growers of  
Andhra Pradesh**

6250. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers and tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh have demanded to allow Foreign Direct Investment in the tobacco sector and permit foreign buyers to procure stock directly from the auction platforms;

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

(c) the steps taken to protect the interests of farmers from being exploited by Indian cigarette manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) There have been demands from tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh to allow Foreign Direct Investment in tobacco sector and to permit foreign buyers to participate directly at the auction platforms. The proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the tobacco sector are subject to the provisions of compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) has been directed to intervene in the Andhra Pradesh tobacco auctions as a measure to try and lend buoyancy to tobacco prices in a situation of over supply and encourage competition in the marketing of tobacco.

**HEC, Ranchi**

6251. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the Heavy Engineering Corporation the ailing Ranchi based Public Sector Unit put up a bleak performance in 1999-2000 and failed to achieve the target fixed by the BIFR;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the other sick PSUs who also failed to achieve the BIFR target during the above period; and

(d) other steps taken by the Union Government to meet the target of BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The performance of HEC during 1999-2000 has fallen short of the targets laid down in the BIFR sanctioned revival scheme.

(b) The main reason for shortfall in performance is inadequate order booking.

(c) Seven other sick PSUs under the Administrative control of this Ministry which have failed to achieve BIFR targets during 1999-2000. These are Jessops, Braithwaite, BBVL, BPCL, RBL, TSL and Bum Standard Ltd.

(d) The steps taken include close and regular monitoring of the performance of PSUs, providing budgetary support and assistance in securing orders from user sectors.

*[Translation]*

**Indian Mango in American Market**

6252. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the quantity of demand of Indian Mango in Japan and European Countries and the extent to which it is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): From the trade Statistics available on International Trade in Mangoes, there has been an increase in the import of Mangoes by the European Countries. Share of Indian Mangoes has been around 1.5% of the demand. Indian Mangoes are not exported to Japan because of fruit fly infestation.

*[English]*

**Rupee Loan Guarantee Scheme by  
US Exim Bank**

6253. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Exim Bank has announced a rupee loan guarantee scheme for Indian companies;

(b) if so, whether the Bank has so far provided guarantee to dollar denominated loans raised by Indian Companies to import goods and services from USA; and



(c) if so, to what extent the new scheme has helped or likely to help the Indian banks and Indian businessmen?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This scheme would enable Indian companies to hedge foreign exchange risk and raise resources domestically.

#### **Special Component Plan Money**

6254. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding the special component plan money lying unutilised in various banks accounts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government so that the money granted for Special Component Plan may be utilised properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, the concerned administrative Ministry have reported that no complaint regarding the Special Component Plan money lying unutilised in various banks accounts in the country has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Printing of Currency Notes**

6255. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:  
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:  
DR. ASHOK PATEL:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on December 3, 1999 to Unstarred Question No. 787 and state:

(a) whether all the activities relating to printing of Rs. 1000/- notes have been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which this note would come into circulation;

(c) whether the Government propose to print currency notes of one, two and five rupee denominations again;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the RBI has started the process of withdrawing the currency note of 500 rupee denomination as per its decision to discontinue the old series of these notes; and

(f) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to make the people aware in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Preparations for printing of Rs. 1000/- notes are in an advanced stage.

(b) The new Re. 1000 note is likely to be put into circulation by end of July 2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Notes of Rs. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 have been coined and the capacity so released has been diverted for production of higher denomination notes. Therefore, printing of these notes has been stopped.

(e) and (f) In the light of complaints of counterfeiting of 500 rupee note predominantly in the old design (1987 series), RBI has issued instructions to its offices and other public sector bank branches not to issue/re-issue the old design Rs. 500 denominations notes but send them to RBI offices. These steps for phasing out the old notes of Rs. 500 denomination, are purely administrative in nature and these notes continue to be legal tender.

[English]

#### **Permission to PGFIL to Run Business**

6256. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has permitted the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. to run the daily deposit and collection schemes and collect deposits from individual depositors and small businessmen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the grounds on which the permission for operating such schemes which clearly fall within the ambit of the banks has been given to the Non-Banking Financial Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that so long as any Residuary Non-Banking Company including Peerless General Finance & Investment Co. Ltd. complies with the various provisions of the directions issued by the RBI, there is no prohibition in law for such a company to mobilize deposits including deposits on a daily collection basis and no prior permission of RBI is required for the same.

(c) RBI has reported that the daily deposits and collection schemes of the Residuary Non-Banking Companies have been traditionally in operation for a long time and observed to be popular in areas which were not adequately served by the bank branches.

[*Translation*]

#### **Annual Growth In GDP**

6257. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO:  
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had fixed any target for annual growth in the Gross Domestic Product;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the annual growth rate fixed for Ninth Five Year Plan has been achieved during the last years of the Plan;

(d) if not, the annual growth rate during each year of the Plan; and

(e) the estimated growth rate during the remaining years of the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) As against the annual average growth target of 6.5 per cent per annum in real gross domestic product (GDP) for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) the growth in real GDP at factor cost (Base 1993-94) was 5.0 per cent in 1997-98, 6.8 per cent in 1998-99 and 5.9 per cent in 1999-2000 as per the latest information available with the Central Statistical Organisation.

[*English*]

#### **Board of Directors of Banks and Financial Institutions**

6258. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to overhaul the Board of Directors of public sector banks and financial institutions;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to induct more public representatives in the Boards;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Boards of public sector banks and financial institutions are likely to be reconstituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Board of Directors of public sector banks and financial institutions are continuing entities and vacancies that arise are filled from time to time.

(c) and (d) Appointment of Directors on these Boards is made in accordance with the provisions contained in the relevant statutes. The statutes provide for appointment of part-time Non-Official Directors on these Boards to represent various categories/interest groups.

(e) Action has been initiated to fill up vacancies of Directors on the Boards of the public sector banks and financial institutions.

[*Translation*]

#### **Import Duty on Foodgrains**

6259. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:  
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:  
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import duty on several foodgrains has been increased during the last one year in the country;

(b) the extent to which it has been increased foodgrain-wise;

(c) the dates on which this increase has been effected alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which the farmers of the country are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir. The rates of basic customs duty have been increased on certain foodgrains.

(b) and (c) The names of foodgrains and the rates of duty fixed are given below:

1. Wheat	50%
2. Spelt	50%
3. Maize (corn)	50%
4. Rice in the husk (paddy or rough)	80%
5. Husked (brown) rice	80%
6. Semi-milled or wholly-milled rice, whether polished or glazed	70%
7. Broken rice	80%
8. Grain sorghum	50% and
9. Millet	50%.

These changes are expected to discourage the import of these foodgrains. While duty was imposed on wheat with effect from 1.12.1999 in order to stimulate its off-take from the Central Pool, in other cases the increase was carried out on 5.4.2000.

(d) The hike in the import duty will regulate the imports of foodgrains; thereby protecting the interests of domestic farmers. This measure, alongwith the Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism of the Government will protect the farmers from selling their produce at non-remunerative prices in the wake of competition from the imported produce/products.

[English]

#### Show Cause Notice to IOC

6260. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Customs has issued a show cause notice to IOC to pay more than Rs. 2000 crore for alleged customs duty evasion on import of petroleum products;

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

(c) whether several public and private sector oil companies are evading taxes to the tune of crores of rupees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Calcutta Custom House has issued a show-cause notice to M/s. Indian Oil Corporation in which the total liability, inclusive of Customs duty, mandatory penalty and interest comes to more than Rs. 2000/- crore. The said show-cause notice has since been adjudicated and the demand of customs duty has been confirmed. Mandatory penalty equal to the Customs duty has been imposed and interest at the rate of 20% on the amount of duty has also been demanded.

(c) and (d) Customs Houses have come across cases of import of petroleum products by oil companies where costs incurred on several counts were not included in the assessable value under Section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962. Customs Houses, therefore, after investigation, initiate the adjudication proceedings. The steps that will be taken include issuance of show-cause notice, adjudication, imposition of suitable fines and penalty and recovery thereof.

[Translation]

#### LIC Agents in Rural Areas

6261. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is not according priority to the rural areas in the insurance business;

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving the similar facilities of training and stipend to the agents in the rural areas as are available to the agents in the urban areas;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to appoint rural career agents in the rural areas on the lines of urban career agents in the urban areas; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have informed that they accord due priority to the rural areas in the insurance business. In fact more than 50% new business of the LIC today comes from the rural areas.

LIC has specially formulated a Rural Career Agents' Scheme to provide opportunities for rural youth. It has provision for training of agents for 4 weeks. A monthly stipend of Rs. 750/- in the first year and Rs. 600/- in the second year is given to them. They are also given the additional facility of being attached to Development Officers for exposure and training. This facility is not provided to Urban Career Agents.

(c) LIC have informed that the Rural Career Agents' Scheme and Urban Career Agents' Scheme have distinct features of their own and both the Schemes are running successfully. The Rural Career Agents' Scheme has been operative from 1979. Under this Scheme Agents are appointed in rural areas by the Corporation. The rules of appointment are not as stringent as that of Recruitment of Urban Career Agents.

For appointment as Rural Career Agents, candidates have to pass a simple aptitude test in regional language and also an interview.

(d) Not applicable.

[English]

### **Excise Duty Exemption**

6262. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether while household goods made of stainless steel and aluminium and cutlery and glass-table ware are exempt from Central Excise, the household plastic products are subject to Central Excise;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received representations in this regard from plastic industry especially that from Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to protect the interests of plastic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) There is no excise duty on household goods made of stainless

steel, aluminium, cutlery and glass-table ware. Subject to certain conditions, plastic products are exempt from excise duty upto Rs. 50 lakhs in a financial year, if produced by SSI units.

(b) The duty structure for different commodities are decided taking into account a number of factors such as, nature and use of goods, administrative feasibility of collecting the tax, the extent of value-addition, the ability of goods to bear the tax burden, revenue potential etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations have been received from certain associations, including those from Maharashtra seeking, *inter-alia*, to restore the pre-budget exemption scheme to articles of plastic.

The rate of excise duty on plastic materials was reduced from 24% to 16% in the Budget for 2000-2001. The rate of excise duty on articles of plastics was also reduced from 24% to 16%. At present there is no proposal to modify the structure of duty on household articles of plastics.

### **Upgradation of Transmitters**

6263. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Very Low Power Transmitters in the country which were upgraded into Lower Power Transmitters during the last three years;

(b) the estimated expenditure borne by the Government on the conversion of very low power transmitter into low power transmitter and low power transmitter into high power transmitter;

(c) whether the people residing in the remote and rural areas of the country are still unable to watch Doordarshan programmes due to faulty and ineffective TV Transmitters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps 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) Four Very Low Power Transmitters have been upgraded to Low

Power Transmitters during the last three years, i.e. between 10.04.1997 and 31.03.2000. Their locations are as follows:

- (i) Miao-Arunachal Pradesh
- (ii) Patnagarh-Orissa
- (iii) Udumalpet-Tamil Nadu
- (iv) Haldwani-Uttar Pradesh

(b) Capital expenditure of Rs. 371.35 lakhs was approved for conversion of Very Low Power Transmitters into Low Power Transmitters at the locations mentioned at (a) above. Capital expenditure of Rs. 3881.36 lakhs was approved for conversion of Lower Power Transmitters into High Power Transmitters implemented during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Transmitters in the Doordarshan network are generally functioning satisfactorily. At present about 87.9% population of the country is estimated to be covered by the terrestrial TV Service, including the population in the fringe areas. For further expansion of coverage, 309 transmitter projects are currently under implementation in various parts of the country.

#### **New Coal Mines/Reserves**

6264. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:  
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether some new coal mines/reserves have been discovered in many States during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise, reserve-wise and grade-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government to exploit this coal reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) No new coalfields has been discovered during the calendar year 1999-2000. However, exploration/compilation of coal deposits in the country is done by Geological Survey of India (GSI) on a continuous basis. By such exploration the reserves of coal is updated every year as

on 1st January by GSI. During the calendar year 1999, 2.86 billion tonnes of new coal reserves was added to the already known reserves, the details of which are as below location-wise and reserve-wise:

(In Billion Tonnes)	
Location	Total Reserves
West Bengal	0.01
Bihar	0.38
Madhya Pradesh	0.73
Maharashtra	0.10
Orissa	1.39
Andhra Pradesh	0.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.86</b>

The grade-wise break-up of the above is as below:

Grade	Quantity (In Billion Tonnes)
Prime Coking	NIL
Medium Coking	0.36
Semi Coking	NIL
Non-Coking	2.50
Tertiary	NIL
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.86</b>

(c) After regional/promotional drilling, potential blocks are identified for detailed drilling and it takes a period of about 3 years for detailed drilling and formulation of geological report, which serves as the base document for planning. Thereafter project report for the coal mine is prepared and is processed for sanction by the Government of India after approval of the Company Board and the Coal India Limited (CIL) Board. The exploitation of the reserves can be started only after the land acquisition, release of forest land and approval of Environmental Management Plan (EMP) by Ministry of Environment and Forests. Hence, it takes a period of about 6 to 7 years after regional/promotional drilling before mining can be started in particular block.

#### **IDBI Loan to A.P. for Telecom Sector**

6265. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI has sanctioned any term loans for telecom sector in Andhra Pradesh for 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such loans have been sanctioned only for cellular phone operators;

(d) if so, the objection of this loan;

(e) whether debt reviewing to IDBI would make cellular phone revise more expensive in Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) The Telecom Tariff is fixed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

[Translation]

#### Bank Loans of Fake Documents

6266. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Delhi edition 'Navbharat Times' dated January 25, 2000 captioned "Farzi Kaagzaaton Ke Aadhaar Par Rin Rin Dene Ke aarop mein Bank ke char adhikarion ke khilaf Mukaddama Darj";

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

(c) whether some other similar cases have also been detected during the last three years;

(d) if so, the bank-wise details thereof;

(e) the number of cases in which the inquiry has been conducted/completed;

(f) the facts came out from such inquiries and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the directives being issued or proposed to be issued by the Union Government to the Bank Officers to be vigilant in such cases?

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

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a current account in the name of M/s. USR Exports was opened in April 1994 at the Barakhamba Road, New Delhi Branch of Vijaya Bank on the introduction of its proprietor in his individual capacity and was allowed credit limits of Rs. 50 lakh in March 1997 and subsequently additional limit of Rs. 70 lakhs was sanctioned in May 1997 by the Assistant General Manager under his delegated powers. These limits were sanctioned against collateral security of landed property belonging to a third party who was also a guarantor for the credit facilities. During the spot inspection conducted in August 1998 it was found that the property did not exist at the location mentioned in the document. On verification it was confirmed that the guarantor had no title over the property and the documents were forged/fake. The preliminary investigation conducted by the bank brought out serious irregularities on the part of branch officials in sanctioning the credit facilities. The matter was reported to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) who have registered a Regular Case.

(c) and (d) The details of such cases involving amounts of Rupees one crore and above reported by public sector banks to RBI during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement.

(e) to (g) All such cases of frauds are reported by the banks to CBI/Local Police for investigation. Banks have their own internal guidelines to ensure prevention of fraud of the above nature. RBI as a part of its supervisory responsibility brings to the attention of the banks the modus operandi of the frauds perpetrated against banks highlighting deficiencies in the system and control that facilitates perpetration of frauds and issues guidelines to banks from time to time to be vigilant against such cases.

#### Statement

S.No.	Name of the bank	1997		1998		1999	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	State Bank of India	01	2.47	02	4.07	0	0
2.	State Bank of Indore	01	1.85	0	00	0	00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Andhra Bank	0	00	01	1.76	0	00
4.	Bank of Baroda	0	00	01	11.72	0	00
5.	Bank of India	0	00	0	00	02	4.85
6.	Canara Bank	0	00	02	120.22	01	2.00
7.	Indian Bank	0	00	0	00	01	5.67
8.	Indian Overseas Bank	0	00	0	00	01	5.42
9.	Punjab National Bank	0	00	02	6.19	0	00
10.	Punjab & Sind Bank	0	00	0	00	01	8.55
11.	Union Bank of India	0	00	02	3.58	0	00
12.	Vijaya Bank	0	00	01	1.19	0	00
Total:		02	4.32	11	148.73	06	26.49

(Data Provisional)

*[English]***Handloom Schemes for Madhya Pradesh**

6267. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes introduced by the Union Government for the development of Handloom Industry in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for setting up of the more handloom industries in the backward areas, particularly for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country and particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the Madhya Pradesh Government under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government has been implementing various schemes and programmes for the overall development of the handloom

sector and welfare of weavers. The schemes include "Project Package Scheme, Workshop-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Freelance Designers Scheme, Export Development Scheme, Decentralised Training of Weavers Scheme, Supply of Yarn at Mill Gate price Scheme and Handk Yarn Obligation Order etc." in the country including Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.

(b) to (d) On receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments, funds are released under various developmental schemes for the development of handloom sector and benefit of weavers including SC and ST weavers residing in backward areas in the country including Madhya Pradesh. Details of funds released under various handloom developmental schemes to the State of Madhya Pradesh during 1999-2000 are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Funds Released
1.	Project Package Scheme	78.40
2.	Thrift Fund Scheme	2.96
3.	MDA	99.59
4.	New Insurance Scheme	1.83
Total		182.78

**Handicraft Marketing Service Extension Centre**

6268. SHRI RAMSETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the area and jurisdiction of each Handicraft Marketing and Service Extension Centre alongwith the standard staff strength, category-wise;

(b) whether the centre could ensure proper development and guidance to weavers and craftsmen in view of unmanageable vast area; and

(c) if not, the measures being taken by the government to modify the schemes reducing the areas of each Marketing and Service Extension Centre and train the employees properly to help craftsmen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details of area of Jurisdiction of 52 Handicrafts marketing and Service Extension Centre is as per statement attached.

The sanctioned staff strength of each Handicrafts marketing and Service Extension Centre consists of one Assistant Director, one Handicrafts Promotion Officer, one Investigator, one Technical Assistant (Crafts)/Upper Division Clerk, one Lower Division Clerk and one Helper/Chowkidar.

(b) and (c) Earlier 47 Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres have played an important role in facilitating development of handicrafts in the area under their jurisdiction and in guiding the handicraft artisans. Keeping in view the vast areas that various centres spread all over the country have to cover, 5 new such centers have recently been set up at Surat, Varanasi, Thiruvantapuram, Aizwal and Vijawada.

From time to time, selected employees of Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres are trained in reputed institutions which facilitate them to extend assistance to the craftspersons.

**Statement*****Distribution of Districts/Area/Jurisdiction of existing M&SECs, Region Wise******North East Region******Assam******1. M&SEC, Gauripur***

(i) Dhubri (ii) Barpet (iii) DARAANG (iv) Kokrajhar (v) Kamrup (vi) Lakhimpur (vii) Goal Para (viii) Mangaldai (ix) Sonit Pur.

***2. M&SEC, Jorhat***

(i) Jorhat (ii) Dibrugarh (iii) Sibsagar (iv) Nowagaon (v) Karbi Anglong (vi) Cachar (vii) Karimganj (viii) North Cachar Hills.

***Tripura******3. M&SEC, Agartala***

Whole Tripura State

***Manipur******4. M&SEC, Imphal***

Whole Manipur State

***Arunachal Pradesh******5. M&SEC, Old Itanagar***

Whole Arunachal Pradesh

***Nagaland******6. M&SEC, Kohima***

Whole Nagaland State

***Meghalaya******7. M&SEC, Shillong***

All the Districts of the State of Meghalaya.

***Mizoram******8. M&SEC, Aizwal***

All the Districts of the State of Mizoram.

***Eastern Region******West Bengal******9. M&SEC, Burdwan***

(i) Burdwan (ii) Bankur (iii) Purullia (iv) Hooghly (v) 24-Parganas (vi) 24 Parganas (South) (vii) Howarah (viii) Midnapur (ix) Mursheedabad (x) Birbal Nadia.

***10. M&SEC, Siliguri***

(i) Darjeeling (ii) Cooch Bihar (iii) Jalpaiguri (iv) West Dinajpur (v) Malda.



**Sikkim****11. M&SEC, Gangtok**

Whole Sikkim State

**Orissa****12. M&SEC, Sambalpur**

(i) Sambalpur (ii) Balangir (iii) Sundergar  
(iv) Kalahandi (v) Dhenkanal (vi) Keonjhar Phulbani.

**13. M&SEC, Bhubneshwar**

(i) Baleshwar (ii) Cuttack (iii) Puri (iv) Ganjam (v)  
Korapur (vi) Mayur Bhanj.

**Bihar****14. M&SEC, Dumka**

(i) Dumka (Santhal Pargan (a) (ii) Sahebganj  
(iii) Deogarh (iv) Godda (v) Bhalgalpur (vi) Munghyer  
(vii) Nawada (viii) Gaya (ix) Giridih (x) Dhanbad  
(xi) Nalanda.

**15. M&SEC, Madhubani**

(i) Madhubani (ii) Darbhanga (iii) Samastipur  
(iv) Vaisali. (v) Mujaffarpur (vi) Champaran (vii) West  
Champaran (viii) Begusarai (ix) Sitamarhi (x) Chapra  
(xi) S. Gopalganj (xii) Patna (xiii) Khagaria  
(xiv) Saharsha (xv) Purnia (xvi) Madhop Katihar.

**16. M&SEC, Ranchi**

(i) Ranchi (ii) Rohtas (iii) Jahanabad (iv) Sigh Bhum  
(v) Gumala (vi) Lohar Daga (vii) Hazari Bagh  
(viii) Palam (ix) Aurangabad (x) Bhojpur

**Central Region****Uttar Pradesh****17. M&SEC, Agra**

(i) Agra (ii) Aligarh (iii) Banda (iv) Etawah (v) Eath  
(vi) Farukhabad (vii) Hamirpur (viii) Jalon (ix) Mathura  
(x) Mainpuri (xi) Lalitpur (xii) Jhansi.

**18. M&SEC, Saharanpur**

(i) Saharanpur (ii) Bijnor (iii) Dehra Dun (iv)  
Uttarkashi (v) Muzaffar Nagar (vi) Ghaziabad (vii)  
Meerut (viii) Bulandshahr (ix) Pauri Garwal (x) Tehri  
Garwal (xi) Chamoli (xii) Hardwar.

**19. M&SEC, Almora**

(i) Almora (ii) Nainital (iii) Pithoragarh (iv) Rampur  
(v) Moradabad (vi) Pilibhit (vii) Bareilly (viii)  
Shahajahan Pur (ix) Badaun (x) Lakhimpur (Kheri)  
(xi) Udham Singh Nagar.

**20. M&SEC, Barabanki**

(i) Barabanki (ii) Lakhimpur Khiri (iii) Shahjahanpur  
(iv) Hardoi (v) Sitapur (vi) Baharaich (vii) Balrampur  
(viii) Gonda (ix) Kanpur, City (x) Kanpur Dehat  
(xi) Lucknow (xii) Rai Bareilly (xiii) Faizabad  
(xiv) Sharvasti (xv) Sultanpur (xvi) Fatehpur  
(xvii) Unnao.

**21. M&SEC, Varanasi**

(i) Varanasi (ii) Sonbhadra (iii) Allahabad (iv) Bhadohi  
(Sant Ravidas Nagar) (v) Kausambi (vi) Sahuji Nagar  
(vii) Mirzapur (viii) Chandauli (ix) Ghazipur (x) Mau  
(xi) Jaunpur (xii) Pratapgarh (xiii) Ambedkar Nagar  
(xiv) Basti (xv) Gorakhpur (xvi) Maharajganj (xvii)  
Kushi Nagar (xviii) Ballia (xix) Deoria (xx) Sant Kabir  
Nagar (xxi) Azamgarh (xxii) Siddharth Nagar.

**Western Region****Madhya Pradesh****22. M&SEC, Gwalior**

(i) Gwalior (ii) Bhind (iii) Murena (iv) Datia (v)  
Shivpuri (vi) Guna (vii) Vidisha (viii) Bhopal (ix)  
Tikamgarh (x) Chatarpur (xi) Panna (xii) Satna (xiii)  
Damoh (xiv) Sagar (xv) Raisen (xvi) Narsimhpur.

**23. M&SEC, Panaji**

Whole Goa.

**24. M&SEC, Neemuch.**

(i) Mandsour (ii) Ratlam (iii) Jhabua (iv) Ujjain  
(v) Indore (vi) Shajapur (vii) Rajgarh (viii) Dhar  
(ix) Khandwa (x) Khar Gaon (xi) Dewas (xii) Sehore  
(xiii) Hozargabad (xiv) Betul (xv) Chhindwara.

**25. M&SEC, Bhuj**

(i) Kutch (ii) Rajkot (iii) Jamnagar (iv) Bhavnagar  
(v) Janagadh (vi) Amreli (vii) Porbandar  
(viii) Banaskantha (ix) Surendranagar (x) Diu (UT).

**26. M&SEC, Nagpur**

(i) Nagpur (ii) Bhandra (iii) Chandrapur (iv) Godchiroli  
(v) Yeotmal (vi) Akola (vii) Buldhana (viii) Amravati  
(ix) Wardha

**27. M&SEC, Jagdalpur**

(i) Bastar (ii) Raipur (iii) Raigarh (iv) Surguja  
(v) Bilaspur (vi) Durg (vii) Rajnand Gaon  
(viii) Balaghat (ix) Seoni (x) Mandla (xi) Shahdol  
(xii) Jabalpur (xiii) Sidhi (xiv) Rewa.

**28. M&SEC, Kolhapur**

(i) Kolhapur (ii) Sindhu Durg (iii) Sangali (iv) Satara  
(v) Ratanagiri (vi) Pune (vii) Raigadh (viii) Mumbai  
(ix) Thane (x) Nasik.

**29. M&SEC, Aurangabad.**

(i) Aurangabad (ii) Jalna (iii) Parbhani (iv) Beed  
(v) Latur (vi) Solapur (vii) Osmanabad (viii) Ahmad  
Nagar (ix) Dhulia (x) Jalgaon (xi) Nanded.

**30. M&SEC, Surat**

(i) Surat (ii) Valsad (iii) Baroda (iv) Bharauch/  
Narmada (v) Navsari (vi) Ahmedabad (vii)  
Ghandhinagar (viii) Dang (ix) Kheda (x) Panchmahal  
(xi) Dahod (xii) Sabarkantha (xiii) Anand  
(xiv) Mehsana (xv) Patan (xvi) Dadar & Nagar Haveli  
(UT) (xvii) Daman (UT).

***Southern Region*****Andhra Pradesh****31. M&SEC, Vijayawada**

(i) Krishna (ii) Guntur (iii) East Godavari (iv)  
Kammam (v) Visakhapatnam (vi) Vizianagaram (vii)  
Srikakulam (viii) West Godavari.

**32. M&SEC, Tirupati**

(i) Chittoor (ii) Nellore (iii) Prakasam (iv) Kumool (v)  
Anantapur (vi) Cuddappah.

**33. M&SEC, Hyderabad**

(i) Warangal (ii) Karimnagar (iii) Nizamabad (iv)  
Adilabad (v) Medak (vi) Rangareddy (vii) Mahboob  
Nagar (viii) Nalgonda (ix) Hyderabad.

**Karnataka****34. M&SEC, Mangalore**

(i) Dharwar (ii) Belgaum (iii) Bijapur (iv) N. Kanara  
(v) S. Kanara (vi) Gulbarga (vii) Bidar (viii) Raichur  
(ix) Bellary.

