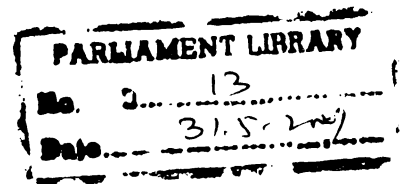


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 28, 2000/Sravana 6, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, yesterday, we raised a very serious matter. We had said that the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are accountable to the Lok Sabha and the Prime Minister must come and make a statement on the floor of the House to clear the air. We had insisted upon this yesterday. There is absolutely no response. Today, the newspapers are again full of Senior Law Officers, former Law Minister and Judiciary all clashing amongst themselves. There is a confrontation growing between the judiciary and the Executive. This is a very serious matter. It erodes the very basic system. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, the issue is very serious. Yesterday and even today, the Opposition has asked for the Prime Minister to come to the House and make a statement. I have talked with the Prime Minister. After the Question Hour, he will come to the House and make a statement on the subject, as desired by the Opposition. I would request that the Question Hour should continue as it is, because the demand of the Opposition has been acceded to. The Prime Minister himself will come and make a statement. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please tell the Prime Minister to make a statement. . . .(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Financial Assistance to States

+

*81. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some States are facing crisis in respect of financial resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the Chief Ministers of various State Governments for financial assistance to resolve their financial crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise ?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) Owing to the impact of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations, Ways and Means problems of the States got accentuated in 1999-2000. The Chief Ministers of some States had written to the Government of India asking for general and specific relief. In order to alleviate the mismatch in the States' cash flows, the Government of India took the following steps from time to time :

- (1) Advanced the releases of plan assistance; Small Savings Loans and Share in Central Taxes;
- (2) Deferred repayment dues by few months;
- (3) Provided Ways and Means Advance during the year;
- (4) Extended Ways and Means Advance and additional Open Market Borrowings were given to thirteen States, linked to fiscal reform programme that these States had undertaken in consultation with Government of India. Other States who had approached the Centre for Ways and Means assistance were provided within the year need based support.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, in our quasi-federal polity, our economy is over-Centralised and the State economy is always starved of funds because of the clamour of the States for the last 50 years that more financial powers should be given to the States. In that context, I wanted to have the State-wise information, but the statement is very brief and avoided all these details. Now, I want some detailed statement.

As we all know, the Plan fund is one of the methods for devolution of funds for development. The Central Plan assistance to States is always inadequate and it is not objective. Normally, the State Governments prepare their Plans and schemes with intensive discussion on the ground reality. They come out with a full-fledged Plan and Budget.

But the Planning Commission, which is not a statutory Constitutional body, arbitrarily reduces the fund. There is no criterion because they are not making the Plan. The State Governments are making the realistic Plan on the ground reality, but the Planning Commission arbitrarily reduces the Plan size, and because of that whatever money they demand, only a portion of that is sanctioned to the States. So, this creates problem in implementation of Plan projects which the State Governments prepare after detailed discussion.

There is no transparency and there is no discussion. Only the Planning Commission decides that arbitrarily. In that situation, I want to know what are the criteria, why the plans prepared by the States are not accepted hundred per cent by the Government and the Planning Commission, and whether the Government will consider it for better devolution of power in the context of more financial power, autonomy and all these slogans coming up all over the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hannan Mollah, this is an important Question and many other Members also would like to ask their Supplementaries.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : I want to have a clarification from the Minister on these points.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, planning is an issue which is not directly within the Finance Ministry; we have a separate Ministry for Planning. But from what I know of the planning process in this country, I would say that the charge that it is non-transparent and the allocations of Plan are done without discussion, is not correct because every year, as we are aware, the Annual Plan, within the overall ceiling of the Five-Year Plan of the State, which is also fixed in consultation with the Planning Commission, is fixed after detailed discussion between the Planning Commission and the State Chief Minister, and the allocations of Plan funds are made accordingly. We have a system under which we allocate every year to the Planning Commission, what is called, the Gross Budgetary Support for the Plan, out of which the Planning Commission then distributes the money between the States and the Central Ministries, and within the overall ceiling for the States, the Plans of the State Governments are fixed. Additionally, we also allocate through the Central Ministries, funds to the State Governments for Central and Centrally-sponsored schemes and there are very transparent, well laid out criteria, known as the Gadgil-Mukerjee Formula which has been in existence for many years, and the whole thing is distributed according to this transparent criteria. The Planning Commission, the Member is right, is a non-Constitutional body, but it is a body which has been created to help the

State Governments to get more money for Plan purposes from the Government of India.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, as the hon. Minister has said, the devolution of funds from the Centre is done through Centrally-sponsored schemes. I would like to know whether the Government will consider that the entire Centrally-sponsored Plan fund should be handed over to the State Governments in the beginning itself because we know that because of the financial problems of almost all the States – 13 States, as you know, have come to the Central Government for recovery from their financial crisis – they cannot bring the matching grant, and because of this matching grant condition, the States cannot utilise a large amount, which is genuinely due to them. So, in that context, it will be proper to hand over the entire fund to the States without this conditionally.

Secondly, the Eleventh Finance Commission's recommendations have come now and according to their recommendations, 29 per cent of the Central revenue is supposed to be handed over to the States. But the Government has given only 28 per cent and one per cent has been given with condition. Why should this condition be there? We demanded that at least 33 per cent of the Central revenue should go to the States and finally, for this year, 29 per cent has been recommended. But even out of that, only 28 per cent is being given and one per cent has been given with condition. That is not just and proper. So, I would like to know whether the Government will consider giving the entire 29 per cent without any conditionality, and will also increase it to 33 per cent in the coming years.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, as far as the Central and Centrally-sponsored schemes are concerned, this is a matter in which we are having a continuous dialogue with the State Governments through the National Development Council and over a period of time, many of the Central and Centrally-sponsored schemes have indeed been transferred to the State Governments along with the resources. But, the Government of India also has a responsibility and that is why the Government of India comes out with Central and Centrally-sponsored schemes and once these schemes are established, their contours are clearly defined and they are implemented properly that is a stage at which many of these schemes are transferred to the State Governments. This is a continuous process. But I cannot, I must admit frankly, envisage a situation where there will be no Central and Centrally-sponsored schemes in terms of the responsibility which the Government of India has.

As far as the devolution formula recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission is concerned, the hon.

House is aware that we had come only in the last Session where we passed the Constitution Amendment Bill devolving 29 per cent of the net proceeds of the Central taxes to the States. There was a discussion in regard to Gross and Net and we said that we will not let the States suffer and, therefore, the Gross was made over and above 29 per cent. The actual percentage came to 29.35. What the Eleventh Finance Commission has done is that they have rounded it off at 29.50.

As far as the conditionality is concerned, it has said that there are three items of consumption where the Central Government levies additional excise duty and the State Governments do not. This 1.5 per cent is supposed to be transferred to the State Governments which do not levy Sales Tax on three items like sugar etc.

Therefore, this has an universal application. It is only a safeguard that the States will not enter into this area which is covered by the additional excise duty of the Central Government which is transferred. So, there is no discrimination. All the States will get 29.5 per cent of the Central taxes.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister as he has made it clear in his statement that after implementation of Fifth Pay Commission, the economic condition of several states had worsened and among them there were 13 such states which had taken concrete measures to improve their economic condition. Were Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh among them, if so, what were the measures taken to improve the economy?

In part (b) of my question, I would like to know, as the Minister told that the State Governments have requested regarding the 29 percent increase of the amount, as to what is the final decision in this regard. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to look into the centrally sponsored scheme fund but at many places the State Governments are not able to do their duties. Does the Central Government intend to take some special measures to ensure that the work is done properly, centrally sponsored schemes function properly and the central assistance utilised properly.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : As far as the extended ways and means facility was concerned, which we had made available to the State Government last year, in the year 1999-2000 it was – I would like to emphasise – the centre's spontaneous support to the State Governments to tackle a problem which had arisen. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, in it . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : When the original question is asked in Hindi and you and I belong to Hindi speaking States then at least answer the Hindi question in Hindi language. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I have started speaking in Hindi. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : The Minister has got the discretion to reply in English or Hindi. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : What is wrong if he speaks in English? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? There is an interpretation facility available.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : What right he has got to say like that? We will also ask our questions in Tamil . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, the main question is in English. I want to know from them as to why they are objecting. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. What is this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we people question in English, then the Minister should reply only in English. . . .(Interruptions)

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

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Hindi is the official language of this country, hence the reply of the Hindi question should be given in Hindi.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : If the Minister speaks in Hindi, you should have no objection.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not waste time. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Are we Hindi or India ?
... *(Interruptions)*

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

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaturvedi, please understand. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : If he insists on Hindi, we may also ask our questions in Tamil. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, we will ask question only in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. ... *(Interruptions)*

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

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is a very good interpretation system in the House. Why are you unnecessarily raising this ? What is this ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not want to create any language controversy I can present my views in both the languages. As I realised that hon. Member had asked the question in Hindi, I started speaking in Hindi from English but meanwhile hon. Chaturvedi ji raised this question.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : He should speak in English.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Please do not insist.
... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is interpretation system in the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question that has been asked by the hon. Member.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : When I ask a question in Malayalam, he must reply in Malayalam.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take it seriously. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : When he was answering in English, why has he switched over to Hindi now ? ... *(Interruptions)* We are on the question of finance and not language. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : He was answering in English, why has he switched over to Hindi now ? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Sir, he should answer in English. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not called you. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked his question in two-three parts. The first part is whether we will increase the 29.5 percent share of the Central taxes that is given to the States by the Centre ?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday only I submitted the recommendations of 11th Finance Commission to the House in which it has been clearly stated that 29.5 percent share of the Central taxes should be given to the States. The financial relation that exists between Centre and States is also determined by the Commission for every five year. That is why, as we have just now accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission, then presently there is no such proposal to increase it.

Secondly, he has asked whether Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are included in it ? Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh both States are included in Extended Wage and Means Facility or Fiscal Reforms Facility Plan that had been started last year by us. As far the monitoring of centrally sponsored schemes are concerned, the Planning Commission has the facility to study the projects

and along with this the Central Government makes effort to control and keep watch over these projects through the Accountant General. But I will certainly say that as per the Indian Constitution, the States are autonomous. They have their legislative Assemblies and the Central Government cannot take over the democratic responsibilities of the States. This responsibility should rest with the State Governments, the vigilant public opinion and the vigilant Legislative Assemblies should take care of it.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the financial resources of States which have had to face long spells of terrorism, they have really faced the onslaught of terrorism for years together, have been very seriously affected in doing something which was a national responsibility, that is, of maintaining the unity and integrity of the country.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken to compensate those States, particularly in view of the statement which he has also made here that certain assistance from the Centre is linked to fiscal reforms in those States. Is it that the Government of India is now pressurising the States to toe its line in working out its financial policies there ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I hasten to clarify that there is no question of any pressure from the Government of India on the States. The entire country, the Government of India, the State Governments, the public sector, and everyone, is facing a severe financial crunch.

In the meeting of the National Development Council which was held last year, in February, the State represented this point of view. I have shared this information with the House on earlier occasions also, and the Prime Minister asked me to call a meeting of the State Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers and evolve a plan of action. It was after that, that I called a meeting of some representative State Governments, Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers; we sat down together, and together we worked out this facility. I must also repeat once again that this is neither covered by the Tenth Finance Commission which was valid until last year nor by any other arrangement, but it was only because we wanted to help the State Governments that we evolved a plan of action. But apart from the Fifth Pay Commission, we noticed that certain States had a long-term structural problem and, therefore, they, in consultation with us, decided that they would have a medium term plan for fiscal correction and fiscal discipline. This is being done entirely in consultation with the State Governments, with their fullest concurrence. I am very happy to be reporting to this hon. House the

fact that the fiscal situation of the country as a whole has to improve is something which is realised both by the State Governments and the Government of India and, in this, we are all together.

As far as terrorism-affected States are concerned, the Tenth and the Eleventh Finance Commissions have taken note of this problem, and they have made the suggestion in regard to the allocation accordingly, which has been fully kept note of by the Government of India.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, daily ten thousand persons come to Mumbai from other States. It is due to this that it causes burden on electricity, drinking water, health and roads. The number of slums has substantially increased. The Minister of Industry hon. Manohar Joshi who was also Chief Minister of Maharashtra is sitting at the back of the Minister. Our Chief Minister Shri Narayan Rane had also demanded that more and more funds should be given to Mumbai city. You have written in your reply that :

[English]

"Whether some States are facing crisis in respect of financial resources."

[Translation]

You did not reply to this whether you will give financial assistance to them. I had asked a question to the former Finance Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh. In his reply he had said that the Mumbai city gets Rs. 17944 crore in the form of cash from the Central Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary ? Please understand that the time is very short.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The former Chief Minister had demanded Rs. 1800 crore from the Centre. He is sitting here. Is the Government ready to meet that demand ?

Has the Minister of Finance prepared a separate plans for Metro cities like Mumbai, Calcutta, Delhi and Chennai.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, please take your seat. Mr. Finance Minister, I think, he is asking about Mumbai.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report of the 11th Finance Commission that I had submitted yesterday in the House also recommends as to what should be given to the local bodies in the form of grants. I had also submitted the action taken report of it before the House. As far Mumbai and other big cities or other local bodies are concerned, we will provide them grants as per the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister of Finance whether is it correct that the administrative expenditure of the State Governments has increased so much that they have not sufficient funds for spending on the development and whether the State Governments received such plans from the Central Government in which States have to give their share but it is due to paucity of funds with the State Governments that these Central funds lapse?

Whether the proposal of doing away with the conditional clause from the plan-assistance to the States by the Centre is under consideration of the Government. For instance a plan assistance from the Centre to States is only provided when the State Government is also willing to share the financial burden i.e. of 1 crore rupees are provided by the Central Government then 50 lakhs rupees are expected from the State Government as its contribution and only then the development work can commence or can be completed. Is it not a fact that many joint projects of the centre and the States have been lying pending due to such kinds of condition imposed by the Centre? I would like to know from the Minister of finance as to whether any law will be framed to remove such a stalemate?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as for the question of deteriorating financial condition is concerned, I have myself said in the House that the financial condition of the Centre as well as of States has deteriorated during the last few years. It is revealed through the figures that the net fiscal deficit of the States before the Fifth Pay Commission was 33460 crore rupee in 1996-97 which has increased to Rs. 65993 crore in 1998-99. This way it has increased by 33 thousand crore rupees in these two years. Under these circumstances, the economy of all these States is in shambles and all the States are facing financial crisis.

Mr. Speaker,*Sir, in reply to the second part of the question of Hon. Member I would like to say that there are some schemes for which the States are provided 100 percent financial support from the Centre. For example the Pradhanmantre Gramodya Yojana (Prime Minister's rural

upliftment scheme). Under this scheme the States are not asked to contribute 25 or 50 percent of the funds but there are many such schemes where some contribution is required to be made by the State. This is based on the principle of joint responsibility of the Centre and the States in setting out the pace of development in the country. The Centre and the States are expected to jointly contribute to this process of development. It is not a condition but a joint enterprise.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to whether the Government of India intend to compensate the losses occurring in Bihar due to the overflooded rivers keeping in view the fact that a large part of agricultural land is inundated every year in Bihar by the rivers originating from Nepal and Bangladesh apart from causing a great loss to the infrastructure of the State which the Bihar Government can not compensate on its own?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the question of sharing of river water between India and Nepal is concerned, it is dealt by the Ministry of Water Resources. But on the basis of the available information. I can say that the talks between both the countries are going on in this regard and I would also like to inform that many a times the Government of India alone shares the burden of projects of National importance.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not talking about the project. I am trying to know as to whether or not the Government of India intends to compensate the Bihar Government for the losses it suffers annually due to the floods caused by international rivers passing from Bihar. It is a national calamity. I am talking about national calamity and not about any plan or project?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jha, firstly you listen the whole reply, only after that you must speak.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : There are two things-firstly, such steps will have to be taken to control the floods where in the Nepal Government also cooperate.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : But what role the Government of Bihar will have to play in that?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Second thing is that the Finance Commission has evolved a formula for the devolution of financial grants to the States wherein the problems i.e. natural calamities etc. being faced by the a particular State and its per capita income is taken into consideration as criteria for the financial assistance extended to them by the Centre. I have the figures with me. Unfortunately, Bihar is in the last place i.e. it comes out to be the most backward State, hence it will get the

maximum financial aid from the Centre as a result of the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission. . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from the State of Assam located in the North-East. The position there is that a Government servant does not get his salary for eight to ten months and pension is not paid to a retired employee. No development work is undertaken there. The Central Government does not give money for Employment Assurance Scheme. Assam and the rest of the North-East is blacklisted as far as rural electrification is concerned. The reason given, as stated by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, is that most of the money is spent for countering terrorist activities. The Prime Minister and the Finance Minister go there and pay lip service out nothing is done on the ground. The situation there is that each and every community is taking guns into their hands. The Home Minister can confirm this fact. Considering this, I would request the Government to kindly send a team from the Ministry of Finance to see how best the situation can be rectified. The situation in the area in the State of a volcano ready to erupt. One cannot expect the people there to watch the Government without money. This is the real situation. May I know as to what steps the Government is taking to correct the situation? I raised this issue in the Consultative Committee meeting also.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, it is true that the financial situation of Assam is none too happy. But we have always gone out of our way to help Assam.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member asked about the rest of the North-East also.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Yes, Sir. Assam is a Special Category State. In spite of the fact that there are certain things which are available to the Special Category States over and above what is available to the normal States, we have gone even beyond that and helped Assam, as indeed the whole of North-East and other Special Category States. I was there myself in the month of June and I had discussions with the Chief Minister and some of his Cabinet colleagues. I had discussions with the Governor too. Whenever the Chief Minister comes here, we have discussions. Whenever Assam got into a ways and means problem we helped Assam.

While it is true that there are problems, let us also recall the successes. As a result of the help that we have given through NABARD in digging tubewells in Assam, for the first time in fifty years, Assam has become surplus in rice production. This is a success story of Assam, and I would like the whole House and the whole country to applaud this achievement of Assam as a State.

So, things are happening. Things are improving. We will continue to help these States as and when it becomes necessary.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the States are facing financial crises. In the Inter-State Council Meeting, the then hon. Finance Minister promised to the Chief Ministers that as per the recommendation of Tenth Finance Commission regarding financial devolution, they would get 29 per cent of the gross tax revenue. But then, we had amended the Constitution for net tax revenue.

My point is that the difference of the amount should reach the States as early as possible, as per the promise made by the then Finance Minister to all the Chief Ministers.

Secondly, the then Finance Minister also promised that whatever money was collected under the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, its share had to be disbursed to the States. But the Finance Ministry of the Government of India has also calculated that amount to count 29 per cent net tax devolution. But as per the promise given by the then Finance Minister to this august House, it is a separate scheme. So, out of that, what accrues should go to the States also. It should not be linked with any other Central schemes.

Sir, may I know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he would implemented these two things?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, as far as first part of his question is concerned, I have already explained to the House that when the House was passing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, I had made it very clear that the difference between the Gross and Net will be made good to the State Governments, and the Government of India, Sir, has abided by that promise.

I have just mentioned to the House that we have devolved to the State Governments. Therefore, during the Tenth Finance Commission period, of 29.35 per cent, 0.35 per cent was the difference between the Gross and Net which has been given to the States.

Now, we have covered it by a new Finance Commission's recommendation which is 29.50 per cent.

As far as the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme receipts are concerned, you will recall that in March, 1998 when I had come with the Vote on Account proposal, I had transferred in that year itself, the entire amount on the basis of 77.5 per cent which is the formula which determines income tax, direct taxes devolution. The entire amount has been devolved to the State Governments.

Now, the State Governments are stating that it should not be counted towards 29.5 per cent. Now, there is a

Constitutional arrangement between the Centre and the States. VDIS was a direct tax receipt. There is no way I can violate the Constitution and not include this amount in the total devolution of the States. A money which has already been devolved to the States cannot be taken out of the calculation that is done.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : It is promised by the then Finance Minister.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I am not aware of that promise either in the Inter-State Council or in this hon. House. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please. We have already exhausted 40 minutes on this Question.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, generally the Gadgil formula forms the basis for the financial assistance provided to the States by the Centre. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government intend to contemplate over evolving a special formula for providing financial grant to those States on priority basis which are more prone to natural calamities, have larger population and poverty and less per capita income and whose capacity for internal resources mobilisation is less as compared to other States ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have told in the House earlier that both the Finance Commission and the Planning Commission, while recommending the financial grants for various States take into consideration the total population and economic status wherein all the aspects from per capita income to the internal resource mobilisation capacity of a States are given due weightage. But I would like to emphasise it once again with great accountability and caution that the States should never try to misinterpret this formula in that they start considering their backwardness as an asset rather than a curse for the formula ensures maximum aid to the most backward State and it may push the States to nurture their backwardness in the hope of getting more and more financial assistance from the Centre. There are several States in the country which have successfully overcome their problems of poverty and unemployment and have marched forward on the path of progress. I don't see any logic in punishing these States which are doing excellently on economic front by providing them lesser grants while pushing the more backward and poor States into vicious circle of poverty by granting them more and more financial assistance. It is a very important issue and I leave this very serious issue to the House to ponder over it. I feel that this issue needs to be considered seriously and discussion should be held on it in the House.

Insurance Scheme for People living below Poverty Line

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*82. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced a new Insurance Scheme for the people living below poverty line.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the definitions of the people living below poverty line alongwith the number of such people in the country, State-wise;

(d) the total amount likely to be paid by the Union Government and the State Governments as premium annually;

(e) whether the age group suggested earlier by his Ministry has been changed now; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons likely to be benefited by this policy ?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, following the announcement made in the Budget Speech of this year the Government has decided to introduce a new Scheme of Group Insurance, namely, 'Janashree Bima Yojana' to be implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India. The new scheme will be launched soon. The basic details of the Scheme are given in the enclosed *Annexure-I*. The Scheme would cover poorer sections of the society including people marginally above the poverty line if they belong to an identified vocational group. Presently 24 such vocational groups have been identified details of which are given in enclosed *Annexure-II*.

(c) According to Planning Commission, the persons with per capita consumption expenditure less than an exogenously defined poverty cut-off point, known as poverty line, are defined to be living below the poverty line. The Task Force constituted by the Planning Commission in 1977 defined the poverty line as per capita consumption expenditure level, which meets the average per capita daily

calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas along with a minimum of non-food expenditure. The latest estimates of number of persons living below the poverty line available upto the year 1993-94 are given in the enclosed *Annexure-III*.

(d) Total premium per member would be Rs. 200/-. 50% of the premium would be met from the Social Security Fund operated by the Life Insurance Corporation of India and 50% would be met by the beneficiary or the Nodal Agency. The State Governments have the option to pay the amount on behalf of the beneficiary or the Nodal Agency. The total amount to be paid under the Scheme would depend on the number of persons joining the scheme.

(e) No specific age group was earlier proposed. Persons between 18-60 years of age would be covered by the Scheme.

(f) Does not arise in view of answer to (e) above.

Annexure-I

Basic Details of Janashree Bima Yojana

(i) Coverage :-

The Janashree Bima Yojana would cover all persons below the poverty line in the rural and urban areas between the age of 18 to 60 years. However, in urban areas/rural areas the poor would also include marginally above the poverty line persons if they belong to an identified occupational group. The scheme would be operated through LIC and additional occupational groups would be identified and notified by LIC in consultation with the State Governments/ nodal agencies. The groups should have a minimum of 25 beneficiaries, whether found under aegis of Panchayats, NGOs, Self-help groups, Nodal Agencies or any other institutionalised arrangements.

(ii) Benefits :-

The benefits would be Rs. 20,000 on natural death and Rs. 50,000/- on death/total permanent disability due to accident and Rs. 25,000/- in case of partial permanent disability due to accident. In addition, for groups who are enrolled as members of the Janashree Bima Yojana for three years, LIC would allow Experience Rating Adjustment of premium on the basis of claim experience.

(iii) Premium :-

The premium would be Rs. 200/- per year. 50% of the premium i.e. Rs. 100/- would be met from the Social Security Fund for both urban and rural poor. The balance 50% of the premium i.e. Rs. 100/- is to be paid by the individual beneficiary/ nodal agency. The State Government has the liberty to further subsidise the amount payable by the individual beneficiary.

Annexure-II

Details of Vocational Groups Presently Covered

S.No.	Vocations
1.	Beedi Workers
2.	Brick-Kiln Workers
3.	Carpenters
4.	Cobblers
5.	Fishermen
6.	Hammals
7.	Handicraft Artisans
8.	Handloom Weavers
9.	Handloom and Khadi Weavers
10.	Lady Tailors
11.	Leather and Tannery Workers
12.	Papad Workers Attached to Sewa
13.	Physically Handicapped Self-Employed Persons
14.	Primary Milk Producers (*)
15.	Rickshaw Pullers/Auto Drivers
16.	Safai Karamcharis
17.	Salt Growers
18.	Tendu Leaf Collectors (*)
19.	Scheme for the Urban Poor
20.	Forest Workers (*)
21.	Sericulture Workers (*)
22.	Toddy Tappers (*)
23.	Powerloom Workers
24.	Bread-Earning Women in Remote Rural Hilly Areas (**)

Note : 1. The groups indicated by * are predominantly rural in nature

2. The group indicated by ** was approved in 1997-98.

Annexure-III

State-wise Estimates of No. of persons living below the poverty line for the year 1993-94

(in lakhs)

S.No.	State	Rural	Urban	Combined
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79.49	74.47	153.97
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.62	0.11	3.73
3.	Assam	94.33	2.03	96.36
4.	Bihar	450.86	42.49	493.35
5.	Goa	0.38	1.53	1.91
6.	Gujarat	62.16	43.02	105.19
7.	Haryana	36.56	7.31	43.88
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.40	0.46	15.86
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	19.05	1.86	20.92
10.	Karnataka	95.99	60.46	156.46
11.	Kerala	55.95	20.46	76.41
12.	Madhya Pradesh	216.19	82.33	298.52
13.	Maharashtra	193.33	111.90	305.22
14.	Manipur	6.33	0.47	6.80
15.	Meghalaya	7.09	0.29	7.38
16.	Mizoram	1.64	0.30	1.94
17.	Nagaland	4.85	0.20	5.05
18.	Orissa	140.90	19.70	160.60
19.	Punjab	17.76	7.35	25.11
20.	Rajasthan	94.68	33.82	128.50
21.	Sikkim	1.81	0.03	1.84
22.	Tamil Nadu	121.70	80.40	202.10
23.	Tripura	11.41	0.38	11.79
24.	Uttar Pradesh	496.17	108.28	604.46
25.	West Bengal	209.90	44.66	254.56
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.73	0.33	1.06
27.	Chandigarh	0.07	0.73	0.80
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.72	0.06	0.77
29.	Daman and Diu	0.03	0.15	0.18
30.	Delhi	0.19	15.32	15.51

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Lakshadweep	0.06	0.08	0.14
32.	Pondicherry	0.93	2.38	3.31
All India		2440.31	763.37	3203.68

Source : Planning Commission with their assumptions.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to thank Government of India for the reason that for the first time efforts have been made to raise the standard of people living below the poverty line. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Bhuria, you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the first time, Government of India through the Life Insurance Corporation of India, has. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Athawale, you please sit down.
It is not good to give so much of trouble to a lady member.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
You have not done anything for the people living below the poverty line, you have just given slogans. You have not uplifted them. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please speak while addressing the Chair.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister that the decision which he has taken for initiating 'Janashree' Insurance Scheme. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Athawale, please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir I will definitely sit down, but I would like to know from him that what his party has done in the last nine months? Whether poverty has been eliminated. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been told in the answer to my question regarding "Janashree" that the working group constituted by the Planning Commission in 1977 has defined poverty line on the basis of expenditure incurred per capita on consumption and has also told that in this there is a requirement of 2400 calories per capita per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per capita per day in urban

areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that when was this working group constituted, in which year did it define the poverty line and in which year did the working force give its report? In your answer you have given the figures up till 1993-94 in the annexure. In part a of my question, I had asked about the year and in part b, I had asked about the details. During the last ten years, people who are leading life below the poverty line. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, what is your question?

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked two questions (a) and (b).

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not give so much of information, just ask the question.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : I wish to ask as to whether the number of people living below poverty line, has increased or decreased during the last 10 years?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I wish to say with regard to the question asked by hon. Member that the number of people below the poverty line have been mentioned in the annexure, all statistics have been given. Their number in India is 3,203.60 lakhs. I would like to disclose that in some schemes, it has been written below the poverty line, but it has also been said along with this that marginally some problems arise in this, so there is no problem in demarcating the group because the main aim of the scheme is that more and more people may get benefit of it. Till date, the rule was that no help was given to those persons meeting unnatural death or permanent disability. So such a provision is also there. 50 per cent of our premium is being given by the LIC and if the State wishes, then it can give 50 per cent or any nodal agency can also give. So according to this a maximum premium of Rs. 8 per month would be ascertained, So I wish. . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, question is different and answer given by the hon. Minister is different.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I am answering to his question only.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Madam's question was that whether the number of people living below poverty line has increased or decreased. You please answer to that. You are not answering to the question.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Final statistics of the National Sample Survey, recently conducted, have not been received, but according to the old statistics, the

number of people living below the poverty line has not increased, whereas you say that this number has increased. I am saying that no such statistics have been sent by the Planning Commission till date, so that report is correct. . . .(Interruptions) Some organisation in National Sample Survey has given some statistics. . . .(Interruptions) the data have increased, but

[English]

No estimate of poverty was prepared after 1993.

[Translation]

The statistics, which some organisation has given. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the reply of the Minister.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The Planning Commission has not done any study in that so far. So I would say that this is not right.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Sir, I am not asking any question. But the answer of the hon. Minister is very disturbing. He says that after 1993, there is no statistics available, to know whether the number of people below poverty line has increased or decreased. If that was the case, then, on what basis, has the Government been making claims? In spite of the reports from the foreign institutions and also the national institutions, which say that the number of people below poverty line has increased, all the time, the Government has been claiming that it has made tremendous progress in this sphere. But now the hon. Minister says here that he has no statistics about that.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The survey is going on, which is being done by the Planning Commission. It is under preparation. I cannot give an authentic figure without any authentic survey.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Then, I want to know, on what basis, they are making claims.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : The National Sample Survey has indicated the increase. The final figure may not

*Not recorded.

have come. But you can admit that according to NSS figures, there has been an increase in poverty. You can say so.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I will only say what I know; and what I know is that the Planning Commission, which goes into these matters, had appointed an expert group and it gave the definition of what should be the poverty line in this country in 1977.

There was another study, which was conducted in September 1989 and an expert group had been appointed; that expert group did not change the basic parameters of the definition of poverty. So, that continues.

Now, as far as the point raised by Shri Chandra Shekhar is concerned, we have the figures of poverty in this country, based on official NSS data. The last and the large survey was conducted in 1993-94.

Another survey had just been completed. It is a five-year survey. We have been doing it since we became Independent. After every five years, a comprehensive survey is carried out. That survey was due in the year 2000. The survey has been completed. The results are being prepared. I think by the end of the year or early next year, we will have the final official figures of poverty after 1993-94 in this country.

As far as the issue raised by hon. Member, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is concerned, I had an occasion to explain that in this House when we were discussing Budget in the last Session. I said that this NSS data on the basis of which we are saying that poverty has increased, is based on a very small sample of only 25,000 households. Therefore, whether that data is dependable or not compared to the comprehensive data which is likely to be made available very soon is something which has been discussed in this country and I cannot vouch for the validity of that small sample survey.

As far as Shri Chandra Shekhar's point that according to the international agencies, poverty is more in this country in nineties than what it was before, I would like to say that a number of private research institutions have carried out studies in this country in recent years and in recent months and many of them claim that the incidence of poverty has come down. In these circumstances, what should we do? We should wait for the final data. I do not think that Shri Chandra Shekhar will be right in saying that poverty has increased and I will be wrong in saying that it has decreased. Both these statements can be verified only when the final data becomes available to us. We have to

wait only for a few months. If poverty has increased, I will have no hesitation in admitting that before this House. Why should I hide it? But there is no firmed up data still available with us. The last data that we have is that of 1993-94.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the time being the country should take that the Government has no basis to say that poverty has decreased. If they are saying 'hat, it is just indulging in juggleries. That is what I have been saying. The international position is very difficult. All over the world, people living below the poverty line has increased. It wonders are being done by the Government of India, it has nothing to do with this question. Here is a lecture given by a very eminent economist. He has talked about the whole world. Mr. Finance Minister, poverty is not measured by statistics. Poverty is known by the experience of the people living in the countryside. Those who know or have some knowledge about countryside will say that poverty has increased.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He has no pain for the poor.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : So far as the matter of poor people is concerned, it affects only Raghuvansh Babu in the entire House and no one else.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : CII affects you.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what Shri Chandra Shekhar has said is correct. Just as we cannot claim at this point of time that poverty has come down, similarly nobody can claim that poverty has gone up. Nobody can claim that. We do not have any ground or any basis to make respective claims. But let me say this. . . *(Interruptions)* As far as the Congress Party is concerned, they are condemning their own five year rule between 1991-96 by saying this. We have been in office only for two years. That Party was supporting United Front Government also. So, they are responsible for seven years of governance out of these ten years.

And, if poverty has gone up in these seven years, they are responsible for it and not us. . . *(Interruptions)* They should remember that it is they who are responsible. So, they have no business to say this. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what the Finance Minister says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Let me state that I do not have to be apologetic about those seven years.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is Question Hour. I appeal to all of you to take your seats. Members are not following any rule in the House.

(Interruptions)

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

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the responsibility of the Government. We wish that hon. Minister may keep the list of people below poverty line on the Table. Hon. Minister is mis-guiding the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. This is not a proper way.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : In reply to the issue which Shri Chandra Shekhar has raised, I would like to say that.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not called you. Please take your seat.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I would like to say that just as one eminent economist might have talked about the world poverty, there are a number of other economists who have carried out studies and, Sir, as I was saying, have come to the conclusion. *... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is Question Hour. Please take your seat. I have not called your name.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Hon. Minister may put the list of people living below the poverty line, on the Table. Sir, the House is being misguided. *... (Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Yashwant Sinha says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Just as one economist has said that the world poverty has increased, similarly, many economists have said that poverty has declined in India. But I am not going by that because those are not official figures. Therefore, I am pleading with the House, let us wait for the official figure. The second point is. *... (Interruptions)* On a theoretical plane, I would like to join issue with hon. Shri Chandra Shekhar and others and say that if the growth rate of the economy goes up, poverty is bound to decline because there is more to distribute. There is more to distribute and the growth rate during the decade of nineties has indeed gone up. *... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If Members do not have the patience to listen, they can leave the House. They should not make such a noise in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the supplementary being asked by the Member.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the Janashree Insurance Scheme, total premium per member would be Rs. 200.50 per cent of expenditure of the premium would be met by the Social Security Fund (Samajik Suraksha Kosh) and rest of the 50 per cent would be met by the beneficiaries or nodal agency. State Governments have an alternative to pay the amount by the beneficiaries or nodal agency. Sir, through you, I would like to know from hon. Finance Minister that whether any discussion has been made by the State Governments in this regard? When will the beneficiaries get benefit of this and in how much time.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : As it is done in Insurance Scheme, so also it would be done in this scheme that the beneficiaries would get benefit of this after their death or accident. So far as the question of premium is concerned, we have said that the nodal agency or State Government can give the premium of person living below

*Not recorded.

the poverty line, but we have not made it a condition, Government of India would give 50 per cent of its share. We wish that the State Governments, nodal agencies, including Panchayati Raj Institutions, Co-operative societies, Self Health Groups – all would give help in this.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Purchasing Power of Rupee

*83. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the purchasing power of Indian rupee has constantly decreased during the last few years;

(b) if so, the average value of rupee between 1991-92 and year 1999-2000 on the basis of the value of rupee during 1980-81;

(c) whether there has been considerable difference in the exchange rate of rupee against the currencies of various countries of the world; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the period 1999-2000, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The purchasing power of the rupee when measured by the reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index for industrial workers declines as the index increases.

The average value of the rupee between 1991-92 and 1999-2000 with base 1980-81 was :

	Value of Rupee (in paise)
1991-92	36.99
1992-93	33.75
1993-94	31.40
1994-95	28.52
1995-96	25.88
1996-97	23.68
1997-98	22.13
1998-99	19.57
1999-2000	18.93

(c) and (d) The external value of the rupee against major convertible currencies of the world, such as the US dollar, Pound sterling, Deutsche Mark and Japanese Yen during 1999-2000 are given below :

Exchange rate of the rupee (Rs./foreign currency)

Period	US \$ official	Pound St.	Dmark	Yen
Average	Rs./\$	Rs./Pound	Rs./DM	Rs./Yen
Apr. 99	42.73	68.7	23.37	0.357
Jul. 99	43.58	68.13	22.73	0.362
Oct. 99	43.45	72.00	23.83	0.410
Jan. 2000	43.45	71.43	22.42	0.415
Mar. 2000	43.59	68.93	21.54	0.409

The exchange rate of the rupee with respect to the dollar is largely market determined and moves in both directions on a day to day basis depending upon the demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market in India and the strength of the US dollar against other major currencies in the international markets.

Disinvestment/Privatisation of PSUs

*84. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently cleared the proposals of disinvestment/privatisation of a large number of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of such PSUs cleared for disinvestment with their stake likely to be disinvested, PSU-wise and the time-frame worked out;

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

(d) the status of profit and loss of these undertakings during the last three years, PSU-wise;

(e) whether the Government have also appointed global advisers to accelerate the privatisation process;

(f) if so, the details thereof including the criteria for their appointment and the amount to be given to them for the job;

(g) whether the proposal for a three year road map for public sector disinvestment has also been taken up;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether some trade unions and others have opposed the policy of the Government to disinvest the shares of PSUs; and

(j) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to protect the interests of workers in these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Government considers the disinvestment proposals in various companies from time to time. At present in the following 17 cases the disinvestment have been cleared and the "Advisors" have been appointed: Bharat Aluminium Companies Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., HTL Ltd., RBL Ltd., Scooters India Ltd., Engineering Projects India Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Bharat Leather Ltd., Air India, Indian Airlines, India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd. and Jessop and Co. Ltd. In 2 cases, disinvestment has been cleared but advisors are yet to be appointed. These are : Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. and MSTC Ltd. The process of disinvestment is in different stages of implementation in these companies. The percentage of equity to be disinvested in them, the time of disinvestment etc. are decided keeping in view various factors like market conditions, interest of the investor/buyer, advice of the professional consultants etc.

(c) No estimates of realisation from sale of shares can be made at this stage.

(d) A statement indicating profit/loss of these PSUs, as mentioned in the Public Enterprises Survey (1998-99) published by the Department of Public Enterprises, is enclosed.

(e) and (f) As indicated in the reply to part (a), "Advisors" have been appointed in case of 17 PSUs to assist in implementing the decisions of the Government. The Advisors are selected through a process of Global competitive bidding involving issue of advertisement in national/international periodicals, depending on the need, short listing on the basis of technical evaluation before an inter-ministerial Committee and price bid of the short listed bidders. The fee to be paid to the Advisors is based on the quotations received during the competitive selection process.

(g) and (h) In accordance with the declared disinvestment policy. Government considers from time to time various proposals for disinvestment in various Public Sector Enterprises. After a final decision is taken by the Government, announcements are made regarding such decisions.

(i) and (j) Several employees Associations etc. have represented against disinvestment in specific PSUs. As indicated by the Finance Minister in his budget speech for the year 2000-2001, one of the elements of Government's policy in this regard is to fully protect the interests of workers.

Statement

Name of the Company	Net Profit/Loss (-)*		
	1998-99	1997-98	1996-97
	(Rs. in Lakhs)		
1. Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.	7632	7984	6179
2. IPCL	2936	24369	51020
3. HTL Ltd.	684	566	-813
4. RBL Ltd.	186	-122	-169
5. Scooters India Ltd.	660	1188	1060
6. Engineering Projects India Ltd.	-3419	-3574	-4875
7. NEPA Ltd.	-321	-2016	-5637
8. Hindustan Cables Ltd.	-13873	-17394	-14613
9. Instrumentation Ltd.	2065	-2237	-1975
10. Bharat Leather Ltd.	-364	-265	-243
11. Air India	-17448	-18101	-29694
12. Indian Airlines	1312	4727	-1459
13. India Tourism Development Corporation	994	4340	5641
14. Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	-2761	-5535	1210
15. National Fertilizers Ltd.	4115	18901	1120
16. Hindustan Copper Ltd.	-5120	-16972	-13062
17. Jessop and Co. Ltd.	70	8873	-6013
18. HOCL	-2307	-84	1564
19. MSTC Ltd.	216	183	230

*Minus sign (-) is indicated against losses.

Closure of Super Bazars

*85. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the Super Bazar Market chain in the country;

(b) if so, the circumstances leading to the closure of the common man's market;

(c) the estimated number of employees likely to be affected as a result thereof;

(d) the alternative arrangement proposed to be made by the Government for their rehabilitation;

(e) whether the Super Bazar Officers' Association has submitted proposals to the Government to bring the ailing Super Bazar out of red;

(f) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to make it profitable ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) to (g) The Super Bazar Officers' Association has submitted certain proposals to Managing Director, Super Bazar, a copy of which has been received by Additional Secretary/Chairman, Super Bazar in which inter-alia suggestions like renting of space to bank, sale of liquor and other commodities such as masala (wholesale), cleaning powder, phenyl, typing papers etc. have been made. It is for the management of Super Bazar to take a view on these suggestions and to decide on the steps for its profitable functioning.

Restructuring of Film Development Corporations and Censor Board

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

(a) whether the Government have any plan to reconstitute or restructure the various Film Development Corporations and the Censor Board of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of films given Censor Board Certification during the last three years and the number of films denied certification from the Censor Board during the above period, language-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to compensate the film producers/production units, whose films have been denied certification by the Censor Board; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Board of Film Certification of the Central Board of Film Certification was duly constituted under section 3 of the Cinematograph Act in October, 1998. Normal term of the members of the Board is three years. There is no proposal to reconstitute the Board before the expiry of its normal term. As regards the National Film Development Corporation, there has been vacancy in the positions relating to non-official members. Chairperson of the Board has been appointed by the Government on 12th July, 2000. The process of selecting Managing Director who is ex-officio member of the Board, and of non-official directors is in advanced stage.

(c) Language-wise details of feature films (celluloid) which were issued certificate by the Central Board of Film Certification during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement-I. The number of films refused certificate by the Board during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) No, Sir. It is the responsibility of every film producer to seek certification of film for public viewing under provisions of the Cinematograph Act. If Central Board of Film Certification declines certification to the film, no right accrues to the film producer to seek any compensation for such rejection.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Language-wise number of Feature Films (Celluloid) given certificate during the last three years :

Language	Number of films certified		
	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4
Telugu	151	124	132
Tamil	128	133	153

1	2	3	4
Hindi	117	153	166
Malayalam	92	69	65
Kannada	81	72	87
Marathi	9	18	24
Punjabi	14	11	5
Nepali	2	4	10
Gujarati	10	15	27
Bengali	49	48	51
Bhojpuri	2	6	2
Rajasthani	2	4	3
Assamese	5	5	7
English	7	5	6
Manipuri	5	2	4
Oriya	20	19	15
Urdu	1	—	—
Tea Tribe	1	—	—
Kodava	—	1	—
Tulu	—	2	—
Garhwali	1	1	1
Kashmiri	—	—	1
French	—	—	1
Maithili	—	—	1
Hindusthani	—	—	1
Chotanagpuri	—	—	1
Haryanavi	—	—	1
Persian	—	1	—
Foreign feature films	191	180	203
Total	888	873	967

Statement-II

Number of Feature Films (Celluloid) Refused Certificate during the last three years

Language	Number of films refused certificate		
	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4
Hindi	3	13	31
English	2	—	—

1	2	3	4
Tamil	3	2	5
Kannada	—	1	3
Bengali	—	1	—
Malayalam	—	—	2
Foreign feature films	20	23	26
Total	28	40	67

Industrially Backward Districts

*87. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

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

(a) the names and number of industrially backward districts in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have drawn up any specific plan for industrial development of these districts, particularly in respect of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue had vide Notification No. S.O. 714(E), dated 7.10.1997 declared 123 industrially backward districts in the country classified as Category 'A' and Category 'B' for grant of concession under the Income Tax Act, 1961. Statewise list of these districts is given in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) and (c) Under Section 80-IB of the Income Tax Act, industrial undertakings which begin operations after 1.10.1994 but before 31.3.2000 are entitled to a 100% tax holiday for a period of five years in Category A industrially backward districts and three years tax holiday in Category B districts. Such Industrial Undertakings in both categories of districts are entitled to a further deduction of 25% (30% in the case of companies) from their profits and gains for a period of another five years.

Besides, the Government has in operation other Centrally Sponsored Schemes in backward areas selected according to the parameters of each scheme and Policy Measures to promote industrial development of backward areas throughout the country. These are :-

1. **Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme** : Implemented by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries.

it envisages development of infrastructure facilities for small industries to facilitate location of industries in rural backward areas.

2. **Growth Centre Scheme :** Under this scheme 71 growth centres are being developed throughout the country in select backward areas which would provide basic infrastructure like power, water, telecommunication, sewage, effluent disposal etc. so as to attract industries. The growth centres are located in backward areas identified under the scheme by the Planning Commission, on the basis of selection and recommendation of the respective State Governments.
3. **Transport Subsidy Scheme :** To promote industries in notified hilly, remote and inaccessible areas, subsidy ranging from 50% – 90% is admissible on transport costs incurred on movement of raw materials/finished goods to and from designated rail heads/ports.
4. **Industrial Policy Package for North East :** Considering its peculiar geographical problems and continued backwardness, a new Industrial Policy and other concessions were announced for the North East Region in December, 1997.

Schemes as at 1 and 2 above cover the States of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar : A list of growth centres and IID centres sanctioned for these States is given in the enclosed Statement-II

Statement-I

List of Industrially Backward Districts in the Country, as Notified by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide SO No. 714(E) dated 07.10.97

Category 'A'	Category 'B'
1	2
Bihar	Andhra Pradesh
Godda	Srikakulam
Gumla	Mahbubnagar
Araria	
Madhepura	Bihar
Dumka	
Khagana	Katiyar
Kishanganj	Bhagalpur

1	2
Palamau	Gopalganj
Madhubani	Darbhanga
Jehanabad	West – Champaran
Saharsa	Saran
Nawadah	Bhojpur
Sitamarhi	Samastipur
Sahebganj	Deoghar
Aurangabad	Nalanda
East-Champaran	Gaya
Purnia	Muzaffarpur
Siwan	Rohtas
Vaishali	
Lohar-dagga	Gujarat
Gujarat	Banaskantha
The Dangs	Sabarkantha
Kerala	Karnataka
Idukki	Bidar
Wayanad	
Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
Mandla	Seoni
Panna	Tikamgarh
Bastar	Shivpuri
Sarguja	Balaghat
Chhatarpur	Jhabua
Maharashtra	Sidhi
	Vidisha
Gadchiroli	Raigarh
Orissa	Morena
	Betul
Phullbani	Rajgarh
Kalahandi	Rajnandgaon
Rajasthan	Sagar
Jalore	Maharashtra
Barmer	
Jaisalmer	Beed
Churu	Orissa
Banswara	
Uttar Pradesh	Bolangir
	Mayurbhanj

1	2
Sidharthanagar	Balasore
Baharaich	Ganjam
Pratapgrah	Rajasthan
Maharajganj	
Banda	Durgapur
Basti	Dholpur
Chamoli	Sawai – Madhopur
Uttarkashi	Tonk
Almora	Nagaur
Pithoragarh	Sikar
Tehri-Garhwal	Jhalawar
West Bengal	Uttar Pradesh
Malda	Mau
West – Dinajpur	Hardoi
Murshidabad	Lalitpur
Coochbehar	Hamirpur
Bankura	Badaun
Jalpaiguri	Fatehpur
	Azamgarh
	Etah
	Barabanki
	Etawah
	Deoria
	Ghazipur
	Ballia
	Jaunpur
	Sitapur
	Jalaun
	Unnao
	Faizabad
	Kanpur – Dehat
	Mainpuri
	Gonda
	Farukhabad
	Sultanpur
	Mirzapur
	West Bengal
	Purulia
	Midnapore
	Birbhum

Statement-II

List of Growth Centres and IID Centres sanctioned in Rajasthan. Andhra Pradesh and Bihar

State	Location of	
	Growth Centres:	IID Centres
Rajasthan	Abu-Road (Sirohi)	Jodhpur
	Bhilwara (Bhilwara)	Nagapur
	Khara (Bikaner)	Tonk
	Dholpur (Dholpur)	Udaipur
	Jhalawar (Jhalawar)	—
Andhra Pradesh	Hindupur (Anantpur)	Kurnool
	Khammam (Khammam)	Rangareddy
	Bobbili (Vizianagaram)	Nellore
	Ongole (Prakasam)	Warrangal
Bihar		Chittor
	Begusarai (Begusarai)	NIL
	Bhagalpur (Bhagalpur)	
	Chhapra (Chhapra)	
	Darbhanga (Darbhanga)	
	Hazaribagh (Hazaribagh)	
	Muzaffarpur (Muzaffarpur)	

Government Expenditure

*88. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the measures adopted by the Union Government to reduce the Government expenditure and downsizing the Government;

(b) whether the Government have also issued some directions to the various Ministries and State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any meeting with financial advisers was held in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of the suggestions/measures enumerated in this regard; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government to control the fiscal deficit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Measures to reduce Government Expenditure and to downsize the Government include a 10% cut in the number of sanctioned posts as on 1.1.92, introduction of zero base budgeting and austerity measures such as ban on the creation of new posts, review of vacant posts before they are filled up, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses etc. The State Governments have also been advised to introduce similar austerity measures. Government have also set up an Expenditure Reforms Commission whose terms of reference, inter-alia, provide for suggesting a road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Central Government.

(d) to (f) A meeting with Financial Advisers was held on 4th July, 2000 at which the need for maintaining fiscal discipline and implementing decisions for Expenditure Management were emphasised. For containing fiscal deficit, measures are being taken to restrict expenditure to overall budgetary allocation and improving revenue collection and non-tax receipts of Government.

Tobacco Industry

*89. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

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

(a) whether multinational corporations have been allowed to enter the Tobacco Industry;

(b) whether the Tobacco Grower Unions have urged the Government to prevent the entry of multinational corporations;

(c) whether the Government had held discussions with the Tobacco Growers, traders and manufacturers in June, 2000;

(d) if so, the main points discussed;

(e) whether the Government have agreed to consider the demands of Tobacco Growers etc.; and

(f) if so, the details of demands and the extent to which they have been considered ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No change is contemplated in the present practice of not permitting FDI in the tobacco sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Discussions were held with representatives of tobacco growers, traders and manufacturers on 2nd June, 2000 and with traders and manufacturers on 30th June 2000.

(d) Main points for discussion included increased buyer's participation in tobacco auctions, increased purchase of tobacco by STC and Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations by Tobacco Board in respect of low grade tobacco.

(e) and (f) In response to the demand for crop holiday, Tobacco Board has suspended the registration activity for growers and crop size fixation in Andhra Pradesh. State Trading Corporation has also responded to the demand for growers by accelerating its operation for procurement of FCV tobacco from all auction platform. Tobacco Board has also commenced minimum support price operation in respect of low grade tobacco in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Investments by NRIs

*90. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of total investments made in terms of rupees by NRIs during each of the last three years and till date; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to promote investments by the NRIs ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The total investments made by the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) during the last three years through various investment schemes are as follows :

(In Rupees Crores)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Provisional)	2000-2001 (April-May) (Provisional)
(1) NRI direct Investment Schemes.	878.35	356.03	448.91	49.65
(2) Portfolio Investment (net position)	359.90	(-) 5.67	(-) 684.63	(-) 1223.19
(3) Resurgent India Bonds	-	18000.00	-	-

Policies and Procedures governing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)/NRI investments are streamlined/simplified from time to time to create a more favourable investment environment for NRIs, which include, (i) higher Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limits in sectors having sectoral caps, such as Air-taxi operations and private sector banks, (ii) investment upto 100% in the Housing and Real Estate Sector, which is not otherwise open for FDI and (ii) increase in individual secondary market investment limit in a company from 1% to 5% and aggregate investment in a company by all NRIs from 5% to 10%, which will be exclusive and separate from Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) investment ceiling to avoid crowding out NRIs by FIIs.

Selling of ITDC Hotels

*91. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of ITDC Hotels which have been sold or proposed to be sold by the Government as per the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission;

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

(c) whether the interest of the workers and employees has been kept in mind while introducing this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government has accepted the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission in regard to 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."

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission provide that it would be ideal if a tripartite agreement between ITDC, trade unions and the concerned parties is concluded in each case to take care of the interests of labour.

[English]

Foreign Direct Investment Inflow

*92. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) the volume and percentage of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) attracted by India every year since 1996;

(b) whether our country lags for behind in the field of FDI inflow in comparison to other developing countries;

(c) if so, the India's rank amongst the developing countries in terms of FDI inflow;

(d) the volume and the percentage of actual inflows of FDI to total approvals every year since 1996;

(e) the sectors in which FDI flow was low against the target, and upto what extent;

(f) the causes of the low FDI inflow in terms of both the world volume and in comparison with our total approved FDI; and

(g) the details of steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (d) The volume and percentage of foreign direct investment approved and actual inflow every year since 1996 is as under :-

Amt. in Rs. crore			
Year	Amount of FDI Approved	Amount of FDI Inflow	% age of Inflows over Approvals
1996	36,146.81	10,389.20	28.74
1997	54,891.35	16,425.33	29.92
1998	30,813.50	13,339.84	43.29
1999	28,366.53	16,867.79	59.46
2000 (Jan - May)	8,140.87	7,074.99	86.91

(b) and (c) For FDI Inflow, as per World Investment Report - 1999 published by the United Nations, in 1998 India ranked seventh among the top 20 economies in the Asia Pacific region.

(e) No sector specific targets are set for FDI.

(f) The flow of investment from one destination to another is guided by several considerations which include availability of strong infrastructure base, conducive investment climate, law and order situation and above all commercial judgement of investors. Inflow is also related to the financial needs of a project. In mega projects like power, telecom, oil refineries, ports, roads, transport, etc., the funds are invested in stages on a need basis. The inflow ratio against FDI approved (from Jan, 1996 till May, 2000) has shown a consistently upward trend.

(g) The FDI policy is continuously reviewed and reformulated to facilitate foreign investment into India. The Foreign Investment Implementation Authority, comprising representatives from State Governments, nodal central ministries for specific projects and entrepreneurs, has also been set up to address the problems faced by the investors and facilitate implementation of projects.

Trade with Pakistan

*93. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan wants to increase the trade with India and propose to give the status of 'Most Favoured Nation', as per statement of Pakistan's Commerce Minister given in a press conference in Islamabad on June 28, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present volume of trade between India and Pakistan;

(d) whether the Government of India has received any offer from the Government of Pakistan in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal. Pakistan's Commerce Minister clarified on 3rd July, 2000 that Pakistan had no plans to accord MFN status to India.

(c) During the period April – March, 1999-2000, India's exports to Pakistan amounted to Rs. 405.35 crores, while our imports from Pakistan during the same period were to the tune of Rs. 296.74 crores.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Low Power Transmission Centres of DD

*94. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan plans to set up low power transmission centres in all major cities/towns by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of progress made in this direction, till date;

(c) whether the Doordarshan is financially viable to carry out its plan within stipulated time; and

(d) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet the financial resources of the Doordarshan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Doordarshan formulates plans to install transmitters at different locations in the country on the basis of criteria such as population and area likely to be covered by the proposed transmitter. Almost all sizeable cities/towns are already covered by TV service, either by a transmitter in the same city/town or through a transmitter installed in a nearby city/town. At present there are 1150 Doordarshan transmitters in the country, providing DD service to 88.2% of the population and covering 75.3% of the geographical area of the country. For further expansion of Doordarshan coverage, 255 transmitter projects are presently under implementation, which includes 50 transmitters for DD-2 (Metro Channel). It is expected that when these projects are completed by the end of the 9th Five Year Plan, DD services will cover 93% of the population.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan has been implementing its plans for expansion of TV coverage with the help of budgetary support provided through the Five Year Plans and with the commercial revenue generated internally by Doordarshan. Future financial requirements for the projects under implementation as stated above is also proposed to be met by adequate budgetary allocations and the commercial revenue generated internally.

Items freed from Import/Export Licensing Restrictions

*95. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Government have freed certain items from import/export licensing restrictions;

(b) if so, the details of items which are in the list of free imports/exports, separately;

(c) whether the recent decision to free 714 items from import licensing restrictions in a part of country's obligation towards W.T.O.;

(d) whether due to this decision the import of these items have increased suddenly;

(e) if so, whether the domestic industries as well as Directorate of Anti-Dumping are facing lot of difficulties as a result thereof; and

(f) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to save Indian farmers and domestic industries from adverse impact of the said decision as well as to reduce the over burden on Directorate of Anti-Dumping?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f) India has been following a continuous policy of removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line – wise import policy was first announced on 31.3.1996. As on that date, imports of 6161 tariff lines out of the total number of 10202 tariff lines were free. Import restrictions on 488 tariff lines were removed during the period 1.4.96 to 31.3.97. Another 391 tariff lines were freed during the period 1.4.97 to 13.4.98 and 894 tariff lines were freed on 1.4.99. Recently, import restrictions on 714 tariff lines were removed on 31.03.2000. Details of the items allowed to be imported freely are published in the book titled 'ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items'. Copies of this book are available in the Parliament Library.

It is seen from the import data for the period 1993-94 to 1998-99, that freeing of imports during this period has not had any significant impact on the average rate of growth of imports.

However, Government is absolutely determined to ensure, through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism, that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry. Towards that end, Government has increased duties on a number of items where a surge in imports was noticed or apprehended. For example, the duty on arecanut has been raised to 100%, on poultry products to 100%, on wheat to 50%, on skimmed milk powder to 60%, on apple to 50%, on edible oils to 35% and on rice to 80%. India's tariff bindings at W.T.O. for most of the agricultural items are fairly high and effective rates of customs duties can be raised to those levels, in case there is any evidence of substantial increase in imports.

Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties in the Department of Commerce is not facing any kind of difficulty as a result of removal of import restrictions on 714 items.

