

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G.C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. A.K. Pandey
Additional Secretary

Harnam Singh
Joint Secretary

P.C. Bhatt
Principal Chief Editor

A.P. Chakravarti
Senior Editor

Nisha Sharma
Asstt. Editor

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. IX, Fourth Session, 2000/1922 (Saka)]

No. 15, Friday, August 11, 2000/Śravana 20, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 281 to 283 and 285	1—30
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 284 and 286 to 300	36—74
Unstarred Question Nos. 3092 to 3321	74—313
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	313
STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 671 DATED MAY 12, 2000 REGARDING TAX EVASION BY MNCs.	319
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	321—325
WELCOME TO THE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM MADAGASCAR	325
RE: BOMB BLASTS ON AUGUST 10, 2000 IN SRINAGAR (J&K) RESULTING IN KILLING OF SEVERAL PERSONS	325—31
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL	345—49
Motion to Consider	345
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	345
Shri Pramod Mahajan	346
Shri K.P. Singh Deo	348
CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL	350, 421—437
Motion to Consider	350
Shri Arun Jaitley	350, 431
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	355
Shri Rupchand Pal	357, 421
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	424
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	427
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	429
Motion to Pass	437

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
UTTAR PRADESH REORGANISATION BILL	
Amendment made by Rejya Sabha—Agreed to	362
MOTION RE: SEVENTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	370
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—INTRODUCED	
(i) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of the Eighth Schedule)	
Shri Bir Singh Mahato	370
(ii) Official Languages (Repeal) Bill	
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya	370
(iii) Use of Indian Languages in Commercial Advertisements and on Packages of Consumer Goods Bill	
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya	371
(iv) Meritorious Students (Assistance in Higher Studies) Bill	
Shri Haribhai Chaudhary	372
(v) Child Labour in Hazardous Employment (Abolition, Rehabilitation and Welfare) Bill	
Shrimati Kanti Singh	372
(vi) Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 2, etc.)	
Shri Subodh Mohite	373
(vii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 243C, etc.)	
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	373
(viii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 31)	
Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy	374
(ix) Constitution Amendment Bill (Amendment of article 103, etc.)	
Shri Vilas Muttemwar	381
NATIONALISATION OF INTER-STATE RIVERS BILL	
Shri A.C. Jos	374
Shri P.H. Pandiyan	377
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	381
Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar	383
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	396
Shri V.P. Singh Badnore	397
Shri Arjun Sethi	399
Shri Vaiko	403

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
BACKWARD AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL	407—412
Shri Subodh Mohite	407
HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION	412—421
Ongoing Irrigation Projects.	412
Shri Naresh Puglia	412
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	415
Shri Pravin Rashtrapal	416
Shri Arjun Sethi	418
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND	
BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA	429—431
BIHAR REORGANISATION BILL	437—444
Amendments made by Rajya Sabha—Agreed to	437

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 11, 2000/Sravana 20, 1922 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Amendment in Cable TV Network (Act) 1995 to curb Obscene Advertisements

*281. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 to curb obscene advertisements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also instructed TV channels to observe restraint in using Gods and prophets belonging to various religions while accepting advertisements for these channels; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against TV channels found violating the said instructions?

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) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The advertising code under the Cable Television Networks Rules provides that the cable operators shall ensure that the portrayal of the female form in the programmes carried in his cable service, is tasteful and aesthetic, and is within the well established norms of good taste and decency. However, as per proviso to Sections 5 & 6 of the existing Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the programme and advertising code under the Cable Television Network

Rules are not applicable to free to air foreign satellite channels, which can be received without the use of any specialized gadgets or decoders. The Cable Television Network (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2000 introduced in Lok Sabha on 03.08.2000, *inter-alia* aims to remove this anomaly.

(c) Yes, Sir. Various satellite channels were advised to exercise restraint in using Gods and Prophets belonging to various religions, respected leaders and institutions, including Armed Forces while accepting advertisements for being telecast on their channels.

(d) The advertising code under the Cable Television Network Rules, amongst others, provides that advertising carried in the cable service shall be so designed as to conform to the laws of the country and should not offend morality, decency and religious susceptibilities of the subscribers. Authorised officers of the respective State Governments have to take necessary action against the cable operators for violating the advertising codes. Action can also be taken against the TV channels uplinking their programmes from India in case specific instances of violating programme and advertising codes are brought to the notice of the Government. However, the satellite TV channels being uplinked from outside India are not legally obliged to follow these programme and advertising codes. With a view to bring these satellite channels under the ambit of rules and regulations framed under the Cable Networks Act, the Government has recently liberalized its uplinking policy, permitting all satellite channels to uplink from India provided they undertake to comply with programme and advertising codes.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although rules have been framed by the Government for the cable operators, but inspite of these rules the programmes being telecast on various channels by them are having so much obscenity that we cannot see these programmes even with our family members. The Government have framed these rules in this regard but these are not being followed in true spirit. If these rules are implemented properly, then no one could dare to show such programmes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no provision in the laws enacted by the Government to impose a ban on foreign channels. Therefore most of the programmes shown on the foreign channels are not conducive to the culture and tradition of our country. So, I would like to know from the Government as to what steps have been taken by them to stop telecasting of obscene programmes by the cable operators on various channels.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rules framed under the cable law enacted in 1995 has a programme code and secondly there is also an advertising code for advertisements. There was a provision in this law that both of these codes will not be applicable on free to air channels, which can be watched by the viewers without paying any money. So, both the channels are going out of control of this law. The Government has introduced a bill in the Parliament after a lot of discussion on this matter for amendment, which is also included in today's list of business. There is a proposal in it that the exemption given earlier to these free to air channels should be removed. Secondly, there is a provision in this bill about the appointment of the officers who will see the implementation part of it. State Governments had to appoint the officers in this regard. Several State Governments did nothing in this regard. So, we have also made a provision in this amendment that the district magistrate, sub-divisional magistrate or commissioner of police will be the authorised officers for enforcement of this act. By this amendment the difficulties faced earlier will not be there. This bill is before the House today and if it is passed then after passing this bill all the doubts of hon. Member would perhaps be removed.

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary question is that new films are shown by the local cable operators in small and big cities before their release and as a result thereof film theaters and film industry are suffering heavy losses.