**35. M&SEC, Mysore**

(i) Mysore (ii) Bangalore (iii) Mandaya (iv) Hassan  
(v) Tumkur (vi) Chitradurga (vii) Chikmagalur (viii)  
Kolar (ix) Shimoga (x) Kodagu.

**Tamil Nadu****36. M&SEC, Nagarcoil**

(i) Kanyakumari (ii) Madurai (iii) Ramanathapuram  
(iv) Pudukottai (v) Tirunelveli.

**37. M&SEC, Salem**

(i) Salem (ii) Dharmapuri (iii) Nilgiris (iv) Coimbatore  
(v) North Arcot.

**Andaman & Nicobar****38. M&SEC, Port Blair.**

Whole Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

**39. M&SEC, Pondicherry**

(i) Pondicherry (ii) Chennai (iii) Chingleput (iv) South  
Arcot (v) Trichy (vi) Tanjaur.

**Kerala****40. M&SEC, Thiruvananthapuram**

(i) Thiruvananthapuram (ii) Kollam (iii) Allapuzha (iv)  
Pattanamthitta (v) Iddiki (vi) Kottayam (vii) Emakulam  
(viii) Lakshadweep Islands.

**41. M&SEC, Tissur**

(i) Tissur (ii) Palghat (iii) Mallapuram (iv) Kozhicode  
(v) Waganad (vi) Kannur (vii) Kasargode.

***Northern Region*****Punjab****42. M&SEC, Hoshiarpur**

Whole Punjab State except Chandigarh.

**Rajasthan****43. M&SEC, Jaipur**

(i) Jaipur (ii) Alwar (iii) Sikar (iv) Ajmer (v) Jhunjhunu  
(vi) Churu (vii) Tonk (viii) Bundi (ix) Sawai Madhopur  
(x) Bharatpur (xi) Kota (xii) Jhalwar (xiii) Bhilwara  
(xiv) Chittaur (xv) Dholpur.

44. *M&SEC, Jodhpur*

(i) Jodhpur (ii) Ganganagar (iii) Bikaner (iv) Nagaur  
(v) Pall (vi) Sirohi (vii) Jalor (viii) Jaisalmer (ix)  
Barmer (x) Udaipur (xi) Dungarpur (xii) Banswara.

Haryana

45. *M&SEC, Rewari*

Whole Haryana, Delhi (U.T.) & Chandigarh (U.T.)

Himachal Pradesh

46. *M&SEC, Kullu*

Whole Himachal Pradesh.

J&K

47. *M&SEC, Anantnag*

(i) Anantnag (ii) Pullwama

48. *M&SEC, Baramulla*

(i) Baramulla (ii) Kupwara

49. *M&SEC, Leh*

(i) Leh (ii) Kargil.

50. *M&SEC, Srinagar*

(i) Srinagar (ii) Budgam.

51. *M&SEC, Udhampur*

(i) Udhampur (ii) Doda (iii) Kathua.

52. *M&SEC, Jammu*

(i) Jammu (ii) Poonch (iii) Rajouri.

### Coal Stored at Pitheads

6269. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any maximum limit for the quantity of coal to be stored at pitheads of the coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of coal stored at pitheads of mines during 1999-2000 and selling price thereof;

(d) whether the periodic checks of the quantity of coal stored of these pitheads are conducted;

(e) if so, the details of such checks conducted during 1999-2000; and

(f) the manner in which the quantity of coal is measured at the pitheads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The stocking policy of subsidiary companies under Coal India Limited is as under:

(i) For a subsidiary company as a whole, the company's stock at pithead should be equal to one month's production;

(ii) At each colliery, the pithead stock should not exceed three months' production; and

(iii) Collieries should always carry at their pitheads sufficient stocks to enable them to load the available number of wagons, timely.

(c) The subsidiary-wise provisional book stock of vendible coal as on 31.3.2000 is as under:

	(in lakh tonnes)
ECL	30.60
BCCL	32.77
CCL	43.54
NCL	14.42
WCL	23.21
SECL	70.94
MCL	54.93
NEC	5.78
<b>Total CIL</b>	<b>276.19</b>

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. During 1999-2000, CIL got physically verified stocks of coal held as on 1.4.1999 at all the mines and washeries. During the year, check surveys were also conducted by CIL at 44 pitheads.

(f) The measuring teams are guided by prevalent norms and established survey procedures. The measuring teams verify stocks in the following manner:

(i) Physical measurement of stocks at different points of storage.

- (ii) Computation of stock as on 1st April of the year is done by taking the adopted stock as on 1st April of the previous year as the base and then adjusting productions and offtakes during the year.
- (iii) Comparison with book stock as on 1st April of the year.

#### **Disinvestment of Hindustan Prefab Limited**

6270. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Disinvestment Commission in its 5th Report of November, 1997, had recommended a strategic scale of Hindustan Prefab Limited with the stipulation that Government will retain 26% of the equity and the strategic buyer would inject new technology into the operations of the company and run the company;

(b) whether the Government have not accepted these recommendations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to close down the aforesaid undertaking; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Disinvestment Commission has recommended in its fifth report that Government may offer upto 74% of the share of the company in Hindustan Prefab Limited to a strategic buyer. According to the Disinvestment Commission, the induction of a strategic buyer is desirable in order to take up the turn-around plan of Hindustan Prefab Limited and also to induct new technologies.

(b) Government has not taken any decision so far on the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Patent Regime**

6271. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether financial returns under the patent regime prevailing in the developed countries got better returns by way of latest technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have allowed the Indian companies for out-right purchases of obsolete and third rate technologies;

(d) if so, the reasons for taking such a decision;

(e) whether the Government are aware that multinational companies have not shown their interest in providing the latest technology due to restrictions on foreign equity upto 40% under FERA/FEMA; and

(f) if so, the details of social and financial justification in adopting such a policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The secure environment provided by a strong patent regime in developed countries catalyses not only inventive/creative activity but also encourages investors to exploit the latest technology, especially those developed with large outlays of resources on research. This has the spin-off effect leading to the establishment of production facilities, larger volume of sales and service, infrastructure development and employment generation which, in combination, impact on higher economic and financial returns.

(c) and (d) Indian companies have been given freedom to negotiate the terms of the technology transfer with their foreign counterparts according to their commercial judgement and technological requirements.

(e) and (f) As per the extant Foreign Direct Investment Policy, 100% foreign equity is allowed in most of the sectors except a small negative list and sectors where foreign equity caps are provided based on assessment of national interests. Even in the past 100% subsidiaries were allowed where the foreign collaborator proposed to bring technology developed through application of large resources in research and development and which was proprietary in nature. Moreover, companies are freely allowed to import capital goods as per the EXIM Policy in force.

#### **Privatisation of Radio Network**

6272. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to hand over the Radio network to private Indian Companies/multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) The Govt. have decided to allow 100% Indian owned companies to set up 108 FM Radio Stations in 40 cities in the first phase, which will supplement and not replace the services being provided by All India Radio. The basic objective behind licencing the private FM Stations is to give radio listeners more choice by making available more programmes with localised flavour in terms of content and relevance, in addition to generating employment opportunity by bringing the private sector resources to the Radio broadcasting sector.

[Translation]

#### **Bauxite Based Industry**

6273. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to set up bauxite based industry in the bauxite dominated areas of the country, particularly at Lohardaga and Ranchi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to promote bauxite based industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up any greenfield Alumina/Aluminium Plant in the Public Sector. However, National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) a Public Sector Company, is currently implementing major expansion programmes for increasing its capacity of Bauxite Mines and Refinery (at Damanjodi, Orissa) and Smelter and Captive Power Plant (at Angul, Orissa).

(d) Manufacture of Alumina and Aluminium metal have been exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing. Hence entrepreneurs are now free to set up bauxite based industries i.e. new Alumina Refineries and Aluminium smelters by simply filing an Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum. The sector is also open to foreign direct investment.

[English]

#### **Relaxation in Initial Public Offering Norms by SEBI**

6274. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has relaxed Initial Public Offering norms for entertainment, telecom and media sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any condition has been laid down for granting relaxation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) SEBI has eased the Initial Public Offering (IPOs) norms for companies in the media, entertainment and telecommunication sectors by relaxing the mandatory minimum public offer of 25% of the capital. The relaxation provided to them is that an IPO may be at least 10% of the post issue capital.

(c) and (d) This relaxation is subject to the following:

(i) the issue should comprise a minimum of 20 lakh securities, to be offered to the public;

(ii) the size of the net offer to the public (i.e. the offer price multiplied by the number of securities offered to the public excluding all reservations and firm allotment) should not be less than Rs. 50 crore;

(iii) sources of revenue and profit (not less than 75%) shall emanate from these sectors; and

(iv) sector-wise income, revenue and asset position will also have to be disclosed in the offer document.

#### **Import/Export with Neighbouring Countries**

6275. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

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

(a) the details of items imported from neighbouring countries, particularly Pakistan during the last three years and till date;

(b) the details of items exported to neighbouring countries, particularly Pakistan during the last three years; and

(c) the amount involved, separately, year-wise, in import and export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Details of India's trade with the neighbouring countries, including Pakistan during the last three years and till date are given below:

Country	Exports (In Rs. crores)				Imports (In Rs. crores)			
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Apl-Dec '2000	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Apl-Dec '2000
Afghanistan	80.73	78.96	54.11	52.76	10.84	39.77	143.98	70.18
Bangladesh	3084.80	2922.87	4168.03	1919.86	220.91	188.85	267.65	231.08
Bhutan	78.03	49.53	40.26	32.52	119.93	49.95	25.73	60.26
China	2182.54	2668.71	1724.38	1674.57	2687.03	4160.04	4458.52	3998.46
Maldives	36.80	32.46	32.58	24.07	0.61	0.89	0.19	0.81
Myanmar	160.46	183.26	217.58	116.94	629.04	832.53	687.43	572.68
Nepal	588.30	631.99	628.32	1329.02	227.45	353.64	597.24	451.20
Pakistan	558.12	532.02	466.00	273.38	128.36	165.19	891.85	219.03
Sri Lanka	1694.79	1818.23	1851.45	1597.39	160.33	112.26	164.00	154.76

Source: DGCI & S

Item-wise export and import figures for all the countries are given in the monthly publication, *"Foreign Trade Statistics of India"*, brought out by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, which are available in the Parliament Library.

#### Revenue Collected from I.T. from Gujarat.

6276. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have earned revenue from various districts of Gujarat and other States through Income Tax, Excise Duty, Customs Duty, Small Savings from 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the amount collected from each source during the above period; and

(c) the amount returned to the States during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Data for these purposes are not maintained district-wise. Provisional figures of revenue collected by the Central

Government through Income tax, Central Excise and Customs duties during 1999-2000, in Gujarat and other States/UTs, are as under:

(Rupees in crore)

	Income Tax	Central Excise	Customs Duties
Gujarat*	1576	9171	7608
Other States/UTs.	23720	52218	40707
Total:	25296	61389	48315

\* For Income tax, the figures are in respect of the Chief Commissioner, Ahmedabad zone, which covers the State of Gujarat. For central excise and customs duties, the figures are in respect of the Vadodara zone, which includes Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

The Central Government is not earning any revenue through Small Savings Schemes.

(c) The amount released to the States during the year 1999-2000 is given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise distribution of Basic Excise Duties, Additional Excise Duties in lieu of Sales Tax and Income Tax during the Financial Year 1999-2000*

(In crore of Rupees)

Sl. No.	State	Basic Excise Duties	Additional Excise Duties	Income Tax	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1709.93	232.29	1401.08	3343.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	286.85	3.09	28.14	318.08
3.	Assam	914.23	73.76	460.79	1448.78
4.	Bihar	2597.93	235.97	2128.69	4962.59
5.	Goa	59.24	6.89	29.79	95.92
3.	Gujarat	817.29	178.08	669.67	1665.04
7.	Haryana	250.08	70.28	204.91	525.27
3.	Himachal Pradesh	685.26	17.67	116.52	819.45
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1119.24	25.43	181.57	1326.24
10.	Karnataka	1078.48	170.62	883.68	2132.78
11.	Kerala	782.75	111.10	641.37	1535.22
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1674.58	214.94	1372.12	3261.64
13.	Maharashtra	1237.45	357.26	1013.95	2608.66
14.	Manipur	335.27	5.85	46.88	387.80
15.	Meghalaya	289.34	5.58	46.84	341.76
16.	Mizoram	298.03	2.35	24.66	325.04
17.	Nagaland	492.01	4.07	29.98	526.04
18.	Orissa	933.75	90.36	743.99	1777.10
19.	Punjab	295.12	101.65	241.82	638.59
20.	Rajasthan	1121.30	144.75	918.77	2184.82
21.	Sikkim	103.28	1.57	20.86	125.71
22.	Tamil Nadu	1340.68	227.80	1098.52	2667.00
23.	Tripura	458.48	8.50	62.57	529.55
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3597.83	432.89	2947.99	6978.71
25.	West Bengal	1509.14	238.71	1236.56	2984.41
Total:		23987.54	2970.46	16551.50	43509.50

*[Translation]***Import/Export of Oil Seeds and Pulses**

6277. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

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

(a) the quantum of oilseeds and pulses imported and exported during each of the last three years alongwith the value thereof;

(b) the share of public and private sectors in the import and export of these items; and

(c) the quantum of oil seeds and pulses imported and exported in the first nine months of 1999-2000, alongwith the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (c) The requisite information is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Import & Export data are maintained for country as a whole and no separate data is maintained for private/public sector.

**Statement***Import and Export of Oilseed and Pulses***Imports**

	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99 (P)		1999-2000 (April-Dec. 99) (P)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Oil seeds	N.A.	470.32	N.A.	247.34	N.A.	883.40	N.A.	1197.51
Pulses	654908	89033.76	1008161	119464.38	312744	40451.86	162012	22183.11

**Exports**

	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99 (P)		1999-2000 (April-Dec. 99) (P)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Oil Seeds	252580	60112.41	374725	86887.75	152197	44706.54	104424	33447.01
Pulses	55216	13157.78	168052	36088.63	101448	21874.33	143390	31536.40

N.A. - Not Available

P - Provisional

*[English]***Decline in Export of Textile**

6278. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of textiles has been on the decline;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the export?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time for increasing exports. Some of the important



initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

- (1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector.
- (2) The New Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 has been announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
- (3) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.
- (4) 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.

#### **Lending to Priority Sector**

6279. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the bank lending targets to priority sector including the food and agro-based processing sector in the States of Tripura, Assam, Mizoram and other States of North Eastern Region;

(b) the State-wise achievements in priority sector lending during the last three years;

(c) whether the lending amount has covered 40 per cent the net bank credit to the priority sector and in each of the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken against the defaulting banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stipulated a target of 40 per

cent of net bank credit for lending to the priority sector including food and agro-based processing sector, by domestic scheduled commercial banks on All India basis. No State-wise target has been stipulated for priority sector lending.

(b) Outstanding advances to the priority sector by scheduled commercial banks to the States of North Eastern Region during the last three years are given below:

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Name of State	March 1996	March 1997	March 1998
Assam	853.64	1095.21	1015.68
Manipur	75.76	96.31	102.86
Meghalaya	49.39	49.55	62.40
Nagaland	84.94	72.28	59.46
Tripura	99.13	122.53	132.43
Arunachal Pradesh	17.31	20.27	23.79
Mizoram	15.78	19.18	22.72

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of the reply given at (a) above.

#### **Anti-Dumping Duty on Rubber**

6280. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to impose Anti-Dumping Duty or to increase Customs Tariff (Import Duty) of Natural Rubber and substances such as polyurethane and Artificial Rubber which are used instead of Natural Rubber for Industrial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per the Rules of Anti-dumping, initiation of Anti-dumping investigation is undertaken only when the domestic industry files a petition to the Designated Authority, with prima facie evidence of dumping, injury and causal link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury to the domestic industry.

As far as natural rubber is concerned there is no investigation under the Anti-dumping rules. Final

(Definitive) anti-dumping duties have been imposed in the following cases on Artificial Rubber products:

S.No.	Product	Country	Range of Duty imposed
1.	Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR)	Japan	Rs. 7882/MT
2.	Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR)	Germany & Korea RP	Rs. 8316/MT to Rs. 13255/MT
3.	Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer Rubber (EPDM)	Japan	Difference between Rs. 100644 to Rs. 104725 & landed price of imports/kg.
4.	Styrene Butadiene Rubber (SBR)	Japan, Korea, Turkey, China, Taiwan, USA, Germany & France	Rs. 48.20/kg. to Rs. 62.16/kg.

Preliminary duty has been recommended in the case of Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer Rubber (EPDM) imports from Korea. Ministry of Finance notification imposing duties is awaited.

There is currently no proposal to increase the Customs Tariff (Import Duty) on Natural Rubber or Polyurethane or any other Artificial Rubber.

[Translation]

#### Verification of Ground Stock of Coal

6281. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground stock of coal reserves situated in the group of mines in various coal companies of Coal India Limited such as CCL, BCCL, ECL etc. have been verified;

(b) if so, the details of the ground stock of coal found in the group of mines in various companies during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to get verified the difference of ground stock of various companies by the Advisory Committee of his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Coal India Limited conducts annual physical verification of stock at all the pitheads including those of CCL, BCCL and ECL through CIL inventory team.

(b) Company-wise vendible book stock for the last three years are given below:

(In lakh tonnes)

	As on 31.3.1998	As on 31.3.1999	As on 31.3.2000 (Provisional)
ECL	34.8	43.0	30.60
BCCL	53.8	41.7	32.77
CCL	46.8	47.2	43.54
NCL	12.7	22.9	14.42
WCL	22.9	33.1	23.21
SECL	60.1	62.7	70.94
MCL	23.7	40.6	54.93
NEC	9.3	8.4	5.78
Total CIL	264.1	299.6	276.19

(c) and (d) It has been decided to engage an outside independent agency as a consultant for the year 2000-01 to suggest accounting system relating to coal stocks.

[English]

#### Removal of Ban by US on Indian Institution from Entities List

6282. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the US Government has removed some Indian institutions from entities list to which US exports were banned following the May 1998 nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the details of such institutions;

(c) the number of Indian institutions still continue to be on the list of entities;

(d) whether any discussion has been held with US delegation in this regard during the visit of US President in India; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) A total of 51 entities have been removed from the List of Indian Entities. The details of such entities is in the statement laid on the Table of the House. More than 150 listed Indian Entities are still on the Entity List.

(d) and (e) Government has used every opportunity to convey to the US including during the visit of President Clinton, that all unilateral restrictions against India are unjustified and counter-productive and should be completely lifted. The US side has not indicated the time frame for lifting the remaining restrictions.

#### ***Statement***

##### *Entities Removed from Entity List*

Ambamath Machine Tool Prototype Factory

Ambamath Ordnance Factory

Aruvankadu Cordite Factory

Avadi Combine Engine Plant

Avadi Heavy Vehicle Factory

Avadi Ordnance Clothing Factory

\*Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. (BHEL) Hardwar and Ranipet

Bhusawal Ordnance Factory

Chandigarh Ordnance Cable Factory

Chandigarh Ordnance Parachute Factory

Combat Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE)

Cossipore Gun and Shell Factory

Defence Bio-Engineering and Electro-Medical

Laboratory (DEBEL)

Defence Food Research Laboratory (DIFR)

Defence Institute of Fire Research (DIFR)

Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS)

Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR)

Defence Institute of Workstudy (DIWS)

Defence Research and Development Unit (DRDU)

Defence Research Laboratory (DRL)

Defence Terrain Research Laboratory (DTRL)

Dehra Dun Opto-Electronics Factory

Dehra Dun Ordnance Factory

Dehu Road Ordnance Factory

Hazratpur Ordnance Equipment Factory

Institute of Mathematical Sciences

Institute of Physics

Institute for Systems Studies and Analyses (ISSA)

Interuniversity Consortium of DAE Facilities

Jabalpur Gray Iron Foundry

Jabalpur Gun Carriage Factory

Kanpur Field Gun Factory

Kanpur Ordnance Parachute Factory

Kanpur Small Arms Factory

Katni Ordnance Factory

Khamaira Ordnance Factory

Kirkee Ammunition Factory

Medak Grey iron Foundry

Medak Ordnance Factory

Mehta Research Institute of Maths and Math Physics

Naval Chemical and Metallurgical Laboratory (NCML)

Ordnance Factories Staff College

Ordnance Factories Training Institutes

Proof and Experimental Establishment

Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics Scientific Analysis Group (SAG)

Shahajahanpur Ordnance Clothing Factory

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

Tiruchirapalli Heavy Alloy Penetrator Project

Titlagarh Ammunition Plant

Varangaon Ordnance Factory

The Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC)

This is a revision not an all out deletion. Only two cities of this entity are being removed.

### **Telecasting of Regional Films**

6283. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of films in regional languages which were telecast on the national network and DD-II network during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(b) the guidelines or formalities for fulfilling the prescribed norms for telecasting the above films?

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 number of regional language films telecast on National Network (DD-1) during the period is given as under:

1998-99	20
1999-2000	40

No film in regional languages is telecast on DD-2 channel of Doordarshan.

(b) The eligibility criteria/guidelines for telecast of regional language films in the National Network of Doordarshan is given in the enclosed Statement.

### **Statement**

#### **Eligibility Criteria/Rules**

*Regional Feature Films which fulfil the Following Criteria are only considered for Telecast on National Network of Doordarshan*

1. National Award for Best Feature Film of the year (in all languages in the VIII schedule of the Indian Constitution combined).
2. Indira Gandhi Award for Best First Film of Director.

3. Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration.

4. National Award for Best Film providing popular and wholesome entertainment.

5. National Award for Best Film on Family Welfare.

(a) National Award for Best film on other social issues such as prohibition, women and child welfare, anti-dowry, drug abuse etc.

6. President's Award of 'Rajat Kamal' for Best Feature Film in an Indian language/Dialect.

7. Films which have won the 'Certificate of Merit' in the National Film Festivals.

8. Entry in the Indian Panorama and Mainstream Sections of any International Film Festival of India/Filmotsav.

9. Films which have won an Award in a recognised International Film Festival held abroad.

10. (a) Any State Government Awards:

(i) Best Feature Film.

(ii) Best Direction.

OR

(b) Films which have won two State Government awards other than those mentioned above.

11. Films which have celebrated Silver Jubilee (having run continuously for 25 weeks (175 days) in 4/3 regular shows in one Theatre).

12. Films produced from January, 1980 shall only be considered.

13. Recent eligible films shall be telecast on priority.

14. Films which have already been telecast on National Network shall not be considered.

15. Only those regional language feature films which have been graded as "A" and "B+" (B Plus) are eligible for telecast. "B" graded films are not eligible for telecast.

#Note: Certificate of Participation in State Festival will not be considered as an Award.

**Funds to North-Eastern States**

6284. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to North-Eastern States including Sikkim for development purposes during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have received requests from the State Government of North-Eastern Region for allocation of more funds; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Planning Commission allocates Central Assistance for financing the Annual Plans of the States. Statement-I indicating the Central Assistance allocated during the last three years to the North Eastern States and Sikkim is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Based on the proposals received from the States, the Planning Commission allocates additional Central Assistance to the States. Statement-II indicating the Additional Central Assistance allocated during the last three years to the North-Eastern States and Sikkim is enclosed.

**Statement-I**

*The Central Assistance Allocated During the last three years to the North-Eastern States and Sikkim*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	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	506.08
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.	Sikkim	225.33	251.52	329.92
8.	Tripura	417.00	598.75	656.12

**Statement-II**

*The Additional Central Assistance Allocated during the last three years to the North-Eastern States and Sikkim*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.20	9.74
2.	Assam	10.00	4.00	16.50
3.	Manipur	32.10	15.23	—
4.	Meghalaya	—	2.50	0.50
5.	Mizoram	2.21	—	3.52
6.	Nagaland	4.85	5.46	4.35
7.	Sikkim	2.00	2.00	3.66
8.	Tripura	3.22	0.50	5.50

**FM Radio Services**

6285. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether some new companies are entering FM radio services;

(b) whether some apprehension has been expressed that some of these new companies have links with Pakistani intelligence outfit, ISI or Afghan and Islamic Fundamentalists;

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to ensure that FM radio channels are not misused either for directly broadcasting anti-national propaganda material or to use the frequency to set up an extensive communication network between the subversive outfits;

(d) whether there is any proposal to scrutinise the credentials of these companies through IB, RAW etc.; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reports have appeared in the press regarding some of the applicant companies having links with subversive outfits.

(c) to (e) As per procedure laid down, operational licence will be issued only after obtaining security clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs. Further, the following provisions have been made in the Tender condition to safeguard national security interests:

- (i) The Government reserves the right to take over the entire services and networks of the licensee or revoke/terminate/suspend the licence in the interest of national security or in the event of a national emergency/war or low intensity conflict or similar type of situations. Further, the Government reserves the right to direct the licensee to close down the service if implications of security so requires
- (ii) The Government reserves the right to modify at any time the terms and conditions of this

licence if it is necessary to do so in the interests of the general public or for the proper conduct of broadcasting or for security considerations and reasons.

**Theft of Green Tea**

6286. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of rampant theft of green tea leaves from tea gardens of Northern part of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received representations from the Indian Tea Planters' Association in this regard and seeking intervention of the Union Government.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Indian Tea Planters' Association during the year 1998 and 1999 represented to the District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri, Commissioner, Jalpaiguri Division and to the Finance Minister, Government of West Bengal against frequent incidents of stealing of green tea leaves from the tea gardens located in Jalpaiguri region of West Bengal.

(d) The representations submitted by Indian Tea Planters' Association relate to law and order which is a State subject.

[*Translation*]

**National Handloom Credit Fund**

6287. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made to the Government for setting up of a National Handloom Credit Fund;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken a decision in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) No request has been made to the Government for setting up a National Handloom Credit Fund. However, the High Powered Committee setup by Government of India under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Mira Seth, Member Planning Commission, had recommended in its report in December, '96 for creation of National Handloom Credit Fund for covering weavers outside the cooperative fold. The recommendation was made when NABARD's refinancing facility was not available to the Weavers outside the Cooperative fold. This matter was taken up with NABARD and they have now extended this facility to State Handloom Corporations for covering weavers outside the cooperative fold from the year 1997-98.

#### **Sick Industries**

6288. DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medium and small scale industries in the country as on 31st March, 2000, State-wise;

(b) the number of industries declared sick by the Government;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to revive these sick industries; and

(d) the total amount of assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government by way of loan to these industries, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) State-wise details of industries established during last five years in the non-SSI sector and the cumulative number of Small Scale Industries (SSI) units granted permanent registration by State/Union Territory Directorates of Industries upto 31.03.1999 may be seen in Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As per the latest available information, State-wise details of sick industrial units and the amount outstanding are given in Statement-III.

The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *inter-alia*, include

guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985, National Equity Fund etc. Extension of credit to such units is within the parameters of the above-mentioned steps for revival of sick industrial units.