Low Growth of Tax Ratio

*96. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have expressed concern over the low growth tax ratio in comparison to the Gross Domestic Product and called for reversal of this trend;

(b) if so, whether till June the Department had recorded 64 percent growth in the direct taxes as compared to the last year;

(c) if so, whether the target for 2000-2001 has been pegged at Rs. 72,000 crores;

(d) if so, whether the experts have suggested that taxation system should be transparent and acceptable so that people pay voluntarily;

(e) if so, the main features that are being proposed by the Government to simplify the taxation system so that all the people can easily pay taxes to the Government;

(f) whether the Government have also decided to take firm action against those who are not paying the tax arrears; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Government are aware that the tax to GDP ratio in India is relatively low, and are desirous of improving it.

(b) The collection of direct taxes during April – June, 2000 was 66.73% higher than the collection during the same period last year.

(c) The Budget Estimates for 2000-2001 for direct taxes have been fixed at Rs. 72,105 crore.

(d) and (e) Measures have already been taken to simplify the tax structure in order to make it more transparent and to improve tax compliance. The measures taken include reduction in the multiplicity of import duty rates; introduction of a uniform CENVAT (Central Value Added tax) rate of 16% and valorem on all excisable goods with very few exceptions; extension of CENVAT credit on

all inputs and capital goods with very few exceptions; abolition of statutory records; facility for payment of duty on fortnightly basis (on monthly basis for small scale units); introduction of transaction value concept for levy of excise duty and extension of retail sales price based excise levy on a large number of consumer goods; introduction of a simple one page form called 'Saraal' for filing income tax returns by certain assesseees; allowing returns in respect of tax deduction at source to be filed on magnetic media compatible with computers; dispensing with the requirement of approval by the Government for obtaining certain tax exemptions or deductions; and allowing tax payments in computerised branches of nationalised banks.

(f) and (g) Recovery of tax is a continuous process, involving the use of statutory provisions, which include charging of interest, and levy of penalty. In difficult cases, coercive measures such as attachment and sale of defaulter's movable and immovable properties, arrest and detention of the defaulter, as per the provisions of law, are also resorted to. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are also made by higher authorities on a regular basis, and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting recovery of the outstanding taxes.

Import/Export of Onion

*97. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

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

(a) the quantity of onion imported and exported, separately, during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether there is a sharp increase in the import and decrease in the export of onion during the above period;

(c) if so, whether the onion growers all over the country are protesting against the import of onion and are demanding further increase in the quota of export;

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

(e) the steps being taken to reduce the import and increase the export of onion in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The following are the total quantity of onion imported and exported during the last three years :

Year	Exports Qty. (MTs)	Imports
1997-98	333349.0	1711.5
1998-99	216485.9	3799.4
1999-2000 (Apr-Sept'99)	103338.9	Nil

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

The country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India – Monthly/Annual Bulletins published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are kept in the Parliament Library.

(b) Increase in imports is confined to 1997-98 and 1998-99 on account of domestic shortage. Exports are based on the release of quotas from time to time keeping in view domestic availability.

(c) There have been no imports of onions between April and September 1999. There has been demand for release of quota for export of onion from the growers from time to time.

(d) and (e) India is generally surplus in onion production. It is only in the event of a particularly bad harvest or any abnormal rise in the domestic price that import is resorted to. The Government has already evolved a Policy for export of onion. Under this policy, quantities for export of onion for the next crop year would be announced in advance. Besides, all restrictions, on export of Bangalore Rose and Krishnapuram Onions have been lifted with effect from 26.4.2000. Quantities for export of all other varieties of onion for the current year would be released after inter-Ministerial review of availability based on harvest/market arrivals. Of the quantity of 100,000 MTs. Of onion already released for export in April and May 2000, about 32,682 MTs. Are yet to be exported.

Development of Sobarimala in Kerala

*98. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of centres of pilgrim tourism identified so far and developed with State-wise break-up;

(b) whether the Government had appointed a Committee to study the problems faced by the pilgrims in Sobarimala, Kerala;

(c) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the main suggestions made by the Committee for the development of this major pilgrim centre ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) In May 1992, a Committee on the Development of Pilgrim Tourism identified 19 centres and 2 circuits for tourism development in the first phase. Later a number of centres were added to the

list in consultation with the State Governments. At present a total number of 60 pilgrim centres have been identified throughout the country. List of pilgrim centres identified State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Pilgrim Centres Identified – State-wise

Sl.No.	State	Pilgrim Centre
1.	Assam	Kamakhya
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjuna Konda, Srisailam, Tirupati
3.	Bihar	Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Patna Sahib, Rajgir, Vaishali
4.	Delhi	Nizamudin
5.	Gujarat	Dwarka, Palitana, Somnath, Odwada
6.	Goa	Goan Churches
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Paonta Saheb, Jwalaji
8.	Haryana	Kurukshetra
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Vaishno Devi
10.	Kerala	Guruvayoor, Sabarimala, Varkala
11.	Karnataka	Gulbarga, Sringeri
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain
13.	Maharashtra	Shirdi, Nanded, Jyotiba
14.	Orissa	Puri
15.	Punjab	Amritsar, Anandpur Sahib, Damdama Sahib, Sirhind
16.	Rajasthan	Ajmer Shareef
17.	Tamil Nadu	Rameswaram, Madurai, Nagapatanam, Negaur, Palani, Velan Kanni, Tanjore, Tiruchairapally, Thiruvannamalai
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Badrinath, Barsana, Brindavan, Gangotri Gokul, Gowardhan, Haridwar, Hemkund Kedarnath, Kushinagar, Mathura, Nandgaon, Rishikesh, Sarnath Srawasti, Varanasi, Yamunotri

Liberalisation of FDI Policy

*99. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to liberalise further the Foreign Direct Investment recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the sectors in which such liberalisation is proposed;

(c) whether the Government have also removed the export obligations for consumer goods industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the interests of domestic industry engaged in consumer goods has been protected.

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken to safeguard the interest of domestic industry; and

(g) the total foreign exchange likely to be earned by allowing 100% FDI in E-Commerce and removing export obligations in consumer goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) In pursuance of its commitment to further liberalising the FDI regime, Government, on review of the policy on FDI has recently brought about the following changes in the FDI regime :

- I. FDI upto 100% has been allowed for e-commerce activities subject to the condition that such companies would divest 26% of their equity in favour of the Indian public in 5 years, if these companies are listed in other parts of the world. Further, these companies would engage only in business to business (B2B) e-commerce and not in retail trading, inter alia, implying that existing restrictions on FDI in domestic trading would be applicable to e-commerce as well.
- II. On review of the policy on dividend balancing, hitherto applicable to 22 specified consumer goods industries, and with a view to attracting FDI, it has been decided to remove this condition, since it has been perceived as an irritant by the foreign investors and is seen as restricting investment.
- III. Keeping in view the growing demand for power in the country and the need for more investment in this sector, the upper limit of Rs. 1500 crore in respect of the power projects relating to electric generation, transmission and distribution (other than atomic reactor power plant) has been removed.
- IV. Keeping in view the need for greater foreign direct investment in oil refining sector, the level of FDI in this sector under automatic route has been raised from the existing 49% to 100%

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

jeopardise the interest of the existing joint venture or technology/trade mark partner or other stake holders.

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

These liberalisation measures have been undertaken with the objective of achieving FDI inflows of US \$ 10.00 billion per annum.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Maintenance of Foodgrains by FCI

*100. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of various heads included in the economic cost of the Food Corporation of India on which the expenditure is incurred for maintenance of the foodgrains;

(b) the amount spent on each head during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000. separately;

(c) whether the economic cost of the FCI is likely to go up during 2000-2001 as the foodgrains stock is estimated to touch a new high;

(d) if so, the likely economic cost of the FCI by the end of current year;

(e) whether the Government have engaged any institution for reduction in the cost of maintenance of foodgrains;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of the institution and the amount paid to it for discharging such responsibility;

(g) whether the Government have received any suggestions from the institutions; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the scheme formulated to implement the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Various components of the Economic Cost of wheat and rice and the break-up of the expenditure (Rs. per qtl.) incurred thereon by Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in Statement-I and II.

(c) and (d) The economic cost of wheat and rice during the current year was estimated to be Rs. 900/- per qtl. for wheat and Rs. 1180/- per qtl. for rice at the beginning of the current financial year. After making adjustments in allocation of expenses between operational and buffer stocks as recommended by the Expenditure Reforms Commission, the Economic Cost for wheat and rice has been modified as Rs. 830/- per qtl. and Rs. 1130/- per qtl. respectively. These estimates will be revised further at the time of finalization of Revised Estimates for the current year.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad, has been commissioned to carry out a study of the costs of acquisition and distribution of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), to arrive at ways and means to reduce the Economic Cost of wheat and rice, at a total fee of Rs. 30.50 lakhs. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 15.00 lakhs has already been paid.

(g) and (h) The report is expected to be received by the end of September, 2000 only.

Statement

Economic Cost of Wheat from 1997-98 to 1999-2000

		(Rs./Qtl.)		
Components		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (RE)
1		2	3	4
I	Pooled cost of grains	484.34	507.12	517.52
	Procurement incidental			
II	STATUTORY CHARGES (obligatory charges)			
	Mandi Charges	21.61	22.34	32.04
	Purchase Tax	14.75	15.80	20.49
	Infrastructure Cess			
	Gunny Cost	25.8	25.06	34.73
	Sub-Total	62.36	63.20	87.26
III	LABOUR AND TRANSPORTATION CHARGES (DECIDED AT TENDER RATE)			
	Mandi Labour	4.92	4.09	6.06
	Forwarding charges	0.82	0.59	0.54
	Internal Movement	13.80	13.84	15.94
	Sub-Total	19.54	18.52	22.54
IV	PAYMENT TO AGENCIES DECIDED BY GOVT. OF INDIA			
	Storage charges	1.60	1.53	1.93
	Interest charges	9.07	11.37	9.38
	Administrative charges to State Government/agencies	7.31	7.10	10.05
	Extra machine stitching 50kg. Bagging, difference between prov. and final rate due to inflationary increase			
	Sub-Total	17.98	20.00	21.36
	Previous year adjustment	20.98	13.44	7.06
	Other/Guarantee fee etc.	0.69	1.43	0.48
	Sub Total	21.67	14.87	7.54

	1	2	3	4
		(-)6.82	(-)3.02	
		108.99	110.08	132.10
V CARRY OVER CHARGES TO STATE GOVERNMENT		13.68	16.87	34.57
VI ACQUISITION COST		607.01	634.07	684.19
VII DISTRIBUTION COST				
Freight		66.31	65.11	46.50
Handling		26.50	23.13	23.06
Storage charges		16.90	14.73	14.68
Interest charges		40.32	31.03	27.06
Transit shortages		10.11	9.78	11.57
Storage shortages		(-)0.38	(-)0.34	(-)0.28
Administrative Charges		19.58	19.65	17.96
Wage revision arrear				
Total distribution cost		179.34	163.09	140.55
VIII ECONOMIC COST		786.35	797.16	824.74

Statement-II

Economic Cost of Rice based on MSP of Kharif 1997, 1998 and 1999

(Rs./Qtl.)

	Components	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
	1	2	3	4
I	MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (WEIGHTED)	439.30	464.30	514.30
II	STATUTORY CHARGES	44.34	46.85	54.47
	Mandi charges			
	Purchase Tax			
III	LABOUR AND TRANSPORT	17.20	17.20	17.20
	Mandi Labour			
	Transportation			
IV	STORAGE AND INTEREST	39.20	40.22	43.94
	Drilage			
	Custody and Maintenance			
	Interest			
V	MILLING CHARGES	12.00	12.00	12.00
VI	COST OF ONE QTL. OF PADDY	552.04	580.57	641.91
VII	COST OF ONE QTL. OF RICE AT 67% OTR	823.94	866.52	959.87
VIII	COST OF GUNNY AND GUNNY DEPRECIATION (50 KG PACKING)	38.05	38.05	47.46

	1	2	3	4
IX ACQUISITION COST (COST OF 1 QTL. OF RICE)		861.99	904.57	1007.33
X DISTRIBUTION COST				
Freight		61.92	61.92	61.92
Handling		23.36	23.36	23.36
Storage Charges		16.16	16.16	16.16
Interest Charges		44.56	44.56	44.56
Shortages		9.04	9.04	9.04
Administrative overhead		15.84	15.84	15.84
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION COST		170.88	170.88	170.88
IX ESTIMATED ECONOMIC COST		1032.87	1075.45	1178.21

Tourism Policy

862. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated/contemplated to formulate any tourism policy to encourage private participation in the tourism sector emphasising better co-ordination amongst various Ministries concerned;

(b) if so, the total number of foreign tourists visited the country during the year 1999 and during the first six months of the current year;

(c) whether more tourists are likely to visit India due to better co-ordination and more facilities; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide better facilities to foreign tourists in India ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have drafted National Tourism Policy which includes facilitating the development of a dynamic private sector in tourism industry.

(b) Total number of foreign tourists who visited the country during the year 1999 and during January to June this year are 24,81,928 and 12,56,133 (Provisional) respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Various steps taken by the Government to provide better facilities to foreign tourists include development and improvement of tourist infrastructure facilities,

publicity, use of information technology, installation of Touch Screen Information Kiosks, etc.

Nizam's Jewellery

863. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed to display the Jewellery of the Nizam after its acquisition in the capital for the public;

(b) if so, the time by which these would be displayed in Delhi;

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for their display in Hyderabad; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) During the course of the hearing of the litigation pertaining to the acquisition of Nizam's Jewellery by the Central Government, the Supreme Court expressed the view that these items will become public property after their acquisition and therefore, the public should have a chance of viewing the heritage that was being acquired. At present, except National Museum, no other museum under the control of the Department of Culture, Government of India is equipped to display these valuable items. Even in National Museum the security has to be scaled up and security plans are being drawn for bringing the Nizam's Jewellery

from RBI vaults, Mumbai where they are currently kept. These security plans are drawn in consultation with the Intelligence Bureau, Central Industrial Security Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, etc.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The display at Hyderabad can be considered at an appropriate time.

[English]

Employment on Compassionate Ground

864. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH :
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

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

(a) whether there is any provision for employment on compassionate grounds for those employees of Public Sector Undertaking who are the patient of cancer and want to resign from the job;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the facilities and financial assistance being given to those employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) Employment on Compassionate grounds comes under the purview of the PSUs concerned and details in this regard are not centrally maintained. Generally, compassionate appointment of a son/daughter or a near relative is considered when an employee dies in harness leaving his family in immediate need of assistance or in exceptional cases in the event of retirement on medical grounds, taking into consideration all relevant factors including financial condition of the family, size of the family, absence of an earning member, ages of children subject to availability of suitable vacancies.

PDS Shops

865. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI SUBODH ROY :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of PDS shops in the country;

(b) the ratio of villages covered by the PDS;

(c) the number of commodities supplied through the PDS and the names of those commodities;

(d) whether the Government had made physical verification to ascertain the actual supply of all items in PDS shops; and

(e) if so, the details thereof `

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) As per reports received from State Governments/UT Administrations there are 460329 fair price shops in the country, out of which 368585 are in rural areas, and 91744 in urban areas. Decision on opening and closing of fair price shops is taken by the State Government/UT Administration concerned as per the local requirement and viability of fair price shops. As per the guidelines issued by Ministry, the State Governments have been suggested to have a norm of one FPS for every 2000 persons and to ensure that no consumer/card holder has to travel more than 3 km. to reach his FPS.

(c) to (e) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and the State Governments/UT Administrations. While the Central Government is responsible for procuring and making available to the States the PDS commodities up to the Principal Distribution Centres, the responsibility of distribution to the card-holders through the network of Fair Price Shops rests with the State Government. Presently, five commodities viz., Rice, Wheat, Sugar, Edible Oil and Kerosene Oil are being supplied by the Central Government through PDS. State Governments have been advised to include additional items of daily use under PDS taking into account the local needs so as to improve the viability of fair price shops. A statement showing additional items being issued by the various States/UTs through PDS outlets is enclosed.

The States have been instructed to formulate and implement foolproof arrangements for delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops and for its distribution in a transparent and accountable manner. State Governments have been also instructed to conduct surprise checks on FPSs in this regard. Under the Area Officers' Scheme, officers of Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, are required to inspect the fair price shops in order to check the supply and availability of PDS commodities at FPSs.

Statement*Statement showing additional Commodities distributed through PDS Outlets*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Status of Additional Commodities Included for Distribution through PDS outlets	As Reported on
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Iodised Salt Nivedan Tea, Janata Sarees, Soap, Pulses, Dhoties, Onions, Tomatoes, Redgramdal Chillies, Tamarind, Vijay brand Sunflower Oils, Groundnut Oil and Garlic distributed through FPS.	8.12.98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Iodised Salt, Tea, Pulses, Soaps, Edible Oils are being distributed.	31.3.97
3.	Assam	Candle, Matches, Washing Soaps and Exercise books distributed.	31.3.97
4.	Bihar	Introduced Pulses, Controlled Cloth and Edible Oil w.e.f. 1/9/92 through mobile FPSs.	31.3.97
5.	Gujarat	Tea, Toilet Soap, Washing Soap, Washing Powder, Biscuits, Chilly, powder, Turmeric powder, Dhana powder, spices, Toothpaste, Tooth powder, Tooth Brush, Shaving Cream on experimental basis in Ahmedabad city and Ahmedabad District and Iodized Salt (in tribal areas) being distributed.	27.10.99
6.	Haryana	Tea, Soap, Iodised Salt, Pulses and Exercise Books being distributed through Confed retail outlets in Faridabad and Bhiwani District.	22.4.99
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Tea, Pulses, Soap, Salt, Exercise Books, Janata Sarees and Dhoties being distributed.	31.3.97
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Iodised Salt distributed through PDS in only two district : Leh and Kargil (Ladakh).	22.1.99
9.	Karnataka	Iodised Salt, Tea, Soap, Exercise Books, Janata Sarees, Dhoties and ORS being distributed.	31.3.97
10.	Kerala	Distributed through Maveli Stores run by Civil Supplies Corporation many items.	31.3.97
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Tea, Soap, Salt, Controlled Cloth and Exercise Books being distributed.	31.3.97
12.	Maharashtra	Soap, Salt, Tur Dal, Tea being distributed.	31.3.97
13.	Manipur	Iodised Salt being distributed.	31.3.97
14.	Meghalaya	Iodised Salt, Washing Soap and Matches distributed in some areas.	31.3.97
15.	Rajasthan	Tea and Soap being distributed, Iodised Salt, Text Books, Janata Series, Dhoties, M. box, E.Books.	31.3.97
16.	Sikkim	Iodised Salt being distributed.	31.3.97
17.	Tamil Nadu	Iodised Salt, Pulses, Tea, Text Books, Baby food, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi and Soap are distributed.	27.9.99
18.	Tripura	Iodised Salt and Palmolein Oil is distributed.	22.12.98

1	2	3	4
19. Uttar Pradesh	21 additional commodities including Iodised Salt being distributed.		31.3.97
20. West Bengal	Tea, Spices, Exercise books, Matches and Iodised Salt (in some areas) being distributed.		14.1.99
21. A and N Islands	FPSs selling wide range of other commodities.		31.3.97
22. D and N Haveli	Iodised Salt, Pulses, Match Boxes and Tea being distributed.		31.3.97
23. Lakshadweep	Iodised Salt, Text Books, Soaps, Tea, Matches, Pulses being distributed.		31.3.97

Export Promotion Industrial Parks

866. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Export Promotion Industrial Parks have been set up in the States of North Eastern Region including Sikkim;

(b) the promotion process undertaken through these Parks in each State of North Eastern region and the assistances floated to them by the Union Government;

(c) whether any proposal for setting up of EPIP in Tripura has been received by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) On the basis of the proposal received from the State Governments, four Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIPs) have been sanctioned for establishment in the North-Eastern States at Byrnihat (Meghalaya), Amingaon (Assam), Khunuta Chingjin (Manipur) and Ganeshnagar (Nagaland).

(b) Under the Export Promotion Industrial Park Scheme, Central Government provides assistance to meet 100% cost of infrastructure development subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores to the States in the North-Eastern region including Sikkim. Central Government have released Rs. 10 crores each of the Governments of Assam and Meghalaya and Rs. 1 crore to the Government of Nagaland. No proposal for release of Central assistance has been received from the Government of Manipur so far.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up of an EPIP has been received from the State Government of Tripura, which is under consideration by the Central Government. No other proposal from any other State of North-Eastern region including Sikkim is pending with the Central Government.

Import/Export of Agro/Non-Agro Products

867. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of agro and non-agro products imported and exported during 1999-2000, separately;

(b) the amount of imported and exported items;

(c) the difference of amount in import and export; and

(d) the steps being taken to bring import and export at par ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Quantity figures of agro and non-agro and other items are available at disaggregated level. As per the DGCI&S provisional data value of export and import of agro and other items for year 1999-2000 is as under :-

	(US \$ Million)
Exports	
(i) Agriculture including plantation	4317.80
(ii) Other exports	33280.81
(iii) Total exports	37598.61
Imports	
(i) Agriculture including plantation	2695.29
(ii) Other imports	44516.78
(iii) Total Imports	47212.07
Trade deficit	(-)9613.46

(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. Imports are being monitored and tariffs of some imports have been raised.

Subsidy under PMRY

868. SHRI CHANDRA NATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether public and private sector banks are retaining excess amount towards subsidy under PMRY;

(b) if so, the number of such instances came to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years, bank-wise; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against such defaulting banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Public Sector and Private sector banks do not retain excess subsidy amounts under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). Banks have been allowed to utilise the excess subsidy amount if any, after settlement of the claims relating to a particular programme year toward the subsidy claims of the next programme year as the sanction and disbursement of loan amounts under the scheme is a continuous process. RBI at the instance of Government, issued circular to all scheduled Commercial banks for adjustment of surplus subsidy for programme years 1993-94 to 1996-97 towards subsidy requirements of programme year 1997-98. Further, the banks have been clearly instructed to ensure that the subsidy amount for the respective programme years, wherever so adjusted are clearly indicated in the statement to be furnished by banks. The final reconciliation in respect of subsidy is also to be submitted to RBI by banks.

Expansion, Upgradation and Strengthening of DD/AIR

869. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

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

(a) whether the Government have drawn up plans to expand, upgrade, strengthen AIR and DD network during the current year and the Ninth Plan period for better and clear reception/vision and extended reach;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan under implementation/proposed during the current year and the Ninth Plan, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) the details of ongoing and new AIR/DD projects in the country, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to complete them in time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of AIR and Doordarshan projects presently under implementation in different parts of the country including Maharashtra are given in enclosed Statement. These projects are at different stages of implementation and are targetted for completion during the 9th Plan period.

(d) All possible measures, including regular monitoring at CEO and E-in-C's level, are being taken to remove the bottlenecks and ensure that the projects under implementation are completed within their stipulated schedule.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UT	Studios	Doordarshan No. of Transmitter Projects		AIR
			DD-I	DD-II	Transmitters
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	1	1	1	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	18	1	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	4	—	3
4.	Bihar	—	5	5	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Goa	—	—	1	—
6.	Gujarat	1	2	3	6
7.	Haryana	—	—	1	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	7	2	—
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	75	6	11
10.	Kerala	2	6	2	3
11.	Karnataka	—	14	1	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	13	3	7
13.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	2
14.	Maharashtra	—	9	3	5
15.	Manipur	—	1	—	3
16.	Mizoram	—	2	—	2
17.	Nagaland	—	1	—	2
18.	Orissa	1	4	2	2
19.	Punjab	1	2	1	—
20.	Rajasthan	1	10	4	3
21.	Sikkim	1	1	—	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	7	2	4
23.	Tripura	—	3	1	4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1	14	9	5
25.	West Bengal	—	5	2	2
26.	Delhi	1	—	—	—
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	1
28.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—
29.	Pondicherry	—	1	—	—
30.	Laksha Dweep Islands	—	—	—	—
31.	Chandigarh	1	—	—	1
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
Total		16	205	50	80

**Setting up of TFCI for Development
of Tourism**

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

(a) whether the Tourism Finance Corporation of India (TFCI) has been set up to provide funds for development of tourism; and

(b) if so, the funds provided by TFCI for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (TFCI) has been established for providing financial assistance for development of tourism and tourism related activities, facilities and services.

(b) The State-wise assistance provided by TFCI during last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Statement showing State-wise Assistance sanctioned by TFCI during last three years

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State	Assistance Sanctioned		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	410	2025	830
Bihar	180	0	55
Goa	3400	550	0
Gujarat	4158	1820	250
Haryana	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	550	0	0
Karnataka	791	1770	0
Kerala	48	2485	75
Maharashtra	4950	2100	3600
Madhya Pradesh	325	1045	0
NCR Delhi	5740	0	0
Orissa	1175	875	800
Punjab	660	0	0
Rajasthan	3745	1570	600
Sikkim	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1675	6055	1438
Uttar Pradesh	4200	425	594
West Bengal	0	0	0
Pondicherry (UT)	0	400	0
Total	32007	21120	8242

[Translation]

VLPT/LPT in Himachal Pradesh

871. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of VLPT/LPT centres which are under construction in Himachal Pradesh after clearance, centre-wise;

(b) the number of centres whose construction work have not yet been started even after clearance; and

(c) the number of centres recommended by the public representatives or the department after survey recommended to construct them but have not yet been cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) One Low Power Transmitter and 7 Very Low Power Transmitter projects are presently under implementation in Himachal Pradesh. Installation works pertaining to three projects are in progress. Sites for the remaining five projects are to be taken over by Doordarshan. Installation works pertaining to these five projects can be taken up after the sites are taken over by Doordarshan.

(c) Requests for setting up of TV transmitters in uncovered areas of Himachal Pradesh have been received from time to time from various quarters. These requests are considered while formulating the plans of TV expansion, subject to availability of resources and technical feasibility.

[English]

Appointment on Compassionate Ground in PNB

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

(a) the rules for appointment on compassionate ground in Punjab National Bank, if the dependent of deceased is minor;

(b) whether Government are aware that Punjab National Bank has rejected various applications for appointment on compassionate ground despite prior assurance by PNB for giving employment to the minor after attaining the age of eligibility;

(c) if so, the details of disposal of such applications by PNB since 1993; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure the appointment of applicants for their survival, particularly to those who are become orphan after the death of employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a), (b) and (d) According to Punjab National Bank the extant rules which are in force w.e.f 20.3.1997 for appointment of a minor on compassionate grounds in the bank are as under :

"In case the dependent is a minor, his/her case can be considered at the discretion of the bank within four years of the death of the employee to enable him/her to qualify in terms of age, provided that the dependent has made a request to the bank within one year of the death of the employee"

Prior to 20.3.1997 the rules for appointment of a minor on compassionate grounds in the bank were as under :

"In case the member of the family to be offered an appointment is a minor, the competent authority can keep the offer of appointment open till the minor attains the majority, if otherwise eligible, provided a request to that effect is made to the bank within one year from the date of death of the employee."

Punjab National Bank have further reported that they have revised their rules in this regard w.e.f. 20.3.1997 keeping in view the Judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on compassionate appointments in the case of Sri Umesh Kumar Nagpal Vs. State of Haryana and others (JT

1994 (3) SC 525). The relevant extracts from this judgement are as under :

"The compassionate employment cannot be granted after a lapse of reasonable period which must be specified in the rules. The consideration of such employment is not a vested right which can be exercised at any time in future. The object being to enable the family to get over the financial crisis which it faces at the time of the death of the sole bread winner, the compassionate employment cannot be claimed and offered whatever the lapse of time and after the crisis is over."

Punjab National Bank have, thus, processed pending applications for such appointments under their revised rules.

(c) The cases in which the applicants were minor at the time of death of the employee and whose cases have been declined by the bank after they attained majority, are given in the enclosed Statement along with the reasons for rejection.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Dependent/	Date of death of Employee	Date on which the applicant attained majority	Date of decision	Remarks
1.	Ms. Renuka D/o S.K. Ahlawadi, Officer, BO : Alika	26.8.92	5.7.97	15.1.98	Declined as waiting period was/is more than 4 years
2.	Ms. Punam Dubey, D/o Sh. Chintamani Dubey, Spl. Asstt., BO : Lyons Range, Calcutta	11.2.94	10.8.99	19.2.98	-do-
3.	Sweta Tikkoo, D/o, Sh. Chandji Tikkoo, S. Asstt., BO : Canal Road, Jammu	27.6.93	29.10.2001	19.5.97	-do-
4.	Sachin Gupta, S/o P.P. Gupta, Manager, HO PF Deptt.	19.8.91	29.11.97	15.1.98	-do-
5.	Rahul Kakkar S/o Smt. Renu Kakkar, C/T, Sector 17 C, Chandigarh	1.3.96	15.10.2003	24.9.98	-do-
6.	Ms. Laxmi Kumari, D/o Sh. M.S. Gosain, Armed Guard, HO, Security Deptt.	30.8.93	29.6.99	18.10.99	-do-
7.	B.B. Goswami, S/o Y.N. Bali, Ex-Peon/Guard BO : Gawan	4.6.87	1998	30.1.99	-do-

Direct Tax Law on Internet

873. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any move to put all the direct tax laws and also updated notifications and amendments thereof on the Internet in the website;

(b) if so, to what extent it has been covered and the time it will take to put all the related laws, rules, notifications and regulations on the Internet at one site for the convenience of tax law practitioners and the general public;

(c) whether adequate publicity would be given of the availability of these materials on the Internet website; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Income Tax Department already has Websites maintained by the Chief Commissioners of Income-tax Delhi, Chandigarh, Gujarat, Mumbai and Pune. These Websites have complete details of the Direct Tax Laws, Rules and procedures alongwith the jurisdictions, circulars, Instructions and facilities to post grievances. These Websites are updated on a regular basis and adequate publicity given through the media.

2. Steps have also been taken to create a National Website of the Income Tax Department on similar lines as the existing websites.

Cases of Excise Evasion

874. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of evasion of Central Excise cases detected by the Directorate General of Anti-Evasion of excise during 1999-2000 in comparison to the last three years;

(b) the amount involved therein;

(c) the *modus operandi* adopted by the manufacturers in the evasion;

(d) whether delay in action in evasion cases help the people to further evade and accumulate black money; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to find the ways and means to expedite the cases pending before the authorities, courts, tribunals and to plug loopholes that help the longing of cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The details of the number of cases booked by the DGAE and the amount of duty involved therein during 1999-2000 as compared to the last 3 years are as follows :

Year	No. of case	Amount of Duty Involved (Rs. in Crores)
1996-1997	239	387.96
1997-1998	410	481.63
1998-1999	301	600.14
1999-2000	424	1113.86

(c) The *modus operandi* for evasion of Central Excise duty can be broadly categorised as follows :-

- (1) Clandestine Removals;
- (2) Under-valuation;
- (3) Wrong availment of Modvat credit; and
- (4) Wrong classification and/or misuse of exemption notifications.

(d) and (e) Various measures have been taken by the Government to ensure timely action against the tax evaders and recover revenue due to Exchequer. As soon as a case is detected, investigations are conducted vigorously and SCN issued expeditiously. Special adjudicators have been appointed at Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi to adjudicate the high revenue stake cases booked by DGAE. After adjudication important cases are followed up closely in the Tribunal/Courts, where contested, for early disposal. Legislative measures have been taken by providing for charging interest in respect of evasion cases from the first day of the month succeeding the month in which duty ought to have been paid, and imposition of penalty equal to the duty evaded. Further, it has been provided that if the duty evaded is paid within 30 days from the date of communication of the adjudication order along with interest, the penalty would be reduced to 25% of the duty determined provided that the penalty is also paid within 30 days of the date of the communication of the adjudication order. Also, Settlement Commission has been constituted to settle disputed cases and in the last Budget provisions made for an option to the assessee to withdraw cases pending in Tribunal for settlement by the Settlement Commission.

Lifting of Ban on Sale of Non-Iodised Salt

875. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has lifted the ban on the sale on non-iodised salt enforced in the year 1980;

(b) whether the Government have taken any expert opinion from Medical Experts before lifting the ban; and

(c) the factors prompted the Government for such a decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) A notification has been issued on 10.5.2000 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare inviting comments from the public on the proposal to remove the restriction on the sale of non-iodised salt for direct human consumption which came into effect on 27.5.1998

(b) and (c) The decision to issue the notification proposing removal of the restriction on sale of non iodised salt for direct human consumption was based on the repeated representations received from certain segments of society that there should be no compulsion in measures promoting public health, which should be left to the informed choice" of the people.

Comments have been received from the public, including medical experts, both supporting and opposing the proposal to remove the restriction on sale of non-iodised salt. All shades of opinion will be carefully considered in the Ministry of Health and F.W. before taking a final view in the matter.

Medical Expenses of ITDC Employees

876. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation is affording the expenses of its sick employees' treatment, particularly of Cancer patients;

(b) if so, whether this facility of free treatment is being extended after the retirement of its employees like other Central Government employees; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. So far medical expenses on the treatment of general sickness and special disease like Cancer were being reimbursed as per entitlement during service period only. Now a post retirement medical scheme has been introduced extending medical reimbursement for indoor treatment and special diseases in respect of those eligible employees who have served the Corporation for not less than 15 years on the date of superannuation/death or opting for VRS on or after 15th June, 2000.

Patent Cases

877. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian patents and foreign patents filed during 1997 and 1999 as against their targets for each year;

(b) whether the target has remained unfulfilled; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to increase the awareness for the patents ?

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

Year	Number of Patent applications filed	
	Indian	Foreign
1997	1901	8243
1998	2112	7710
1999	2168	9168

(b) No yearly target is fixed since patent applications are voluntary and filed by those desirous of seeking patent protection.

(c) Since 1999, a number of awareness programme on patents and other aspects of intellectual property rights, were organised, the details of which are given below :

(i) An Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on "Intellectual Property Policy Issues in the Next Millennium" was organised by the World Intellectual Property Organisation, in association with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in New Delhi from July 7 to 9, 1999. This Forum was attended by senior officials responsible for intellectual property policies and administration from 20 countries of Asia and the Pacific region to examine various issues concerning policy development in the field of intellectual property. Indian participants representing industry, academia, scientists, researchers, lawyers, non-governmental organisations, etc. also attended.

(ii) Inter-active sessions on patents were organised in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Hyderabad,

Cochin, Calcutta, Indore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Pune and Guwahati during the period from June-August, 1999. These sessions were attended by scientists, academia, economists, representative of industry, Chambers of Commerce, Private/Public Sector Units, journalists, non-governmental organisations, representatives of State Government, lawyers and attorneys and other interest groups.

- (iii) Awareness programmes on Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) were organised for interest groups in New Delhi, Calcutta and Bangalore in October-November, 1999.
- (iv) A seminar on "Issues relating to the implementation of intellectual Property Rights" was organised by the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee, an inter-governmental organisation, in association with Ministry of External Affairs, in New Delhi from November 15-16, 1999. This seminar was attended by different member and non-member countries and representatives of international organisations.
- (v) Awareness programme on Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) was organised for interest groups in Mumbai in April, 2000.
- (vi) A Forum on "Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy in the 21st Century" was organised by the World Intellectual Property Organisation in association with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi from July 5 to 7, 2000. This Forum was attended by senior officials responsible for intellectual property rights policies and administration from 24 countries with a view to review policy perspectives and strategic considerations in the area of intellectual property in the 21st century and emerging global intellectual property issues and to formulate a coordinated response and plan of action for the countries of Asia and the Pacific region. Indian participants representing industry, academia, scientists, researchers, lawyers, non-governmental organisations, etc. also attended.

Government has also supported the awareness related initiatives taken by other departments/organisations/institutions through representation and expert support.

In order to sustain and strengthen the awareness campaign, a budgetary provision has also been kept.

FDI Policy

878. SHRI ANADI SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of countries which participated in the foreign Investment events called "Destination India";
- (b) the policies of the Government in regard to inviting FDI into the country; and
- (c) the sectors in which FDIs have been invited, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) During 2000-2001, "Destination India" events have been organised in Australia, New Zealand and France in April, 2000 with the objective of attracting Foreign Direct Investment from these countries in various sectors.

Government has put in place a liberal Foreign Direct Investment Policy and has been constantly reviewing this policy with the objective of attracting more and more Foreign Direct Investment to the country. Government has recently placed all items/activities under the automatic route for FDI, Non-Resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) investment except the following :

- I. All proposals that require an Industrial Licence which include (i) the item requiring an Industrial Licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951; (ii) foreign investment being more than 24% in the equity capital of units manufacturing items reserved for small scale industries; and (iii) all items which require an industrial Licence in terms of the locational policy notified by Government under the New Industrial policy of 1991.
- II. All proposals in which the foreign collaborator has a previous venture/tie-up in India. The modalities prescribed in Press Note No. 18 dated 14.12.1998 of 1998 services, shall apply in such cases.
- III. All proposal relating to acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company in favour of a foreign/ NRI/OCB investor.
- IV. All proposals falling outside notified sectoral policy/caps or under sectors in which FDI is not permitted and/or whenever any investor chooses to make an application to the FIPB and not to avail of the automatic route.

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

Special Audit by SEBI

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

(a) whether SEBI has conducted a special audit into the functioning of 55 collective investment schemes of plantation companies;

(b) if so, the details of findings of special audit and serious financial mismanagement/frauds committed by each of the plantation company;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of investors who have been cheated; and

(d) the details of long term policy initiatives proposed to check plug effectively the various malpractices indulged in by the Plantation Companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHAB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had ordered a special audit of 53 collective investment schemes (CIS). Audit of two more companies was carried out pursuant to court orders.

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

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

Revival of BOGL

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any revival package for Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount of revival package; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) An Expert Group was appointed by the Government for examining the viability of certain sick PSUs including BOGL. The report of the Expert Group has recently been considered by the Government and a decision taken to submit the revival plan of BOGL, as recommended by the Expert Group, to BIFR for preparation of a draft rehabilitation scheme by the Operating Agency.

[Translation]

Action Plan for Development of Tourism

881. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of action plans which have been included in the Eighth Five Year Plan for encouraging tourism, State-wise;

(b) the amount allocated for this purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The National Action Plan for Tourism was formulated for the development and promotion of tourism in the country during 1992. During the 8th Plan, the Department of Tourism sanctioned 985 projects amounting to Rs. 17124.72 lakhs to State Governments/UTs for development of tourism. State-wise details are in the statement enclosed.

(c) The implementation and completion of the projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Govts./UTs who are required to complete the projects within the stipulated time frame as per the guidelines of the Department of Tourism.

Statement**State-wise Central Financial Assistance
sanction during VIII Plan**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount Sancd.
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	437.69
2.	Assam	25	439.84
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	155.28
4.	Bihar	23	408.41
5.	Goa	49	599.86
6.	Gujarat	25	190.58
7.	Haryana	46	747.58
8.	Himachal Pradesh	68	1611.21
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	44	781.97
10.	Karnataka	63	1178.48
11.	Kerala	38	1014.78
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9	80.81
13.	Maharashtra	55	1035.31
14.	Manipur	24	243.45
15.	Meghalaya	10	110.36
16.	Mizoram	31	458.17
17.	Nagaland	20	223.16
18.	Orissa	46	902.34
19.	Punjab	38	647.53
20.	Rajasthan	61	1408.14
21.	Sikkim	25	351.78
22.	Tamil Nadu	61	1134.95
23.	Tripura	25	278.52
24.	Uttar Pradesh	44	741.06
25.	West Bengal	36	810.80
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	8	193.97
27.	Chandigarh	15	117.22
28.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	3	108.28
29.	Delhi	27	336.26

1	2	3	4
30.	Daman and Diu	11	146.05
31.	Lakshadweep	8	168.41
32.	Pondicherry	7	61.87
Grand Total		985	17124.72

**Indian Films in Film Festival in
Cannes (France)**

882. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether not even a single Indian film has been shown in the International Film Festival organized in Cannes city of France this year;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to show the Indian Films in such festivals in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Directorate of Film Festivals sent entries of six films for screening in the Cannes Film Festival this year. However, no film was selected by the Cannes festival authorities for screening in the festival.

(c) The Directorate of Film Festivals sends entries of Indian films for various international festivals abroad and would continue to send the same in future also. However, the decision to select the films to be screened in the festival rests with the concerned festival authorities.

[English]

Income Tax Return

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

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes has worked out a comprehensive package to make filing of tax returns easier by allowing Public Sector banks to take up this operations;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The Central Board of Direct Taxes has no plan to allow filing of tax returns through public sector banks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Complaints regarding Doordarshan
T.V. Tower at Pitampura**

884. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 1224 on 7th December 1999 regarding complaints received by Doordarshan T.V. tower at Pitampura and state :

(a) whether the enquiry work has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in it; and

(d) the time by which the enquiry is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasara Bharati has informed that no prima facie case has been established after the preliminary enquiry.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Export of Spices

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

(a) the steps taken by Spices Board to encourage the export of spices, particularly from Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether any higher officers of Spices Board has visited the central part of the country during above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) A number of schemes are implemented by the Spices Board for the benefit of registered spices exporters including those from Madhya Pradesh for promoting export of spices from India. Apart from 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 "Indian Spices" Logo awarded to exporters of value added spices and the grant of "Spice House Certificate" to exporters of spices in bulk who adhere to quality standards; setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As a part of the efforts to improve export of spices, the senior officers of the Spices Board have visited the Central part of country during the last three years for organising exporter's meetings, quality improvement training programmes and seminars etc. However, such visits are more frequent in chilli, turmeric and seed spices growing areas.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Imported Sugar through PDS

886. SHRI DANVE RAO SAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the imported sugar which is being purchased more than the local rate are supplied through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the reasons to import whereas more than enough stock is available in the country;

(c) the local purchasing rate fixed by the Government for sugarcane from the farmers/growers; and

(d) the total tonnage of sugar purchased from the Maharashtra sugar mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Import of sugar is on Open General Licence (OGL). However, there has been no import of sugar on Government account.

(c) Government of India is only concerned with the fixation of statutory minimum price of sugarcane, which has been fixed at Rs. 56.10 per quintal linked to a recovery level of 8.5% subject to premium of Rs. 0.66 for every 0.1 increase in the recovery above that level.

(d) During the sugar season 1999-2000 (October-September), a quantity of 17.47 lakh tonnes of levy sugar was allocated upto 20th July, 2000 from the sugar mills of Maharashtra for PDS purposes.

**Provision of Loan to Folk Dancers/
Village Drama Performers**

887. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the conditions of village drama performers and traditional folk dance/drama artists;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide occupational loan to village drama performers and traditional folk dance/drama artists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Department of Culture is promoting the preservation and development of folk and tribal arts and culture through the Zonal Cultural Centres by providing performance opportunities to the folk/tribal performers and sponsoring them in various festivals and events. In addition, the Department also has a scheme for grant of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and institutions engaged in the preservation and promotion of tribal and folk art and culture.

**National Renewal Fund of Public
Sector Enterprises**

888. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the National Renewal Fund to deal with the problems of retrenched workers of Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) The National Renewal Fund has been abolished vide a gazette notification on 12.7.2000. However financial assistance for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings will be made available to the administrative Ministries/Departments directly at the beginning of the year. The scheme of retraining/rehabilitation of workers is being administered separately.

**PDS Rations to States for the People
below Poverty Line**

889. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the States and Union Territories have sought PDS rations for those people living below poverty line;

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

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

(d) the total estimated foodgrains and cost involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) Demand for foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System for those below the poverty line is generally higher than the allocation made by the Government of India as they are subsidised. The allocation of wheat and rice is not demand based under TPDS. PDS is not a substitute for the open market but only a supplement to it. Requests are received from the States/Union Territories from time to time for enhancing their allotments. Considering the demands of the States/UTs, additional allocations of wheat and rice are made to the States/UTs at APL rates subject to availability and subsidy constraint. The allocation of foodgrains to BPL families has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per BPL family per month from April 1, 2000. APL allocations have been retained at current level. Additional quantities of wheat and rice, over and above the normal monthly allocations, if demanded by the States/UTs will be considered subject to availability and at economic cost. Details of the requests received from States and UTs in the current year for additional allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates under TPDS are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

S. No.	Name of States	Demand made	Position
1.	Mizoram	Additional allocation of 1500 tonnes of wheat at BPL rate.	The State Govt. has been informed that any additional quantity of wheat under BPL can be given only by reducing the equal quantity of BPL rice allocation to the State or alternatively foodgrains over and above TPDS allocation can be considered at APL rates- (economic cost).
2.	Kerala	Additional allocation of 25,350 tonnes of wheat at BPL rate.	State Government has been informed that additional wheat at BPL rate can be given only by adjusting an equal quantity of monthly BPL rice allocation or otherwise 25,350 tonnes of wheat per month be allotted at APL rate – (economic cost).
3.	Tamilnadu	Additional allocation of 30,000 tonnes of wheat at BPL rate.	State Govt. has been informed that additional wheat at BPL rate can be given only by adjusting an equal quantity of monthly BPL rice allocation or otherwise 30,000 tonnes of wheat per month be allotted at APL rate – (economic cost).

Ways and Means Advance

890. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of days each State has availed Ways and Means Advances during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, till date, alongwith the amount of interest on each States, on their respective Ways and Means Advances;

(b) the number of days each State has incurred overdrafts from the RBI during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 alongwith the amount of interest each State had paid during each of these years on overdrafts; and

(c) the minimum cash balance and limit of advances agreed upon between each State and the RBI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Transactions between a State and the RBI is conducted as per an agreement between the two. Since disclosure of information on Overdrafts by the States impinges upon the relationship between the banker and the clients (between the RBI and the State Governments), such information is not published/made public by the Government of India.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

S.N.	States	Minimum balance	Normal WMA w.e.f. 01.03.1999	Special WMA as on 21.07.2000	Total (3+4)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.32	288.00	38.98	326.98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.26	28.00	49.80	77.80
3.	Assam	1.08	114.00	14.62	128.62
4.	Bihar	2.18	189.00	48.19	237.19
5.	Goa	0.19	24.00	2.89	26.89
6.	Gujarat	2.80	243.00	14.73	257.73
7.	Haryana	1.14	99.00	10.74	109.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.55	59.00	—	59.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Karnataka	2.63	228.00	26.35	254.35
10.	Kerala	1.66	144.00	11.85	155.85
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2.68	232.00	24.87	256.87
12.	Maharashtra	5.58	483.00	26.99	509.99
13.	Manipur	0.24	25.00	3.85	28.85
14.	Meghalaya	0.21	25.00	9.31	34.31
15.	Mizoram	0.20	25.00	—	25.00
16.	Nagaland	0.25	26.00	—	26.00
17.	Orissa	1.28	141.00	20.32	161.32
18.	Punjab	1.56	141.00	43.45	184.45
19.	Rajasthan	2.34	202.00	197.34	399.34
20.	Tamil Nadu	3.25	281.00	34.23	315.23
21.	Tripura	0.29	31.00	135.01	166.01
22.	Uttar Pradesh	4.87	422.00	216.05	638.05
23.	West Bengal	2.48	235.00	389.66	624.66
Total		41.04	3685.00	1319.23	5004.23

J&K and Sikkim do not Bank with RBI.

Insurance Cover to Depositors of NBFCs

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

(a) whether the Government have agreed in principle to provide insurance cover to the depositors of NBFCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken up this issue with GIC and Insurance Regulatory Authority;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress made so far in this regard ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Though the task force on NBFCs had recommended against the provision of deposit insurance for deposits with NBFCs, there have been demands from time to time to extend deposit insurance to the NBFC

sector. In this background, RBI had discussed with General Insurance Company (GIC) in 1998 the possibility of extending deposit insurance to the NBFC sector. GIC did not find itself in a position to provide deposit insurance to the NBFC sector. The possibility of private insurance companies developing a suitable product for insurance of deposits of NBFCs has come up during RBI's discussions with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

Coverage of Revamped PDS

892. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend coverage of Revamped Public Distribution System in various States, particularly in hilly and inaccessible areas;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes proposed, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) the details of funds allocated by the Union Government under this scheme during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir. With the introduction of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in June, 1997 which covers "poor in all areas", the Revamped Public Distribution System with its emphasis on "all in poor areas" became redundant. TPDS envisages issue of foodgrains at especially subsidised prices to the families living below poverty line (BPL). The Revamped Public Distribution system (RPDS) which was in operation since 1992 in 1775 identified blocks in the country and under which foodgrains for those areas were issued at 50 paise per kilogram below the normal Central Issue Prices, has ceased to exist.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rope way in Gwalior Fort

893. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install rope way system in Gwalior Fort (Madhya Pradesh);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The rope way in the Gwalior Fort is basically a project of the Tourism and since Tourism is the State subject, the State Government has to send the Project proposal. As and when such proposal comes, it will be considered by the Government.

[English]

Permission to use Salt Pan Land for Cemetery

894. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra and Mumbai Municipal Corporation had requested Salt Commissioner at Mumbai to give NOC to use Salt Pan land for approach road for a Cemetery at Mulund East, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the land required for this purpose;

(c) whether the Salt Commissioner has asked for market value from Mumbai Municipal Corporation and State Government of this land;

(d) whether the Government are considering the request of State Government to make available the approach road for this composite Cemetery; and

(e) if so, the present position of the proposal ?

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

(b) The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vide its letter dated 29.6.2000 addressed to Dy. Salt Commissioner, Mumbai has sought No Objection Certificate for land bearing CTS No. 1291 (Pt) of village Mulund (E) admeasuring 300 Sq. Mtrs. (approx.) for the said purpose.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir, as above.

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs

895. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4315 dated April 20, 2000 regarding vacant posts of SCs/STs and state :

(a) whether the relevant information has so far been collected by the Government

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be laid on the Table of the house ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Department of Culture has two Attached Offices, six Subordinate Offices and twenty-six Autonomous Organisations under its control. The information has been collected from all except eight organisations.

(b) The details of information already collected is compiled and attached as Statement. All the organisations have been instructed to expeditiously fill up the vacancies.

(c) It is expected that it would be possible to lay the information in regard to the remaining eight organisations by end of August 2000.

Statement

A. No. of SCs/STs/OBCs provided with jobs year-wise/category-wise

Category	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
SC	30	34	42
ST	08	11	10
OBC	13	33	27

*B. No. of SCs/STs/OBCs lying vacant as on
March 31st 2000*

SC	ST	OBC
68	44	113

**Wage Revision of Insurance
Sector Employees**

896. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have revised the wages of employees working in the Public Sector insurance companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date from which the wages have been revised; and

(c) the financial implication as a result thereof ?

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

(b) The Central Government have approved wage revision for the employees of the Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation and the four subsidiaries. This wage revision is effective from 1.8.1997 for a period of five years i.e. upto 31.7.2002. The wage revision is in two parts, viz. (i) overall wage revision at the rate of 12% of the wage bill as on 1.8.1997, covering benefits such as basic pay scales, dearness allowance, house rent allowance, city compensatory allowance, conveyance allowance, hill station allowance, functional allowance, etc. and (ii) Productivity Linked Lump-sum Incentive Scheme, from 1.4.1999 upto 31.3.2002, providing for payment of incentive upto a maximum of 6% of the wage bill as on 1.08.1997 (pre-revised) subject to achieving certain basic parameters.

In addition, a lump-sum payment in lieu of Productivity Linked Lump-sum Incentive at the rate of 1.67% of the wage bill as on 1.8.1997, for the period 1.08.1997 to 31.3.1999, has also been approved.

Concerned gazette notification are separately being laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The financial implications as a result of the wage revision are as follows :-

- (i) LIC : Rs. 158.72 Crore p.a.
- (ii) GIC and subsidiaries : Rs. 142.00 Crore p.a.

Accredited Advertising Agencies

897. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the norms followed to give accreditation for the advertising agencies from whom advertisements are accepted;

(b) the details of commercial advertisement rates for different slots on Doordarshan; and

(c) the commission given to the accredited advertising agencies during the last three years, year-wise and agency-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance to Farmers of Kerala

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

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a scheme seeking financial assistance from the Union Government to save Rubber, Tea, Coffee, Pepper and Cardamom farmers of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No scheme seeking financial assistance from the Union Government in respect of Rubber, Tea, Coffee and Cardamom has been received from the Government of Kerala this year. The Government of Kerala has, however, given a Draft Project Report to Planning Commission for seeking international assistance for development of the Pepper industry, details of which are still awaited from the State Government.

Buddhist Ruins in Andhra Pradesh

899. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is undertaking any survey of Buddhist ruins in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a survey has been done earlier by ASI;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some above mentioned sites exist in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh;

(f) if so, whether any study has been done in this regard; and

(g) the plans of ASI to expand knowledge on this subject in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. Details are given at in enclosed Statement which includes four Buddhist sites namely, Alluru. Penukanchiprolu, Ghantasala and Jujjuru in the Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh. The last three have been excavated by ASI and results are given in the attached Statement.

(g) Archaeological Survey of India has no plan in this regard for the present.

Statement

S. No.	Village/Site	District	Cultural Assemblage	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Salihundam	Srikakulam	Buddhist site	Revealed Buddhist structures viz Viharas kitchen, store rooms, inscriptions, etc.
2.	Rajula – Mandagiri	Kurnool	Buddhist site	Inscription of Asoka.
3.	Amravati	Guntur	Buddhist site	Excavation yielded ruins of maha chaitya along with a large number of exquisite sculptures and inscriptions of the Satavahana and other period.
4.	Nagarjunakonda Valley	Guntur	Buddhist site	Seven important sites were opened up, revealing remains of vihars, stupas, an assembly hall, a closed bath and two temples, one of them of Hariti, pavilions, bathing ghats and a large number of sculptures, inscription, coins, terracotta and other antiquities.
5.	Kotturu	Vishakapatnam	Buddhist site	Excavation revealed Buddhist vihara complex.
6.	Yegumalli Tadakonda	East Godavari	Buddhist site	A fairly well – preserved brick stupa, about 600 ft. in circumference at the base, and 13 ft. height was found
7.	Lingarajupalem	Anantpur	Buddhist site	Site of a large Buddhist stupa.
8.	Alluru	Krishna	Buddhist site	Two Buddhist images datable to Ikshvaku period were found.
9.	Uppugunduru	Guntur	Buddhist site	A large mound, statue of Buddha and sculptured panels.
10.	Chandavaram	Nellore	Buddhist site	Remains of stupas, earthen bunds and fortifications.
11.	Guntupalle	West Godavari	Buddhist site	Copper casket inside votive stupa no. 4. The casket contained two more caskets one of silver and other seemingly of gold. The inner most casket yielded beads of bone and crystal. Excavation revealed a stupa with ayak platform

1	2	3	4	5
				in addition to three casket of copper, silver and gold kept one inside the other with relics found in the innermost golden casket. Besides a bronze image of Budhistva padmapani was also discovered.
12. Bhattiprolu	Guntur	Buddhist site		Excavation yielded brick – built stupa, ayaka, platform, railing and two wings of viharas.
13. Kondapur	Medak	Buddhist site		A stupa mound discovered.
14. Penukanchiprolu	Krishna	Buddhist site		A Buddhist stupa site, limestone sculptures of Buddha found.
15. Kalingapatnam	Srikakulum	Buddhist site		A huge Buddhist stupa mound was noticed.
16. Nambur, Seethanagaram Vijayakiladri	Guntur	Buddhist site		Buddhistic establishment.
17. Kukutlapalle	Prakasam	Buddhist site		Buddhistic establishment.
18. Yerrapalem	Guntur	Buddhist site		A cluster of Buddhist stupas were found.
19. Ghantasala/ Yemampadu	Krishna	Buddhist site		Chronological sequence of the site was established.
20. Aduru	East Godavari	Buddhist site		Excavation revealed spoked wheel type stupa.
21. Kampalli	Karim Nagar	Buddhist site		Brick stupa, viharas and pillared hall.
22. Pashgaon	Karim Nagar	Buddhist site		Discovered chaitya griha and vihara complex.
23. Rudrakota	Nellore	Buddhist site		Fragment of chhatri and lotus motif found.
24. Jujjuru	Krishna	Buddhist site		Votive stupa was found.

AIR/DD Programmes in Foreign Countries

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

(a) whether All India Radio and Doordarshan are equipped to project and telecast programmes about India in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details of countries where the above programmes are being seen;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken to expand AIR and Doordarshan in this regard ?

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

OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of Countries covered by All India Radio and Doordarshan are given in the enclosed Statement I and II respectively.

(d) AIR has undertaken replacement of transmitters of AIR, Delhi (Replacement of 3 Nos. 100 KW SW Transmitter (each) by 250 KW SW transmitters), AIR, Aligarh (Replacement of existing 2 Nos. 250 KW SW Transmitters by 2 Nos. 250 KW SW Transmitters) and AIR, Rajkot (Replacement of existing 1000 KW MW Transmitter by a new 1000 KW MW Transmitters) for the External Services during Ninth Five Year Plan. In so far as Doordarshan is concerned, steps are being taken to increase the viewership in the countries already covered by International Channel of Doordarshan by way of arrangements for its local distribution.

Statement-I

Countries to which AIR's External Services are directed

1. Asia

- 1.1 **Neighbouring countries** : Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tibet (China)
- 1.2 **South-East Asia** : Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Phillipines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam
- 1.3 **North-East Asia** : China, Democratic Republic of Korea, Japan, Republic of Korea
- 1.4 **West Asia** : Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

2. Europe

- 2.1 **U.K. and West Europe** : Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mediterranean Islands, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia
- 2.2 **Former Soviet Union** : Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

3. Africa

- 3.1 **West and North-West Africa** : Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Negeria, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia
- 3.2 **East Africa** : Angola, Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Scycheles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzani, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

4. Aurtralia and New Zealand

Australia, New Zealand

Statement-II

Countries Reached by International Channel of Doordarshan

Asia

Afganistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (partly), Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Mangolia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Phillipines, Singaporre, Sri Lanka, Sumatra (partly), Thailand, Vietnam.

CIS

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgystan, Tajakistan, Turkmenia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Middle East

Bahrain, Brunei, Iran, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yeman.

Africa

Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda.

Europe

Austria, Cyprus, France, Finland, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, United Kingdom.

Australia**America**

Canada, United States of America

South Africa**ITDC Projects**

901. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the disinvestment policy being pursued by the Government in public sector undertakings including ITDC, whether there is a proposal to sell off the still to be completed projects taken up by ITDC in Chandigarh and Anandpur Sahib; and

(b) if not, by when these projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government has accepted the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission in regard to 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."

ITDC Hotel Project at Chandigarh is scheduled to be completed by October, 2001 and the joint venture hotel project at Anandpur Sahib is likely to be completed by October, 2000 subject to the availability of funds.