At one time 90 per cent people used to see the film in the theatre and these films were making silver jubilee or golden jubilee, but now film do not last even for one or two weeks. Secondly there is no tax on advertisements shown on private channel whereas theatres pay 30 per cent tax on it. As a result thereof not much entertainment tax is being deposited in the treasure of the Government as was expected. Film industry and theatre industry are suffering a great losses for showing new films by the private cable operators. I want to know as to what steps or actions are being taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had a talk with film industry as well as cable industry in this regard. Video piracy is there and for this sole reason a prior permission is required for showing any film but it is being shown without obtaining prior permission. Thus it can be termed as stealing intellectual property of other people. Under the existing copy right law whoever has a doubt or complaint has to go to the court in this regard. Police is also authorised to make use of these rights. But it has been observed that if such incidents occur in several parts of the country then the person concerned

whose property has been stolen, cannot move to court at each and every place because such incidents of piracy come up to our notice just few days before the release of the film. So, the Government are envisaging to bring about new law in this regard under broadcasting rules and conversion law so as to ensure effective action on cable network in this regard and when it will come up before the Parliament after enacting law then we will have to think over it to see as to how a new provision could be made in this regard.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, obscenity is not the only damage being caused to the society. The use of alcohol and tobacco also are causing incalculable damage to the society. But these things are being freely advertised on various television channels.

Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is this. Will the Government bring in any provision in the Cable TV Network rules to prevent the advertisement of alcohol and tobacco on TV channels?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, there are two limbs of my response to this. As far as Doordarshan and All India Radio are concerned, they have their internal broadcasting code under which advertisement of tobacco and liquor is not permitted on Doordarshan and All India Radio. But the same is being done on various private channels, particularly those channels which are up-linked from outside and are being telecast into the country.

Sir, the Government have been receiving several representations to prohibit these advertisements through the operation of the rule under the Cable Network Act. In fact, at some stage, the United Front Government had moved in the direction of taking a policy decision in this matter to bring about an amendment to those rules. We have again been receiving these representations and this issue is under the very active consideration of the Government.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister as to whether he is aware that certain cable TV operators are misusing a particular time in the afternoon, when children only are at home and the parents are not present, and also after 12 o'clock in the mid-night, for relaying very highly objectionable movies and certain other programmes.

Sir, I would also like to know whether the Government is aware about the cable war in the city of Ahmedabad that involved a State Minister and the brother of an MLA that created a scene in the public. The Minister of Home

in the Government of Gujarat had to resign. I would like to have a clarification on this.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, as far as the second issue is concerned, the matter pertains entirely to the State.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is interested only in clarification.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: As far as the first issue is concerned, yes it has been brought to our notice. We have taken notice of this fact because it is in public display in every house which has a cable connection that at times such programmes are telecast which violate the programme code which prohibits obscenity altogether. This is precisely the reason why we realised that the existing enactment is a little insufficient. As I have mentioned, it is insufficient for the reasons that the provision against obscenity was not applicable to free-to-air channels. So, we have made the new amendment, which we have introduced in the House, applicable to all channels across the board irrespective of whether they are pay channels or free-to-air channels. Secondly, there was an ineffective machinery for enforcement of the law. There was also an inadequate provision that if somebody persistently violates the law the power of prohibition was also inadequate. All those shortcomings have been removed in the Bill that is listed in the List of Business today. We have tried to make a provision for each one of them in the Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I have a lot of hopes from the Minister who is a product of the students and the youth movement. Since he is doing his best, I would like to address this question to him.

The programmes being telecast on satellite channels like MTV, [V], Sun TV, Udaya TV, TVI, etc., for the last few years are working against the welfare of the youth of the country and the culture of India. These programmes are destroying the society. These companies are minting money through telecasting such programmes. The cable operators in urban areas, located near schools, colleges and university canteens are operating without any control of police or law over them. I do not know the answer for this. I address this question to the Minister. Let the Minister think very consciously on this. The kind of things they are doing in this country are enough to destroy the next generation. India has never witnessed such things. We also grew up from our student days.

Secondly, in order to protect the film industry can the Minister think of one step for which I have been crying hoarse in every forum? Can he make a law, in consultation with all sections of the society, which prohibits

video projection or release of video cassettes of a film till 15 days from the first screening of that film? If it is not done, the film industry would end up in a disaster in the future. Exhibitors are feeling that they have no future. It is because a film is shown on cable TV at least seven days before it is released officially. So, to take care of India's industrial interest, can the Minister, in consultation with all other Departments, come out with a very strong law in this regard so that piracy could be prevented, exhibitors' interests can be protected, and the growth of film industry can be ensured? I put these two questions to the hon. Minister whom I treat not only as a Minister but as a product of constructive youth movement in this country.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am very grateful to Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi for making these two observations on issues which are of very serious concern.

As I have already stated, as far as certain channels are concerned, on account of their being free-to-air channels they were out of the purview of the broadcasting and advertising codes. Why such provisions were introduced, I really do not know. Maybe it was done because the industry was in the nascent stages and perhaps we did not have a full experience of how it would work. Now that we have seen it for almost ten years, we are introducing this amendment and also providing for a machinery for the enforcement of those. If I may just read the first part of the programme code itself, it says, "no programme should be carried in the cable service which offends against good taste and decency." This is the first provision on the code which is not applicable to a number of channels. Once this new law is passed, hopefully it shall become applicable and we shall try and enforce it.

As far as the second question with regard to piracy being detrimental to the economic interests of the film industry is concerned, it indeed is. There is large scale piracy which has gone on. Under the existing law, as I explained to the hon. Member earlier, the film producer or distributor aggrieved has to go to court to obtain stay orders against piracy. If piracy is being carried out by one thousand cable operators all over the country, he cannot really be reasonably expected to go to one thousand places.

Therefore, we certainly do require a more effective mechanism than the one under the Copyright Act. Therefore, in a larger law, which relates to the whole industry, which we have under contemplation, we certainly have provisions in our mind which are intended to regulate the check on piracy through the Cable Industry itself through enforcement of certain discipline on them.