#### **Statement-I**

##### **State-wise Details of Industries Established During 1995-1999**

Name of the State	CIL/ILs granted	IEMs implemented
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	37	167
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0
Assam	2	8
Bihar	9	22
Goa	2	25
Gujarat	37	503
Haryana	22	178
Himachal Pradesh	1	16
Jammu & Kashmir	0	5
Karnataka	20	60
Kerala	10	49
Madhya Pradesh	10	145
Maharashtra	63	325
Manipur	0	0
Meghalaya	0	1
Mizoram	0	0
Nagaland	0	0
Orissa	1	7
Punjab	25	95
Rajasthan	7	186
Sikkim	0	0
Tripura	0	0
Tamil Nadu	99	181

1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	56	187
West Bengal	9	100
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0
Chandigarh	0	2
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1	30
Delhi	1	8
Daman & Diu	2	33
Lakshadweep	0	0
Pondicherry	2	12
More than One State	2	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>2345</b>

**Statement-II**

*Cumulative Number of SSI Units Granted Permanent Registration by State/UT Directorates of Industries*

Name of the State/Union Territory	No. of Units upto 31st March, 1999
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	124950
Arunachal Pradesh	2497
Assam	23114
Bihar	117573
Goa	5647
Gujarat	164785
Haryana	82801
Himachal Pradesh	15941

1	2
Jammu & Kashmir	28840
Karnataka	150675
Kerala	184916
Madhya Pradesh	267618
Maharashtra	135016
Manipur	5829
Meghalaya	2514
Mizoram	4028
Nagaland	813
Orissa	18762
Punjab	151180
Rajasthan	80229
Sikkim	328
Tripura	1783
Tamil Nadu	284943
Uttar Pradesh	359379
West Bengal	150471
Andaman & Nicobar	1175
Chandigarh	2998
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	870
Delhi	28773
Daman & Diu	1297
Lakshadweep	412
Pondicherry	4722
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2404879</b>

Note: The figures shown above are provisional/estimated, subject to revision.

Source: The State Directorates of Industries.

**Statement-III**

Name of the State/Union Territory	Non-SSI sick units	Amount in Rupees crores	SSI sick Units	Amount in Rupees cores
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	47	152.22	10586	75.28
Meghalaya	1	0.44	447	1.73



1	2	3	4	5
Mizoram	4	13.13	40.	0.35
Bihar	74	512.36	26293	142.76
Arunachal Pradesh	2	2.47	116	0.28
West Bengal	238	1216.07	146182	579.61
Nagaland	5	24.51	166	2.56
Manipur	2	2.49	5237	11.44
Orissa	68	277.20	10134	97.11
Sikkim	1	6.35	28	0.10
Tripura	4	7.96	6914	6.21
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	25	0.11
Uttar Pradesh	218	14001.19	17320	414.09
Delhi	60	815.93	3789	280.90
Punjab	80	307.48	3551	101.44
Haryana	103	557.84	3180	87.53
Chandigarh	5	16.81	187	20.65
Jammu & Kashmir	7	8.62	630	12.76
Himachal Pradesh	32	63.89	1103	34.66
Rajasthan	74	266.95	12835	108.69
Gujarat	223	1234.95	4170	308.03
Maharashtra	495	2635.79	13373	510.40
Daman & Diu	6	36.48	13	5.70
Goa	15	58.83	216	6.36
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	9	15.91	24	2.24
Madhya Pradesh	130	899.36	6808	220.58
Andhra Pradesh	369	1549.25	6260	268.53
Karnataka	180	1164.20	4342	227.53
Tamil Nadu	248	1298.05	11408	593.34
Kerala	80	556.00	10074	168.29
Pondicherry	13	47.68	770	24.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>2792</b>	<b>15150.41</b>	<b>306221</b>	<b>4313.48</b>

**Export of Tea**

6289. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries to which tea was exported during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether there has been a decline in the export of tea during the above period;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of tea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Indian tea was exported to around 67 countries of the world during each of the last three years. Major countries to which tea was exported are United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Russian federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, USA, A.R.E., Iran, UAE, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Turkey and Sri Lanka.

(b) and (c) While export of tea from India registered an increase during the years 1997 and 1998 over the previous years, there has been a decline during 1999 as compared to 1998. The decline has been caused because of various factors such as stiff competition from other producing and exporting countries like Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia and Kenya; country specific problems concerning Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, A.R.E., U.A.E, Turkey etc.

(d) With a view to promote export of tea, Government and the Tea Board have been analysing country-wise exports of tea giving special attention to areas offering potential. Tea Board also acts to remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets whenever these are noticed. Certain other steps taken to increase exports of tea include:

- (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad;
- (ii) field sampling at speciality stores and in principal markets.
- (iii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of the speciality of Indian teas and to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol which stands for pure Indian tea.
- (iv) exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries.

*[English]***Loans for Construction of Houses in Orissa**

6290. SHRI BHAKTTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide loan for construction of houses to the people affected by the super cyclone in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the number of persons to whom such loans have been distributed by the banks during the current financial year; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The UCO Bank, Convenor of State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) for the State of Orissa has reported that the housing loan disbursed by banks in the cyclone affected State of Orissa is as under:

Name of the bank	Housing loan	
	No.	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
Allahabad Bank	19	34.75
Andhra Bank	16	15.85
Bank of India	14	14.51
Bank of Baroda	20	26.36
Punjab National Bank	33	19.75
Syndicate Bank	41	11.33
Union Bank of India	03	01.90
United Bank of India	02	00.35
UCO Bank	29	23.54
Baitarani Gramya Bank	06	00.62
Puri Gramya Bank	37	58.72
Total:	220	207.68

Further, UCO Bank has disbursed Rs. 4 crores to Orissa Rural Housing Development Corporation for extending housing loan to construct houses in flood affected areas of Orissa.

The National Housing Bank (NHB), under a special dispensation has decided to extend refinance assistance to the extent of Rs. 100 crore to the Scheduled Commercial Banks in respect of their lending for housing in cyclone affected areas of Orissa for a period of one year i.e. up to December 31, 2000 at concessional rate of interest. Besides, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) has approved the State Govt. of Orissa's proposal for financial assistance of Rs. 1112.50 crores for repairs/reconstruction of houses damaged by cyclone.

[Translation]

#### **Telecasting Facilities to Foreign Companies**

6291. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to permit foreign telecasting companies to telecast programmes from the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions on which such facility is proposed to be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Import of Newsprint**

6292. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported during 1999-2000;

(b) the gap between the demand and supply of newsprint; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The quantity of newsprint imported was 315016 tonnes during 1999-2000 (April-Jan, 2000).

(b) Since newsprint is freely importable with actual user condition with effect from 1.5.95 the gap between the demand and supply is met with through imports.

(c) Apart from permitting the import of newsprint under OGL with effect from 1.5.1995, following steps have been taken by the Government to increase the indigenous production of newsprint:

(i) Newsprint Industry has been delicensed subject to locational policy.

(ii) Newsprint has been exempted from excise duty.

(iii) There is no Customs Duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint.

(iv) With a view to encouraging the indigenous availability of newsprint, such paper mills which are producing newsprint conforming to BIS standards are placed in schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint.

#### **Assistance by USA for Development Projects**

6293. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance provided by U.S.A. to India for development of various projects during the last three years;

(b) the State-wise details of the projects on which this amount was spent; and

(c) the number of projects out of those have been completed alongwith the number of those lying pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALAKAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Development Assistance provided by USA during the last three years is as under:

	(In US\$ Million)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Development Assistance	36.789	28.743	26.236

(b) The assistance was spent on 15 projects out of which two projects namely, Innovation in Family Planning Services and AIDS Prevention and Control have been implemented in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu respectively as centrally sponsored schemes. The remaining 13 projects have been implemented at the Central sector and no State-wise categorization is possible.

A Statement giving the details of the 15 projects is enclosed.

(c) Out of the 15 projects implemented by US assistance, 7 projects have been completed, 8 projects are still continuing and no projects are lying pending.

**Statement**

Name of project	Sector/ States	Agreement period	Aid obligated	Aid disbursed during last three years			Aid Disbursed	Status
				1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000		
Prog. for Acceleration of Commercial Energy Research	Central	31.8.87-31.8.97	17.446	4.622	0	0	17.446	Completed
Housing Finance System Expansion Prog.	Central	30.4.92-31.3.98	4.092	0.391	0.080	0.085	4.092	Completed
Centre for Technology Development	Central	29.7.89-30.6.98	7.598	1.214	0.556	0	7.598	Completed
Private Voluntary Organisation of Health	Central	31.8.87-30.4.98	7.801	0.242	1.676	0.003	7.801	Completed
Plant Genetic Resources	Central	31.8.88-30.9.97	18.611	1.078	0.789	0	18.611	Completed
Quality Control for Health Technology	Central	25.9.90-30.9.98	4.155	1.308	0.214	0.401	4.155	Completed
Agriculture Commercialization & Enterprise	Central	28.8.91-30.9.98	10.822	1.452	0.491	0	10.822	Completed
Prog. for Acceleration of Commercial Technology	Central	30.8.85-31.7.2000	39.755	2.279	2.908	3.698	29.524	Continuing
Technical Assistance Support Project	Central	31.8.88-31.8.2000	20.00	0.605	1.008	0.427	18.636	Continuing
Energy Management Consultation & Training	Central	28.6.91-28.6.2001	27.00	2.137	4.455	2.593	22.007	Continuing
AIDS Prevention and Control	Tamil Nadu	30.9.92-31.3.2002	10.00	0.733	0.815	0.925	2.880	Continuing
Innovation in Family Planning Services	Uttar Pradesh	30.9.92-30.9.2002	90.819	8.100	9.800	11.425	44.19	Continuing
Trade in Environmental Services & Tech.	Central	30.9.92-30.9.2002	20.922	1.448	1.663	2.306	14.081	Continuing
Financial Institutions Reforms & Expansion	Central	27.9.93-30.9.2003	23.320	7.217	2.010	1.767	19.284	Continuing
Greenhouse Gas Pollution Prevention	Central	10.4.95-31.3.2002	39.00	3.963	2.276	2.606	11.190	Continuing
<b>Total:</b>				<b>36.789</b>	<b>28.743</b>	<b>26.236</b>		

[English]

### **Interest Rate on Recurring Deposit Accounts**

6294. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide the commission payable to Mahila Pradhan Agents to 5 percent (old rate) instead of the reduced rate of 4 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to restore the interest rate for five year recurring deposit accounts to 11.5 percent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### **Amendment in Technology Upgradation Scheme**

6295. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations suggesting amendments in Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and problems of Textile sector;

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

(c) whether the Government have recommended any representative to declare Co-operation Development Corporation as Nodal Agency in addition to I.D.B.E.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Government have launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) which is in operation since 1.4.1999 for modernisation of textile/jute industry. IDBI, SIDBI & IFCI have been appointed as Nodal

Agencies. They have also co-opted other financial organisations/banks to provide easy and wider to the industry. The implementation of the scheme is being reviewed and monitored by an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on a quarterly basis. Representatives of the Nodal Agencies are also member on the IMSC and TAC. On the basis of feed back received from various quarters, necessary modifications are made in the scheme to improve its performance further.

(c) and (d) Government have decided that the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) should co-opt with the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) under the TUFS for co-operative textile sector. Accordingly, the NCDC has been requested to take action for co-option with IDBI and SIDBI.

[Translation]

### **Increase in Prices of Essential Commodities**

6296. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of essential commodities, life-saving drugs and other commodities have been continuously increasing to the disadvantage of the common man;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the comparative retail prices in the market of rice, wheat, atta, sugar, pulses, edible oils, milk, life saving drugs, books stationery etc. as on March 31, 1997, March 31, 1998, March 31, 1999 and March 31, 2000;

(d) whether the Government have taken any measures to check price-rise and also bring them at the affordable level for the common man; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Wholesale prices of 30 essential commodities whose prices are monitored on a weekly basis rose by 4.7% in 1999-2000. During the first three weeks of the current fiscal year their prices have risen by about 4% largely reflecting seasonal uptrend.

Drugs and medicines that have a weight of 2.53 in the new Wholesale Price Index with base 1993-94 did not show any change in the first three weeks of the current fiscal year. The Government through the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority monitors the prices of

decontrolled drug and corrective action is taken as and when their prices rise unduly.

(c) Retail Prices of Selected Essential Commodities in Delhi (end March).

(Rs./Kg)

Items	1997	1998	1999	2000
Rice	12.00	10.00	10.00	13.00
Wheat	8.50	7.50	8.00	8.00
Sugar	15.00	16.00	16.00	17.00
Gram Dal	17.00	23.00	18.00	20.00
Arhar Dal	23.00	25.00	29.00	29.00
Ground Nut Oil	53.00	46.00	77.00	69.00
Mustard Oil	39.00	40.00	61.00	44.00
Milk	13.00	14.00	16.00	16.00
Atta	9.00	9.00	9.50	9.00
Life Saving Drugs*	—	—	—	—

\* The current Drugs (Price Control) Order (DPCO) 1995, promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act does not define life saving drugs.

(d) and (e) It has been the Government's endeavour to make concerted efforts to keep inflation under control through effective supply management and also through close monitoring of prices and supply of essential commodities. Corrective action through market intervention is taken as and when required so as to maintain stability in prices.

[English]

#### Securitisation Legislation

6297. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panel of Reserve Bank of India on Asset Securitisation has suggested to enact securitisation legislation;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions made; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

According to information received from Reserve Bank of India, the Bank's in-house Working Group on Asset Securitisation has recommended, *inter-alia*, that as a long term measure, the Government may consider an "umbrella legislation" covering all aspects of securitisation. For the medium and the short term, the Group has recommended amendments of provisions in different statutes e.g., Companies Act, 1956, Indian Stamp Act, 1899, State Stamp Acts, Transfer of Property Act, 1882, Income Tax Act, 1961 etc. The Report of the Working Group is under examination with the Government.

#### Anti-Dumping Duty by EU on Indian Steel Imports

6298. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union countries have proposed to levy anti-dumping duty on steel imports from India;

(b) whether the Government have approached the International Court or WTO against such decision by the EU countries;

(c) if so, with what result; and

(d) the effect of this on the Indian Steel Export to EU countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The European Commission has in February 2000, decided to impose (i) definitive Countervailing duty as well as Anti-dumping duty on imports of Hot-rolled Coils and (ii) to impose provisional, anti-dumping duty on imports of Quarto Plates originating in India.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) In the case of Hot-Rolled Coils, the European Commission has accepted the Price Undertakings from the Indian companies and this item is being exported under this arrangement.

### **Smuggling of Bearings**

6299. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations regarding large scale smuggling of ball bearings from Nepal, China and other countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since probed into the matter and with what results;

(c) how far it is attributable to high rate of excise duty payable on this item adding to the cost of indigenous bearing;

(d) whether the ball bearing industry has demanded for reduction in duty to prevent smuggling thereof and help the indigenous industry stand to international competition; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and the Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Representations from "Ball & Roller Bearing Manufacturers' Association of India" were received by the Government, in the run up to the discussions with the Industry for finalising proposals for Budget-2000. The Association had, *inter alia*, alleged large scale smuggling of bearings destined for Nepal into India under cover of Indo-Nepal Transit Treaty and suggested for certain changes in the Excise and Customs Duty structure on bearings apart from taking measures for curbing smuggling.

No specific probe from alleged smuggling angle was considered necessary as the allegations were of general nature without any substantiating evidence. Government has already, however, taken various measures to strengthen checks and controls on the imported goods in transit from Calcutta Port to Nepal to prevent its diversion. The field units of the Customs Department, specially on the Indo-Nepal border and its intelligence units including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, are over vigilant and on high alert to prevent smuggling of contrabands (including ball-bearings) from Nepal and other countries.

(c) Central Excise Duty on bearings manufactured in the country, is leviable @ 16% ad valorem, which rate is applicable to most of the goods including industrial goods. There is no evidence to attribute smuggling of imported bearings to this rate of duty on indigenous bearings.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The industry/Association had represented for reduction of the Central Excise Duty on bearing industry from 16% to 8%. This request was examined but was not found acceptable, particularly in view of Cenvat introduced in the current Budget with uniform rate of 16% for most industries.

### **Textile Export Policy**

6300. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the textiles export policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the target fixed for the current year; and

(c) the details of projections of production and exports of cotton, textile and cotton yarn during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no separate textile export policy as such. However, the exports of textiles and clothing items face restraints in countries like USA, European Union and Canada. In order to optimise utilisation of restraint levels, maximise export earnings and facilitate orderly development of our textile industry, Government announces Export Entitlement (Quota) Policies from time to time. The Policies for the period 2000-2004 were announced on 12th November 1999.

(b) The important features of the new Policies include, phased utilisation of quota; linking of quota with new investment made in plant and machinery which meets

the eligibility criterion of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and making the new investment quota entitlements non-transferable.

The textile export target has been fixed at US\$ 15,532 million for the year 2000-2001 as against the target of US\$ 14,385 for 1999-2000.

(c) There are many complex parameters governing the growth of a dynamic and fast changing sector like textiles, some of which are non-quantifiable, and thus it would not be feasible to give reliable projects based on rigorous statistical methods.

According to the statistics compiled by Textiles Commissioner, the production of cotton yarn was 2173 million kgs and cotton fabrics 18486 million sq. meters during the period April-December, 1999.

The figures of exports of cotton textiles and cotton yarn during 1999-2000 along with export targets for 2000-2001 are given below:

(Figures in million US dollars)

Item	Exports (1999-2000)	Export Targets (2000-2001)
Cotton yarn	1543.2	1700
Cotton textiles	2540.9	3050

#### Foreign Direct Investment

6301. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Exim bank is underinvested in India as compared to other developing countries in the South-Eastern Asia;

(b) if so, the restricting factors leading to foreign direct investment in India dropping to around \$2.00 billion as compared to China's \$ 50.00 billion; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to make India more investor friendly?

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.

#### State Finance Ministers' Meeting

6302. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a State Finance Ministers' Conference was held on February 7, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of points discussed and the decisions taken thereon;

(c) whether under the revised scheme, any provision has been made or proposed to be made for exemption of eco-friendly products, based on agricultural waste, from Sales tax; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No such conference was convened by the Ministry of Finance.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### Smuggling of Gold

6303. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of gold is in full swing these days and some of the employees of Foreign Post Office of South Mumbai are involved therein;

(b) if so, the quantity of gold smuggled into the country during each of the last three years, so far, and the modus operandi adopted therein, case-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the employees of the Foreign Post Office of South Mumbai which were involved in gold smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Though Smuggling is a clandestine activity, the intelligence/reports available, as supported by seizures effected by various field formations/DRI units, do indicate that attempts to smuggle gold have continued in recent past.

Six employees of the Foreign Post Office, South Mumbai, have been found involved in attempted smuggling, through Post parcels, of 285 foreign marked gold biscuits (collectively weighing 33.242 kgs.), in two separate cases, detected by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, in March, 2000.



(b) The details of seizures of gold effected by the field formations and intelligence agencies of Customs Department including DRI, during the last 3 years are as follows:

Year	Quantity (in kgs.)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1997	1204.474	5730.01
1998	503.592	2123.76
1999	788.231	3407.26
2000 (upto 15.4.2000)	272.504	1220.94

Different modus operandi for smuggling have been detected in the above cases. The major modus operandi detected were:

(i) concealment inside body or on person (in personal wears including footwear etc. worn by person) — of international air/sea passengers/crew; (ii) concealment in baggage/household appliances and other articles imported by passengers; (iii) concealment in vehicles; (iv) concealment in air crafts & vessels including crew cabins; (v) concealment in imported electronic appliances and other air cargo items; (vi) concealment in post parcels; (vii) misuse of diplomatic privileges; (viii) attempted smuggling by air passengers without declaration of gold carried on person or in baggage.

(c) Out of the six employees of the Foreign Post Office, South Mumbai who were found involved in the cases of gold smuggling, as referred to in (a) above, four employees were arrested. Remaining two employees are reported to be absconding.

#### **World Bank Assistance to Assam**

6304. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the World Bank and other International Institutions for various developmental projects in Assam during the last three years; and

(b) the details of utilisation of such assistance, Project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) From the financial assistance provided by the World Bank and other International Institutions, Assam is implementing one project, viz. 'Assam Rural Infrastructure'. Apart from implementing this project, Assam is also one of the participating States in the multi-State project, viz. 'Technical Education-II'. The details of these projects are given in the enclosed Statement. Assam, like other States, is also benefited by a number of Central sector externally aided projects.

#### **Statement**

(Figures in million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Source	Date of Signing/ Approval	Terminal Date of Disb.	Currency	Loan/ Grant Amount	Disbursement During		
							1999-2000	1998-1999	1997-1998
1.	Assam Rural Infrastructure	IDA	6.6.95	31.12.2003	US\$	126.00	10.288	6.935	1.628
<p>Technical Education-II is a Multistate project. For all the States in the project including Assam, the total amount allocated was US\$ 255.734 M, of this the disbursement for Assam was Rs. 8.73 crore, Rs. 10.53 crore &amp; Rs. 9.58 crore respectively during 1999-2000.</p>									
2.	Technical Education II	IDA	13.8.90	31.10.99		1998-99 and 1997-98.			

**Singrauli Coal Mines**

6305. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singrauli Coal Mines at Mirzapur (U.P.) is a captive mine for N.T.P.C. as per the decision of the Coal India Ltd.

(b) if so, the number of small scale local units getting coal linkage from the said mines alongwith the quantity thereof; and

(c) the number of applicants of small scale local units which have not been allowed coal linkage from the said mines and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) There is no coal mine by the name "Singrauli coal mine" at Mirzapur, U.P. However, coal mines of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) with its headquarters at Singrauli, Distt. Sidhi (MP) are scattered in the district Sidhi of Madhya Pradesh state and District Sonbhadra of Uttar Pradesh. This coal company produces power grade coal, which is mostly supplied to the power stations located in the region. None of the NCL mines is captive mine of NTPC.

(b) There are sixty four (64) small scale units drawing coal against linkage from Singrauli coalfield of NCL. The total linked quantity of coal for these units is approximately 78,900 tonnes per month.

(c) Total demand for supply of coal from NCL is more than the production of the company. Presently Coal India Limited is not considering any application of small scale units for grant of any new linkage on NCL.

**Import of Soyabean**

6306. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural product, particularly soyabean imported from the U.S.A. is of inferior quality;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to examine the quality of the imported goods; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The testing of food articles is done at the port by Port Health Officers before clearance of imported consignment in the country.

Only after no objection certificate is issued by port health officers, the consignment is allowed to be cleared. In view of this, it is normally not possible to import any agricultural product which is unfit for consumption.

[*Translation*]

**Voluntary Retirement in CIL**

6307. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) have taken voluntary retirement under the golden handshake scheme, subsidiary-wise;

(b) whether these employees have been paid the amount of gratuity, provident fund and other benefits of the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to make payment to old employees at the present Voluntary Retirement Scheme rate;

(f) if so, whether the Government also propose to make payment to those employees who have not received the same so far alongwith the interest due; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, the total number of employees who have taken voluntary retirement under Department of Public Enterprises' scheme in the last three years in the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, subsidiary-wise, is as under:

Company	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
ECL	95	1221	4880
BCCL	1301	2750	4088
CCL	445	935	504
WCL	5	0	760
SECL	58	1	5

1	2	3	4
MCL	0	0	0
NCL	0	0	2
CMPDI	0	0	0
NEC	0	0	1
CIL HORS.	1	5	5
Total	1905	4912	10245

(b) and (c) The employees of coal companies who opted for Voluntary Retirement has been paid the terminal benefits including PF/Gratuity as per their entitlement. In addition they have also been paid the ex-gratia amount payable under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The ex-gratia amount paid towards Voluntary Retirement during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 works out to Rs. 22.84 crores, Rs. 119.93 crores and Rs. 224.20 crores respectively.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given to parts (b) and (c) above.

(e) There has been no change in the rate of payment towards Voluntary Retirement.

(f) and (g) As per the Voluntary Retirement Scheme of Department of Public Enterprises, the payment of ex-gratia amount to the Voluntary Retirement optee is made on his retirement. Therefore, there will be no interest liability.

[English]

#### **Termination of Services of News Readers**

6308. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has terminated several news readers who were on pay roll of Doordarshan for the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Doordarshan has hired services of some professionals to read the news who were not found fit by the electronic media; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) News Readers in Doordarshan are engaged on casual assignment basis. After evaluating the performance of the casual News Readers through an expert committee appointed by Prasar Bharati, some of the casual News Readers, who were in the earlier panel, did not get empanelled for the current year. However, services of none of the regular News Readers who are on the pay rolls of Prasar Bharati have been terminated.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Revival of Hindustan Photo Film**

6309. DR. C. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Hindustan Photo Film Company at Ooty in Tamil Nadu have not got their salaries yet;

(b) if so, by when the salary and other dues are proposed to be paid to the employees;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the said undertaking needs a complete restructuring;

(d) if so, the amount allocated and other details for revamping of the company; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The case of Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd. is before the BIFR. The employees of the Company are being paid an advance against salary equivalent to 52.95% of their gross salary.

(c) to (e) Forming a Joint Venture (JV) is being contemplated in an effort to revive the Company under the aegis of the BIFR. This Ministry have been making efforts in concert with the Operating Agency (ICICI), the Consultant and the management of HPF to convert the Company into a JV. However, efforts at locating a JV partner have not succeeded so far.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

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) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1997-98.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1805/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1998-99.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1806/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, on

behalf of Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Andrew Yule and Company Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1807/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1808/2000]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Engineering Projects (India) Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1809/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1810/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:—

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers and Sub-Brokers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 234(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 2000.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 235(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 2000.
- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Appeal to the Securities Appellate Tribunal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 278(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1811/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 1 and 3 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999:—

- (i) S.O. 397 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2000 appointing the 19th April, 2000 as the date on which the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 shall come into force.
- (ii) S.O. 398 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2000 appointing the Chairperson and whole-time Members of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1812/2000]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 308(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (ii) G.S.R. 309 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 17/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (iii) G.S.R. 310 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 19/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1813/2000]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) G.S.R. 330 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on high impact polystyrene and General purpose polystyrene, originating in or exported from Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (ii) G.S.R. 331 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind notification No. 116/99-Customs dated the 14th October, 1999.

- (iii) G.S.R. 337 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on metronidazole originating in or exported from China PR, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (iv) G.S.R. 338 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 18/2000-Customs dated the 1st March, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1814/2000]

- (5) A copy of the Central Excise (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 332 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 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 1815/2000]

- (6) A copy each of the following Report (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 6 of 2000) for the year year ended the March, 1999-Post and Telecommunications.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1816/2000]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 10 of 2000) (Indirect Taxes-Customs) for the year ended the March, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1817/2000]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 11 of 2000) (Indirect Taxes-Central Excise and Service Tax) for the year ended the March, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1818/2000]

- (7) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Telecommunication Services) for the year 1998-99 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1819/2000]

- (8) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Postal Services) for the year 1998-99 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1820/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1821/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1822/2000]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1823/2000]

- (2) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1824/2000]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1825/2000]

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1826/2000]

- (iv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (b) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, Bombay Textile Research Association Mumbai and the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 1998-99.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1827/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review of the Government of the working of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1828/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Zinc Limited and the Ministry of Mines and Minerals (Department of Mines) of the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1829/2000]

12.02 hrs.

[English]

### PRESENTATION OF PETITION

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Sardar Tara Singh, MLA and others of Powai, Mumbai regarding protecting Powai Lake, Mumbai from encroachment and to maintain the environmental balance in the area.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1830/2000]

12.03 hrs.

[English]

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that the Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 8th May, 2000 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of:
  - (i) The Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
  - (ii) The Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
  - (iii) The Indian Companies (Foreign Interests) and the Indian Companies (Temporary Restrictions on Dividends) Repeal Bill, 2000.
  - (iv) The Constitution (89th Amendment) Bill, 2000.
  - (v) The Constitution (90th Amendment) Bill, 2000.
  - (vi) The Direct-Tax Laws (Miscellaneous) Repeal Bill, 2000.