Shifting of Office of MPEDA

902. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) from Cochin to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the percentage share of marine exports from Kerala has come down in the overall marine exports from the country;

(c) if so, the logic to retain the base of MPEDA at Kerala when the East Coast is now the main base of marine exports; and

(d) the steps proposed to gradually shift the headquarters of MPEDA to the East Coast, in particular Andhra Pradesh ?

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

(b) to (d) The exports of marine products during the last three years effected through the ports in the State of Kerala have been as follows :—

Year	Exports from India		Exports from Kerala		% share of exports from Kerala to total exports from India	
	Quantity MT	Value Rs. crore	Quantity MT	Value Rs. crore	Quantity MT	Value Rs. crore
1997-98	385818	4697.48	89366	948.03	23.16	20.18
1998-99	302934	4626.87	70641	816.56	23.32	17.65
1999-00	343031	5116.67	92148	1146.96	26.86	22.42

As such the exports through the State of Kerala do not show a pattern of decline. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) have a number of formations to cater to the requirements of the East Coast viz., Regional Office at Chennai, Calcutta and Vizag, Sub-Regional Office at Bhubaneswar and Prawn Farming Regional Centres at Bhubaneswar and Vijayawada and Prawn Farming Sub-Regional Centres at Calcutta and Bhimavaram. Moreover, Kerala continues to be a nerve-centre for the fishing and export related activities.

[Translation]

'Dev Somnath' Temple

903. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are formulating any scheme for the renovation of dilapidated 'Dev Somnath' temple, a unique and rare form of architectural beauty of 12th century under the archaeological department located at Dungarpur district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Deo Somnath Temple in Dungarpur District in Rajasthan is maintained and conserved by the Archaeological Survey

of India. The main temple is in good state of preservation. However, essential repairs are executed from time to time based on actual requirements and availability of funds.

Protection of Archaeological Monuments near Ahmednagar City (Maharashtra)

904. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allocate any funds of the environmental protection, conservation and maintenance of the archaeological monuments located near Ahmednagar city in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The amount proposed to be allocated for this purpose and the measures to be taken for the maintenance of the monuments ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The maintenance, conservation and preservation of the centrally protected monuments including those located near Ahmednagar is a continuous process. During the current year the following works will be taken up :—

1. Structural conservation of Farah Bagh Palace, Ahmednagar.

2. Structural conservation of Salabat Khan's Tomb, Ahmednagar.
3. Fencing of Newasa, an archaeological site in Ahmednagar District.

The funds allocated for this purpose during the current financial year is Rs. 11 lakhs.

[English]

Harappan Treasure

905. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India have taken possession of the large scale plundering of treasures including gold coins and onyx jewellery belonging to the Harappan era following its excavation in a U.P. village during May, 2000;

(b) if so, the other details of the Harappan treasures found there;

(c) whether any compensation has been given to villagers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has in its possession a small quantity of the treasure consisting of six gold karas and pieces of silver jewellery voluntarily handed over by villagers of village Mandi. Gold, silver and semi-precious stone items weighing about 10 Kg. were recovered from the site and deposited in the District Treasury at Muzaffarnagar by the State Police.

(c) and (d) A token payment of Rs. 60,000/- has been made to villagers who voluntarily handed over the six gold karas and pieces of silver jewellery. The remaining amount will be paid to them after the determination of the compensation.

(e) Question does not arise.

Bringing back Historical Relics

906. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been made to the British Government to return the relics of historical and cultural important like Kohinoor diamond to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Victoria Museum in London has got gems and other relics relating to Chhatrapati Shivaji and Maharaja Ranjit Singh; and

(d) if so, the efforts made so far to bring back these and other items pertaining to princely States of British Raj ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per the information provided by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London does not have any gems or relics of Shivaji. Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Throne is on permanent display in the India Section of the Museum. Government of India is in touch with the relevant authorities in the United Kingdom, through the Indian High Commission in London, and are exploring ways and means for obtaining a satisfactory resolution in the matter.

Irregularities in Sale of Items by Super Bazar and NCCF

907. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale corruption and irregularities going on in the sale of stationery and other office use items by the NCCF and Super Bazar to the Government departments;

(b) if so, the number of cases have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the order authorizing the above stated institutions and to withdraw the same;

(d) whether the items from the established manufacturers sell, less than unbranded or not so reputed manufacturers in these institutions at rates higher than in the open market;

(e) if so, the purchase policy of these institutions and the manner in which it is drawn up;

(f) whether these institutions do not reply or inform their registered dealers to their letters, proposals, etc. and take arbitrary and discriminatory actions as a consequent to that;

(g) the manner in which the quality of the item supplied to the Super Bazar/NCCF is checked; and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to curb the irregularities and eradicate the corruption in the above institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Department of Personnel and Training had issued an order in 1981 (which has been amended from time to time) asking the Central Government Ministries/Departments etc. to procure stationery and other items from Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and the NCCF without inviting tenders/quotations in relaxation of the procedure laid down in the GFR. The Department of Personnel and Training as also the Department of Consumer Affairs have been receiving complaints from various sources against the above mentioned cooperatives alleging corruption and irregularities on their part. The cases involving irregularities corruption etc. are investigated by the Vigilance Department of these organization and CBI, depending upon the nature of the case and suitable action is taken on a regular basis. The Department of Personnel and Training is undertaking a comprehensive review of the policy relating to purchase of stationery and other items etc. by these organizations.

(d) and (e) The NCCF and the Super Bazar have their own Board of Directors to look after their business and other administrative matters. These organizations have their own purchase policy and procedure. In the NCCF, they have a Business Committee where the purchase policy of the NCCF is decided upon. In Super Bazar, they have a Purchase Committee to go in to the details of the purchase and take decision before placing an order for purchase. The NCCF has reported that they purchase major branded items from either the manufacturers or their distributors/dealers. The Super Bazar gives preference for purchase of similar items if manufactured by small scale manufacturers and reputed companies, if the quality and the rates are competitive.

(f) The NCCF and the Super Bazar have informed that all the letters received from particular dealers are attended to promptly by them.

(g) The NCCF has advised the user Departments to send complaint etc. within 30 days of the receipt of the goods. While the Super Bazar has a system of pre-

purchase quality control of stationery items at their own quality control laboratory, they also undertake random checking from the sales area.

(h) Both the NCCF and the Super Bazar have their own Vigilance Departments headed by their Chief Vigilance Officers. The Vigilance Departments looks into all cases of irregularities and corruption whenever the same is brought to their notice.

Economic Reforms

908. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have signed any MoU with the State Governments in regard to accelerate economic reforms;

(b) if so, whether additional fiscal assistance is being provided to State Governments under this MoU; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MoU had been signed with thirteen State Governments during 1999-2000 to accelerate fiscal reforms.

(c) During 1999-2000 a facility comprising of Rs. 3000 crores under Extended Ways and Means Facility and Rs. 2000 crores under Additional Market Borrowings was created to provide assistance to States who had undertaken monitorable fiscal reforms programme. Thirteen States who had entered into a MoU for implementing their reforms programme, were allocated an amount of Rs. 4490 crores, comprising of Rs. 2570 crores as Extended Ways and Means Facility and Rs. 1920 crores as Additional Market Borrowings during 1999-2000.

Production of Iodised Salt

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

(a) whether the production of iodised salt has gone down in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the iodised salt being produced in the country is not in conformity with the laid down standards; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure production of iodised salt in conformity with the laid down standards in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Standard for iodised salt are laid down in PFA Rules, 1995. Iodised salt manufactured for use in the country has to conform to these standard and its quality is regularly monitored by the State Food Health Authorities.

Introduction of Direct to Home Services in India

910. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Ministerial Committee to devise a policy decision on Direct to Home Services in India;

(b) if so, the details of terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has since finalized its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted comprising of Ministers of Home Affairs, Finance, Communications, Defence, Information and Broadcasting, Information Technology and Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries to consider issues connected with Direct to Home (DTH) broadcasting and to review the uplinking policy.

(c) and (d) The GOM has made recommendations with regard to uplinking policy and recommended that private agencies with permissible level of foreign equity as in case of telecommunications sector companies may be permitted to set up uplinking hubs (teleports) which can be hired out to duly approved broadcasters to uplink their channels from India. All Television channels irrespective of their ownership or management control may be permitted to uplink from India provided they undertake to comply with the broadcasting codes. Indian news agencies accredited by the Press Information Bureau may also be permitted to uplink from India.

The recommendations have been approved by the Cabinet on 25.7.2000.

The GOM is yet to finalise its recommendations on DTH.

Discrimination of TAJ

911. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian citizens are not permitted to enter the Taj Mahal through the main entrance;

(b) whether Indian citizens are prevented from accompanying foreign friends to the Taj Mahal by its security staff;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the action taken against the security chief and staff for humiliating Indian citizens at Taj Mahal ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) With effect from 19th July, 2000 all visitors can enter the Taj Mahal through the main entrance.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Closure of National Paper Mills

912. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD :

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

(a) whether the Government have closed down the National Paper Mills near Mandya in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees affected as a result thereof;

(d) the number of employees opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(e) whether there is any proposal to revive the said National Paper Mills; 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) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), in its order dated 31.07.1996, recorded its opinion under Section 20(1) of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), for winding up of Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.

(MNPM), Bellagula, Karnataka. Government of India (GOI) filed an appeal before Appellate Authority for Industrial Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR). GOI also released Rs. 8 crores to restart the Mill. However, the operations could not be viably sustained and remained suspended from August 1998 onwards. Efforts of Government for privatisation/joint venture formation also did not materialise. GOI informed AAIFR on 29.02.2000 that MNPM is not capable of being revived and the opinion recorded by BIFR is acceptable. AAIFR dismissed appeals against the BIFR's opinion for winding up of MNPM. GOI decided to close down MNPM formally pending completion of winding up proceedings. As a safety net, Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) was introduced for three months w.e.f. 01.04.2000. Out of 651 employees, 639 employees have opted for VSS upto the date of closure of scheme.

Setting up of Convention/Conference Centre at Leh

913. SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has requested the Union Government for providing Rs. 2.4 crores for setting up of a Convention/Conference Centre at Leh in Jammu and Kashmir State;

(b) if so, whether the project report was being prepared by M/s Rites; and

(c) if so, the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A feasibility study report for setting up a Convention Centre at Leh, Ladakh has been completed by M/s. RITES and has been sent to the State Government.

Non-Banking Institutions In Insurance Sector

914. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some non-banking financial institutions have signed agreement with some foreign companies to enter into the Insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India exist in this regard;

(d) whether these NBFIs have strictly followed these guidelines; and

(e) if not, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No information is available with Government.

(c) Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines on June 9, 2000 for entry of NBFIs into insurance.

(d) and (e) So far Reserve Bank of India has not given permission to any NBFIs to enter into insurance business

Theatres Financed by NFDC

915. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of theatres financed in the States of North Eastern Region under the Financing Scheme by National Film Development Corporation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) National Film Development Corporation Ltd. under its scheme of Theatre Finance grants financial assistance for cinema theatres all over the country. It has financed 10 cinema theatres in the North-Eastern Region.

(b) the details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of Theatres of North Eastern Region Financed by NFDC. - Position as on Date :

Sl.No.	Name of the Borrower	Place
1	2	3
A)	ASSAM	
1.	Shri K.P. Bihani (Krishna Talkies)	Nowgong
2.	Shri Sohanlal Sharma (Ganga Talkies)	Kokradhar
3.	Shri Kusha Dutta	Parbatpur
B)	MANIPUR	
1.	Th. Haridas Singh	Imphal
2.	Th. Chouba Singh (Sorarel Talkies)	Thoubal

1	2	3
3.	Mata Cinema	Imphal
4.	Manipur Film Development Corp.	Imphal
5.	Shri L.T. Sharma (Jijaksha Cinema)	Mayang
6.	Shri Rebanta Singh	Pangei
7.	Shri Rambahadur Rai	Imphal

Registered Malayalam Newspapers

916. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Malayalam Newspapers and periodicals registered with Registrar of Newspapers up to July 30, 2000;

(b) the number out of these granted Government advertisements;

(c) the total amount released to Malayalam Newspapers and periodicals during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to develop the Malayalam Newspapers and periodicals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The number of Malayalam Newspapers and periodicals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India as on 24.7.2000 is 1407.

(b) During the period 01.04.2000 to 30.06.2000, 30 Malayalam Newspapers/periodicals, empanelled with DAVP for the purpose, have been issued Government advertisements.

(c) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, the total amount committed to Malayalam Newspapers/periodicals was Rs. 1,10,01,884/-, Rs. 1,90,35,807/- and Rs. 2,00,76,387/-, respectively.

(d) DAVP releases advertisements to newspapers and periodicals, keeping in view the Government's publicity requirements, the availability of funds and in accordance with Advertising Policy Guidelines.

Radio Station at Tuticorin

917. DR. A. D. K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to set up a radio station at Tuticorin in Tamilnadu in view of its importance as an industrial and port city;

(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 MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Radio Station with 200 KW MW Tr. and Type-I Studios is already functional at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu.

Procurement of Foodgrains in Orissa

918. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of procurement of paddy, rice and other foodgrains made by the Government in Orissa during each of the last three years, till May, 2000;

(b) the number of procurement centres opened, expanded and expenditure incurred thereon during the said period;

(c) the extent of surplus foodgrains which could not be procured in the State at present and the main reasons therefore; and

(d) the schemes/strategy chalked out by the Government for procurement of foodgrains in the State in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The details of foodgrains procured in Orissa for the last years are as under :

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Levy rice	Paddy	Total in terms of rice
1997-98	6.84	0.25	7.01
1998-99	4.81	—	4.81
1999-2000 (upto May, 2000)	5.90	—	5.90

No other foodgrains have been procured by the Government in Orissa.

(b) 57 centres were opened for procurement of levy rice. No extra expenditure was incurred since existing premises were utilized for procurement.

(c) Whatever quantity of foodgrains of prescribed specifications is offered for procurement, has been accepted. Procurement is still continuing. Till 24th July, 2000, a quantity of 7.20 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured, exceeding all previous records of procurement in the State.

(d) At present, FCI is procuring rice in Orissa under the levy scheme introduced by the Government of Orissa. The State Government of Orissa has been requested for participating in levy operations along with FCI and also to construct additional depots so that higher quantity of procurement could be achieved.

[Translation]

Recovery of Loans

919. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give extensive powers to the banks to increase recovery of the loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which powers are likely to be provided; and

(d) the extent of which the recovery of loans by banks is likely to increase as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The power of recovery of loans which have become overdue are powers available with the banks and are not required to be given by the Government to the banks. However, in order to accelerate the process of recovery in relation to non performing assets, action has been initiated by RBI to put in place a scheme of a non-discriminatory and non-discretionary nature for one time settlement of NPAs upto a limit of Rs. 5 crores. It is expected with the scheme coming into force the process of recovery will gain significantly.

[English]

Privatisation of Public Sector Banks

920. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow foreign private majority equity in Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the decision to privatise nationalised banks by bringing down the Government's stake to 26 percent threatens to further erode the self reliance of the economy and the job security of thousands of employees also at stake;

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

(e) the details of policy formulated by the Government for Public Sector Banks to meet social obligations?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to bring down the Government's stake to 26%

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per directions of the Reserve Bank of India, all scheduled commercial banks are to extend to the priority sector, 40% of the net bank credit for that year. There are also credit-linked schemes, which address the needs of different segments of the relatively economically and socially disadvantaged population.

[Translation]

Losses in CWC and FCI

921. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and Food Corporation of India (FCI) are incurring losses for the last two years;

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

(c) whether the responsibility has been fixed for causing the losses in FCI/CWC;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of foreign trips undertaken by the Managing Directors and other officials of FCI and CWC during the said period;
- (f) the purpose for undertaking the foreign trips alongwith the expenditure incurred on their foreign tours, separately;
- (g) the extent to which FCI/CWC benefited after undertaking the said foreign visits;
- (h) the number of posts of Chairman, Managing Director are lying vacant in CWC;
- (i) the reasons therefore and the time by which these are likely to be filled; and
- (j) the steps being taken by the Government to cut the expenditure in the FCI/CWC and to plug the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The details of foreign trips undertaken by officers of the FCI and the CWC and the expenditure incurred are as under :—

Year	FCI		CWC	
	No. of foreign trips	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakh)	No. of foreign trips	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakh)
1998-99	5	4.67	27	29.26
1999-2000	6	5.34	14	13.44

These foreign trips were mainly undertaken for attending training programmes, workshops, international seminars, symposia and participation in international exhibitions abroad.

(g) After attending these seminars, meetings, workshops, etc., the officers improve their professional skill and in turn the Corporation is also benefited. The CWC is a commercial organisation and exposure to its officers is necessary for betterment and growth of the Corporation. Exhibitions participated by the CWC were purely for publicity and propaganda of the activities of the Corporation to attract foreign warehouse operators/agencies to set up joint ventures in the country/abroad.

(h) and (i) There is only one vacant post of Chairman in the CWC which occurred on demitting the office by the earlier incumbent. A proposal to fill up the post has been sent to the Department of Personnel and Training on June 29, 2000 for obtaining the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet and the same is expected shortly.

(j) The following steps have been taken by the FCI to cut its expenditure :—

- In order to reduce subsidy, the Government of India has resorted to the open market sale to reduce the bulging foodgrains stock to avoid carrying cost of buffer.
- The issue price has been brought to the level of economic cost for the issues made to the population above the poverty line.
- The Government has appointed the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) to suggest ways and means of reducing the cost of the Corporation. The ASCI is expected to submit its report shortly.
- The Government has also advised the Expenditure Reforms Commission to look into the cost structure of the grain to FCI. Based on the Commission's recommendation, the Government of India has recently reduced the issue price of wheat and rice.

The following steps have been taken by the CWC to reduce its expenditure :—

- Curtailing the expenditure to the extent possible.
- Cut on repair and maintenance expenses.
- Restrictions on foreign visits.
- Introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
- No fresh recruitment.

[English]

Foreign Investment

922. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :
SHRI. A. KRISHNASWAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BOP figures in the Reserve Bank of India's annual report for 1998-99 indicates that outflow of funds on investment income was \$ 3.5 billion as against a new inflow of \$ 2.4 billion of foreign investment;

(b) whether in such a way India is already repatriating more money by the way of profits than she is receiving adding adversely to the balance of payment;

(c) if so, the reasons and justification thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Investment income payments published under the India's balance of payments in the Reserve Bank of India annual report for 1998-99 include interest payments apart from profit and dividend payments. As debtcreating flows have been major source of capital inflows to finance the current account deficit over a period of time, interest payments constitute the major portion of investment income payments. Payment of dividends and profits is directly contingent on foreign investment inflows into the country, which is a recent phenomenon.

During 1998-99, dividend and profit payments amounted to US \$ 658 million as against those of interest payments of US \$ 4767 million. During 1998-99, US \$ 658 million as payments of dividend and profit was much lower as compared with net foreign investment inflows of US \$ 2412 million.

[Translation]

Opening of New Banks

923. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to open new banks in the country, particularly in Bihar and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of proposals lying pending with the Government to open new banks, State-wise;

(c) the number of urban and rural areas in the country where there is no bank; and

(d) the number of banks earning profits suffering losses in the country, State-wise particularly in Bihar?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While it would not be commercially viable to locate branches in every habitation, the vast branch network of commercial banks, co-operative banks and regional rural banks has led to banking facilities being available throughout the country.

(d) As on 31.3.2000, all the 27 public sector banks have reported operating profits out of which, 26 banks have reported net profit. Of the 34 banks in the private sector all except three reported profits as on 31.3.1999 (latest available). Out of 44 foreign banks, all except six reported net profits as on 31.3.1999 (latest available).

[English]

Privatisation of FM

924. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether private broadcasters have been given the licence to operate FM Radio;

(b) if so, the number of such operators, channels and cities covered; and

(c) the revenue generated under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Government have selected private broadcasters for issue of licence for operations of FM Radio. The licences are yet to be issued.

(b) 29 companies have been selected for operation of 101 channels in 40 cities.

(c) So far an amount of Rs. 37.70 crores has been collected as advance licence fee.

Nexus between Narcotics Smugglers and those dealing with Wild Life Articles

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of a strong nexus between narcotics smugglers and those dealing with wild life articles in the Himalayan ranges, particularly in Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Sir, No such report has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agreement with CNN

926. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether Doordarshan has entered into an agreement with CNN for supplementing its international coverage;

(b) whether a similar agreement reached earlier was scrapped;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the reasons for entering into an agreement afresh; and

(d) the details of expenditure involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Doordarshan is paying an annual sum of \$ 95,000 to CNN for supplementing its International coverage.

Import of Dairy Farm Products

927. SHRI ANIL BASU :
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

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

(a) the quantity of butter oil, milk powder and other milk products imported during each of the last three years including first quarter of the current financial year;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon;

(c) the effect of such import on the indigenous dairy farmers and milk producers;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect dairy farmers and milk producers;

(e) whether the Government propose to impose anti-dumping duty on these imported milk products; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons there for ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Data showing quantity of butter oil, milk powder and other milk products imported and amount spent during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as under :-

	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (P)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Butter Oil	3461	2060.16	4311	2858.54	3629	3205.98
Milk Powder (Skimmed milk)	670	412.14	1584	859.05	17252	9600.45
Other milk products	1045	520.65	421	514.88	N.A.	N.A.

P = Provisional Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

(c) to (f) Due to fall in international prices of skimmed milk powder during the year 1999-2000, the import of this commodity surged substantially. In view of this, the existing 0% bound rate of duty on this item was successfully renegotiated to a level of 60%, with a provision

for allowing 10,000 MT of products as classified under Exim codes 0402.10 and 0402.21 at concessional duty of 15%, under Article XXVIII of GATT. This should now provide adequate protection to the domestic dairy industry and dairy farmers.

Mauritius Based Companies

928. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
 SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
 SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
 SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
 MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :
 SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
 SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :
 SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently a number of companies have started using the Mauritius route to avoid payment of tax on capital gains;

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

(c) the number of such companies along with their registered office in Mauritius and have signed the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) in the year 1998-99 and 2000, so far;

(d) the estimated loss on account of non-payment of taxes by these companies, FIs during the year 1999 and 2000, so far;

(e) whether the Government are considering to change this procedure in view of misuse of this treaty;

(f) if so, the time by which the Government propose to review this taxation treaty; and

(g) if not, the main reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Mauritius based Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) have been investing from 1993, after Government of India allowed foreign investment in Indian capital market, in September, 1992. These companies are not taxable in India in regard to capital gains on sale of shares of Indian companies under the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between India and Mauritius of 1983.

(c) There is no requirement for these companies to sign DTAC. From January 1993 till 31.3.2000, 135 FIs/sub-accounts registered in Mauritius have invested in India.

(d) Benefits availed under the treaty do not amount to non-payment of tax or misuse of the treaty.

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

Central Excise Evasion by Iron and Steel Manufacturers

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

(a) whether the manufacturers of Iron and Steel are causing loss of revenue to the Government by evading Central Excise duty;

(b) if so, the number of cases have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years alongwith the details of manufacturers;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the tax evasions by manufacturers in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and

(e) how much loss has been suffered by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the house.

Statutory Authority to Determine Value of Profit Making PSUs

930. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :
 SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :
 SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint a statutory authority to determine the real value of public sector assets of profit making public sector unit before being sold to the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government will ensure whether it is getting the right price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF

STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT
(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir.

[English]

Consumer Courts

932. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI SAHIB SINGH :
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen
the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and also to give more
powers to Consumer Protection Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Consumer Courts functioning in
the country as on June 30, 2000 and number of cases
pending in National Consumer Disputes Redressal
Commission and the various States Commission/District
Forums for disposal, State-wise;

(d) the annual expenditure incurred on National/
States/District Forums;

(e) to what extent the strengthen of Consumer
Protection Act, 1986 will affect the smooth functioning of
Consumer Courts throughout the country; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite
the disposal of cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals for amendment of the Consumer
Protection Act, 1986 mainly relate to speedier disposal of
cases in the consumer courts; giving more powers to
consumer forums to better protect the interests of consumers;
constitution of benches of National/State Commissions;
setting up of District Consumer Protection Councils etc.

(c) As per the information provided by the National
Commission, as on 30th June, 2000 there is a National
Commission, 32 State Commissions and 555 District
Forums set up in the country. The statewide information
regarding cases pending in National Commission, State
Commissions and District Forums is given in the Statement
enclosed.

(d) The annual expenditure incurred by National
Commission during the year 1999-2000 was Rs.
66,54,000/- the budgets of State Commissions and District
Forums are provided and controlled by the State
Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The shares of a PSU are disinvested by a
bidding process. The best price is determined by the
market forces. However, the Government values shares
by different methods to ensure that the sale process
fetches the best value. Whenever the case equires, assets
will be valued.

[Translation]

Export Development Centres

931. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the
Export Development Centers for further boosting of
exports;

(b) if so, the location of these centers and the details
of their functioning and export areas;

(c) whether the Government are also contemplating
to give them financial assistance to enable them to fulfil
the requirements of the small scale export sector;

(d) if so, whether any consultative machinery has
been visualized for cooperation between the banks and
small scale industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) State Government,
Export Promotion Councils and other Export promotion
bodies are advised by the Central Government to identify
the important centres from where exports take place and
to take measures for development of infrastructure and
other facilities at such places. However, no standard list
of such centres is maintained.

(c) Financial assistance under the Critical Infrastruc-
ture Balance scheme, Export Promotion Industrial Parks
Scheme and credits from financial institutions for support
in terms of inputs, packaging and exports are available to
all industries including small scale industries at such
centres.

(d) and (e) State Governments have been advised to
form State Level Export Promotion Committees under the
Chief Secretaries which will include, inter alia, the
representatives from Reserve Bank of India, banks, local
Chamber of Commerce and Industry to facilitate flow of
credit to export oriented units.

(e) The proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are mainly aimed to smoothen the working of the consumer courts at various levels and also strengthen them and achieve quicker disposal of cases.

(f) The following important steps have been taken by the Government to expedite the disposal of cases :-

(i) Strengthening of the infrastructure of the consumer courts for which Central Government has provided one-time grant of Rs. 61.8 crores to supplement the efforts of the States/Union Territories (UTs).

(ii) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Presidents/Members in the consumer courts in time.

(iii) Central Government has written to the State/UT Governments to hold periodic meetings with the Presidents of the Consumer Courts to monitor and expedite the disposal of cases.

(iv) Central Government and the National Commission are regularly monitoring the working of the Consumer Courts.

(v) Central Government conducts training courses for the Members of the Consumer Courts to acquaint them with the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and Rules and other relevant legislations.

(vi) Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 as considered necessary.

Statement

Statement regarding cases pending in the National Commission State Commissions and District Forums

NATIONAL COMMISSION

Cases pending	As on
8999	30.6.2000

STATE COMMISSIONS AND DISTRICT FORUMS

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases Pending in State Commissions	As on	Cases Pending in District Forums	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1846	30.6.2000	16284	31.5.2000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	31.3.2000	29	31.3.2000
3.	Assam	637	31.3.2000	1119	30.9.1999
4.	Bihar	3558	31.3.2000	16004	31.3.2000
5.	Goa	145	30.6.2000	494	30.6.2000
6.	Gujarat	3255	30.6.2000	19726	30.6.2000
7.	Haryana	2788	31.3.2000	17762	31.3.2000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	935	30.6.2000	3894	30.6.2000
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	622	31.3.1999	2189	31.3.1999
10.	Karnataka	2792	31.5.2000	6515	31.5.2000
11.	Kerala	1330	31.5.2000	5948	31.5.2000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2866	30.6.2000	6393	31.5.2000
13.	Maharashtra	7826	31.3.2000	20515	31.12.1999
14.	Manipur	21	31.5.2000	29	31.5.2000
15.	Meghalaya	27	30.6.2000	49	30.6.1999
16.	Mizoram	22	30.6.2000	28	31.12.1999

1	2	3	4	5	6
17. Nagaland	25	31.3.2000	39	31.3.2000	
18. Orissa	3936	30.6.2000	5316	31.3.2000	
19. Punjab	2301	31.3.2000	3583	31.3.2000	
20. Rajasthan	12257	31.3.2000	16787	31.3.2000	
21. Sikkim	3	31.3.2000	12	31.3.2000	
22. Tamil Nadu	3048	31.3.2000	7371	31.3.2000	
23. Tripura	241	31.3.2000	136	31.12.1999	
24. U.P.	21410	30.6.2000	68947	30.6.2000	
25. West Bengal	2269	30.6.2000	3599	31.3.2000	
26. A & N Islands	10	31.3.2000	23	31.3.2000	
27. Chandigarh	237	31.5.2000	3842	31.5.2000	
28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	—	10	31.12.1999	
29. Daman and Diu	2	31.12.1999	30	31.12.1999	
30. Delhi	4805	30.6.2000	20134	30.6.2000	
31. Lakshadweep	1	30.6.2000	0	30.6.2000	
32. Pondicherry	41	30.6.2000	39	30.6.2000	

Sale in Super Bazar

933. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sale in Super Bazar has been reduced drastically;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to eradicate mismanagement and make it viable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Super Bazar has been facing an acute financial crisis for sometime past and is not in a position to make the payment to the suppliers of goods, hence, the supplies of goods in Super Bazar have come down drastically. The inadequacy of working capital compared to the requirement, lack of credit based supplies, non-recovery of outstandings, increasing level of cost are also some of the factors for reduction in sales.

(c) The Super Bazar has, however, taken certain corrective measures to reduce the expenditures and increase the income of the Store. The payment of overtime allowances, hard duty allowances and other fixed

allowances have been stopped. Purchase of vehicles, furniture and other equipments, as well as expenditure on newspapers, entertainment, use of taxies etc. have also been stopped. To avoid any blockage of funds, a policy of payment to the suppliers after realization has been adopted and unviable branches of Super Bazar are likely to be closed.

Foreign Direct Investment

934. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are preparing New Policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in trading arms; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (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 and 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 services 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.

Foreign Direct Investment in retail trading is not permitted.

[Translation]

Bank Loans to Meritorious Students

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

- (a) whether public sector banks offer loans to the poor meritorious students under various schemes but there are no provisions to offer unconditional loan;
- (b) whether the Government have advised the banks to formulate loans schemes without any condition;
- (c) if so, whether such schemes have been formulated;
- (d) if so, the details there of and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the reasons for dissociating rural banks from such loan offering institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Public Sector Banks have formulated their own schemes for grant of educational loans to needy students for pursuing higher studies in India and abroad under its policy guidelines issued from time to time. However, loans sanctioned under these schemes are subject to certain terms and conditions.

(b) to (d) A Study Group consisting of representatives of banks and RBI has been constituted to examine all aspects of Educational Loan Schemes and to make suggestions regarding removal of deficiencies pertaining to interest rate and collateral securities. The report of the Group is awaited.

(e) Regional Rural Banks can also give educational loans at their discretion.

Paper Mills

936. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of Paper mills in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number out of these are in operation and those which are sick, State-wise; and
- (c) the quantum of Paper produced in these mills during the last three years; mill-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Details are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) As on 31.5.2000, 184 sick paper mills were registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. State-wise number of sick paper mills are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Mills-wise production of Paper is not centrally maintained. Production of paper and paperboard during the last three years is as under :

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)
1997-98	29.22
1998-99	31.38
1999-2000	34.57

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of Paper Mills
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22
2.	Assam	04
3.	Bihar	09
4.	Chandigarh	08
5.	Gujarat	68
6.	Haryana	15
7.	Himachal Pradesh	15
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	01
9.	Kerala	07
10.	Karnataka	17
11.	Madhya Pradesh	21
12.	Maharashtra	115
13.	Meghalaya	01
14.	NCT Delhi	06
15.	Nagaland	01

1	2	3
16. Orissa		09
17. Pondicherry		03
18. Punjab		37
19. Rajasthan		08
20. Tamil Nadu		22
21. Uttar Pradesh		100
22. West Bengal		26
Total		515

Statement-II

S. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of Sick Paper Mills
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19
2.	Bihar	07
3.	Chandigarh	02
4.	Gujarat	07
5.	Haryana	06
6.	Himachal Pradesh	10
7.	Kerala	04
8.	Karnataka	11
9.	Madhya Pradesh	08
10.	Maharashtra	26
11.	Meghalaya	01
12.	NCT Delhi	04
13.	Nagaland	01
14.	Orissa	04
15.	Pondicherry	02
16.	Punjab	12
17.	Rajasthan	07
18.	Tamil Nadu	10
19.	Uttar Pradesh	24
20.	West Bengal	18
21.	Assam	01
Total		184

Visit of Foreign Tourists

937. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been declared as a 'danger zone' from the point of view of tourism by some foreign countries and only 1% foreigners visited India during 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, the steps being initiated by the Government in order to change such situation and to earn more foreign exchange so that the country may regain its lost glory?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. However, some countries have issued travel advisories to their citizens against travel to Jammu and Kashmir and also mentioned Bihar, Assam and North-Eastern States as unsafe areas.

(b) Whenever such advisories come to our notice, the Department of Tourism takes up such cases with Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions abroad to interact with foreign Governments for revision of travel advisories based on the realities in India. Ministry of Tourism runs promotional campaigns in overseas markets through its Tourist Offices abroad to attract more foreign tourists/earn foreign exchange by projecting India as a safe and attractive destination.

[English]

Banks in Gujarat

938. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the branches of nationalised banks in Gujarat, bank-wise;

(b) the details of amount deposited in these banks during 1999-2000;

(c) the amount of loans sanctioned by these banks during the above period; and

(d) whether the target fixed for this period has been achieved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Bank-wise number of branches, deposits and advances of nationalized banks in Gujarat as of December, 1999 (latest available) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The target and achievement of banks under Service Area Credit Plan, 99-2000 (up to December, 1999, the latest available) in Gujarat is given below :-

Sector	Financial Target 99-2000	Achievement upto December 1999	Percentage Achievement
Agri. and Allied	2310	2146	92.90
Artisan and Village Cottage Industry and Small Scale Industry	475	493	103.79
Trade and Service	463	361	77.97
Total	3248	3000	92.36

It may be observed that the overall achievement at the end of the third quarter was 92% of the annual target, which can be considered as satisfactory.

Statement

Bank-wise Number of Branches, Deposits and Advances of Nationalised Banks in Gujarat as of December 1999

(Rs. lakh)

Name of Bank	Number of Branches	Deposits	Advances
1	2	3	4
1. Allahabad Bank	23	24266	13549
2. Andhra Bank	6	9498	8398
3. Bank of Baroda	670	993547	383253
4. Bank of India	216	503924	133013
5. Bank of Maharashtra	33	37435	7984
6. Canara Bank	37	72356	44509
7. Central Bank of India	218	270232	87630
8. Corporation Bank	32	142672	39308
9. Dena Bank	552	400679	192295
10. Indian Bank	38	63405	24894
11. Indian Overseas Bank	52	82636	20988
12. Oriental Bank of Commerce	32	70976	34953
13. Punjab National Bank	85	77409	65001
14. Punjab and Sind Bank	7	16209	3016
15. Syndicate Bank	46	55655	26264
16. UCO Bank	76	61484	17596

1	2	3	4
17. Union Bank of India	173	184117	75037
18. United Bank of India	14	12074	3631
19. Vijaya Bank	29	42948	21377
Total	2339	3121522	1202696

Black Money

939. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts made by the Government to unearth the black money in the country so far;

(b) whether the Chief Vigilance Commissioner has also written a letter to him outlining the action proposed to be taken in order to get rid of the black money in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures the Government propose to take to unearth the black money in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Government have been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures, from time to time to unearth the undisclosed money. Rates of taxation have been progressively rationalised. Besides, the Income Tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at unearthing the undisclosed money. These include, inter-alia, provision regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in appropriate cases under Sections 44AA and 44AB, restrictions on cash transactions under Sections 40A(3), 269SS and 269T, pre-emptive purchase of properties under Chapter XXC and provisions regarding penalties and prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters. The Act also contains provisions regarding summons, surveys and searches, etc. to detect tax evasion. These provisions are resorted to in appropriate cases. Various Amnesty Schemes have also been introduced from time to time to bring black money into the mainstream of national economy.

The Central Vigilance Commissioner has written to emphasise the need for early implementation of the Benami Transactions Prohibition Act, 1988. The CVC has also notified on 12th July, 2000, a Benami Black Money Scheme regarding black money/benami properties of public servants.

[Translation]

Misuse of Anti-Dumping Rules

940. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI TARUN GOGOI :

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

- (a) whether some countries are misusing the anti-dumping rules against Indian products;
- (b) if so, the names of such countries alongwith the number of such cases came to the notice of the Government.
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future ?

Product	Country	Steps taken by the Government
Unbleached Cotton Fabric	European Union	Indian Government had intense consultations with the member states of the European Union. The proposal of the European Commission to levy definitive antidumping duties was finally turned down by the Advisory Council comprising Foreign Ministers of European Union Member States.
Bed Linen	European Union	The Government contested the European Commission's decision to impose anti-dumping duties against bed linen exports from India, through WTO-DSU. On a request made by the Indian Government, a Panel under WTO has been constituted. The proceedings before the Panel are on.
Acrylic Blankets	South Africa	The Government through its Mission in Johannesburg, has entered into consultations with the South African Authorities to review their decision to impose definitive anti-dumping duties against Acrylic Blankets exports from India.

In respect of certain trading partners who have tended to use anti-dumping measures against India more frequently, the Government has been conveying its concern to them during various bilateral and other meetings.

(d) The Government has set up a "Coordination Cell" in the Department of Commerce, under an officer of the rank of Additional Secretary to Government of India, to coordinate with all agencies involved in the defence of an anti-dumping investigation. The Cell extends necessary assistance to the targetted Indian companies through Export Promotion Councils. The Coordination Cell has also sensitized all the Missions of Government of India over the

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The "WTO Agreement on Anti-dumping Practices" regulates anti-dumping actions of member countries against their trading partners. Anti-dumping investigations are basically targetted against the discriminatory pricing practices engaged in by individual business enterprises. The Government of India, as such, is not a party to anti-dumping investigations against Indian export products. However, if a targeted Indian Company feels that the investigating authorities have not followed the procedural requirements or the substantive rules prescribed under the WTO Agreement on Anti-dumping Practices, it can either take recourse to the 'judicial review' under the domestic law of the member countries imposing anti-dumping measures or approach the Government of India for taking up the issue under WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) for consultation or for establishing a Panel. The details of such cases reported to the Government for taking them up under the WTO DSU are as under :-

issue and has asked them to report to the Cell about the initiation of an anti-dumping investigation as soon as the same comes to their notice. The Government alongwith other developing countries has submitted several proposals to the WTO aimed at improvement in the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Anti dumping Practices.

[English]

Power Projects by BHEL

941. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. has sought the help of the Government to secure two power projects from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the BHEL could not undertake massive capital intensive projects on its own by giving 100 percent credit on account of both the financial implications and risk factors; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the BHEL competitive ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently the Government had taken up the matter with Ministry of External Affairs for expediting United National clearance in respect of two orders valued at Rs. 870 crores which BHEL received from Iraq for supply of 2 x 159 MW (ISO rating) Gas Turbine Generating units with associated electro-mechanical plant auxiliaries. These purchases are covered by Oil for food programme of the United Nations.

(c) and (d) Considering that BHEL is basically a manufacturer and supplier of power plant equipment, it would not be prudent for BHEL to take on a large exposure on its own balance sheet by extending credit on a single massive project. To strengthen its sales efforts in the domestic market, BHEL has organised lines of credit from Financial Institutions like ICICI, IDBI and IFCI. BHEL also helps in syndicating loans for customers in order to help them achieve financial closure.

BHEL has been given 'Navaratna' status that allows it greater financial autonomy to face the competitive environment. The Board of BHEL has been strengthened by inducting professionals as part-time Directors. BHEL is constantly updating its manufacturing facilities, product technology and improving the delivery cycles to remain competitive.

Organisation of Cricket Tournament

942. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BCCI had organised a four nation cricket tournament during 1997 in which Doordarshan had suffered a huge monetary loss;

(b) if so, the details of the loss suffered alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any responsibility had been fixed for the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that no loss was suffered by Doordarshan on this account.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

FM Radio Station at Madurai

943. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up FM radio stations at Trichy and Madurai in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) As of now, AIR has no proposal to set up FM Radio Station at Madurai. However, at Trichy, the present medium wave transmitter for Vividh Bharati service of AIR is being replaced by an FM transmitter.

(c) Full fledged Medium Wave Radio Stations are already functioning in Trichy and Madurai.

Taxation Structure

944. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has called for creation of a right taxation structure coupled with necessary infrastructure for the fast moving consumer goods sector for the value chain to operate;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the details submitted in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government with regard thereto ?

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

Yes, Sir. The broad outlines of the suggestions made by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry with regard to taxation of the fast moving consumer goods sector are as under :-

- (i) To constantly review the classification of mean, merit and demerit goods for the purpose of charging them to excise duty.
 - (ii) To reduce excise duty on fast moving consumer goods and to fix a rate of 8% duty on them for the next 2-3 years.
 - (iii) To review the distinction between branded and un-branded goods for the purpose of excise.
 - (iv) To consult the industry on the question of abatement from M.R.P. for determining assessable value.
 - (v) To introduce M.R.P. based excise on imported goods.
- (c) The excise duty structure was comprehensively reviewed by the Government as a part of the exercise for the Budget 2000-2001. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to make any changes in the excise duty structure relating to fast moving consumer goods. Some representations have, however, been received for increase in the abatement on M.R.P. While making changes, if any, the industry's views will be taken into account. There is no proposal under Government's consideration for introduction of M.R.P. based excise on imported goods.

[Translation]

Domestic and Foreign Debt

945. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the burden of domestic and foreign debts on the country has been continuously increasing for the last few years;
- (b) if so, the quantum of domestic and foreign debts separately, on the country during 1991-92 and also upto the end of March, 2000;
- (c) whether the interest on these debts has also continuously increased;
- (d) if so, the amount of interest on the above debts during 1991-92 and also the amount of interest upto the end of March, 2000; and

(e) the total amount of interest vis-a-vis the amount realised by the Government through taxes during 1999-2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The quantum of internal and external debts has been increasing for the last few years.

(b) The quantum of interna. debt and foreign debt during 1991-92 and end of March, 2000 was as follows :-

	(Rs. Crore)	
	1991-92	At the end of March, 2000
Internal Debt	172750	728627
External debt (on book value)	36948	57603

(c) The interest on these debts has been increasing.

(d) The quantum of interest paid on internal debt and external debt during 1991-92 and the end of March, 2000 was as follows :-

	(Rs. Crore)	
	1991-92	At the end of March, 2000
Interest on Domestic market Debt	11317	47463
Interest on External debt	2704	4393

(e) The tax realisation (net to centre) during 1999-2000 was Rs. 126469 crore (RE 1999-2000). the interest payment on internal debt and external debt during 1999-2000 as per Revised Estimates was Rs. 51856 crore.

[English]

Assessment of annual income of Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

946. SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the difference between the assessed annual income of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after he became Chief Minister;
- (b) whether the source of such difference in income has been investigated; and
- (c) if so, the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) After Dr. M. Karunanidhi became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the assessment of only Assessment year 1997-98 has been completed in his case and in that year there is no difference between the returned and the assessed income.

Value Added Tax System

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

(a) whether Standing Finance Committee of the Union Government had issued a directive recently to the States regarding introduction of New Value Added Tax System (VAT);

(b) whether VAT is a better method of taxation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this will make easy to nab the tax evaders; and

(e) if so, the detailed particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) In the Conference of Chief Ministers/State Finance Ministers, held on 22.6.2000 it was decided by consensus that States which can implement VAT by 1.4.2001 may go ahead. For others, the Standing Committee of State Finance Ministers will prepare milestones and road map. The Standing Committee of State Finance Ministers which has been converted into Empowered Committee met on 21.7.2000 and endorsed this decision.

(b) and (c) VAT is a multi-stage levy, wherein tax is levied on value added at all stages of production and distribution process. Since the value added component is taxed only once, there is no cascading effect of the tax.

(d) and (e) VAT would help in the reduction of tax evasion, since the tax would not be concentrated at any one level. Also, it requires tax invoices to be issued, as subsequent dealers would need to maintain the invoices, in order to benefit from tax deduction. This would enable tax authorities to cross-check the declared transactions between the tax payers, consequently reducing the propensity to evade tax.

[Translation]

Problems In Implementation of FDI Projects

948. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of problems expressed by the National Council of Applied Economic Research regarding the implementation of projects relating to Foreign Direct Investment; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government to overcome the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has, in its study, identified certain issues to be addressed to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) like infrastructure inadequacy, procedural complexities, need to market India as an investment destination, liberalisation of policies in the tertiary sector and creation of national consensus on FDI. The report has suggested that India's performance on the FDI front can be improved provided there is greater liberalisation of FDI policy.

(b) In pursuance of its commitment to further liberalising the FDI regime, Government, on review of the policy on FDI, has decided to place, all items/activities under the automatic route for FDI/NRI and OCB investment except a specific negative list. Government constantly reviews the FDI policy with the objective enhancing India's attractiveness as an investment destination. Government has set up the Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) with the objective of providing a single point interface between foreign investors and the Government machinery both at the Centre and the State level. The short term objective of this Authority is to remove procedural delays in the setting up of the project. The longer term objective is to create an atmosphere congenial to Foreign Direct Investment.

[English]

Loan and Grants given to States

949. SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State of Jammu and Kashmir given 30% loan and 70% grant till the year 1991 whereas it was entitled to 10% loan and 90% grant as other backward States;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had agreed the request of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir that the formula of 10% loan and 90% grant will be applied for the years prior to year 1991;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government is ready to treat the loans and grants given before the year 1991 as 10% loan and 90% grant; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) the Government of Jammu and Kashmir received Plan assistance in the form of 30% grant and 70% loan till 1991. As decided by NDC the Government of Jammu and Kashmir started getting Plan assistance at 90% grant and 10% loan w.e.f. 1990-91

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The pattern of transfer of Plan assistance to the States is decided by National Development Council, who had decided to allow this pattern of assistance to the Jammu and Kashmir only from the year 1990-91 onwards.

Tax on Advertisements

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

(a) whether it is proposed to impose tax on advertisements broadcast/telecast in radio and television network with a view to generate more revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are a few judicial pronouncements holding that advertisement is a form of speech or expression. Hence, there could be legal limitations in imposing a tax on all advertisements. However, the income arising from such advertisements is already subject to payment of income tax, and service tax is also leviable on services rendered by advertising agencies.

[Translation]

Setting up of Industries in Adivasi and Backward Districts

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

(a) whether the industrialists are not eager to set up industries in the Adivasi and backward districts of the country, particularly in Bihar, due to lack of infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments, especially Bihar Government have sent proposals to the Union

Government for setting up of industries in the Adivasi and backward districts so that balance of industrial development of these districts is maintained and to create employment opportunities at the local level;

(c) if so, the details thereof, state-wise and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Lack of appropriate infrastructure in the Adivasi and backward districts/areas in the country is an important factor for low investments in these areas. Less than 2% of total investment in the country has been made in Bihar since the announcement of the new Industrial Policy in 1991.

(b) to (d) Under the new Industrial policy, licence or approval from the Central Government is not required to set up industries except in few specified sectors. Decisions for investment are now left to the commercial perception of the entrepreneurs.

Government has in operation Schemes viz. Growth Centre Scheme and Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Scheme, for the development of infrastructure in backward areas to attract industries. Six growth centres have been sanctioned in Bihar under the Growth Centre Scheme at (1) Begusarai (2) Bhagalpur (3) Chhapra (4) Darbhanga (5) Hazaribagh and (6) Muzaffarpur. No proposal has been received from Bihar to set up any IID Centre in the State.

Besides subsidies are available to industries in the notified areas under the Transport Subsidy Scheme, Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, the Central Interest Subsidy Scheme and the Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme. Tax concessions are also available to industries in the notified backward districts/areas.

[English]

Upgradation of Air Station

952. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade some AIR Stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location-wise, particularly Alleppey Station of AIR; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard alongwith the budgetary allocation for each station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of upgradation schemes of Radio Stations under implementation alongwith budgetary alloca-

tions are given in enclosed Statement. There is no proposal at present to upgrade the transmitter at Alleppey as it was recently upgraded to 200 KW MW from earlier 100 KW MW. All the schemes under implementation are targeted to be completed during 9th Plan period, subject to availability of resources and infrastructure facilities.

Statement

Location of Radio Station	Upgradation Scheme	Budgetary Allocation Rupees (Lakhs)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
1. Hyderabad	Upgdn. and replacement of 10 kW MW Tr. by 20 kW MW	220.00
2. Tirupati	Installation of additional 3 kW FM Tr.	100.00
3. Vijaywada	Replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FM Tr.	260.00
Assam		
4. Silchar	Upgdn. and replacement of 10 kW MW Tr. by 20 kW MW	210.00
Bihar		
5. Patna	One Additional unit of 3 kW FM Tr. and Stereo Playback facility.	135.00
Gujarat		
6. Vadodara	Upgrdn. and replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FM Tr. (Vividh Bharati).	260.00
7. Bhuj	Upgdn. and replacement of 10 kW MW Tr. by 20 kW MM Tr.	240.00
8. Rajkot	Upgdn. and replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FM Tr. (V.B)	300.00
Jammu and Kashmir		
9. Srinagar	Upgdn. and replacement of existing 1 kW FM Tr. (VB) by 10 kW FM Tr.	260.00
10. Jammu	Replacement of 10 kW MW Tr. by 50 kW SW Tr.	250.00
11. Leh	Replacement of 10 kW MW Tr. by 20 kW MW Tr.	210.00
Karnataka		
12. Bangalore	Upgdn. and replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FM Tr.	220.00
13. Mangalore	Upgdn. and replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FM Tr. and provision of Playback facilities.	260.00
14. Mysore	Upgdn. and replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FM Tr.	260.00
15. Dharwad	Upgdn. and replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FM Tr. (V.B)	260.00
Kerala		
16. Calicut	(i) Upgdn. and replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FM Tr. (VB)	260.00
	(ii) Conversion of Mono VB Studio to Stereo.	50.00
17. Thiruvananthapuram	Upgdn. and replacement of 10 kW MW Tr. by 20 kW MW Tr.	210.00

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh		
18. Indore	(i) Upgdn. and replacement of 100 kW MW Tr. by 200 kW MW Tr.	700.00
	(ii) One additional unit of 3 kW FM Tr. and Stereo Playback facility.	135.00
19. Bhopal	One additional unit of 3 kW FM Tr. and Stereo Playback facility.	135.00
Maharashtra		
20. Nagpur	Replacement of 100 kW MW Tr. by 300 kW MW Tr.	920.00
21. Aurangabad	Replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FM Tr.	300.00
Manipur		
22. Imphal	(i) 10 kW FM Tr. and Stereo Studios	335.00
	(ii) Replacement of 50 kW MW Tr. by 300 kW MW Tr.	900.00
Nagaland		
23. Kohima	(i) Upgdn. and replacement of 50 kW MW Tr. by 100 kW MW Tr.	550.00
Rajasthan		
24. Jodhpur	Replacement of 100 kW MW Tr. by 300 kW MW Tr.	900.00
25. Kota	Replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 20 kW MW Tr.	410.00
Tamil Nadu		
26. Tiruchirapalli	(i) Repl. of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FM Tr. (VB)	260.00
	(ii) Conversion of VB Studio from Mono to Stereo	50.00
27. Chennai	Replacement of 10 kW MW Tr. by 20 kW MW Tr.	200.00
28. Tirunelveli	Replacement of 10 kW MW Tr. by 20 kW MW Tr.	210.00
Tripura		
29. Agartala	10 kW FM Tr. and Studios	335.00
Uttar Pradesh		
30. Najibabad	Replacement of 100 kW MW Tr. by 200 kW MW Tr.	760.00
31. Kanpur	Replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FW Tr.	300.00
32. Varanasi	Replacement of 1 kW MW Tr. by 10 kW FW Tr.	300.00
Union Territories		
33. Chandigarh	Addl. 3 kW FM Tr. and conversion of VB Studios from Mono to Stereo.	165.00
34. Port Blair	Replacement of 20 kW MW Tr. by 100 kW MW Tr.	620.00

[Translation] .

Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

953. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of foodgrains in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India at present which is about two to five years old;

(b) the percentage of foodgrains out of above which has become totally unfit for human consumption;

(c) the schemes which are likely to be introduced by the Government for proper storage of foodgrains;

(d) whether there is any system for testing of foodgrains in the godowns; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) A total quantity of 15.72 lakh MTs of foodgrains (consisting of 11.65 lakh MTs of wheat, 3.91 lakh MTs of rice and 0.16 lakh MTs of paddy) of two to five year old were available in the godowns of FCI as on 31.5.2000.

(b) Out of a total quantity of 244.74 lakh MTs held by FCI as on 31.5.2000, a total quantity of 1.90 lakh MTs of foodgrains has been transferred from sound to damaged grain (unfit for human consumption) due to transit, damage, natural calamities and down gradation during storage. This works out to be 0.78%

(c) The Government has decided to introduce bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in the country for proper storage of foodgrains.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The foodgrain stocks are regularly checked for the presence of insects and other quality parameters by drawing samples from each stack in a scientific manner. In case, the insects are found in the stock of foodgrains/godowns, prophylactic and curative treatments are carried for the control of insects.

Improvement in the Functioning of FCI

954. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to bring comprehensive improvement in the functioning of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether it has been decided to close down certain foodgrain godowns or sell them to the private companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether those foodgrains godowns which are proposed to be excluded from the jurisdiction of FCI have been identified; and

(f) if so, the places where these godowns are located alongwith the storing capacity of these godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is given in the Statement attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Improvement in the Functioning of FCI

The Government of India has issued guidelines to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the scheme of Organisational Restructuring of FCI with reference to manpower requirement, career management and career progression. The salient features of the scheme are as follows :-

- (i) It is proposed to rationalise the management of depots by officers of the rank of Assistant Managers and above. This would also entail streamlining of personnel among the various depots.
- (ii) Fresh norms on depot operations are to be formulated by an independent group comprising of officers who have had exposure of various operations of the Corporation.
- (iii) A scheme is to be formulated by the FCI for creating an Industrial Relations Machinery right from the depot level and above and for induction of suitable personnel for the same as well as the Computer Cell.
- (iv) It is also proposed to revamp the quality control machinery with a view to ensure certification of the quality of foodgrains by an independent machinery having a different line of control.
- (v) The problem of re-adjustment of the personnel at the micro level would be tackled by offering an attractive transfer package.
- (vi) To meet the staff requirements as per the present line of organisation and to overcome the problem of stagnation, it is proposed to upgrade the existing posts subject to condition that a clear

understanding is reached with the unions as regards the revised job description applicable to the employees.

- (vii) To strengthen the management base it is proposed to recruit 100 Management Trainees every year.
- (viii) The FCI is to maintain reduced sanctioned strength till revised norms are approved and fresh manpower requirement are worked.
- (ix) The port operations are to be wound up by the FCI. The godowns at Chennai, Vizag, Kandla, Calcutta and Mumbai are to be handed over to the Port Trust on mutually agreed terms and conditions. The staff will either be deployed, surrendered or offered Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
- (x) All labour issues would be tackled in a manner consistent with the existing labour laws.

Case to case approval of the Competent Authority will be required.

[English]

Problems of Tea Industry

955. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have made any study of the problems being faced by the Tea Industry in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to remove such problems and increase the export of Tea ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Govt. has been constantly interacting with representatives of the Tea Industry in the country and are aware of the problems being faced by them. The Tea Industry is facing problems of decline in prices of tea at the auctions. A committee setup recently by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu which included a representative of Tea Board has also made a study of the problem being faced by the Small Tea Growers in South India.

- (c) In order to compensate the small tea growers for low price realisation at the auctions, a Price Subsidy Scheme has been implemented w.e.f. 1.5.2000 wherein a subsidy of Rs. 5/- is being provided to the small growers

of tea (holding upto 10.12 hectares of tea plantation) for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and Rs. 55 per kg. The amount of subsidy was subsequently enhanced to Rs. 8/- per kg w.e.f. 24.7.2000. A quality up-gradation programme for tea manufactured in the small sector has also been launched. Govt. has also increased import duty on tea from 15% to 35% to provide a level playing field for the domestic tea industry.

In order to increase export of tea from India, Tea Board is in constant touch with the tea industry to increase the production of tea of exportable quality especially good quality teas of orthodox variety. Tea Board is also in touch with the importers in Russia to operate expeditiously the Agreement to lift tea from India under debt Repayment Route Protocol as signed between the Tea Board, Calcutta and Russian Tea and Coffee Association in December, 1998. Special promotional efforts have been initiated in countries where the exports had declined.

In addition to the above, Government and the Tea Board have been analysing country-wise exports of tea giving special attention to areas offering potential. Tea Board also acts to remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets whenever these are noticed. The overseas offices of the Tea Board at London, New York, Moscow and Dubai undertake specific programmes like :-

- (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 tea 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.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism Infrastructure

956. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have implemented a scheme called 'Development of Tourism Infrastructure' to encourage domestic tourism and attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details of amount allocated under this scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the achievements made under this scheme so far, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments for the development of tourism

infrastructure to encourage domestic and foreign tourists. The details of assistance provided for the tourism projects to State Governments during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The implementation and completion of the projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Govts./ UT's who are required to complete the projects within the stipulated time frame as per the guidelines of the Department of Tourism.