As regards the larger law, a Committee headed by the hon. Finance Minister is considering it. We are certainly keeping this in mind while framing that larger law.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Minister whether it is a fact that even today superstitious as well as non scientific scenes are being shown on TV channels? For example there was a Shaktiman serial, which had frightened children; now whether it is proper to mislead people by showing such scenes. On one side science and technology has stepped into 21st century and on other side TV channels are showing superstitious scenes, a person is shown flying in the sky, will you take any step to stop such programmes?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say only one thing that we have provided to our citizens full right of freedom of expression making programmes and producing films etc. The restrictions which are already there can help us to contain any such serial if it comes, within its parameter and it will be possible to check it and if it is out of its purview the Government does not have the right to check it.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my predecessor have raised several points. Today the position is such that the Members of the family hesitate to watch TV sitting together. Parents have no way out except walking out. The country where woman are worshipped, is being displayed nude on TV and the Minister is helpless. To protect the dignity and the culture of India, I urge upon the minister to ban such programmes in which woman is being shown nude. Western culture is being amalgamated into Indian culture, nude programmes are being shown, no one can watch these programmes along with his family. I would like to request the Minister as to when he is likely to formulate such rules, to ensure that there is no nudity in the programme.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the provision of programme code is against the obscenity as well as displaying women in nudity. In addition to cable law, Parliament has enacted a law namely indecent representation of women prohibition act, under which no one can display woman in obscene mode. To enforce that law which was being described by you, the new amendment, which is brought by us, is before the Parliament today and when it will be discussed, you may suggest any reform which can be included in this.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on one side obscenity is attacking Indian civilisation and culture and western culture is dominating on this country and on other side Indian economy is being destroyed in several ways by stamping foreign trade mark on indigenous goods. Foreign trade mark is being put on cosmetic specially for women being telecasted on TV, it is affected on village level. I want to know whether you propose to enact such law by which any review Committee could ensure that indigenous stamp is put on indigenous goods so that country's fund remain in the country itself. Will you enact any law in regard to obscenity so as to protect Indian civilisation and culture.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said that there are some provisions which are not covered under cable law as well as trade mark law. So there is a provision in the trade mark law to ensure that indigenous name is put only on indigenous goods and no one could use other's name and such laws exists even today.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: But whatever is happening, what is about it?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: God's name is used for the sale of indigenous goods, 'Ram bali' is sold here, you like it?

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the young minds of India, through audio-visual education, learn the techniques of committing crime. They learn violence by constantly watching these TV channels. Also, during midnight, there is something called 'masala' where obscene songs featuring young girls are displayed through TV, spoiling the minds of the younger generation. Will the Government take any step to stop the screening of these programmes, which display young girls during the night in *masalas* throughout the country?

MR. SPEAKER: It is about the midnight programmes.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: This question also relates to what I have already answered.

We are endeavouring to both create a machinery for enforcement as also to make our programme and advertising codes applicable to all channels across the board. Therefore the effect of the amendments that we are proposing perhaps would be in the direction on which Shri Pandiyan has expressed his concern.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from the question of obscenity and some other things that our colleagues mentioned, there are some advertisements that are very dangerous for children because the children try to imitate those advertisements. They jump from a height to drink a cold drink. I would like to know whether you have any machinery to stop such advertisements?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The advertising code under the law is very clear. Any such advertisement that leads to any kind of disorder from violence to unnatural beliefs or glorifies any form of obscenity is not permitted under the advertising code. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: The Pepsi and Coca-Cola advertisements show human beings jumping from the sky. ...*(Interruptions)* Such advertisements are shown every day. They are shown even today. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Let him answer please.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: There is already a provision in the advertising code against this. The difficulty was that this advertising code in the law that was framed in 1995 was not applicable to all channels. The purpose of our present amendment is to introduce a law that would be applicable to all channels so that the channels that were not abiding by this advertising code are also brought within the framework of this particular law.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few years ago, there was a spate of songs with double meaning. Those had to be actually put down with a heavy hand. Today, I find that the reply of the hon. Minister to parts (a) and (b) contains a word that has a double meaning. It says:

"The advertising code under the Cable Television Networks Rules provides that the cable operators shall ensure that the portrayal of the female form in the programmes carried in his cable service is 'tasteful'."

I would request him to remove the word 'tasteful' and in fact only to do with the words 'good taste and decency'.

Having said that I am sorry that the hon. Minister laments in reply to part (d) of the question:

"The satellite TV channels being uplinked from outside India are not legally obliged to follow these programme and advertising codes."

The only remedy that the hon. Minister has to this malady is to permit them to uplink from India subject to the code. But the problem would remain if those channels do want to show something that according to our culture is objectionable and continue to do what they are doing. May be, they would not then like to uplink their programmes from India.

There have been references to various sort of advertisements to which I would only add the serials that we have today. All of them deal with only one theme—illicit relations. Also, people manning borders are shown as being enticed by others for a drink.

Sir, I would only like to know two things from the hon. Minister. Given the law that it is, he says that they are not legally obliged to follow. The first one is this. Is there any possibility of framing a law to rope in those people also? Secondly, if that is really not possible under any international convention or any other thing, what can possibly be the device which we can use to jam such programmes by a monitoring authority to be appointed by the Government?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am extremely grateful to the hon. Member for enlarging and highlighting the extent of the problem that exists.

The Government does not have only one-point approach as far as this problem is concerned. There are a large number of channels that are being uplinked from outside and since they are uplinked from outside, their satellite footprints are available all across the country. There are difficulties in disciplining those channels because the hub of their activity is outside India. We only receive their prints. Therefore, an effort has been made by the Government to liberalise the uplinking policy, permitting them to uplink from India where prohibitions existed in the past, subjecting them to security clearances and subjecting them to give an undertaking to abide by the Broadcasting and the Advertising Codes of India. That is one approach.

The second approach which the hon. Member wanted to know is this. In case they still do not come to India to uplink in India, how do we intend to tackle them, by way of an amendment of the law? That is precisely the problem, which I have been indicating and which exists today. They would uplink from outside, have a 'free to air' channel and the footprints would be thrown into India. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Let him answer. He can do it very well.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The 'free to air' channels — whether uplinked from the outside or uplinked from India — were outside the discipline of our law altogether, that is, Broadcasting and the Advertising Codes. Once this proposed amendment is approved and put into effect, this problem could be solved. We have several amendments which we have suggested today. We not only make it applicable to all of them, but we also appoint officers. It can be done under the Act itself. So, every District Magistrate or SDM or the Commissioner of Police in his area will be entitled to stop a cable operator who is displaying any programme which offends the Code.

We have also introduced provisions with regard to seizure of equipment of somebody, who is still doing it. There is an existing provision, which was not enforced since the authorised officers were not there; and also, there are provisions in such cases, they take recourse to prohibition and to have orders against that channel altogether.