3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by the Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) The Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
- (ii) The Sugarcane Control (Additional Powers) Repeal Bill, 2000.

I may also inform the House that the Constitution (89th Amendment) Bill, 2000 and the Constitution (90th Amendment) Bill, 2000 will be taken up for consideration and passing on Tuesday, the 9th May, 2000.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, I request that the following items be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Continuous attacks on Christians and need to take action against culprits and restore confidence among the Christian community in India and issue directions to the States that they will be responsible for violence against Christians.
2. Serious situation arising out of the shortage of ground water level in the country and the latest report by the Central Ground Water Board regarding 'Trends of Ground Water Levels in Maharashtra and other States and Union Territories'. The water level decline has been noticed in large areas in the country.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The following items may be included in the next week's business:

1. The passing of Women's Reservation Bill is overdue. The Bill which was introduced in the Winter Session of Lok Sabha should be brought for the consideration by this House. The Constitution should be amended to provide 33 per cent reservation to the women in Parliament as well as in State assemblies.
2. The agriculture labourers are the most exploited rural workers of our country. In most of the States, they do not get minimum wages. There has been a persistent demand for a comprehensive legislation for agriculture workers of our country. This should be brought in the current Session of Lok Sabha.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Serious plight of coconut farmers has to be seriously taken by the Government and remedial measures like ban on import including import of palm oil, review of support price and financial aid to fight mite disease have to be implemented without delay.
2. Electricity (Power) to States like Kerala from unallocated Central share has to be just and equitable.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items may be included in next week's business:

- (1) Increasing irregularity of power supply in Delhi and the failure of the Delhi Government in supplying the power as per the consumption and demand of the public of Delhi.
- (2) All the illegal and unauthorised constructions in Delhi, which is on the increase and is being done in collusion with the officials and the police, should be demolished and the action should be taken against the guilty officials.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) The matter related to the renovation of Matung and Parel Railway workshops situated in Mumbai and railway workshop at Kurdwadi in Solapur district of Maharashtra.
- (2) The matter related to the setting up of a railway booking counter at Kurdwadi Railway station, construction of a new platform in order to do away with the problem of the passengers due to the halt of goods shuttle train at the station and increasing the quota of berths in sleeper class in trains especially in Chennai Mail passing from this station.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following National issues may be included in the next week's agenda.

- (1) The Bill seeking to create a separate Chattisgarh State out of Madhya Pradesh should be passed in this very session itself.
- (2) The assistance being provided to the helpless disabled persons, women, blinds and dumb and deaf should be enhanced from Rs. 100 per month to Rs. 500 per month alongwith other medical facilities.

*[English]*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): I request you to include the following subjects in the business of the next week.

1. National Policy on Slum. Mass scale urbanisation has caused eruption of slums in

all the Metros such as Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, etc. Recent judgements in the Supreme Court and various High Courts have created concern. In light of this discussion on resettlement policy for slums and finalisation of National Slum Policy is required.

2. Heavy losses in various textile mills of the NTC, forcing the Government for closure of these mills. Question of livelihood of lakhs of textile mill workers. Need to discuss future of NTC mills.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): The following issues may be included in next week's business:

- (a) The demolition of jugh-i-jhompries in slum areas of Delhi by MCD, DDA or the Railway authorities, without making any alternative arrangements for lakhs of poor people is a matter of grave concern. This demolition must stop and all the people should get alternative land. The Government should make a statement on this matter.
- (b) 'Sports' is a yardstick of advancement of a nation. In the last fifty years, our achievement in this field is negligible. Due to lack of a correct, comprehensive, forward looking sports policy and its sincere implementation, we could not succeed. A full-fledged discussion on sports is necessary.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Barabanki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to include the following subjects in the agenda of the next week:

Lakhs of Acres of land in various parts of the country is still lying affected due to water seepage. The Government should formulate a plan for making this land cultivable and its distribution among the landless farmers.

12.11 hrs.

*[English]*

## ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Central Supervisory Board for Pre-Natal  
Diagnostic Techniques

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF



STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri N.T. Shanmugam, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 7(2)(f) of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse), Act, 1994, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two women members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Central Supervisory Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 7(2)(f) of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two women members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Central Supervisory Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

*The motion was adopted.*

12.12 hrs.

## MOTION RE: EIGHTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th May, 2000."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th May, 2000."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, we want to raise an important matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Have you given notice?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: We could not give notice...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Hon. Members, please take your seat. Sixty-four hon. members have given notice to speak. So, they would be called first. It is not proper to raise a matter without giving notice. It is not proper to obstruct the House. I will give you a chance later. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKLE (Nasik): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a bumper crop of onion this year in our country. A total of 55 lakh metric tonnes onion has been produced in the country. Due to this bumper crop of onion, the demand of onion has come down and the prices of onion have been depreciating continuously. The farmers are getting only Rs. 100 to 200 per quintle which is not the appropriate price. The onion consumption of our country is only 45 lakh metric tonnes. Hence 10 lakh metric tonnes of excess onion should be allowed to be exported. But the Government has imposed a ban on the export of the onion which should be lifted immediately. As the onion is a perishable vegetable, it cannot be stored for a longer period. Hence, through you, I would like to convey to the Government that it is causing a great loss to the country as well as to the farmers. To check this loss, I would once again submit to the government to immediately lift the ban on the export of onions.

SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal) (Bijapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Akashvani centre has been functioning for the last three years in my constituency Bijapur but due to several problems it is not able to broadcast its programmes. Due to shortage of staff, programmes are not being prepared and the people are not getting the actual benefits of this centre. I would request the hon. Minister to immediately grant the status of full fledged Akashvani to it and issue orders to start the broadcasting of its full programmes.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring a very important issue to the notice of the government. Though the BJP and RSS

always try to play with the sentiments of others but these days they have been trying to play with fire in Punjab which is neither in the interest of the country nor in the interest of the humanity at large. Through you, I would like to say that recently RSS has organised a new outfit called Rastriya Sikh Sangat and trying to jolt the basic foundations of Sikh religion and culture. This religion has never shown disrespect to any other religion and have talked about universal welfare and have always cherished the noble values of humanity. Such attacks are even a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. A pamphlet was distributed in which it was written that a grant of Rs. 17 crores has been given to this outfit of RSS by the Human Resource Development Ministry. It has stirred a major controversy in Punjab and that controversy has been raised between Dasham Granth and Guru Granth Sahib...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Speaker, Sir, I will just take a minute more.

MR. SPEAKER: In Zero Hour you should mention your point in two minutes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: I would like to submit to you that earlier also the peace in Punjab was thwarted by such communal outfits and now the peace of Punjab and the country is being threatened by such acts of RSS. Hence I submit to you that a ban should be imposed on the activities of such outfits...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Hannan Mollah says.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel, please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know that four years ago this House had passed a law with consensus for the development and rehabilitation of construction labourers ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Hannan Mollah.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are lakhs of construction labourers in our country, but there was no law in the country for their protection. We put great efforts to enact a law for the welfare of these labourers. Private Member bill was also introduced in House. At last with the consensus of the House about four years ago a Bill was passed but the rules framed under that Bill also did not prove very useful as those rules were not fully implemented instead were consigned to cold bag.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, lakhs of labourers are engaged in construction work in the country. It is essential to implement those rules for the welfare of these labourers. Labourers from all over the country are coming to Delhi on 8.5.2000 to show their resentment. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to implement the rule at the earliest instead of consigning it to cold bag.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was no law for the welfare of construction labourers in the country, the Government took initiative to enact law for them. After the law was enacted it took long period to formulate rules under that law and now when rules and regulations have been formulated, they are not being implemented? Why this House and Government is taking so much time in implementing the law enacted for the welfare of poor people, agriculturists and for labourers engaged in construction work? I request the Government to implement those rules throughout the country as early as possible.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important incident. In village Majhrella, Tehsil Nooneh, Haryana, 105 cows and calves were mercilessly butchered and neither any accused has been arrested in this case till date nor any action has been taken in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country cow is given the status of mother. Killing of cows and calves in such a large number in such a way has created a feeling of gloom and dismay in the whole area but till now no action has been taken in this regard. Therefore, through you, Sir, I request the Union Government to intervene and arrest the accused to reduce the tension in the area. Sir, I am having this photo of butchered cows and the scene is very heartrending that one can see the butchered cows and calves in this photograph ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA (Faridabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, where cows were butchered that area is near my constituency...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramchanderji it is O.K. You are associating yourself with this subject. This has come on the records. Now you please sit down.

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of surprise, shock, that 105 cows were mercilessly butchered and no one has been arrested. I agree with what Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan has said.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Speaker. Sir, through you, I want to draw attention of the House towards a very sensitive issue. Attacks are being inflicted on Christian Institutions all over the country and the entire House is concerned over this. We came to know through newspapers that the incidents of violence has been committed against Christian institutions on large scale in Jhansi...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Chennithala.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him. How can you object to it?

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, the notice that you have given is on the rubber issue. You can raise only that issue. I will not allow you to raise any other issue.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: It is my duty to raise this issue. This is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak only on the subject of rubber. Somebody else can raise the other matter.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed Shri Ramesh Chennithala to raise the issue of rubber.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: This is a very serious issue. After giving the notice I saw the newspaper. So, I thought I should raise this issue of urgent and current topic.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to raise the subject pertaining to rubber or not?

SHRI A.C. JOS: We did not get the time to give a notice on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel, this is too much. You always speak without the permission of the Chair. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have called Shri Ramesh Chennithala to speak. I will allow others after Shri Ramesh Chennithala, not now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at 9 '0 Clock I have given a notice on the issue of rubber, but when I read Hindu newspaper...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You speak on the issue of rubber.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I did not allow you to raise any other issue except the issue of rubber.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: When I gave the notice on the issue of rubber, I did not know about this. I read the newspaper only afterwards.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. Why do you always do like this?

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission. I have not given any notice but I would like to say that everyday such questions are raised in this House which create disturbances in the country. I do not know as to why Khuranaji got so much annoyed on the question raised by one of our colleague regarding Punjab. I humbly request you that discussion should be held on the serious

matters raised in the House with the representatives of the Government and with the Members raising that particular issue so that a suitable solution could be found. Otherwise such issues create disturbances when these are published in newspapers. A Sikh delegation came to me and told that a new institution has been set up which is misinterpreting Guru Granth Sahib. I do not know as to whether it is correct or not...(Interruptions) Please do not speak now, you have already spoken on it. Whether the amount given was Rs. 17 crore or 7 crore, the Minister of Human Resource Development has changed he may be knowing about it. If it is a rumour, the Government should refute it and if it is a fact then Government should find out a solution to it. Members are raising these issues everyday and news items are being published that christian institutions, are being attacked. Whether the Government can not give clarifications that how far these statements are correct or incorrect? Whether the Government cannot issue instructions to the State Governments. Hue and cry is raised on every issue and impression is created that this Government has failed in protecting the minorities.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is present here. Everyday, this issue is being raised in the House. A very alarming situation is prevailing in the country. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Let the Minister say something on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the Government to say anything on this issue?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please take your seat. You are not allowing the Minister to reply.

SHRI A.C. JOS: In today's *Hindu*, you can find that a convent has been attacked, nuns were manhandled and in another incident in Lucknow, a church was attacked. These are matters which the Government should take note of seriously. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is going to reply. Please take your seats. This is too much.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I would like to make three points. I would be repeating the same thing but I would like to make three points. The first one is, protection

of minorities is the constitutional duty of the Union Government and the State Governments. It is not only that the Union Government can deal with different State Governments because these problems happen in many State Governments. I am not talking about this State or that State. Many times, we hear reports and so, it is the duty of the Union Government and the State Governments to protect the minorities.

Secondly, I respectfully and humbly submit that I do not agree with Shri Chandra Shekhar's observation that this Government is failing in protecting the minorities. I do not accept it...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: At least, I do not expect from the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that he should misinterpret my words. If he does not understand Hindi, I am sorry about it. I said that an impression should not go that the Government is not protecting the minorities and if the Members belonging to the minority communities are raising the issue, then the Government should clarify the position. I am not saying that you are indulging in all the activities which they are mentioning.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If I have wrongly interpreted hon. Chandra Shekhar, I am sorry about it. But I am not sorry about my poor knowledge of English. There is nothing to feel sorry about it because it is not my mother tongue...(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: He spoke in Hindi.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, he did not speak in Hindi.

[Translation]

I can understand Hindi.

But at the same time, many Members have expressed their views here. We raise many issues and claim them to be atrocities against minorities only because those persons belong to a particular minority and when all these incidents were inquired into by the Minorities Commission, it gave a report that it did not have a majority-minority string into that. Now, I would tell the hon. Members that atrocities are committed against the citizens in this country. Suppose, atrocities are committed against majority, it should not be treated against majority unless...(Interruptions) Let me complete.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): How can you say like that?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is giving his reply. Please take your seat. You are not supposed to do like

[Mr. Speaker]

this. Please understand that when the Minister is replying, you are not to interrupt him.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: That is my right.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the practice in the House.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It is nobody's right to interrupt me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not interested to listen to the Minister's reply, then I will go to the next item.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: In many of the cases mentioned in this House as atrocities against minorities, the Minorities Commission did not agree with them. In respect of most of the cases, the Minorities Commission has said that it does not agree with them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Rathilal Kalidas Varma to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the version of Shri Rathilal Kalidas Varma.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, I have already called Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma to speak and not you. You cannot speak now. After he finishes, you can.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware that Gujarat and several other States are under grip of famine. 18,000 villages of Gujarat are drought-affected. All the villages under Surat district are drought affected. About three crore people of the State are suffering hardships due to lack of water. I had already raised this demand in Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabha that Narmada project should be declared a national project and be completed at the earliest. MPs from Gujarat always kept on favouring this project, but Medha Patkar and her supporters did not allow it to complete in the name of 'Save Narmada save

environment'. The people of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh be benefited with this project.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rathilal Kalidas Varma, we have already discussed the drought situation in the country in the House. Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Persons like Medha Patkar launched movements against this project and as a result of it people of Kutchh, Banaskantha and Saurashtra are migrating to other villages. Being on the border of the country Pakistani infiltrators are entering the region. I request the Union Government to accept the demand of the people that height of the dam should be raised upto 360 ft. Gujarat would not have suffered this problem if Narmada Project was completed within the stipulated time. Gujarat have helped the whole country in time of distress whether it is flood in Assam and cyclone in Orissa but today Gujarat seeking assistance from others. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I request the Government that Narmada Project should be declared a national project and height of this dam should be raised. All these three States will prosper if this project is completed soon.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Congress Party and on my own behalf, with all the humility at my command, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has stated just now that the issues raised by the hon. Members several times in the House regarding the atrocities on the minorities are found not correct by the Minorities Commission. He has mentioned that the Minorities Commission report said that such interventions on the part of the hon. Members claiming atrocities on minorities are not exactly correct. At the same time, in the very House, the hon. Prime Minister reacted very sharply on the Mathura issue and said that he would enquire into the matter and take appropriate action. I am not going into those things. ...*(Interruptions)*

Since the Parliamentary Affairs Minister questioned the *bona fides* of the hon. Members of Parliament raising the issue about the minorities and since he has pointed out that the Minorities Commission has said that these are not exactly correct, I demand that the findings of the Minorities Commission in respect of all the issues raised by the hon. Members in this House should be tabled in the House on Monday itself. I demand this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I support the demand of Shri Dasmunsi. Let the Minorities Commission report be tabled. Please direct the Government to do it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already replied to it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If this is the attitude of the hon. Members, then, it is very difficult to continue with the 'Zero Hour.' Please understand it. What is this? The hon. Minister has already given the reply. What more direction do you want?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has given the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: We seek your protection. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I have already replied to it. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to Munsiji for giving me a chance to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Are we telling lie? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise your point.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a basic question...(Interruptions) It is not a question which can be debated by Members of both the

sides. There is consensus on this issue in the House and thus I am raising this question. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Subodh Mohite.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, it is a basic question...(Interruptions)

[English]

It is a question of national importance.

[Translation]

I feel that all the prominent leaders, Khuranaji and Pramod Mahajanji probably will support me, because I consider them leaders of future of the country. My question is that in India...(Interruptions) who is running this country?

[English]

I am coming to the question...(Interruptions) I will complete my speech in half a minute, Sir, ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Whether N.D.A. is running the Government or bureaucrats?... (Interruptions) I am talking about I.A.S. officers. The bureaucrats... (Interruptions)

[English]

That is the strongest cadre.

[Translation]

Today, bureaucrats are running the Government not the politicians... (Interruptions)

[English]

They are preparing the files. They are giving opinions, both positive and negative and we are just signing the files. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

I would like to give proof of it. It is the tendency of India. I am talking about tendency of foreign visits... (Interruptions)

[English]

I am talking about the tendency of the foreign visits. Bureaucrats are going to the foreign tours with the result a huge amount is spent ... (Interruptions)

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

[Translation]

They prepare files in the name of study tours, workshop and seminars and sign these file and go on foreign tours the next day itself...(Interruptions)

[English]

I am citing a specific example ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow you, Shri Rahsid Alvi. How can you raise the matter of a particular individual? I will not allow you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the subject of your notice. How you can raise issue regarding an individual in this House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, I have given a notice...(Interruptions) How it is possible ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: So far as technical issue is concerned. ...(Interruptions) Last week Shri Jagmohanji has issued notice ...(Interruptions) IAS officers residing at Pandara Road...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Ramanand Singh.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Press should understand that this is not on record. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that it will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: How can you raise a subject against a particular individual?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ramanand Singh says.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, World Bank granted a loan of Rs. 1000 crores to Indian Council of Agricultural Research for setting up of computer network. Out of this sum Rs. 200 crores were allocated for computer network under ARIS. During last few years ADG and ARIS have noticed serious irregularities in this scheme. They have already informed in writing about this to the senior officers as well as to the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture. In this plan of Rs. 200 crores bungling of Rs. 50 crore is alleged. It is a very serious matter that the officer, who registered complaint about it is awarded by hon'ble President and hon'ble Prime Minister. He is an efficient and able officer. For this work ADG and ARIS are authorised officers of Government of India but this work was not allotted to them and this work was given to some corrupt officials. I request you that corrupt officers should be removed from this work and authorised officers should be made responsible for this work. Besides, I request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and hon'ble Prime Minister that inquiry should be conducted in this case and action should be taken against the officers found guilty...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale says.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, former Health Minister, Shri Rajnarayan appointed one Gramin Swasthya Rakshak for one thousand people. Six lakhs people were appointed in this way. It was started by giving Rupees 50 per month as remuneration but even after 23 years this amount has

not increased. They have demanded a raise from the Central Government but no action has been taken till now. They organised a big rally on 3rd and demanded from Health Minister that they should be paid Rupees 750 per month as remuneration. Therefore through you I pray to Union Government that announcement should be made in this regard that Rs. 750 per month will be paid as remuneration to these people...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you interfering unnecessarily? This is not your duty.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: When you are not listening to the Chair's direction, why should I listen to you?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, In Andaman and Nicobar Islands there is only one LPG distributor, whose name is CCS Limited and he distributes LPG through six extension points. All over India the rate of LPG is fixed subject to local taxes, for example rate of LPG in Delhi is Rupees 196.45 this cost includes sales tax, 5 to 10 Rupees transportation cost and 14 rupees per cyclinder as commission. There is no sales tax in Andamans and the rates there are like this - In Port Blair Rs. 200.17, Bratang Rs. 248.47, Rangat Rs. 248.47, Mayabander Rs. 268.47, Car-Nicobar Rs. 511.20, Dirgalpur 388.47, Hut bay Rs. 392.20 and in Campbill bay Rs. 415.20, 21870 customers of Andaman Nicobar island pay about 7 lakh rupees on inter island transportation cost every year. People of Andaman-Nicobar Island protect forests and their demand, is that LPG should be provided to them at the rate prevalent in Delhi and new distributors should be opened at the following places—Chouldari, Bratang, Rangat, Mayabander, Dirgalpur, Car-Nicobar, Hut-bay, Kachal, Campbill bay etc.

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT (Barabanki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of cases where diesel is sold after mixing kerosene oil in it are increasing. In our Janpad Barabanki's Haidergarh there is one family in which there are two wholesale licence holder of diesel and kerosene oil. Kerosene oil should be given to people through retailers for fuel and for purposes of light. But they are making

three to four times profit by mixing kerosene oil in diesel. Due to this mixed oil, engines and tractor parts of farmers are getting damaged. Due to which poor people living in slums do not get kerosene oil.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Government towards this. I demand that this whole episode should be investigated and necessary action should be taken. In Haidergarh, Barabanki, in Uttar Pradesh adulterated oil is being sold and poor people are not getting oil. Therefore through you I demand that Government should take necessary action in this regard.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, the subject about which you have given the notice, has already been raised by Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra three days back. That was regarding the Report of the Minorities Commission.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, will you not allow me to speak on the subject?

MR. SPEAKER: It had already been raised by one of the hon. Members three days back.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, may I speak for two minutes?

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: First of all, you understand the subject and then only you speak.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: We could gather the subject especially because he has given the notice...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: His nature is like that. He will be touching it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, actually, the hon. Members of the Opposition all the time think so. They are raising matters with regard to atrocities on minorities — specifically the Christians. They raise this matter after going through the newspaper reports. I am also mentioning about a newspaper report published on 28th April in the *Asian Age* which under no stretch of imagination could be told that it is a pro-BJP or pro-NDA Government newspaper. ...*(Interruptions)*

In Agra, there was one Snehlata. She was working in a Convent. After eight years, she came to the police



[Shri Kharabela Swain]

station and told that she should be reinstated again in the convent. Now, the complained against the Christian Missionaries from Andhra Pradesh. Then, what did the Inspector do? He summoned them. The only way he knew to deal with this case was that he locked them up for two hours. Then, it became an atrocity on the Christians!

There was another case according to which a Principal in a Convent was harassed because she increased the pass-marks from 35 to 40 per cent. Eighty students could not pass the examination. The guardians came and harassed the Principal. Even two goons chased the Principal.

In the case of St. Dominic School, two admission-seekers assaulted the Principal.

In the St. Theresa School in Kosi, it was an incident of robbery. Some robbers broke into the campus and decamped with Rs. 1 lakh.

Finally, in Riwari, when the visibility was low and there was a storm in the evening, one scooterist knocked down two nuns.

All these things have become atrocities on Christians. Very humbly and with folded hands, I appeal to all the Members of the Opposition and from the Christian community that they should not point everything as an attack on the Christians. If any such thing happens to a person belonging to the Hindu community, we never say that it is an attack on the Hindus. How can we say that? There might be some problem with regard to some individual — some Indian. It is not an attack on the Christians. ...*(Interruptions)*

It is not done by the Hindus or by the *Bajrang Dal* or by *Vishva Hindu Parishad* or the NDA Government. The hon. senior Member who got the 'Best Parliamentary Award' this time, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, said that the *Bajrang Dal* is a terrorist organisation. After going through these newspaper items, he also uttered like this.

I appeal to all the Members with folded hands that they should not portray it with communal colour because it is not communal, and the NDA Government is not communal. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: We had only said that the Church was attacked. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, please hear me first. You have given a notice on the subject of giving an honorary degree to an individual by the University.

Universities are autonomous bodies. How can you raise a matter particularly relating to an individual?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting you to speak. If you want, you can raise it in another form.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, it is the Central University. I am not speaking against any individual. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Universities are autonomous bodies. How can you raise this matter?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the Central Government has got an ample control over the Universities. It is the Central University...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, it is the Central University governed by the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not speaking against any individual. I am speaking about the way the Universities are giving the award, DSc, to anybody. I am not against Dr. Joshi. He is like my brother.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not mention the name.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, I am not mentioning the name. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If you are speaking about the University's decision of giving a degree to Dr. Joshi, then you can speaking anything you want. You support it first. ...*(Interruptions)* If you support it, then what should be your objection? If you support it, then there is no issue left. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, he is being conferred a degree by the University. I am not against it but I am against...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Sir, he should make his submission clear as to whether he wants to object to the award of a degree. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Banaras University is a central university. Banaras University has conferred degrees to Frontier Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Nelson Mandela. I have no objection if a degree is conferred on Dr. Saheb but this has never happened that one who tried to build Ram Mandir, Cowsheds, helped in closure of slaughter house, if degrees are conferred on them, I have my objections. This has happened for the first time and due to this university's status and honour would be lost. I want to say with respect that if a criminal case is pending against a person in court and in that matter if D.Sc. degrees are conferred then country's law would become a mockery. This matter is very important and I pray to the Government to take this seriously.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (Sriganganagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I came from that area which is situated on Indo-Pak border. Survey was not done of that land of those farmers of Sriganganagar which has come under barbed wiring. When farmers carry farming operations BSF people disturb them due to which farmers are not able to do farming. Due to which they are unable to sow, irrigate and crop their farms. Therefore my request to the Government is that, land which has come under barbed wiring should be surveyed and estimate of that land should be made or on the basis of that estimate either the compensation of the acquired land should be paid or equal land should be given.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards a very important issue. Due to removal of restrictions on marble, marble industry in Rajasthan is in crisis. This industry is facing threat due to removal of restriction on import of marble under Chapter 68 of import-export policy as announced by the Government. 90 per cent of India's total marble production is mined and processed in Rajasthan. This industry is the backbone of Rajasthan's economy. Permission was given in March 1999 and in May 1999 its import was capped. After this within 9 months 250 lakh sq. ft. low value marble was imported in the country due to which marble industry faced a jolt. Due to this many units became sick or were on the verge of becoming sick.

13.00 hrs.

Therefore, I pray to Government of India that small scale industries should be saved from getting sick. On

this industry three thousand small scale industries and two lakh families are dependent. To save the marble industry it should be put on an equal footing with other small scale industries in the context of Import.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you will get your chance tomorrow, and not today. This is the appeal from the Chair.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Kerala, the Employees' State Insurance dispensaries or hospitals' functioning is not satisfactory. Quilon district is a cashew-oriented district. More than 200 cashew factories are running there in public as well as in private sectors. Trivandrum and Pathanamthitta Districts are also partly engaged in this industry. More than three lakh cashew workers are employed in cashew industry in Kerala. Every year, the country is earning the largest amount of foreign exchange through this industry. Sir, the entire cashew workers are now under ESI scheme and they are getting ESI benefits. Ninety per cent of the cashew workers are poor women and majority of them belong to Scheduled Castes and other Backward Communities. The cashew workers are not getting proper medical care. The Government of India has introduced medical facilities for the cashew workers.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I am concluding. Unfortunately, the ESI hospitals have totally failed to provide medical treatment to the cashew workers.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirteen  
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI P.H. PANDYAN *In the Chair*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up the Legislative Business. Shri Kashiram Rana to move his motion.

## COTTON CLOTH (REPEAL) BILL

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Cloth Act, 1918, be taken into consideration."

The Cotton Cloth Act was enacted in 1918 with the primary objective of encouraging or maintaining the supply of cotton cloth manufactured in the country at reasonable rates to the poorer classes of the community. This Act has jurisdiction to the whole of India.

Under this Act, the State Governments are empowered to appoint a Controller for implementation of this Act and also an Advisory Committee to assist the Controller. The State Governments are also empowered to fix the price of the standard cloth, prescribing the authority for grant of licences for sale of standard cloth and other rule-making powers for giving effect to the provisions of the Act.