Statement

Statement showing Project Sanctioned and Amount Sanctioned during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (All the Projects including Fairs and Festivals)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		No. of projects sandc.	Amount sandc.	No. of projects sandc.	Amount sandc.	No. of projects sandc.	Amount sandc.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	206.70	10	244.08	14	222.22
2.	Assam	14	288.88	15	457.95	17	357.35
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	271.00	6	216.32	11	239.28
4.	Bihar	11	233.07	11	237.29	5	89.71
5.	Goa	8	144.62	14	319.98	11	279.82
6.	Gujarat	7	111.84	15	449.57	19	327.64
7.	Haryana	6	98.62	12	333.93	9	238.33
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	119.00	10	318.00	17	691.29
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	293.35	6	192.85	16	334.58
10.	Karnataka	10	130.78	12	399.82	38	856.40
11.	Kerala	11	287.00	13	653.05	19	699.28
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10	141.85	18	441.39	16	431.08
13.	Maharashtra	12	169.84	18	496.27	30	1003.69
14.	Manipur	5	186.11	8	140.49	10	229.00
15.	Meghalaya	5	97.70	5	120.48	5	30.72
16.	Mizoram	6	142.45	8	203.34	13	292.17
17.	Nagaland	3	113.90	11	230.54	16	291.80
18.	Orissa	28	552.05	6	178.60	19	301.90
19.	Punjab	6	52.87	7	242.14	8	175.00
20.	Rajasthan	14	135.33	22	436.28	12	131.12
21.	Sikkim	11	73.20	15	136.03	13	118.98
22.	Tamil Nadu	7	59.74	17	316.20	26	493.85
23.	Tripura	8	126.68	9	169.21	7	340.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	13	221.10	41	869.85	36	755.45
25.	West Bengal	7	125.76	12	211.13	6	194.01
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	4	162.50	1	32.37
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	3	55.18	4	69.59
28.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	1	5.20	2	20.00	1	30.00
29.	Delhi	8	233.43	13	223.89	5	24.50
30.	Daman and Diu	4	60.17	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	1	5.00	1	29.00	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	4	35.64	2	15.00	10	163.89
Total		256	4722.88	346	8520.36	414	9445.78

Income Tax Deduction on Interest of Fixed Deposits of Banks

957. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether income tax deduction is being made on the interest of the fixed deposits in the banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount received from such income tax deduction on the interest during the last three years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide relaxation in income tax deduction on interest to promote short term fixed deposits in the banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) It is not possible to furnish the information relating to amount of Income Tax deducted by each bank on interest on fixed deposits during the last three years because as per the Income-Tax Act, each branch of the bank is given a separate Tax Deduction Account Number (TAN) and each branch is required to file separate annual statement in Form No. 26A for deduction of tax on interest on fixed deposits under the provisions of Section 194A of the Income Tax Act 1961. The branches of the banks spread all over the country, are not required to file such annual statements with the Assessing officer where the assessment of a particular bank is made. Moreover, TDS on interest on fixed deposits is not separately furnished in the TDS returns filed by each branch of a Bank.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Infact, the existing provisions in the Act do take care of the interest of small investors. Deduction of tax on interest on fixed deposits by a

particular branch of a Bank is required to be made u/s 194A of the Act only if amount of such interest paid/payable to a person during a financial year exceeds Rs. 10,000/-. Moreover, as per section 197A(1A), no deduction of tax u/s 194A is required to be made if a person, other than a company or a firm, furnishes to the Bank a declaration in writing in the prescribed form to the effect that the tax on his estimated total income of the relevant year will be NIL. In view of the existing provisions, there is, no need to provide any further relaxation.

I.T. Concession to Social Institutions

958. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the concessions given by the Income Tax Department on the amount received by the social institutions registered under Section 21 of Societies Registration Act of 1860 meant for expenditure on social welfare activities;

(b) the number of social institutions given concession by the income tax department during 1999-2000; and

(c) the prescribed modalities for providing income tax concession for such registered institutions desirous of getting such concession ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) the social institutions registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 [21 of 1860] are eligible for exemption from income tax under various provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 subject to fulfillment of prescribed conditions.

(b) About 90 charitable, educational and medical institutions were notified u/s 10(23C)(iv)(vi) and (via) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 during the year 1999-2000.

(c) The concerned organisations have to prefer their claim before the Director General of Income-tax (Exemptions), Calcutta in the prescribed forms enclosing supporting documentary evidence. Approvals are granted u/s 10(23C) (iv) of the Income-tax Act by the Central Government and u/s 10(23C) (vi) and (via) by Central Board of Direct Taxes.

[English]

Canara Bank Branch

959. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Canara Bank branch is functioning in the premises of Delhi Karnataka Sangha;

(b) if so, whether the above Sangha has requested the Canara Bank to vacate the premises for construction of a cultural complex; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Canara Bank to vacate the premises of Delhi Karnataka Sangha ?

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

(c) The landlords have not renewed the lease. Bank is continuing as tenant holding over. In the meantime, Bank is on the look out for alternate premises.

Vacancies of top posts in PSUs.

960. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

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

(a) the details of top posts lying vacant in Public Sector Undertakings and since when, PSUs-wise;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to fill up these vacancies during the last one year;

(c) by when the remaining vacancies are likely to be filled up;

(d) whether the Government propose to fill the vacancies of non-Government representatives in the PSUs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) 24 top posts (Chief

Executives) were vacant as on 30.6.2000. The details of these posts are given in enclosed Statement. Out of these 24 posts, selections have been made by the PESB for 10 posts, in 5 cases the appointees are to join, in 2 cases the posts are kept in abeyance and in the remaining cases the selection is underway. This is a continuous process.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The policy of the Government is to appoint outside professionals on the Boards of PSUs as non-official part time Directors. As per instructions issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, the number of such non-official Directors should be at least one-third of the actual strength of the Board.

Statement

Details of top posts lying vacant in Public Sector Undertakings as on 30.6.2000

S.No.	Name of the post	Date of vacancy
1	2	3
1.	CMD, Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	30.06.1999
2.	CMD, India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.	01.10.1997
3.	CMD, Goa Shipyard Ltd.	07.11.1999
4.	CMD, Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	08.01.2000
5.	CMD, Engineers India Ltd.	01.01.2000
6.	CMD, National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd.	01.04.1998
7.	CMD, Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.	15.12.1998
8.	CMD, Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.	05.08.1999
9.	CMD, National Textile Corporation (SM) Ltd.	20.05.1998
10.	CMD, Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd.	01.10.1997
11.	CMD, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	01.06.1999
12.	CMD, Indian Airlines Ltd.	26.05.2000
13.	CMD, Hindustan Salts Ltd.	01.04.1998
14.	MD, Bengal Immunity Ltd.	22.12.1998
15.	MD, Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.	02.09.1999
16.	MD, Indian Oil Blending Ltd.	18.04.2000
17.	MD, Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	29.09.1997

1	2	3
18. MD, State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.		07.05.1999
19. MD, Jessop and Co. Ltd.		10.09.1999
20. MD, Manipur State Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.		01.10.1997
21. MD, Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd.		02.02.2000
22. MD, National Seeds Corporation Ltd.		12.06.1999
23. MD, Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd.		17.02.1999
24. MD, National Film Development Corporation Ltd.		05.05.1998

Credit to SSIs in Gujarat through Banks

961. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the credit given by the scheduled banks and non-scheduled banks in Gujarat during 1999-2000; and

(b) the percentage of the credit given to Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in comparison with the total credit of the above banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) According to RBI, total advances outstanding to all scheduled commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in Gujarat during last two years are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Total Advances outstanding in Gujarat	Amount Outstanding as on 31st March, 1999	Amount Outstanding as on 31st March, 2000
(a) Scheduled Commercial banks (including RRBs)	18701.53	22253.90
(b) Other Banks (DCCBs) and Gujarat Agricultural and Rural Development Bank)	3215.05	3964.84

(b) The percentage of advances outstanding to SSI Units in Gujarat to total advances outstanding was 14.55% as on 31st March 1999 and 12.49% as on 31st March 2000.

[Translation]

Forex Reserves

962. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the forex reserves of the country;

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

(c) the present position of the forex reserves;

(d) whether the Government have taken any measures so far to make up the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

The total foreign exchange reserves comprising foreign currency assets, gold and SDRs declined from US \$ 38,036 million at the end of March 2000 to US \$ 36,572 million as on July 14, 2000. The movements in foreign exchange reserves reflect the outcome of India's International transactions on the current and capital accounts.

The current level of foreign exchange reserves is considered adequate, judged from our need for essential imports and debt service payments liability. The foreign exchange reserves is, however, constantly monitored and appropriate measures are taken, as and when necessary, to increase exports, contain growth of imports, sustain the buoyancy in invisible receipts and encourage non-debt creating capital flows, especially foreign direct investments with a view to improving the situation.

[English]

Plan for STC

963. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a strike by State Trading Corporation employees against disinvestment;

(b) whether there was a plan to make STC a proper, effective and competitive marketing and trading organisation of the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the plan and the reasons for which it was not executed ?

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

(b) and (c) STC is a profit making and an MOU signing company. In STC's MOU for 2000-2001, a turnover target of Rs. 2,100 crores has been fixed. Consequent upon the decanalisation of items earlier canalised through STC, it has been the endeavour of the Corporation to lay special emphasis on non-canalised export and import by way of the following during the current financial year :-

- (1) Diversification in the field of hydrocarbons by importing coal/coke;
- (2) Development of exports of gold/silver jewellery by holding/participating in jewellery exhibitions abroad and setting up of Assaying units;
- (3) Undertaking of retail marketing of selected agricultural products such as edible oils, tea and pulses in domestic market under its own brand name;
- (4) Setting up of a departmental store/shopping malls in collaboration or as a joint venture with one of the leading international chain of departmental stores;
- (5) Conversion of non-productive assets in the form of real estates so as to make the same more productive.
- (6) The performance of STC is broadly reviewed on half-yearly basis at the Government level.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism

964. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the total amount allocated by the Union Government for beautification of tourist places in Uttar Pradesh during 2000-2001, place-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Development/ beautification of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects prioritised in consulta-

tion with them. Thirty three projects have been identified for Central financial assistance of Rs. 1037.03 lakhs for Uttar Pradesh during 2000-2001.

[English]

Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management

965. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether branches of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management have been set up in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the locations thereof indicating the names of courses being conducted by each alongwith the eligibility, duration and fee fixed for each course;

(c) whether the Institute provides placement to trainees after completion of courses;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to set up a branch of IITTM in Maharashtra in the near future; and

(f) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One branch of IITTM has been established at Bhubaneswar in 1996. The Institute interalia conducts diploma in Tourism Management course of 14 months duration. The minimum qualification for admission is Graduation in any discipline. There are two semesters of 6 months duration and tuition fee per semester is Rs. 15,000/-. Courses in Air Fare and Ticketing and Air Cargo are also conducted charging Rs. 7,000/- per student.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Institute publishes a placement brochure about the students profile, etc. and major tourism trade organisations are approached to participate in the placement interviews.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling and Circulation of Fake Currency Notes

966. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of fake currency notes have been smuggled in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to stop the circulation and smuggling of these notes ?

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

[English]

Historical Museum at Solapur

967. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Historical Museum at Solapur (Maharashtra);

(b) whether the Maharashtra Government has offered land for setting up the Museum; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Archaeological Survey of India received a request from the District Administration for establishing a Museum at Solapur. Archaeological Survey of India decided that it can only consider loaning of antiquities which are in its possession, to the State Government, provided the State Government identify a building for running a museum from their own resources.

Income Tax Act

968. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward amendment in Income Tax Act, to speed up recovery of tax arrears;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether about Rs. 40,000 crores is due for recovery in the form of direct taxes; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for recovery of dues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, at present there is no proposal to bring forward amendment in the Income Tax Act to speed up recovery of tax arrears. However, certain suggestions received in this regard are being examined.

(c) Yes, Sir, the provisional figures of the total outstanding arrear demand of Corporation Tax and Income Tax as on 31.3.2000 is Rs. 5,136.58 crores.

(d) Income Tax Act prescribes a statutory procedure for collection and recovery of taxes. The recovery of the outstanding tax is a continuous process. The process starts after the demand falls due after 30 days of the service of the demand Notice. Thereafter, action is taken by Assessing Officer in respect of unstayed demand by attaching bank accounts, charging interest, levying penalty etc. In difficult cases, matter is referred to Tax Recovery Officer who takes various coercive measures as per the Act like attachment and sale of defaulter's movable and immovable properties, arrest of defaulter and his detention in prison, appointment of Receiver for the management of the defaulter's movable and immovable properties. The recovery action taken by the Assessing Officer and TROs is closely monitored by the higher income tax authorities.

Dossier cases having outstanding demand of Rs. 10 lakhs and above are monitored by higher authorities on a regular periodic basis and necessary instructions are issued for taking various coercive measures for effecting the recovery of demand.

[Translation]

Transport Subsidy of Foodgrain

969. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to give subsidy on transportation of foodgrains provided under the Public Distribution System to the hilly areas of the country;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given on this account, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to implement the said decision in all the scheduled castes, tribal and backward areas of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of Hill Transport Subsidy (HTS), given, State-wise for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is indicated below :-

(Rs. in Crores)

	1998-99 (Prov.)	1999-2000 (RE)
Manipur	1.84	2.00
Meghalaya	0.14	0.15
Mezoram	10.43	11.32
Nagaland	2.64	2.87
Tripura	1.50	1.63
Sikkim	1.03	1.12
Lakshadweep	0.21	0.23
Arunachal Pradesh	11.33	12.30
Himachal Pradesh	2.11	2.29
Jammu and Kashmir	3.12	3.39
Other States	0.65	0.70
	35.00	38.00

(c) to (e) The Transport Subsidy Scheme of the Government is applicable only to the predominantly hilly States with little or no railways and poor road communications.

[English]

Investment made by Financial Institutions

970. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made by the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in the capital market during the current year, upto June, 30, as compared to the relevant period of the previous year;

(b) the total investments made by the FIIs during each of the last three years in the country and the unwinded positions in the debt market; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to attract more investments by the FIIs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per the reports filed with the Securities Exchange Board of

India (SEBI) by the Custodians of the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), the net investments during the current year upto June, 30 amounted to US \$ 1465 Million. The net investments by FIIs during the corresponding period in the year 1999 amounted to US \$ 898.7 Million.

(b) The total net investments by the FIIs during the last three years had been as follows :

Year	Amount (US \$ Million)
1997	1746.6
1998	(-)338.2
1999	1559.9

Details on net investments by FII Debt Funds are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Several policy measures are taken on an ongoing basis to encourage investments by FIIs in the country. The recent initiatives include the following :

- (i) Domestic portfolio managers registered with SEBI and SEBI approved domestic asset management companies have been allowed to seek registration as foreign institutional investors for investing on behalf of sub-accounts.
- (ii) Foreign individuals and overseas corporate bodies are also allowed to invest in Indian capital market as sub account of FIIs provided the investment made by these entities does not exceed 5% of the paid capital of the company.
- (iii) Investment by FIIs in a particular company was subjected to a ceiling of 24% of the total paid up capital of the company. The companies have now been permitted to raise the ceiling limit from 24% to 40% of the issued and paid up capital of the company provided it is approved by the Board of Directors and a Special Resolution is passed in the General Body Meeting of the company.

P.D.S. Quota

971. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are burdened with huge wheat stocks in the country costing the nation over Rs. 3000 crores as storage expenses and generating a thought of exporting the surplus wheat or bartering wheat with edible oils or other essential items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also planning to increase the PDS quota of wheat while reducing the issue price of the commodity substantially;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, as on 30.06.2000, the following stocks of wheat were available in the Central Pool which entail an expenditure of about Rs. 3000 crores as carrying cost if these are not disposed of during the period of one year.

Figs. In lakh tonnes

Stock as on 30.06.2000

Commodity	With FCI	State Agencies	Total	Buffer norm as on 1st July, 2000	Excess
Wheat	113.44	164.13	277.57	143.00	134.57

(c) to (e) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has already increased the foodgrains allocation w.e.f. 1.4.2000 in favour of State/U.T. Governments. The Central Issue Price of wheat and rice has already been reduced from 25th July, 2000 as follows :-

(Rs. per qtl.)

Commodity	BPL	APL
1. Wheat	415	830
2. Rice		
(i) Common	565	-
(ii) Grade 'A'	565	1130

The comparison between the total allocation of foodgrains during March, 2000 and April, 2000 is given below :-

(Figs. in lakh MTs)

Scheme	March, 2000			April, 2000		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
APL	4.91	3.28	8.19	5.37	3.46	8.83
BPL	3.20	2.83	6.03	6.56	5.29	11.85
Additional	2.35	2.34	4.69	0.11	0.01	0.12
Total	10.46	8.45	18.91	12.04	8.76	20.80

[Translation]

Bhartendu Puraskar Yojana

972. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the time since when the 'Bhartendu Puraskar Yojana' was launched by the Publications Division to encourage writing in official language Hindi and the objectives thereof;

(b) the rules of constituting the Selection Committees for this award and the qualifications of the present members; and

(c) the measures being taken for proper restructuring of these Selection Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The Bharatendu Harishchandra Awards were instituted in the year 1983 to encourage original writings by Indian authors in Hindi on the subject of journalism and mass communication. From 1992, books/manuscripts written on national integration, women problems and children literature were also included.

(b) and (c) Four separate Evaluation Committees are constituted, one for each subject referred to in (a) above. Each Evaluation Committee consists of 5 members who are eminent scholars/personalities. The Director, Publications Division is the Member-Secretary of the Committees. The Chairman of each Committee is selected by the members from among themselves.

Loan Relief

973. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the standard deduction of 5 percent has been effected by the Government on all the claims of loan relief;

(b) if so, whether 34 central banks of Bihar and Land Development Bank have suffered losses of Rs. 20.04 crore and 7.41 crore respectively;

(c) if so, whether the Government or NABARD is responsible for compensation; and

(d) if so, the time by which the compensation is likely to be provided?

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

(c) The final settlement of claims of Co-operative Banks in general and State Co-operative Bank (SCB)/ State Land Development Bank (SLDB) in Bihar in particular under Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 was made by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on the basis of the decision of Government to effect a standard deduction of 5% each from the final ARDR claims of the banks thereby disallowing the penal interest and compound interest components included in their claims. The operation of ARDR Scheme, 1990 has since been closed as on 31st March, 1995.

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

[English]

Double Taxation Treaty

974. SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are facing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in relation to its double taxation treaty with Mauritius;

(b) if so, the details of the said PIL; and

(c) the details of the Government's defence in the said case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Two Civil Writ Petitions have been filed before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court by Shri B.L. Wadehra and Azadi Bachao Andolan. The above petitions seek to challenge the Circular No. 789 dated 13.4.2000 issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes in relation to Double Taxation Avoidance Convention with Mauritius. The matter has been listed for hearing on 9.8.2000.

(c) The Government shall make appropriate response before the Hon'ble High Court.

Exploitation of Tourism Potential

975. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to review the functioning of its 18 overseas offices and decided for their restructuring for exploiting the country's tourism potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps proposed to be taken to increase the tourist traffic in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Review of the functioning of its Overseas Offices is an on-going process. Their functions are assessed based on trends in Tourist Arrivals from particular regions, State of economy and per capita income, air connectivity, etc.

(c) The steps include :

(i) Aggressive promotion of India through its 18 overseas offices by advertising public relations, participation in Travel fairs and Exhibitions, etc.

(ii) Aggressive Promotional measures with increased use of Information Technology.

(iii) Focused Marketing efforts.

(iv) Promoting spiritual and cultural tourism.

(v) Launching special packages for Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin.

(vi) Increased participation of the private sector in decision making and promotion.

Reimbursement of Freight Expenses

976. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat had represented to the Union Government for increasing reimbursement of road freight expenses for transportation of palmolien;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government have taken any action thereon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) No such representation has been received from Government of Gujarat.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Arrears against Five Star Hotels

977. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are huge arrears on Five Star Hotels in Delhi for the last many years;

(b) if so, the names of the hotels alongwith the amount they owe, and the period since when; and

(c) the details of the action has been taken in the past and contemplated in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Out of the Five Star Hotels operating in Delhi, demand is pending against two hotels, the details of which are as follows :

- (i) In the case of Asian Hotels Ltd. (Hotel Hyatt Regency), the total demand raised on 31.3.2000 is Rs. 3.03 crores. Rs. 48.00 lakh of refund for the year 1996-97 has been adjusted and a refund for Rs. 1.64 crore for A.Y. 1999-2000 is also proposed to be adjusted against the demand. The Assessee has preferred an appeal against the assessment order. It has been asked to pay 50% of balance demand.
- (ii) In the case of C.H.L. Ltd. (Hotel Surya Western), there is an outstanding demand of Rs. 1.24 crore, out of the original demand of Rs. 2.69 crore for assessment year 1997-98. This is after adjustment of a refund of Rs. 1.10 crore, payment of Rs. 27 lakh and receipt of Rs. 8.61 lakh by the attachment of bank account. The assessee has been asked to make a payment of Rs. 35 lakh by 31st July, 2000. Appeal against the order is pending.

Anti-Dumping Duty on Dairy Products

978. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

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

(a) whether some eminent persons and dairy farmers have demanded to impose anti-dumping duty on import of subsidised dairy products;

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

(c) whether some dairy products are highly subsidised in developed countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of subsidy available to these products in their respective countries; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of Co-operative Dairy Farming in India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURAOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties had received representations from M/s. Dynamix Dairy Industries Ltd., National Co-operative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI) and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in this regard. The representations were not fully documented in the prescribed proforma to establish prima-facie evidence of dumping, injury and causal link. Anti-dumping investigations are carried out in India under Sections 9A, 9B and 9C of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-Dumping Duty on dumped articles for Determination of Injury) Rules. As per the Rules of Anti-Dumping, anti-dumping investigations are initiated 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. NCDFI/NDDB and M/s. Dynamix Dairy Industries Ltd. were advised to file petitions in accordance with the Rules. However, the Domestic industry has not filed any petition in the prescribed proforma nor has it furnished complete information till date to enable the Designated Authority to initiate investigations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per reports available the amount of subsidy provided by EU and USA is given below :-

Subsidy provided on all dairy products by :

USA

Month/Year 1999-2000	(USD/Tonne)
July	1101
August	1062
September	1029
October	1002
November	849
December	865
January	992

Source : Dairy Industry Newsletter.

EU

Month (Year-2000)	SMP*	WMP**
January	760	1090
April	650	930
May	615	850
June	585	830

Source : Dairy Industry Newsletter.

*Skimmed Milk Powder **Whole Milk Powder.

(e) In respect of two tariff lines relating to Skimmed Milk Powder and Whole Milk Powder, the bound rates have been increased from zero to 60% with a provision for a combined Tariff Rate Quota of 10,000 tonnes at 15% by the Government. The bound rates have now been put into operation and the applied rate for these two tariff lines have now been raised to 60% with a provision to allow only 10,000 tonnes to be imported annually as a Tariff Rate Quota with 15% duty.

[Translation]

Export Order Received by BHEL

979. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

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

(a) the quantum of export orders received by BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited) during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of export orders likely to be received during the current year;

(c) whether BHEL has secured export orders from Iraq;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether UNO has granted permission in this regard;

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

(g) the details of the efforts made to enhance the exports by BHEL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The value of the physical export orders secured by BHEL during the last three years is as under :

Rs/crores

Year	Order Value
1997-98	91
1998-99	250
1999-2000	703

(b) BHEL has already secured export orders worth Rs. 572 Crores during the year 2000-2001 and efforts are on to secure more orders.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. Two orders together valued at Rs. 870 crores from Iraq, each comprising supply of 2x159 MW (ISO Rating) Gas Turbine Generating Units along with associated Electro-mechanical plant Auxiliaries have been received. These orders are covered under United Nations "Oil for Food Programme".

The first order valued at Rs. 430 crores has been cleared by the United Nations. The application for clearance for the second order is still under the consideration of United Nations.

(g) BHEL is making efforts to enhance its exports by improving its product quality, reducing cycle time, consolidating its base in existing markets for project exports and focusing on select products and components.

[English]

New Disinvestment Commission

980. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new Disinvestment Commission;

(b) if so, the time by the which the new Commission is likely to be set up; and

(c) the details of the new terms of Commission proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) Proposal to set up a new Disinvestment Commission is under consideration of Government of India.

Exemption from Industrial Licences

981. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to exempt Export Oriented Units and Export Promotion Zones (EPZ) from the requirements of industrial licence if they manufacture items reserved for small scale industries.

(b) if so, whether any representations have been received against it from small scale industries or their Federation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) the number of details of Export Promotion Zones set up/being set up in the country, location-wise; and

(e) the terms and conditions of eligibility and operation for these units in such zones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) As per existing policy, a medium or large scale EOU/EPZ unit set up for manufacturing items reserved for small scale

sector is required to obtain an industrial license. Such a license is granted with the obligation to export at least 50% of the production. However, EOU/EPZ units are in any case under an obligation to export 66% of their production.

In view of the above, as also to free EOU/EPZ units from excessive procedural requirements, it is proposed to exempt EOU/EPZ units from the requirement of industrial licensing for manufacturing items reserved for Small Scale Industries.

The said exemption shall be operational once the notification is issued under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

(d) There are seven export processing zones (EPZs) in the country set up by the Government in Kandla (Gujarat), Santa Cruz, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). There is no proposal to set up any EPZ by the Central Government. However, EPZs may be set up in the public, private or joint sector or by the State Governments.

Five Export Processing Zones have been approved by the Central Government for establishment in the private/joint sector, as under :-

Name of the Promoter	Location
1. Diamond and Gem Development Corporation, Mumbai	Surat (Gujarat)
2. M/s. Kay Foam Ltd., Mumbai	Kandiveli (E), Mumbai (Maharashtra)
3. M/s. Colonac International Limited, Chennai	Singidivakkam Village, Kancheepuram Taluk (Tamil Nadu)
4. M/s. TIDCO Ltd., Chennai	Nanguneri, Tirunelveli District (Tamil Nadu)
5. Government of Uttar Pradesh	Greater Noida (District Gautambudh Nagar), UP

(e) The terms and conditions of eligibility and operation of the Units in EPZs are covered under Chapter 9 of the Export and Import Policy and Chapter 9 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol I).

Setting up of Yatri Niwas

982. DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for setting up of Yatri Niwas in the different parts of the country during 2000-20001;

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

(c) the details of funds allocated for the same by the Union Government, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Government have a scheme for providing financial assistance to State Governments/UTs for setting up Yatri Niwas in the country. Such projects are identified and prioritised every year in consultation with the State Govts./UTs.

During the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 thirty two projects of Yatri Niwas were approved and an amount of Rs. 1294.79 lakhs was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism for these projects. Projects pertaining to the

setting up of Yatri Niwases in the country during the year 2000-2001 are being identified in consultation with the State Governments/UTs.

Bank Amount Locked-up in Litigation

983. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge amount has been locked-up in litigation between some nationalized banks and a handful of Government-owned financial institutions; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to rescue that huge amount and add in the National Exchequer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Details of amounts, if any, involved in disputes between nationalized banks and Government owned financial institutions are not maintained by the Government. Following a judgement of the Supreme Court of India, instructions have been issued by the Government to the effect that disputes between Government departments, PSUs etc. will be examined by a high power committee in order to prevent infructuous litigation. Disputes that have been raised thereafter have been gone into by the Committee.

Smuggling at Goa Airport

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

(a) whether smuggling activities have been increasing for the last few years in Goa and its airport becoming heaven for smugglers;

(b) if so, the number of seizures made and contraband confiscated by D.R.I. during the last two years; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to tackle smuggling activities at Goa Airport ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) There are no intelligence/reports to suggest that smuggling activities have been increasing in Goa.

(b) During the last three years, i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (till date), the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has booked a total of 20 cases of smuggling involving seizure of contraband goods valued at Rs. 3.50 crore at Goa Airport, Unaccompanied Baggage (UB) Centre and Container Yard, Goa. The year-wise details of seizure are as below :-

Year	No. of cases	Value of goods seized (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	10	2.29
1999-2000	9	0.85
2000-2001 (till date)	1	0.36
Total	20	3.50

(c) The officers of Goa Commissionerate and DRI are ever vigilant and alert and keeping a constant vigil at Goa Airport, to thwart any attempt of smuggling. The surveillance at Goa Airport has been stepped up.

[Translation]

Draft for WTO Meeting

985. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared the draft of the proposal to be discussed in the next round of negotiations in the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the reaction of the various State Governments thereto;

(c) the details of deliberations made in the national seminar jointly organised by the Ministries of Agriculture and Commerce in Delhi on "Agro Agreement in the WTO"; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) negotiations, as provided under Article 20 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, have commenced this year and a decision has been taken in the Special Session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture that member countries may submit their proposals by the end of December, 2000 with some flexibility to make additional proposals by 31st March 2001. The Government of India has yet to finalise its proposals for the negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture.

With a view to evolve a national consensus, the Department of Commerce has put up a broad position paper on agricultural negotiations on its website with address (www.commin.nic.in) for soliciting feedback from the various stake holders and the general public. The Government has also initiated consultations with all State Governments, academicians, farmers organisations, agricultural universities and has sought their inputs with regard to the ongoing negotiations. These inputs would be duly

considered while evolving the Indian negotiating position on agriculture.

In this context, a one day national seminar on "WTO Agreement on Agriculture : India's negotiating agenda" was organised on 10th June, 2000 at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade New Delhi.

There was a general perception in the above said seminar that as of now the WTO Agreement on Agriculture is heavily tilted in favour of the developed countries and it may be desirable to seek substantial changes in the various provisions in the Agreement to make it equitable. It was also recommended that India should continue to press for its food security and livelihood concerns in the negotiations.

[English]

Market for Produced Rubber

986. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for marketing the produced rubber from the States of North Eastern region by Central agencies to give remunerative prices to the growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Rubber Board has made arrangements for providing marketing support to the growers in the North-Eastern region through M/s Manimalayar Rubbers Pvt. Ltd. Sponsored by the Rubber Board and the Rubber Producers' Societies in Kerala. This company buys rubber from the growers at the most remunerative price and helps the latter find a regular market.

Disinvestment of PSUs in West Bengal

987. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertaking have been decided to be disinvested in West Bengal alongwith their names;

(b) the reasons for which the Government have taken such a decision;

(c) whether the Government have tried for their revival;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Housing Loan to People of Bihar

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

(a) the total housing loan provided by various banks and financial institutions in Bihar, especially in Shekhpora, Lakhisarai, Jamui and Begusarai districts during the last three years; and

(b) the terms and conditions for providing such loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Bank of India, Convenor of State Level Banker's Committees (SLBC) for the State of Bihar has reported that the total housing loan provided by Banks/Financial Institutions in Bihar as a whole and specifically in the Districts of Shekhpora, Lakhisarai, Jamui and Begusarai during last three years are given below :

(Amount Rs. in Lakh)

Years	Name of State	Name of District			
		Bihar	Shekhpora	Lakhisarai	Jamui
1997-98	0375	—	40	—	18
1998-99	0510	—	21	—	18
1999-2000	1731	—	25	—	46

(b) Terms and conditions for housing loan are stipulated by banks as per the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India from time to time. However, Bank of India, the Convenor of SLBC for the State of Bihar has reported general terms and condition of Housing loan as under :

Maximum amount	Rs. 10 lakh (under priority Sector). Rs. 50 lakh maximum limit under housing.
Margin money	20% of the project cost.
Interest Rate	Up to 2 lakh at Prime Lending Rate (PLR) over Rs. 2 lakh : PLR + 1 to 2%
Repayment Period	Maximum 20 years depending upon the repayment capacity of the borrower.
Security	Mortgage of house/Flat.

Slump in Cement Industry

989. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a slump in the cement industry of the country for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to speed up the development of the cement industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No, Sir. The production of cement during the last three years alongwith growth rate thereof is as under :—

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Production	Growth rate (%)
1997-98	83.16	9.11
1998-99	87.91	5.7
1999-2000	100.45	15

(b) Government has provided various incentives for the housing and infrastructure sectors in the last budget which have resulted in growth in cement industry. These measures are expected to improve the demand for cement further.

[English]

Bekal Tourism

990. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for financial assistance for the development of Bekal Tourism, a mega tourism project under Bekal Tourism Development Corporation of the Government of Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Government/U.T. concerned. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for specific projects identified in consultation with them.

The Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Government of Kerala has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 190.00 lakhs for integrated development of Bekal during 1991-92.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism and Culture in Rajasthan

991. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds provided for the development of tourism and culture in Rajasthan during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the funds provided for the purpose and the works executed;

(c) whether the Union Government have received some proposals from the Government of Rajasthan for the development of tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action/being taken by the Government in this regard so far; and

(e) the details of Institutions/Centres which are receiving grants for the development of tourism in Rajasthan and other heads under which the grants have been given to them ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Development of Tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments. However, Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them. Details of financial assistance provided to Rajasthan for tourism projects including refurbishment of monuments during the last three years are as under :

Years	No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-2000	49	712.03

Grants of approximately Rs. 39.45 lakhs have been given to Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Jaipur, during the first three years of the 9th Plan.

One time lump sum capital grant of Rs. 30.00 lakhs each for equipment etc. was also sanctioned during 1999-2000 to Food Craft Institutes at Jodhpur and Ajmer.

[English]

Cheque Bouncing Cases

992. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cheque bouncing cases in the country and the amount involved therein during the last three years; bank-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to strengthen the Negotiable Instruments Act to meet the situation of large volume of cheque bouncing; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The bouncing of a cheque takes place when the balance in the related bank account is not adequate to meet the amount for which the cheque is drawn. The dispute in such cases is between the drawer of the cheque and the payee of the cheque. The banks are drawees of the cheques and are not parties to the disputes. Further, having regard to the large number of Courts in the country empowered to deal with such cases as and when they are filed by the aggrieved parties, it is not considered practicable to obtain information regarding the number of cheque bouncing cases year-wise and bank-wise.

(b) and (c) There is no specific proposal at present to amend Section 138 of the Act which deals with the ingredients of the offence and prescribes the penalty therefor.

Export by Public Sector Undertakings

993. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the annual average value of export carried out by Public Sector Undertakings in the country; and

(b) the target of annual average value of export fixed for PSUs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The export earnings as on 31.3.99, till which period the information is available, is given in the Table 1.21 of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey 1998-99, which was laid in the Lok Sabha on 10.3.2000.

(b) Export prospects are assured by individual PSUs under the control of various Ministries from year to year having regard to demand in various overseas markets. Average annual targets for PSUs as a whole does not arise.

[Translation]

Storage Capacity

994. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to lack of sufficient storage capacity a large quantity of procured wheat and rice is lying in the open;

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

(c) whether sufficient arrangements have been made for the storage of wheat and rice to be procured after the next Rabi crop; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has adequate storage capacity. The increase or decrease of the storage capacity of the FCI is contingent upon the trend of procurement and off-take of foodgrains in the procuring/consuming States. The FCI regularly monitors and takes decisions accordingly to hire additional space or to die-hire the surplus.

[English]

Sale of Gold by RBI

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have decided to sell its stock of gold worth Rs. 4000 crore in the near future.

(b) if so, the reasons which compelled the Government to arrive at such a decision; and

(c) the manner in which the proceeds of the sale of gold are likely to be utilized?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

LPT in Fateh Burj (Rajgarh),
Rajasthan

996. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the low power transmission centre of Doordarshan at Fateh Burj (Rajgarh) in Rajasthan is always disturbing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is no machine trained employee at this centre since its installation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the transmission of the said centre and appoint a machine trained employee at this centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (e) The Doordarshan transmitter at Rajgarh (Fatehpur Burj) is an unmanned, Very Low Power Transmitter and not a Low Power Transmitter. The transmitter is reported to be generally functioning satisfactorily. Faults in the equipment as and when detected are attended to promptly by technically trained staff of Doordarshan Maintenance Centre at Mathura.

[English]

Quantity of Foodgrains Issued
to Sikkim

997. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of people below poverty line (BPL) and above poverty line (APL) in Sikkim;

(b) the total quantity of Rice, Wheat and Kerosene Oil issued to the State of Sikkim from the PDS on subsidy during each of the last three years alongwith the rates thereof; item-wise;

(c) whether the CBI has filed chargesheet against some FCI officials posted in Sikkim and Siliguri for diverting these items in open market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) As per the Planning Commission's estimates, 0.34 lakh families are below poverty line and 0.48 lakh families are above poverty line in Sikkim on the basis of 1995 population. An economic survey is presently being conducted by the Govt. of Sikkim to identify the exact number of APL and BPL families in the State.

(b) Total quantity of subsidized Rice, Wheat and Kerosene Oil issued to the State of Sikkim under the PDS during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, year-wise are as under :-

Year	Allocation of Rice (in '000 tonnes)	Wheat (in '000 tonnes)	Kerosene Oil (in metric tonnes)
1997-98	77.380	5.680	7794
1998-99	87.720	10.680	7885
1999-2000	87.720	2.090	7895

The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains with effect from 25.7.2000 are as under :-

Rice -	For APL	Grade 'A'	Rs. 1130 per qtl.
	For BPL	Common Grade 'A'	Rs. 565 per qtl.
Wheat -	For APL		Rs. 830 per qtl.
	For BPL		Rs. 415 per qtl.

The ex-storage point price of PDS kerosene is Rs. 4.50 per litre w.e.f. the midnight of 22nd-23rd March, 2000.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. CBI has registered case No. RC - 23(A)/98-Cal. against five officials of FCI posted in Sikkim and Siliguri. As reported by FCI, some private parties and State Government Officials were also involved.

Indo-China Trade Relations

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

(a) whether Government are taking steps to expand Indo-China trade relations;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-China trade relation has been established; and

(c) the details of proposals under consideration for the expansion of Indo-China trade in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of India constantly takes steps to expand and improve the Indo-China trade relations. In this direction the bilateral Agreement relating to Chinese accession to the WTO, a Memorandum of Understanding on Ferrous Metallurgy and Agreed Minutes of Sixth Session of Indo-China Joint Group on Economic Relation and Trade, Science and technology were signed in Beijing in February, 2000. As per the Agreed Minutes, the areas discussed included importance of e-commerce, exchange of visits between business communities, establishment of business representative offices, organisation of exhibition, trade fairs, grant of business visas, strengthening cooperation in the field of infrastructure, cooperation in the field of drugs, pharmaceuticals, etc.

Problems of Small Investors

999. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry alongwith RBI, SEBI, DCB, CLB are planning to simplify the grievance solution process of small investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the multiplicity of regulatory bodies are causing problem to small investors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the regulatory agencies to whom the small investors have to approach to solve their problems ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) The three regulatory agencies, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Department of Company Affairs (DCA), and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) deal with

the following areas. RBI regulates the mobilization of deposits by Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) while mobilization of deposits by companies other than NBFCs is within the purview of DCA. SEBI is the securities market regulator.

It is Government's endeavour to simplify and streamline procedures for redressing grievances of investors. In this context Government constantly reviews relevant Acts, rules and regulations.

Economic Cooperation with other Asian Countries

1000. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the bilateral economic cooperation between India and other Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise, for the last three years in terms of target set and achieved; and

(c) the details of fresh policy and administrative initiatives taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen the bilateral economic cooperation between India and other Asian countries during the current year and Ninth Plan period alongwith the action finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has reviewed the bilateral economic co-operation between India and other Asian countries from time to time. During the last three years, meetings to review bilateral economic cooperation with the following countries were organised :

- (1) 14th Round of Indo-Japan Trade Talks held in February 1999.
- (2) The Sixth Meeting of Indo-China Joint Economic Group on Economic Relations and Trade, Science and Technology was held in Beijing on February 21.22.2000.
- (3) The Third Indo-Korea Trade Ministers' (Joint Trade Committee) meeting, was held on May 9, 2000.
- (4) Matters relating to bilateral trade and economic relations between India and Nepal were reviewed at Commerce Secretary level in New Delhi on December 10-12, 1999.
- (5) The Commerce Secretary of India and Bangladesh met in New Delhi for Trade Review Talk on May 10-12, 2000.

- (6) Joint Commission meeting with Australia held on 26/2/99 in New Delhi.
- (7) Joint Ministerial Commission meeting with Australia held on 12/4/2000 in Canberra, Australia.
- (8) Joint Trade Committee meeting with New Zealand held on 28/8/97 in Wellington, New Zealand.
- (9) Joint Trade Committee meeting with New Zealand held on 14/4/2000 in Wellington, New Zealand
- (10) Joint Trade Committee meeting with Thailand in Bangkok on 21st and 22nd September, 1999.
- (11) India Philippines Joint Working Group meeting held in Manila on 27th and 28th January, 1997.
- (12) India-Philippines Joint Working Group meeting held in Manila, Philippines on 20th and 21st January, 1998.
- (13) Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals was held at Sydney, Australia on 10/4/2000.
- (14) Seventh Indo-Algeria Joint Committee meeting held on 24th to 26th June, 2000 at Algiers.
- (15) Second Indo-Israel Joint Committee meeting held on 27th October, 1998 at New Delhi.
- (16) Fourth Indo-Syria Joint Committee meeting held on 25-26th July, 2000 at New Delhi.
- (17) Third Indo-Oman Joint Commission meeting held on 27-28th April, 2000 at New Delhi.
- (18) Third Indo-Yemen Joint Committee meeting held on 18-20th July, 1999 at Sana'a.
- (19) Third Indo-Egypt Joint Commission meeting held on 8-9th April, 2000 at New Delhi.
- (20) Seventh Indo-Sudan Joint Commission meeting held on 8-9th April, 2000 at Khartoum.
- (21) Ninth Indo-Tunisia Joint Commission meeting held on 3-6th April, 2000 at Tunis.
- (22) Tenth Indo-Iran Joint Commission meeting held on 22-24th Feb. 1999 at New Delhi.
- (23) Thirteenth Indo-Iraq Joint Commission meeting held on 27-28th July, 1999 at Baghdad.

- (24) Third Indo-Bahrain Joint Commission meeting held on 12-13 November, 1998 at New Delhi.
- (25) Third Indo-Qatar Joint Committee meeting held on 9-11 March, 1999 at New Delhi.

Promotion of bilateral economic co-operation with Asian countries is a continual/ongoing process. Various measures to promote bilateral economic cooperation are being undertaken which includes holding of bilateral meetings for periodic review of trade and removing impediments to market access, exchange of official and business delegations, and participation in trade fairs and exhibitions.

Code for Advertisements on DD

1001. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any code for commercial advertisements shown on Doordarshan;
- (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 MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of the code for commercial advertising on Doordarshan are given in the enclosed Statement.

- (c) Does not arise.

Statement

The salient features of the Code for Commercial Advertising on Doordarshan is given below :

1. Advertising shall be so designed as to conform to the laws of the country and should not offend morality, decency and religious susceptibilities of the people.
2. No Advertisement shall be permitted which :
 - (i) derides any race, caste, colour, creed and nationality;
 - (ii) is against any of the directive principles, or any other provisions of the Constitution of India;
 - (iii) tends to incite people to crime, cause disorder or violence, or breach of law or glorifies violence or obscenity in any way;

- (iv) presents criminality as desirable;
 - (v) adversely affects friendly relations with foreign States;
 - (vi) exploits the national emblem, or any part of the Constitution or the person or personality of a national leader or State Dignitary;
 - (vii) relates to or promotes cigarettes and tobacco products, liquor, wines and other intoxicants;
 - (viii) in its depiction of women violates the constitutional guarantees to all citizens such as equality of status and opportunity and dignity of the individual. In particular, no advertisement shall be permitted which projects a derogatory image of women. Women must not be portrayed in a manner that emphasises passive, submissive qualities and encourages them to play a subordinate, secondary role in the family and society. The portrayal of men and women should not encourage mutual disrespect. Advertiser shall ensure that the portrayal of the female form is tasteful and aesthetic, and is within the well-established norms of good taste and decency.
3. No advertisement message shall in any way be presented as News.
 4. No advertisement shall be permitted the objects whereof are wholly or mainly of a religious or political nature; advertisements must not be directed towards any religious or political end or have any relation to any industrial dispute.
 5. The goods advertised shall not suffer from any defect or deficiency as mentioned in Consumer Protection Act 1986.
 6. No advertisement which endangers the safety of children or creates in them any interest in unhealthy practices or shows them begging or in an undignified or indecent manner shall be accepted.
 7. No advertisement shall contain references which are likely to lead the public to infer that the product advertised or any of its ingredients has some special or miraculous or super-natural property or quality, which is difficult of being proved, e.g. cure for baldness, skin whitener, etc.
 8. The picture and the audible matter of the advertisement shall not be excessively 'loud'.
 9. No advertisement shall be accepted which violates AIR and TV Broadcast Code which is reproduced below :
 - (i) Criticism of friendly countries;
 - (ii) attack on religions or communities;
 - (iii) anything obscene or defamatory;
 - (iv) incitement to violence or anything against maintenance of law and order;
 - (v) anything amounting to contempt of court;
 - (vi) aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;
 - (vii) anything affecting the integrity of the Nation; and
 - (viii) criticism by name of any person.
 10. Indecent, vulgar, suggestive, repulsive or offensive themes or treatment shall be avoided in all advertisements.

Opening of Branches of IIFT

1002. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to open a branch of the Indian Institute of Foreign Institute (IIFT) in Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to discuss the matter with the State Government; and

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Journalists Wage Board

1003. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to notify the recommendations of the Journalists Wage Board;

(b) the details of the plan to tackle the new phenomenon of contractual journalism that has been introduced by leading publications in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of the Journalists Wage Board recommendations by various publications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The Manisana Wage Board, which was constituted on 2.9.94 for fixing and revising the rates of wages for the working journalists and non-journalist newspaper and news agency employees, has submitted its final report on 25th July 2000. The Government has to examine the recommendations before taking a final view and notifying the same for implementation. The responsibility for implementation of recommendations lies with State/UT Governments.

Sale of Packed Atta in Delhi

1004. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the packed Atta sold in Delhi contain foreign material i.e. 'rice' for lowering the production cost and earning more profit by the flour mills;

(b) if so, the number of samples lifted of the packed 'atta from the market and the consumer cooperative societies in Delhi during the last three years giving the report of the clinical analysis, sample-wise;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the consumer interests; and

(d) the other measures taken in safeguarding properly the interest of consumers and the number of cases of non-consumer interests have come to light during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Government of NCT of Delhi have reported that there is no such case.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of NCT of Delhi have reported that to safeguard the interests of the consumers, the enforcement branch of the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration, Govt. of Delhi, has been strengthened by notifying all the 27 Sub-Divisional Magistrates working in 9 districts of Delhi as Local (Health) Authority under PFA Act, 1954.

(d) There are nine district forums and one State Commission in Delhi for redressal of consumer complaints.

No case of non-consumer interest has come to light during the last three years.

Privatisation/Closure of PSUs.

1005. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any letter from the Chief Minister of West Bengal regarding privatisation/closure of PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to the Prime Minister on the decision of the Government on Closure of Sick PSEs stating that each sick PSE has its specific problems and these should be taken up on case to case basis in the interest of making all of them viable. The Employees are also willing to help and co-operate in the matter.

(c) The Government has decided to take action for closure of six PSEs, namely, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC), National Bicycle Corporation of India. Ltd. (NBCIL), Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL), Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL), Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (RIC) and Tannery and Footwear Cooperation Ltd. (TAFCO), which have been considered unviable after considering the recommendations of the Expert Group set up to explore the possibilities of revival. Govt. have also decided to extend benefits under the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS), to the remaining employees in these PSEs, which is substantially higher than the compensation available under the ID Act. This decision will benefit about 3800 employees in these PSEs.

Corruption in Super Bazar/NCCF

1006. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 5992 dated 4 May, 2000 regarding speedy trial of corrupt officers in Super Bazar and to state :

(a) whether instead of making speedy trial against the Dy G.M. of the Super Bazar, the Officer's resignation has been accepted and eased out;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether the Central Vigilance Commission has been apprised of the same and the action taken by the Commission in the matter;

(c) the number of cases of corruption were unearthed so far;

(d) the corrective steps taken/being taken in this regard; and

(e) the action taken by the Government/Commission on the complaints given against Super Bazar and NCCF by Members of Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) As reported by Super Bazar, the resignation of Shri K. Vijay Kumar, Dy. G.M. has been accepted with the condition that enquiries into the charges against him will continue.

(b) Shri K. Vijay Kumar, Dy. G.M. had submitted notice of resignation under Super Bazar's Service and Conduct Rules on 5.5.2000 which was accepted with effect from 5.6.2000. Central Vigilance Commission was apprised of the same. The Commission advised that Board of Directors may not ratify their earlier decision to accept the resignation of Shri K. Vijay Kumar.

(c) Three cases are at enquiry stage and in three cases preliminary enquiries have been registered by CBI. Enquiries are being conducted by Super Bazar in some other cases also.

(d) Corrective steps include preliminary investigation, regular enquiry and Departmental action.

(e) Appropriate action, depending on the nature of the complaint, is taken on such complaints.

Disbursement of Farm Loan by Central Bank

1007. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bank of India has distributed Rs. 2,000 crore of farm loans in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of branches of this bank in different States meant for intensive agricultural lending;

(c) the total loan distributed by the Bank during 1999-2000 under special agricultural credit plans;

(d) the total amount the banks plans to disburse during the current year; and

(e) the details in respect of other banks which have also provided agricultural lending in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Central Bank of India has reported that the total outstanding loans to agriculture granted by the bank as on March, 2000 amounted to Rs. 2003 crores. All the 1431 Rural Branches and 728 Semi-Urban Branches of the bank lend for agriculture. However, the bank had identified 187 branches all over the country for intensive agricultural lending during 1999-2000. During the current year, additional 85 branches have been further identified in this respect.

(c) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Central Bank of India had disbursed an amount of Rs. 794.44 crores to the agriculture sector during 1999-2000 under Special Agricultural Credit Plan. The bank plans to disburse Rs. 990.00 crore during the current year, 2000-2001. All the 27 public sector banks have disbursed Rs. 21913.14 crore towards agriculture during 1999-2000 under the Special Agricultural Credit Plans.

[Translation]

Diamond Industry

1008. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts for the promotion of diamond industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made so far in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) With a view to promote the exports of diamonds, a number of export promotion schemes have been prescribed in Chapter 8 of Exim Policy, 1997-2002. These schemes have been modified from time to time based on the feedback. Some of the important policy initiatives taken in the earlier Exim Policies prior to the latest Exim Policy are : (i) Permission to Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/Export Processing Zone (EPZ) units to supply unsuitable/broken cut and polished diamonds, rough diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones, upto 5% of the value of the imported or indigenously procured goods to Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) against the valid Replenishment/Gem Replenishment/Diamond Imprest Licence as applicable on payment of appropriate duty, (ii) Permission for establishment of

Private/Public Bonded Warehouses in EPZ/DTA for import, supply and re-export of rough diamonds and rough precious and semiprecious stones. Besides the above, import and re-export of cut and polished diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones by the Private/Public Bonded Warehouses was also permitted subject to the achievement of minimum value addition of 5%, (iii) Permission to overseas companies with branch offices in India and with an average annual turnover in diamonds of not less than Rs. 150 crore during the preceding three licensing years to obtain bulk licence for import and sale of rough diamonds, (iv) Permission for export by courier from selected ports upto a value of Rs. 20 lakhs per consignments. With effect from 1st April' 2000 exports through speed post have also been permitted, (v) Provision for issuance of Diamond Imprest Licence to the status holders upto 5% of the export performance of the preceding year of cut and polished diamonds, for import of cut and polished diamonds, for subsequent exports subject to achieving value addition of 10%, (vi) Permission for duty free import of consumables required by the diamond processing industries to the extent of 1% of the FOB value of exports in the preceding year. With a view to simplify the scheme/procedure, issuance of a separate Replenishment Licence has been provided with effect from 1st April 2000 for duty free import of consumables.

The new policy initiatives announced in the latest Exim Policy w.e.f. 1st April' 2000 for promotion of diamond exports are :

- (i) Permission to firms and companies dealing in the purchase/sale of rough or cut and polished diamonds with a track record of at least three years in import or export of diamonds and having an average annual turnover of Rs. 5 crore or above during the preceding three licensing years to carry out their business through designated Diamond Dollar Accounts, (ii) Doing away with the necessity to co-relate every export consignment with the corresponding import consignment in EOUs/EPZ units, (iii) Permission for personal carriage of import and export parcels, (iv) Reduction in custom duty on cut and polished diamonds to 15% (v) Capital Goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme, have been permitted to be imported at 5% Custom duty subject to an export obligation on Free on Board (FOB) basis equivalent to 5 times of Cost Insurance Freight (CIF) value of capital goods or 4 times of the CIF value of capital goods on Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) basis to be fulfilled over a

period of 8 years reckoned from the date of issuance of licence.

- (c) The exports of the diamonds during the last five years are as given below :

(Value in US\$ million)

Year	Value of Exports
1995-96	4572.54
1996-97	4027.90
1997-98	4309.21
1998-99	4748.56
1999-2000	6782.58

Source : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta for 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Mumbai for 1999-2000.

[English]

Export of Chrome Ore

1009. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the procedure being followed by the Government at present to export chrome ore;
- (b) whether MMTC is the main channelising agency to export chrome ore;
- (c) whether some private companies are keen to export chrome ore directly;
- (d) if so, the names of such private companies who sought the permission from the Government to export chrome ore directly; and
- (e) the reaction/policy of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) As per the extant Exim Policy, MMTC is the canalising agency for export of friable and lumpy chrome ore with certain specifications and subject to annual ceilings fixed by the Ministry of Steel. However, the policy provides for export of beneficiated chrome concentrate with average feed grade of less than 33% Cr₂O₃ without any restriction. Requests as and when received from private companies are examined on a case-to-case basis within the ambit of the Exim Policy in consultation with the Ministry of Steel.

Excess Stock of Wheat and Rice

1010. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
 SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :
 SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
 SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
 SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
 SHRI J.S. BRAR :
 SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :
 SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
 DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
 SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quantum of stock of wheat and rice is in excess than the required buffer stock in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith quantum and type of wheat and rice available in excess till June, 2000, grade-wise;

(c) the total quantity earmarked for Public Distribution System out of the said stock;

(d) whether the Government have decided to auction several millions tons of wheat and rice in the country to reduce the stock;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith quantum of wheat and rice sold through auction so far;

(f) whether the Government are also looking for foodgrains market in the foreign countries including SAARC countries; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The stock of rice and wheat in the central pool as on 1.7.2000 as compared with buffer stock norms is as under :-

(Figs. in lakh tonnes)

Commodity	Stocks	Buffer norms	Excess: Stock
Rice	144.90	100.00	44.90
Wheat	277.57	143.00	134.57
Total	422.47	243.00	179.47

The above wheat stock includes 0.71 lakh tonnes of imported wheat. The stock of rice is all indigenous.

(c) Monthly allocation of about 21 lakh tonnes food grains is made to States/UTs under Targetted Public Distribution System with effect from April, 2000.

(d) and (e) There is an ongoing Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) under which any buyer can purchase wheat from FCI at the rate of Rs. 900/- per quintal, subject to the condition that the imported quantity is not less than 10 tonnes. Government have decided to dispose of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) from Punjab only at the following rates :-

Month	Rate per qtl.
July, 2000	Rs. 700/-per qtl
Aug., 2000	Rs. 750/-per qtl
Sept., 2000	Rs. 800/-per qtl

However no wheat has been sold in Punjab under this scheme so far.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. To liquidate surplus wheat stocks, Government is inter-alia exploring the possibilities of commodity loan of wheat to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries or other countries as also barter trade of wheat with those countries which could supply us other commodities in exchange of wheat at prices at which they are importing wheat from other countries. It has also been decided to allow export of wheat on Government to Government account subject to suitable floor price. The possibilities of export of wheat have also been explored through Ministry of External Affairs. Ruling prices of wheat in Central Pool as compared to the international prices being high, export of Indian wheat has not been commercially viable. There is no decision to export rice from Central Pool.

Export of Films

1011. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Indian films exported during the last three years and the income generated through it, year-wise, language-wise;

(b) the number of Tamil, Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam feature films were given distributing rights to foreign countries during the above period, country-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government have given any concession or relaxation for the import of foreign feature

films, educational films and documentaries and the Mumbai export of such films; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The Government does not maintain any details regarding export of films. However, details of the Indian films exported during the last three years and the income generated from this as ascertained from Indian Film Exporters Association, is given below.

Year	No. of titles Exported	Export earnings (Approx.)
1997-98	190	Rs. 200 crores
1998-99	180	Rs. 250 crores
1999-2000	240	Rs. 400 crores

(b) According to the Indian Film Exporters Association nearly 99% of the films exported by the Indian film industry are Hindi films. These films are regularly exported to UK, USA, UAE, Tanzania, Kenya, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mauritius, Singapore, Indonesia, Fiji, Canada, Thailand, Hongkong, Myanmar etc. UK and USA have continued to be the big markets for Hindi films.

(c) and (d) No concession or relaxation is given for the import of feature films into the country. Imports of feature films are regulated by the Public Notice No. 4(PN)/97-02 dated 31.3.97 as amended from time to time. Documentary films and educational films are exempted from following the procedure prescribed for import as given in the import policy for films.

The earnings from film software exports are fully exempted under Section 80 HHF of the Income Tax Act 1961. Exporters can also claim duty drawback on the export of prints at the rate determined by the Government from time to time.

TV Transmitters at Barmer and Chohtan (Western Rajasthan)

1012.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether two High Power TV Transmission Kendras were installed at Barmer and Chohtan (Western Rajasthan) at a huge cost to Counter Pakistani propaganda and to telecast the programmes for Thar Desert districts covering a range of 300 KM;

(b) if so, whether these High Power TV Transmission Kendras have been downgraded by installing low power instruments with the result the very purpose for which these TV transmission Kendras were planned has been defeated;

(c) if so, whether the Government are planning to upgrade the range of these TV transmission Kendras in sensitive area bordering Pakistan;

(d) if so, the time by which these TV transmission Kendras are likely to be upgraded; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (e) Two high power Transmitters have been installed at Barmer (Chohtan) and Jaiselmer (Ramgarh) in Rajasthan. Chohtan is the location where the transmitter for Barmer has been installed. While the transmitter at Jaiselmer is operating on full power, the transmitter at Barmer (Chohtan) is not operating on full power pending construction of a 300 Metre tower. The transmitter is expected to be commissioned on full power in about 2 years time on completion of the tower.

Externally Aided Water Supply Projects

1013.SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of water supply schemes pending with the Union Government for external aid, State-wise;

(b) since when these schemes are pending with the Government;

(c) the present status of these schemes, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) As per the guidelines for posing projects to external agencies for external assistance, project proposals should be routed through the Central Line Ministries to the Department of Economic Affairs after ensuring Plan priorities, Administrative clearances, including clearances from the Planning Commission. Accordingly the status of

clearance of different projects under consideration is as per the statement enclosed.

(d) There is no definite time frame under which proposals for external assistance can be cleared. Once the project is posed to the External Agency it goes through

the cycle of preappraisal, preparation of project concept document, appraisal, negotiation and final approval. This process takes at least a year or more, depending on how well the project is prepared and the overall commitments of the external agencies in terms of their resources.