There are various amendments, which have been suggested to this, to make sure that even within the limits of free expression that we have in India, at least as far as obscenities are concerned and vulgarity is concerned, nobody is able to display such programmes in India.

I may also add—since the hon. Member has put a question as to whether we are also considering this aspect—that the rules framed in 1995, specifically do permit to operate the channels that can be viewed by adults between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Now, we have received several representations against that. Therefore, that is a part of the rules. That is another provision which we are seriously reconsidering.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than sixty per cent of our population lives in the rural areas. The population in urban areas is increasing day by day. That's why I have said sixty per cent and on the other hand, the percentage of literacy is low in the rural areas as compared to the urban areas. We always read such news in the newspapers that some woman has been killed by the villagers as she used to practice witchcraft. That's why poor children are sacrificed to get this 'Aghori Vidya'. The superstitions are still very much prevalent in our country and so, such serials are being shown by some channels and cable operators which encourage these superstitions. I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister as to what action is

being taken by the Government to check the telecasting of serials encouraging superstitions and blind belief by the private channels and cable operators?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Difficulties are being faced in the implementation of the programming code framed in 1995 under the law, but we are trying our best to implement it as it provides non telecasting of the programmes

[English]

Which encourages superstition or blind belief.

[Translation]

Such provision was there. There was difficulty in implementing it as large section of the society did not come under its purview. Therefore if the machinery for its implementation and its applicability are also expanded then we will make efforts to ensure that such programmes should not be telecast. This law will be applicable to television companies also.

[English]

Complaint About Indian Marine Products

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

(a) whether many foreign countries have complained about the poor packaging and hygienic defects in Indian marine products which are being exported to them;

(b) if so, whether the importers have expressed unhappiness in this regard;

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation and the result thereof; and

(d) the details of assistance being provided by the Government to shrimp exporters to improve the quality and packaging of marine products for export?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) While no complaints have been received from any country importing marine products from India with regard to poor packaging, there have been suggestions that the quality of packaging be improved.

However, there have been certain complaints from a few countries about quality related hygienic defects.

(c) The following steps have been taken to check the occurrence of complaints:—

- (1) Export Inspection Council (EIC) has put in place a system of rigorous monitoring of the fish and fishery product establishments so that they adhere to the standards of quality with respect to various products as notified by the Government of India.
- (2) The laboratories of Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) have been adequately equipped for testing Fish & Fishery product units as per the requirements/guidelines issued by the Government of India for export of marine products.
- (3) Whenever a specific quality complaint is received, the EIC undertakes a drill to verify the genuineness of the complaint and take preventive action. It is only after satisfactory completion of the remedial measures by the concerned processing unit that the EIC approves lifting the control measures imposed on the unit.
- (4) The Government of India have asked Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) to get a study done by Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) about status of packaging in India and offering recommendations to improve the quality of packaging in the country. The study is in progress.
- (5) As and when a specific quality issues arises with respect to a particular market(s), MPEDA interacts with the concerned authorities to sort out the matter.

(d) Assistance being provided by the Government to the exporters of marine products including shrimp exporters cover, *inter-alia*, subsidizing rate of interest on loans obtained for modernization of fish and fishery products processing establishments in terms of working capital requirements etc., extending subsidy for procurement of various kinds of equipment and machinery for upgradation of various facilities and establishment of quality control laboratories. Besides, MPEDA and EIC have been organizing various training programmes for technologists employed in the processing plants and responsible for quality control. A number of extension training programmes on hygienic handling of products have also been conducted for the workers in the pre-processing segment, processing plants and fishermen. At

the instance of MPEDA, the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) has already been engaged for studying the requirements of packaging in the international market and suggest measures for improving standards of packaging in the seafood sector in India.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is well known that in the last ten years, the State of Andhra Pradesh and the East-Coastal areas of India have become the most important source for the export of marine products, like shrimp and prawn. Farmers of Andhra Pradesh in general and farmers of Krishna and East-West Godavari Districts, like Visakhapatnam, Prakasam and Nellore in particular have invested large sums of money. But we find that Marine Products Export Development Authority has not given adequate attention to help the fishing farmers to produce properly and also not helping the packers and exporters to maintain standards. Many a times, countries like Japan and America reject Indian shrimp on the ground of low quality, with the result the farmers are incurring enormous losses.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the Marine Products Export Development Authority has not advised the packers and exporters properly and what steps the Government will take to solve the problems of fishing farmers.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I would like to submit that there is no discrimination at all. Fishing is promoted and MPEDA is doing its best to increase its exports and I am happy to say that exports are showing an improving trend. For example, between April and June this year, the export has increased, in rupee value by 33.40 per cent and in dollar value by 29.40 per cent. If the hon. Member brings any specific complaint, definitely we will look into it.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Sir the Marine Products Export Development Authority is based in Kerala. But most of the exporters are from Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: About 1,30,000 hectares of land is under prawn culture in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: For this also, do you want to create noise in the House?

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would like to take any steps to improve the MPEDA in Andhra Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* I want clarifications from the hon. Minister.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, all the Southern States are doing well. Especially coastal States are doing very well. I do not want to compare one State with the other. The *status quo* is good. So, there is no need to change.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Recently, there was a seminar at Aroor participated by the representatives of all concerned with the marine sector. One of the most important suggestions mooted by the seminar was to have a permanent council involving all the related Departments of Central and State Governments, the elected representatives of the people of the related areas and all others concerned with the marine sector, including exporters, owners of peeling sheds and workers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider this suggestion. If so, prior to this, will the Government hold discussions with all the people who are concerned with this sector to have a better understanding of the system and the sector?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I would like to submit to the House and to the hon. Member that there is already an authority called the Marine Products Export Development Authority which is doing this job. Not only that, there are a plethora of agencies, like the Export Inspection Council, Export Inspection Agencies. So, I do not think there is a need for any more agency. If the hon. Member brings some complaints and if there is any lacuna, we will definitely look into it. At present, I do not think another agency is needed.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will you call a meeting of all concerned?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: We are doing that periodically.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, in the answer the hon. Minister has stated a number of things that will be done. The answer gives a very appalling picture. May I know from the Minister whether he is thinking of closely monitoring of MPEDA activities and gearing them up? Secondly, quality is the main thing that has been questioned by various importing countries. Therefore, what steps the Government has taken towards developing quality consciousness of different items, especially the export items?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, as per my knowledge, MPEDA is doing well. If the hon. Member brings to my notice any lacuna, we will examine it.