Under this Act, the Controller, so appointed, is empowered to make general or special orders for manufacture, transport, distribution and sale or purchase of cotton cloth. The Controller is also empowered to fix the price to be paid to the manufacturer, to declare and define the classes of standard cloth, etc. This Act also has provisions of penalties for contravention of its provisions with imprisonment up to six months or with fine or with both.

After Independence, the Central Government has enacted the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As per this Act, the cotton and textiles are essential commodities. The Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, has issued the Textile (Development and Regulation) Order, 1993 which is comprehensive and also covers all the provisions of Cotton Cloth Act, 1918. While the Cotton Cloth Act, 1918 deals with only one category viz. Cotton cloth, the Textile (Development and Regulation) Order 1993 deals with all types of cloth, yarn and other textiles. This order is implemented by the Textile Commissioner who is appointed by the Central Government and has jurisdiction to the whole of India. As such, the scope and focus of the Cotton Cloth Act in today's context is extremely narrow, though in 1918, the man-made fibre textiles were not in the scene. Therefore, in the present liberalised industrial scenario, the continuance of the Act is deemed superfluous and redundant.

Over the years, the textile industry is growing steadily. The production of cloth from 1980-81 to 1998-99 has risen by about 190 per cent at an average annual growth rate of 6 per cent. The *per capita* availability of cloth which was 17.30 square metre during 1980-81 rose to 28.19 square metre during 1998-99, an increase of about 63 per cent showing an average growth of 2.75 per cent. Apart from meeting the ever-increasing domestic need, the export of cotton textiles alone rose from Rs. 407 crore in 1981-82 to Rs. 16,448 crore in 1998-99. As such, in such a scenario, there is no need for the existence of irrelevant and obsolete Act such as the Cotton Cloth Act, 1918.

Over the years, the textile industry has undergone changes and now it is our endeavour to develop a strong and vibrant industry that can produce cloth of good quality at reasonable prices to meet the growing need of the people and to contribute to the economic growth of the nation and compete with confidence for an increasing share of the global market. For this purpose, the Government have taken several steps. The Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme which is in operation from 1st April, 1999 for modernisation of the textiles and jute industries, and the Technology Mission on Cotton Development are few of them.

The Cabinet has approved the proposal for repeal of the Cotton Cloth Act, 1918. The Commission on Review of Administrative Laws has also recommended the repeal of this Act.

I hope the hon. House will be pleased to approve the repeal of the Cotton Cloth Act, 1918.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Cloth Act, 1918, be taken into consideration."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am also supporting the move. While doing so, I have to point out certain factors which the Government may take into consideration.

In the first place, the British colonial rulers were magnanimous and very much interested in the poor people though we have thrown them out, we have driven them out. But the statute was intended to provide standard cloth to poor people at reasonable rates. For that purpose, this statute was passed by the colonial rulers. Even at that stage, as early as in 1918, the then foreign Government had the magnanimity and the goodwill to help the poor man in the State by providing them with standard cloth at reasonable rates.

What is the present position? Now, the industry has developed to such an enormous proportion that we are dealing with it as a whole. The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 had been passed. I also agree that the said Act will cover all these factors, and there is no doubt about that. But there must some machinery to see that the poor people are provided cloth at reasonable rates. We are now on the verge of globalisation, privatisation and liberalisation. The problem is competition. There will be severe competition in the cotton market. Cotton Industry is also facing a crisis. In the said circumstances, the Government should consider the possibility of providing cloth at reasonable rates to the poor people.

You are now repealing this Act. This Act was there for five or six decades, and there is no provision in any statute for giving cloth to the poor people at reasonable rates. Is there any provision like that? No State Government is prepared to enact a law giving protection to the poor man, who is in need of cloth. A very large section of the Indian population is living below the poverty line. They do not have the capacity to buy sufficient cloth to wear. The British people had this in mind. It is with that purpose that they enacted this Act of 1918. In the process of globalisation and privatisation, I would request the Central Government to find out a method by which sufficient cloth at reasonable rates could be given to the poor people. In place of this statute, we can make some provision either in the Essential Commodities Act or in some other statute so that sufficient cloth material could be made available to the poor people.

I think, the Government will seriously consider this aspect of giving some concession to the poor people in the purchases. During the Second World War, clothes were distributed to the poor people under the provisions of this Act. During the First World War and the Second World War, the Britishers used this statute for providing standard clothes to the poor people. If such a situation arises in future, it will not be possible for us to provide standard clothes at reasonable rates to the poor people. So, once again, I would request the Central Government to find out a method by which their rights are protected.

With these words, I support the Bill. There should be some machinery to provide clothes to the poor people.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this piece of legislation, though it is a very small piece of legislation, has a very wider impact. Therefore, on behalf of my Party, I rise to participate in this discussion, extending my full support to the Textiles Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may recall that in 1970-71, when the former Prime Minister Shrimati Gandhi nationalised the banks, abolished the Privy Purses, she said one thing, besides the slogan of "*garibi hatao*". She said, "Ever effort should be made to see that the women of this country, at least the poorest of the poor in the villages, are clothed properly". The name and fame of this country merely does not lie in how much industrial growth we have achieved or how much agricultural growth we have achieved or how much the GDP has increased, but the honour of the country precisely depends on how the women are living.

I recall that efforts were made with the help of various State Governments, textile units, both public sector as well as private sector, but mostly with the help of the State Governments, to ensure through the cooperative units that cheapest variety of clothes are made available to the women.

Somewhat it was transformed when the Janata Party came to power in 1977. I remember very well the concept of *janata saree*. I must say that it was a noble idea and it was liked by the poorest of the poor people. Unfortunately, after all these years, when we go to the remote villages in the country - whether in Gujarat or Bengal or Rajasthan or wherever - we find that women feel ashamed to go out of their homes after sunrise to market place, to work, or to any other activity because they are not fully clothed.

I would like to give you one example because of which I am supporting this legislation. It was in the year 1989. I got a message that *janata sarees* for the poorest of the poor would be made available at 20 different stores in my State. People waited very eagerly to buy *janata sarees*. In Bengal, as you know, during Durga Puja even the poorest of the poor feels that he should get something. I checked with all those 20 stores and I was told that all the sarees were sold. I asked as to what was the method of sale and if they had kept a record of sales. Even the cooperative units replied that all the sarees were sold. I felt very happy that *janata sarees* reached the targeted people. On the same day when I went to the *mandi*, I found that the *janata sarees* - which were to be sold to the poorest of the poor through the public distribution system or cooperatives under the Essential Commodities Act - were being sold at exorbitant prices in the open market. Such clandestine activities went on for years together. Till date, there has been no check, no effort either by the State Government or the Union Government to control this. Of course, the subject comes under the State Government as it is they who have to implement the Essential Commodities Act. But these things are happening. Hon. Minister of Textiles

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

is from Gujarat and he knows much more about the problems in the villages of Gujarat. I only request and plead with the present NDA Government to take stock of the situation.

In the context of Gujarat, I am reminded of a short story written by Tagore. He wrote about the way the villagers carry cotton in Gujarat. Gujarat was famous for cotton. I shed tears after reading the passage. It says that with bare body they bring the cotton, with tears in their eyes; and when they go back they feel that they were giving it to the civilised society in the city, but nothing is there for them. That was written by Tagore in his famous story *Kulit Prashan*.

I request the Textile Minister Shri Kashi Ram Rana to evolve a new policy in this regard. He should take stock of the cotton production in the country. He should take stock of the capacity, both in the public sector mills as well as in the private mills, and find out the total quantum of requirement in each State to mitigate the problems of the poorest of the poor. If Rs. 50 is the daily wage for an agricultural worker - in some States it is Rs. 35; in others it is Rs. 45, and in yet others it is even Rs. 60 - can any woman, after taking care of the requirements of the household - there are families in which only the women work and men do not - afford to buy two sarees in a year just to protect herself and to identify her as the daughter or mother of somebody? The Government ensures supply of food to the poor through PDS, it ensures implementation of programmes for food for work, to provide work in drought-prone areas, etc. Can the Government see to it that in this new millennium, no woman in any Indian village is left unclothed? If the Government can ensure this one thing, it will be the real achievement for this Government and for the civilisation.

I do not want to enter into a debate as to who did what. I do feel ashamed that population growth went on unchecked year after year. We could not check the growth of population. When a population control programme was followed in 1975 and 1977 aggressively, rightly or wrongly different kinds of interpretations came. With the present quantum of cotton production, its availability in the market and the surplus that could be given to the poorest of the poor, we could not make it a success. Today, there are abundant resources. Industrial and agricultural growth is on the rise.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Textiles to precisely come out with a policy to ensure variety of cloth for the poorest of the poor in a guaranteed manner. If one family of an agriculture community, an agriculture labour or even of an artisan in the village is ensured that his daughter or his wife or his mother would be provided with two pieces of cloth in a year at a very cheap rate, I think, that will be the real achievement of this civilisation.

If we could not do it in the Congress regime in fifty years, we feel ashamed of it. But please you do it. We will salute you. This is the only cry of this country. When I visit the villages, I really shut my eyes to see the conditions of the poorest of the poor. But they are feeling that we are doing wrong things there while going to the village. So, it is very difficult for us to go to the villages because the villagers there have no clothing. During election time also I say about it. So, I shed my tears and feel very much about it being a citizen of this country on what we have done for them.

Therefore, can you evolve any mechanism or any policy, in whatever manner that you may feel right, to ensure the poorest of the poor women, at least two piece of cloth in a year?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government has introduced Cotton Cloth (Repeal) Bill. They claimed that it was an old Act of 1918. According to the textile orders of 1955 and 1953 this Act has become irrelevant. Therefore we are repealing this Act. Hon'ble Member Dasmunsi ji and Radhakrishnan have rightly pointed out that basic needs of man are food, cloth and shelter. In this context cloth is nonetheless important. This Act of 1918 was enacted with a view to provide cloth to the poor people at reasonable rates.

When Mahatma Gandhiji went to Champaran he was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi at that time. When he was standing on the road, the local women were peeping from their houses. He sent Kasturba ji to call them out. Kasturba ji went to them and called them out but they refused to come out. Then she went inside and after coming out she told Gandhi ji that all women were half naked and that was why they were not coming out. On hearing that Gandhiji put off all his clothes except dhoti and angocha. From that time he became Mahatma Gandhi. He felt that adequate cloth which should have been available to every Indian was not available especially to the women, and under such circumstances it was not proper for him to wear full clothes. Due to that incident he wore a single dhoti throughout his life and became a Mahatma. It means there is a shortage of cloth in India. The poor people do not get even cotton clothes in winter what to say of woollen clothes. They warm themselves in fire during night and use to cover their body with tallised clothes. Therefore this Act was enacted so that poor people might get cloth at reasonable prices and cover their body. Now this law is being repealed. About the alternative arrangement it is being said that the State Governments are making law. State Government had also

introduced Janta Dhoti Scheme in their respective States. Under this scheme it was seen that all work was done on papers only. They purchase cotton on papers, and distribute dhoties on papers only. All sorts of such bunglings are going on there. Shortage of clothes is always there for the poor people and they do not have purchasing power. For that Government should come forward and arrangement should be made to make available clothes for them at reasonable prices. How we can ignore that aspect? Khadi was the symbol of freedom struggle and Khadi commission is working all over India. Thousands of people are engaged in it. Whatever Government assistance was provided to the Khadi has since been stopped. Why Government is opposed to Khadi. Khadi is the symbol of freedom struggle. Mahatma Gandhi started a movement against Britishers and asked the people not to wear clothes produced by Britishers. They would wear cloth produced by Indian people only. I would like to know from the Government as to why assistance provided for Khadi has been stopped. Some persons working in Khadi Bhandar met me and told me that whatever assistance and facilities were provided in the month of October to Khadi - so that it may be made available to the people at cheap rates-has been stopped...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: If you love Khadi, why do not you wear shoes and slippers of Khadi?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Shoes and slippers made by Khadi are stronger but they do not look attractive...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): People will look at your face, and not at your shoes?...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If shoes are used otherwise then what will happen. We want to say it categorically that the Government should look into it as to why the assistance was stopped and why this was done. Mahatma Gandhi's cotton yarn takli and spinning wheel have been neglected which were symbols of our freedom struggle. I fail to understand that. You are repealing this Act but some other alternative arrangement should be made so that poor people may get cloth at reasonable prices. The Government should immediately restore the Central assistance given to Khadi.

With these words I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to all hon'ble members for their participation in the discussion on Cotton Cloth Act Repeal Bill which I have introduced. I am happy

that all Members are agreed to repeal this Act. As I said in the beginning that whatever provisions were there in Cotton Cloth Act, they were all included in the order issued under Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Therefore, we want that there should be no overlapping in law, and it should be simplified. That is why we came before the House to repeal this law. As Shri Radhakrishnan has said that poor people's requirement of Cloth should be fulfilled. The Government especially Ministry of Textiles is very serious about it. The slogan of food, cloth and shelter was relevant before Independence and the same is relevant today also.

The Government wants that the poor people should be provided cloth at reasonable rates. As I have said that the policy implemented by the Government under which the production of cloth has increased and per capita consumption of cloth has also increased. We would surely be successful in providing cloth at reasonable rate to poor people under new schemes. Besides, you said that if shortage occurs, then what would be done by the Government. Keeping all these facts in mind we have repealed this Act and included all the provisions in Essential Textile Order 1993 and we will not allow such circumstances to emerge by taking action under this order.

Hon'ble Member Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has stated rightly that earlier 'Janta Cloth Scheme' was there in the country to provide sarees for poor women and dhotis for men. He has emphasised to implement this scheme again. We also do not want that the poor people whether men or women should be left without clothes. We want to clothe every person. You might be aware that cloth is being produced in the country in large scale and now the problem of marketing is there. The problem is not that prices are high but the problem is of its marketing. Price of cloth has come down if I compare the figures with last year. You know why this scheme was abandoned. If irregularities would have not occurred in this scheme, this scheme would have run smoothly. This Government has not abandoned this scheme, but it was abandoned much earlier. However, whatever sentiments you have expressed I will put before the Government and it will be considered by the Government.

Hon'ble Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasadji has said about khadi. Regarding rebate on Khadi, which is not being given I would definitely apprise my colleague Minister about it. I would like to assure the House that there would be no shortage of cloth even for the poorest of the poor and the Government would make a definite arrangement for this.

I am happy that all hon'ble Members are unanimous on passing this Bill. I request that this Bill be passed.

[English]

MR. CHARMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Cloth Act, 1918, 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 clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.45 hrs.

## COTTON TEXTILES CESS (REPEAL) BILL

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Textiles Cess Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Cotton Textiles Cess Act, 1948 was enacted to impose a cess on the manufacture of certain cotton textiles, namely, cloth, yarn, etc. This Act has jurisdiction all over India. Such cess was to be levied on any cloth or yarn held in stock by a producer or dealer at such rate and in such manner as might be notified by the

Central Government. There are provisions for imposition of penalty in case of non-payment of cess, recovery of cess as arrears of land revenue, inspection of books or documents belonging to a producer or dealer, entry and search of any premises and seizure of cloth or yarn in case of contravention of the provisions of this Act.

It may please be noted that there is another Act, namely, the Textile Committee Act, 1963, which, *inter alia* provides for collection of cess on the textiles. Accordingly, under this Act, the cess is being collected and the amount of cess so collected is remitted to the Consolidated Fund of India.

The Cabinet has approved the proposal for repeal of the Cotton Textiles Cess Act, 1948. The Commission on Review of Administrative Laws has also recommended the repeal of this Act.

In today's liberalised scenario, when it is considered desirable to do away with unnecessary controls, there is strong justification for the repeal of this Act. The provisions of this Act appear to have outlived the utility and are sidely perceived as being impediments to the manufacture of cotton yarn and cloth. Indeed for these very reasons, this Act has never been implemented. Experience has shown that removal of uncalled for fetters would improve the environment for facilitating trade, which, in turn, would have a healthy multiplier effect in the production chain. Since the Act was never activated, it is redundant and its repeal will have no financial implications.

I hope that this august House will be pleased to approve the repeal of Cotton Textiles Cess Act, 1948. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Textiles Cess Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I support the move of repeal of this Act. The irony of fate is that this Statute was passed in 1948, with a view to implement it with certain penal provisions, but it was never activated. It was for recovery of cess under the provisions of the Revenue Recovery Act. The Statute, which was passed here, was never implemented, during the last 52 years. That is the interesting part of the story. It was never implemented and no amount was collected under that Act. That means, nothing has come to the exchequer by way of this Act. The Executive was quite negligent or inactive in implementing a Statute passed by this House. That is the tragedy.

It is very amusing and very interesting to see that a Central Statute was never activated, and hence, there is no financial commitment. That is the present position.

They have now come before this House again to repeal an Act, which was never implemented. What is the logic behind it? I do not understand it. The Minister is coming before the House to repeal an Act, which was never implemented in the history, and not a pie was collected under this Act.

Now, the position is that textile traders want this Act to be repealed. If by mistake somebody activates this statute, they would be put to difficulties. I think, this Government must have come before this House to give impetus to the growth of the textile industry. The Minister has come before the House to repeal an Act which was never implemented. But hereafter, never should this House come across such an occasion, because it would be recorded in our legislative history that this august House is repealing Acts which are never implemented.

With these words, I support the move of the Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): I rise to support the move of the Government. I feel that the document of non-implementation of this Act, would be useful for the research students of Indian politics who are keen to know how the Government works and how it fails. If I may interpret like this, it is the reflection on those who were manning the Textiles Department all these years, irrespective of the parties they might have belonged to. It raises a doubt whether they did it in connivance or whether they had some understanding with the big textile industries of those days which were sick. I do not want to go into that. If this House passes a Bill with a view to collecting revenue and if it is not done, then it is not merely inactivity but also an insult to Parliament. So, from the academic point of view, I consider this document as a useful document for the research scholars who are interested to study the connivance of the textile commissioners of the past and the good days that they had enjoyed.

Sir, at this hour, I would appeal to the hon. Minister of consider reviving the NTC mills. Today, during Question Hour a question — Starred Question No. 566—was asked about the NTC mills. The question was about the revival of the NTC mills in the country, particularly in Maharashtra. The answer was that the Government has not yet finalised the turn-around plan. It is really very pathetic. You are in office for the last six months. Textile workers in South, North, West and East are expecting a policy from the Government which would revive these

units. I remember, during Tenth Lok Sabha when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister and Shri G. Venkataswamy was the Textile Minister, a package was announced to sell the surplus land of the NTC mills and to create a corpus which would be used to revive these NTC units, but that was not done. In the Eleventh Lok Sabha, when I was Member of the Public Undertakings Committee, I found there was a tremendous amount of non-cooperation from the Maharashtra Government of those days regarding disposal of the lands. The hon. Minister has taken the first initiative to remove the redundant Act. Now, he should take another initiative to announce a turn-around plan to protect the textile workers of the NTC mills. They have done a good job in the country. I went to one NTC unit in Coimbatore and I was pleasantly surprised that it was making huge profits. My friend Shri Akbar is sitting here. In his district, Hoogly, also many textile units were closed due to non-monitoring of the Government at the appropriate hour. I would, therefore, request the Government to make a plan.

I would also like to request the hon. Minister about one issue which I have raised in the House earlier also a number of times. In West Bengal, the areas on one side of the river Ganges are called as the South Bengal and on the other side as the North Bengal which is absolutely an economically backward region. There is a lot of regional imbalance in that part. All kinds of developments are taking place from Coochbehar to Malda. In the entire North Bengal, there is only one spinning mill which was started in the seventies at the initiative of the West Bengal Government, when Congress was in power. It was started in a backward district of West Dinaipur and now it is in Raiganj which is my Parliamentary constituency. This only one spinning mill in the entire North Bengal has tremendous prospects. West Bengal Government took it over but now they have no plan for its future. The spurns are very good. The yarn is of the best quality. The workers are best talented. I have raised this issue a number of times in the House.

Since the Textile Ministry is the nodal Ministry to monitor the entire textile sector, I would request the Minister to take stock of the fact as to how many handloom units are there in North Bengal. There are a number of them and the best quality of handloom saris are sold to Bangladesh from North Bengal. In that region, the only life line of the spinning mill should be properly taken care of with a joint initiative of the Ministry of Textile and the West Bengal Government. I would also request the Minister to pay a visit to that textile mill in my constituency. It has a tremendous potential in the entire region. I appeal to the Minister to do make a visit alongwith the representatives of the West Bengal Government after the Session. It will prove to be one of



[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

the viable and potential units in the entire region. Bangladesh also will be taking yarn from this unit if it is revised properly.

With these words I thank the hon. Minister for bringing this legislation. I would once again request the Minister to please preserve the history, as to why it was not implemented in the past, in the form of a document in the Ministry, as it will be helpful to the researchers to know the nexus that exists from time to time between the Textile Commissioners and the private mill operators.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister reply. We will have to take up the Private Members' Business also.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmers have some outstanding dues against Marohada sugar mill operating under N.T.C., these people belong to the same area only, their dues should be paid and some arrangements should be made for 73 thousand workers under N.T.C. who are on the verge of being jobless..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing anybody. Nothing will go on record except what the Minister says. Members must obtain prior permission to speak.

...(Interruptions) \*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that all the hon'ble Members have supported the Cotton Textiles Cess (Repeal) Act 1948. For that I am grateful. As hon'ble Member Shri Radhakrishnan said that this act which was never implemented, I would like to tell you that Textile Committee Act 1963 was enacted which provides for collection of cess and all those provisions of the Cotton Textile Cess Act have been included in this act also and we implement the provisions of the Textile Committee Act and also collect cess. As hon'ble member of Parliament Shri Dasmunsi said and specially asked for

information about N.T.C. plan, as we all know that he is senior Member of Parliament, I'd like to tell you that a plan was formulated in 1992 and for that finance was to be obtained from Financial Institute but that did not materialise. In 1995 a plan was formulated. Finance was to be provided by selling land of closed mills of Mumbai and Rupees 2005 crores were to be obtained but Government of Maharashtra did not gave permission for that. So this did not happen. A revival plan was formulated in 1997 but that was also not implemented. Now we have formulated a revised turn around strategy plan for those 119 NTC mills and we will put this matter before the Cabinet. As he said that I want to say something about the problems of spinning mills and we will certainly do something.

With these words I appeal to pass the Cotton Textiles Cess (Repeal) Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Textiles Cess Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.02 hrs.

# **MOTION RE: FIFTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 4th May, 2000."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 4th May, 2000."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.03 hrs.

# **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL\***

*(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Adityanath—Not present.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, may I be heard for a second on a point of convenience? Sir, this Bill has been on the List of Business continuously and the Member is always absent. But to oppose its introduction, I am always present here. It is very inconvenient. Therefore, I say that this Bill may now be removed from the List of Business.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Yes, Sir. We support him. Why is the Member so discourteous to the House? This Bill must be removed from the List of Business.

15.04 hrs.

# **ALTERNATE FUEL RESOURCES BOARD BILL\***

SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL (Erandol): Sir, beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for research and use of alcohol as alternate fuel in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for research and use of alcohol as alternate fuel in the country and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL: I introduce the Bill.

15.05 hrs.

# **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL\***

*(Amendment of article 16, etc.)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I introduce the Bill.

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15.06 hrs.

### NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI (DEVELOPMENT) BILL\*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for all round development of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for all round development of National Capital Territory of Delhi."

*The motion was adopted.*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

15.07 hrs.

### SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES (FOR CHILDREN OF PARENTS LIVING IN RURAL AREAS) BILLS\*

*[English]*

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of educational institutions and other facilities to the children of parents living in the rural areas and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of educational institutions and other facilities to the children of parents living in the rural areas and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: I introduce the Bill.

15.08 hrs.

### REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL

*(Insertion of new sections 26A and 26B) — contd.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up further consideration of the Bill. Shrimati Jayashree Banerjee to continue her speech. I think she is not present in the House now. So, I will call Shri Ramesh Chennithala to speak.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Bill moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

India is the largest democratic country in the world. India can be legitimately proud of its being the largest democracy in the world. The success of our democracy is demonstrated by the successful conduct of a series of elections in our country. Even though illiteracy and backwardness are existing in our country, we are in a position to conduct a series of elections without trouble.

Holding an election is not a joke. It is a very serious and also a costly affair. 5.5 lakh polling stations in 25 States and 7 Union Territories need three million army of personnel for conducting this election. We are now witnessing frequent parliamentary elections in our country. This is a very serious matter which involves crores and crores of money from the exchequer. Holding elections is a sky-high matter, particularly holding in snow clad mountains in the North, tiny islands in the South, thick forests in the East and massive deserts in the West. It is a Herculean task. I would like to appreciate our election machinery because they are conducting frequent elections in country.

From 1976 onwards, there has been a serious through of reviewing the electoral system in our country. A lot of attempts were made towards serious electoral reforms in our country. The latest one being the Dinesh Goswami Committee which was appointed by the House. The Dinesh Goswami Committee, in which the present Home Minister was also one of the Members, submitted its report with elaborate suggestions. The main question before us is how to hold elections in a free and fair manner. A lot of serious complaints are coming up during every election. How can we ensure free and fair elections in our country? The role of money and muscle power is increasing like anything. Criminalisation of politics is one

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of the biggest issues concerning every patriotic citizen in our country. Today, we are shocked to note that certain elected representatives are involved in criminal cases and even some of them are convicted and sentenced. It is unfortunate to note these things. How can we prevent them? We have to think very seriously about this.

The role of money and muscle power has become a very serious issue. In every election, even though we have to file returns, honestly speaking, there is no comparison between the returns and the actual money that we are spending. Expenditure in every election is going up. Those who have got enough money or more money can win elections. This is the unfortunate situation prevailing in the country. Those who have more muscle power can win elections. As has been rightly pointed out by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, booth-capturing has become a serious issue nowadays. Shri Dasmunsi also rightly pointed out in his speech that he was defeated thrice only because of malpractices in counting of votes and capturing the polling booths. This is happening in States where there are literates also. In the last parliamentary elections, a State like Kerala which has 100 per cent literacy, had witnessed large scale booth-capturing. We can able to see that the police on duty in the polling booths acted in partisan manner that even some workers of a political party entered the polling booth and threatening officials. They had captured the booth and polled the votes. We had written to the Election Commission. We raised this matter before the Election Commission so many times. But nothing happened. My point is that the elections should be free and fair. How can we ensure free and fair elections? How can we weed out the elements which are trying to capture the booths and misuse the official machinery? This is one of the major issues.

15.16 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Those who are in power are misusing the Government machinery. They are trying to capture the booth with the help of the official machinery. Therefore, free and fair elections are not taking place. The party which is in power is really misusing the official machinery and it is manipulating the media. It is not giving opportunities for other candidates to propagate and place their views before the people. The Governmental machinery is mis-utilised. It is trying to terrorise the other candidates. How can we eliminate such activities? Can we rectify these lacunae? So, a serious thought should be given to these issues.

Next, I would like to state that non-serious candidates are still there. Even though we have raised the deposit

amount, we can see there are non-serious candidates even now. The Election Commission is also not able to monitor the election process effectively. As I mentioned earlier, this is a vast country. India is one of the biggest democracies in the world. With an Election Commission of two or three cannot monitor the entire process effectively. So, the Dinesh Goswami Committee had recommended the appointment of four Regional Election Commissioners for properly monitoring the elections when it is needed. The Committee had rightly pointed out the appointment of Regional Commissioners for different zones. This is also one of the suggestions given for the effective functioning of the Election Commission, not as a permanent one. If this is accepted, the Commission can monitor the entire election process effectively. It can monitor and rectify the lacunae then and there.