Statement

State-wise details of Water Supply Project Proposals under consideration for External Aid

Sl.No.	State/Name of the Project	Donor	Latest Status
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	A.P. Rural Water Supply and Environmental Project	World Bank	Posed on 15.01.99. Identification Mission from the Bank visited the project from November 17-20, 1999 and has made certain suggestions that have been communicated to the State Government. Therespone of the State Govt. is awaited.
2.	Second Hyderabad Water Supply and Sanitation Project	World Bank	Project was posed on 8.1.97. The project is under protected correspondence with the Bank and is listed as reserved category project in Bank's lending programme 2000-02. Govt. of A.P. had been requested on 29.4.98 to inform if the project is included in the State Plan and also if they were agreeable to the Bank's suggestion on the project to be implemented in two overlapping phases. Reply from GoAP is still awaited.
3.	Integrated Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project in Karimanagar Distt.	German	Posed on 19.11.97. The Germans have not responded and also cancelled the Annual Talks in 1998 due to Pokhran-II. Till such time the negotiations are resumed, Germans are not considering any proposal.
4.	Integrated Rural Water Supply and Sewarage project by Visakhaptanam Municipal Corporation	French Aid	This project was posed on 28.4.98. Consultants are to prepare a feasibility report to identify requisite components for the project.
Karnataka			
5.	Karnataka Rural Water Supply II	World Bank	Posed on 25.05.99. Population and Human Resource Development (PHRD) Grant Agreement for preparatory activities amounting to US\$ 314260 will be signed after the clearance of the Administrative Ministry and the State Govt. on the draft agreement.
Kerala			
6.	Kerala Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	World Bank	Posed on 23.12.98 subsequently revised and sent to the Bank on 27.10.99. The Bank appraised the project. The negotiations are likely to take place in the near future. PHRD Grant Agreement for preparatory activities amounting to US\$99630 will be signed after the clearance of the Administrative Ministry and the State Govt. on the draft agreement.

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra			
7.	Integrated Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project for Jalagaon and Nasik	UK	Posed to DFID in March 1997. The reply regarding funding of the project is still awaited.
8.	Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Phase-II	World Bank	Posed on 14.1.97. The Bank desires a revised Project Proposal. The Govt. of Maharashtra has forwarded the revised proposal to the World Bank. The revised proposal will be formally posed to the bank after the approval of Administrative Ministry is received.
9.	Rural Water Supply	Germany	The donor has committed in 1995 to fund this project. The Agreement is in advanced stage of finalisation.
10.	Integrated Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in 5 districts (Phase-II)	Germany	Posed on 19.2.97. The Germans have not responded and also cancelled the Annual Talks in 1998 due to Pokhran-II. Till such times the negotiations are resumed, Germans are not considering any proposal.
11.	Urban Water Supply, Nasik	Germany	Posed on 20.3.98. The Germans have not responded and also cancelled the Annual Talks in 1998 due to Pokhran-II. Till such times the negotiations are resumed, Germans are not considering any proposal.
Madhya Pradesh			
12.	MP Rural Water Supply	World Bank	Posed on 1.12.98. The World Bank did not want to consider a small pilot project. Instead M.P. Govt. was advised to prepare a full size project by the World Bank which is still awaited from the MP Govt.
Tamil Nadu			
13.	Tamil Nadu Rural Water Supply and Sanitation project	World Bank	The project was posed to the Bank in December 1998. When the detailed Project Concept Document was being prepared the Ministry of Rural Development advised the Govt. of Tamil Nadu to revise the proposed proposal ensuring that no component of GOI support is included in the project. The revised proposal is awaited from the State Govt.
14.	Hogeakkal Water Supply and Sanitation Project	World Bank	Posed to World Bank on 1.6.99 with the request that this proposal may be considered as a part of the Tamil Nadu Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project.
15.	3rd Chennai Water Supply project	World Bank	This project was likely to be appraised during Feb 2000. DEA has requested the World Bank to appraise the project at the earliest. Response of the Bank is awaited.
16.	Treatment and transmission of ML 530 Water at Chembarabakkam	French	Project was posed in March 1998. Contracts are yet to be finalised by Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chennai. French authorities have informed that it seems the State Govt. is no longer interested in this project. The apprehension of the donor was brought to the notice of the State Govt.

1	2	3	4
West Bengal			
17.	Water Supply and solid waste management in 14 selected urban local bodies.	Italy	Posed to the donor in January 1997. Comments of the State Government awaited on the terms/conditions of Italian loan being made available for the project.
Sikkim			
18.	Gangtok Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	Australia-Aid	The Aus AID has identified this project in May 1998. The pre feasibility Study has been completed and Aus AID is fielding shortly a Feasibility/Design Study Mission to prepare a detailed Project Design Document for the project.
Himachal Pradesh			
19.	Rural Water Supply	Germany	Posed on 1996-97. The Germans have not responded and also cancelled the Annual Talks in 1998 due to Pokhran-II. Till such times the negotiations are resumed, Germans are not considering any proposal.
20.	Hamirpur Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Australia-Aid	The Aus AID has identified this project in May 1998. Aus AID have informed that it is unable to fund the capital cost of the project in its current form. Nevertheless, they have proposed to deploy a mission to examine all relevant options and assess the opportunities for possible Australian Development Assistance that would support sustainable rural water supply and sanitation in Hamirpur district of H.P.

Inland Depots of FCI

1014. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of inland depots with the Food Corporation of India;

(b) the storage capacity of these depots;

(c) whether the Government are considering a proposal to privatise a large number of these depots;

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

(e) whether there is a proposal to restructure the Food Corporation of India; and

(f) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) At present the total number of depots with the Food Corporation of India (including owned/hired/covered/Covered Area Plinth (CAP) are 1746.

(b) The total storage capacity of these depots is 273.18 lakh MTs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Inland Depots of FCI

The Government of India has issued guidelines to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the scheme of organizational Restructuring FCI with reference to manpower requirement, career management and career progression. The scheme has the following salient features :-

(i) It is proposed to rationalise the management of depots by officers of the rank of Assistant Managers and above. This would also entail streamlining of personnel among the various depots.

(ii) Fresh norms on depot operations are to be formulated by an independent group comprising of officers who have had exposure of various operations of the Corporation.

- (iii) A scheme is to be formulated by the FCI for creating an Industrial Relations Machinery right from the depot level and above and for induction of suitable personnel for the same as well as the Computer Cell.
- (iv) It is also proposed to revamp the quality control machinery with a view to ensure certification of the quality of foodgrains by an independent machinery having a different line of control.
- (v) The problem of re-adjustment of the personnel at the micro level would be tackled by offering an attractive transfer package.
- (vi) To meet the staff requirements as per the present line of organisation and to overcome the problem of stagnation, it is proposed to upgrade the exiting posts subject to condition that a clear understanding is reached with the unions as regards the revised job description applicable to the employees.
- (vii) To strengthen the management base it is proposed to recruit 100 Management Trainees every year.
- (viii) The FCI is to maintain reduced sanctioned strength till revised norms are approved and fresh manpower requirement are worked.
- (ix) The port operations are to be wound up by the FCI. The godowns at Chennai, Vizag, Kandla, Calcutta and Mumbai are to be handed over to the Port Trust of mutually agreed terms and conditions. The staff will either be deployed, surrendered or offered Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
- (x) All labour issues would be tackled in a manner consistent with the existing labour laws.

Case to case approval of the Competent Authority will be required.

Retirement Age in India Tourism Development Corporation

1015. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH :
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees in ITDC excluding the hotel employees, as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to rollback the retirement age from 60 years to 58 years for the employees of the India Tourism Development Corporation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Presently, the manpower strength in ITDC excluding the Hotels and Catering Establishments is 1793.

(b) and (c) The ITDC Board has accepted, in principle, the concept of rolling back the retirement age. Accordingly, ITDC has approached the Government for seeking approval.

Instrumentation Ltd.

1016. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board of Directors of the Instrumentation Ltd. has decided to make its Palghat unit as an independent unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the proposed revival package of the Instrumentation Ltd.; and

(d) the present stage of this package in its implementation ?

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

(b) and (c) Corporate restructuring of the unit is ultimately envisaged as a result of which the Control Valve business segment at Palghat, Digital Distributed Control System (DDC) at Kota and the Power Electronic business segment at Jaipur would be made as subsidiary companies of Instrumentation Ltd. (IL). The remaining activities of Instrumentation Ltd., Kota will remain with the mother company which will also be the holding company for the three new subsidiaries.

Further, the Palghat unit and the DDC unit at Kota would be considered for joint venture formation.

(d) The sanctioned scheme of IL as approved by the BIFR envisages the restructuring of IL as indicated in the replies to item (b) and (c) above. The sanctioned scheme is under implementation. The Government have released fund required and extended the envisaged reliefs and

concessions including counter guarantee to banks. Steps are also on for the subsidisation of the company.

Kurkunta Unit of CCI

1017. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to modernise/revive or close down the Cement Corporation of India Limited, Kurkunta (Karnataka) unit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the employees of CCI Ltd., Kurkunta unit are not getting their salary;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) was referred to BIFR during April, 1996 under the provisions of SICA. BIFR is to take a view on the revival or otherwise of the Company including Kurkunta Unit.

(c) to (e) CCI has been facing liquidity problems which has led to delay in timely payment of salary/wages to the employees. Government has been providing non-plan support to the company to the extent possible to meet their requirements in this regard.

[Translation]

Excess Foodgrains to Flour Mills

1018. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI J.S. BRAR :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have taken a decision to provide wheat to the flour mills from the additional foodgrain stock which was more than the required buffer stock;
- (b) if so, the variety of the said wheat;
- (c) the number of wheat grades fixed by the Government and the target fixed for each grade;
- (d) the rate at which the said wheat was sold to flour mills; and

(e) the extent to which the said rate of wheat is less than the economic cost of Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) FCI was authorised in January 2000 to dispose of Australian Wheat, Canadian red wheat, C&D category wheat and more than two years old wheat through open tender. Since the Roller Flour Mills only had the desired facility of processing wheat before distributing the processed wheat products to consumers, it was, therefore, decided by FCI to sell C&D category of wheat of Roller Flour Mills only.

(c) Wheat stock is procured under a single grade as per the uniform specification for the Central Pool and no targets are fixed grade wise.

(d) and (e) The stocks of C&D Category of wheat were sold to Roller Flour Mills @ Rs. 750/- per quintal as against the economic cost of Rs. 900.25 per qtl (w.e.f. 1.4.2000) as these stocks of wheat were not acceptable under Public Distribution Scheme (PDS).

[English]

Setting up of Production Centre of Films Division

1019. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to set up production centre of Films Division at Imphal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal, at present, to set up a production centre of Films Division at Imphal because the requirements of North-East Region are being catered to by the Eastern Regional Production Centre, Calcutta. This Centre produces story-based films reflecting the problems and solutions of the North East Region. These films are shot in local surroundings and are made in local languages/dialects. Besides one cameraman is posted at Guwahati to cover topical events of the Region for inclusion in the newsmagazines produced by the Division.

Rehabilitation of Dunlop India

1020. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BIFR has asked Dunlop India Ltd., to submit a revised rehabilitation proposal within 15 days to IDBI or else face change of management;

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

(c) the details of the other directions issued by BIFR to Dunlop India Ltd.;

(d) whether the Dunlop India Ltd. has submitted the revised proposal;

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

(f) if not, the action taken by Government against the Dunlop India Ltd. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that the Bench of the BIFR had directed M/s Dunlop India Ltd. in the hearing held on 22.6.2000 to submit a revised rehabilitation scheme to the Operating Agency IDBI within 15 days, otherwise, the Bench would consider adoption of other measures listed in the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 of revival of the company including change of management.

(c) The other directions of the Board of BIFR are, inter-alia, as under :

(i) The sale proceeds of the Aero tyres retained in a No Lien Account would be utilised for the rehabilitation of the company. Orders in this respect would be issued at a appropriate time;

(ii) The company would finalise a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with all the unions within one month which would, inter alia, provide for payment of all arrears, sacrifices, if any, to be made by the workers to be got quantified and rationalisation of workers. This would be valid for a period of at least 3 years. Copies of the MoU would be submitted to the Operating Agency (OA) and the Board. The OA would ensure that the financial impact arising out of the MoU would be incorporated in the scheme and the

MoU would form part of the scheme to be sanctioned.

(iii) The company would settle the dues of OA including the fees and other charges.

(d) M/s Dunlop India Ltd. submitted their revised proposal to IDBI in compliance of directions of the Bench.

(e) and (f) The Operating Agency, IDBI were required to submit a report to BIFR. BIFR has reported that it has not received the report as yet.

Setting up of ITDC Branch In Kanyakumari

1021. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a branch of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) at Kanyakumari in view of its tourist importance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. ITDC's Annual Plan 2000-01 does not envisage any scheme for setting up a branch/hotel at Kanyakumari.

Visit of Foreign Tourists in Konark, Puri and Chilka Lake

1022. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited Konark, Puri and Chilka Lake during each of the last three years;

(b) whether foreigners are allowed to visit interior tribal areas of Koraput and Dandakaranya areas;

(c) if so, the steps so far been taken to protect the ethnicity of the locals; and

(d) the amount allocated to provide more facilities and development of areas around these places during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) According to the information received from the Govt. of Orissa, the number of foreign tourists who visited Konark, Puri and Chilka Lake during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 are as follows :-

Places	Number of Foreign Tourists		
	1997	1998	1999
Konark	10061	9933	7089
Puri	13233	13021	10220
Chilka Lake	665	597	629

(b) As per information furnished by the State Government, there is restriction on the visit of foreign tourists to the areas of Gram Panchayat inhabited by primitive tribes in the undivided Koraput district including Dandakaranya areas.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, Ministry of Tourism sanctioned an amount of Rs. 552.05 lakhs, Rs. 178.60 lakhs and Rs. 301.90 lakhs respectively as Central financial assistance to the Government of Orissa for the development of tourism in the State including the areas of Konark, Puri and Chilka Lake.

[Translation]

Working Group to attract Foreign Investment

1023.DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Joint Working group of the Government and Industrialists is proposed to be set up between India and E.U. to attract more investment and to encourage the process of privatisation in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the working group is likely to be Constituted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The first EU-India Summit, held in Lisbon on 28.6.2000 agreed on a Joint Declaration, whose objective, inter alia, is to strengthen high level Economic and Commercial dialogue on bilateral and multilateral trade, facilitate industry and business links and work jointly to promote and increase flows of goods and services between EU-India. The Joint Declaration calls for instituting a Joint Working Group on environment, to promote common initiatives in the environmental field, to explore the potential for joint collaborative projects, facilitate transfer of technologies, develop opportunities for investments in the public and private sectors, launch an environmental awareness

programme and facilitate co-ordination on multilateral environmental issues. Joint Declaration does not lay down a time frame for setting up a Joint Working Group from Government and Industrialists.

[English]

Losses to ITDC Hotels

1024.SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ITDC run hotels in the country have been incurring heavy losses;

(b) if so, the estimated losses suffered by ITDC hotels during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) the reasons for these losses; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to improve the situation in the loss; making ITDC hotels ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) While operation of ITDC hotels generated profit of Rs. 26.75 crores in the year 1997-98, it incurred losses of Rs. 13.70 crores and Rs. 39.61 crores (Provisional) during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

(c) The loss making situation is attributed, largely to :

(i) Low turn-out of international business travellers.

(ii) Currency crisis in South – East Asian countries making them cheaper destinations.

(iii) Price under – cutting by private hotels.

(iv) Higher Wage Bill.

(d) The measures taken/being taken by ITDC to improve performance of its hotels include, inter alia.

(i) Aggressive marketing efforts.

(ii) Emphasis on improvement of product to make them contemporary and competitive.

(iii) Adoption of flexible policy for offering market driven price.

(iv) Economy in expenditure and plugging of leakages.

(v) Recovery of outstanding dues.

[Translation]

Stock of Wheat in FCI Godowns

1025. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the present stock of wheat in various Food Corporation of India godowns and other godowns in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to sale wheat in the open market in view of excess stock to wheat in the Government godowns;

(c) if so, the proposed sale price of wheat;

(d) whether the Government propose to sale the excess quantity of wheat stock to those below the poverty line on the subsidised rate; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) As on 1.7.2000, the stocks of wheat in the Central Pool were of the order of 277.57 lakh M.T. out of which 113.44 lakh M.T. are with FCI and 164.31 lakh M.T. are with the State agencies.

(b) and (c) Under the ongoing Open Market Sale scheme, wheat is being sold @ Rs. 900/- per qtl. throughout the country *except* Punjab where FCI has been authorised to dispose of wheat at the following rates :

Month	Rate
July, 2000	Rs. 700/- per qtl.
August, 2000	Rs. 750/- per qtl.
September, 2000	Rs. 800/- per qtl.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Licenses to Opium Growers

1026. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of opium growers given licence during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 in Neemuch, Mandsaur and Ratlam districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the total area in which opium has been cultivated;

(c) the quality of the pod (doda) likely to be obtained from opium cultivators this year;

(d) whether there is any contradiction between the Union and State Government in regard to the issue of licence for the sale of poppy (doda); and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The number of opium growers to whom licences were given during 1999-2000 in the district of Neemuch, Mandsaur and Ratlam was 61,701. Licensing for the crop year 2000-01 is yet to begin.

(b) The total area cultivated in the three districts of Neemuch, Mandsaur and Ratlam during 1999-2000 is 11,185 hectares.

(c) Cultivation for this year is yet to take place.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Meeting of IDF in Paris

1027. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Development Forum at its meeting held in Paris in May this year, considered the question of lifting sanctions imposed in the wake of Nuclear Tests in May, 1998;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) in what terms and by whom India's case was presented at the Forum;

(d) whether the sanctions impose in the aftermath of India's Nuclear Tests of May, 1998 in any way came in the way of grant of IDF assistance to India; and

(e) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The issue of sanctions was not discussed at the India Development Forum (IDF) held in May 2000. The agenda of the meeting focused on issues relating to effectiveness and relevance of external assistance in the framework of development planning in India and the need for structuring

external aid to be consistent with the economic priorities of the country. The theme for discussion this year at the IDF was "Poverty – States' Dimension". The Indian delegation for the IDF was led by Secretary (Economic Affairs).

(d) and (e) The IDF does not provide assistance to India. All assistance is extended by donors/external agencies in their individual capacity.

Development of Tourism in Coastal Areas of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

1028. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have sent any proposals for the development of tourism, particularly in Coastal Areas of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether any package schemes have been formulated by the Union Government to attract foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance to various State Governments on the basis of projects prioritised annually in consultation with them. Lists of projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism during 1999-2000 including projects in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are enclosed as Statement-I and II.

(c) and (d) The Government is attracting foreign tourists by promoting India including the State of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh through its 18 overseas offices by advertising in print and electronic media, participations in travel fairs, inviting media, and Travel Agents on fam trip, extensive use of IT in tourism promotion.

Statement-I

Scheme/Projects Sanctioned and Amount Released for the year 1999-2000 for Andhra Pradesh

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Wayside facilities at Borra Caves, Visakhapatnam	20.00	0.01 (Token)
2.	Waiting lunge cum Tourist Reception Centre, landscaping at Launch Station, Nagarjunasagar	36.00	10.80
3.	Tribal art and Craft at Visakhapatnam	30.00	9.00
4.	Tourist Facilitie Centre at Kasmur Darga, Nellore Distt.	20.00	6.00
5.	Heritage Interpretation Centre at Golconda	50.00	15.00
6.	High Mast lights at Nagarjuna Sagar, Natgonda Distt.	4.00	0.04
7.	High Mast lights at Borra Caves, Vizag Distt.	4.00	0.035
8.	High Mast lights at Vijaywada	4.00	0.035
9.	High Mast lights at Rushi Konda Shore Area, Vizag Distt.	16.00	0.035
10.	Construction of Jetty at Durga Ghat, Vijaywada	15.00	4.50
11.	Construction of Jetty at K.V. Motel, Krishna River, Vijaywada	16.50	5.00
12.	Fairs and Festivals (3 projects)	6.72	4.04
Total		222.22	54.49

Statement-II

Scheme/Projects Sanctioned and Amount Released for the year 1999-2000 for Karnataka

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Tourist Home at Pajaka Kshetra Udupi Distt.	49.00	15.00
2.	Tourist Home at Hanumanthanagar	10.00	4.30
3.	Yatriniwas at Sagar, Shimoga Distt.	48.00	14.40
4.	Yatriniwas, Sirsi	48.00	14.40
5.	Yatriniwas at Siddaroodha Swamymath	38.27	0.01 (Token)
6.	TRC at Gulbarga	22.40	6.72
7.	Wayside Amenities at Gadag/Lakkundi	30.00	0.01
8.	Wayside Amenities at Kudligi (Bellary Distt.)	26.00	0.01 (Token)
9.	Wayside Amenities at Bankapur Cross (Dharwad Distt.)	25.00	7.50
10.	Wayside Amenities at Zalki Cross (Bijapur Distt.)	25.00	7.50
11.	Wayside Facilities at Banna = erghatta National Park, Bangalore	27.35	0.01 (Token)
12.	New Tourist Cottage at Muthyalamadu	44.66	0.01 (Token)
13.	Additional Tourist Cottages at Srirangapatna	27.50	0.10 (Token)
14.	Additional accommodation facilities at Nandi Hills	14.30	0.10 (Token)
15.	Public Conveniences at Arasikere-Honnar road Midway to Jog	8.00	0.01 (Token)
16.	Public Conveniences at Shivanasamudra (near Darga)	8.00	0.01 (Token)
17.	Public Conveniences at Sri Ramadevarakatte	8.00	0.01 (Token)
18.	Public Conveniences at Malekamanahalli near Bandipur	8.00	0.01 (Token)
19.	Public Conveniences at Ganigapura (near temple), Gulbarga Distt.	8.00	0.01 (Token)
20.	Public Conveniences at Hampi (4 Nos.)	32.00	0.05 (Token)
21.	Public Conveniences at Tumkur-Honnar road	8.00	0.01 (Token)
22.	Public Conveniences at Badami (near Caves)	8.00	0.01 (Token)
23.	Public Conveniences at Srirangapatna (near Gumbaz)	8.00	0.01 (Token)
24.	Public Conveniences at Horanadu (near Kalasa)	8.00	0.01 (Token)
25.	Public Conveniences at Pilikula Nisarga Dhama near Mangalore (2 Nos.)	16.00	4.80
26.	Jungle Lodges Tourism Resort, Hampi	49.00	14.70
27.	Construction of Jetty at Sankey Boat Club, Bangalore (KSTDC proposals)	5.50	0.04
28.	Const. of Log Forests at Cauvery fishing Camp Unit-II at Doda Makali Mandya distt.	45.40	13.62
29.	Const. of Eco-Tourism facilities at Kemmangundi, Chikckmagalur Distt.	45.45	13.63
30.	Const. of student nature camp facilities at Bannerghatta national park	32.00	0.10

1	2	3	4
31.	Eco Tourism resort at Bannerghatta National Park near B'lore	48.00	0.01
32.	Purchase of OBM at Mysore Belagaun	13.62	6.80
33.	Procurement of Water Sports equipment for Devbagh Beach Resort	5.00	2.50
34.	Water Sports equipment for various boat club	8.67	3.00
35.	Illumination/Fort lighting of Chitra Durga Fort	18.55	0.04
36.	Illumination/Flood lighting of Gulmarg at Tippus Summer Place.	17.23	0.03
37.	Hampi Festival	2.50	1.25
38.	Feasibility Study Report of Jog Fall	10.00	5.00
Total		856.40	135.53

Norm for Taxing Foreign Channel

1029. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to amend the norms of taxing foreign satellite cable TV companies;

(b) if so, whether at present these companies such as Star TV, Zee TV are required to pay the tax on pre-determined net income basis;

(c) if so, the present norms and percentage of taxes required to be paid;

(d) the total tax collected by the Government during the last four years from various foreign channel companies;

(e) whether many companies are not paying any tax in India with some or other excuses;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to reexamine the case foreign TV channel companies and bring all of them in the taxation structure; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Government is reviewing the norms of taxing foreign telecasting companies but amendment of the norms of taxation of cable TV companies is not under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) and (c) Taxable income is determined at 10% of their gross receipts excluding the amount retained by the

advertising agent and the Indian agent of the foreign telecasting company.

(d) An amount of Rs. 71.21 Crores has been paid by the such foreign telecasting companies towards income tax during the past four Assessment Years.

(e) One case of a foreign TV channel disputing the tax demanded in India has been reported.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Eco-Tourism

1030. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State/Union Territories have been requested to identify the places for development of Eco-Tourism in their State/Union Territory;

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

(c) the number of places identified of this purpose, State/U.T.-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Department of Tourism has formulated the policy and guidelines for Eco-Tourism in India in the year 1998. Central Financial Assistance is extended to Eco-Friendly tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State/Union Territory Governments. The following Eco-friendly tourism projects were sanctioned :

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Eco-tourism facilities at Kemmangundi, Chickmagalur District, Karnataka	45.00
2.	Eco-tourism resort at Banarghatta National Park near Bangalore	48.00
3.	Integrated Development of Road Linkage from Thekkady to Munnar in Kerala	100.00
4.	Eco-friendly silent generator at Thekkady, Kerala	38.09
5.	Construction of Trekking Base Camp at Kuldiha, Orissa	45.00
6.	Development of Environment Presentation Scheme at Kufri, Himachal Pradesh	25.91
7.	Promotion of Eco-tourism Centre at Pichavaram, Tamil Nadu	50.00

State of West Bengal identified the Darjeeling Hills, Dooars, the Western Forest Tracts in the District of Purulia and Bankura and Sunderbans for eco tourism activities.

[English]

Income from TV Serials/Advertisements

1031. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projected income from TV serials and advertisements during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the real income got from the above sources, till date;

(c) the details of the cases of alleged irregularities detected during the above period in the allocation of T.V. serials and the amount involved therein; and

(d) the steps taken to check such irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The details of projected and actual gross commercial revenue earned by Doordarshan during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as under :

Year	Projected Revenue (Rs. in crores)	Revenue Earned (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	500.00	610.29
2000-2001	650.00	90 (till 19.7.2000)

(c) Prasara Bharati has intimated that no case of alleged irregularity during the above period has been detected on the allocation by TV Serials.

(d) The areas of activities of Doordarshan prone to corruption have been identified and orders have been issued streamlining the procedures involved in processing the serials/programmes/events, etc. Also all the complaints regarding alleged corruption in Doordarshan are examined thoroughly.

Non-Performing Assets

1032. SHRIINDERJIT GUPTA :
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a bid to tackle the whooping Rs. 51,000 crore non-performing assets in public sector banks, the RBI has formulated guidelines to recover the bad debts;

(b) if so, the main guidelines formulated by RBI;

(c) by what time these guidelines are likely to be implemented by the banks;

(d) if not, the reasons for not adhering to the deadline of July 15, 2000;

(e) whether the Government have formulated a policy in regard to the interest waiver on bad loans;

(f) whether the Government have also appointed a seven member group to submit its report in this regard; and

(g) if so, by what time this group is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Action has been initiated by the Reserve Bank of India to tackle the problem of stock of old non-performing assets in public sector banks. The revised guidelines will cover all NPAs in all sectors irrespective the nature of business

which have become doubtful or loss on 31.3.1997 and also NPAs classified as sub-standard as on March 31, 1997 and which have become doubtful or loss subsequently. The guidelines will be non-discretionary and non-discriminatory. Although it was decided to have the guidelines for NPAs with outstanding balance of Rs. 10 crore and below on the cut off date, the matter has been re-examined and on a review it has been decided to peg the cut-off limit at Rs. 5 crore. Recovery in the NPA accounts over Rs. 5 crore will have to be personally monitored and followed up by the CEO in accordance with the policy laid down by the Board of Directors.

(c) and (d) In view of the consultative process involved in the finalization of the guidelines, it was not possible to finalize and issued the guidelines by July 15, 2000 as originally anticipated. The guidelines have now been finalized and action has been initiated by RBI to issue guidelines relating to recovery of outstanding amount in NPAs covering all sectors. The banks are expected to address the problem of non-performing assets on the basis of these guidelines.

- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) No, Sir.
- (g) Does not arise.

Service Tax

1033. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Service Tax Expert Group has been constituted to suggest measures to make existing procedure more effective and augment voluntary compliance of service tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the panel is expected to give its final report;

(d) whether the terms of reference include making recommendations on extending tax base in the area of service tax;

(e) if so, whether any interim report is submitted by the expert group; and

(f) if not, by when, the interim report will be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government have constituted an Expert Group on Service Tax under the chairmanship of Dr. M. Govinda

Roa, Director, Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, with a view to examine various aspects connected with the field of taxing the services and to make recommendations in this regard.

(c) The Expert Group has been asked to submit the final report to the Government by the 31st December, 2000.

(d) Yes, Sir. The terms of reference of the Expert Group, inter-alia, includes examination of the existing structure of service tax and to make recommendations on existing the tax base in the area of services, and the timing thereof.

(e) and (f) The Expert Group has been asked to submit an interim report to the Government by the 31st October, 2000.

Super Bazar Land

1034. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Super Bazar is reported to have lost rewards of land worth Rs. 100 crore purchased from DDA;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to take back the land from the fraudulent elements who have occupied it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Super Bazar, Delhi, has reported that the files concerning records of land reportedly leased to Super Bazar by DDA are missing from the office of Super Bazar.

(c) Super Bazar is making efforts to reconstruct the records/files so as to enable appropriate action.

Purchase of Tobacco by STC

1035. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI :
SHRI MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM :

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

(a) whether STC has purchased tobacco from farmers in Andhra Pradesh and other States;

(b) if so, the quantity purchased in the current year, till date, State-wise;

(c) whether the purchase procedure of tobacco of STC is very slow;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the further stocks of tobacco likely to be bought by STC during the remaining period of current year from each State;

(f) whether new markets have been explored by STC;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether there is good potential for barter trade of tobacco in Central Asia; and

(i) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) In the 2000 auctions STC has purchased 5.60 million kgs of FCV tobacco from all platforms in Andhra Pradesh till 25.7.2000.

(c) to (e) STC buys only straight grades of tobacco. STC's performance will continue as long as straight grades are available during the current season.

(f) and (g) STC has explored the possibility of tobacco export to Jordan, Egypt and Vietnam.

(h) and (i) Tobacco is not a major commodity for export to Central Asian countries from India and there is no proposal for using tobacco as an item of barter trade.

Vigilance Committee for Fair Price Shops

1036. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to constitute Vigilance Committees for fair price shops, at all levels like block, district and State level;

(b) if so, the States which have followed the guidelines so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make it mandatory for all the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The concept of Vigilance Committees has been in existence since the inception of rationing system. Central Govt. from time to time, have been requesting the State Governments to activate PDS Vigilance Committees and reconstitute them if not done so by associating members from amongst the card holders and consumer activists as well as Members of Parliament.

(b) All the State Governments/UTs except Goa and Daman and Diu have informed regarding constitution of vigilance committees at various levels viz., block, district and State for monitoring the functioning of TPDS in the States.

(c) As per PDS guidelines issued in March 1987 and TPDS guidelines issued in Feb. 1997, State Government have been advised to constitute Vigilance Committees as a social audit of the working of PDS in the country. In the Model Citizens' Charter issued in Nov., 1997 for adoption by State Governments, constitution of Vigilance Committees by State Governments at the level of Panchayat/Ward, Taluk, District and State/UT have been also been emphasised. Panchayati Raj Institutions guidelines issued in June 1999, also state that the Gram Panchayat/Gram Sabha should be encouraged to form FPS committees which should include members of existing Vigilance Committees from the FPS of the area and also representatives of TPDS groups, women, as well as members of SC/ST/OBCs.

[Translation]

Setting up of T.V. Transmitters in the Country

1037. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to set up T.V. transmitters in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the places where these transmitters are to be installed, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations for the installation of a high power T.V. transmitter in the Siwan Parliamentary Constituency;

(d) if so, by when this transmitter is likely to be installed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, 255 transmitter projects are at various stages of implementation. State-wise locations of these transmitters are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) There is no scheme to set up a high power transmitter at Siwan. However, the present low power transmitter of 100 watts is envisaged to be replaced by a 500 watts transmitter during 2001, with a view to strengthen Doordarshan coverage in and around Siwan.

Statement

*Doordarshan Transmitters under Implementation
as on 25.07.2000*

State/Union Territory	Location
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	HPTs
	Rajahmundry
	Warangal
	Vijayawada (DD-2)
	LPTs
	Kandukur
	Machilipatnam
	Miryalaguda
	Madgula
	Pasra
	Pedapalli
	Pulamaner
	Punganur
	Sirisilla
	Sirpur
	Udaigiri
	Vemalvada
	Zahirabad
	VLPTs
	Duttalur
	Kanigiri
	Madipardu
Arunachal Pradesh	VLPTs
	Sangram
	Etalin
	Deomali
Assam.	Tuting
	HPTs
	Silchar (DD-2)
	Transposer
	Guwahati

1	2
Bihar	HPTs
	Jamshedpur
	Patna (DD-2)
	Ranchi (DD-2)
	Muzaffarpur (DD-2)
	LPTs
	Kishanganj
	Chatra
	Ramnagar
	Jamshedpur (DD-2)
Goa	Dhanbad (DD-2)
	VLPT
	Ramgarh Hill
	HPT
	Panaji (DD-2)
Gujarat	HPTs
	Surat
	Vadodara
	LPTs
	Vadodara (DD-2)
	Surat (DD-2)
	Rajkot (DD-2)
Haryana	LPT
	Bhiwani (DD-2)
Himachal Pradesh	HPT
	Shimla (DD-2)
	LPT
	Mandi (DD-2)
	VLPTs
	Awah Devi
	Bijli Mahadev
	Dalhausi
	Jhatingiri
	Kaja
	Nehri
	Tissa

1	2
Jammu and Kashmir	HPTs Kupwara Kupwara (DD-2) Naushera Naushera (DD-2) Gurez Gurez (DD-2) Tithwal Tithwal (DD-2) Ranbirsingh Pura/Samba (DD-2) Poonch (DD-2) LPTs Udampur Mobile LPTs – 12 Nos VLPTs Abran Ashmuqam Banihal Basoli Batalik Befiaz Bodh Khurboo Boniyar Chumathang Dah Darhal Dhar Domchuk Gandoh Gool Gulabgarh Gulmarg Handle Hira Nagar Hot Spring Ichar Kangan Keran Khatai

1	2
Jammu and Kashmir	VLPTs. (...contd.) Kotranka Lati Lingshed Lolab Valley Loran Machil Mahore Mandi Manjkot Mansur Mendhar Nowgam Panamik Pestha Poni Pulwama Ramkot Ramnagar Ringdom Gompa Shopian Sonmarg Sunderbani Tangmarg Tatapani Thathri Tilel Tral Tregam Turtok Yasmarg Zangla Karnataka HPTs Hassan Mangalore Mysore Raichur LPTs Jamkhandi Mudhol

1	2	1	2
Karnataka	LPTs (...contd.) Talikota Indi Belthangadi Koppa LPTs Mundargi Sindhnur Mysore (DD-2) VLPTs Kudligi Havin Hippargi	Madhya Pradesh	VLPTs Pathalgaon Alot
		Maharashtra	HPTs Chandrapur Jalgaon Ratnagiri Nagpur (DD-2) LPTs Bhamragad Daryapur Dhadgaon Raver Nasik (DD-2) Sholapur (DD-2) VLPTs Ambet Sakoli
Kerala	HPTs Calicut Cannanore Cochin (DD-2) Trivandrum (DD-2) LPTs Kottarakkara Manjeri VLPTs Eratupetta Mundakkayam	Manipur	HPT Churachandpur
		Mizoram	LPT Lawngtlai
		Nagaland	Transposer Bara Basti
Madhya Pradesh	HPTs Ambikapur Guna Shahdol Bhopal (DD-2) Indore (DD-2) Jabalpur (DD-2) LPTs Agar Barely Champa Kharod Konta Lakhnadon Pandaria Sindhwa	Orissa	HPTs Bethampur Sambalpur Sambalpur (DD-2) LPTs Chikti Tushara Baleshwar (DD-2)
		Punjab	HPT Fazilka Amritsar (Augmentation) Amritsar (DD-2)
		Rajasthan	HPTs Ajmer

1	2	1	2
Rajasthan	HPTs Barmer Jaipur (DD-2) Jodhpur (DD-2) LPTs Bhinmal Kishnagarh (Ajmer) Nasirabad Vijaynagar Pirawa Sanchor Sojat Ajmer (DD-2) Bikaner (DD-2) VLPT Tibi	Uttar Pradesh	HPTs (..contd.) Agra (DD-2) Allahabad (DD-2) Lucknow (DD-2) Varanasi (DD-2) Gorakhpur (DD-2) LPTs Bidhuna Dhunaghat Gopeshwar Khetikhan Kosi Narora Bareilly (DD-2) Aligharh (DD-2) Jhansi (DD-2)
Sikkim	VLPT Zorethang		VLPTs Badrinath Chamoli Dugadda Kedarnath Manila Aroli
Tamil Nadu	HPT Kumbakonam LPTs Ambasamdram Ambur Erode Kallakurchi Palani Pollachi Trichy (DD-2) Coimbatore (DD-2)		Transposer Mussorie (DD-2)
Tripura	HPT Agartala (DD-2) LPTs Amarpur Ambasa Jolaibari	West Bengal	HPTs Balurghat Kharagpur Krishnanagar Shantiniketan Asansol (DD-2) Murshidabad (DD-2) LPTs Jhalda
Uttar Pradesh	HPTs Banda Lakhimpur	Pondicherry	HPT (Pondicherry)
Banks for Development of Minorities 1038. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :			

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided by the Government to the bank established for the development of minorities so far;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned and released during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) if not, the efforts being made by the Government to release the entire sanctioned amount immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member seeks to know about National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation set up under the Companies Act, 1956 for the development and welfare of the minorities. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has informed that a sum of Rs. 32 crores and Rs. 20 crore has been disbursed to the Corporation during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

[English]

World Bank Loan to Maharashtra for Health Services

1039. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned an amount of \$134 million for improving health services in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details and justification, therefor;

(c) whether such loans are being considered for other States including Orissa; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Maharashtra State Health System Project has been taken up with assistance from the World Bank amounting to \$134 million.

(b) The Maharashtra State Health Systems Development Project has been taken up with the objective of improving efficiency in the allocation and use of health resources through policy and institutional development and improving the performance of the Health Care System by increasing the efficiency, effectiveness and coverage of health services at the 1st referral level and selective coverage at the community health center level. The total project cost is \$158 million out of which \$ 134 million will be met through the interest free credit from the World Bank and the balance would be contributed by the Government of Maharashtra. The project is under implementation since February 1999 and will close on 31.03.2005.

(c) Similar State Health System Development Projects have been taken up with assistance from the World Bank in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, West Bengal and Orissa. A Credit Agreement for a State Health Systems Development project for Uttar Pradesh has recently been signed with the World Bank.

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

Trade Relations

1040. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

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

(a) whether several countries including European Union have shown keen interest in expanding trade relations with India;

(b) if so, the names of such countries;

(c) whether any strategic partnership treaty covering economy and trade has been signed with these countries;

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

(e) the details of proposals received from each country alongwith the areas;

(f) the extent to which the treaty is likely to promote Indian Interest in bilateral and multilateral trade and financial issues; and

(g) the further steps being taken by the Government to expand the trade relations with various countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Several countries of Europe including European Union, Sub-Saharan Africa, North-East Asia, East Asia, South Asia, West Asia and North Africa, North America and Latin America have shown interest in expanding trade relations with India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) of (f) Do not arise.

(g) Expansion of trade relations between India and these countries is a continuing process and steps taken by Government in this direction include periodical meetings of Joint Commission/Joint Committee, conclusion of agreements for infrastructural improvements, exchange of economic and commercial information, facilitating contracts at business level, exchange of delegations, participation in trade fairs/buyer-seller meets/seminars etc.

[Translation]

Meeting of Bank Chiefs

1041. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting of bank chiefs was called to solve the problem of Non-Performing Assets;

(b) if so, the date on which this meeting was called and the details of decision taken therein; and

(c) the date by which those decisions are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) A meeting of chief executive of public sector banks with the Finance Minister took place on June 13, 2000 under the aegis of Indian Banks Association (IBA). The problem of non-performing assets was one of issues discussed in the meeting. The meeting decided that guidelines of a non discriminatory and non discretionary nature would be evolved to cover all NPAs in all sector with a prescribed cut off date and upto a pre-determined cut off limit. The guidelines are to remain operative upto 31.3.2001. The meeting also decided that for settlement of NPAs over the pre determined limit the Board of Directors of the bank concerned would evolve suitable policy guidelines having regard to the parameters of the guidelines for NPAs below the pre-determined limit. It was also decided that where the Board of a bank comes to conclusion that a rehabilitation scheme or one-time settlement is not possible, recovery suits should be filed without further loss of time. The levels for monitoring NPAs upto different amounts was also discussed at the meeting.

(c) Action has been initiated by RBI to issue guidelines relating to recovery of outstanding amount in NPAs covering all sectors.

[English]

Export of Sugar

1042. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI J.S. BRAR :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to export the surplus stock of sugar in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of sugar proposed to be exported during the current year and the estimated foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom;

(c) whether the Government have collected information regarding international price of sugar for this purpose;

(d) if so, the expected price of sugar in the international market at present;

(e) whether sugar industry can earn profit by exporting sugar at this price; and

(f) if so, the extent of profits likely to be earned therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (f) Government have decided to allow export of 10 lakh tonnes of domestically produced sugar. These exports can be carried out by the sugar mills either directly or through the exporters.

The F.O.B. prices of white sugar in the international market (London Daily Prices) during the month of July, 2000 (upto 20.7.2000) were in the range of US \$ 237.70 PMT to US \$ 243.00 PMT.

Due to low level of prices prevailing in the international market, the commercial exports of sugar are not viable at present. In order to make commercial export of sugar viable, Government have decided to exempt the sugar meant for export free from the levy obligation. The exemption is available for a period of six months, commencing from 1st June 2000.

The prices of sugar in the international market are showing a rising trend. As such, export of sugar from India is expected to take place with increasing international price. It is, however, not possible to quantify the export realisations at this state, as commercial export of sugar is yet to start.

Poor Quality of Stationery Supplied by NCCF

1043. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) the details and number of complaints received from the Government offices for the supply of poor quality of stationery and other office use items at higher rates by the National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India Limited during the last three years;

(b) the action taken thereon;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to supply the quality office articles at reasonable rate and to prohibit NCCF from making supplies direct to the offices by their suppliers and to build buffer stock of items itself;

(d) the details and number of cases registered by Vigilance Department of NCCF against the suppliers and its employees; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon, till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the NCCF, they had received two minor complaints from Food Corporation of India, Lucknow and the Central Excise Department, Hyderabad regarding supply of towel and smaller size ink cartridges during 1998 and 1999 respectively. Both the complaints were investigated by the NCCF and the Food Corporation of India was informed about the outcome of the investigation on 18.8.98. In respect of supply of smaller size ink cartridges to Central Excise Department, Hyderabad instead of big cartridges, the NCCF has black-listed two suppliers and the excess amount charged was refunded to Central Excise Department. The NCCF has also cautioned the concerned dealing staff in this matter.

(c) Stocks are supplied to the Government Offices under the supervision of NCCF staff. NCCF has informed that they would build up buffer stock of items, if necessary.

(d) and (e) The NCCF of India Ltd. is an autonomous consumer co-operative organization having its own Board of Directors to decided about their business and administrative matters. The Vigilance Department of NCCF has informed that they have registered seven cases against their employees. These cases relate to the complaints regarding irregularities in handling business transactions, which are at different stages of investigation/inquiry as under :

- Charges sheet issued	2 cases
- Oral enquiry in progress	2 cases
- Case pending with CVC for 2nd stage advice	1 case
- Recovery being made from Supplier	1 case
- Documents under scrutiny	1 case

Incentives to Indian Farmers

1044. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to OGL of 1429 items, the foreign rice and other agricultural items have become cheaper than Indian agricultural items;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Indian cultivators would be able to complete with the foreign cultivators;

(c) whether the cost of production of agricultural products has also increased much higher than before due to withdrawal of subsidy on fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the specific incentives being provided to Indian farmers to make them able to complete with foreign farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Out of 1429 tariff lines as on 1.4.99 on which Quantitative Restrictions were being maintained on Balance of Payment grounds, Quantitative Restrictions have been lifted only on 714 items on 31.3.2000 and this itself cannot result in any decline in international prices of rice or other agricultural items.

(b) For most of the agricultural items, there is a considerable leeway between the applied rates of custom duties and the bound rates and the applied rates of customs duties can be suitably calibrated within the bound rates to provide necessary protection to Indian cultivators. Moreover in cases where a casual link is established between domestic injury and dumping or with extension of trade distorting subsidies by any of the member countries, Anti Dumping or Anti Subsidy Countervailing duties can be imposed. In case of any threat of any serious injury, to the domestic farmers or industry, due to any surge in imports, safeguard duties can be imposed.

(c) The prices of fertiliser like Urea, DAP and MOP were increased with effect from 29.2.2000 resulting in some reduction in the subsidy/concession paid on these fertilisers. According to estimates, these increase in price are likely to affect the cost of cultivation by less than 1.5%

(d) Some of the incentives being provided to farmers include :

- (i) Subsidy on seed distribution;
- (ii) Subsidy on improved farm implements;
- (iii) Subsidy on bio-fertilisers;
- (iv) Subsidy on sprinkler sets and drip irrigation;
- (v) Distribution of seeds mini kits free of cost; and

- (vi) Subsidy on plant protection equipment and chemicals

Source of Income of Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

1045. SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of wealth for which the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been assessed during the last three years;

(b) whether the source of acquisition of wealth after becoming Chief Minister has been investigated into; and

(c) the action has been taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) No wealth tax return has been filed by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the last three years.

(b) and (c) Since no proceedings are pending, no action has been taken in this regard.

Export of Unani Medicines

1046. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the value of Unani medicines exported during each of the last three years, country-wise and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Government for the promotion of Unani medicines for export purposes as well as for domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Export earnings of Indian Ayurvedic and Unani medicines for the last three financial years, as per latest data, are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

1996-97	—	138.03
1997-98	—	161.01
1998-99	—	133.61

(Source : DGCI&S)

Country-wise data is available in the DGCI&S publication viz. "Monthly statistics of the Foreign Trade of India".

(b) The Government is extending Market Development Assistance for exporters including the Ayurvedic and herbal exporters for competing in foreign markets through

participation in overseas fairs, exhibition, for mounting trade delegations and for conducting market surveys in foreign countries. Department of Indian system of Medicines and Homeopathy under Government of India exclusively concentrates on all aspects of herbal industry to redress various problems faced by the industry. To provide more focused attention to export of herbal products. CHEMEXCIL, the concerned Export Promotion Council under Department of Commerce, has a separate Ayurvedic sub-panel. Further, Government is constantly interacting with the herbal industry and the concerned associations to identify and deal with the problems faced by the industry.

Adulteration in the Mustard Oil

1047. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons died due to dropsy on account of mustard oil adulteration in the capital some time back;

(b) the details of the facts in regard to the dropsy and the action taken against those who found guilty;

(c) whether the special court is being set up to bring the guilty to early justice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) 66 persons died due to dropsy epidemic which occurred during August-October, 1998.

(b) Monitoring of quality of edible oils was made stringent and surprise checks and frequency of surprise inspections were also increased. In August-September, 1998, the Consumer Service Centre, New Delhi analysed 2930 samples of edible oils and fats, of which 224 samples failed in PFA Standards. Ministry of Health was intimated for taking appropriate action. The Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration, Government of Delhi during the relevant period lifted 264 samples of mustard oil from different parts of Delhi. Out of these 101 samples were found to be adulterated with argemone oil/polybromide/mineral oil. Prosecution proceedings have been launched against all the accused persons. The matter was also entrusted to CBI who after investigation filed chargesheet against the persons found guilty.

In order to ensure availability of safe and quality edible oils to the consumers, Central Government promulgated the Edible Oil Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998. The Order

mandates that the edible oils could be marketed only in packed form with proper label declaration etc.

(c) and (d) There is already a special court set up for trying the prosecution cases under PFA Act. This designated court is presided over by Hon'ble Manoj Jain, Metropolitan Magistrate at Patiala House, New Delhi.

DD Channels at Madurai

1048. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start Metro Doordarshan Channels in each State of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise, particularly at Madurai and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) At present 75 Metro Channel (DD-II) transmitters are located in 30 States/UTs. Another 50 transmitters including one at Coimbatore are under implementation. The details of existing transmitters and those under implementation are given in enclosed Statement. There is no scheme to set up a DD-II transmitter at Madurai. Further expansion of DD-II network including at Madurai would depend on future availability of resources.

Statement

Metro Channel (DD 2) Transmitters

State	Existing Transmitters (as on 05/07/2000)	Transmitters under implementation
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	HPT Hyderabad LPTs Madhira Pedandipadu Atmakur	HPT Vijayawada
Arunachal Pradesh	LPT Itanagar	
Assam	HPT Guwahati	HPT Silchar

1	2	3
	LPTs Silchar Dibrugarh	
Bihar	LPT Patna	HPTs Patna Muzaffarpur Ranchi
	VLPT Garhwa	LPTs Jamshedpur Dhanbad
Goa	LPT Panaji	HPT Panaji
Gujarat	HPT Ahmedabad LPT Gandhinagar	LPTs Surat Vadodara Rajkot
Haryana	LPTs Mandi Dabwali Karnal Yamunanagar	LPT Bhiwani
Himachal Pradesh	LPT Shimla	HPT Shimla LPT Mandi
Jammu & Kashmir	HPT Srinagar Jammu LPTs Leh Kathua	HPTs Naushera Kupwara Gurez Tithwal Samba Poonch
Karnataka	HPT Bangalore	LPT Mysore
Kerala	LPTs Trivandrum Cochin Calicut Cannanore	HPTs Trivandrum Cochin

1	2	3	1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	HPT Raipur LPT Bhopal	HPTs Bhopal Indore Jabalpur			LPTs Bikaner Ajmer
Maharashtra	HPT Mumbai LPTs Ambajogai Nagpur Bhandara	HPT Nagpur LPTs Nasik Sholapur	Sikkim	LPT Gangtok	
			Tamil Nadu	HPT Chennai	LPTs Trichy Coimbatore
Manipur	LPT Imphal VLPT Jiribam		Tripura	LPTs Agartala Kailasahar	HPT Agartala
Meghalaya	HPT Tura LPT Shillong		Uttar Pradesh	HPT Mussorie LPTs Lucknow Kanpur Azamgarh Mau Rampur	HPTs Lucknow Agra Varanasi Allahabad Gorakhpur LPTs Barielly
Mizoram	LPTs Aizawl Lunglei			Mathura Lalganj (Pratapgarh) Rasra VLPT Thakurdwara	Aligarh Jhansi Transposer Mussorie
Nalagand	LPTs Kohima Mokokchung		West Bengal	HPT Calcutta LPTs Murshidabad Basanti	HPTs Murshidabad Asansol
Orissa	HPT Cuttack LPTs Bhubaneswar Dudharkot Dhenkanal Sambalpur Baliapal Kendrapara Tirtol	HPT Sambalpur LPT Baleshwar	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	LPT Port Blair	
			Chandigarh	LPT (Chandigarh)	
			Delhi	HPT (Delhi)	
			Lakshadweep	VLPT Kavaratti	
Punjab	LPT Jalandhar	HPT Amritsar	Pondicherry	LPT (Pondicherry)	
Rajasthan	LPTs Jaipur Kota	HPTs Jaipur Jodhpur	<p>Improvement of Engineering Goods for Export</p> <p>1049. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :</p>		

(a) whether the Government have recently asked exporters of engineering goods to improve the quality of their projects;

(b) if so, whether exporters have been found exporting sub-standard or inferior quality products;

(c) if so, the details of such cases came to the notice of the Government during the 1999-2000; and

(d) the other steps the Government propose to take to check export of only qualitative items ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (d) The Government encourages manufacturers and exporters to attain internationally accepted standards of quality for their products. The Government is committed to support and assist trade and industry to launch a nation wide programme on Quality awareness and to promote the concept of total quality management. In the Exim Policy, for instance, due recognition has been given to manufacturers/processors who have acquired ISO 9000 (series) or IS/ISO 9000 (series) or ISO 14000(series) or HACCP or WHO-GMP or SEI CMM level 2 and above accreditation/certification.

(b) and (c) In the past, some complaints regarding export of inferior quality engineering products were received from foreign buyers. These cases were investigated by the Director General of Foreign Trade but have not been substantiated.

Committee on Prasar Bharati

1050. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether a high level Committee set up by the Government to review the working of Prasar Bharati had submitted its report to the Government in the month of May, 2000;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the expert Committee;

(c) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the expert Committee; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision to implement them is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee has submitted its report on 20th May, 2000.

(b) and (c) The recommendations/suggestions of the Committee, amongst others, relate to mission and objective for Prasar Bharati, accountability and structures of Prasar Bharati, financing and funding mechanism, channel positioning programming content and production, restructuring of transmission and engineering services, improvement in marketing, human resource development and exploitation of new technologies. The recommendations also include certain amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. A copy of the report is available at Ministry's website i.e. mib.nic.in. View on some of the recommendations of the Committee is to be taken by Prasar Bharati, whereas in respect of some others, Government has to take a view. The Government is in the process of consulting the Members of the Prasar Bharati Board, representatives of staff and employees unions before taking a final view. The report has also been circulated among the Members of the Consultative Committee to seek their views.

(d) No time frame has been fixed in this regard.

Export of Iron Ore by MMTC

1051. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of iron ore exported by MMTC during the last three years, particularly through Visakhapatnam port of Andhra Pradesh

(b) whether the MMTC has set up a steel plant in Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued to MMTC by setting up of this plant;

(e) whether MMTC has not done any survey of the excess steel making capacity in the country; and

(f) if so, the reasons for low project assessment by MMTC ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The quantum of iron ore exports by MMTC, including exports through Visakhapatnam Port of Andhra Pradesh, is as follows :

(Qty: Lakh Tonnes)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Prov.)
Total Iron Ore Exports	114.53	103.22	116.14
Iron Ore Exports through Visakhapatnam	37.57	37.94	38.10

(b) to (d) An iron and steel plant is being set up by Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) at Duburi in the State of Orissa. The plant is promoted jointly by MMTC Ltd. and Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (IPICOL), a Government of Orissa undertaking. The annual capacity of the plant is expected to be around 1.1 million tonnes of hot metal. MMTC will earn high value addition for its Iron ore by selling pig iron, billets and wire rods with a captive supply base for the marketing of these products in the domestic and international market. The project will also generate employment opportunities in the sector.

(e) and (f) The market analysis of the product mix was carried out by Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants India Ltd. (MECON), the consultant for the project, and was duly validated by the Financial Institutions funding the project. MECON appraised the project keeping the steel making capacity of the country in view.

[Translation]

Premium of LIC Policy

1052. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the terms and conditions of the Life Insurance Corporation of India anyone after paying the premium amount continuously for three years can get the refund of the total premium amount;

(b) if so, whether the Policy holder who fails to pay the amount of premium for three years is not refunded;

(c) if so, the amount collected so far by the LIC due to such terms and conditions;

(d) whether the Government propose to abolish such harsh terms and conditions so that the policy holder may get the refund of the premium paid;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that a policy acquires Paid up Value and Surrender Value after three years premium have been paid.

(b) and (c) The LIC has reported that in view of the initial expenses incurred and the cost of risk cover provided during the period the policy was in force, it is not possible for them to refund the premium amount in case the policy holder discontinues payment of premium within the three

years. However, if the policy holder dies within this period when the policy is in force, the sum assured is paid to the beneficiary in full. Since the premium amount collected in the initial years is used for initial expenses and for covering the risk no surplus is left with LIC.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Public Sector Banks in Maharashtra

1053. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that public sector banks in Maharashtra are not giving proper representations to Marathi speaking people in employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure proper representation of local Marathi speaking people in the employment in public sector banks in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Recruitment for public sector banks in Maharashtra and other States of the country is being made by the Banking Service Recruitment Boards (BSRBs) and candidates from any part of the country, including Maharashtra, can apply for the posts advertised by the BSRBs. It has also been stipulated that knowledge of local language is desirable. Since recruitments in bank are of all india character, it is not possible to give preference to candidates of any State.

However, a Committee, consisting of representatives of Ministry of Finance, Indian Banks Association and Banks appointed to give recommendations on issues relating to Human Resources Management in Banks, is considering the issue of making knowledge of local language compulsory in recruitment of clerks.

Tourism Potential in Maharashtra

1054. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tremendous tourism potential exists in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details of the action plans incorporated during the Eighth Five Year Plan to promote tourism in Maharashtra;

(c) whether allocation of funds for each project has since been made; and

(d) if so, details thereof project-wise with achievement made in each case so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance to various State Governments/UTs on the basis of project prioritised annually in consultation with them. The Ministry of Tourism have sanctioned the following projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the State :

S. No.	Year	No. of projects	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	1992-93	13	201.72
2.	1993-94	15	309.11
3.	1994-95	17	273.46
4.	1995-96	2	63.75
5.	1996-97	8	187.69

The projects are in various stages of completion.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Library of Publication Division

1055. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for the computerisation of the Library of Publication Division;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(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 MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The library in the Directorate of Publications Division has a stock of only 40,000 books. For the proper management of the library, conventional methods including maintenance of index of the books are being followed. This system is adequate for the present.

[English]

FDI from Tax Heavens Countries

1056. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any foreign investment has been made by Bahamas to India;

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

(c) the details of FDI proposal received from all the tax-heavens countries including Bahamas and Mauritius; and

(d) the details of tax benefits and other facilities available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the post policy period (from August, 1991 to Feb, 2000), 09 (Nine) FDI proposals amounting to Rs. 43.07 crore have been approved in respect of Bahamas. The sector-wise break-up is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The details of FDI approvals from all countries, including tax-havens, are incorporated in the monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, which is widely circulated, including the library of the House.

(d) The tax benefits and other facilities are available to all the companies/business enterprises investing in India irrespective of their country of origin as per prevailing policies.

Statement

Sector wise break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration Approved for Bahamas during the Post - Policy period (from 01/08/1991 to 29/02/2000)

(Amt in Crore)

Sr. No.	Name of Industry	No. of Approval			Amount of FDI Approved	% to Total Amount
		Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Electricals Equipment Electronics	2	0	2	0.54	1.25
	Total	2	0	2	0.54	1.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Transportation Industry Air/Sea Transport	1	0	1	0.75	1.74
	Total	1	0	1	0.75	1.74
3.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	1	0	1	10.43	24.22
4.	Textiles (Include Dyed, Printed)	1	0	1	4.48	10.40
5.	Food Processing Industries Food Products	3	0	3	6.87	15.95
	Total	3	0	3	6.87	15.95
6.	Ceramics	1	0	1	20.00	46.43
	Total	9	0	9	43.07	

Refund of Customs Duty and Cess

1057. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Spices Board has refunded the customs duty and cess to the exporters during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for making the refunds; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Spices Board had refunded the cess collected on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), Saffron, Spice oils and oleoresins and cardamom from 1.4.1996 to 31.7.1996 amounting to Rs. 1.91 crore to the exporters of spices from its budgetary resources using non plan assistance received from Government of India.