Secondly, Sir, standards are very important from the point of view of exports. Be it the European Union, USA or Japan, all of them are showing very keen interest in

the standards. If it is sub-standard, it is dangerous to the health and dangerous to human life.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: You have admitted that there are huge complaints.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: That is why we are taking a lot of interest in maintaining the standards. If sub-standard products are reported, they will affect the name of India, they will affect human life. So, we are giving a lot of training to the persons who are engaged in this work and we will continue to do so.

Development of Tourism

*283. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is not able to utilise in full its tourism potentials;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated and actually utilised for the development of tourism in the country during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, State-wise;

(d) the State-wise details of ongoing tourist projects launched by the Government; and

(e) the time by which the above projects are likely to be completed, particularly in Manipur?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Tourism potential of India can not be quantified. Considerable progress has been made in increasing international tourists arrivals to the country and generating domestic tourism. Government policies, programmes and schemes are geared to utilise the full tourist potential of India.

(c) to (e) State-wise statement showing projects and amount sanctioned during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are enclosed at Annexure I. The implementation of the projects is undertaken by the State Governments and its agencies. It takes approximately upto 30 months to complete a project depending on the nature of the project and the same is true for Manipur also. Detailed statement of projects approved for Manipur in 1999-2000 is enclosed at Annexure II.

Annexure-I

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 sanctioned	Amount sancd.	Amt. Released	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	Amt. Released	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned	Amt. Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	206.70	69.10	10	244.08	87.85	14	222.22	54.49
2.	Assam	14	288.88	94.20	15	457.95	146.14	17	357.35	76.96
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	271.00	82.50	6	216.32	65.55	11	239.28	51.03
4.	Bihar	11	233.07	76.37	11	237.29	86.68	5	89.71	21.00
5.	Goa	8	144.62	56.76	14	319.98	114.07	11	279.82	66.43
6.	Gujarat	7	111.84	41.90	15	449.57	126.04	19	327.64	75.59
7.	Haryana	6	98.62	44.83	12	333.93	128.10	9	238.33	63.07
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	119.00	57.50	10	318.00	164.50	17	691.29	191.79
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	293.35	173.25	6	192.85	84.50	16	334.58	94.93
10.	Karnataka	10	130.78	60.66	12	399.82	117.47	38	856.40	135.73
11.	Kerala	11	287.00	115.00	13	653.05	117.95	19	699.28	137.45
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10	141.85	55.37	18	441.39	169.72	16	431.08	45.70
13.	Maharashtra	12	169.84	49.14	18	496.27	179.67	30	1003.69	169.02
14.	Manipur	5	186.11	56.35	8	140.49	41.40	10	229.00	70.10
15.	Meghalaya	5	97.70	30.55	5	120.48	37.50	5	30.72	6.46
16.	Mizoram	6	142.45	43.50	8	203.34	62.90	13	292.17	94.41
17.	Nagaland	3	113.90	51.36	11	230.54	69.00	16	291.80	93.75
18.	Orissa	28	552.05	180.00	6	178.60	56.30	19	301.90	78.79
19.	Punjab	6	52.87	15.72	7	242.14	150.33	8	175.00	42.51

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20.	Rajasthan	14	135.33	76.05	22	436.28	146.90	12	131.12	34.34
21.	Sikkim	11	73.20	36.95	15	136.03	58.92	13	118.98	43.57
22.	Tamil Nadu	7	59.74	22.86	17	316.20	115.85	26	493.85	99.51
23.	Tripura	8	126.88	44.65	9	169.21	53.00	7	340.76	99.12
24.	Uttar Pradesh	13	221.10	78.17	41	869.85	350.14	36	755.45	176.11
25.	West Bengal	7	125.76	35.00	12	211.13	65.37	6	194.01	12.73
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	4	162.50	49.50	1	32.37	16.18
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	3	55.18	17.95	4	69.59	13.91
28.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	1	5.20	2.60	2	20.00	6.00	1	30.00	9.00
29.	Delhi	8	233.43	143.34	13	223.89	104.43	5	24.50	12.20
30.	Daman & Diu	4	60.17	17.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	1	5.00	2.50	1	29.00	13.80	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	4	35.64	12.83	2	15.00	4.50	10	163.89	52.04
Total		256	4722.88	1826.26	346	8520.36	2992.03	414	9445.78	2137.92

Annexure-II*List of Project-wise Amount Sanctioned and Amount Released to Manipur for the year 1999-2000*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Status of the Project
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Const. of Parking at Tourist Home at Sendra	10.00	3.00	
2.	Const. of Tourist Home at Thanlon along the Imphal-Churachandpur-Tipaimukh Aizawl Road	36.00	10.80	
3.	Const. of Tourist Home at Jesami near Nagaland Border	25.00	7.50	

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Const. of Tourist Home Chandel Distt. Hqrs.	36.00	10.80	
5.	Const. of Wayside Amenities at Senapati	15.00	4.50	
6.	Const. of Base Camp at Koubra Leikai	35.00	10.50	
7.	Const. of Tourist Recreation Facilities, Gallery and Platform at Moirang Thangjing	40.00	12.00	
8.	Fairs and festivals (2 projects)	7.00	3.50	
9.	Tourist Home at Chingoi Baruni	25.00	7.50	
Total:		229.00	70.10	

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAAKIP: Sir, I should say that the arrangement is wonderful as I do not get the answers! The one who puts the question, must get the answer one-day in advance but I do not get it. I would like to put this question. The foreigners are not allowed to go to the North-East. They have to come in groups of either three or four. Since the Home Ministry has placed too many restrictions, tourism has not developed there. I would like to know why such stringent rules have been made for the North-East. The North-East is also in India. It is not a foreign country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why no arrangement has been made.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the North-East is very much part of India but because of the insurgency movement and law and order situation, there are three permits which are prevalent there. They are, Restricted Area Permit, Protected Area Permit and the Inner Line Permit. In the interest of security and integrity of the nation, these permits are enforced by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the respective State Governments. Despite this, we are providing various infrastructural support and other things so as to promote tourism in the North-East.