About re-polling also, if powers are given to the Regional Commissioners, they can order re-polling on the spot. Nowadays, the Election Observers are present in different booths and different districts to monitor the election process. So, authority should be given to those people for taking action immediately then and there. They have no powers to take action now. They have no authority to take immediate steps for ensuring free and fair elections.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. The whole idea behind this Bill is to ensure free and fair elections. A time has come for implementing the Dinesh Goswami Committee Report *in toto*. In the light of the Report, the Government should come forward with a comprehensive legislation to ensure free and fair elections in our country. The fact is that for the last fifty years, we are conducting so many elections. We know the areas where we have to lay more emphasis. We also know what are the problems existing. Which are the lacunae that are threatening the conduct of free and fair elections? It is the duty of the Government to come forward with a comprehensive legislation on the basis of the Report submitted by late Dinesh Goswami.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, last Friday also, I mentioned that whenever important discussions takes place on Private Members bill then at that time it is essential that Minister of the Department remains in the House so that he could give replies and takes action on it. Earlier also I saw that no Minister was present from Home Ministry and Law Ministry. It is my submission that first you must clarify as to which Minister—Home Minister or Law Minister is responsible for giving replies if the Law Minister is to reply who is representing him and if the Home Minister

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

is to reply who is representing him because we do not want to downsize the dignity associated with Private Members' business.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up introduction of Bills: Item No. 3 — Shri Vilas Muttemwar.

15.23 hrs.

## REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

(Insertion of new sections 26A and 26B)

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for having given me this opportunity to express my views on the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

We all know, as parliamentarians, that conducting elections is a very costly affair. Money power plays an important part in elections; muscle power also plays an important part in elections. Money power plays a part in procuring voters or transporting voters or in casting bogus votes. Muscle power also equally plays a part to procure voters, also to capture the booth, and to rig in a particular booth. The Representation of People Act has no teeth. With this Act, the authorities are merely doing the *post-mortem* job. Once the election is over, the defeated candidate has no option but to file an election petition which will take at least four or even five years to be disposed of. In some cases, it is not even disposed of. Though the Representation of the People Act stipulates that an election petition should be disposed of within six months, it was not disposed of in six months.

Japanese Parliament, Diet, decides the fate of election petitions. They entertain the election disputes. Election disputes are not agitated before a court of law.

Recently, in 1988, in the Parliamentary elections, it was reported in "*The Hindu*" newspaper that bogus voters were transported from different parts to the city of Chennai. The buses were also portrayed in "*The Hindu*" newspaper. Nobody was able to take any action. In the recent by-election to the Tamil Nadu Assembly, where I was put in-charge on behalf of my party, I was able to witness large scale booth capturing. Booth capturing in a particular booth can be assessed by the fact that there would be higher percentage of polling in that booth. Though the average percentage of polling in the constituency, as a whole, of Trichy, where I was put in-charge by my party, was 46 per cent, in 52 booths the

## CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL\*

(Amendment of article 85)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce the Bill.

15.22 hrs.

[Translation]

## PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (RECRUITMENT) BILL\*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of recruitment in the public employment and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of recruitment in the public employment and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

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percentage of polling was more than 70 per cent and in some booths it was even 80 per cent. The Secretary of the Election Commission came to conduct an on-the-spot inquiry into the incidents of booth capturing and stayed the counting for five days. When he came to conduct the inquiry, it became a political affair. Then, the contesting candidates resort to large-scale propaganda on the basis of caste, religion and also the place of birth against one another. Though the law states that this sort of propaganda cannot be carried on, it is usually resorted to by the candidates and even though the Election Observers are witnessing it, they normally do not take any action. So, I would appeal that stringent provisions should be made in the Representation of the People Act to curb booth capturing and also the propaganda based on caste, religion, place of birth etc.

Now, I come to aspects like filing of nomination paper, scrutiny, electioneering, counting etc. I have contested in seven elections so far and I could see that non-serious candidates are allowed to contest only in order to take more counting agents inside the counting hall. If you have more number of non-serious candidates who are fielded by you, in your favour, you can take the election agents of those candidates inside the counting hall. They will disturb the counting process and also meddle with ballot papers. If there is a margin of difference of only 100 or 200 votes between a winning candidate and the candidate who comes next to him, then, at the crucial time those agents will meddle with the ballot papers. So, I would suggest that non-serious candidates should not be allowed to contest the elections, but it should not be done by increasing the amount of deposit, because they will definitely be able to pay the sum of Rs. 10,000 as deposit. Sometimes, a serious candidate will put up 10 non-serious candidates and pay the deposit amount for them, because it will cost him only Rs. 1 lakh.

Then, if you see that these non-serious candidates are able to secure only 100 or 150 votes at the end of the first round of counting, then these non-serious candidates should be immediately sent out of the counting hall. Why should they be allowed to remain in the counting hall till the declaration of the result? If this is done, then the two serious candidates will be able to get justice from the Returning Officer, because he will also be in a predicament, not being able to favour this side or that side and I was a witness to that on two occasions, once in 1981 and again in 1989.

The counting, normally, starts at 8 o'clock and it goes on continuously till the declaration of the result. During the lunch time itself, the results will be known, because the results are announced on both television as well as radio and the whole State will know as to who

is going to form the Government. Then, the whole set of Presiding Officers and the Returning Officers will be changing sides accordingly. So, there must be an independent agency to monitor the election process. Before the elections, the Election Commissioners talk of strictly enforcing rules and regulations. It is all for publicity, it is populism, but they are not able to do it actually. They have said that there should not be criminalisation of politics. They have said that without understanding the criminal jurisprudence. For example, let us say that I am charged by a Sub-Inspector on a trivial offence. Suppose a first-class Magistrate convicts, do you mean to say that I end up with disqualification? It is a court of the first instance. There is a higher court—the Apex court. Unless and until it is decided by the Apex court, it is not a conviction at all. The Supreme Court in a decision have said that the laws occur to a defeated candidate on account of conviction if he has a chance of an appeal. If he has a chance of winning an appeal, it cannot be compensated. That loss cannot be compensated if he wins that appeal.

The Supreme Court had said that unless and until it confirms the conviction of any lower court, it is not a conviction. The Election Commission without understanding the criminal jurisprudence have said about criminalisation. There are certain offences. That is a different matter. But this view should firstly be routed through the Parliament. It cannot be routed through the Election Commission. the Election Commission is a Wing of our Law Department. Though it is claiming to be independent yet it is not independent. How can the Election Commission be independent? I know how they behave after the election, and how they behave after a change of Government at the Centre or even in the States. The Chief Electoral Officers or the Returning Officers are not so independent. Even the Returning Officers are not independent while declaring the results of an election. If there is a tussle of 100 or 50 votes, they will say: "Look here. I order recounting of these 100 votes or 200 votes."

So, at this juncture, I would like to urge that this Government should take immediate measures to hold free and fair elections. How can there be free and fair elections unless the cooperation of all the parties is ascertained? Unless the views of the parties are ascertained, you cannot have free and fair elections. Every party wants to win the elections. The polarisation of forces is like that. It is not based on principles. They want to enter into the House. That is all. Only after entering into the House, they talk of principles. So, their views should be ascertained.

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

The manifesto should also be examined by the Election Commission. The election manifesto is not enforceable. They pre-suppose us. They give all sorts of sugar-coated assurances. They give full-page advertisements in the *Hindu*, the *Times of India* and in other newspapers. So, the manifesto is not enforceable. After that, they forget about the manifesto. This is revealed to electorate just like non-banking financial institutions saying that they would give 36 per cent interest. This is a political way of doing things. So, the Election Commission needs the help of the Central Government. In the absence of powers from the Central Government, the Election Commission cannot do anything. It is a small office. I have been to that office once. They cannot enforce anything. They have no powers. Even if they stop counting or if they ask, look here, we will stop election for some time, the next day, they will be influenced. They are liable to be influenced. They are not independent. They claim to be independent. But they are not at all independent. ...*(Interruptions)* It is only a body politic because that position is different. They are being selected. The Secretary is selected as an Election Commissioner. He owes his allegiance to the ruling party. He is not appointed from the heavens. He is a human being. It is a human element. Wherever the human element is involved, it is likely to be influenced. They are not above prides and prejudices. So, in that way, you must select the Election Commissioner. That is why the Prime Minister and the President should have a large view of things. They should have frank views. They cannot suddenly say that so-and-so is recommended for appointment. Just like the Senate, the name should be routed through the Parliament. Even in the American Senate, the names for appointment of the Supreme Court Judges are routed through the Parliament. Here, they are appointed while sitting somewhere. The Parliamentarians are going after them. We have given up our powers. If the sovereignty of this House, ultimately, is maintained and if the names are routed through this House, then we can debate on their conduct, on their independence, on their antecedents. We may know their antecedents. It is a constitutional position, it is not an ordinary position. You cannot change it immediately. There are protections to their offices. So, the Central Government is in the pedestal of these: the Prime Minister, the President, Chief Justice of India, Supreme Court and High Court Judges, and parliamentarians.

I feel that parliamentarians have little duties. We do not have any public duty to perform, though we are elected. For the purpose of provisions in the Corruption Act, we are declared as public servants and not for any other purpose. So, the Members of Parliament should also have a say. They must have the main say in all constitutional appointments. If the names of judges are

recommended and if their appointment is made transparent, then the right man will come for the right job and proper man for the proper job.

Now, they come through backdoor or through some influence, they are able to get it and we cannot debate on that. But you can debate on the functioning of the Government. The Government can also debate on the functioning of the past Government, sitting in the Opposition. So, I would say that if the election is not free, there is no democracy.

I plainly say that I have lost faith in this process. In my first election in the year 1977, I spent Rs. 25,000 only. That is all. In my second election I spent Rs. 50,000. I did not spend much. I have seen and virtually in this election I have lost faith...*(Interruptions)* Yes, I succeeded.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We should have District Magistrate from other State because he is always loyal to the Chief Minister. The Returning Officer should also be from another State.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The Presiding Officers should be from other State...*(Interruptions)* I did not exceed my limit. Had I exceeded my limits in 1991 and 1996 ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): he has not exceeded, but even if someone exceeds his limit, he cannot admit the facts here.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I did not exceed my limit of expenses. They must believe me. We lost faith.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in Tamil Nadu, if you take the cutest of every party together, there will be a positive case under Environment Law because one-fourth of the products of the entire forest of India is required for the cutest of the leaders in Tamil Nadu. They may belong to any party. They have huge cut outs there in Tamil Nadu. I think, it is a gross violation of the Environment Law.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, his party also follows the same practice there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I said all the parties...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, the newspapers, magazines, electronic media publish, in advance, the results of the elections through Exit Polls. The matter went up to Supreme Court. Exit Poll has an impact on the poor electorate. If Exit Polls results are published a

day or two days before election, naturally people will be influenced.

My friend has written about the delay in disposal of election petitions. Even in my election case, in 1998 on April 24, the judgement was reserved. It was delivered in the year 1999, on 28th December. It was after one year and nine months. That is the best ground to get an appeal admitted and get it stayed. In the meantime, I have come to this House.

Then, I come to registration of parties. Some parties are registered under the Societies Registration Act. Some parties are registered under the Conduct of Election Rules, 1968. Before getting a Party registered, you must see the views and principles of the Party to which they want to register, conduct of the leader and his antecedents. Now, it is very easy to float a party. You can float a party, put all your black money, and then you can protect yourself. That party may get one or two seats or may not get any seat. In such cases, I would appeal to the Central Government and not to the Election Commission because it is a body politic. We have to believe a Government, we have to believe Parliament, and we have to believe the Supreme Court. These are all constitutional functions, which have emanated from the people.

If I lost faith in Parliament, it is a fate. If I lost faith in the Supreme Court, it is a fate. If I lost faith in an institution, it is a fate. There is no remedy to it. It is up to the individuals who occupy those positions to remedy the situation. It is up to the individuals who occupy those positions to satisfy the people. It is up to the individuals who occupy those positions to serve the people.

Though, the Election Commission claims to be independent, it is not. Mr. Law Minister, you are aware as to how the Election Commission is constituted. Before appointment, they will be different. After appointment, they will be different. Sometimes they toe in line with the ruling party. So many Circulars are issued during elections.

Once the Chief Election Commissioner had said, 'The Election Commission itself is contemplating of reserving 15 per cent seats to women.' Take the case of Mohinder Singh *versus* the Union of India. The Election Commission would not have studied the legal position. Article 324 gives ample powers, plenary powers to the Election Commission. The Election Commission has got ample and plenary powers under article 324. This has been interpreted by the Supreme Court in the case of Mohinder Singh *versus* the Union of India, wherein the Supreme Court had said that they can superintendent and they

can conduct the elections as they like. Under that provision, if the Election Commission today says, 'I am allocating 15 per cent to women', then you cannot challenge that. Without knowing the principle of the Supreme Court's decision, he had announced that. It is the only leading case, where article 324 had been widely interpreted.

Article 324 gives blanket powers to the Election Commission to pass any order they like till the declaration of results. They can command parties and they can order parties. So, I appeal to the Law Minister to apprise the Election Commission, through you, about Mohinder Singh's case and ask them to remedy all the situations. After that, let us have a free, fair, uninfluenced, non-corrupt, and smooth elections at least for another five years.

There are law-breakers. I have seen so many business people who have wine shops and who are contractors. They have come into the fray. A lawyer cannot face a contractor. A doctor cannot face a contractor. A doctor or a lawyer is getting a little money but if a road contractor gets a project of 200 kms contract, he gets more money. So, they must see the antecedents of the individuals even at the time of filing of nominations. Now, they see whether his name is in the electoral list or not. That is all. Their functions ends. They cannot go into it. They cannot conduct a roving inquiry. A roving inquiry is required even at the time of filing of nominations.

Now, for criminalisation, the Election Commission has said that for these types of individuals, a roving inquiry should be done even at the time of filing of nominations.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak on the subject of electoral reforms rules. I have been elected for the first time, hence I would like to throw light on the problems being faced by the workers, public representatives, and poor and backward people of the society.

Sir, 53 years have passed since this country has got independence and it is called the biggest democratic country in the world and it is really so but at present one feels sorry to see that some selected persons, by using the muscle and money power prevent the people of poor, backward and weaker sections of society to cast their vote as per their will and discretion in democratic set up. The initial mistake starts at the level of voter's list. Often it happens that the voter's list is handed over



[Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi]

to the headmaster assistant teachers and the Lekhapal in the villages. They prepare the list using their own imagination and guess while sitting at a public place like Chaupal. After that when the voters' list is sent for display, it takes place only to complete a formality. That is sent to the schools and is kept there and after that it is published. So much so has been observed that upto hundreds of votes of the people belonging to poor and backward section of the society and the people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are not included in the voter's list. Keeping this thing in mind it is essential that a proper attention should be paid for propagating that the voters list has been brought to the village or a particular Mohalla and the villagers should be asked to check out their names in the list. And the one who could not get a chance to get one's name registered may get it included in the list immediately on the spot. Another thing is that some mistakes also take place in the list at the printing level. The copy of the voters' list can be obtained either from the teacher or the Lekhapal. These people keep the copy of the voters list with them and when the voting takes place the villagers are deprived to cast their votes.

Sir, besides all these things, a new and strange phenomenon has developed. The polling parties to the villages comprise teachers, lekhapals and other subordinate staff of the state Government. There are four to five members in a polling party. While forming a polling party, it should be ensured that the people belong to the backward section of society and people of SC and ST category are included in it. If possible, then a separate polling booth should be set up in colony of the people belonging to scheduled caste and backward class. Often it is seen and said that despite all security arrangements only a guard or a constable of homeguard is sighted at the time of crises. Neither the army nor PAC and often police forces can be sighted there. Some people come on vehicles and capture the booths. It only makes mockery of the democracy. In order to strengthen the democracy polling booth should be set up in the areas where the people from poor and backward section of the society reside and the people of scheduled castes and backward classes should be appointed to assist the presiding officers. If there is need to send army to these places where homeguard and policeforce is deployed it should be sent. The election arrangement should be made with the help of CRPF forces. Today, anyone who is wealthy constitute a party after holding a press conference. This has given rise to a number of political parties in the country. At the time of nomination, a wealthy person become a polling agent by getting his name sponsored by 5-6 persons and on virtue of getting the ticket of small or big political parties. This harms the interests of the candidates belonging to the backward

section. They only have one agent during election times. My submission is that there should only be two political parties *i.e.* one ruling party and the other opposition party. Only then new life can be given to the electoral process in the country and democracy will be strengthened.

The district collector is the incharge of entire electoral process and he has many powers. When a polling party visits a village, no security arrangement is made for it. Many instances of snatching of ballot boxes take place. Full security arrangement should be made to check these kind of incidents. It has become a practice that at the time of counting of votes, the district collectors do not allow the agents to come nearby. Hence they keep on counting at their own will. Many instances of false counting have come to the notice. During counting of votes irregularities can be made very easily by putting the ballot stamped for a particular party above and below the pack of 50 ballot papers. There should be a transparency during the counting of votes. This thing should be given a priority to strengthen the democracy. Some electoral reforms should be made in order to significantly affect the electoral process so that elections could be conducted fairly.

It is being observed for the last 20-25 years that once a seat is reserved then it remains reserved for long time take the case of seat reserved for scheduled caste on this seat a member from only one caste can get elected. This trend is depressing for the voters and it also affects the development of the area. You can yourself see the difference by making a comparison between a small and a big leader. The area from which a upper caste candidate is elected, witnesses more development while less development takes place if an M.P. or M.L.A. belonging to scheduled caste is elected is in law. Hence a change should be made in this regard. There should be a change in the status of a constituency after every five years. It would give a new life to the process of electoral reforms.

Lastly, I would only say that there is an urgent need for electoral reforms and it is the elections which act as the watchdog of democracy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am speaking on this Bill for records. Unfortunately, some of the very important issues which are faced by the country are not discussed by us in Parliament. One of the important issues which is not discussed for the last

so many years is the Plan itself. Nothing is more important than the Five Year Plan. It is more important than the Budget presented by the Government for one year, and yet, unfortunately, all of us—I do not want to apportion the blame—have failed to discuss the Five Year Plan on the floor of the House. Unfortunately, we have failed to discuss the Mid-Term Appraisal of the performance under the Five Year Plan also.

One of the most important issues which is being discussed outside the House is the electoral reforms. I do not think that we have paid attention and discussed this issue on the floor of the House in a proper manner.

Sir, you have moved this Bill. You have tried to highlight some difficulties, which are faced by the Election Commission officers, and you want that the law should be passed by this House to help the Election Commission Officers. I will come to this point a little later. But I would like to say that the Private Members' Bills are moved in Parliament not for getting them passed, but they are moved on the floor of the House to highlight the issues.

Sir, by moving this Private Member's Bill, you are also highlighting one aspect of the defects with which our electoral system is facing. The intention is to highlight the defects. If we have to highlight the defect, then, I think, you will allow me to go a little beyond the scope of this Bill so that this important issue, which has come when we are discussing a Private Member's Bill, can be considered at least for the sake of record, if not for anything else.

15.59 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

I remember in the 9th Lok Sabha, the electoral reforms were discussed at very great length and for about ten hours I was sitting in the Chair. The matter was raised over here and for about ten hours, this matter was discussed. As a result of that discussion, Dinesh Goswami Committee was constituted for looking into the electoral defects, and the steps to be taken to see that the electoral defects are removed. The report was given by the Dinesh Goswami Committee. Fortunately, some of the suggestions which were given in the Dinesh Goswami Committee's Report, have been implemented, but many of the suggestions, which were given in the Report, have not yet been implemented. This matter is being considered inside and outside the House on many occasions.

16.00 hrs.

What is it that this Bill is trying to highlight? I think this Bill is trying to highlight the muscle power which is used in the elections. It is said that the voters are intimidated, even the election officers are intimidated and the voters are compelled to vote in a particular manner or they are not allowed to vote at all. Election officers find themselves in a helpless position and that is why it has been said that some assistance should be given to them, some protection should be provided to them. In my opinion, this is an issue which can be considered as the muscle power which is being used in the elections which are being held in our country. When we say this, we are not criticising the entire election system as such, but what we are saying is that the elections have taken place thirteen times for the Parliament and many times for the States, and it has been possible for us to hold the elections on time, before time and hold the elections to generally find out what is the opinion of the electorate, and yet, the election system suffers from some defects and we shall have to underline those defects and we shall have to take some corrective steps.

What are the defects with which the elections suffer today? One of the defects is the money power. A lot of money is required, a lot of money is collected, a lot of money is used in the elections, and because of that, the elections become tainted. The elected Members cannot come to the House in a manner in which they should come because if the elections are tainted, in their heart and heart, they also feel obliged. Now, this is not a right thing to happen to the Members of Parliament who have to decide the policies which can remain in existence for years to come and which become applicable to the entire country as such. What is it that can be done to see that this defect is removed? One of the suggestions which was given by the Goswami Committee was that the elections should be funded by the Government and, fortunately, a part of that suggestion has been accepted by the Government. Today we have a position in which the time on TV and radio is made available to the political parties and to the candidates to highlight their agenda on which they want to act, if they themselves get elected, their manifesto and their policies. Crores of rupees are being spent by the Government to provide time to the political parties and to the candidates to go to the people and explain to them what is going to be their political philosophy and political policies, what are going to be their economic policies, what are going to be their social policies, and so many things. This is a right thing to do. But this itself does not solve the problem because having taken advantage of the time which is given to the political parties, the candidates are spending the money in the elections. The question is, is it possible for the

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

Government to give the money to the candidates? I think it may become possible for the Government to give money to the candidates. But that is not the question. The question is not of the amount of money which is required for the purpose, but the real question is whether the candidates would not spend the money out of their own pocket after they receive the money from the Government. That is the main question. If they take the money from the Government coffers and again spend the money out of their own pocket, then the purpose of providing the funds to them is not served. What is the solution to this problem? It is not enough for us to identify the defects and the problems and the issues, but it would be necessary for us to find out as to what can be done.

Well, this problem is really a very big problem and there is no easy solution to this, but certainly we can find a solution to this problem and that solution is going to be equally difficult. It is going to be difficult to implement as such and one of the thinkers on this had said that if you really want to do away with this defect, then see that the political parties and the candidates canvas for their election together. In a parliamentary constituency, let the Government organise the public meetings at 10 places for the candidates belonging to all the parties and let them come to the platform provided by the Government and let them speak to the people. Apart from that, they should not canvas and if they canvass, they should not be allowed to continue in the election. Now, this solution is a very drastic solution. I do not think that the political parties are going to accept this solution. Even though it is a very difficult solution and yet if we have to see that the money power is not used in the election, something of this nature, if not exactly this thing, has to be done and unless it is done, the problem is not going to be solved. Now, the two issues, muscle power and criminalisation of politics, are being discussed. It is a fact that in many of the constituencies, the muscle power is used and in many places, the poor voters, people belonging to the weaker section generally are not allowed to vote. The people who are strong enough economically do not go to vote and the people who want to vote are not allowed to vote. So, we find ourselves in a situation like this. What has actually to be done? Well, one of the solutions which was suggested by the former Election Commissioner was to give them identity cards and things like that, but it also suffered from some defects and that could not be implemented. But the question of muscle power has really to be tackled. As to how it should be tackled. Sometimes, we find ourselves at the wits' end to suggest the solutions.

As far as criminalisation is concerned, there are suggestions. They say that if a case is filed against a candidate, do not disallow him from contesting, but if the

charge-sheet is filed, that is a different case and if the charge is framed, then also, it is a different case. But some of the lawyers who have been practising in criminal courts know that private criminal cases can be filed and they can collect some evidence against the candidate contesting and they can produce some oral evidence and they can see that the charges are framed by the Magistrate before the case is referred to the District Court if it is a higher offence or it can be tried by them. So, almost all good candidates sitting here may find some time a case filed against them by the unscrupulous elements in the society so that they should not get themselves elected. Now, what is the solution to this problem? This is a question which has to be considered in a very careful manner. There is no easy answer to this question also, but this is a question which has to be considered very carefully.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Patil, please stop for a while. The time allotted for discussion on this Bill was one hour. It is over. With the leave of the House, can I extend it?

SHRI VAIKO: Mr. Chairman Sir, kindly permit me to make a small submission. I am also interested to participate in the debate on this Bill. But Sir, the next Bill I introduced on 13th. The title of that Bill is 'Nationalisation of Inter-State Rivers Bill'. That Bill has come second in the ballot. Throughout the Twelfth Lok Sabha, I did not get that Bill in the ballot. Now, I have got it in the ballot for the first time. For the present Bill, one hour was allotted. You could take even one hour more. Unless I initiate discussion on the Bill moved by me, I will again lose the chance, and I do not know then how many months I would have to wait for.

Fortunately, last Friday, when I asked the Chairman, he was kind enough to tell the House that only one hour was allotted for this Bill.

I clarified it. When I said that I would miss my opportunity on the next Friday, the Chairman said that the time was being extended by only one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are five more Members to speak, and it is up to the House to decide. If the House agrees, we will extend the time, otherwise we will conclude the discussion now.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, you can extend the time up to 5 O'clock because this business is up to 5.30 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we allow the remaining five Members to participate in the discussion?

SHRI VAIKO: If the discussion on the Bill is completed by 5 o'clock, I will get an opportunity to

introduce my Bill, which could then be taken up for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Each Member will get five minutes to speak.

SHRI VAIKO: Through you, Sir, I am appealing to the hon. Members of the House to consider my humble request.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Shri Patil, you may continue.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, if I have to discontinue, I have no objection. I think, Shri Vaiko's suggestion is very valid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He should get a chance.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We can adjust in such a manner that he introduces the Bill and that Bill remains there for us to discuss it afterwards.

Sir, I am very conscious of the fact that I am going outside the ambit of the scope of this Bill and, yet, I am discussing the issue rather than the Bill. So, this problem has also to be tackled. In my opinion, if we have to cope up with some of these difficulties, one of the things which can easily be done is to modernise the recording of the voting. If we reduce the time between the date on which the nomination is filed and the date on which the voting takes place, it will help. If we use the machinery for recording the vote, it can help also in reducing the money power as well as, to some extent, the muscle power. Criminalisation of the politics will not be remedied by modernisation of this thing, but it will reduce the muscle power as such.

One of the most important things which has occurred in our country and to which probably the attention has not been drawn, and even if, sometimes, attention has been drawn, the people have expressed their views without applying their mind to this aspect in very clear terms. What is that aspect? When we became free, we were only 30 crores. Three hundred million people were there in the country; today, we are 1,000 million people, that is, 100 crores and, yet, the number of the Members in the Parliament has not commensurately increased. In U.K., a Member of Parliament represents hardly 60,000 voters. But in India, one Member of the Parliament may be representing one-and-a-half million people in the country. It is very difficult for the Members of the Parliament to be in contact with their voters to find out what is their opinion on different issues. The Members of the Parliament are not in a position to know the opinion of the voters and, in accordance with the opinion of the

voters, articulate the views on different issues on the floor of the House so that the policies are made, laws are framed, Budgets are passed in accordance with the wishes of the people. It is becoming more and more difficult. It is one of the most important elements involved in the democratic system and, yet, because of the increasing population, the Members are not in a position to meet their voters, collect the public opinion and come to the House equipped with that kind of public opinion. This is an issue to which we have not applied our mind. We rightly decided that until 2000 AD there would be no increase in the number of Members of Parliament. If we have to have a system that is really representative of the public opinion, should we not think as to how this problem should be tackled and as to how we should facilitate the Parliament to represent the real public opinion on the floor of the House? This can be done. As to how this can be done should at least be discussed on the floor of the House and a decision should be taken in this regard.