(c) A Notification issued by the Government of India exempted pepper (except green pepper in brine), saffron, spice oils and oleoresins and cardamom from levy of cess (imposed under Spices Board Cess Act 1986) for the period 16.10.1992 to 31.3.1996 with a view to make the commodities competitive in the world market, and a notification issued on 1.8.1996, the period of suspension of the export cess on the aforementioned spices was extended from 1.8.1996. A gap was therefore left between 1.4.1996 and 31.7.1996 during which the Custom authorities had collected the export cess on these items. On receiving representations from the exporters for refund of export cess collected on the above items during the gap period, Spices Board refunded the cess collected between 1.4.96 to 31.7.96 after obtaining approval of Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Finance.

(d) To simplify the matters, Government has now decided to impose a uniform cess of 0.5% on the FOB value of all spices exported and no exemption for any spice from the levy of cess is permitted.

Offloading of Govt. Equity from Maruti Udyog

1058. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to offload the Government's equity from Maruti Udyog;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the Employees, Union of Maruti Udyog Limited has urged the Government to prevent dilution of Government's holding in MUL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (e) The MUL Employees Union, has requested Government of India (GOI) not to disinvest Govt. equity in Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL). There is no proposal, as of now, before GOI for disinvestment in MUL.

Withdrawal of Subsidies

1059. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since reviewed the projected withdrawal of subsidies with respect of different sectors, including petroleum products, fertilisers and others affecting the interests and subsistence of the poor; and

(b) if so, the scheme-wise projections in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) In Budget 2000-01, the Government has announced (vide para 10 of Budget Speech) that all subsidies will be reviewed with a view to bringing in cost-based user charges, wherever feasible. The review is being done by the Expenditure Reforms Commission.

IDFC Projects

1060. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the sectors in which Industrial Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) has provided financial assistance during the last three years;

(b) the criteria fixed for extending financial assistance to these sectors;

(c) whether the IDFC has taken any projects in the State of Haryana, specifically in Ambala district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The question seeks information regarding Industrial Development Finance Corporation Limited (IDFC). There is no financial institution in the name of Industrial Development Finance Corporation. The Hon'ble Member is perhaps referring to IDFC – Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd.

Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd. (IDFC) has reported that in past three years it has provided assistance to projects which are commercially viable in energy (including power, fuel, pipelines), telecom (basic and cellular telephony), integrated transport (ports, roads) and urban infrastructure sector.

(c) and (d) As on date, IDFC has not taken exposure in any project in the State of Haryana.

NRI Investment in Tourism Destinations

1061. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to attract non-resident Indians to visit India and invest in the various tourism destinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issues will be focussed during Pacific Area Travel Association Conference in India during 2002;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures adopted to promote India as an international tourism Destination ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism has formulated plans to attract Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin to visit India through its overseas offices, Airlines and the Indian Mission abroad. India Tourism Development Corporation has also produced a special package called "Come Rediscover India" to attract NRI's particularly from U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Australia, South Africa, Fiji, Gulf, Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritius etc. A high level delegation of the Department of Tourism through its overseas offices in association with the Indian travel trade has proposed to undertake Road Shows in the major NRI markets. Department of Tourism will also promote investment opportunities in India as the Government of India has allowed 100% NRI investment in the Tourism Sector. Agenda for the PATA Conference in India during 2002 is being formulated.

(e) The measures adopted to promote India as an International Tourism Destination are through advertising in the print and electronic media, participation in travel exhibitions and fairs overseas, providing information through brochures, through the Internet in India Tourism Website, production of CD ROMs etc. The Ministry is also all set to launch tourism Portal for the benefit of all tourists including NRIs and PIO's.

Jessop and Co. Ltd.

1062. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISE be pleased to state :

(a) the current position of the outstanding payment towards exempted Provident Fund account of Jessop and Company Limited;

(b) the number of retired employees who are not getting their P.F. dues because of employer's failure to deposit the P.F. money;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials of the company; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the payment of P.F. of the retired employees at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The total PF dues of Jessop as on 30.6.2000 was Rs. 51.61 crore (Principal – Rs. 21.69 crore + Interest – Rs. 29.92 crore).

(b) The total number of retired employees yet to get their PF dues from trust fund upto 30.6.2000 is 1062 including 380 who retired on 30.6.2000.

(c) and (d) Problems still beset the company in generating cash flow envisaged in the BIFR revival scheme. The Government of India have constituted a Group of Ministers to go into the issue of outstanding statutory dues of all Central Public Sector Undertaking including Jessop with a view to evolving appropriate arrangement of liquidating these dues.

[Translation]

Short Documentaries

1063. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of short documentaries produced by Delhi Doordarshan Kendra awaiting to be televised for more than a year;

(b) the reasons for delay in their televising and payment of televising charges; and

(c) the measures likely to be taken for early payment and also to cut-short the delays ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Nil, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Opening of Branches of RRB in Himachal Pradesh

1064. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued a notification to open the branches of Regional Rural Banks (RRB) in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether even after the issuance of the notification by the Union Government, the Leading bank in Himachal Pradesh i.e. Punjab National Bank is creating hurdles in opening the branches of regional rural banks in the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the branches of RRB are likely to be opened in Himachal Pradesh ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Punjab National Bank the sponsor bank of Himachal Gramin Bank has reported that it has advised Himachal Gramin Bank for taking steps to open branches in three more districts. Punjab National Bank has further reported that the Board of Directors of Himachal Gramin Bank has agreed in principle to open one branch each in Una, Hamirpur and Bilaspur districts.

[English]

Letter Written by MPs

1065. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters written by Members of Parliament pending with his Ministry for answer;

(b) the time by which those are pending with reasons; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the replies to all pending letters ?

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.

[Translation]

Loan by NABARD to Bihar

1066. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the loan sanctioned to Bihar by NABARD is very scanty in comparison with other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the State-wise details of loan sectioned by NABARD during the last three years for various projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the details of short-term and long-term disbursements in the State of Bihar for the year 1999-2000 are as under :—

(Rs. Crore)

	All-India		Bihar	
	Limit Sanctioned	Amount Out standing	Limit Sanctioned	Amount Out-standing
Short-term	8163.19	6687.10	88.53	73.99
Long-term	—	5208.29	—	175.90

It may be observed from the above table that the disbursements in Bihar are comparatively low.

The reasons for lower flow of short term credit limits to banks in Bihar, inter-alia, are attributed to poor recovery performance of the Co-operative Banks in the State of Bihar resulting in huge defaults by most of the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) and in turn most of the DCCBs to Bihar State Co-operative Bank (SCB). The resources of Co-operative banks have been locked up in overdues and hence the credit flow at the ground level for agricultural operations through Co-operatives has been declining.

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

Budget Deficit

1067. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund has suggested to take steps to reduce the Budget deficit and control the inflation;

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

(c) whether the Government are taking any immediate steps in this context;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

Government is fully conscious of the need to control Budget Deficit and inflation consistent with requirements of economic growth with macro-economic stability and equity. This is a concern that has been voiced at various fora, including I.M.F. Budget 2000-01 is intended to advance any Government's efforts in this regard.

[English]

Rate of Domestic Savings

1068. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of domestic savings in terms of percentage of gross domestic product in 1999 in the country; and

(b) the steps contemplated to be taken to raise the savings rate in the remaining months of the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per the latest available data with the Central Statistical Organisation, the gross domestic savings as a proportion of gross domestic product at current prices was 22.3 per cent in 1998-99 (quick estimates). For promoting savings, it is imperative to improve the parameters which have a bearing on savings behaviour which include rate of growth in the economy, level of fiscal deficit, tax policies, inflation, efficiency of the banking system and capital market and confidence in the economy. The various economic reform measures undertaken so far are expected to have a favourable impact on the aggregate level of domestic savings.

Development of Tourism in J and K

1069. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the tourism industry has dwindled in the State of Jammu and Kashmir in the last decade;

(b) whether the Tourism Secretary of the Union Government has visited the J and K State and assessed the situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Union Government to promote the industry in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Tourism is a sensitive industry which gets affected by any type of unrest.

This has happened in the case of Jammu and Kashmir also.

(b) and (c) Senior officials of the Department of Tourism including Tourism Secretary have visited Jammu and Kashmir. A Committee was also appointed to go into the question of revival and development of tourism in the State. The main recommendations of the Committee are as follows :-

- Improvement of accessibility by air;
- Improvement of rail and road infrastructure;
- Revival of the tourism infrastructure;
- Restoration and renovation of tourist spots;
- Revival of institutional infrastructure;
- Environmental upgradation of tourist centres and attractions including Dal Lake and Wular Lake; and
- Revival of the tourism industry and trade

The report of the Committee has been forwarded to the concerned Ministries and the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir for necessary action.

Details of Central financial assistance given to Jammu and Kashmir for development and promotion of tourism during the first three years of 9th Plan are as under :

Year	No. of Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	10	293.35
1998-99	6	192.85
1999-2000	16	334.58

Privatisation of Sugar Factories

1070. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to disinvest/privatise the Government owned Sugar factories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government of India have only one sugar mill, viz., M/s. Ganesh Sugar Mill which is a Government Company controlled by National Textiles Corporation. On account of losses incurred by the Company, the sugar mills was referred to the Board of

Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)/Appellate Authority for industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) who have ordered winding up of the Company and the case is pending before the Allahabad High Court for liquidation proceedings.

[Translation]

Abolition of FIPB

1071. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the main rationale therefor;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any time limit for the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) At present there is no firm proposal in this regard.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Prices of Natural Rubber

1072. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

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

(a) whether there has been a steep fall in the rate of Natural Rubber;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the Benchmark Price of Natural Rubber is likely to be fixed and the date on which it was last declared;

(d) the cost of production of Natural Rubber and the details of the way in which this is calculated and the statistics relating thereto;

(e) whether the Government are taking steps to increase Latex exports; and

(f) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to regulate indiscriminate import of synthetic rubber ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Price of Natural Rubber (RSS-IV Grade) which was around Rs. 30 per kg. in July 1994, touched more than Rs. 60 per kg. in June 1995. However, since November 1996, the prices started declining and at present are ruling around Rs. 33 per kg. Decline in the price of Natural Rubber had been mainly on account of significant decline in consumption of Natural Rubber by the tyre industry.

(c) and (d) The Benchmark Price of Rubber, which was fixed at Rs. 24.90 per kg. for RSS-IV Grade and Rs. 24.40 per kg. for RSS-V Grade in February 1994 was revised only after 4 years in September 1998 to Rs. 34.05 per kg. for RSS-IV Grade and Rs. 33.55 per kg. for RSS-V Grade.

The Benchmark Price, which is an indicative price of the cost of production of Natural Rubber, is fixed by the Cost Accounts Branch of Ministry of Finance after conducting a thorough field study and taking into account such variable as salaries and wages, cost of fertilizers, spraying materials etc. involved in the cultivation of rubber and also return on the capital employed.

(e) The export of Natural Rubber, including Latex, is already free under the current Exim Policy (1997-2002). Since the international price of Latex (Rs. 38 per kg drc) is lower than that of the domestic price (Rs. 50 per kg), exports of Latex is not commercially viable.

(f) The import of synthetic rubber is free under the current Exim Policy. Keeping in view the specific properties of various types of synthetic rubber to suit different applications, regulating its import is not considered desirable in the interests of the end-user industries.

Bombay Stock Exchange

1073. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bombay Stock Exchange is facing a critical situation for their compulsion to sell the shares at an under-valued rate to some business houses of India;

(b) if so, whether in such matter, there is a collective understanding of the PFI and Scheduled Banks to influence BSE in that direction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such compulsion of BSE to dispose of its shares on an under-valued rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE) has intimated that BSE is a Trust and not a company. The Exchange does not have

any issued share capital. Hence the question is not relevant in respect of BSE.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Asset Securitisation Legislation

1074. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India panel of Asset Securitisation has suggested to enact securitisation legislation;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions made by the panel; 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 Reserve Bank of India'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 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 of the Government.

DD-2 Services in Orissa

1075. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the name of Doordarshan Kendras in Orissa where DD-2 services are available at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide DD-2 services to each DD Kendra in the State; and

(c) if so, by when and the steps taken in that direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) At present, DD-2 services are available in Orissa from Doordarshan transmission centres at Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Dudarkot, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Baliapal, Kendrapara, Tirtol, Lalitgiri and Rourkela.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to provide DD2 services to each DD Kendra in the State. However, for further expansion of DD2 coverage in Orissa, a high power

transmitter at Sambalpur, and a low power transmitter at Baleshwar are under implementation, and these are expected to be commissioned during 2000-2001. Further expansion of DD2 coverage in Orissa would depend on future availability of resources.

[Translation]

Loans to States by Financial Institutions

1076. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loan sanctioned by the Public Sector financial institutions to various institutions in the States during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date State-

wise, institution-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The State-wise and Institution-wise details of loans sanctioned by Public Sector financial institutions during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The State-wise and Institution-wise details of loan released by Public Sector financial institutions during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of loan sanctioned by IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, SIDBI and IIBI during 1999-2000 and April - May 2000-2001

Sr. No.	State	IDBI		IFCI		ICICI		SIDBI		IIBI	
		Apr.-May 1999-2000	Apr.-May 2000-2001	Apr.-May 1999-2000	Apr.-May 2000-2001	Apr.-May 1999-2000	Apr.-May 2000-2001	Apr.-May 1999-2000	Apr.-May 2000-2001	Apr.-May 1999-2000	Apr.-May 2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4394.8	75.0	287.2	—	3406.9	81.7	228.0	19.4	88.4	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.2	—	—	—
3.	Assam	43.4	—	—	—	181.7	52.0	12.1	0.1	—	—
4.	Bihar	241.5	6.0	23.2	—	607.6	—	85.5	—	12.9	—
5.	Goa	71.5	—	—	—	136.0	25.0	44.8	0.8	20.0	—
6.	Gujarat	4538.9	26.0	615.6	17.0	5677.5	3286.5	330.6	6.1	134.5	—
7.	Haryana	572.8	—	43.7	—	959.9	95.2	187.6	7.1	51.8	40.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	373.0	—	64.3	—	175.0	41.0	38.8	2.0	25.0	—
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	41.5	—	—	—	262.5	—	17.3	1.1	—	—
10.	Karnataka	1262.3	279.2	206.4	5.0	2689.2	433.0	272.8	0.7	40.3	20.0
11.	Kerala	222.0	9.9	—	—	162.0	45.0	117.8	7.4	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1122.7	24.1	22.8	—	630.9	592.2	154.5	12.7	22.8	—
13.	Maharashtra	4878.4	402.3	317.5	—	11755.4	3816.8	421.0	15.3	465.5	5.0
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.0	4.2	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.1	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	46.3	6.5	—	—	2275.3	300.0	30.1	0.3	300.0	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
19. Punjab		1526.2	914.4	84.8	—	443.1	214.0	111.5	7.2	0.7	—
20. Rajasthan		778.2	12.5	38.8	—	419.9	47.5	188.8	9.2	100.0	—
21. Sikkim		—	—	—	—	—	100.0	2.0	0.1	—	—
22. Tamil Nadu		3368.2	1053.3	54.6	—	3801.9	748.7	317.8	3.4	357.6	165.0
23. Tripura		—	—	—	—	—	—	3.2	—	—	—
24. Uttar Pradesh		810.9	153.3	178.2	3.5	2112.8	653.0	147.7	4.4	67.9	—
25. West Bengal		925.3	18.2	75.1	—	1920.8	691.1	108.2	3.9	437.2	99.6
26. National Capital Territory of Delhi		1927.2	530.0	108.2	—	5739.4	368.5	136.4	6.1	78.2	—
27. Union Territories and Others		169.8	7.5	70.8	—	190.4	100.0	17.4	0.6	1.0	—
(a) Andaman and Nicobar		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Daman and Diu		56.0	—	—	—	65.0	—	0.6	0.2	—	—
(c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli		66.4	—	70.8	—	51.3	5.0	8.3	0.1	—	—
(d) Chandigarh		42.4	—	—	—	—	75.0	7.7	0.3	1.0	—
(e) Lakshadweep		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(f) Pondicherry		5.0	7.5	—	—	50.0	20.0	0.8	—	—	—
(g) Others		—	—	—	—	24.1	—	—	—	—	—
28. Multi State		—	—	—	—	931.4	—	—	—	—	—
29. Non — Specific areas		—	—	—	—	—	414.5	—	—	—	—
Total		27314.9	3518.2	2191.2	25.5	44478.8	12105.7	2980.7	112.1	2203.8	329.6

Note : Data are provisional

Statement-II

State-wise details of loan disbursed by IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, SIDBI and IIBI during 1999-2000 and April — May 2000-2001

Sr. No.	State	IDBI		IFCI		ICICI		SIDBI		IIBI	
		Apr.-May 1999-2000	Apr.-May 2000-2001	Apr.-May 1999-2000	Apr.-May 2000-2001	Apr.-May 1999-2000	Apr.-May 2000-2001	Apr.-May 1999-2000	Apr.-May 2000-2001	Apr.-May 1999-2000	Apr.-May 2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1692.5	72.9	285.4	16.6	1275.6	195.1	193.7	19.4	89.4	0.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.2	—	—	—
3.	Assam	29.9	0.8	5.6	2.1	102.1	4.3	11.7	0.1	0.5	—
4.	Bihar	317.4	22.7	2.7	—	512.5	—	81.2	—	10.1	—
5.	Goa	103.4	—	58.8	9.8	95.7	—	44.2	0.3	30.0	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6. Gujarat		2457.6	58.6	412.4	38.6	3680.0	57.8	280.3	5.5	115.0	-
7. Haryana		385.2	59.5	46.4	13.7	734.6	92.1	157.7	6.9	6.1	5.0
8. Himachal Pradesh		362.3	4.2	61.5	-	48.4	25.0	31.2	1.9	31.1	-
9. Jammu and Kashmir		42.3	-	-	-	16.5	2.9	16.6	1.5	-	-
10. Karnataka		955.5	82.8	173.3	19.1	2178.7	178.1	206.7	0.7	84.0	-
11. Kerala		117.9	9.3	1.2	-	173.2	1.5	107.7	7.1	2.7	-
12. Madhya Pradesh		658.9	11.1	101.0	6.1	284.6	217.1	124.7	10.5	49.8	-
13. Maharashtra		3563.6	263.1	1043.4	49.6	6419.3	1829.1	381.2	14.9	296.1	21.5
14. Manipur		-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-
15. Meghalaya		-	-	-	-	-	-	3.7	0.8	-	-
16. Mizoram		-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-
17. Nagaland		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18. Orissa		202.9	0.7	-	-	484.8	5.0	25.8	0.3	61.7	-
19. Punjab		559.9	37.5	98.5	0.5	264.6	96.0	102.4	5.8	7.6	-
20. Rajasthan		680.1	80.3	47.6	-	278.8	62.5	141.3	4.7	45.0	-
21. Sikkim		-	-	-	-	-	-	2.1	0.1	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu		1213.5	50.3	155.0	46.6	1922.4	318.7	268.8	3.3	138.6	24.1
23. Tripura		-	-	-	-	-	-	3.4	-	-	-
24. Uttar Pradesh		814.6	42.8	269.0	13.2	968.1	231.5	149.3	4.3	35.8	-
25. West Bengal		627.8	162.1	94.8	41.1	1733.8	541.8	73.8	9.0	280.1	100.9
26. National Capital Territory of Delhi		1330.8	114.6	55.6	2.0	3871.6	313.8	132.6	6.0	20.9	2.0
27. Union Territories and Others		95.4	17.8	53.6	25.7	82.0	6.6	21.3	0.6	1.5	-
(a) Andaman and Nicobar		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Daman and Diu		18.1	0.9	-	-	18.2	-	0.6	0.2	-	-
(c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli		32.4	6.5	51.4	25.7	31.9	6.6	12.4	0.1	0.6	-
(d) Chandigarh		27.9	2.1	-	-	-	-	7.5	0.3	0.9	-
(e) Lakshadweep		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(f) Pondicherry		17.0	8.3	2.2	-	31.9	-	0.8	-	-	-
28. Multi State		-	-	-	-	708.4	310.3	-	-	-	-
29. Non - Specific areas		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		16211.5	1110.5	2965.8	284.7	25835.7	4489.2	2564.2	103.7	1306.0	153.7

Note : Data are provisional

Export of Food Items

1077. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of food items exported during each of the last three years, item-wise;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period; and

(c) the impact of this export on the availability and the cost of the food items in the domestic market ?

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

(b) The foreign exchange earned from export of food items during the last three years is as below :—

Year	Amount (US\$ Million)	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1997-98	4509.11 (1US\$=Rs. 39.00)	1758553.71
1998-99	4864.48 (1US\$=Rs. 42.00)	2043085.18
1999-2000	4219.64 (1US\$=Rs. 42.50)	1793348.23

(c) The Policy of the Government to permit export of food items is Governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of food products is an ongoing process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making food items exports increasingly viable.

Statement

Export of Food Items

ITEM	April-March 1997-98		April-March 1998-99		April-March 1999-2000	
	Value		Value		Value	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pulses	168052	36088.63	104096	22302.64	182228	40492.17
Rice Basmati	593323	168562.03	597793	187690.92	606468	173593.99
Rice Non-Basmati	1795743	168537.55	4365888	440384.53	1216681	136943.05
Wheat	1517	40.29	1763	135.79	20	1.73
Other Cereals	15350	1259.4	9527	868.36	7618	813.93
Spices	230531	140965.63	209828	163252.05	195793	170192.04
Cashew Nuts	76902	139990.69	77277	162746.66	92461	245144.77
HPS Groundnut	245401	56629.96	58326	13966.28	73244	18322.7
Sugar	173282	24444.82	12735	1735.93	7043	1076.54
Meat and Meat Prep.		80835.35		78811.71		78096.07
Poultry and Dairy Prod.		11804.31		9696.96		9849.97
Fresh Fruits		27684.21		26632.5		28822.12
Fresh Vegetables		31295.13		27402.03		83.12
Proc. Fruits and Juices		27286.9		29087.37		49033.87
Processed Vegetables		11651.29		16727.09		16520.93
Misc. Processed Items		25558.49		25508.11		63.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Marine Products	398201	448675.97	311256	436855.48	390655	511313.4
Tea	193700	187629.04	210395	226488.58	183807	176577.45
Coffee	160272	169614.02	193610	172792.19	165309	136406.81
Total		1758553.71		2043085.18		1793348.23

[English]

Schemes for Development of Folklore

1078. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes formulated by the Government for the development of voluntary organisations/ individuals which are involved in the folklore; and

(b) the financial assistance provided during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government does not have a Scheme exclusively for development of voluntary organisations/individuals which are involved in the folklore, although it does administer a Scheme whereunder financial assistance is provided to voluntary organisations and individuals engaged in the preservation and promotion of tribal/folk art and culture. The scheme addresses itself mainly to well identified tribal/rural and folk art and crafts which have an urgent need for preservation, promotion and dissemination. Assistance extended under the scheme during the last three years was about Rs. 22 lakhs for the year 1997-98, about Rs. 43 lakhs for the year 1998-99 and Rs. 74 lakhs for the year 1999-2000. Assistance is not however extended state-wise.

[Translation]

Tax Holiday to Software Industry

1079. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the conditions under which tax holiday is provided and the industries/items covered under it;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal to provide tax holiday to software industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Section 10A and 10B, 80 IA, 80 IB and 80 JJA of the Income-

tax Act provide tax holiday to different industries/sectors on the conditions specified therein. These include :-

1. For Infrastructure development
 - (a) Infrastructure facility
 - (b) Telecommunication services
 - (c) Industrial parks
 - (d) Power sector
2. Scientific Research and Development Companies.
3. Commercial production or refining of mineral oil.
4. Housing projects.
5. Cold chain facility for agricultural produce.
6. (a) Industries located in Backward States.
(b) Industries located in Backward District.
7. Collection and processing of biodegradable waste.
8. Export income of undertakings located in Free Trade Zones, Electronic Hardware Parks, Software Technology Parks and 100% Export Oriented Units.
9. Special tax holiday for North-Eastern States.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government received a large number of representations from various quarters during the last budgetary exercise regarding providing tax holiday to software industry and also for enlarging the scope of existing concessions. All such proposals were considered by the Government. Sections 10A and 10B of the Income-tax Act were suitably amended to provide ten year tax holiday in a graded manner in respect of export income derived by undertakings located, inter-alia, in Software Technology Parks.

[English]

Licences for Manufacturing of Cigarettes

1080. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued any licences for manufacturing of cigarettes in favour of any joint venture during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names and location of each company;

(c) whether any multinational company has taken objection for not granting licence for manufacturing of cigarettes;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether cigarette manufacturing is permitted in some identified areas of Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya without licence under the IDR Act;

(f) if so, whether the Government plan to relax licensing policy for manufacturing of cigarettes in other parts of the country; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No.

(f) Not applicable.

(g) The manufacturing of cigarettes is under compulsory licensing as per the 1st Schedule of the IDR Act, 1951. Government has not provided any relaxation to this provision so far.

Gyan Darshan Channel

1081. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for cable operators to beam Gyan Darshan in the prime band channel so that even homes with black and white channels can access to it;

(b) if so, the time by which an amendment to the Cable Network Regulation Act, 1995 is likely to be brought before the Parliament in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the efforts made by the Doordarshan to generate awareness about the Gyan Darshan Channel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 at present mandates the carriage of any two Doordarshan channels of the choice of the cable operator in his network. However, to ensure that the subscriber is not deprived of the major channels of the public service broadcaster, Government propose to introduce an amendment Bill in Parliament during the current session with a view to inter-alia, ensure uniform carriage and proper reception of two terrestrial channels of Doordarshan alongwith one regional language channel through the cable network.

(d) Doordarshan telecasts promotional spots at appropriate places on its channel-I so as to popularise the Gyan Darshan Channel.

[Translation]

Permission to Produce Gasohal in U.P.

1082. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Uttar Pradesh to grant permission to produce Gasohal from molasses;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study with regard to the large scale production of 'gasohal' by some major sugarcane growing countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Setting up of Inland Container Depot

1083. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhilwara (Rajasthan) was selected for setting up of an Inland container depot for the promotion of foreign trade two years ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose thereof;

(c) whether the traders have not been able to derive the benefit of this container due to non-availability of Duty

Entitlement Passbook and Duty Exemption Entitlement Scheme Licence;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said licence is likely to be issued to them by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Rajasthan Small Industries was authorized to set up an Inland Container Depot at Bhilwara. The Inland Container Depots provide door step facilities to trade for customs clearance of export – import cargo.

(c) to (e) Since the facility has just started, it would take some time before it is fully utilized. The Government is considering grant of Duty Entitlement Passbook and Duty Exemption Entitlement Scheme at the said Inland Container Depot.

[English]

Involvement of Danish Companies in Promoting Trade

1084. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Danish companies engaged in the country in promoting trade;

(b) whether Denmark has a proposal to open trade offices in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Trade is conducted by Danish companies on a voluntary basis. No record of the number of such companies is, therefore, maintained. However, as per available information, 187 proposals for collaboration with Danish companies and FDI from Denmark have been approved by the Government during 1991 to May, 2000.

(b) and (c) The Danish Ministry of Trade and Industry has recently set up an office of Danish Trade and Industrial Advisor at Bangalore.

Investors' Protection Act

1085. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to have an Investors Protection Act at all India level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have asked various State Governments to pass Investors Protection Act in their State ;

(d) if so, the number of States which have passed such legislation;

(e) the details of the provisions of this Act; and

(f) the Government's viewpoint on State level Investors Protection Act and all India level Investors Protection Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has sent a proposal to the Government for an Investor Protection Bill. It includes, inter alia, safeguards against asset stripping and siphoning of funds, provisions to award compensation and for attachment of properties of companies which default on payment. The proposal is being examined in consultation with the Ministries/Departments concerned.

On May 18, 1999, SEBI, which is the market regulator had requested State Governments to consider enacting legislation similar to the Ordinance enacted by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have passed legislation for protection of interests of depositors in financial establishments. This legislation relates to acceptance of deposits by financial establishments, and include inter alia, provisions to deal with defaults by such establishments, and for attachment of property of companies which defaults on return of deposits and appointment of a competent authority to exercise control over the monies and properties attached.

Export of Spices

1086. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of spices has decreased during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the spices exported during the current year in comparison with the corresponding year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase its export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The export of spices has decreased during April – June 2000 compared to the corresponding period of previous year. The

decline in export of spices is mainly on account of the following reasons :—

- (i) Oversupply of pepper, chilli, ginger and turmeric in the international market has reduced the prices. Indian prices are higher compared to the other suppliers.
 - (ii) Non availability of adequate export surpluses in the case of coriander, cumin, celery, fennel and fenugreek. The domestic prices of these commodities are very high due to increasing home consumption.
 - (iii) Poor international demand in case of celery and fennel.
- (c) The estimated export of spices during April – June 2000 compared to corresponding period of pervious year is given below :

Period	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
April – June 2000(E)	47,620	37083.40
April – June 1999(P)	70,905	57278.84

(E) Estimated (P) Provisional

These include pepper, chilli, cardamom, ginger, turmeric, coriander, cumin, celery, fenugreek, garlic, curry powder, mint oil, spice oil and oleoresins etc.

Source : Spices Board.

(d) Apart from 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 "Indian Spices Logo" awarded to exporters of value added spices and the grant of "Spice House Certificate" to exporters of spices in bulk who adhere to quality standards; setting up of laboratories for testing of products of ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development. In addition, Government/Spices Board is also taking the following steps to increase export of spices.

- (iv) Product diversification by developing new markets, new applications and new brands.
- (iv) Developing organic spices and spice products for catering to the niche markets for spice products.
- (iv) Sending business delegations to non traditional markets like Latin American Countries to develop market for Indian spices.
- (iv) Striving to improve quality of Indian spices and spices products beside making products cost

competitive through introduction of improved technology.

Student Strength in IIFT

1087. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase the student strength of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT);

(b) if so, the total number of students in IIFT at present;

(c) whether there is a need for more trained personnel in foreign trade of the country; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to expand IIFT in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) has decided to increase the student strength. It has launched a three years Masters Programme in International Business (evening) with a strength of 50(fifty) students.

(b) At present the total number of students in the Institute is 233.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Institute is currently engaged in preparing its medium term strategy which will include its proposed expansion plans.

Waiver of Loan

1088. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have waived Rs. 8,500 crore loan to Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of orders by which the waivers have taken place; and

(c) the outstanding amount that the State owes to the Centre as on April 1,2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) had recommended write off of one-third of the repayment of principal for the period 1995-2000 in respect of the special term loans given to the State to fight militancy and insurgency. Government of India had waived the remaining repayment of principal and interest falling due during 1995-96. During 1997-98 Government of India further waived off unpaid repayment obligations of 1997-98 and repayments falling due during 1998-99 and 1999-2000. The details are as follows :

(Rs. in crore)

Amount written off

Year	As per Govt. of India decision (principal and interest)	As per TFC recommendation (principal)	Total
1995-96	803.23	88.07	891.30
1996-97	—	88.07	88.07
1997-98	584.16	88.07	672.23
1998-99	771.15	110.29	881.44
1999-2000	759.35	120.72	880.07

(c) Loan of Rs. 6785.91 crore payable to the Ministry of Finance was outstanding against the State Government as on 1st April, 2000. This includes an amount of Rs. 4297 crore on account of special term loans. The report of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) has been received by the Government of India. The report alongwith the explanatory memorandum as to the action taken thereon has been tabled in the Parliament. As per the decision taken by the Government of India recommendations made by EFC in regard to debt waiver will be implemented.

Tea Plantation by Foreign Companies

1089. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign companies are keen to undertake tea plantation in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such companies;

(c) whether the Government have agreed to allow these foreign companies to undertake tea plantation; and

(d) if so, the details of terms and conditions laid down for them in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) Government has received the following three proposals for Foreign Direct Investment from companies involved in tea plantations :—

1. M/s. Unilever Overseas Holding BV, Netherlands
2. M/s. George Willamson (Assam) Ltd. Calcutta
3. M/s. Tata Tea Ltd.

The proposals of M/s. Unilever Overseas Holding BV and M/s. George Willamson (Assam) Ltd. have not been cleared. Tata Tea Ltd. has been permitted to issue GDRs and use the proceedings to acquire a UK based tea company.

Computerisation of Banks

1090. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a move to check bank frauds and irregularities, the CVC has directed the banks all over the country to computerise their operations;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on such directives of the CVC;

(c) the total percentage of nationalised banks computerised as on 30 June, 2000;

(d) whether there is any decline in bank frauds after computerisation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Central Vigilance Commission issued instruction on 27th November, 1998 stating inter-alia that all banks must ensure that 70 percentage of their business is captured through computerisation before 1st January, 2001. Subsequent thereto, banks have stepped up the pace of computerisation.

(c) According to the information available as on 30th June, 2000, the nationalised banks have captured 55 percentage of their business through computerisation.

(d) and (e) There has been a marginal decrease in the number of frauds reported by the public sector banks during 1999 as compared to 1998. There is no evidence of any causal relationship between computerisation of banking operations and decline in bank frauds.

PAN Cards

1091. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to issue PAN (Permanent Account Number) cards on – line from August, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications for issue PAN cards already pending with the Income-tax Department as on 30 June, 2000 and since when pending;

(d) the reasons for delay in issue of PAN cards to the these applicants; and

(e) the time by which the PAN cards are likely to be issued to all these applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The system of on-line allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) is already functional from all the PCs on network, at Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. On-line allotment of PAN has started in 28 other computer centres all over India on a limited scale from the PCs which are on network. The PAN cards are not issued on-line.

(c) As on 30.6.2000 out of 1,92,14,790 applications received for allotment of Permanent Account Number, 1,71,57,581 Permanent Account Numbers have been allotted. The year wise status of receipt of applications and allotment of Permanent Account Number is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The delay in allotment of PAN Card is mainly due to incomplete information given in the application forms submitted by the applicants. This necessitates issue of deficiency letters. In all such cases, further action can be taken by the Department only after deficiencies are removed by the taxpayers. Receipt of applications for allotment of PAN is also an on-going process.

(e) The work of allotment of Permanent Account Number is in full swing and all out efforts are being made for expeditious allotment of PAN to the applicants. Wide publicity is also being given on the subject by the Department requesting the applicants to reply to the deficiency letters sent to them by the Department.

Statement

Year wise Status of Applications received and PAN allotment

	No. of applications received	No. of PAN allotted
1995-96	992,447	519,130
1996-97	830,062	671,652
1997-98	885,076	742,666
1998-99	14,623,988	9,541,669
1999-2000	1,566,577	5,066,981
2000-2001 (upto 30.6.2000)	316,640	615,483
Total	19,214,790	17,157,581

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 591 (E)/Ess. Com./Sugar (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2000 directing that the stock holding limit imposed on a recognized dealer of sugar shall be lifted issued under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2111/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the National Agricultural Policy (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2112/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Central Warehousing Corporation and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2113/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2114/2000]

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 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :-
- (i) G.S.R. 433(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two notifications mentioned therein.

- (ii) G.S.R. 434(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe effective basic Customs duty of 7.5 per cent ad valorem on tea imported from Sri Lanka.
- (iii) G.S.R. 435(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt certain goods from surcharge customs.
- (iv) G.S.R. 436(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 19/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (v) G.S.R. 437(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 17/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (vi) G.S.R. 438(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest under section 28AB of the Customs Act by the Central Government.
- (vii) G.S.R. 439(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest under section 28AA of the Customs Act by the Central Government.
- (viii) G.S.R. 440(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest under section 47 of the Customs Act by the Central Government.
- (ix) G.S.R. 441(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest under section 59 of the Customs Act by the Central Government.
- (x) G.S.R. 442(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest under section 27A of the Customs Act by the Central Government.
- (xi) G.S.R. 376(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (xii) G.S.R. 377(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 533(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 535(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 61/2000-Cus., dated the 12th May, 2000.
- (xv) G.S.R. 503(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 398(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in four Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 399(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to supersede Notification No. 144/93-Cus., dated the 28th June, 1993.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 413(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to supersede Notification No. 144/93-Cus., dated the 28th June, 1993.
- (xix) G.S.R. 415(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt specified goods when imported or procured from a private/public bonded warehouse by Export-oriented units and

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units in Export Processing Zone for use in an granite quarry for the purpose of quarrying of granite.

- (xx) G.S.R. 474(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in nine Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 499(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all goods when imported or procured from a private/public bonded warehouse by units in special Economic Zone.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 341(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 348(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications No. 48/99-Cus., dated the 29th April, 1999, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 607(E), dated the 13th July, 2000.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 349(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to operationalize the Duty Free Replenishment Certificate (DFRC) Scheme announced in Exim Policy 2000-2001 on the 31st March, 2000.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 365(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to operationalize 5% Duty EPCG Scheme announced in the Exim Policy 2000-2001 on the 31st March, 2000.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 366(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to operationalize the Advance Licence Scheme for deemed exporters announced in the Exim Policy 2000-2001 on the 31st March, 2000.

- (xxvii) G.S.R. 367(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to operationalize the Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate (DEEC) Scheme announced in the Exim Policy 2000-2001 on the 31st March, 2000.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 370(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in certain Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xxix) G.S.R. 594(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to retain the basic customs duty of 35 per cent on all goods, other than Areca nuts.
- (xxx) G.S.R. 595(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt Areca nuts from the levy of surcharge.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2115/2000]

- (2) 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. 465(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to notify the final anti-dumping duty levied, originating in or exported from Japan, Spain, Portugal and Italy, in US Dollar.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 466(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to dominate the anti-dumping duty in terms of US dollars.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 467(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Ethylene Propylene Diene Rubber originating in or exported from Korea RP, and imported in to India at the rate of US Dollar 124 per MT.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 457(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to im-

- pose anti-dumping duty of the Customs on Acrylic Fibre originating in or exported from Turkey at the rates mentioned in the Notification.
- (v) G.S.R. 458(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 125/99-Cus., dated the 15th November, 1999.
 - (vi) G.S.R. 459(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Barium Carbonate originating in or exported from China PR, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
 - (vii) G.S.R. 460(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 126/99-Cus., dated the 17th November, 1999.
 - (viii) G.S.R. 476(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty Ethylene Propylene Diene Rubber originating in or exported from Japan, and imported into India in US dollar terms.
 - (ix) G.S.R. 477(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Styrene Butadiene Rubber originating in or exported from Japan, Taiwan, Turkey, United States of America and Korea RP, and imported into India in US dollar terms.
 - (x) G.S.R. 478(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber originating in or exported from Germany and Korea RP, and imported into India in US dollar terms.
 - (xi) G.S.R. 483(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Phthalic Anhydride originating in or exported from Indonesia at the rate recommended by the designated authority.
 - (xii) G.S.R. 484(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Sodium Nitrite originating in or exported from China PR, at the rate recommended by the designated authority.
 - (xiii) G.S.R. 494(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Calcium Carbide originating in or exported from China and Romania, and imported into India, in US dollars terms.
 - (xiv) G.S.R. 495(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Citric Acid originating in or exported from China PR, and imported into India, in US dollars terms.
 - (xv) G.S.R. 504(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Pure Terephthalic Acid (PTA) originating in or exported from Spain at the rate recommended by the designated authority.
 - (xvi) G.S.R. 534(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 18/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
 - (xvii) G.S.R. 546(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on seamless pipes/tubes of specified grade originating in or exported from, Austria, Czech Republic, Russia, and Romania, and imported into India
 - (xviii) G.S.R. 547(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 137/99-Cus., dated the 29th December, 1999.
 - (xix) G.S.R. 559(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on

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black and white photographic paper including both Resin coated and fibre based in Jumbo rolls or cut sheets from originating in or exported from U.K., France and Hungary at the rate recommended by the designated authority.

- (xx) G.S.R. 502(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 36/98-Cus., dated the 26th June, 1998.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 522(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Sodium Cyanide, originating in or exported from USA, Czech Republic, European Union and Korea RP, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 523(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 134/99-Cus., dated the 27th December, 1999.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 524(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Bisphenol-A originating in or exported from, European Union and Taiwan at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 527(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on Acrylic Fibre, originating in or exported from USA, Thailand and Korea RP, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 528(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 81/97-Cus., dated the 24th October, 1997.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 593(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the First Schedule to the Customs

Tariff Act, 1975 so as to increase the basic customs duty on Areca nuts from 35 per cent to 100 per cent.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2116/2000]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 :-
 - (i) G.S.R. 375(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2000-CE, dated the 1st March, 2000.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 443(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2000-CE, dated the 1st March, 2000.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 444(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind two Notifications mentioned therein.
 - (iv) The Central Excise (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2000, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 445(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (v) G.S.R. 446(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest under section 11AA of the Central Excise Act for delayed payment of duty.
 - (vi) G.S.R. 447(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest under section 11AB of the Central Excise Act for delayed payment of duty due to reasons of fraud, willful misstatement and collusion etc.
 - (vii) G.S.R. 448(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest under section 11BB of the Central Excise Act for delayed refunds.
 - (viii) G.S.R. 414(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt specified excisable goods when

procured from indigenous sources by Export Oriented Units and units in Export Processing Zone for use in a granite quarry for the purpose of quarrying of granite.

- (ix) G.S.R. 475(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend five Notifications mentioned therein.
- (x) G.S.R. 500(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all excisable goods when procured by units in the Special Economic Zone.
- (xi) The Central Excise (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 573(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2117/2000]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Agents) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 462(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2000.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class-I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 550(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Development Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 551(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (iv) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 552(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (v) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Employees (Pension) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R.

553(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.

- (vi) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 554(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (vii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Special Area Allowance) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 555(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (viii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III Employees (Special Allowance for Passing Examination) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 556(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (xi) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 597(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2118/2000]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of Section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Act, 1972 :-

- (i) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Officers) Amendment Scheme, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 587(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (ii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Development Staff) (Amendment) Scheme, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 588(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (iii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff) (Amendment) Scheme, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 589(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (iv) The General Insurance (Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 590(E) in

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Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2119/2000]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 592(E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2000 containing Presidential Order regarding extension of terms of the 11th Finance Commission under proviso to article 280 of the Constitution

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2120/2000]

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) indicating the results of market borrowings by the Central Government during the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2121/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Approval of Models) Amendment Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 492(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2000 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2122/2000]

12.1½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Sixty-sixth Report

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Sixty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Constitution (Eighty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 1999.

12.02 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Evidence

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Constitution (Eighty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 1999

12.2½ hours

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 31st July, 2000 will consist of :-

1. Consideration and Passing of the following Bills :-
 - (a) The Madhya Pradesh Re-organisation Bill, 2000
 - (b) The Uttar Pradesh Re-organisation Bill, 2000
 - (c) The Bihar Re-organisation Bill, 2000
2. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha :-
 - (a) The Army and Airforce (Disposal of Private Property) Amendment Bill, 2000
 - (b) The Indian Power Alcohol (Repeal) Bill, 2000, and
 - (c) The Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 2000.
4. Consideration and passing of the State Financial Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, It is very serious issue please listen to me first. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is separate issue. Please go through it carefully.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Please listen to me first.

MR. SPEAKER : Acharia ji, first you go through today's business. You don't know that it is a separate issue.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to check extremism in Keol-Gaya Railway Division, enhance job opportunity and for the overall development of Central Bihar, it is essential to run express trains to Delhi, Howra-Gauhati and Sealdah.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (i) Need to grant leave travel concession from 1994 to 1999 and the speedy payment of arrear of LTC to the employees of Bharat Cooking Coal Limited.
- (ii) Need to start 'A' Thermal power station, Bokaro having the capacity of 715 Kmegawatt power generation under the Damodar Valley Corporation.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Need to make additional allocation of 2500 Kilo Litre Kerosene per month at the concessional rate of public distribution system for meeting the need of the small Industrial units particularly stone industry and textile units and to strengthen them in view of lack of sufficient supply of kerosene under the parallel market system in the State for the small scale industry of Rajasthan and the resultant increase in its market price.
2. Need to establish refinery in Rajasthan under the auspices of Indian Oil Corporation for refining natural gas and oil found in Western area of Rajasthan keeping in view the increasing demand of petroleum products in the country.

[English]

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Need to allocate funds for development of infrastructural facilities at township of Nanguneri and nearby areas in Tiruchendur Parliamentary Constituency in view of special economic zone being set up there.
2. Need to introduce a direct train from Kanyakumari to Tuticorin via Tiruchendur and Nanguneri considering that exports from special economic zone at Nanguneri will be handled at Tuticorin harbour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion should be held regarding the proper implementation of the centrally sponsored poverty alleviation schemes in Madhya Pradesh that include Jawahar Rojgar

Yojana, Prime Minister's employment scheme, Jiwan Jaldhara Yojana etc.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. The situation arising out of the decline in prices of Coconut and its allied products.
2. The declining trend of rubber prices due to the import of natural rubber from outside.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Discussion on selection of unauthorised colonies in Delhi for regularisation and the heavy penalties imposed.
2. The functioning of the Archaeological Survey of India and protests made by historians with respect of excavations and non-publication of authorised reports thereon.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUNMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The textile industry of the country, besides being the labour intensive industry is the main foreign exchange earning industry. Recently it has come in the paper that decision is being taken to remove the readymade garment industry from the list of protected Small Scale Industries which is not right. There is need to discuss this subject.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Increasing discontent among the labourers on account of the non-action of the Central Government inspite of the recommendation of the BIFR regarding the solution of the problems of Textile Mills run by NTC in Madhya Pradesh.
2. Discontent among the farmers on account of not getting the benefit of the declared support price due to the faulty crops purchasing system of the State inspite of the declaration of the support price for agricultural produce by the Central Government.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to include the following subject in the Business of the House for the next week.

Involvement of cricketers in match fixing and the progress of inquiry being made into this incident.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : When we were in a meeting with the Prime Minister yesterday, eleven landless labourers were brutally murdered by CPI(M) people in West Bengal . . . (Interruptions) There were people belonging to the Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribe and also women among the dead. . . . (Interruptions) Eleven people have been murdered in the village of Suchpur. The hon. Home Minister was kind enough to reply to us yesterday. Now, after the Prime Minister's Statement, the hon. Home Minister may please inform the House about this incident. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister is going to make a Statement. Shri Bandyopadhyay, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the Statement of the hon. Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)*

12.11 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Certain Statements made by Former Law Minister with regard to Chief Justice of India and Attorney General of India

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker Sir, certain statements have been made by Shri Ram Jethmalani, former Union Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs with regard to the Chief Justice of India and the Attorney General of India. I have gone through those Statements. My Government does not share the views of Shri Ram Jethmalani with regard to the subject matter on which he has spoken. We completely disagree with his perception of the facts. The Government believes in promoting a harmonious relationship between different wings of the State. Without going into the question of correctness of any possible view involved in the issues on which Shri Jethmalani corresponded with the hon. Chief Justice of India, I was of the opinion that even the difference of opinion between the Chief Justice, and the Law Minister should not create any imbalance in the harmonious relationship. Thus, in order to ensure that this harmonious relationship is not only

maintained but strengthened, I exercised my prerogative and asked Shri Jethmalani to resign.

I have gone into the text of his statements issued yesterday, that is, 27th July, against the Chief Justice of India and the Attorney General of India. I reiterate that my Government completely disagrees with his perception.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, this statement is a highly generalised statement. A number of very important questions arise from his statement. How did he allow it to happen ? Why was action not taken on time ? What about the issue of confidentiality of papers used ? (Interruptions) What about the words used by the Law Minister against the Chief Justice of India and the Attorney-General ? What about the confrontation that is brewing between the Executive and the Judiciary ? . . . (Interruptions) All these matters must be cleared. Therefore, we would like to have clarifications. We would request you to allow a discussion on this subject because we do not want to go into the individuals concerned. . . . (Interruptions) It is a larger issue that the hon. Prime Minister has talked about – the issue of Constitution, the issue about delicate balance between the Executive and the Judiciary, issue of how confidential papers are used, issue of possible impropriety of the Attorney-General, issue of permission being taken by the Attorney-General from the former Law Minister when he is appointed under the aegis of the Prime Minister. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are no clarification allowed on the Statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, these are all issues on which we seek clarification and we would request you to allow a discussion on this particular issue. Until a discussion is allowed. . . . (Interruptions) Sir, you are not even listening to what I have to say. I have certain very serious submissions to make. I would beseech you to kindly consider what I am saying because there are very fundamental matters. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. This is 'Zero Hour'. I am calling the names of the hon. Members who have given notices.

(Interruptions)

12.16 hours

(At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and some other hon. Members left the House.)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling you on one by one. Please take your seats. Please understand one thing. Today is the last day of the week. Today, I have received forty notices. Many hon. Members want to raise important issues during the 'Zero Hour'. If you are not interested, you should allow the other hon. Members, who have given notices, to speak. I am calling the hon. Members one by one. First Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has taken a decision for expansion and making Jaipur Airport which is also called Saangner Airport an International Airport. Its notification was issued on 15th October, 91. But people of eight villages who were the landowners of villages – Budhsinghpura, Manoharpura, Tillawala, Badh Tillawalla, Jagatpura, Khokhawala, Surajpura Ghati and Samai Gator land, had already sold their land to Cooperative Housing Societies. Farmers sold land to Housing Societies and Housing Societies sold land to other people. The middle class people purchased land from societies and constructed houses. This work of selling land took place between 1981 and 1991. The State Government said those societies who had sold such type of land before 1992 would be developed after taking development charges from landholders. 75 percent of Jaipur city has been settled like this only. The biggest problem which has arisen today is that where will 500-600 families go whose house are to be demolished. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please address the Chair. During "Zero-Hour" only one or two minutes are allowed. Speeches are not allowed during "Zero-Hour."

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Sir, it is my request to Government through you not to render them homeless. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay to speak.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, with your permission, I would like to raise an important issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : This is 'Zero Hour'. You can rebut him later but not now. I will call you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He cannot be allowed to raise a State matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody is raising only the State matter in the House. You also raise the State matter in the House. What is this ?

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, eleven villagers and landless labourers were brutally killed yesterday in Birbhum district. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay's version.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities are being tortured and murdered. . . .*(Interruptions)*

The Trinamool Congress Party was recognised by the Election Commission of India from 1st January, 1998. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot object the Member when I called him. What type of behaviour is this ?

(interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : From the 1st January, 1998 to 27th July, 2000, 754 political clashes took place; 250 persons were killed, out of which 76 per cent belong to our party, the Trinamool Congress Party. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bandyopadhyay, you cannot read the entire text. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : About 4000 persons injured; about 2500 houses have been burnt. . . .*(Interruptions)* The CPI(M) has become arrogant. They are spreading violence. . . .*(Interruptions)* We demand

*Not recorded.

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

imposition of article 356. . . .(Interruptions) Parliamentary democracy has failed. They have become violent.

. . .(Interruptions) They are killing the innocent people everyday. . . .(Interruptions) We request the hon. Home Minister to intervene. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri T. Govindan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : The hon. Home Minister is here. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot compel the Home Minister to give a Statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Advani.

(Interruptions)

12.22 hours

(At this stage Dr. Ram Chandra Dome and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper way. Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How can you stop the Minister ? What is this ? What is the rule under which you are protesting ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri. T. Govindan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI. T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Defence regarding the matter of termination of 80 soldiers who belong to Kerala for political reasons. . . .(Interruptions)

Since then, these discharged servicemen were representing their grievances before the Defence Minister. Though these soldiers were dismissed long back, no action has been taken so far. In one such case – Shri T.V. Thampan Vs. Adjunct General 1993(2) KLT 1012 judgement dated 5.8.93 the hon. High Court of Kerala directed the Union of India to reinstate the petitioner. Further, Shri P.P. Kumaran, Kappad in Kannur district of Kerala and 79 others filed petition in the hon. High Court of Kerala and in their case High Court directed the Union of India to dispose of their case vide judgement dated 27.1.98. But the Central Government has not taken action in this matter. . . . (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

These youth joined in the military because of their patriotism to their motherland are now depressed due to the Government's action to dismiss them from service. This is injustice. So, I urge the Minister of Defence to immediately give the compensation to these petitioners as directed by the hon. High court of Kerala without any further delay in the matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. A.K. Premajam.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing your Member also to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Your Member is raising the issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Is this the way ? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing your Member also to speak. Please understand that. Nothing should go on record except Prof. A.K. Premajam's statement.

(Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter, that is, the women's reservation in Parliament and State Legislatures, in the House. This subject is not only agitating the minds of all women but also all right-thinking men all over the nation. . . . (Interruptions) It finds no place in the List of Business expected to be taken during this Session. Our hon. President in his Address to the Joint Session of Parliament, soon after the formation of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, assured the nation that the Government proposes to reserve 33 per cent of the seats in Parliament and State Legislatures for women. . . .(Interruptions) It is now nine months since the assurance is given, nothing has happened. Not only that, in the beginning of next year, State Assembly Elections are going to be held in States like Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala. There, the women will be denied the opportunity. . . .(Interruptions) In the name of consensus, there is inordinate delay and unconstitutional functioning. Normally, Parliamentary procedures are bypassed. This is nothing short of double standard and hypocrisy. . . .(Interruptions) In other important Bills like the Insurance Regulatory Development Act, no consensus was taken.

Now, what is the position of the Women's Reservation Bill ? I appeal to the Government to take up the matter immediately in this Session. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you to go to your seats. There are other Members also to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yogi Aditya Nath.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards rampant corruption prevalent in Indian Council of Medical Science. . . . *(Interruptions)* M.C.I. has become a place of corruption. It was published in newspapers of 25th July and 27th July that after a scam in Medical College, recognition case and recovery of huge sums of money in raid, Senior doctors demanded resignation of Dr. Ketan Desai. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Yogi Aditya Nath says.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Sanjay Paswan, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Today 40 hon. Members have given notices to make their submissions. But you are not allowing them to make their submissions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not correct. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Sir, it is a very sad situation. If these facts are true then the Chairman of the M.C.I. should be dismissed and legal action taken. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to the statement made by Shri Ram Jethmalani in the Press yesterday. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That issue is already over. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

(Interruptions)

12.27 hours.

(At this stage, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me also. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not finished. Let me finish my statement. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That issue is over. The Prime Minister has already made a statement on that issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I am not referring to the Prime Minister's Statement . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What more do you want ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I want to refer to the statement made by Shri Ram Jethmalani and not the Prime Minister's statement. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : With reference to that only the Prime Minister has made a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? This is not correct.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, Shri Ram Jethmalani has issued a statement alleging certain very serious irregularities against the Chief Justice of India and the Attorney General and I want to refer to that. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you are senior Member. You know the rules very well. You were a Speaker of the State Assembly also earlier. Please understand that once the Leader of the House has made a statement, you cannot refer to the same issue once again.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : No, Sir. I am not referring to the Prime Minister's statement. I am only referring to the statement made by Shri Ram Jethmalani.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We do not have any provision in the Rules of Lok Sabha to refer to the statement after it has been made.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I shall speak only about the statement of Shri Ram Jethmalani which he had made to the Press yesterday . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are helping the Chair everyday. Why are you not helping the Chair today ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am helping you.

MR. SPEAKER : If you are helping the Chair, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I am referring to the statement made by the former Law Minister. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That issue is over now. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir once again I would like to draw the attention of the House and Government towards a very important issue. Yesterday only the Income Tax Department and the C.B.I. conducted raids in Bangalore and Tamil Nadu. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi, two days back you have raised the same matter.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, I did not complete it that day. Please allow me to complete it today. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How can you raise this matter everyday ? Moreover, it is under the investigation of the CBI.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, this is an important issue.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi, you are a Supreme Court advocate. Please understand the position. Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot raise the same matter once again in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I want to know why the search warrants which had been issued were withdrawn by the Government what was the pressure on the Government.
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency matters relating to providing jobs and compensation on a large scale to displaced persons and dependants of companies invalid workers on compassionate grounds are lying pending in Central Coal Fields Limited and Bharat Cooking Coal Limited. And due to managerial deficiency the matter is not being finalised.

Therefore the Government is requested to fix a time limit for providing compensation to dependants of workers and displaced persons and jobs on compassionate grounds in C.C.L. and B.C.C.L. And action be taken against officials who are responsible for pending the matter. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we are not referring to the matter which is being investigated by the CBI.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Alvi, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Our concern is that when Income-Tax Officers went to raid the house of the President of the Samata Party, a direction came from the Ministry of Finance. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Acharia says.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Income-Tax Officers were asked to come back. . . .(Interruptions) Afterwards, the same person – the President of the Samata Party – misused the residence of the Minister of Defence.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He made a statement. . . .(Interruptions) This is an interference in: the investigation. We want a categorical statement from the Government as to who issued the order. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary will speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katiyar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through the House towards welfare of farmers in regard to charging of discriminatory rent by cold storages. As compared to Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal there is shortage of cold storages in Bihar. As a result of this lots of difficulties are faced in storing potatoes, onion, fruit and other commodities. Therefore, rent is charged arbitrarily from farmers and farmers are in trouble. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only the statement of Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you unnecessarily disturbing the proceedings? Shri Choudhary, please complete your statement.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand farmers are neglected and exploited to

such an extent that while Rs. 72 per quintal in Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 64 per quintal in West Bengal are charged as rent for keeping their commodities in cold storages. In Bihar rent is charged from Rs. 130 to 150 per quintal which is clearly discriminatory.

Therefore my request to Government is to remove this difference in rent immediately and fix equal rent for commodities in cold storages for the welfare of farmers. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not being heard, I am staging a walkout as a protest.

12.35 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Rashid Alvi and some other Hon. Members left the House)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Sir, I want to raise a very serious matter regarding attack on Shri A.K. Antony. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Suresh, how can you raise a State matter here?