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAAKIP: As in Kashmir, there has not been a single case of foreigner's kidnapping in the North-East. The Government is allowing tourists to visit Kashmir freely but they are not allowed to go to the North-East. What kind of an arrangement is it? Let the hon. Minister talk with the Home Minister in this regard so as to develop tourism in the North-East.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I assure the hon. Member that we will be proactively discussing this issue with the Home Ministry. We will ask the Home Ministry to relax the existing permits in the areas which are free from insurgency or free from disturbances.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, the hon. Minister in his statement has indicated that for Orissa the amount sanctioned for various projects was as follows: In 1997-98, it was Rs. 552 lakh, in 1998-99 it was Rs. 178 lakh and in 1999-2000, it was Rs. 301 lakh. But the amount released was too meagre; it was Rs. 180 lakh in 1997-98, Rs. 56 lakh in 1998-99 and Rs. 78 lakh in 1999-2000. The Minister has also indicated in his statement that a project takes about 30 months to be completed. Since the money has not been released in the last two years, it would be difficult to complete the projects. May I request the Minister, through you, to intimate the reasons for which the amounts have not been released.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the Government of India provides resources for infrastructure development to build various amenities in various heritage sites as well as tourist destinations. The scheme is like this. As soon as the approval is given, the money is sanctioned and 30 per cent of the amount is released. Thereafter, after getting the Utilisation Certificate, another 50 per cent is given. After getting the Utilisation Certificate for that 50 per cent, the remaining 20 per cent of the amount is released.

The problem in various States including Orissa is, we do not get the proposals in time. Secondly, the State

Governments in turn will not go for land acquisition and provide the land records to the Union Government. And, thirdly, the Utilisation Certificate is not given. If these three things are done proactively by the State Government, we can release the entire allocation for that infrastructure project. Though we have said that it requires 30 months, in various places, it has been completed in 18 months only by various State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year new projects are started to promote tourism. I would like to ask a very simple question as to how many projects have so far been completed out of them. The hon'ble Minister may please give the reply as to how many projects have been completed in time and if some have not been completed, the reasons therefor? I would like to know as to how many projects were approved and out of them how many had been completed?

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, between 1997-2000, Rs. 226 crore have been allocated for various infrastructure projects. There are about 1016 infrastructure projects and till now the amount released is Rs. 70 crore. I will be sending to the hon. Member, and also placing for the perusal of the august House, the details.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: My question is that out of 1016 projects, how many have been completed and what is their percentage?

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, through you, I will be submitting the details to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has submitted a chart in which details regarding the amount sanctioned and released during the last year and the current year have been given. During the last year, Rs. 869 lakhs were sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh and out of which only Rs. 350 lakhs were released.

This year a sum of Rs. 755 lakhs has been sanctioned and out of which Rs. 176 lakhs have been released. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh is the state which has good potential for tourism. This state has

Himalayas on one side and if the Himalayas is developed as a tourist place, then the tourist places of Himalayas can earn more than all the tourist places of this country. This state has pilgrim centres like Badrinath, Kedarnath, Banaras, Prayag, Mathura-Vrindaban etc. This state also has Buddhist pilgrim centres like Lumbini and Saarnath as well as historical places like Agra, Tajmahal and Fatehpur Sikri. How can we develop the tourism potential by allocating only Rs. 86 lakhs and releasing Rs. 35 lakhs to the state which has vast potential for tourism? How can we attract the tourists to Uttar Pradesh? If the Government wants, then vast tourism facilities can be developed in Uttar Pradesh alone. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the hon'ble Minister will make an increase in the budget for developing Uttar Pradesh as a tourist place? The hon. Minister on several occasions has said that it is being developed and therefore more funds are being provided in the budget for this purpose. Will you certainly provide more funds to Uttar Pradesh for the development of tourist places in the state?

Secondly, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested the Union Government to develop the 'Brahmavrata' area as a tourist place as it is a historical place as well as the birth place of Nana Rao Peshwa and also a religious place. Brahmaji's 'Kutiya' is there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would provide more funds for developing tourist places of Uttar Pradesh and whether the Union Government would develop Bithoor i.e. 'Brahmavrata' as a tourist place?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have made an allocation of Rs. 135 crores in the Budget for the entire country. We have estimated that we will require a sum of Rs. 48 thousand crores for the development of all the tourist places. This estimate has been made for ten years to set up tourism infrastructure. Now the proposals sent by the Government of Uttar Pradesh have been evaluated and accordingly the funds have been provided to Uttar Pradesh Government to the tune of Rs. 135 crores in the budget. Secondly, as far as the Brahmavrata is concerned, I will examine the matter.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, Sabrimala in Kerala is an important pilgrim centre where lakhs and cores of people are coming. I am happy that some initiative has been taken and even the hon. Speaker has been taking some initiative. But still the problem is that the Union Government is not giving land under the guise that some

of the land which is available is forest land. But these are the needs where we have to give exemptions, as they are very necessary. I would like to say that immediately the Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of India should take initiative in this regard. I would also submit that the Ministry of Environment as well as all the other concerned Ministries have to coordinate to do something in this regard. It is because this is a place where so many people come and there is a fear that the infrastructure would not be able to handle such a large number of people who are coming there.

I would also like to add that Erumeli....

MR. SPEAKER: You can only ask a supplementary and not add or give suggestions.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Erumeli is the gateway to Sabarimalai which is in my constituency. I may be permitted to put a small query.

MR. SPEAKER: You can straightway ask the supplementary and not anything else.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Erumeli is a place where Hindu pilgrims who come there go to the Vavar mosque also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please ask your supplementary; otherwise I will disallow it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: My submission is whether you will take immediate steps to see that Sabarimalai as well as Erumeli are given due importance and whether you will declare these two centres of great importance as national pilgrim centres.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I will request the hon. Member to come out with a comprehensive plan for the development of both Erumeli and Sabarimalai which we are ready to examine and consider.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question, please.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: On the question pertaining to tourism there are several supplementaries. Please allow a Half-an-Hour Discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Last time also we had a very good discussion on the tourism in the Question Hour itself.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Several other States of tourism importance are also there. Therefore, please allow a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this subject.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: We were trying to catch your eye; but we did not get a chance.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, please.

Q. No. 284, Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi—I think he is not present, Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari—I think he is also not present.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the questioner of Q. No. 284 is not present but there is a provision in the Rule 48(3) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha that if the Member in whose name the question stands is absent, the Hon. Speaker may at the request of any Member direct that the answer to it may be given. I request that the answer may please be given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. The procedure is clear. Q. No. 285, Prof. Dukha Bhagat.