Some people say that if there are more Members in the House we would not be able to manage the proceedings of the House. Certainly, sometimes it becomes very difficult for the Presiding Officers to do it. If they do not know each of the 545 Members in the House individually, they would find it very difficult to conduct the proceedings of the House in a manner that is acceptable to the Members. Some feel that if the number is increased now, the House cannot be managed. I think, if the number increases and if the time is also increased - if the Parliament works throughout the year - it will not be difficult for the Members to express their views. Many times we find the Members raising objections on the floor of the House and that is because they do not get time to speak. They have real issues, which are very important for their constituents, which they want to raise on the floor of the House. They do not get time to raise those issues on the floor of the House and so they feel agitated. That is the reason why they try to compete with others in catching the eye of the Presiding Officer to get an opportunity to speak. If the House meets for a longer period, this problem also can be solved.

Then there is the question of how to manage the Members if their number is increased now. There are Constitutions in the world which have solved this problem. The present system is applicable to small countries where the population is limited and where Members represent limited number of people. This system is, probably, not appropriate to meet the requirements of a country like India. There is a country in the world where you have 3,000 people sitting in the Parliament and deciding on the broad outlines of the policy which would be useful in making laws and policies, framing budget and the policies

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which would be used in holding the Government accountable. The minute details then are left to a body at the second level of the machinery wherein the details of legislation, budget-making and holding the Government accountable, are decided upon. That is the system which is suited to a country with a huge population, where a large number of Members should be there to reflect the real public opinion. I am just leaving this idea for the consideration. If it is possible, it can be considered.

Then, ladies are not represented well in Parliament. We have the Women's Reservation Bill on the agenda but we are not able to pass that Bill. All political parties in their manifestoes have very clearly said that 33 per cent reservation will be given to the ladies and yet, we find that in some way or the other, their own promises are not getting translated into a law that can really help ladies to come here.

Some objections are raised and the objections are such that this Bill would not be easily passed. I think, it should not be beyond the ingenuity of the Members sitting in the House to take care of their objections and also to see that the Bill is passed. There are ways and ways which we can consider to pass this Bill as well as to see that the objections raised by the Members are also dealt with in a proper manner. The only thing is that if we decide to do it and do it sitting together and evolve a consensus, it is possible. What can be done need not be discussed at this point of time on the floor of the House. It can be discussed when the occasion arises as to actually what can be done to satisfy all the interests of the society.

So, Sir, I do think that the electoral system should be very carefully examined. It is at the root of the democracy in our country and if the defects in elections are removed, the defects in democracy will also be reduced.

Now, as far as this Bill is concerned, it makes very salutary suggestions. There should not be any difficulty in accepting these things. But may I humbly suggest that this is a Bill which may or may not be passed. If it is passed, well, it will certainly help but even without passing this Bill, I think, administratively, steps can certainly be taken to provide protection to the election officers so that election officers are not pressurised or intimidated to see that something which should not happen is done by them.

Well, I do not think, it is necessary for me to say anything more than this. Thank you, Sir, for giving me the time to speak. I also thank Shri Vaiko.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, for free and fair voting to take place it is essential that the voters should use their franchise without fear. The more this thing happens. Our democracy will stronger and the faith of the people in the democratic process too will go on increasing. In today's scenario, as has also been mentioned by the Members who have spoken on this subject prior to me, that in present day's politics the role of money power and muscle power has increased and criminalisation of politics has taken place. All this has polluted the process of democratisation and has dealt a blow to the very foundations of democracy. This matter should be taken seriously and all efforts should be made for free and fair voting.

It is a very serious matter. The voting centres should be set up near the residences of voters so that the voters may feel comfortable to cast their vote. It is seen that the polling centres are discriminately set up at far away places due to which the poor people especially the women are unable to reach these centres and some mischievous elements harass them while they are on their way to the polling centres. They capture the booths and indulge in bogus voting. Besides, it has also been observed that even the administrative machinery assist these people in such acts as booth-capturing and hence such persons who are unable to maintain a fair voting, should also be dealt with severely. A sense of insecurity should not be allowed to creep into the minds of voters. It should be ensured that the voting percentage should go up. Alongwith it, the candidates should be provided funds from the Government, as well as the Election Commission. When I was contesting the elections last time. I myself realised, this thing. Our election were postponed for one month owing to the severe flood in our area but after one month, we had to do the same hardwork again and faced the same problems and the compulsion to spend the same amount of money emerged. I am of the of the opinion that under such circumstances it is not possible for a poor political worker who thrives on his relationship with the public, to emerge victorious. Only very wealthy persons can be successful. We can see that due to the kinds of things taking place at the polling stations presently, criminals are winning elections. These people are depriving the poor people backward sections of the society and minorities of their right to vote, using either the money power or muscle power. Hence they become dominant over them. As has been suggested by Raghuvansh Babu that the paramilitary forces should be deployed to improve this situation in villages and women too should be deployed so that women voters do not face any problem in casting their votes.

With these words, I support the proposal brought by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me time to speak. I have had the opportunity to contest the elections approximately nine times. Out of it, I have won seven times and twice I have lost. But on the basis of the experience I have got during this entire period, I would surely like to agree with and thank hon. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji for his very apt proposal of deployment of para military forces to check the growing menace of muscle power in politics. I support his proposal so that the sanctity and impartiality in the elections may remain intact.

Our problem is that the muscle power can be checked somehow but how can be the menace of money power be checked? Due to it many voters are misled. Especially the people belonging to the poor sections of society are misled due to money power. They become deviated from their path. There are many such backward areas where the people are unable to cast their votes. The result that despite their not casting their votes, bogus voting takes place against their names. In recent Lok Sabha elections voting took place while it was raining. People did not cast their votes and still the poll percentage was 80 percent. It is a point to ponder over that how many voters turned up and how they managed to turn for voting in such a large number despite severe rain and overflowing nullahs and rivers. It happened in many places. It is not possible to maintain impartiality in present day's system and the sanctity of the elections also gets lost. We have also to make arrangement for rectifying all these deficiencies.

The Member who was speaking earlier has said very rightly that the polling stations which should be set up at a distance of 2 kilometres, are set up ten kilometres apart. The Advitis, poor and backward people who do not have vehicles, can not go to such far-flung places. When these people do not cast their votes, then its misuse takes place.

Recently, when Shri Seshan was the former Chief Election Commissioner, provision was made for issuing identity cards to the voters. I do not know as to in how many States these cards were made or in how many were not made? But the cards are not being used. The voting is not taking place on the basis of those cards and therefore bogus voting is taking place. A lot of money has been spent over the preparation of these cards. But this money which has been spent, has not been utilised properly. These identity cards have not been prepared at all the places and even today bogus voting takes place

and there is a need to check it. Besides, one more special thing is that we do not have any provision by which we can bar the criminals from contesting elections. When criminals contest the elections, muscle power is indiscriminately used and it becomes really difficult to control them. Hence attention should be paid towards these things and the electoral process should be reformed by keeping all these things in mind. If we are able to include all these things in the proposal forwarded by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji then definitely the dignity of the democracy and the sanctity of the elections will be maintained. Sir, those people who enter Lok Sabha after being elected will be able to fulfil their duty of contributing in the development and welfare of the country. With these words, I conclude. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in regard to electoral reforms, I would like to say that first of all there should be reforms in the setting up of the polling booths. Polling booths are set up at a distance of more than 2 kms thus many people are unable to cast their votes. On polling day, it is being noticed that voters go to polling booths by their own vehicles or otherwise escorted by in their own vehicles. Even then some people are unable to cast their votes. Therefore, Government vehicles should be provided free of cost to facilitate the people at the time of elections so that an impartial atmosphere for the elections could be created and voters could feel free to elect the candidate of their own choice.

Two types of forms are given at the time of elections. Government officials on duty have to fill the form 'B'. Those who do not fill the form 'B' are required to seek the permission to cast their votes. This requirement should be removed. A holiday should be declared for Government servants on the day of elections so that they could also cast their votes.

I would also like to say something about the counting procedure of votes. When counting starts, votes are tied up in the bundles of 50. While counting one vote is found rejected and another is counted as a doubtful one. Ballot boxes should be kept there. These boxes should be counted together. Ballots should also be tied up in the bundles of 100 or 1000 as so many polling booths are set up in one electoral constituency of Lok Sabha. Some candidate could not arrange for counting agents at counting centres. In that situation more officials are required. People keep coming and glancing at the ballot papers and at the same time counting also continues. Several hinderances come in the way during elections. The staff deputed in a counting centre count the votes in favour of the candidate of their liking. 5-10 polling agents

[Shri Ramkrishna Kusmaria]

from all the parties are present in a polling station where 1 lakh votes are cast. Ballots of Government officials are also counted separately which takes quite some time. First of all ballot papers of all the parties should be segregated and then the rejected and doubtful ballot papers should also be separated. Doubtful and rejected votes should be counted first of all before the polling officer and agent. I am saying so because I want to say something in this regard. Doubtful votes remained uncounted during the elections held for Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1996. Upto the 7th round BJP candidate continued to win but lost in the last round by a margin of 90 votes only. I am saying this as per my experience. Till now, I have contested 9 times out of which I had won 8 times and have lost only once. A box is kept safely inside after counting and then another box is brought up for counting. Officials amalgamate the ballot papers of the already counted box into the fresh box in favour of a candidate of their liking. This is how the BJP candidate lost by 90 votes. Counted boxes and uncounted boxes should not kept together. Both type of ballot boxes should be kept separately.

Besides, I would also like to say that financially weak candidate can not contest easily. 8 Legislative Assembly constituencies are there in one Lok Sabha seat. One or two vehicles should be provided in each constituency. Hence a candidate should be provided 8 or 16 vehicles. Sometime vehicles get punctured or get some other fault, therefore, 20 vehicles should be arranged for them. I also want to say that vehicles, petrol and diesel facilities should be provided to the candidates on the basis of party affiliation. He can not fight impartially if he is financially weak. Government should pay attention towards this also. Rich candidate uses his own vehicles for campaigning but financially weak candidate can not do so. Sale of liquor increases at the time of election. If it happens in a village, FCR should be registered immediately and police should catch the person found guilty.

Sir, while concluding, I would like to say that these suggestions can be implemented to reform the electoral process. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to put forth my views regarding the bill presented by hon'ble Member Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

It is a fact that the masses follow the leader. I remember that in 1978 I was campaigning with Morarji Bhai, once he had stated in Kashmir—You can cast your

vote in favour of any candidate but it should be without any fear. It is said that no election has been taken place without any fear in Kashmir till date, but the elections were held fearlessly during Shri Morarji's time.

Sir, many things happen during elections. In my Parliamentary Constituency my election was totally dependent upon Shri Sharad Pawar and some of his supporters were helping me. Hon'ble Prime Minister of our country had visited my constituency also. Only two days were left for the election and my expenditure went upto Rs. 14 lakhs. Though the common man supports but he remains in the background. Sir, it is not easy to contest without funds. I had no money but a person lent me 10 lakh rupees, so it is with his help that I got elected. I mean to say that funds are required to contest an election, therefore, Government should pay special attention towards it and elections should be held in a democratic manner.

Sir, many Members have spoken about muscle power used by the candidates during elections and also about the distance of 10-12 kms. between polling booths, however, it is not correct. Strictness should be ensured in polling. I remember when Shri Morarji bhai was the Prime Minister of our country, the same question arised before him and he had stated that being a Prime Minister of a poor country he can not afford to do so. Thereafter, he resigned. I want that elections should be held and highly placed persons should also participate in the process. Free and fair mandate given by the people will ensure the progress of the country as of the people themselves. I also held people of our country responsible for it. Earlier we were used to say "as the king so are the subjects", but now the situation has been totally reversed. The king is also involved in corruption. Therefore, I am requesting the voters to protect the right to vote granted by Baba Saheb Ambedkar. My suggestion is that Government and the people should work together to save the democracy.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am supporting the Bill. The main aim of this Bill is to give protection to the presiding officer towards the conduct of the election. The main suggestion of the Bill is to provide four para-military personnel and one patrolling party. That is only one aspect of the election process. The most important thing that comes to my mind is the election process itself. The democratic process itself is in peril. How to educate the people about the democratic process? There have been about 13 elections of the Lok Sabha and about 15 or 16 elections to the State Assemblies. People have enough experience in the

process of election. There is a tendency on the part of the electorates to feel disappointed.

On an honest scrutiny of the percentage of voters' participation in the election process, we will see that every year the percentage of people who have participated in the elections is getting reduced. Even in a State like Kerala which has the highest percentage of voters' participation — in one of the elections it was more than 85 per cent — we find there is a gradual decrease in the participation of voters in the elections. We will have to think over the matter as to how to redeem the situation. How can we educate the electorate? This is the most important aspect as far as I am concerned. People are more or less disappointed and disgusted with the entire process. They are under a firm belief that nothing will happen and no progress will be made even after taking part in elections with all seriousness. The net result is the elections do not fulfil their expectations.

Various political parties fail them. The political parties, even after promising certain things in their election manifestoes, do not take interest in fulfilling those promises. So, people have taken this process of election as farce and not as a serious exercise. Previously they had high expectations but after every election, their hopes have been belied. They are getting disappointed. How to redeem this factor is the most important thing.

In certain other democratic countries, there is a provision to recall the elected representative. In Swiss Parliament an MLA, who fails to fulfil the expectations of the electorate, can be recalled. We will have to think over that. An opportunity must be given to recall a people's representative or a Member of Parliament who has not come up to the expectations of the electorate. We will have to think over whether it is possible in India to recall an MP as and when he is found unfit. After elections, an MLA or an MP goes in his own way. They do not care about the electorate. There is no coordination between the electorate and the representatives. There is much dissatisfaction among the electorate. The people's representative is not at all controlled by the electorate. A representative meets people once in three or four years. That is the present situation. So, I would suggest that we will have to think about making a provision, to recall a Member of Parliament who fails to fulfil the expectations of the people, in the Constitution or in the Representation of People's Act. This is one aspect.

We will then have to educate the people because there is an inherent weakness in our democracy. The Congress Party has ruled the country for over 45 years. But what representation was given to the majority parties? They represented only 25 to 30 per cent. So, the majority

of the electorate was not represented by the Indian National Congress even if they had a majority in the House. They had absolute majority in the House. But outside the House, they were a minority. That is the inherent weakness of our electoral system. Even today some bigger States like Uttar Pradesh have 85 MPs in this House. We are helpless as the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have a few number of seats in the House. So, the question is this. How could we make the process more effective? Even in a numerical sense, they may be a minority but the minority could govern the country with a majority inside the House. We will have to think over how to change the present system.

Then about the stability of the Government, I do not want to go into the details because we have a Constitutional Review Committee. They are also looking into that...(*Interruptions*) I am sorry to say that I cannot help you because I have started only just now.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, I am making a request to the Chairman. One hour was allotted for this. Again the *sense* of the House was taken and another one hour was given. So, I will lose my opportunity. That is why, I am pleading the Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now. You are the last speaker.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I will be brief honouring my friend, Shri Vailko and the Chair.

Then, electoral process is now facing two dangers, namely, muscle power and the money power. With regard to money power, the election funding by the State can do a lot. We will have to seriously think over the election funding by the State. That is one aspect.

As regards muscle power, that can be prevented only by political consciousness and by the organised will of the people. Now I come to criminalisation which is a recent development in Indian politics. The politics, if I may put it, has become self-seeking profession. We have misused it. Politics is after all a service to the people. But we have misused it and the people at large think that it is just like any other trade or profession.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You do not say: "We have misused it". You say that some have misused it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir. I would suggest that process of criminalisation should be prevented. In that case, there are two aspects that will have to be looked into. Firstly, whether mere filing of charge or framing of charge would be a sufficient ground



[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

for denial of seat in the elections. Secondly, some hold the opinion that the convicted person should never be allowed to participate in the election process. These are the two aspects. We will have to have a detailed discussion for this so that we can take a decision in this matter immediately. These are some of the facts which I would like to place before the House to improve the electoral process.

With these words, I conclude and I support the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Private Members' Bill has helped this House to look into the various aspects of electoral reform. I am happy to note that there is widespread appreciation of the need for electoral reforms. The ambit of discussion on this Bill is very limited to providing security for the polling officers and other personnel for peaceful elections. Various other aspects concerning elections have also been raised by hon. Members. The Government shares the concern of Members for peaceful conduct of elections by which free and fair elections can be ensured.

Various suggestions have been made. We appreciate the concern of the Members. I would like to assure the Members that as far as this Government is concerned, it is committed to bring about electoral reforms. In fact, certain steps have already been taken in this direction. The process is on. I would like to inform the House that on the question of delimitation of constituencies, Government has decided to hold a meeting of leaders of various political parties in the coming two weeks. On the 13th of May, we have convened a meeting of various political leaders to consider the question of delimitation of constituencies.

There are, of course, other aspects of electoral reforms also. They are pending with the Government. We are seriously concerned with bringing about electoral reforms in a comprehensive manner and the various valuable suggestions made by hon. Members in the course of the discussion will naturally be reflected and will be taken care of when the Government brings a comprehensive legislation.

The concern for ensuring security for the polling personnel is a genuine concern. But, I would like to point out that this is a matter which is strictly within the purview of the State Government. As everyone knows, maintenance of law and order is a matter which falls under the purview of the State Government. As has been pointed out by some Members, article 324 really

empowers the Election Commission to seek necessary support from the State Government and the State Government is duty bound to provide it. We are in a situation where most of the political parties are in power in one State or the other. In such a situation, if the Central Government is to interfere in order to see that law and order is maintained during election time, I think it will not be appreciated by various State Governments. Since article 324 already empowers the Election Commission to seek whatever assistance required from the State Government, there is no need for further provision as is contemplated in the proposed Bill. However, the Central Government would like to assure hon. Members that it is concerned about the conduct of peaceful polls which will enable every member of the public to cast his or her vote without fear or favour.

In this situation, while appreciating the concern expressed by the hon. Member who had moved the Bill, I would request him to withdraw the Bill. I would assure him that the concerns expressed by him and by other hon. members will be given due weightage when the Government comes forward, as quickly as possible, with a comprehensive Bill on electoral reforms. I would again request him to withdraw the Bill.

17.00 hrs.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has realised that it is appropriate and in 1995, when T.N. Seshan was Election Commissioner, my suggestion was accepted but it took much time to arrange for paramilitary forces. I had asked for two types of protection. The first is that voters belonging to the weaker sections are not allowed to go to the booth and hooligans stop them in the way itself and the second thing is that no proper security arrangements are made for polling officials. Whether it is Goswami committee or Indrajeet Committee or any other committee for the electoral reforms, unless security is provided to the law enforcing authority, they cannot implement laws. Hooligans approach them and compel them to sign all ballot papers and after stamping them they drop them in ballot box. They complete 100% voting within an hour. Whereas at other polling booths only 50% voting is computed till the evening. When any polling officer resists he is beaten up by them and sometimes even killed. Abusing is a common phenomenon. He is compelled to obey by beating or by threatening. That is why no body wants to be a presiding officer. Unless he provided with security, entire laws are only ostentation and nothing else. In election, returning officers ask for lists from subordinates. Presiding officers ask for the list

of most sensitive areas from BDOs or police officers, where there is strong possibility of disturbances, then the list of sensitive area and normal lists are demanded. As per that list, some of the booths are left out where, only a chowkidar is deputed. Thereafter, ruling and opposition parties allege that so and so booth was left unattended. My partymen demand for the deployment of forces on those booths which are in support of the opposition while opposition demand for the force deployment on those booths which are in our support. In that case, there is possibility of discrimination on the part of returning officer. Therefore, provision should be made in the law that in election paramilitary forces should be deployed on each and every booth. Arrangement should be made for the security of booths, polling officers and the representatives of political parties. Security forces should patrol that area so that no hooligan may anywhere stop voters from casting their votes. For that I have told that there should be two section of forces. The problem is that from where will we arrange for that much of forces, otherwise there is no legal, moral or practical problems. Hon'ble Minister should enact a law in this regard because it is essential for fair, peaceful and neutral election. This has already happened in Bihar. There, elections were held in three phases. In 1995, para military forces were deployed on each booth. There were irregularities in 1996 and also in 1998-99. Again, in Assembly election, there were irregularities. So if fair elections take time, it is acceptable. It is acceptable if the election is completed in five phases instead of three and it takes one month for the completion of election in the country, but I desire that paramilitary forces should be deployed on each booth and protection should be given to those poor people against those criminals who prevent them from casting their votes. In spite of that I am always ready to contest election and I will defeat them anywhere. But I have to help Vaiko Saheb also, he has to bring bill, so there should be categorical reforms in election.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit that there should not be any problem in accepting my proposal. You say that it is commission of the State Government but I say that the State Government has no value before central Government. You will have to take care of them. You should arrange for the paramilitary forces for all booths. You may conduct election in more than two or three phases, but you should essentially arrange for paramilitary forces for all booths.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, by the way, there are not many such States where it is essential. There are only few States where it is essential. You know that in present election, proclaimed offenders have got elected by capturing the booths and ballot rigging. We are apprehensive that our supporters who vote us and who

belong to weaker section, will not be allowed to vote for us and those who are involved in ballot rigging shall win the election by capturing booths...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): You are validating the proverb 'a thief threatening the policeman.'

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What is problem in deploying paramilitary forces? Your Advaniji has agreed to deploy paramilitary forces in elections. We want that paramilitary forces should be deployed at each booth in the entire constituency, so that truth may come before the nation.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contal): If the paramilitary forces are under the command of the State Governments, nothing will happens because the State Governments will be very partisan. So, the paramilitary forces must be under the command of the Central Government and not under the command of the State Governments ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Senguptaji you are an intelligent man. I want to say that force should be deployed at all the booths without any discrimination. If force is arranged, then there will be fair and impartial election. State government cannot do anything in it. One officer, a clerk and a constable altogether, present at the booth, cannot do much. No returning officer shall be able to do much. As far pick and choose, discrimination or partiality in sensitive and more sensitive area is concerned, the only remedy of it is deployment of forces on all booths. There is also a saying that "take care of one thing and rest will be ok." But what is going to happen here is known to you. Will those who win election by ballot rigging accept this proposal? As long as muscle power dominates in politics, oppressed, exploited, defamed and neglected sections of society are not allowed to cast their votes by threatening and booth capturers themselves cast votes in their favour and result will come before hand, that who has captured booth will win.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I, therefore, would like to tell that proper force arrangement should be made at the booths and there should be two sections of force; one section should protect the booth and other section should patrol villages to ensure that nobody is stopping and threatening the voters who want to cast their votes. Though there is such arrangement, but it is at a few booths only and not at all booths. My proposal is that this arrangement should be made at all booths. In election expenditure, expenditure on vehicles, petrol and paper are included but alongwith

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

these things, arrangement for bomb, ammunitions and guns is becoming essential. If there is mandatory arrangement of forces at every booth then at least expenditure on bomb, ammunitions and gun can be avoided.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, electoral reform is a comprehensive subject. There is tremendous possibility of improvements. I am telling one saying that is "What you are telling is written on the paper, what I am telling you is what I have seen." What I am telling you is a truth...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: You are telling the truth. What do you do so do you tell. From you speech it is appearing that you have been doing the same and what you do you are telling here. For this I will have to appreciate you...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Do not say like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him reply to that.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have told you what I have seen. I hope that one day my point will be taken care of. One day democracy will strengthen in India. I submit that poor man will rise. Whether there is force or no force, but he will compete. He will cast his vote and defeat you. Our rule will be established.

With this I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, are you withdrawing the Bill?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I withdraw my bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when will you take up item No. 20 and 22...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We take items in the order of precedence. Shri Vaiko has been waiting for 13 months. It has now seen the light of the day. His Item No. is 18.

...(Interruptions)

17.11 hrs.

## NATIONALISATION OF INTER-STATE RIVERS BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up the Nationalisation of Inter-State Rivers Bill, 1999. Shri Vaiko.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for nationalisation of inter-State rivers for the purpose of equitable distribution of river waters among the States and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am so grateful to you for giving me this opportunity for which I have been longing for months. In the Twelfth Lok Sabha, the same Bill was introduced but I did not get the opportunity because the Bill was not taken for consideration.

The hon. Member, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has introduced a Bill on Electoral Reforms. It is a very significant and interesting Bill. I am also thankful to him for cutting short his speech so that I could see that my Bill is taken for consideration.

Sir, our country is a beautiful country having abundant resources, incomparable in the globe. the snow-covered peaks, beautiful perennial rivers, the peninsula surrounded by three seas, particularly in the Southern tip, a vast landscape and a large population. According to the recent statistics, within a span of five years, we would be marching ahead of China in the strength of population. But Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I narrated the beautiful landscape with snow-covered peaks and perennial rivers and the abundant wealth of sea, at the same time, lakhs

of people are subjected to drought, unbearable drought. Particularly, in the recent days, we have been shocked to see in Doordarshan and other Television Channels as to what is happening in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and some parts of Karnataka. The cattle are dying before the eyes of the farmers. I could understand as to how the household farmers nurture these cattle as the members of their family.

But we see a number of carcasses of cattle lying at many places in these drought-affected States. They have died for want of water and people also suffer very much particularly due to shortage of drinking water.

Long years back, we were expecting the arrival of big ships from abroad with foodgrains under PL-480. Today, we have become not only self-sufficient, but we are also able to export foodgrains sometimes. The credit for this should go to the farmers of our country. Now, in this new millennium, we are competing with other countries so that we can become a super economic power in the world. We have enormous potential in our country. There are lakhs and lakhs of barren lands, but we need water for irrigation.

Sir, in our country, a lot of rivers run through many States and then submerge into the seas. Most of the abundant water goes, unutilised, into the seas. If we make a perspective plan to harness this wealth of our rivers, then we could become the number one economic power in the world, particularly due to the rich agricultural wealth of our country.

Sir, we respect the rivers with great religious attachment and the rivers are called in the name of women in our country. They are described as Goddesses. Even in the epic *Ramayana*, it is described that Rama had passed through the Gangetic plains, passed through the river Godavari etc. But, enormous amount of water is going to waste. We also have some river water disputes arising out of some inter-State rivers.

Sir, there are rivers running through countries also. We have some rivers running through countries like Mexico and United States of America, France and Germany, Sudan and Egypt, Pakistan and India etc. There was a river water pact for sharing the waters of Ravi and Beas, which was signed by late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and General Ayub Khan. Due to inter-State river water disputes, in our Election Manifesto, we have mentioned that all the inter-State rivers in our country should be nationalised.

Sir, India is a federal country; it should be a federal country and I would be delighted if this country is called

the United States of India, instead of India, a Union of States. I wish that that day came soon. Therefore, I propose that only the Central Government should have exclusive right and control over all inter-State rivers and should distribute river waters according to a pre-determined formula for allocation of waters. This will not only enable distribution of river water among the different States without affecting the interests of the concerned States but will also enable proper utilisation of available resources.

Our economy is subjected to financial loss of the order of Rs. 12,000 crore to Rs. 14,000 crore every year on account of loss of generation of 8,000 MW hydel power and creation of very large irrigation potential due to non-settlement of inter-State river water-sharing among the basin States. There are disputes in this country over and above the prominent disputes like the Cauvery River Water dispute, the Krishna River Water dispute and the Sardar Sarovar Dam dispute. There are six more inter-State River water disputes involving the States like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar which are currently at various stages of the settlement process. Each of them possesses the potential of turning into a hyper-sensitive issue if they are not properly and timely responded to.