(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, Shri A.K. Antony is the Leader of Opposition in Kerala Assembly. He is a reputed national leader also. Yesterday, while he was going to attend some public function, some anti-social elements. . . .(Interruptions) stopped his car and tried to attack him. . . .(Interruptions) The police did not give him any protection. . . .(Interruptions) The CPM led Government did not give any protection to him. . . .(Interruptions) The goonda and anti-social elements are behind this attack on Shri Antony. . . .(Interruptions)

Sir, the law and order situation in Kerala has totally broken down. People are fed up with the CPM Government there. . . .(Interruptions) I, therefore, appeal to this hon. House to unitedly condemn this issue. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised your point. There are others also who want to raise their matters. Please understand. Shri G.L. Bhargava.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAWA (Jaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are very less industries in Rajasthan for working of labourers. Amongst them Jaipur Metals And Electricals Limited Factory is in Jaipur City. For want of money this factory is lying closed since long. The State

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargawa]

Government is incapable of reviving it. The State Government's Minister Dr. Chander Bhan informed me if Union Government provides financial assistance, workers working in this factory could be provided help. . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Shri G.L. Bhargawa's speech.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAWA : Therefore I request you to ask the State Government to review this factory and whatever financial assistance Union Government can provide in it, should provide immediately. Thank you. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER Please take your seat.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I belong to the pious city of Varanasi. It is a pilgrimage centre of the Buddhas Janis and Hindus. Many foreign tourists also visit this place since it is a tourist centre as also a commercial centre. Carpets, different varieties of sarees toys etc. made in Varanasi are exported through out the world. Varanasi and Bhadohi are the two cities which provide maximum foreign currency in Uttar Pradesh. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Shri Jaiswal's speech.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : I would request you that arrangements for direct train from Varanasi in the night reaching Delhi in the morning, may be made, similarly, direct trains from Varanasi to Calcutta and Bangalore may also be started. *I have drawn the attention of the Government towards this fact in the 11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on in the House ? Please take your seat. I am on my legs. You are not listening to me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : But Ministry of Railway has not provided this facility as yet, due to which a lot of anger is there amongst the people of Varanasi. Tourists have to face a lot of problems for reaching there in the absence of train facility. I would request the Government that the train facility may immediately be provided there.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of Government towards the fact that Sardar Sarovar Project which is located at the borders of Gujarat and Maharashtra and due to which the tribals of that area are re-habilitated somewhere else, is a matter of grave concern. As per the award made under the Sardar Sarovar Project, agricultural land which is being provided to the tribal farmers for their rehabilitation, is a non-irrigation land. There are no arrangements for irrigation in these fields. For 25 acres of land, one water reservoir (Bawri) and one bore well is being provided, but infact it has been said that in the award of Sardar Sarovar Project, land with irrigation facilities would be provided in this rehabilitation. I demand that these schemes may be implemented as the land given to these people is only on papers. They have not got any land even after five-six years. I, therefore, demand that these people may be given compensation by the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Gavit, you cannot read the entire statement in the 'Zero Hour'.

Now, Dr. V. Saroja

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the Sethu Samudharam project of Tamil Nadu. Forty years have since passed but this scheme has not been implemented so far.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this scheme and also to give its reaction to my two specific questions. The Planning Commission has been requested to provide an outlay of Rs. 5 crore in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 for the preparation of a detailed feasibility report and also for the environmental aspect assessment study on this project. I would like to know whether the report

*Not recorded.

has been given. Also I would like to know whether the Government of India has initiated any talk with the Sri Lankan Government, and if so, what are the details.

The hon. Defence Minister has announced that this scheme would be implemented in two stages, the first stage within four years, and the second stage within six years after the first stage. I would like to know as to what is happening exactly to this project. Also my leader, Dr. J. Jayalalitha, has requested the hon. Prime Minister to implement this scheme at the earliest.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG (Koraput) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with profound regret, I wish to tell you that on 27.6.2000 hon. Minister for Tribal Affairs had come to Kashipur in Koraput district to inaugurate an L.P.T. centre and I was not even informed of that. Please take cognizance of such matters. If any Minister of the Government makes a visit to any MPs Constituency then information of his visit is given to the MP and I was not even informed of this inaugural function. So, with great regret, I am saying this to you that please deliberate upon this and it may not be repeated with any other MPs in future. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member says that she has not been invited.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is replying. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I very much agree with the views of hon. Member that if inauguration of any of the work of Central Government is done in some MPs Constituency then the concerned MP should be invited in such function. And not only invitation, but he should be given due respect in such a function. If such thing does not happen then I think to such a Minister or inaugural function, would. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : The concerned Member should be given a due place in the function. That is the controversy.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I am also receiving a number of complaints from the hon. Members about the inauguration of LPTs, telecom exchanges and other things. So, the Government may send a circular to all the Ministers to that effect.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : You give a direction. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear what the Minister is going to tell us.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I have already said the same thing in Hindi which he is asking me to repeat in English.

[Translation]

When I have said that he should be "respected" then it means the same.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : You say now in English please.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am trying to use Hindi while replying because it is rarely used in the House. Sir, definitely, I will personally write to all the Council of Ministers about your directions or orders that when they go to different constituencies, they must first inform the concerned Member of Parliament from that constituency.

MR. SPEAKER : The complaint is not against the Minister, but against the officials of the Department concerned.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please clarify this point. Who will preside ? You frame a guideline. The Member of Parliament elected by 10.5 lakh people will preside. He should be respected properly. He is going everywhere.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The concerned official should be informed.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his speech. He is telling us about the general guidelines.

(Interruptions)

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU (Pudukkottai) : Please give me a minute to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his speech first, after that you can speak, and not now.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As I said, Sir, they should be informed; they should be requested to come to the function; they should be given proper attention; and they

[Shri Pramod Mahajan]

should be on the dais. Now with regard to the point, whether to preside or not to preside, sometimes the Chief Minister is there in the same function, then there is a difficulty. Otherwise, it is better that the Member of Parliament from that constituency should preside and the Minister should inaugurate. So, these general guidelines can be made. It cannot be as rules. But I will write it to all Members of Council of Ministers. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sometimes, the MPs are invited but they are not given due honour. Others are considered as chief guests. That you check clearly. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I said that they should be on the dais. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to an urgent matter of public importance through you.

Sir, recently the Central Government has taken an important decision though in my perception it is anti-people because they have decided to discontinue the Central assistance in the programme for the supply of safe drinking water to the arsenic, fluoride and other heavy matters contaminated affected areas. Many States are facing this problem of contamination of arsenic, fluoride and other heavy matters. In my State, hundreds and thousands of people are affected because of arsenic and fluoride. A project was going on with a matching grant from both the Centre and State. Seventy-five per cent of the Central assistance goes to the State under this programme. But recently the Central Government has decided to discontinue the Central assistance in this programme. We will be affected badly. There is a public health problem in different States in this country.

So, I urge upon the Government to review the decision and continue the Central assistance to supply safe drinking water to those arsenic, fluoride and other heavy matters contaminated affected areas throughout the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Very good.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that in Rajasthan Aravali Plantation Project had started in 1992-93 with collaboration of OECF, Japan and 1 lakh 49 thousand hectare of forest land and common land were to be covered under this Plantation programme. A lot of participation of people had also been ensured with this programme. Poor and rural

tribals had also got employment there and a feeling of protecting the forests had also come amongst the people, but after the Pokhran Nuclear Test, unfortunately Japan also stopped its help. I mean to say that the total cost of this project was 555.75 crore rupees, but due to sanctions OECF, Japan has not given its approval for the project. Due to end of this project, plans for plantation in the States have also become mild and if approval is not given, then many administrative problems would arise in the State. So, through you, I request Government of India that the Finance Ministry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, may after talks with the Japanese Government and OECF, Japan, may take action for the approval of this project because this project would be very helpful in stopping deforestation, as also bio-diversity in the Aravali hill range and would also help in maintaining the ecology and providing employment to the poor and rural tribals and thus would improve the existing condition.

[English]

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur) : Hon. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that six fishermen of South Tamil Nadu area, Tiruchendur have been missing and their family members are feeling miserable. The Government of Tamil Nadu has tried its best to trace them but could not trace them. It is feared that they have been captured by the Sri Lankan Government.

I request the Government to take appropriate action.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Recently the Union Cabinet has diluted the mandatory movement with regard to the use of jute one hundred per cent, in respect of foodgrains and sugar and also 20 per cent in respect of urea. This will seriously affect the jute industry, lakhs of jute growers and also all those engaged in the jute trade.

We had already met the Prime Minister and requested him to reconsider the decision because the inter-ministerial group has already recommended that such dilution should not be made in the case of foodgrain, one hundred per cent mandatory packaging should be there in the case of sugar also one hundred per cent packaging and 20 per cent in respect of urea. Unfortunately, I cannot but mention that long before the decision was taken by the Union Cabinet some very important petro-chemical industrial house had in its annual general report and in a federation meeting said that the Government was going to dilute the position with regard to mandatory use of jute. This is most unfortunate. Still there is scope now. The Prime Minister has been requested about it. Not less than one crore of people are involved, not only in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam but also in Andhra Pradesh. We have appealed to the Government and through this House we again appeal

to the Government. This will be disastrous to the Eastern part of the country, the jute industry and the jute growers.

At a time when the whole world is taking interest in the eco-friendly golden fibre the Government should not take such a disastrous decision. They should continue the mandatory Jute Packaging Act, 1987 and ensure the use of jute.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue during Zero Hour. There is only one agriculture university in entire Marathwada region. Fortunately that agriculture university is in my constituency. The teachers and employees of Marathwada agriculture University have not received any sort of payment for the last three months. There are around four and a half thousand employees in that University. My submission is that especially class III and Class IV employees are starving. They are on strike and they are planning to sit on dharna. Since it is sowing season and the university is facing financial constraint, therefore all research work in the university have come to a halt.

Sir, through you. I would like to convey it to the Government that almost 4000-4500 employees of Marathwada Agriculture University have not been paid their salary for the three months. Please initiate some proper steps and ensure that arrangements are made especially for the payment of poor employees of Class III and Class IV.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.) Mr. Speaker, Sir, since Ministry of Defence started recruitment on the basis of population, it has affected adversely some of the hill States. Even Himachal Pradesh has felt its impact. Youth of Himachal Pradesh feel pride in joining armed forces and serving the nation. I am proud of telling that during Kargil war more armed forces personnel belonging to Himachal Pradesh became martyr in proportion to its population. Two Param Vir Chakras out of a total four were awarded to Himachalis. Now many people are becoming martyr in Seira Leone. I would like to request you that keeping in view the preparedness of the youth to join armed forces and to serve the nation, the rules of recruitment on the basis of population be changed so that the people who are willing to join armed forces can get an opportunity.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, today the condition of farmers of Bihar is quite pitiable. Cooperative, the main source of income and mainstay of agriculture in villages is dying. Farmers are losing lives and property worth crores of rupees because of floods caused by rivers flowing from Nepal. Every year

hundreds of villages lose their land because of erosion and displaced people are neither rehabilitated nor any sort of financial aid is provided to them.

Greatest injustice is done to the farmers when a farmer or a peasant takes loan from Land Development Bank or from any other Bank and is unable to repay it because of loss of crops, flood, drought or any other natural calamity, he is arrested and farmers are forced to pay jeep fare, which has been brought to arrest him, and expenditure for police force and also Rs. 42 per day as meal charges in case he is locked in jail. Even thieves, dacoits, murderers are not treated in this way. Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon Government of India that even 50 years after independence farmers of Bihar are maltreated in respect of recovery of loan whereas the Government do not recover loan from many people and what is the fault of these farmers that you recover interest from them and put them in jail and also recover expenses incurred in jail. Action should be taken in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I have given a notice because my subject was minority issue.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given a notice on rubber. You should speak on rubber only.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : He should not stretch it too much.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the farmers cultivating rubber are facing serious difficulties. The Government has declared a floor price. But there is a rule that as per the notification it should be published in the official Gazette. That has not been done so far. Since it has not been published in the official Gazette, the Government is not duty-bound to give that price. But if it is published in the official Gazette, as statutorily required, then the Government will be duty bound to see that the farmer gets at least that minimum support price.

So, I request the Government of India to immediately take necessary action to notify the already declared price, though it is far too low. We are requesting that the price should be increased. But even the price which has already been declared is not published. There has been a direction from the hon. High Court of Kerala directing the Government of India to do this. But they have not done.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, through you, Sir, to intimate the Minister of Commerce so that immediate action will be taken and the Government will not be answerable for contempt of court also.

13.00 hours

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the Public Distribution System prevailing in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh and in other States. Under Public Distribution System 'Mid day Meal' is provided to the people living below poverty line. 80 thousand tons of rice is collected as levy from 12 rice mills in Lormi tehsil of Bilaspur district. This levy rice is sent to FCI quota. For transportation of this rice of FCI quota 35 kms. away, an expenditure of Rs. 10 lakhs is incurred. Again, from FCI quota this rice is given for Mid day Meal to the poor people living below poverty line. Hence the Government loses Rs. 10 lakhs. This sort of loss is common in every godown of FCI. If this sort of loss is avoided, crores of rupees going in vain can be saved. If an arrangement can be made to keep the rice in the godown there itself and from there if it is given to the people living below poverty line and also for the mid day meal for school children, then the expenditure being incurred on its transportation can be saved and that money can be utilised for other developmental works in the country. Thus it can contribute towards national development.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a matter of great concern. The Minister of Steel is not here now. The employees of Hindustan Steel Construction Limited all over India, particularly in Durgapur, Bokaro and Rourkela, are not getting their salary. In the case of Durgapur, the workers have not got their wages for the last 13 months and the officers have not got their salary for one-and-a-half year. In Durgapur Steel Plant, Rs. 4 crore State dues of the H.S.C.C. are lying pending. I have already told the Minister that the management of Durgapur Steel Plant is not releasing the money. If the M.D. releases the money, they will get at least four months' salary. Yesterday I got information from Durgapur that the DSP management is ready to release the money but it is not ready to release Rs. 4 crore. M.D. is ready to release Rs. 2 crore and he is saying that they have to sign for Rs. 4 crore. What is it? I know the present Minister of Steel is new to this Ministry and the Secretary also is new. So, when we sat together, they were not understanding this. Neither was the Secretary nor was the Minister understanding it. So, the workers are not getting their wages. One worker has already died in May last. Now the workers have gone to the court. The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is here. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : But you are not allowing the Minister to give reply.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : He should tell the House why the amount which is already lying with the management of Durgapur Steel Plant, is not being released. The MD of Durgapur Steel management says that he will give only Rs. 2 crore but they have to sign for Rs. 4 crore. Why it is going on? The Minister should respond to this.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. Now Shrimati Renu Kumari.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : No, Sir. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here.

MR. SPEAKER : How can the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs give the answer off-hand?

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : It is a matter of great concern, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is not like this.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you gave me an opportunity to speak therefore I am thankful to you.

I am raising one very important issue. Whatever Centre sponsored grant is released to Bihar gets misappropriated. The Minister for Rural Development had given an assurance that an M.P. will be made Chairman of DRDA, but despite this assurance, no M.P. has been made Chairman of DRDA so far. We have learnt that MLAs in Bihar are made Chairman of DRDA, which is very sad. An MLA represents only one constituency of Legislative assembly whereas an M.P. represents at least six legislative assembly constituencies. It is a matter of disgrace for their coveted post. Therefore, through you, I urge Rural Development Minister to appoint an M.P. as Chairman of DRDA at the earliest. Otherwise I would like to say that in Bihar MLA and the collector together misutilise the entire money released by Central Government. Members of Parliament are not given importance. When MP's say that this amount belongs to Central Government then the local legislators say that. . . .(Interruptions) Please do not interrupt. With great difficulty I have got an opportunity. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the collector is threatened that if he spends the amount released by Central Government as per the recommendations of an M.P., he will be transferred and will be sent to secretariat. It so happened in Bhagalpur district. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, if a looter involved in Animal Husbandry scam becomes a legislator then you can imagine what shall the state of affairs in that

State. Therefore, the Central Government should take action immediately. Earlier also several Members of Parliament from Bihar have written in this regard. Sir, as you are aware that in Bihar Rs. one and a half crore are provided to a Legislator under L.A.D. scheme. You know Bihar is a poor State where there is no money for development. Government of Bihar has transferred the amount meant for RGO, PWD and District Scheme to MLA's LAD Scheme. Bihar Government takes credit for the funds released by Central Government for Indira Awas Yojana, Integrated Rural Employment Programme and Jawahar Rojgar Yojana etc. taking a plea that entire funds belong to Bihar Government. Thereby Central Government remains nowhere in picture. My submission is that the funds allocated for these schemes should be transferred to MPLAD Scheme and an M.P. should be made Chairman of DRDA. If you act upon this, poor State like Bihar will be benefitted.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers are troubled by the import policy of Government of India. This year our farmers had a bumper crop of edible oil, Rayda and Garlic. But, consequent upon its import by Government of India, our farmers are finding it difficult to sell their mustard seed and farmers are not getting even cost price of Rayda and Garlic. In China Garlic is sold at Rs. 3-4 a kilogram whereas cost of Garlic in India comes around Rs. ten per kg. Therefore, the farmers of Rajasthan, especially Jodhpur, are so much worried. Rayda is not being sold at Rs. 600. Hence they are unable to pay electricity bills and they are resorting to suicide. My submission is that excise duty on imported Garlic and edible oil be increased so that Indian farmers, especially of Western Rajasthan and Jodhpur can survive.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 25th of July, when Shivsena Supremo hon'ble Bala Saheb Thakre was going to court arrest himself, we felt as if Government of Maharashtra had disrupted the telephone services. Not only the telephones of M.P.'s and legislators and other office bearer of Shiv Sena were dead but telephones of other places also were dead. That day telephones remained dead for two and a half hours. The Times of India and some other newspapers carried news item in this regard. Sir, not only normal telephones, even cellular phone services were switched off, be it of BPL or MTNL or any other company. This incident created a serious situation in Maharashtra. That time none could contact anyone. I too could not make a telephone call to my constituency. Through you, I would like to request Communication Minister to enquire into this incident. Telephones are under Central Government and no one can disrupt these services. Therefore, this matter should be enquired. *.(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from Jharkhand area. Ministry of Rural Development have given direction that the work relating to construction of bridges and culvert which earlier used to be taken up under Assured Employment Scheme and Jawahar Rojgar Yojana will now be transferred to District Plan. But, recently as per direction of Ministry of Rural Development, construction of long distance roads has been stopped and the Ministry has stated that large culverts will not be constructed. It has not been clarified as to which bridge will come under the category of major bridge, i.e. costing Rs. 5 lakhs, 20 lakhs or 50 lakhs. Under previous directions, work was being done smoothly. Earlier, the Collector was authorised to sanction works costing upto Rs. twenty five lakhs and the Commissioner was authorised to sanction works costing upto Rs. fifty lakhs. Now this authorisation has been withdrawn. An area will be developed only when the roads and bridges are constructed over there. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to revive earlier direction given by Ministry of Rural Development so that development work can be started immediately.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just a week ago I came across a newsitem that wife of Hon'ble Governor Shri Rangarajan was injured when roof of Andhra Pradesh Raj Bhawan collapsed. I was very sad to have read it and I felt that perhaps the Raj Bhawan was constructed during Nizam's time. The condition of some of the bungalows used by MP's or Ministers is very bad. Recently, I have been allotted 12-A Windsor place. Two months ago, a wall collapsed with a thud. Incidentally I escaped, since it fell towards my legs and not toward my head. Similarly, yesterday wall of the porch also collapsed. Thank god, it was during night, otherwise if any child would have been playing he would have died. Sir, through you, I would like to convey that the bungalows being allotted to us are 80-90 years old, constructed during Lutyen era. I urge the Government to check and it will be found that roofs are leaking and they are being covered with bitumen sheets. I warn the Government that if these roofs are not replaced immediately there may be a great tragedy. Therefore, through you I request the House that special attention should be paid in this regard and these bungalow should be repaired, the roofs be replaced so that the life and property of the people can be safe.

13.14 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

14.23 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty-three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, I heard on television that the Rajya Sabha is discussing the issue of Shri Jethmalani. Why not this House be privileged to discuss it? Are we not entitled to know about it? We also have the right to debate that issue. The Members of this House also have the right to know. This issue is being debated in the other House. This House also is a privileged House. It is Lok Sabha.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, please direct the Government to place the documents, as referred by the former Law Minister, on the Table of this House. Let all the Members know about it. Let us peruse the documents. Let us know as to what are the contents of the documents.

14.24 hours

IRON AND STEEL COMPANIES (AMALGAMATION AND TAKEOVER LAWS) REPEAL BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up Bill for consideration and passing.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill to repeal the Iron and Steel Companies Amalgamation Act, 1952, and the Indian Iron and Steel Company (Taking over of Management) Act, 1972, be taken into consideration".

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Iron and Steel Companies (Amalgamation) Act, 1952 was enacted with the sole purpose of merger of Steel Corporation of Bengal Limited with the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited and for facilitating dissolution of the Steel Corporation of Bengal Limited. The Act has served its purpose and there is now no need for retaining this Act on the Statute book.

14.26 hours

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

The Indian Iron and Steel Company (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1972 was enacted to take over the management of Indian Iron and Steel Company for a period of two years from 14th July, 1972 which was extended to five years. This period of five years also expired on 15th July, 1977. In the meanwhile, the Indian Iron and Steel

Company (Acquisition of Shares) Act, 1976 was passed by Parliament by which the company was taken over by the Government of India, and subsequently under the provisions of the Steel Companies (Restructuring) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1978, the Indian Iron and Steel Company was restructured by making it a subsidiary of the Steel Authority of India Limited. As the Indian Iron and Steel Company (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1972 has served its purpose, it is considered necessary to repeal the Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to repeal the Iron and Steel Companies Amalgamation Act, 1952, and the Indian Iron and Steel Company (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1972, be taken into consideration."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Iron and Steel Companies (Amalgamation and Takeover Laws) Repeal Bill, 2000.

This is not a simple Bill. We opposed the Bill at the time of its introduction also. That is because we need to see as to what the intentions behind bringing this Bill are.

This Bill was enacted in 1918 and then subsequently in 1984. IISCO has a history. IISCO was the first steel plant in our country. Two steel plants were set up in our country – IISCO and TISCO – in one year and in one District. There was one District from Jamshedpur to Saraikala up to Burdwan. Why were these steel plants set up in that area a hundred years ago? It was because there were some locational advantages in that area. Coal and iron ore, which are the raw materials for production of steel, were available in that District.

When the Indian Iron and Steel Company was set up, it was under the British rule. Subsequently it was handed over to a private party. Later, it was nationalised. It was taken over in 1972. Subsequently in 1974 IISCO was nationalised. What was the purpose of this nationalisation? What was stated at that point of time as the object of nationalisation of IISCO, as the Government of India admits now, was to secure improvement in the management and production through programmed investment for modernisation.

So, the main object was to have a better management. How was this better management and production possible? It was possible through programme investment, and by investment for modernisation.

Sir, if I say that nothing has been invested for IISCO, it will be untrue. There had been some investment. At the initial stage after nationalisation, Rs. 43 crore was spent. Why was this money spent just after nationalisation? This

money had been put into it by the Government of India practically to get IISCO readjusted with the Steel Authority of India Limited. It was not for modernisation or replacement.

Then Sir, subsequently, Rs. 600 crore had been spent. But what for? Was that money spent for its modernisation? No. That money was not spent for its modernisation. A substantial portion of the said amount went waste because of very ad hoc character, without any well-knit programme. I am not talking about pre-nationalisation period. I am talking about post-nationalisation period, that is, since 1974. For the last 26 years, whatever money has been spent for IISCO, all that has gone waste because that was not spent for modernisation, for the replacement of machinery. I have visited that plant a number of times. I have seen the plant which was set up in 1925. That plant is still functioning.

Sir, we have been clamouring on the floor of this House for the last 10 to 15 years for the modernisation of this plant. We will be able to save IISCO if its modernisation takes place. IISCO is one of the very important steel plants of our country. It is an integrated steel plant. It has its own advantages. It has its own iron ore mine which is the best in the world. Japan was interested to take over its iron ore mine. IISCO has got the reserves of more than 2,000 lakhs tonnes of iron ore. If we calculate the value of the reserves of its iron ore, it comes to more than Rs. 10,000 crore.

Sir, IISCO has the best iron ore mines, namely, Chiria Mine and Mohanpur Mine. It also has its own coal mine. Its Chasnala coal is the best quality coal. Its ash content is much less. It has its own washery also. The best quality coal is produced by it.

We have 16 to 17 washeries in our country whose ash content is about 22-23 per cent.

The Chasnala coal washery produces coal with an ash content of 17 per cent because of the quality of coal. It has its own huge and well-planned township. It has a lot of other facilities also. We do not have such facilities in any other steel plant except IISCO. But what is the fate of IISCO? What is the performance of IISCO?

Last year, as per the Annual Report of the Ministry, the steel plant produced 737.9 thousands tonnes of hot metal, 375.1 thousand tonnes of pig iron – IISCO is producing the best pig iron, 301.02 thousand tonnes of crude steel and 385.1 thousand tonnes of saleable steel. This was the performance of IISCO in 1998-99

What were the targets and achievements? You would be surprised to know that there has not been any

investment for modernisation. The pig iron and other steel materials are being manufactured by a plant that is fifty to seventy-years old. You would be surprised to know that during the year 1998-99, the target for hot metal was 725 thousand tonnes and the actual production was 737.9 thousand tonnes, the achievement being 102 percent. Can the hon. Minister give another example of any steel plant in our country whose achievement is more than a hundred per cent and that too in a plant that is fifty to seventy-years old? Also, there has been no investment in it for the last 26 years, after nationalisation.

The target of the plant for crude steel was 325 thousand tonnes and the output was 301.02 thousand tonnes. In the case of crude steel, the achievement was 93 per cent. Pig iron is the best product of IISCO and nowhere is such quality of pig available in or produced by any steel plant of the Steel Authority of India Limited. The target for pig iron was 342 thousand tonnes and the production was 375.1 thousand tonnes. The achievement was 110 per cent.

The target for saleable steel was 327 thousand tonnes and the output was 285.1 thousand tonnes. In this case, the achievement was 87 per cent.

The financial performance of the IISCO too, compared with other steel plants, is not bad at all. During 1998-99, the company achieved a turnover of Rs. 910.64 crore. The net loss for the year, after depreciation was Rs. 25.41 crore. If we include the interest burden, this will be much higher and if we exclude the interest burden, this is only Rs. 25.41 crore. If you compare it with other steel plants of the Steel Authority of India Limited, the loss incurred by IISCO is much less. Such is the performance of a steel plant of vintage period. That was the financial performance of a steel plant when there is sluggishness and when there is recession in the steel market of our country. This is the situation in the last two years. This was not there two years before. The Minister also knows this very well. It has been stated here in the Annual Report. Why is there any recession and why is there no recession in South Korea and China?

China is producing steel to the extent of 80 million tonnes or 90 million tonnes or 100 million tonnes. That is their target. But in spite of producing 100 million tonnes of steel, there is no recession. But in our country, there is recession. What is the reason? It is because the Government of India has reduced the customs duty on steel. Steel is coming from foreign countries and getting dumped in our country at a much cheaper rate. The multinational companies are grabbing our market. Not only did we open our doors for them, but also we have reduced the customs duty on steel. So, the imported coal and steel becomes cheaper than the indigenous coal and steel. The

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

price of indigenous steel is much higher than the imported steel. This is their swadeshi policy. They make the imported goods cheaper than the desi goods. That is why our markets are gradually getting reduced and the multinational companies are grabbing our markets.

There cannot be any argument to justify the criminal delay. Yes, there is a criminal delay. We have been hearing this for the last several years. There had been so many committees, which were appointed. Sometimes we hear that Russia was interested. At that time, Soviet Union was interested to modernise the Indian Iron and Steel Company. They also submitted a proposal. We do not know what happened to that proposal. Then the Japanese came forward with another proposal. They also showed interest. They also visited us. There had been several meetings. But there was no result. I do not know what action was taken thereafter, to get this vintage steel plant modernised.

Then came the Chinese, which is still continuing. When the discussion with the Chinese team was continuing, there was a global tender. A tender was issued in the midst of a discussion. That tender was a clear violation of the assurance given by the then Minister of Steel, Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam, when this Plant was nationalised.

He said that this plant is being nationalised in order to modernise it. So, the objective was to modernise that steel plant. Does the advertisement contain anything about modernisation? Was it just to sell a steel plant which has assets worth more than Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 40,000 crore. If we calculate the assets like iron ore and iron and steel, it would not be less than Rs. 30,000 crore or Rs. 40,000 crore. Was the advertisement just to sell a property worth Rs. 30,000 crore or Rs. 40,000 crore at a throw away price of Rs. 400 crore or Rs. 500 crore?

The Minister is a close friend of mine. He has recently taken over the charge of Ministry of Coal. I hope he would explain and would clarify as to why the modernisation is not being taken up. Why was modernisation of IISCO not included in the advertisement? Why was IISCO not merged with Steel Authority of India as it happened in the case of Bhadravati? It is less important. I am not objecting to that. When Bhadravati could be merged with SAIL, why not IISCO? Why IISCO was discriminated against? I hope the Minister will explain it. Is it just because it is located in the State of West Bengal? In IISCO, still there are more than 20,000 workers. From any district Purulia, on the other side of river Damodar, daily more than 3,000 workers go to IISCO to work as contract labourers. They are all tribal people. Thousands of workers are employed in coal mines and iron ore mines. What would happen to them? I was

told five or six parties are interested in IISCO? Why are they interested? Are they interested to run the steel plant efficiently? They are interested in the iron ore. Best quality of iron ore is available there. They are interested in coal because best quality of coal is available there. They are not interested in running the steel plant.

You know that the Members get an opportunity to speak, to ventilate their grievances. You understand the sentiments of Members more than anybody else does because you had been the Speaker earlier.

When a Bill for Denationalisation of IISCO was brought before the House, most probably in 1996, my friend Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev was the Minister. At that time, we opposed it and the Government had to withdraw it. A history was created when a Bill could not be introduced. A meeting was then called by the Speaker. We attended that meeting and a decision was taken that the Government of India would take all steps to modernise IISCO. Why was that not done? Why was it not merged with SAIL? If the Steel Authority of India could spend Rs. 6000 crore on the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant, or if it can spend more than Rs. 6000 crore on modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant, why cannot the Government of India spend a little more than Rs. 3000 crore on it so as to start the bare minimum production?

There was an agreement. Nowhere, the workers came forward. All the Unions, from CITU to INTUC, joined together. The Government of West Bengal also came forward. The Government of West Bengal also wanted to participate in the equity. Same is the case with the workers. When there was an agreement, why was that not finalised? A number of Parliamentary Committees were formed which gave a number of recommendations. The Petitions Committee of the Tenth Lok Sabha in its 8th Report spoke for a more attractive IISCO with 9 per cent internal return. After modernisation, the IIR in IISCO will be the highest. This is because of its own iron ore mine, coal mine and its own coal washeries as also because of the regular availability of power. In comparison to other steel plants of SAIL, IISCO could be modernised with the lowest investment and made a more attractive IISCO with 9 per cent internal return but was ignored. The Report says

"The Committee is distressed to note that the Government has procrastinated even after a long period of 21 years since the take over of IISCO".

After a long period of 21 years in take over of IISCO, the scheme for modernisation of Burnpur Steel Works has not been finalised due to one reason or the other. The Plant has continued to suffer due to indifference and

indecisiveness on the part of the Government. This is the 8th Report of the Petitions Committee of the Tenth Lok Sabha.

It is a unanimous recommendation of this Committee. There should not be any indecision and procrastination.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, you have taken more than half an hour.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have not spoken for half an hour. When you took over, I was in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are two more Members to speak. If you conclude, we could, at least, complete one Bill today.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Sir, if on a repeal Bill Shri Acharia takes that long, I wonder how much time he would take if he had to support a Bill !

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this Bill is a step towards privatisation. The Government wants to split this company. This Act was there for the last more than 25 years. One Act was enacted in 1918 and another in 1952. So, even after nationalisation in 1974, this Act continued. Then why does the Government feel it necessary to repeal this Act ? It is because they want to privatise IISCO. That is why, the repeal of this Act is necessary. I oppose this Bill. I urge upon the Government that IISCO should be merged with Steel Authority of India without any delay and funds should be made available for the modernisation of IISCO. If the discussions are going on with Chinese team, that should be finalised and IISCO should be modernised as a public sector undertaking. You do not privatise IISCO. Do not sell a property worth Rs. 30,000 crore to Rs. 40,000 crore at a throw away price.

SHRI E.M. SADARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, this Bill seeks to repeal an Act which had already become infructuous and has expired due to lapse of time and other things. But at the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that it was taken over in 1972 in view of the steady decline and deterioration in the production. This particular point is to be noted. Even though it becomes a subsidiary company of the SAIL, more attention should be given to better management and the production level should be looked into carefully so that the public sector undertaking could also earn. That type of attitude should be shown by the Government. It is because the purpose of bringing this type of Bill was to create more professional management on the side of the Government and to show that the Government can also manage nation's wealth properly. It need not be given to the private entrepreneurs alone. That was the purpose of taking over. When we are admitting

that all the things should be privatised, then we are also admitting that the bureaucracy which is managing these type of undertakings could not manage them according to the modern needs. Therefore, we have to develop the modern management system so that we are able to achieve the purpose of taking over an industry.

With these words, I support the Bill.

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of the Bill introduced by hon'ble Minister in this House. There is 10% larger steel productivity in India. The capital investment in the steel sector amounts to Rs. 90,000 crore and about five Lakh people are engaged in this sector. I would like to say that the Government has been merging one company after the other and this bill has been brought with this purpose only. Hon'ble Minister knew that the company which was being merged was not functioning properly but still they have acquired many such companies where in the Government of India had high stake. Steel is in core industry sector, as such the Government should take over its charge and run it. I am not opposed to this. The Government is also responsible to meet the requirement of the country. Earlier it was enacted for two years and subsequently it was extended for five years and now the five years period is over. In two years, an amount of 30 crore rupees has been spent on repair and modernization of the entire machinery and equipment of that company. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, since you have spent 30 crore rupees you will have to think whether the management of that company should be transferred to that company or not. The Government of India took over the management of coking coal mines and thereafter 1.5 crore rupees were spent on that company and the Government had to hand over the management to that company again. The Government says that they want to increase the production. For this mini steel plants should be set up. However the question remains why we incur losses ? Hindustan Steel Company has also incurred a loss of Rs. 178 crore. Durgapur Plant is also not working properly and management is also not upto the mark. The machinery is also not upto date. We have to take all these things into account. The Government of India should come forward with a steel policy. Our steel plants are not in a position to achieve their target of capacity utilization of 70%. Hon'ble Minister should address these points.

(Interruptions) The prices of steel are increasing continuously. Hence it is necessary to check this hike. The prices of all things such as jute, textiles or chemical machinery are increasing. Besides, we can also see that the prices of steel is increasing continuously. For Example, the prices

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

of locks, Razor blades and nut-bolt are increasing. The Government of India should formulate steel policy. During last 10 years, Japan has registered 200% growth in its steel production, Germany around 40% and France has registered 20% growth in its steel production. However, our steel production is on decline. This decline in the production need to be checked. An effort should be made to prevent the losses being incurred by Durgapur and Bhilai plants. Hence, the steel policy should be well formulated. But in this direction, in reality, we take one step forward and one step backward. Due to this, people are unable to understand the steel policy of Government of India. Hon'ble Minister has introduced this repeal bill to reveal steel policy. I welcome this Bill.

I thank you for giving me time to speak. With this, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very disheartening to note that the Bill to repeal the earlier laws relating to steel companies has been brought forward before the House. I stand to oppose it because it is one kind of hidden agenda of the NDA Government, namely, to privatise. So, I would like to make some points regarding this Bill to show how valuable is the factory. After nationalisation, Rs. 600 crore was pumped off from IISCO but no money was given to IISCO for modernisation.

I will give you some data regarding iron ore mines and coal mines. These mines are best in India. A Japan Company wanted to take it over. If the mines were taken over, they said they would modernise IISCO without any hesitation. I will give you some examples regarding the cost of the mines. There are iron ore mines at Cheria, Goa and Mohanpur. In the case of Cheria mines, the iron ore reserve is about two billion tonnes. The cost per tonne is Rs. 595 and if you multiply it, it comes to Rs. 1,19,000 crores. In the case of coal mines at Chasnala, Ramnagar and Jitpur, the reserve is about 200 million tonnes. The cost per tonne of coal is Rs. 2240 and when you multiply, the worth of total reserves comes to Rs. 46000 crore. The asset of the unit including the value of the infrastructure, the township and the plant including roads and schools will be around Rs. 242.50 crore. The value of vacant land around it comes to Rs. 220 crores. The asset inside the Integrated Steel Plant is worth Rs. 2500 crore. The asset of building both in the plant and township is Rs. 101 crore and the value of vacant land around Kulti is Rs. 10 crore and the asset inside the plant is Rs. 200 crore. If you calculate the net worth, it would be around Rs. 2 lakh crores.

Then, I request you to clarify some points. What are the total iron ore reserves in Cheria, Goa and Mohanpur Iron Ore Mines ? What is the total coal reserve at Chasnala, Ramnagar and Jitpur Mines ? What is the total market price of total deposits of iron ore and coal under IISCO Mines ? I want to know whether the Steel Authority of India has issued any advertisement expressing interest to sell or for Joint Venture of IISCO. What is the valuation of assets under IISCO management ? What is the reserve price of sale or Joint Venture of IISCO assets ? Can SAIL all together impose new conditions in its formal tender paper ? Has SAIL expressed its interest to sell or for Joint Venture of IISCO ?

I have three more question to clarify. Is the Joint Venture Company required to increase its production capacity and if so, upto what million tonnes ?

How many million tonnes do you expect ? Next, I would like to know whether the joint venture companies have to invest any amount of money and if it is so, what amount of money they have to invest for their revival. These questions are to be answered by the Ministry of Steel. The valuable assets of India are privatised. The officers in the Ministry have calculated the worth of the equity to the extent of Rs. 389 crore only. The value comes to 51 per cent only. It will fetch about Rs. 200 crore only. The point is that you are giving the equity, which is worth rupees two lakh crore, to the tune of only Rs. 200 crore. It is unfortunate that the Indian Government is losing its assets to a small amount which is paid by the private owners.

With these words, I again oppose this repeal Bill.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would only like to say that the modernization process in respect of Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro steel plants is going at a quite slow pace. As such we are not getting the benefits of modernization as desired. I strongly support the bill which Government has brought in order to repeal old companies. We are far behind in terms of energy consumption. It requires a lot of improvement. Even in our most modernized units, only 70% of their capacity utilization is being registered. In our factories, we are lacking proper handling facility of coal.

This is the age of liberalization and I am in favour of it. But our steel industry has to be at level playing field at domestic and global level in terms of quality and prices. Though India has become somewhat self-sufficient in the field of iron and steel. Our export is increasing and import is decreasing but the situation need to be further improved. I congratulate this Government for making efforts in this

direction. There is a need to remove all those obstacles which are influencing Production and Consumption alongwith this, productivity of steel plant should be kept at par with international standards.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me. It is with a lot of sorrow rather than anger that I rise to speak on a subject which is a classic example of what dilly-dallying and indecision can do to a perfectly fine enterprise. The IISCO, when it was nationalised in 1973, was declaring dividend even at that time. Nobody knows why it was nationalised. Out of absolute dogmatism and the total influence of the Soviet style philosophy, it was done. Anyway, it was done. But, over the years repeated attempts have been made to rescue the IISCO. Programmes have been drawn up. Plans have been made. But once again because of political trouble, those has gone out in 1989-90, everything was sorted out with the Japanese. The Japanese were anxious to come and collaborate to modernise the IISCO. But there was a change in the Government. The Government which came, I am sorry to say, handled it totally in an irresponsible manner. Because the previous Government had finalised the matter, it smelt a rat and blocked the whole thing for a long time. Then the Government appointed successive Committees. One Company, with the help of the Soviet Union wanted to come. But they did not come eventually because of the problem of not giving them enough authority. Then, an expert Committee was appointed which, after considering several options, recommended that it should be given to a private sector steel company which will come as partners Mukund Iron and Steel Company, let me say so. But once again political factors intervened. All kind of factors were brought in. The problem was just now solved.

Sir, I would appeal to you to visit the IISCO once. If you visit the IISCO, you will come to know what lamentable conditions the workers are working in. Sometimes they have to tie up the machinery with ropes because there is no money to really fix the machinery properly. Without any kind of a power house, without any kind of a proper equipment they are still producing some of the finest steel in the country. I can tell you that it is not a question of how it should be modernised. But the fact is that it must be modernised. My friends in the Trade Unions must cooperate. They must leave their political baggage behind.

Then try to cooperate for the speedy development of the industry. Labour should cooperate and bring about the modernisation of the company. Geographically, that is the finest location for any steel plant in the sub-continent. Finest location one can think of – confluence of two rivers;

confluence of two railway systems.; proximity of mines; proximity of iron ore and all that. It can easily be modernised but what is necessary is that the Government must take a firm decision here and now. I do not mind as to whether it is done by SAIL. But I personally feel that SAIL has many more problems on its head just now than modernising the IISCO. Therefore, we should not saddle SAIL with yet another problem when they are not able to solve their own problem.

Whether it is done by SAIL or whether it is given to a private sector party, I think, there will be no dearth of foreign parties to come in and take charge of modernising the IISCO. But we should shed off our political baggage. Everybody should cooperate. I have no doubt that IISCO can once again rise up like a sphinx to its own self as it was till 1971-72 when it was even declaring dividend and it was considered a better job to join the IISCO than even the Tata Iron and Steel Company those days.

I support this Bill. Thank you very much.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Will the Minister kindly inform that as far as the modernisation of the project is concerned, has Shri Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of West Bengal written a letter to the Minister of Steel to the effect that modernisation should be done through a private party – Swraj Paul ? If he could authenticate it, it is all right. If not, I can produce the xerox copy of the letter. I want it to be confirmed as to whether the Left Front Government has proposed that modernisation of the IISCO be given to private sector and not to the SAIL.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really grateful to the seven hon. Members who have participated on this Bill. I am grateful for their valuable suggestions. Definitely, I would look into all those suggestions. The motive attributed by the hon. Member, Shri Basu Deb Acharia is not correct. This is a very simple Bill. It is not meant for privatisation of IISCO. The real purpose is that the Department of Administrative Reforms had set up a Commission under the chairmanship of Shri P.C. Jain in May, 1998 to review laws and regulations, identifying proposals for amendments to existing laws and to make recommendations for repeal/amendments of laws.

The Commission has identified certain laws, which are no longer relevant and, therefore, can be repealed. For the Steel sector, the laws identified are

1. The Iron and Steel Company (Taking over of Management) Act, 1972.

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

2 The Iron and Steel Companies (Amalgamation) Act, 1952

Now these two Acts are proposed to be repealed.

The Iron and Steel Companies (Amalgamation) Act, 1952 (Act No 79 of 1952) was enacted to amalgamate the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited with the Steel Corporation of Bengal on the recommendation of the Tariff Board and the Tariff Commission. In the initial years, after Independence, when a serious shortage of steel was hampering the nation-building activities, it became imperative to eliminate duplication and wastage and ultimately reduce the cost of production in respect of steel. For this purpose, it was thought fit that the Steel Corporation of Bengal Limited, which had its works at Kulti, District Burdwan, West Bengal and the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited, Burnpur, District Burdwan, West Bengal, both of which were engaged in the manufacture and production of iron and steel, should be amalgamated. The amalgamation was thought necessary to give effect to the schemes of the Central Government for the expansion of the iron and steel industry and make available resources for such expansion.

The Act has now served its purpose and no action might have been left over, which has to be undertaken under or in accordance with the provisions of the said Act. It is, therefore, no more necessary to retain this Act in the Statute Book.

The management of Indian Iron and Steel Company was taken over initially for a period of two years, with effect from 14.7.1972 to secure its proper management. The period was extended for five years to complete restructuring and strengthening of the administrative set up of the company.

The said period of five years expired on 15.7.1977. Consequently, the Act is no longer operative. Subsequently, the Indian Iron and Steel Co. (Acquisition of Shares) Act, 1976 was passed and the company was completely nationalised. In 1978, IISCO became a subsidiary of SAIL under the Public Sector Iron and Steel Company (Restructuring and Miscellaneous) Act, 1978. Thus, the Act having served its purpose, is no longer operative and can be easily removed from the Book of Statute.

As I have explained, I would again state that these Acts have no relevance now and are in no way connected to the restructuring of SAIL, or to the proposed conversion of IISCO into a joint venture.

Sir, I would now like to reply to some of the specific point made by Shri Basu Deb Acharya. While I agree with the point raised by the hon. Member that there is necessity to modernise IISCO and the mines, money is also necessary for investment. As you know, so far as SAIL is concerned, it has no money for investment towards modernisation. So, it is now securing for joint ventures of some parities, who can invest money for the modernisation of IISCO.

I have taken note of all the other points made by the hon. Members and I will reply to them subsequently.

Sir, I now request the hon. Members to support this Bill.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to give an assurance for the modernisation of IISCO.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, we will take all the necessary steps for the modernisation of IISCO. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, what about the modernisation of IISCO? Since he is not giving an assurance for the modernisation of IISCO, I am walking out in protest.

15.23 hours.

At this stage, Shri Sunil Khan left the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to repeal the Iron and Steel Companies Amalgamation Act, 1952 and the Indian Iron and Steel Company (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1972, 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 :

"The 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 Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.24 hours

BORDER SECURITY FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up the Border Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Border Security Force Act, 1968 be taken into consideration."

I rise to move the Border Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2000, which was introduced by my senior colleague, the hon. Home Minister, in this House on the 25th July. This is an innocuous but beneficial Bill with far-reaching consequences, since it provides for justice and equity and also ensures fairness to the personnel of the Border Security Force also, which is already available to the civilians under Section 428 of the Criminal Procedure Code and to the Army personnel under Section 169A of the Army Act.

It is therefore, proposed to amend the Border Security Force Act, 1968 with a view to insert a new provision in the Border Security Force Act on the lines of Section 169A of the Army Act, 1950 and Section 428 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, to provide for setting off the period of pre-trial detention against the sentence of imprisonment imposed on a person governed by the Border Security Force Act, 1968 and the Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid object.

Incidentally, the Supreme Court also, in its judgement in 1996, has held that since Section 428 does not apply to the Border Security Force people, the Army Act has its own provisions and the civilians can also enjoy that benefit. That beneficial provision is there in the CRPC. This was missing so far. The Supreme Court had also drawn the attention to this side when they passed the judgement in a particular case. This was the Union of India and others *versus* Anand Singh Bisht in 1996.

This Bill is placed before this august House for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Border Security Force Act, 1968 be taken into consideration

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you have given an Amendment. Are you moving it ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) Sir I beg to move

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 29th December, 2000"

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) Sir I support the Bill. I also support this Amendment. But I want to add some points. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Home. The Border Security Force is deployed on the borders. They have some problems. They have some sorrows. That has also to be looked into. If the provisions of this Bill can cover this and give some relief to the BSF personnel, then, it is all right. If not, it has to be looked into how they could be covered by the Government.

It was first constituted in 1965. The present Act came into existence in 1968. Since then, the BSF has come a long way. As far as I know, the present strength of the BSF consists of 157 battalions. They are deployed to guard 7,411 kilometre long international border. It is very difficult to guard it from enemy's infiltration. They have also to perform many other recent responsibilities like preventing terrorism and insurgency. The Armed Forces are given the role and responsibility of promoting a sense of security amongst the people living in the border areas. The responsibility of preventing trans-border crimes help the administration in the maintenance of public law and order in inaccessible areas which isolated from the normal life of the whole society.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Either you conclude in a minute or we will continue next week. At 3.30 p.m., we have to take up Private Members' Business.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : An inadequate deployment is done for guarding the border check posts and border outposts. The forces foil the danger and threat from the enemy. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : An encroachment upon the Private Members' Business is not proper. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He said it in a different way. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : He cannot be a party to that because the time has been set apart. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can continue next time, Shri Choudhury.

Now we take up Item No. 16.

[English]

15.30 hours

MOTION RE: SIXTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to this House on the 27th July, 2000."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to this House on the 27th July, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we take up Private Members' Business.

[English]

15.31 hours

(i) *COMPULSORY VOTING BILL

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make voting compulsory in elections to legislative bodies in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make voting compulsory in elections to legislative bodies in the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.31½ hours

(ii) *STREET CHILDREN (REHABILITATION AND WELFARE) BILL

SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU (Narsapur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures to be undertaken by the Union and State Governments for the street children who subsist on collecting and selling waste materials from garbage dumps and other places endangering their health and lives and for their rehabilitation through education and guidance and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures to be undertaken by the Union and State Governments for the street children who subsist on collecting and selling waste materials from garbage dumps and other places endangering their health and lives and for their rehabilitation through education and guidance and for matters connected therewith or incidental there."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.32 hours

(iii) *RURAL AREAS (ELECTRICITY SUPPLY) BILL

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of a Rural Electricity Authority to ensure continuous electric supply to farmers to their agricultural activities and for providing at least single point connection to every dwelling unit in rural areas of the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of a Rural Electricity Authority to ensure continuous electric supply to farmers to their agricultural activities and for providing at least single point connection to every dwelling unit in rural areas of the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.33 hours

(iv) *DESTITUTE WOMEN WELFARE BILL

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of destitute women and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of destitute women and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.34 hours

(v) *OLD AGE PENSION AND REHABILITATION BILL

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension and provision of other rehabilitation facilities to old persons.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension and provision of other rehabilitation facilities to old persons."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.35 hours

(vi) *CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL
(Amendment of article 39)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : 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 RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.36 hours

(vii) *ACQUIRED IMMUNO DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION BILL

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention and control of the spread of Human Immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV) infection and to provide for specialised medical treatment and social support to and rehabilitation of persons suffering from Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention and control of the spread of Human Immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV) infection and to provide for specialised medical treatment and social support to and rehabilitation of persons suffering from Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

(viii) *FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.38 hours

(ix) *NATIONAL HIGHWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL
(Amendment of the Schedule)

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU (Pudukkottai) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Highways Act, 1956.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Highways Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.39 hours

(x) *CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL
(Insertion of new article 16A)

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : 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.

DR. V. SAROJA : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.40 hours

(xi) SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES AND BACKWARD CLASSES (RESERVATION IN SERVICES) BILL

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation in appointments to the services and posts in public sector undertakings, banks and autonomous bodies, private sector

enterprises and other organisations for the scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward classes and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation in appointments to the services and posts in public sector undertakings, banks and autonomous bodies, private sector enterprises and other organisations for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward classes and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.41 hours

(xii) *ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR IN HAZARDOUS EMPLOYMENT BILL

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of child labour in hazardous employment and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of child labour in hazardous employment and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.42 hours

(xiii) *FREEDOM OF RELIGION (REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS) BILL

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for removal of undue restrictions on freedom of religion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for removal of undue restrictions on freedom of religion."

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I appose this Bill. This Bill has been brought to repeal two Acts which is against the spirit of the Constitution. In the Article 26 of the Constitution it has been clearly stated that "subject to public order, morality and health, every religious denomination or any section thereof shall have the right to establish and maintain institution for religious and charitable purposes."

The hon'ble Member wanted to introduce this Bill in this House. I would like to inform him that three States have already enacted such law. In Rajasthan such law was enacted in 1954, in Madhya Pradesh this law was enacted in 1984 and in West Bengal this law was enacted in 1985. There are certain important reasons behind it. An ascetic like me is opposing this Bill as such it should be opposed everywhere. Certainly this is very important because religious places have been misused at several places, their property has been misused which should be prevented. A similar Act was passed recently by the Uttar Pradesh Legislature and sent to the Centre but some confusion was created about that. This Act has not been passed keeping in view a particular community but it will be equally applicable to all religions, communities and faiths of any form of worship. Why a particular community is objecting to this Act. There are several instance of law and order problem created due to unauthorised construction at public and religious places and misutilisation thereof. There have been certain reasons behind the laws enacted in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. In the existing law, there is no provision to check such activities. Therefore, those States enacted this law. Like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal, other States should also enact similar laws.

The Habeeb Bank is providing money for Construction of Madrasas in some areas particularly in the areas adjoining Indo-Nepal border. The objective of these Madrasas is reported to be to impart the Islamic education but reality is somewhat different. Virtually these Madrasas are the places of hiding and training of the Muslim militants. Several Madrasas are serving as training ground for terrorists. Dreaded militants are being trained in these Madrasas for the Militant outfits like Loshker-e-Taiba, Harkat-ul-Ansar, Al-Vark tanjim, Tanjim-ul-Jehad, Jammu and Kashmir liberation Front and Hizbul Mujahideen. The member of these organisation are being trained in these Madrasas.

Hon'ble chairman Sir, I would like to say something about the areas adjoining Indo-Nepal border. The pace at which unauthorised construction has taken place during the last two years and the extent upto which religious places

have been misused shows that in the districts adjoining Nepal border, 121 new Madrasas and 146 new Mosques have been constructed in Maharajganj district which is adjoining to my constituency. 24 new Madrasas and 323 new Mosques have been constructed. Similarly in Sidharth Nagar district, 22 new Madrasas, 26 new Mosques in Balrampur 25 Madrasas and 27 new Mosques, in Bahraich 26 new Madrasas and 22 new Mosques and in Lakhimpur 17 Madrasas and 10 new Mosques have been constructed. Similarly in other border districts also the situation is not different. Therefore, I strongly oppose the Bill introduced by hon'ble Shri G.M. Banatwalla because it is applicable all the persons of the country not to a particular community. The other communities like Christian, Sikh and Hindu have no objection to it, then the objection by a particular community is certainly a matter of surprise. The way in which religious places are being misused I strongly oppose this Bill.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I respect the hon'ble Member. It is regrettable that he has not been able to understand the spirit of this Bill and the points he has made in respect to this Bill are totally irrelevant and have nothing to do with this Bill. It is a very simple Bill and Article 25 provided the right of freedom of religion. The question of any shortcoming in it does not arise. He has said that this Bill is related to change of religion by force or by allurement whereas my Bill has nothing to do with such things. If at all there is change of religion by force or by allurement we have the Indian penal code to deal with such practices under which we can take suitable action in this regard. My bill is not related to such things. This Bill is related to freedom of religion and propagation of religion. There are some provisions which are hardles in propagation of religion. If some body talks about the fear of god then it is termed as force. If someone talks about the heaven, then it is termed as allurement, these are strange laws. So far as force and allurement are concerned, we have I.P.C. for that what the hon'ble Member has said can be linked with that but my Bill has nothing to do with it. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Member that he has said some thing in the House due to confusion and misunderstanding.

Hon'ble chairman Sir, I am hundred percent sure that.

[English]

There is a difference of opinion.

[Translation]

There should not be any sort of change in religion by force or by allurement and no religion will tolerate such sort of things. As I have already said that we have I.P.C. and other laws in this regard and apart from this there

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

should not be any sort of restriction in propagation of religion. This is the objective of my Bill.

The hon'ble Member has said that some money is coming into our country which is being used for alluring the people for change of religion. You can take any action in this regard under I.P.C. There is no restriction on it. It is not good to link such thing with this Bill. There is some confusion in this regard. I would request the hon'ble Member and this August House to kindly permit me to introduce this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the House that the Chair does not decide whether a Bill is constitutionally within the legislative competence of the House or not. The House also does not take a decision on specific question of *vires* of a Bill. The Chair also does not decide whether a Bill is *ultra vires* of the Constitution or not.

In the circumstances, I put the question before the House.

The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for removal of undue restrictions on freedom of religion."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.51 hours

(xiv) PUNJAB MUNICIPAL CORPORATION LAW
(EXTENSION TO CHANDIGARH)
(AMENDMENT BILL)*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2000

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.52 hours

(xv) RELIGIOUS PLACES (REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION) BILL*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for removal of undue restrictions as regards public religious buildings and places leading to inhibition of the freedom of religion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for removal of undue restrictions as regard public religious buildings and places leading to inhibition of the freedom of religion."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

15.53 hours

(xvi) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, (AMENDMENT OF THE SCHEDULE)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for further amendment to The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2000

*[English]***15.54 hours****(xvii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*****(Insertion of new articles 151A to 151C)**

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.

*[English]***15.55 hours****(xviii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL****(Amendment of article 324)**

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

*[English]***15.56 hours****(xix) *CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL****(Insertion of new articles 75A and 164A)**

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 :

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2000

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

"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

15.57 hours**(xx) CINEMA TO GRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL*****(Amendment of Section 5B)***[Translation]*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952"

The motion was adopted

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, I introduce the Bill

15.58 hours**(xxi) COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES BILL****[Translation]*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek) : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of marriages in India and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of marriage in India and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, I introduce the Bill

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2000

15.59 hours

(xxii) *INDIAN MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BILL

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtak) : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish an Indian Medicines Development Corporation to promote the development of Indian system of medicine and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish an Indian Medicines Development Corporation to promote the development of Indian system of medicine and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.*

15.59½ hours

NATIONALISATION OF INTER-STATE RIVERS BILL – Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member Shri Vaiko to continue his speech. He has already taken 20 minutes.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Mr. Chairman, on the other day, when I initiated the debate on this Bill on Nationalisation of Inter-State Rivers, I made a reference about inter-State water disputes. Two disputes became very prominent. One was the Ravi-Beas water dispute between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. The other one was the Cauvery water dispute between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. These disputes were referred to the Tribunal under the provisions of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for adjudication in the month of April, 1986 as far as the Ravi-Beas dispute is concerned and the other dispute was referred for adjudication in the month of June, 1990.

The Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunal submitted its fact-finding report on 30th January, 1987. The party-States

and the Central Government have sought explanation and guidance under Section 5, part 3 of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

16.00 hours

The Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal passed an interim order on 25th June, 1991. But Sir, for the first time, the State of Karnataka, through the Governor, issued two Ordinances which were against the spirit of the interim order. It became a very serious controversy. Still, it is a problem which is pending before the Central Government as well as the State Government. We speak of emotional integration and national integration of this great country.

16.01 hours

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Sir, in order to arrive at an emotional and real integration, I have introduced this Bill proposing that inter-State rivers should be nationalised, with the principle that the maximum advantage should be given to the whole of India, to all the States. For that purpose, let the Members of this House, cutting across party lines, give their opinions, views and expressions on this issue of nationalisation of inter-State rivers.

Sir, water is a precious national asset. The National Water Policy embodies the nation's resolve that planning and development of water resources will be governed by the national perspective. What are the principal elements of this national perspective? First, water is a precious national resource and its development should be governed by the national perspective. The available resources, both surface and ground water, should be made utilisation of to the maximum extent. Water should be made available to the areas, where there is a storage by transfer of water from other areas, including the transfers from one river basin to another after taking into account the requirements of that basin. In the allocation of water, ordinarily first priority should be given to drinking water with irrigation, hydro-power, and other uses following in that order. Sir, navigation will also play a major role. The transport will be very cheap if all the rivers are nationalised and if priority is given for that purpose also.