Implementation of PMRY by Nationalised Banks

*285. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks are not taking interest in the implementation of Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

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

(c) the efforts made in order to deal firmly with the nationalised banks for ensuring the success of the said scheme?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) As per the information provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Nationalised Banks are taking active interest in the implementation of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). The banks, on an average, have achieved 80% of target per year and disbursed loans for 76% of sanctioned cases. However, there is considerable scope for improvement in the implementation of the PMRY Scheme and necessary action is being taken in this regard.

(c) Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have initiated following steps to improve the performance of banks under the scheme:

- (i) Quarterly targets have been fixed for achievement for both DICs/banks so that the pressure in the last quarter of the programme year is avoided and quality of scrutiny may not suffer.
- (ii) Agencies and banks have been advised to work in coordination and conduct joint recovery camps to ensure better recovery.
- (iii) States have been advised to include PMRY dues also under Revenue Recovery Act so that recovery under the scheme is improved. So far 9 States have made the necessary amendments in the Revenue Recovery Act. They are A.P., Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, MP, Orissa, UP and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- (iv) States have also been advised to identify new activities at district level, prepare project profiles and make them available to prospective borrowers.
- (v) Modifications have been made in the parameters of the scheme effective from 1.4.99 for coverage of more persons.
- (vi) Time frame has been prescribed to avoid delays in sanctions and disbursements.
- (vii) Banks have been advised to receive applications directly from eligible borrowers for viable activities, so that rejection level will be reduced and recovery rate also will improve.
- (viii) Review meeting are held periodically at the level of Banks, RBI and Government.
- (ix) Constitution of a Task Force comprising of representatives of banks as well as State Government authorities for selection of beneficiaries and identification of viable activity at block level.
- (x) RBI has advised banks not to wait for more than a month for 'no dues certificate' about the borrower from the other banks.
- (xi) Banks have also been advised not to insist on affidavit at the time of submission of application and call for the same only at the time of sanction.

Moreover, Ministry of Small Scale Industries has constituted a Task Force Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Banking Division) alongwith the representatives of Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Reserve Bank of India to review the implementation of PMRY Scheme and modifications for its improvement.

[Translation]

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the amount of loan which we are getting from National Banks under PMRY, is being utilized at a very slow pace. PMRY was launched on 2.10.1993 by the hon'ble Prime Minister. Initially this Yojna was just limited to Urban areas and was not implemented in rural areas. Here it is pertinent to note that one has to fulfil several requirements while applying under this yojna and as a result there this yojna is becoming unpopular among the youth. The youth of the country were generally of the opinion that on the completion of this Yojna, their dreams will come true but the banks are providing loans at the last stage and this process is very tedious and this also involves a lot of corruption. Secondly, this is being done by banks through brokers otherwise such deeds could not be finalised.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhagat you can not read, you please ask your supplementary.

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am doing the same. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Finance through you, that whether the Ministry of Finance have reviewed the role of banks under PMRY, if so, the details thereof?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, firstly, I would like to reiterate the same thing which I had said while replying the question that 80 percent of the targets fixed by the banks have so far been therefor this will not be proper to say that there is any lacuna in it or this yojna is becoming unpopular. So far as the question of review is concerned, a Committee headed by the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India, taken a time to time review of this Yojna. If you look at it you will find that the eligibility conditions of qualifications prescribed for this purpose are being continuously modified in the interest of the youth and the role of the Government behind this is that more and more youth could be covered under this Yojna. So far as the question of any lapse on the part of banks is concerned, we conduct a review in this regard through the State level Bankers Committee or through the district Committee and we always try our level best to cover more and more people under this Yojna and our effort to achieve this goal will continue.
...(Interruptions)

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Whether the Ministry of Finance have found some people guilty of corruption in disbursement of loan under PMRY during the last two years. If so, the details of last two years in this regard?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: We had a target of seven lakhs at the rate of about three and half lakhs per year during the last two years and the cases, in which we have provided loans against this target and loan sanctioned by the banks, comes to more than five lakhs. So far as the question of corruption cases is concerned, it has not been brought to our notice so far. I would like to request the hon'ble Member, that if he is aware of any such case, he should bring it to our notice, and this will be certainly dealt with.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: In RBI, only one man is given the authority to issue licence. He is the man who inspects and after six months, the banks are closed down. He is the single authority for all this. I want to know what accountability has been pinned. Due to paucity of time, I am not able to elaborate on my question. But I will take it up personally with the Finance Minister afterwards.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: As I have said, this scheme is run by the Department of Small Scale Industry. They have laid down guidelines which are contained in the major booklet, 'Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna'. There is a Committee constituted at the district level with eminent citizens of that district to review this. But I have myself found, in my reviews at the grassroots level, a number of shortcomings in the implementation of the scheme. Therefore, I have decided—I would like to take the House into confidence—that in all priority sector lending, namely, schemes under agriculture, small scale industry and social sector and so on, we will ensure that elected representatives like Members of Parliament and State Legislatures as well as elected representatives at the district level are fully associated with so that these matters are taken care of at the district level itself.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I thank the hon. Finance Minister for what he has said. But it should be mandatory. State level and district level Committees are there where Members of Parliament are also members but for years together, no meeting has been held. So, you should make it mandatory and meetings should be held quarterly or half-yearly so that eminent citizens, MLAs and MPs may meet to express their grievances and solve their problems. Such a direction should go to the officers at the grassroots level.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: As I have said, there are some Committees which are functioning. In many of the

Committees, elected representatives are not represented. In some Committees, they are represented like the 20-Point Committee. I have decided that in respect of the entire priority sector lending, there should be a Committee which would include the elected representatives at the district level. And that will meet every quarter and review the priority sector lending at the district level. It is compulsory. That will be mandatory.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Review of PDS

*284. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed/proposed to review the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith outcome of the review;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to ensure complete success of PDS in achieving its target?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR):
(a) to (c) The working of the Public Distribution System is under constant monitoring and review in Government just like all schemes, on the basis of inputs being received from various quarters including State Governments.

(d) A series of measures have been taken by the Government for successful implementation of the Public Distribution System in the country.

(i) From 1.4.2000, in order to better targetise and channelise the subsidy towards the target population viz., the families living below the poverty line (BPL), the allocation of foodgrains for them has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost.