During the last 18 years, the inter-State river water disputes have been on the increase both numerically and sensitivity-wise. By the year 2025, the *per capita* water availability in our country according to the assessment of experts would be as low as 1,500 cubic metres per year. As such, there is a high probability that we may have to confront a large number of inter-State river disputes in the coming years.

I am speaking about this subject above partisan considerations and above political party considerations. I do not want to avail of this opportunity to criticise any Government or any political party or any State because I am also an aggrieved party in the Godavari River water dispute. My State is also involved in it but I will not utilise this opportunity to criticise any other State.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Sichar): Your mind is in Sri Lanka.

SHRI VAIKO: All right. Let us discuss it as a separate issue.

From the current inter-State river disputes, it is now evident that the existing water dispute settlement, mechanism and the Inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956 are not at all adequate, are not at all effective and are not at all efficient. So is the case of the National

[Shri Vaiko]

Water Policy of 1987. Therefore, it is imperative that the Inter-State Water Disputes Act is urgently amended so that it is truly an effective legal instrument for timely settlement of the inter-State river disputes. Similarly, the National Water Policy should also be improved upon for inclusion of criteria for sharing of inter-State river water among the basin States and there should be a policy framework achieving optimum utilisation of the scarce water resources of the country.

Our hon. Members, particularly senior Members like Shri Shivraj V. Patil, in this House might remember that the Ganga-Cauvery Link was very much in the Press. There were deliberations in the Parliament and speeches were made by the political leaders. I do remember that the Ganga-Cauvery Link would bring emotional integration. Dr. K.L. Rao, an eminent engineer, was a Minister of the Union Government for nearly a decade in 1960s. He was the author of this Ganga-Cauvery Canal Integration. He made a thorough study. He submitted his proposal and in that proposal he said that Ganga water could be taken up to the tip of this Peninsula and all the rivers could be linked. But what happened? That proposal was taken into consideration by experts and they came to a conclusion that it was not practically possible. Enormous amount of money would have to be spent because the water has to be taken beyond Vindhyas and electricity would be needed. Crores and crores of rupees were unbearable. That was the final conclusion of the Government. So, that idea was dropped.

But however, the Ministry of Irrigation, now the Ministry of Water Resources, and Central Water Commission, on the basis of the report which was formulated by Dr. K.L. Rao, have formulated a national perspective plan for water resources development which envisages inter-linkages between the various Peninsular and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficient basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency as an autonomous society in July 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of national perspective plan.

Sir, when the erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation, now the Ministry of Water Resources, and the Central Water Commission formulated the national perspective plan for water resources development, that plan comprised two main components. That has already been stated that the first was the Himalayan rivers development and the second was Peninsular rivers development. That was divided into two. For framing up the proposal of inter-linking, Peninsular as well as the Himalayan rivers, the Government of India set up a National Water Development Agency and Peninsular Development Agency.

It is very important. First of all, there will be Himalayan rivers development and secondly, there will be Peninsular rivers development and inter-linking these Himalayan as well as Peninsular rivers, the Government of India set up a National Water Development Agency in 1982.

Sir, the present mandate is to prepare feasibility report of the links. Suitable provision for this purpose has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan. I will come to both the plans that is, the Peninsular Rivers Plan and the Himalayan Rivers Plan and I am very much interested in this Peninsular Rivers because that is the linking of Mahanadi, Godavari and all the rivers up to Cauvery.

The inter-State Water Disputes, namely, Ravi-Beas Water Dispute between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and the Cauvery Water Dispute between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry, was referred to the Tribunal under the provisions of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956 for adjudication.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we have to take up Half-an-hour Discussion. Shri Vaiko, you can continue your speech next time.

SHRI VAIKO: Okay, Sir.

17.30 hrs.

## HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION RE: MODERNISATION OF POLICE FORCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Half-an-hour discussion. Shrimati Shyama Singh.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very important subject which we are going to talk about today. We have talked about this subject even before. We had a Starred Question, Unstarred Question, and various other Questions for the last several months.

Coming straight to the point, Sir, the replies that I have got from the hon. Home Minister are with me. Most of the time, when we talked about the modernisation of the police forces in our country, he dwelt on matters pertaining to the allocation of various pre-requisites that he gave to various States in the country, how much he gave to the North East, what he gave to the naxalite areas in Andhra Pradesh, modernisation that he tried to bring about in Maharashtra and Orissa, and such other details.

However, Sir, what I want to tell you is the most important thing. When we talk of modernisation of the para-military forces in our country, we have to take the whole modernisation process in totality. When we start talking about what modernisation means to us in these five States or across the country, we have to take various factors into consideration. I have been repeatedly writing to the Home Minister. I have been getting part of the replies but I have not yet received some of the most operative and important part of the replies from the Ministry.

No doubt, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Bihar have been in the grip of naxalite movements. Since I belong to the State of Bihar representing the Parliamentary Constituency of Aurangabad, which is a highly infested naxalite belt, I had requested the Minister through my letter and also gave my suggestions point-wise as to what exactly will be the cure for the minimisation of the naxalite activities in Bihar pertaining to the Central Bihar Zone-Aurangabad, Jehanabad, Rohtas, Gaya and such other seven Parliamentary districts in Bihar.

Well, I am very sad to say that though there has been a lot of enthusiasm on the part of the hon. Minister and also the Minister of State to take care of the situation in Bihar, the picture that is before you is very dismal.

When I had visited my constituency in the last eight months, I found that there had not been an inch of progress in any form. I had requested the hon. Home Minister to impress upon the Government, both at the Centre and in the State, that communication is the main and the first step to modernisation. If we do not have a proper communication system, the whole question and talk about modernisation is irrelevant. As I told you, Aurangabad is in the grip of the naxalites, of the People War Group, and all kinds of other anti-social elements because of a large-scale unemployment, and also because of bad road condition.

One of the major obstacles to any implementation of your modernisation scheme would be communication. I know that it is not your subject but the Home Ministry has to take modernisation schemes of the Police in co-relation with communication system that exists in the Central Bihar. In the Central Bihar, the National Highway II, which runs for almost 45 to 50 kilometres, is something which deserves a crash kind of application, a very urgent kind of communication and that road has to be made before you will take up the task of modernising the Police.

However, having failed on these fronts, I would request the hon. Minister to even now take stock of the

situation and see to it that the Government of India takes up the National Highway No. II as a major issue before they start improving the Police and para military forces in that area.

Sir, most of the questions are in lots in number. We have time constraint because we have also to hear your part of the story.

But my part of the story will be pertaining to three very major points which I would like this august House to take note of, specially, by the Minister. The subject of police modernisation has been raised in this august House before, for as long as I can recall. Suggestions have been made to improve police working and living conditions, provide family housing, buildings for the police stations, improve police mobility, communication and so on. We are informed of various schemes under both Plan and Non-Plan and thousands of crores of rupees are being released for modernising the police. Despite all this, there has been no improvement. I mark the word 'no'. This is my experience in the last eight months. I am not going to take into account what happened before this Government came to power. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in these last eight months, what have you been able to do for the State. The popular perception of the police remains unchanged. It is still a colonial instrument of suppression. That is all that the people in Central Bihar know.

Therefore, Sir, a National Police Commission, as I said, was appointed in 1977 which submitted its recommendations in 1980. By all accounts, that Commission did splendid work. We are told that these recommendations were sent to the State Government for implementation. How many of them have been implemented? Would you be kind enough to give me a figure? How many of these programmes have been implemented? Even if we accept that a majority of those have been acted upon, why has the police image still not improved in our State? The police are still, despite the efforts to modernise it, a feudal set up. It is because the more meaningful recommendations have remained unimplemented and which if implemented would have brought about, at least, a small improvement in the functioning of its image. Why, then have they not been acted upon? For instance, it is often said that the police can change the psychology if the statute which gives its authority is revised. Therefore, the police needs a new statute. I would like this august House to make note of this because it will be applicable to all the States. The police needs a new Statute. The 1861 Act ought to go. Why does it not go? I call for a new Police Act which reflects the culture and the social environment of free and modern India. It is said that the people get the

[Shrimati Syama Singh]

police they deserve. Do we not deserve a better police? If we can get it with the new Police Act, let us have it. May I very respectfully request the hon. Minister to fix the time frame for the new Police Act to come into force?

The second point is about the State and the Centre. Whenever we talk of the Paramilitary Forces, whenever we talk of modernisation of the Paramilitary Forces or the Police Forces, at once the answer given to this august House is that it is a State subject. Now, between the State and the Centre, who is going to be the beneficiary, and who are going to be the sufferers? A large scale of money is diverted to the State of Bihar. So, it is up to the Government of India, it is the Government of the day, that has to impress upon the Government of Bihar that this is a time-bound programme; these schemes have to be implemented; otherwise, you will come heavily on them. Why is this not done? In India, as I have noticed, in the last six months or eight months of our forum, in this august House, most of the answers given are in the negative. They are saying that they are looking into the matter, we are taking a very serious view of the matter. But, Sir, the public is deprived of all the benefits of the schemes, plans, programmes, modernisation, whatever you may have here. But the public is not getting anything at the ground level. This is the crux of the problem, that is ailing our country. The police is the most important segment of our society. It takes care of the poor and the rich but over the years, I have found that the police have not got that level of commitment. You have to ensure, as a Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, that people who are in high places must have a sense of commitment, must have also a minimum degree of integrity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: I am sorry I will take a minute. They must have a degree of integrity. If you want to modernise the police, then, who are the people who will help you in modernising the police? The instruments are not going to help you to modernise the police. You will send them the instruments but who are the people who are going to use the instrument? The users of these instruments must be those people who are sufficiently motivated to help the entire police force, to get together and see that the programmes, the modernisation equipment which you send them are properly implemented or used, and the common man gets its rewards, gets its due, gets what he wants.

In the Naxalite belt in Aurangabad, I can just tell you that it is a pathetic story. It is as even bad in Andhra Pradesh. There the situation is very bad. But in Bihar, as you know, we have the largest unemployed people in

the country and my constituency in particular does not even have a small scale industry. In the absence of all these factors, at least what we require is a good Police Force.

The most important other element of this discussion today is to highlight the fact that none of the erring Police officers has been penalised for a single lapse they have committed on their part the people lost faith in all of them. We have investigations, we have seven para military forces in this country and the people in India have lost faith in all of them. One by one they have lost faith. If any one person comes on the way to do good, the people single them out and they will be penalised. In India who is motivated now and who comes to help us in any manner?

The second part of it is unless you have motivation in anything you do, you will not be able to achieve the target. In Central Bihar you have to ensure that the roads and communications system are better. But, what you are going to do, it is for you as a Government, to do. You have to ensure that the Aurangabad Parliamentary constituency is liveable and we people are not living in mortal fear. That is my submission to you. And with the modernisation, whatever answer you have given me, or for what the hon. Home Minister had given me, I am grateful. As a Minister, I would like the hon. Minister to give the answers to the specific questions posed today about the Police Force and the changes needed.

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan): Sir, though Police is a State subject as per the Constitution, the Centre cannot shy away from the fundamental responsibility of providing help to the States in the matter of modernisation of Police Forces in the country. Today, our Police Forces are ill-equipped, ill-trained whereas they have to combat the well-equipped anti-social terrorist groups.

If we go through the Budget proposals for the Financial year 2000-2001, we will see that the Government has provided an amount of only Rs. 200 crore for the modernisation of the Police Force. The same amount the Government is going to allocate among all the States. How the Government is going to modernise the Police Force with a such a meagre allocation, it is not known. If you see, today, our country is facing the threats of terrorism, Naxalite movements, as also the ISI of Pakistan. I, therefore, request the Government to increase this allocation to Rs. 700 crore.

Our Police draw their powers from the Indian Penal Code of 1860 and the Indian Police Act, 1861 were enacted by the British Government keeping in mind their

colonial interests. The Police Forces were then used to suppress the Indian people from making any effort to freeing themselves from the British Empire.

Our Police is also known for its brutality. They use their lathi power on peaceful citizens. Daily we hear the police brutalities on innocent people. A Home Ministry report tabled in Parliament in 1991 stated that crime syndicates had corrupted the State Machinery at all levels and are running a parallel Government. There is an urgent need to start some courses on human behaviour. As per an estimate, about 10 million criminal cases are pending in various courts in the country. Cases drag on for decades. Prisons are over-crowded. Some undertrials are languishing in jails for decades for petty crimes. The Police do not have the time to investigate the cases. A speedy completion of cases is a must. Otherwise people who have some faith in the judicial process will lose faith in justice.

My State, Kamataka has demanded Rs. 400 crore for the modernisation of the Police Force. While some States are getting financial assistance from the Centre for this purpose, Kamataka is not getting this help on the ground that it is a revenue surplus State. This is not so. The State's resources are so scarce that it cannot modernise its police force to meet the growing challenge from naxalite groups which are making an inroads into the State. I, therefore, request you to kindly allocate Rs. 400 crore to my State for the modernisation of police force.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to you. According to list II of Seventh schedule of the constitution of India, police force is a subject under the state. I am thankful to the Home Ministry. Keeping in view, the internal security of the entire country, the ministry had released matching grants to the states. From 1969 to 1980, i.e. during ten years, the amount was Rs. 52 crores, from 1980 to 1990, it was Rs. 100 crores, from 1991 to 1999, it was Rs. 110 crores, from 1991 to 1999, it was Rs. 320 crores and in 1999, for the next ten years, this grant has been fixed at Rs. 464 crores. Keeping in view the danger to internal security and the activities of organised criminal gangs as also Mafia, I would submit to the Home Minister that these funds would be too meagre. The report of Home Ministry mentions about the meeting of Chief Secretaries in which it was said that:

*[English]*

"The Union Home Secretary addressed a letter to the Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments

and Union Territories on 16.7.1999 pointing out that the threat to our national security had increased manifold and asking for closer Centre-State/Union Territory and State-State cooperation in the maintenance of internal security."

*[Translation]*

In such a situation I feel that these funds are totally inadequate. Hence more funds should be provided. Each police force, whether it is BSF, or CRPF or ITBP, or Delhi police, has its own different problems. Delhi police comes under the central government, but its infrastructure is not sound. For example, the crime Inspector of the Crime Branch of Delhi police, a branch that detects the International crime and the national organised crime, does not have even a single vehicle. You provide car to SHO, you also provide vehicle to the Traffic Inspector, but the Inspector of crime branch does not have any vehicle, to enable him to perform his duty. He has no staff working under him, whereas the Crime Branch is a very important branch. If such a situation exists, I do not think that any person would like to work in the crime branch. I do not understand that when we have graduates and that too in large number then why do we consider eighth or tenth class passed persons for recruitment to the post of constable in the Delhi police? This practice was in existence when not many people were educated, but today, when people are educated, then why eighth tenth class passed persons are recruited? In cases where a constable is required to do the work of reading and writing, graduate constables should be recruited. After having been on the post of constable, these persons become Head constables and then sub-Inspectors, you must have noticed that in a majority of court cases, the criminal go scot free only because of the fact that the constables are less qualified. Perhaps they are not able to prepare the case properly or are unable to complete the documentation. I, therefore, request that this aspect may also be considered while doing modernization. You must have seen that the police constable do not know driving. A few months back I had submitted a suggestion to the Home Minister that whenever the recruitment is made, the persons concerned should be asked to bring among their documents, the driving licence. In such a situation they shall come only after learning driving. The Home Ministry should look into all such things.

The second thing is increasing corruption in the police. When you will make a constable, an Inspector or an SHO work for 24 hours, then what do you expect. In the present times, government employees are working for only eight hours. As a result there is corruption in the police department. Presently, there is no modernization in Delhi police. It should be modernised, 17 new Police Stations have been opened but their condition is not good.



[Shri Vijay Goel]

We do not have modern equipments, whereas the criminals have all kinds of latest weapons. It will be good, if Delhi police is equipped with sophisticated weapons. Every police station is disturbed for providing police constables for VIP security. If a separate cadre is created for the VIP Security, then the police stations would not get disturbed. Crime has become very scientific in the present times. We should, therefore, create a separate cadre for scientific Research. There are laboratories also. It is only in Hyderabad.

I feel that keeping in view the internal security of the country, the police is required to be modernized.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the duty of the police is to abide by the law and protect the people. Ideally, there should be a mutual trust between the public and the police, but the situation is becoming just the reverse now-a-days. Today under such adverse conditions, how can the police system be realigned so as to make it more compatible. Modernization is therefore necessary. Before I ask my question, I only want to say that presently an amount of Rs. 6 thousand crores is spent on 18 lakh police personnel but even then anarchiac situation exists in the country and the situation is deteriorating due to the lack of internal security. Just now, Shrimati Shyama Singh made a mention of Aurangabad area of Bihar. It makes things worse in that area. Apart from the states which are affected by Naxalities even in other states of the country protectors have become the predators. There is no credibility and transparency worth the name. In such a situation, a police commission was constituted in 1971-72 under the Chairmanship of Shri Dharamvir, which had given good suggestions regarding re-organisation and reforms in the police force. I am reminded of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru's words who said that the most important role of the police was to guide the common people and to protect them. For this, the police should win the confidence of the people and maintain its credibility, this is very important. So, I would like to know from the Government of India through you as to whether any high-level committee has been constituted under the leadership of former Home Secretary Shri Padmanabhaiyya in order to make the police modern, responsive to the society and more capable? If so, whether only retired and serving officers of the police are its members? Why was any sociologist or any specialist not included in such a committee, who could give suggestions according to the modern time?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the aforesaid committee has been entrusted with 12 matters of which 6 are related to the modernization of police. Will the hon'ble Minister clarify and whether the central Government has sent any prospective plan to the state governments with regard to

the modernization of police, if so, what steps are going to be initiated by the central government?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, there are only two or three Members left. Kindly allow them also to speak for one minute each.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, only one minute each as a special case.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, police force can be modernised in two ways. One is giving them all the modern facilities, including computer facilities and all that, and the other is providing them the latest and modern weapons also. But the most important thing is that there must be interaction between the public and the police. That is the most important thing which I would like to stress on. The police force was organised by the British rulers as a means of cruel oppression and suppression of the people's movement, and it was used for that purpose. The police force will have to be modernised. They must have liaison with the public. The Human Rights Commission also is appointed to look into custodial deaths. Custodial deaths have become a common thing. These must be prevented and there must be a healthy co-ordination between the public and the police. That is the way the police force will have to be modernised. The Government will have to issue directions to the State Governments to modernise the police, in the sense that there must be constant touch between the people and the police, and the police should serve as - people's representative and people's friend.

That feeling must be created in the minds of people, especially those residing in the villages. So, there must be that constant touch between the people and the police.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Now, the Government is inviting the police from the Scotland Yard to enquire into match-fixing episode. This itself is an example of the need for modernising police force in our country. Earlier, this police force was an instrument for the suppression during the colonial rule. Now, according to the changing situation, the police force should be given a new face.

Sir, there are three points which I want to raise. The first point is of the low conviction rate. The second one is the work pressure of the police. The third thing is the quality of the police officers. Sir, recent studies reveal that the quality of the IPS officers is coming down and it is because of the lack of proper training. Since we want a modern police, proper training is the most

important aspect in the process of modernisation of police. The modern facilities are definitely an integral part of this process. At the same time, proper training should be given to the IPS officers and police personnel so that we can make the police more effective to serve the common man.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Chairman Sir, we come from an area, the North-East, where terrorist activities have been growing day by day and therefore, that area needs to be upgraded in terms of modernisation of the facilities provided to the local police. AK-47 rifle is used merrily by the terrorists and 303 rifle is not an answer to that. As a result of this, we have seen that when the terrorists come to an area in the remote villages, the police go away from that area to some other area. Money is being given by the Government - it is not that they are starving of money — but it is not properly utilised. This money is mostly used by high officials for their comfort. One police officer with a new vehicle, three escorts and 30 constables is not necessary. What is necessary is to protect people. The Government is giving money for protecting the people who are affected in the areas, but this money is being used for the comfort of the high officials for their security and not for the security of the people. That is why, I say that the money which is given should be monitored properly by the Central Government through its agencies. It should not be given where there is misuse of it and it should be deployed where it is necessary. This is my humble submission.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. I am an elected Member from Bodoland. A discussion is going on—on the modernization of police force. I wish to speak something on this issue. I want to give three suggestions. My first suggestion is that, in order to modernize the police and to strengthen it, sophisticated arms and ammunition are required. I feel that it is essential. But, alongwith this, the police personnel are required to be trained in human rights and humanity, so that an understanding of human rights could be increased in them. This has not been done as yet. It is therefore, my suggestion that the police personnel must be imparted training with regard to Human rights besides equipping them with modern arms and ammunition as many innocent people have been attacked by the police in North Eastern region, especially in Bodoland in the name of nabbing the terrorists.

[*English*]

A lot of innocent people have already been killed and brutally tortured by police in the name of taming the militants, whereas the real culprits, the militants are going scot-free.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my third suggestion is that if solution to the problems can be found through dialogue, i.e. if we could solve the problems peacefully, then there is no need to spend so much of money only on the police or to strengthen it. But in the present situation, the problem are not being solved. I, therefore, urge that the demand of Bodoland should be conceded by the government. Apart from this all other problems of country should be solved peacefully through dialogue.

18.00 hrs.

[*English*]

Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to concede our long awaited and genuine demand, is for creation of a separate State of Bodoland at the earliest. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, though everybody has gone, we have been sitting. Therefore, we must be given a chance to speak. When everybody has gone away, we would have also gone. Please give us just two minutes at least so that we are able to give one suggestion each and not more than that.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not there in the rule.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: It is you who make the rule.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not provided in the rules, but if all agree then each member can be given one minute time. Now it is 6 'O clock. If the House agrees then we can extend the time of the House, till the hon'ble Minister gives reply.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time of the House is extended till the hon. Minister completes his reply.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion emanates from a Starred Question No. 262. My senior colleague, Shri Lal Krishna Advani, was kind enough to clarify most of the points raised by the hon. Members. However, since they wanted some more discussion, the hon. Speaker was pleased to admit this Half-an-Hour discussion.

At the outset, I would like to submit one thing. The hon. Member has stated that the people of this country are losing confidence in the paramilitary forces day by day. There is no iota of truth in that allegation. Under the leadership of Shri Lal Krishna Advani, all the paramilitary forces, which are under his command, are effectively discharging their official duties. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: No Member of Parliament has lost his faith in the paramilitary forces. Please do not allow this to go on record. We have appreciated the paramilitary forces all the time. Please do not say that the Members have said like this. One or two Members might have said like that. We know as to how the paramilitary forces are discharging their duties for us. They are doing a good work.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: Sir, I am confining myself to the subject. Since she mentioned about the paramilitary forces, it is our bounden duty to defend the forces. They are fighting insurgency and naxalism and are engaged in other activities. Therefore, I have to submit that the people have not lost confidence in them. Of course, there may be some differences.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the command of Shri Lal Krishna Advani, all the paramilitary forces, by putting their lives at stake, are effectively discharging their duties in this country. Therefore, I think, it may not be proper to attribute anything to the paramilitary forces.

To combat naxalism, ISI activities, insurgency and all other disturbances from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, for the first time, under the leadership of Shri Lal Krishna Advani, particularly to contain the menace of naxalism, a number of meetings were conducted. A Coordination Centre has been created with the Home Secretary as the Chairman, and all the Director Generals of Police of the respective States have been included as members. They are regularly taking suggestions from various State Governments, and they are also sharing the inputs given by the Intelligence agencies. Not only that, for the first time, under the Chairmanship of Shri Advani, two meetings with the Chief Ministers concerned were held. One meeting was held at Hyderabad, the second meeting was held at Delhi, and suggestions were taken on that day. These are the good signs.

However, admittedly, we cannot avoid this subject. As per entry 2 in List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, 'Police' is a State subject. As such, it is the primary responsibility of the State Government to train, equip and modernise their Police forces to keep them abreast of the changing security and law and order scenario in this country.

However, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government continues to help various State Governments in many sectors. One is modernisation of police forces. Modernisation, of course, includes training the police and equipping them with sophisticated weapons, but to inculcate ethical values is a different subject. Madam has suggested that we should have a new enactment for the Police, but that is a different subject. As far as law and order and modernisation of police forces are concerned, the Central Government started a Scheme in the year 1969-70, which is still continuing. The total amount of assistance given to States for modernisation of police forces up to 1980 was 52.24 crore. Assistance given in the second phase, from 1980-89 to 1990-91, was Rs. 110 crore. Assistance given was Rs. 20 crore for 1991-92. For 1992-93 to 1995-96, it was Rs. 120 crore, that is Rs. 30 crore each year.

Security-related expenditure is given to the naxalite-infested States, i.e., Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. The hon. Member was concerned about Bihar. As far as Bihar is concerned, it is not that the amounts, whether for security-related expenditure or for modernisation of police stations, have not been spent. Money has been spent in Bihar. There are police stations, there is police, and there are weapons in Bihar. Yet the situation there is very bad. That has to be tackled. Besides this, the total allocation as per the Tenth Finance Commission's approval was Rs. 483.39 crore for police housing, training, telecommunications and police stations. Out of this amount, the total release made up to 31st March, 2000 was Rs. 300.71 crore.

As far as North-East is concerned, a new scheme has been formulated with effect from the financial year 1997-98 for modernisation of the police forces in the North-Eastern States under which arms and ammunition, vehicles and communication and other equipment is being provided in kind. This scheme is 100 per cent funded by the Central Government. As far as security related expenditure is concerned...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: May I know one thing from you? What amount of money has been given to the Government of Assam for spending on police modernisation and what sort of modernisation has been done so far by the Assam Government?

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: What about Bihar?

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: An amount of Rs. 9 crore has already been given to Bihar; Rs. 4.5 crore have been adjusted; and Rs. 4.5 crore are yet to be cleared as far as Bihar is concerned.

Tenth Finance Commission has not made any allocation for the revenue-surplus States like Karnataka. So, it is not possible to give funds to Karnataka and three other States. The Eleventh Finance Commission is also doing some exercise. We have given a projection.

An hon. Member has mentioned about the perspective plan for modernisation. The Union Home Secretary has written a letter in this regard to all the States on 16th July, 1999. About 22 States and three Union Territories have submitted their perspective plans so far, in which they have indicated their estimated expenditure for purchase of vehicles, equipment, arms and ammunition, and for construction of buildings, training, forensic science laboratories communication etc. Exorbitantly high estimates have been submitted by some States in their perspective plans. There is a wide variation in the

perspective plans submitted by different States ranging from Rs. 55 lakh to Rs. 4241 crore. While one State proposed only Rs. 55 lakh, another State, i.e., Rajasthan, has proposed a perspective plan of Rs. 4241 crore. These plans are under close examination.

Though this is a subject pertaining to State Governments, the Central Government is extending its full help under various counts.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow me one minute.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned till eleven of the clock on Monday, May 8, 2000.

18.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 8, 2000/Vaisakha 18, 1922 (Saka)*

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**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates  
(English Version)**

**Friday, May 5, 2000/Vaisakha 15, 1922 (Saka)**

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<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
37/1 (from below)	3870	38.70
89/13 265/14	SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA	SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA
110/6	DR. C. SREENIVASAN	SHRI C. SREENIVASAN
123/4	110	1110
140/18	DR.(COL. RETD.)DHANI RAM SHANDIL	COL.(RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL
188/9 (from below)	SHRI C. SPEENIVASAN	SHRI C. SREENIVASAN
298/7	10.00	11.00

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