Sir, allusions to the proposal for inter-linking of rivers were made about 30 years ago by an eminent engineer who was also a Minister in the Central Cabinet. It was done by Dr. K.L. Rao who was the then Irrigation Minister of India. At that time, it was called Irrigation Ministry and now it is Water Resources Ministry. He gave a report in the sixties. He made a proposal towards the end of the sixties to transfer certain amount of surplus water from the Ganga during the monsoons by a series of canals taking off from

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2000

somewhere near little west of Patna to the *Cauvery*. That proposal had an emotional content. I do remember that the *Ganga-Cauvery* Link was much talked about, and the people in the *Ganges* Valley and the *Cauvery* Basin could be linked together, and there could be great prosperity. Poet Subramaniam Bharati made a dream of that. But Sir, what did happen? After some time, when Dr. Rao left the Government, they thought that the proposal underestimated the cost and therefore, they made another detailed study of the *Ganga-Cauvery* link proposal. They came to the conclusion that it was impracticable, expensive and requiring enormous amount of electricity to lift water from the *Ganga* across India. Therefore, that proposal was finally dropped.

Instead, they developed a National Perspective Plan for water resources development with two components – one, the Himalayan River Development Programme; the second, Peninsular River Development Programme. An autonomous organisation called the National Water Development Agency was set up in the year 1981, which first prepared the perspective for the peninsular rivers from Mahanadi and Narmada in the North to Vaiappan and Tamraparni in the South. Under this, the National Water Development Agency suggested a large number of links for transfer of waters from the surplus to the deficit areas.

The Mahanadi, originating from the Bastar region of Madhya Pradesh enters Orissa near Sambalpur close to where the Hirakud dam has been constructed to store water for irrigation, power-generation and flood control. Even after this, the river has sufficient water, particularly during the monsoon, and the city of Cuttack is often threatened by the Mahanadi when it rains heavily in the catchment areas.

The National Water Development Agency proposal consists of first constructing a dam across the Mahanadi at a place called Manibhandra. From there, about 8,000 million cubic metres (mcm) of the estimated 11,500 mcm of surplus water of the river is to be diverted to the Godavari through a gravity canal, which does not require pumping en route to be delivered near the Dowleshwaram barrage.

Upstream of the existing Dowleshwaram barrage, another barrage is proposed to be built across Godavari Polavaram for diverting a total of 21,550 mcm to Krishna River. This includes the estimated 15,000 mcm of surplus water of Godavari, and 6,500 mcm which is expected to reach Dowleshwaram from Mahanadi, about 1,500 mcm being utilised for *en route* irrigation in the Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Then the other links come. Three links are proposed for diverting the surplus flow from the Godavari to the Krishna. First, the Polavaram Vijayawada link for delivery

of 1,200 mcm near the Prakasham barrage; the second in the Ichchampalli Pulichintala link carrying 4,370 mcm. Pulichintala is east of the Nagarjunasagar reservoir across the Krishna and the Ichchampalli barrage across the Godavari was proposed several decades ago; the third is the Ichchampalli Nagarjunasagar link, which is proposed to carry about 14,000 mcm into the Nagarjunasagar reservoir.

From Nagarjunasagar, 12,000 mcm can be transferred to the Somasila reservoir which is existing across the Pennar. Actually, 9,800 mcm is likely to be carried into the Somasila. From the Pennar, 9,500 mcm is proposed to be carried to the Cauvery. So, right from the Mahanadi, the water is taken up to Cauvery to be delivered at the Grand Anicut on this river. Two thousand years ago, the great Chola King Karikala built this dam. Now, in 2000, at the threshold of the new millennium, we are speaking because we have to plan for the next generation, for the next century.

Actual delivery will be of the order of 5,000 mcm, taking into account irrigation *en route* and supply of drinking water to Chennai City. Out of this, 3,000 mcm is likely to be utilised in the Cauvery Basin and 200 mcm to be taken further south of the Vaigai, on the banks of which lies the holy city of Madurai.

Based on the pre-feasibility reports the peninsular component is estimated to irrigate five million hectares of additional land in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the cost, as 1994-95 prices, is Rs. 30,000 crore. Since it is going to be a project which will require several decades to be completed, if at all taken up, the cost is not something that should deter the Central and the State Governments concerned for undertaking it.

However, in order that the farmers of the Cauvery Delta do not have to look to the skies and the State of Karnataka for saving their paddy crops at times of distress, this inter-basin transfer of water has to be taken up on a war footing by every one concerned.

The initiative has to come from the Centre. It is a welcome development that the manifesto of the National Democratic Alliance has mentioned inter-basin transfer of river waters as a priority item. So, we have made a commitment in the manifesto of the NDA. However, they still have not updated their information on this aspect and continue to refer to the proposal as the Ganga – Cauvery link. That has to be corrected.

Finally, the Centre and all the States must arrive at a consensus for amending the Constitution in order to give 'water' the status of a Concurrent subject and not a State subject, which it is today. Two days back, my friends from the Congress Party expressed surprise and actually some

[Shri Vaiko]

of them congratulated me by saying that they never expected such views and perceptions from me. I am committed for autonomy of the State. My point is that the subject should not be taken from the State list and just put in the Concurrent list. The Residuary powers should also vest with the State as it happens in countries like the United States of America and Australia. A real Federation should be there. But as far as water is concerned, this subject should be taken from the State List and put in the Concurrent List. That is the point. Normally, we do not want any subject to be lifted from the State List and put in the Concurrent List. Now to solve this problem of water, it has to be included in the Concurrent List. Water resources have to be given a high priority in the scheme of things in the new century.

Sir, the Cauvery is the forth longest river in peninsular Southern India, after the Godavari, the Krishna, and the Mahanadi. In its course of 802 kilometres, from the Western Ghats to the Bay of Bengal, the main river flows for 381 kilometres in Karnataka and 357 kilometers in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, the limitations and arrangements laid down in certain specified clauses of the 1924 Agreement were open to reconsideration at the expiry of 50 years from the date of its execution. The reconsideration was to be "in the light of experience gained and of an examination of the possibilities of the further extension of irrigation within the territories of the respective Governments and to such modifications and additions as may be mutually agreed upon."

Sir, there are international river disputes for rivers running through different countries. There are so many doctrines and policy approaches for settling these river water disputes. In modern times such disputes have occurred on continents containing a number of nation-States – Europe, North America, South America, Africa and Asia – and in large national Federations such as the USA, Australia, Canada and India. Early river disputes dating back to the seventeenth Century in Europe related to navigational rights in the Danube between Austria and Turkey and in the Rhine between Germany and France.

Sir, battles were fought on the controversy of river waters. I do recall that the Kings of the Chola Empire went with their army for settling water disputes. But the times have now changed and I am not going into those things. Even during the time of the Buddha there were battles fought between the Sakiyas and Koliyas over the sharing of water of river Rohini. When Gautam Buddha came to know that the Sakiyas and Koliyas waged a terrible war about sharing

the river Rohini, blood gushing like spring, flooded with water, he talked to both the sides and an amicable solution was reached. He solved the problem. He did what was needed. Gautam Buddha succeeded in bringing both the sides together to end the longdrawn discord.

Sir, in North-America, examples relate to the Rio Grande and Colorado disputes between the USA and Mexico and to the Columbia dispute between the USA and Canada; and South America to the Amazon and Del Plata basin involving a number of countries in each case. In Africa, Sudan and Egypt have.

It is not part of international law. In Indian case laws before tribunals, as well as in international literature, 'Prior Appropriation has not been considered to be an overriding principal for allocation although it is to be given due weightage as one among other relevant considerations.

Sir, the fourth theory is the 'Community of Interest' theory under which the whole basin is regarded as a single economic unit irrespective of State boundaries, and the waters are vested in the 'community' of co-riparian States, to be utilised to the maximum benefit of all in an integrated manner. Logically, this is an attractive theory but it ignores the fact that so long as the State boundaries exist in actuality, conflicts of interest between States cannot be wished away by treating rivers as a single economic unit. However, once basic conflicts are resolved, it may be – and has indeed been – possible for basin States to co-operate in the integrated development of their common assets.

Sir, this theory also underlines the opinion, often expressed in India, that rivers ought to be nationalised in order to prevent or solve inter-State water disputes. So, the rivers have to be nationalised even according to the 'Community of Interest' theory. That is the point. When we take into account the whole basin as a single unit, I say, 'the whole country is to be taken into account as a single unit' so that water is available in all the rivers at all points.

In certain areas when there are floods, people are washed away and killed by the floods, at the same time in some other areas, people suffer like anything and cattle die like anything due to drought. At the same time, in one part of this country floods cost havoc and in other parts of the country at the same time, there is severe drought attacking the people. Therefore, 'Community of Interest' theory underlines the opinion that the rivers should be nationalised. H.M. Seervai points out about it.

Finally, we have theories relating to the 'equitable apportionment' or 'equitable utilisation' of inter-State river waters.

Sir, the most noted one is the 'Helsinki Rules'. Whoever speaks about settling the disputes about inter-State rivers, he always refer to the 'Helsinki Rules'. The most complete and best known of these attempts is contained in the 'Helsinki Rules' adopted by the International Law Association in its 52nd Conference held in 1966 at Helsinki in the country of Finland, following several years of deliberations. Sir, for years together, the luminaries from different countries sat together, they went on discussing together and finally came to the conclusion. That was the theory of 'Helsinki Rules'.

Although the 'Helsinki Rules' do not have the status of international law, they have been considered to have the status of a source of international law since they have been evolved in more than a decade of dedicated labour of a group of experts of unparalleled expertise in the field of international river law. Sir, a group of eminent persons for years together deliberated and then finally came to the conclusion in the field of international law and represent the opinion of highly qualified and distinguished jurists and publicists.

The Helsinki Rules runs upto 37 Articles. Of these, Articles 4 and 5 are in Chapter II on the 'Equitable Utilisation of the Waters of an International Drainage Basin.'

The approach of the Helsinki Rules essentially reflects in Article 33 of the UN Charter on 'Pacific Settlement of Disputes.'

Sir, in India, 16 out of the 18 major river basins cover two or more States, the only exceptions being two smaller basins in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

Disputes which could not be resolved among the parties and have had to be referred to adjudication by tribunals under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, relate to the Narmada, Krishna, Godavari, Ravi and Beas and Cauvery.

Sir, there are Constitutional provisions. Until the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms (the Government of India Act, 1919), all irrigation works except minor projects were under the control of the Central Government and subject to the sanction of the Secretary of the State.

The Government of India Act, 1919 made irrigation a provincial but reserved subject where matters of inter-provincial concerns affecting the relations of a province with any other territory were subject to legislation by the Central Legislature. That was the case in 1919. Parliament, by law, provided for the adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State river valleys with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters. The second piece of legislation enacted under the enabling provision of Article

262 is the Inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956 cited earlier in this study.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, you have already taken more than 46 minutes. This is your own Bill and there are a lot of hon. Members who want to speak.

SHRI VAIKO : I will take only a couple of minutes more. I will not take much time.

In this discussion where I have referred to Ganga, Cauvery, Mahanadi and all the rivers, I would also like to say that we are very much concerned about the west-flowing rivers in our sister State of Kerala going waste into the Arabian Sea. These river waters could be utilised in the southern part of Tamil Nadu. It will bring prosperity not only to the State of Tamil Nadu but also in a way bring prosperity to the State of Kerala. They could have power in exchange. We could also give rice. When Justice Krishna Iyer was a Minister he promoted this idea. This was there even during the British days. This has to be done. The water is going waste.

Some of my friends have got an international outlook on every issue. They would have a global outlook on all issues. But on this particular issue, they become very parochial and chauvinistic. I am not referring to friends like Shri Radhakrishnan. He is a man of high vision.

Regarding the Mullaperiyar dam, the Central Water Agency has already said that the height should be increased. That will help thousands and thousands of acres to be irrigated. They have taken an unalterable and intransigent position. That is not beneficial to either of us. The Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link project is a proposal to bring water from Kerala to the drought-prone southern districts of Tamil Nadu and will be a reality if Kerala gives its consent.

The feasibility report prepared by the National Water Development Agency for the project has been finalised and circulated to the two States besides the Union Government's departments and agencies concerned. One day, this discussion will be taken into account. Therefore, I am bringing all these facts before this august House. This is for the consideration and kind attention of hon. Members. This will definitely help not only the State of Tamil Nadu, this will also help the State of Kerala and the whole of India. Therefore, I do not understand why they are objecting to this proposal.

The proposal envisages diversion of about 22 TMC of surplus water available in the west-flowing Pamba and Achankovil rivers in Kerala to the Vaippar basin in Tirunelveli Kattabomman District. The diversion will help irrigate about one lakh hectares of land in the Tirunelveli

[Shri Vaiko]

Kattabomman, Chidambaranar and Kamarajar District. The project, estimated to cost about Rs. 1,400 crore, will take eight years for completion.

According to the National Water Development Agency officials, the fate of the proposal depends on the decision of the Kerala Government as the subject of irrigation is presently under the State List. That is why I said that it should be taken to the Concurrent List and the rivers should be nationalised.

Under the proposal, of the three reservoirs to be constructed, one will be across Pamba-Kallar or Punnamedu, the second across Achankovil-Kallar and the third across Achankovil. The capacity of these reservoirs will be 7.34 TMC, 17.54 TMC and 1.08 TMC respectively.

The first two dams will be connected by an eight kilometre long tunnel for diverting water of Punnamedu to Achankovil from where water will be pumped to Achankovil-Kallar. Water from Achankovil-Kallar, in turn, will be diverted through a nine kilometre long tunnel passing through the Western Ghats. A canal will take off from the exit point of the tunnel in Mekkarai village of Shencottah taluk and run for about 50 kilometres before reaching Alagarodai, a tributary of Vaippar.

A power station of 500 MW will be located at the downstream of Achankovil-Kallar dam. Six mini-Hydel power stations, having an aggregate capacity of 8.37 MW, have been proposed. Of this, four will be in Tamil Nadu and the rest in Kerala. The benefits of the scheme will include the generation of over 1000 million units of energy and food production of about 1.7 tonnes annually, with estimated revenue of Rs. 400 crore. Originally, the proposal was to link Pampa and Achankovil with Vaigai. But it has been cut down to Vaippar because of the cost factor as the Planning Commission stipulated that developmental projects, proposed for even backward regions, would have a return of nine per cent.

The National Water Development Agency officials say that only 20 per cent of the total surplus water available in the Pamba and Achankovil basins is being sought to be diverted. We want to divert only 20 per cent of the surplus water. Moreover, a provision has been made for regulated release of about five tmc ft. of water of the rivers during the non-monsoon period and this will improve the flow in the rivers and help combat salinity intrusion.

The proposal will meet the prime objective of the Kerala Government's "Twin Kallar Project" to tap Pamba and Achankovil for power generation. The diversion will also help satisfy the irrigation requirement of Kerala.

Sir, one day or the other, all these projects are to be implemented. For this purpose, I introduce the Bill. I am happy that the Bill has been taken into consideration.

If we do that, it will not only enable distribution of water among the different States, without affecting the interests of the States concerned, but it will also enable proper utilisation of available resources.

I would like to request my hon. friends in this House to extend their support to this Bill. I would thank the Chair for having permitted me to speak for such a long time.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have to congratulate the hon. Member for bringing forward such a Bill which is actually provoking the thoughts of millions of Indians.

In the Villages, people are thinking that both air and water are signs of national integration. When we are looking at the Indian Railways, we feel that it is a golden chain which connects all the Indian States. In the same way, when we think of rivers, it should be like a garland; and all the rivers in India should be connected. If we do that, the integration of India will be for ever.

Our civilisation has started only from the river banks. Our Vedic history shows that India was united by way of water being brought from Ganges to Rameswaram and from Rameswaram to Kashi. That is oneness of the pilgrimage centres of Hindus. The Hindus feel that – when they take water from one river to another and from the second to the third – they are getting divine power, from the Heaven. That is the feeling of everybody in the villages. This is the main basis of integration of India. Therefore, when we talk of nationalisation of Inter-State rivers, it is the integration of all the rivers. It is a very very important point in the present day.

One more benefit that accrues is on the employment sector. There are thousands and thousands of engineers and graduates, who are unemployed. Many graduates, many technicians and skilled people are unemployed. At one stroke, we can employ them all, throughout India.

Unemployed people can be recruited and their services can be used for linking up the rivers. In that way the entire India can be connected. This should be taken up as a mass programme. If we take it that way, the purpose of Employment Assurance Schemes introduced by successive Governments can be served. Instead of adopting a piece meal approach, we should see it as a mass project so that the river waters flowing into the oceans can be properly utilised. I would like to say that this work can be done through a Corporation, like Damodar Valley Corporation. That Corporation has done a good job for the nearby

States. In that way Narmada and Cauvery water dispute can be solved. We are integrated in every manner. Despite different religions, regions and languages, we Indians are integrated. Tamilians are living in Gujarat, Gujaratis are living in Tamil Nadu, Keralites are living in Assam and Assamese are living in Maharashtra. We cannot be disintegrated at all. When people migrate from one part of the country to the other, why can not we utilise the water? We are breathing the same air of Bharat. Why can we not share the river water? For that we should have a vision. If we have a vision, we can achieve that. We need not worry about language or religion or about any partisan attitude. This should be taken as a Bill of the Government. The Government should take it up as a challenge for the next five years. They should promote it.

From the navigation point of view also it is very useful. The Government is spending a lot of money on transport and on creating infrastructure. Road is not the only way of having surface transport. Navigation can also become part of surface transport. During the British period a very perfect navigation was planned. Even small rivers were connected with proper banks and navigation method was followed everywhere. In Chennai there is a river called Coovum. That river was used to navigate vegetables to the city of Chennai during the British days. Some thing can be done throughout Indian river basins. This is a very important work which should be given primary importance. It should be taken as a challenge.

Shri Vaiko hails from Sivakasi, a drought-prone backward district; I hail from Sivaganga which is also a backward district and Shri Thirunavukarasu hails from Pudukottai. It is also a backward district. Why is there a drought? Our Keralite brothers realise that areas very near to their State are suffering for lack of water. As Shri Vaiko said, we can take electricity. They can take the lands. They can purchase the lands and use them. We are all brothers and we should adopt a brotherly attitude. Instead of letting the river waters go into the oceans, we can use those waters for the development of backward district like Sivakashi and Sivaganga. Mullai Periyar issue has become a dispute now. There should not be any dispute at all. Unnecessarily the water is flowing into the Arabian Sea. Let it be diverted to us.

But the Supreme Court seized of the matter. We all are brothers. We should live for the integration of India. We should develop an integrated approach in developing *Bharat*. We should have a feeling that it is our *Bharat* which we have to develop. We should not recognise the State boundaries. Of course, I do not dispute the State autonomy but as far as we are concerned, the boundaries should be there only for the purpose of map. We feel very proud of being an integrated nation. In the morning there was

a talk about the Hindi language. If Hindi is developed as a language having Tamil, Telugu or Gujarati words, nobody can say that we have a Hindi feeling. Mahatma Gandhi had said that Hindi language should include words from the other languages also so that every Indian is conversant with it. That sort of integration should be there. Americans, Germans, French and people from UK have integrated and created Heaven. They have got that integrated feeling, as a result they are sharing the natural wealth that each one of them has and perhaps that is why they are ruling the world. Why cannot India, the emerging superpower, do that? We should share river water with the States where there is scarcity of it. To earn the livelihood, people of different origin migrate from their mother-State to other. Quite a number of Punjabis live in my State. They have big industries there. Similarly, people from my State go and live in either Kerala or Gujarat. So, this is high time and through you, I would request the House, taking advantage of this opportunity, to consider this as a Government Bill. I would suggest that this may be sent to a Committee where, cutting across Party lines, Members can give their opinion and then this may be passed by the House unanimously. We should all join together and see that ours is a real *Bharat*.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise in support of the Bill, so ably presented by my friend Shri Vaiko with a wealth of materials with tremendous in-depth analysis and with a vision which is rarely seen when such Bills are presented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, essentially, this Bill aims at restoring to our rivers, some of the mighty rivers of this sub-continent, the place that belonged to them throughout our history.

Sir, India is a land of rivers. Northern India has Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra. Southern India has Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery, and all those rivers. Now, for years, we have neglected them.

Prior to the construction of the Railways, they were the most important source of navigation and, of course, irrigation. Somehow or the other with the coming up of Railways, we have neglected these rivers. I am glad that Shri Vaiko added the word 'navigation'. I had thought that one aspect which was missing in the present Bill is that there is no mention of navigation. But he has made up for it and we may use the word 'navigation' as one of the main objects of this Bill.

Now, he has tried to introduce to our rivers the concept of international rivers and the rights of riparian States as we see in international law. In the case of Europe, Danube and Rhine rivers do not belong to any particular country but belong to Europe as a whole. They are international

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

rivers. Similarly, Nile in Africa, Columbia in North America and so many other rivers do not belong to any nation. They are international rivers and all the international rules apply to them. He has brought into his case a lot of arguments from the international law, case history, various doctrines, theories and all that. After that, I do not think it is necessary to add anything.

To sum up again, he has mentioned about the doctrine of community of interest in preference to prior appropriation. Yes, somebody can appropriate the river and can have priority. But he cannot claim priority for all time to come. So eventually, we have to go in for community of interest which is what this entire Bill is about.

I also support the proposal that we should bring water to the Concurrent List of our Constitution. For, it is not just a State matter. It is essentially a national matter.

Now, with these words, I support this Bill and give my fullhearted support to it. Once this Bill is accepted, I think a lot of our problems will be over. The manner in which the hon. Prime Minister gave a solution to a long standing river problem among several States which had been dogging this country for at least two to three decades, is commendable. If we adopt this Bill, it will be possible for the Central Government with the help of the Planning Commission and others to find out solutions which are acceptable to everybody and solutions which are of mutual interest to all the States concerned.

In this connection, I would also like to add the fact that when Farrakha Water Agreement was reached with Bangladesh, 40,000 cusecs were promised. Some how or the other, that volume of water has not reached. I suppose some of the States up above have exercised their priority of appropriation rights. With the result, when the Ganga flows into Bangladesh, it does not get that much water which can really keep Calcutta Port functioning and also provide adequate water to our sister-State, Bangladesh. Now, it is, therefore, desirable that the entire gamut of control over these rivers go to the level of the Central Government. What was planned during the '50s and '60s about that grand Ganga-Cauvery scheme linking these rivers together, if that can happen, it could solve many problems. It has not yet happened. There are serious problems. But the problems will be very largely over once we learn to allow the Centre to take national decisions in respect of the national rivers. No doubt, that would be done in consultation with the States and it would be based on their mutual interest.

About navigation, it is a simple thing that if we can make these river routes navigable – which could only be

done by Central action – a lot of our problems will be over. We do not have to import costly diesel from the international market spending about Rs. 7500 crore or more every year. Navigation will be much cheaper. To give one example, exporting a tonne of steel from Vizag Steel Plant to Beijing is cheaper by 28 dollars to a tonne than sending it by road to Chandigarh. Now, if Ganga-Cauvery link could be created – which could only be done if we can pass this Bill – many of the problems will be solved. India will gain a lot in terms of saving the scarce foreign – exchange resource.

Then the question of using river water for irrigation purpose comes. The late lamented Rajiv Gandhi had a grand scheme of making the Ganga river functional again. Since then more than fifteen years have elapsed, but nothing much has happened although hundreds of crores of rupees have gone into it. I do not know where all those money went. Still, if you take the course of Ganga, until the river Gharga reaches Hardwar, essentially there is no river. In quite a lot of places like Kanpur the great holy river Ganga has been reduced to a sort of sewerage carrying basin. That is what is happening. We need to revive Ganga. We need to connect Ganga with Brahmaputra. Then we need to connect Ganga – Brahmaputra with Cauvery. We need to do all these major schemes so that the time comes when it will be possible for using these rivers for navigation purposes, for irrigation purposes and also for the purpose of producing hydro-electricity. For that it is absolutely necessary that we entrust the Central Government with the authority to have the ultimate say. For this purpose we have to transfer the water resource subject from the State List to the Concurrent List.

With these words, I give my complete support to the Bill so ably piloted by Shri Vaiko.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Bill brought by Shri Vaiko.

While initiating the Bill he has spoken at great length giving exhaustive details, which I do not want to repeat. I do not think that I will be able to add anything more to what he has already said with regard to the equitable distribution of water by nationalising all inter-State rivers. Basically he has given great details about river water disputes all over the world. But the basic point he has raised is with regard to the scarcity of water. A problem turned dispute with regard to the river water arises when there is scarcity of water. There is a dispute with regard to the Cauvery water because there is scarce water in the Cauvery river. Both Karnataka as well as Tamil Nadu want to utilise the water to its fullest extent and therefore the tussle comes.

But, in the north-eastern part of the country from where I come, the problem is not of scarcity of water. It is the problem of excess water. So, my point is, inter-State river water should also be nationalised to control the excess water. Hardly there is any river in India which is not inter-State. Hardly there is any river in India which originates in one State, passes through the same State and joins sea at the coast of the same State. Almost all the rivers pass through many States.

I come from Orissa. Take the examples of Brahmani, Vaitarani, Subarnarekha and Mahanadi. All these rivers originate either from Madhya Pradesh or Bihar, some of them pass through West Bengal and then come to Orissa. They are, therefore, essentially inter-State rivers.

I will give you one more example. There is the river Subarnarekha which passes through my constituency Balasore. It is considered to be the Hwang Ho of Balasore. Year after year it devastates the lives of thousands of people in my district. For the last fifty years there have been proposals to control the river water. This effort is being made in Bihar because it originates from Bihar. The Government of Bihar has started building a dam each at Chandil and at Galudiha to moderate the flood water. The work of these two dams is continuing for the last fifty years.

It is continuing and continuing and God knows when the work will be over. The hon. Minister for Water Resources is sitting here. I am his voter. He belongs to my constituency. I may be somebody else's MP but he is my MP. I feel that I am very fortunate that he has become the Minister for Water Resources after getting elected to this august House for five times since 1971. Just some days back, he paid a visit to Bihar and these two dam sites at Galudi and Chandil. He was telling that the intention of Bihar is not to complete the work. Almost 95 per cent of the dam work is over and just 5 per cent of the work remains to be completed after which it will be functional. But that is not over. Why is the State Government not wanting to complete it? They do not want to complete it. Had this Subarnarekha being nationalised, there would not have been so much of a problem. The dam work could have been completed many years before. By that way, it would have set right the crops and agricultural fields of Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar. That is why, I would appeal to you that there should be a master plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin. As regards flood control and management, the strategy should be to reduce the intensity of floods by sound watershed management and provision of adequate allocation for water storage projects wherever feasible to facilitate better flood management in each flood prone basin.

Water is a thing which cannot be produced. It cannot be generated. Water has got its limit. The way the population is increasing in this country, after about 20 to 30 years, more number of people will require more water for bathing, cleaning, irrigation and drinking. For everything, they will require water. But the quantum of water is not going to increase. As I have said, it has got its limit. Then, from where do you get potable water? You cannot get drinking water from the sea. You can get it only from the river if you store water. By that way, you cannot only moderate flood but also there will be availability of ground water. Storage of water through river dams will recharge ground water also. Every year, ground water level is going down by even 10-15 metres and after about 10-15 years, you will hardly get any water to drink because most of the water in this country is utilised for irrigation projects. We are irrigating our fields with drinking water. It is all right for the time being. But what happen after 20-30 years? The State Governments or the Central Government want that water should be given free of cost to everybody because they think that water is useless. The farmer also thinks that it is a useless thing because he is not playing anything for water. That is why, even if it is totally wasted, he does not mind it. After some years, there will be no water even to drink and then the actual problem will arise. For that reason, I appeal to you that there should be no piecemeal flood control measure taken by various States. There should be a national plan on how to control flood. There should be a plan at the Central level, and every State who wants to control flood should follow the principles enunciated by the Central Government or by the Flood Control Department of the Government of India. This is my second proposal.

17.00 hours

Sir, I will complete my speech within two or three minutes. Finally, I would appeal to the hon. Water Resources Minister to look into the matter. I think he has gone somewhere. Anyway, the former Water Resources Minister is here. I would appeal to him to take note of it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is taking notes for the hon. Water Resources Minister.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Yes, he will do it. I would appeal to him to do that.

Now, I come to my other point. The *Subarnarekha* river not only plays havoc with the lives of the people in *Balasore* district in *Orissa* but also creates water-logging problem in the *Bhograi* block of *Balasore* district. Thirteen to fourteen *Gram Panchayats* remain water-logged for three to four months each year where the only mode of transport is by a country boat. You can go to anybody's house in

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

these villages only by a boat. This is the only problem by which we are losing the khariff paddy crop every year.
... (Interruptions)

Sir, the hon. Water Resources Minister has come. I would appeal to him to see to it that at least *Chandil* and *Galudih* projects in Bihar are completed within a very short period so that floods in the Subarnarekha river are moderated. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Water Resources Minister to this problems since he has come now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not repeat it. He has already taken notes for the hon. Water Resources Minister. There are other hon. Members who also want to participate in the debate. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat is just waiting in front of you. He is keen to participate in the debate. Please conclude now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I will complete my speech within a minute. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : I know the problem very well because we are from the same region.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Already I have told you that you are my Member of Parliament. You are my Minister. I am your voter. So, I would appeal to the Central Government to come forward to tackle the water-logging problem in *Bhograi* block in the district of *Balasore*. For the last thirty years, we have been appealing to the State Government to tackle this problem. Since we do not have enough funds, we cannot do away with this problem. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Minister to kindly look into the matter and see to it that paddy crop is not lost every year. If there is no water-logging problem, at least we can raise another crop there.

Finally, I would like to state that I fully support the Bill enunciated by the hon. Member Shri Vaiko. I would request the hon. Minister not to think that it is simply a Private Member's Bill. I would request him to accept it as a Government Bill. Let him not appeal to the hon. Member to withdraw his Bill at the end of the debate. I am saying this because always the Minister concerned would request the hon. Member to withdraw the Bill saying that the Government would bring forward a Bill later on. Mr. Minister, kindly do not say so. Kindly accept it in principle. Kindly see to it that the Inter-State rivers are nationalised and the flood problem, the water scarcity problem and the water-logging problems are solved all over the country.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly support Nationalisation of Inter-State Rivers Bill, 1999, introduced by hon. Shri Vaiko. It is a matter of great regret that though after 53 years of Independence for name sake we have framed a National Water Policy, also we have declared water as national wealth. But recently a meeting of Water Resources Ministers of all the States was held under the Chairmanship of our Prime Minister, wherein we could not constitute a National Water Tribunal. So, what can be a greater surprise than this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, water is a gift of almighty God. In our Shastras it is said, *Aapovahi Brahm* i.e. water is god and water is life. *Abdurrahim Khankhana Saheb* has rightly said – "*Rahiman pani rakhiye, bin paani sub soon, Pani gaye na ubre, Moti, Manas, Choon.*" Therefore, the water should always be conserved.

There is one word in Urdu, *Aabroo* – *aab* means shining and water is formed from *aab*. Therefore, in all the languages of the world, and in every country, water is given utmost importance. What can be greater surprise than the fact that God has provided us this water and we could not make use of this water for mankind, for entire nation. Therefore, through you, I would like to say that Shri Vaiko has introduced this Bill with such a spirit that I strongly support the Bill and I would like to add that if a river flows through not one but more than one State, that river should be declared as national wealth and that should be placed under the control of Union Government so its optimum utilisation can be ensured. It is sad that after independence we talk of national and emotional integration. I would like to cite an example, there was a large tree and thousands of birds used to say on that tree. One day an innocent person was passing from there with canister of Kerosene oil. He had a feeling in his mind that the tree should be burnt. He sprayed kerosene oil on it and set it a fire. Suddenly the tree was in flames. A learned person like our Members was passing through, who said :

Aag lagi is ped ko jalne lag gaye paat
Tum kyon jalte pakheruo pankh tumhare saath.

i.e. the leaves of this tree have caught fire, but O birds! Why you are burning yourselves, you have wings so why cannot you fly. Hon. Member, there was one learned bird amongst them who replied :

Fal khaye is vriksh ke gande keene paat,
Yahi hamara dharam hai jalen isi ke saath.

We ate fruits of this tree, made its leaves dirty and today when the tree is in crisis, it is our duty to be with it. Similarly,

if Tamil Nadu is in distress then a person from Rajasthan should think, if a person from our country is in crisis, it is our crisis. Likewise, if there is a crisis in Assam a person from Kashmir should feel it, the crisis the Gujarat should be realised in Arunachal Pradesh. Not that the person from Punjab say that if water is released through SYL to Haryana we will fill it up with sand. I know that Punjab is our grain market, it is pride of the nation, if river water from Punjab flows to Pakistan, well it is tolerable, but if some water flows to Haryana or to Rajasthan's drought prone areas through Indira Gandhi Canal or Gang Nahar of Bikaner, then some people will not tolerate it. Since we are inhabitants of one nation, sons of same mother, living below one sky, we are follower of same Gurus and sons of one motherland, who believe in faith, then why there should be dispute over water. They say first Punjab has a right over river water if water remains surplus after being used in Punjab, then it should be given to neighbouring States and should not go as a waste to the sea. Earlier, one K.L. Roa was Irrigation Minister who had said, be it water from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka, it goes to the sea as a flood water, so why not the water from North be diverted to South which will generate a feeling of emotional integration. National Water Policy was formed in 1987 wherein it was accepted that.

[English]

The National Water Policy embodies the nation's resolve that planning and development of water resources will be governed by national perspective.

[Translation]

Development and planning of water resources will be done keeping the national perspective in mind. Since it is nationalisation, then "Matabhoomi Putroaham Prathivya", i.e. this land is my mother and I am her son. We all are the son of Mother India and we are above one hundred crore. If one remain thirsty and another wastes the water, then who will like it. Therefore, I strongly support the Bill namely, Nationalisation of Inter-State Rivers Bill presented by Shri Vaiko in the national interest, which has been explained in details by him and I request the Government of India to constitute a National Water Tribunal on the lines of National Water Development Tribunal, 1981; National Water Resources Council, 1983 formed in March, 1983; National Water Policy framed in 1987; National Water Board constituted in September, 1990. The proposed tribunal should provide that the Central Government should ensure that all that states can utilise river water.

A case regarding Bhakhra Grid is pending in Supreme Court, which involves Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. I would like to urge hon. Members that if Chief Ministers of

all the three States are interested they can sit together and can find out a solution to it. We are sons of one Mother India, and we have common interests and if we want progress in national interest then we should have no dispute and every State's legitimate share of water should be given to them. If it happens so that desert of Rajasthan will be full of crop. Thar desert of Rajasthan would become a garden. Last time Rajasthan was hit by drought and water was supplied through trains and tankers to the effected areas. In this event this situation will not be repeated. "Mere desh ki dharti sona ugle, Ugle Heere – Moti" should be proved. There would be plenty of crops and no shortage of grains and this region would be full of prosperity.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, since water is going to be declared as national wealth, therefore, the electricity generated out of this water also will come under Central control. Our Energy Minister is sitting here today who will not have to bother to impose a power cut on other States. Today Haryana supplies water to National Capital, Delhi. Anytime, if Haryana says that we do not have water so we will not give water to Delhi. If water to Delhi is not supplied from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh then how Delhi would manage, since Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are the source of water for Delhi. Therefore, the river should be declared national wealth and they should be under Centre's control.

Sir, I would resume my seat by saying.

[English]

"The Central Government shall have exclusive right and control over all Inter – State rivers and it shall distribute river waters according to pre-determined formula for allocation of waters."

[Translation]

The Engineers expert in that technique and the agricultural expert will tell as to how much water is required for a particular State in a particular season. It is further stated :

[English]

"The Central Government shall also have exclusive right over electricity projects constructed on inter-State rivers."

[Translation]

I think that the Centre will have exclusive right over all the power-projects and in this way the interests of all the States could be protected. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one more thing has been mentioned in it :

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

[English]

There are many rivers, big or small flowing through many States before they submerge into the nearest sea :

[Translation]

Right now my friend was asking me that why don't we show the same liberal attitude towards our own States in matters of water sharing as we have done with our neighbouring countries like Pakistan with which we have signed a water treaty and Bangladesh with which we have Farakha Dam accord? There can not be any dearth of water even in Minicoy island for it is surrounded by sea and it rains everyday there but people feel surprised to see the clouds in Rajasthan after a gap of 14 years and they can hardly see them. Though, due to Geographical changes, the floods have started hitting man desert areas like Jaisalmer. Now the situation is the entire country in such that somewhere it is excessive rain, somewhere drought, somewhere it is no rain at all.

[English]

"Indian Budget is a gambling on monsoon."

[Translation]

The Budget of India is based on monsoon. If it rains good at a place then a bumper harvest is insured. If it does not rain then the water collected in small or big ponds is diverted to rivers and is used for irrigation in the fields. Even the development of unirrigated areas can take place and afforestation will take place rapidly and our land will be called as 'Shyasya Shyamla', 'Sujalam' i.e. having good water and 'Suflam' i.e. bearing fruit trees in real sense. It is only been said for the Budget of Indian that.

[English]

"Indian Budget is a gambling on monsoon."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the National Water Authority distributed the water in a proportionate manner by declaring and considering the rivers as National property then nowhere in the country a drought like or flood like situation would emerge and the entire country will surge forward on the path of progress.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and I express my thanks to Vaiko Sahib for introducing the Bill in the larger interest of the country due to which we got an opportunity to express our views on such an important subject.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan will speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : I was very patiently hearing all that Mr. Vaiko spoke in support of the Bill. But I am constrained to oppose the Bill. In the first place, it is unconstitutional. Certainly, it is ridiculous. It is purely politically motivated. For these reasons, though he is my personal friend, I have to oppose him.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : When I spoke, I gave all the respect to him. He may differ with me. He was the Speaker of a House. He is a senior man. How could he use such words?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Please hear me.

SHRI VAIKO : I am amazed at how he reacts. He was dreaming and sleeping somewhere. Suddenly, you asked him. He jumped up and he is speaking something.
... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : To be fair to him, Shri Vaiko, he has really requested for time.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, they have got an international outlook. But here they – the so-called Marxists – are parochial.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : No, no; I do not have a parochial outlook.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You must be in a position to absorb difference of opinion in this House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : I will react. ... (Interruptions) When I made my speech even on Cauvery water, I did not make it political.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, being a veteran speaker from Kerala, you have to restrain yourself from using the words.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Yes, I am coming to the point.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi) : Sir, the word 'ridiculous' should be expunged from the records. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : He can express his views. . . .
(*Interruptions*) When people read all the speeches, they will have their own judgement about the subject. But it should be on the records. . . .(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right. Shri Vaiko, let us hear him now.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now, the first thing is about land, water and air. These are the bare necessities of human life. Will anybody say that all the land in India be nationalised ? I put that simple question to Shri Vaiko. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO : Whenever it suits the Marxists, they will speak about the nationalisation. . . .(*Interruptions*) They will even have the multinationals in West Bengal. That is their policy. It is a hypocritical policy of these Marxists.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : You hear me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Since you yielded to him, he has spoken.

MR. VAIKO : I am not yielding. . . .(*Interruptions*) Nobody in India will move a Bill for nationalising the entire land. . . .(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Swain, now, you have to keep quiet.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : You may realise that there are different types of land in India. Some are barren, some are fertile and some are desert. Nobody, including *Zamindars*, will come forward and say that the entire land should be nationalised and brought under the Central Government.

SHRI VAIKO : I have read about Shylock in the *Merchant of Venice*. . . .(*Interruptions*) Now, I find the real Shylock in people like Shri Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : My friend, Shri Vaiko, will not bring forward a legislation to have the entire land of Tamil Nadu under the Central Government for nationalisation. Nobody will say that. So also, we will not say that the water should be nationalised. What is the meaning of 'nationalisation' ? No river in India is under private ownership.

SHRI VAIKO : They want to monopolise water which is going waste into the Arabian Sea.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, let us hear him.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The rivers are under the State ownership. They are not under private ownership.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is developing his point. Let us hear him.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : These need not be nationalised.

If somebody is holding private ownership, I can understand the question of nationalisation. But here the rivers are owned by the State and not by an individual. Why should there be a nationalisation in those matters ? I can understand his sentiments, I can understand his emotions. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO : To tackle the parochialists like Shri Radhakrishnan of Kerala !

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I can understand the Cauvery dispute being settled. I am not standing in its way. But this is not the proper way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That part should be avoided because individual opinions are there. Please do not bring them here in the debate.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I am too for a proper settlement of the Cauvery dispute. I am standing for an honourable and early settlement of Mullaperiyar Dispute.

SHRI VAIKO : What is his stand on Mullaperiyar ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : To achieve that purpose what scheme has been prepared ? For bringing water in the Concurrent List, a constitutional amendment is required. A constitutional amendment will have to be brought first, then only we can think about this. Where is it stated that land is in the Concurrent List ? But water is not in the Concurrent List.

SHRI VAIKO : It should be included in the Concurrent List.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : As they have appointed a review commission and this matter has been referred to them, I would advise him that the best course would be to let the review commission say that water is to be nationalised and that it must be brought to the Concurrent List. Since, there is the NDA Government at the Centre, before doing that he had all of a sudden come with that the entire water should come under the Central Government. I would like to remind Shri Vaiko that things may change, he himself will find difficulty of putting it in the Concurrent List.

SHRI VAIKO : A day will come when the rivers will be nationalised.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now, I put a simple question. If the water is to be put in the Concurrent

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

List, there are so many lakes in the country some having pure water, could he say that it should be brought under the control of the Central Government because water is to be put in the Concurrent List?

SHRI VAIKO : Therefore, I have not asked it to be included in the Union. I have carefully said that it should be brought under Concurrent List.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now, nobody would say that Mississippi-Missouri in America be nationalised because it is an International dispute. Here also there are very big lakes. Nobody would say that these should be brought under the control of the Central Government.

SHRI VAIKO : There are no parochialists in America like Marxists.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This is absurd and ridiculous. We cannot imagine about such a legislation.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, we would like to know what is his reaction on this Bill? It shows the mentality of these people, particularly the Marxists in Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am only for the settlement of water dispute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, you will have a very good opportunity to reply. You take down all these points and give befitting reply at the time of your conclusion. Now, let us hear for the benefit of his expressions and suggestions.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, expected light to be generated in the discussion. When he generates heat, normally it reflects and the reaction naturally will come.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He may find a different way of thinking. Let the House share it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now, there are certain very important lakes in India. People go to pilgrimages, will anybody say that water in those lakes be brought under the control of the Central Government, if water is to be put in the Concurrent List? How impractical it is? How can water be nationalised without bringing it into the Concurrent List? If you bring it under the Concurrent List then the water in the lakes should also go to the Central Government. Would he agree to that?

SHRI VAIKO : Concurrent List means, both the State and the Centre could have a role. How have you understood the Constitution?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I will tell you another thing.

Will give you a simple fact. In Kerala, hydro electricity is generated from water. Will the Central Government be prepared to take over all the hydro electric projects by nationalising it? How impractical it is! Will the Central Government be prepared to say that they would take all the hydro electric projects in Kerala? According to Shri Vaiko, if all the rivers are nationalised, then all the hydro electric projects will have to go to the Central Government. Would they do? How impractical it is! . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has not understood my point. I have asked only to nationalise the inter-State rivers. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, you should protect me. I was keeping silence without even a murmur when he was speaking. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : You were in deep slumber. Suddenly you woke up and started speaking. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, he is intervening in every word that I use. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Okay, you carry on.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I will tell you the intricacies of your legislation. I will tell you how impractical it is. There cannot be a State like India with your legislation. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : You are not going to come to power in Delhi. That will never happen. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : Shri Vaiko, why are you giving a running commentary? Let him complete. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will be better if no interruption is made.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, how can I speak with so much of interruptions? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : You only invited the trouble. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, how many minutes more, interruption free, do you require?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I will conclude within five or ten minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You take only five more minutes.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, you give him full time. I have to reply to him.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I will express one difficulty for those gentlemen who are here. Ganga is considered to be the mother of India. All the Hindus take it as a pilgrim centre. We do rituals there. Certain Gods of India are supposed to be holy. Suppose Ganga is nationalised, what will be the consequences? You BJP people are supporting him without knowing it. Suppose if that river is nationalised, what will be the consequences, where will be your Hindutva, and where will be your feelings?

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Here we are talking about the water for irrigation and he has starting talking about something else. He is deviating from the issue and is misinterpreting it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please address the Chair. Do not create any problem for us.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now, I am putting a very simple question. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will have to address the Chair. Do not create any problem for me.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : At Allahabad, there is a convergence of Yamuna and Ganga. Lakhs of people go there and take bath. During *kumbamela* they adorn it. Now, suppose that river is nationalised, what will be the consequences? The position is entirely different. . . .(Interruptions) According to the Constitution, you cannot claim those holy rites and you cannot perform those holy rites. Without knowing these intricacies, you people are supporting him. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please address the Chair. You are inviting trouble for you and to me also.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now, let us take the case of Banaras, which is considered to be very holy. People all over India come over there and do rituals. According to this legislation if it is nationalised, what will be the consequences? You think for a moment. Can you nationalise Ganga? Can you nationalise Yamuna? I simply put this question. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, is he talking about liberalisation and privatisation? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you should be in a position to absorb different viewpoints.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This is impractical. Yamuna will have to be retained in the present form. It cannot be made a nationalised property. Yamuna can never be a nationalised property. Do you want that mother to be nationalised?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Should it be a private party?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is not a private property and he is asking you to get it nationalised. The MDMK man from South is coming here, joining you and asking you that you nationalise Yamuna. Unknowingly, you raise your hands in support of him, thereby you are putting yourself in trouble. That is what I have to say. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : It is for the national integration.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : But do you understand the implication of nationalisation? The implication of nationalisation means, it becomes the property of the Government of India. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, I think now you will have to conclude. I think it is time for you now to conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I very, very humbly submit that it is impractical. There is no doubt we will have to settle the river dispute and we will have to find out an effective machinery. That we need very much. But this is not the way of doing things. By passing this impractical legislation, which is creating so much trouble to India, we cannot solve the river dispute problems. An effective machinery to which I will support you for helping it can solve that. But Cauvery is also a holy river. Will the Tamil Nadu people agree for nationalisation of Cauvery? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Do you not want to develop India?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I do not think so. Moreover, it is not a private property. It is a public property. There is no question of nationalisation. Moreover, the provisions of the Constitution will have to be amended. You bring an amendment to the Constitution. Are you prepared? Are you prepared to bring in water in the Concurrent List? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : All are prepared to do that.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : If that is the case, what you should do is, you approach the Review Commission and tell us to suggest the methods. That is

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

what the procedure. You have to tell them. You are for a Constitutional review and you have appointed a Commission. If such a thing is in your mind, you must tell them to bring in that proposal also. We will discuss along with the report. Before that, without making an amendment to the Constitution, how can you bring this legislation before this House?

Thinking that the river waters are private property, just like nationalisation, you want to nationalise the public property of the State. For what purpose? Would it solve the problem? I do not think so. So, I simply request him to withdraw this Bill. My friend, how did you bring in this Bill? I do not understand. I even now dream whether it is Shri Vaiko from Chennai is before me. I thought that he was a man of some genius but he has come over here, and after joining these people, he lost his sense also. His normalcy is even lost. That is why, he dares to bring in such a legislation before this House. He is asking you to nationalise Yamuna, Pennar, Brahmaputra and all these rivers which are in the ancient *vedas*. Do you say that you want them to be nationalised? Without understanding the implication, you do not support him. Otherwise, he may be with you. You need not go to that extent for this purpose. Shri Vaiko will be with you for the time being because of his political convenience. You need not come down to such an extent for this purpose. So, I request my hon. friend to withdraw the Bill failing which you will be doing a disservice. I am sure Anna will not forgive you. The late great Anna will never forgive you for bringing this legislation before this House. So, I request you to withdraw the Bill. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill because legally it is untenable. River waters are governed internationally by riparian laws and only those States have the rights to the waters through which the rivers pass. Non-riparian States do not have the rights to take water from the riparian States. That is the principle and if there is any doubt we could go to a Select Committee because of the laws quoted from the USA, Canada, Australia on the riparian law. The Supreme Courts of the USA have ruled that non-riparian States do not have any rights to water which flows from a riparian State. That is the law.

Now, I have also understood, during this debate that the NDA stands for devolution. I do not know why the Treasury Benches are insisting on nationalising the rivers when the riparian waters are in the State List as per article 246 of the Constitution and I also believe that the Centre has no right to the waters of riparian rivers, riparian States

and that is the reason why the NDA wishes to nationalise the waters.

In that context I wish to say that the NDA says that it wants to decontrol things, bring in devolution but where is the devolution when they want to nationalise the water, introduce a new TADA Bill, introduce a federal law enforcement agency and the Election Commissioner says that the Governors should conduct the elections in the States? So, these are all symbols of making the Centre very powerful and we disassociate ourselves from this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are discussing a Private Member's Bill. It has not been introduced by the Government. This Bill introduced by Shri Vaiko is a Private Member's Bill which is being discussed.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : I know that. I am speaking on that very particular point. I am stating that I disassociate myself from this Bill introduced by Shri Vaiko. I quite understand that.

Now, the thing is that if the Treasury Benches want to bring in such legislation they should forget about their manifesto which speaks of decentralisation, devolution and more federalism. On the one hand, we have the Kashmir Assembly asking for more powers, reviving the status of pre-1953 in which Kashmir will have a separate flag, a separate Constitution, and a separate Government. That will mean non-applicability of article 356. These are the things that are now coming into prominence and I wish that this Bill should never have been introduced because our State will oppose it tooth and nail.

Moreover patriotism is sought to be mixed up in nationalising water policy. I do not think that a person or a State which disagrees with this nationalisation of waters is any less patriotic than Members who support the Bill. So, my contention is that we will not support this Bill and we oppose it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : For this Bill we had allotted two hours. Now, the time of two hours is over.

Is it the pleasure of the House to continue with the present Bill?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, the time of the Bill is extended by one hour.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL INDORA (Sirsa) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane of water is mentioned in Vedas. Water is life. It can not be bound in boundaries like relations and sentiments. The geographical condition of our country is

such that it rains somewhere else, the source of water lies somewhere else while water reaches anywhere else. The need for water is at some other place while it is found in abundance at a place where it is needed less. Hon. Member Shri Vaikoji has initiated the discussion on the national problem of water dispute and I thank him for doing so.

Our country is predominately an agricultural country and you are well aware of the importance of water. Infact if it is quite evident that if heavy rains take place then flood strikes and if does not rain then a drought like situation prevails. We have faced this situation in Rajasthan and Gujarat during last few days. The flood situation is threatening us with the prospect of the loss of life and property. This is because we lack a National Water Policy. Shri Vaikoji has mentioned about the need to Nationalise the inter-state rivers and has drawn the attention of the House towards Kaveri water dispute. Similarly a water dispute has been going on for a long time between Punjab and Haryana. There is a need to review the water share of Haryana, when Haryana was created out of Punjab. I would like to say that though most of the water sources are situated in Punjab but Haryana has also been a part of Punjab, hence Haryana also has a right full claim over water. Eradi Tribunal was constituted to resolve that problem and the tribunal had also submitted its report and SYL canal was constructed in view of its recommendations. This issue has become more complicated and the work of SYL canal is lying pending. During the last few years that part of SYL canal falling in Haryana has been completed and an amount of Rs. 63943 crore were spent over it. Despite that the desert area of Haryana, Mahandergarh has not turned green. Due to the non completion of SYL canal, these areas are still unirrigated and sandy. The purpose for which the SYL canal was constructed has not been fulfilled. 95 percent work of SYL canal is completed. A lot of funds of Government of India have also been spent. During the tenure of hon. Chandra Sekharji as Prime Minister a decision to the effect of constructing a link canal in Punjab to be completed by Border Road Organisation was taken but the work is still lying pending. The reason for it is that we don't have any National Water Policy and nationalisation of inter State rivers has not been done.

Sir, I would only want to say that had we framed a National Policy in this regard and nationalised our rivers then the Government could have easily resolved the problems arising out of natural calamities like droughts and floods. The Government could have early decided as to how much water is to be released for what place. Today not only Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan but the entire country is facing the problem of power-shortage. Had there been an uniform policy in the country then the power

generating capacity could have been increased. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, you conclude please.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Sir, it is a very important issue related to our State. . . . (Interruptions) A relief from natural calamities can be achieved and the electricity related needs can be fulfilled. Sir, what a irony it is that we suffer the losses of life and property due to floods as well as due to drought. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are supporting the Bill or not.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Yes Sir, I am speaking in favour of the Bill. Much I am saying is in support of the Bill but I would like to give some suggestions which may be included as amendment in the Bill. As Shri Rasa Singhji has said that Haryana do take the water of Delhi but do not give it to Delhi. . . . (Interruptions) I would like to tell you. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You do not need to tell it, hon. Minister will tell about it.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Sir, it is an issue related to my State. If the Yamuna is desilted in an area of 38-40 kilometres, then there will be no need to demand water from Haryana. I want to state that crop production worth 500 crore is being adversely affected due to noncompletion of Satluj-Yamuna link canal. If we frame a National Water policy then the problem can be resolved. Eradi Tribunal gave its recommendation. We are in favour of implementing the recommendations of Eradi Tribunal in true sense for it will benefit all because the farmers of Punjab are facing a problem due to excess water and the water level is rising very fast there. Most of the water is going to Pakistan due to non completion of SYL canal and the farmers of our country are adversely affected due to it. Especially the farmers of Haryana can benefit from the completion of SYL. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You talk about the principle, it is not related to this thing in every way.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : I would like to thank hon. Vaikoji for bringing this Bill and I support this Bill but I would also like to give some suggestions. National water policy should be framed by holding discussion with the State Governments and such proposals should be included in it which may help in resolving the disputes. If it does not happen then all the rights related to water will vest with the Centre and State will not be able to use even a single drop of water on their own. Hence such a procedure should be adopted that the problems being faced by the States could be done away with. Tribunals should

[Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora]

be vested with the same persons as the Supreme Court has in regard to the enforcement of its judgement re involving the cases of water disputes so that a National Water policy could be framed in the country for resolving the water disputes. I thank hon. Vaikoji for taking a step as the divition of national integration by bringing forward this Bill.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : Sir, I am broadly in agreement with the concept of this Bill. I say so because nationalisation of rivers is not the appropriate word that is to be used because all rivers are public property. There is no necessity for nationalising inter-State rivers. I do not agree with my learned friend Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan that it needs a Constitution amendment. It does not need a Constitution amendment. In fact, I am very proud to say that our forefathers or founding fathers of the Constitution would have envisaged a discussion like this at the time of framing of the Constitution. Item 56 of first list, that is, Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the our Constitution says :

"Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest."

So, even now this august House has got the authority and power to regulate and develop inter-State rivers. So, I would urge my friend, Shri Vaiko, who has brought such a very important issue to the attention of this House, that the word nationalisation, which is of course very dear to Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan at times, now becomes slightly difficult for him. Therefore, I would urge Shri Vaiko and the Government to consider suitably amending the word nationalisation. I have already mentioned that I am broadly in agreement with the intention and the concept of this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, let me speak without interruption. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jos, are you yielding to him ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, he is senior. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I know that the provision is there and I have gone through it. Here, the question is regarding the ownership of the inter-State rivers. What Shri Jos is saying is regarding regulation. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Shri Radhakrishnan, you are overstretching it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This Parliament has passed Inter-State Rivers Dispute Act and a Tribunal is thereby that Act made by Parliament.

That item 56 is regarding regulation of Inter-State rivers, as pointed out by Shri A.C. Jos. But here is a move regarding ownership. Here, nationalisation means that ownership of Inter-State rivers should be with the Central Government. That is the intention. I am not against the regulation. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you against the nationalisation ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : That is the difference.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Entry 17 of List II, that is, the State List, says :

"Water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power subject to the provisions of entry 56 of List I."

So, Sir, even the water management, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power is subject to the provisions of entry 56 of List I. Entry 56 of List I empowers this House to :

"Regulation and development of Inter-State rivers."

My learned friend, Shri Radhakrishnan, spoke of Ullaperiyar River, which is very vital to Kerala. I was not present here when Shri Vaiko said that Pampa River waters have to be diverted to Tamil Nadu. I think, we should not go to that ridiculous extent because it is not possible.

Here, the concept is about Inter-State rivers. Our country is blessed with bountiful of water resources. But everyday, every season, we read in the newspapers about the devastating flood in Assam and, at the same time, about the drought in Gujarat. Again, after two weeks, we hear that there are floods in Gujarat. The most essential thing, I would request the learned Minister who is here, is to bring a comprehensive water management policy. Shri Rawat has pointed out a very pertinent thing. We have got enough Boards and Authorities, but for such a very important thing like water, which is the basic need of human life, and that is why my learned friend said, we do not have a Water Board or Authority.

Scientifically, it is said that only one per cent of the rain water, which nature gives to us, is being utilised in India, and 99 per cent of water is flowing into different seas. We are to be blamed for this. Though nature has given us this much bountiful of water, we have not used it till date.

Some time back, the hon. Prime Minister has come to this House saying that the drought situation in Gujarat was terrible, and we all contributed to the Fund. At the same time, the flood situation in Assam is equally devastating and terrible. We have seen the Brahmaputra River; it runs like a wild elephant; we could not tame it, and we could not harness it because of which the entire water is flowing into the sea.

Somebody mentioned about complete drying up of underground water. It is correct because the way we are using the groundwater now, we would not have any more groundwater after ten years. It is because we have not been able to harness the rainwater to increase the underground water level.

Recently, I had been to Rajasthan for a Committee meeting. Now, there is a boom in Rajasthan. I am not saying that everything is okay. But after the partial completion of the Indira Gandhi Canal, there is vegetation; there is cultivation, and the agriculturists are getting their due remuneration. This is a living example to us.

So, my submission to the Government is that this is a golden opportunity provided by Shri Vaiko, who moved

this Bill, because in a democratic set up, it will be difficult to build a consensus and enact a law. Now, you have an opportunity for using entry 56 of List I, and entry 17 of List II, of the Constitution.

Shri Radhakrishnan has got an innate difficulty with reference to the word 'nationalisation'. That is why, I am repeatedly saying that I do accept the concept of this thing.

18.00 hours

Everyday we hear about the Cauvery water dispute. But what about the wasted water?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jose, would you like to continue?

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, yes. This is a very important subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are two to three more speakers to speak on this subject. You can continue again when it is taken up.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 A.M. on Monday, 31st July, 2000.

18.01 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 31, 2000/Sravana 9, 1922 (Saka)

**CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(ENGLISH VERSION)**

Friday, July 28, 2000, Sravana 6, 1922 (Saka)

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