- (ii) Allocation to families living above the poverty line (APL) has been maintained at the same level as at the time of introduction of TPDS at economic cost.
- (iii) Distribution of sugar under PDS has been discontinued to the Income-Tax assesses with effect from 1.7.2000.
- (iv) The States have been asked 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.
- (v) Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the State Governments have been advised to more substantially involve Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.
- (vi) The Model Citizens' Chapter containing, *inter-alia* basic information of interest to the consumers and a model procedure and time schedule for the services has been circulated to the State Governments for adoption.
- (vii) Senior officers of the Government of India in the Department of Food and Public Distribution, also inspect the fair price shops from time to time in order to check the supply and availability of PDS commodities at the FPS.
- (viii) States are encouraged to include additional items of daily use for distribution under PDS as per local priority in order to improve the viability of FPS as well as making quality items available at affordable prices to the consumers.

[English]

Crop Holiday for Tobacco Growers

*286. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether there is a demand to declare crop holiday for tobacco growers/farmers all over the country during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the representatives of tobacco growers have also suggested various welfare schemes for tobacco growers/farmers of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) There has been a demand in Andhra Pradesh for the declaration of a crop holiday all over the country for the crop year 2000-2001. The Government of Andhra Pradesh supported the same while the Governments of Karnataka and Orissa expressed their farmers' intent to produce Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco.

(b) Tobacco crop sizes and related matters are to be decided by the Tobacco Board. The Tobacco Board at its meeting held on 27.3.2000 resolved to suspend registration of tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh and to refrain from fixing a crop size for FCV tobacco in Andhra Pradesh for the year 2000-2001. A crop size of 25 million kgs was fixed for the Karnataka crop. On 28.7.2000 the Board resolved to allow the Orissa State Government's request to register farmers of that State to grow tobacco.

(c) and (d) Suggestions of the tobacco growers' representatives for the welfare of the tobacco growers include:—

- (i) Providing loans for processing the tobacco by growers;
- (ii) Stagger loan recoveries from the third and subsequent consignments sold;
- (iii) Setting up a stabilisation fund to help steady prices.

The State Level Bankers Committee resolved to assist the farmers in securing crop loans, obtain loans for processing their crop from the banks and also to desist from recovering past crop loan advances from the tobacco

farmers' sales for the first two lots put for sale at the auctions. The concept of a stabilisation fund is under examination.

Fiscal Deficit as Percentage of Gross Domestic Product

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

(a) the fiscal deficit as percentage of Gross Domestic Product, as on July 1 and January 1, during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to control the same and the success achieved during the above period;

(c) whether of late the rate of growth of industry and revenue collections have shown a downward trend; and

(d) if so, the comparative figures for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE* (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Fiscal deficit as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product is available on a full financial year basis.

The fiscal deficit of Central Government for the period April-June and April-December for the last three years is as follows:

Year	Rs. crore	
	April-June	April-December
1997	23796	41483
1998	33757	73434
1999	33512	67082

Note: 1. The figures of fiscal deficit are provisional and unaudited.

2. Due to change in the accounting procedure, fiscal deficit for 1999 excludes the transfer of States' share in the small savings collections.

(b) The various measures initiated in the last few years to raise revenue and restrict the growth of non-plan revenue expenditure have contained Centre's gross fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP at 4.8 percent in 1997-98, 5.1 percent in 1998-99 and 5.6 percent in 1999-2000 (RE).

(c) and (d) Industrial growth (as per the Index of Industrial Production—based 1993-94) is 6.5 percent in 1997-98, 3.8 percent in 1998-99 and 8.1 percent in 1999-2000. In the current year (April-May 2000-2001), overall industrial production registered a growth of 5.6 percent. The growth in Central Government's revenue receipts is 6.0 percent in 1997-98, 11.7 percent in 1998-99 and 20.1 percent in 1999-2000 (RE). The growth in revenue receipts of the Central Government in the current year (April-June 2000-2001) is 26.6 percent.

Purchase of Cement Industries by MNCs

*288. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of shares of Indian cement industries bought by each of the multi-national Company including Lafarge, Blue Circle, Italcementi and Cemex during the liberalisation period;

(b) the total funds invested by these MNCs after taking over the management of Indian cement industries;

(c) whether these MNCs have taken financial assistance from the Indian banks/financial institutions for the purpose;

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing MNCs to get financial assistance from the Indian financial institutions instead of foreign exchange; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to curb such activities of MNCs, particularly in such cases where management of Indian companies are taken over by these MNCs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the approvals given by the Government to foreign companies to invest in existing Indian companies, since 1991, is attached.

(c) to (e) Acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company is permitted only if supported by a board resolution of the company and in accordance with relevant guidelines of SEBI/RBI. However, the decision regarding financing of a particular economic activity by granting loans to companies is taken by banks and financial institutions based on their commercial judgement and the lending policy laid down by their respective boards within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by RBI.

Statement**Foreign Companies who have acquired shares in Indian companies in Cement Sector**

Sl No.	Name of the Foreign Company	Name of the Indian Company	Activity (Date of FC Approval)	%age of foreign equity allowed	Location	Whether by acquisition/ expansion/ induction
1.	M/s. Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd., France	M/s. Lum Mawshun Minerals Pvt. Ltd.	Mining & Export of Limestone (13.9.96)	74% (Rs. 31,82,000) US \$ 74,000 1 US\$=Rs. 43/-	Meghalaya	Induction
2.	M/s. F.L. Smidth & Co. A/S, Denmark	M/s. Saurashtra Cement Ltd.	Setting up Cement Plant (18.9.86)	54.53% (Rs. 16.36 crore)	Near Porbandar, Gujarat	Expansion
3.	(i) M/s. Eteroutremer Societe Anonyme, Belgium (ii) M/s. Nefibouw B.V., The Netherlands. (Both are WoS of Elex Group)	M/s. Eternit Everast Ltd.	Mfg. of Asbestos and Non-Asbestos and other allied building materials (cement) products (5.4.2000)	49.46% to 50% (Rs. 8,00,100/- at par)	New Delhi	Expansion
4.	M/s. Financiere Lafarge, France	—	Setting up a holding company and further an operating company to acquire Cement Division of Tata Iron & Steel Company (19.2.99)	100% (Rs. 200 crore to go upto Rs. 600 crore)	Singbhum, Bihar	Initially setting up holding co. then acquisition through downstream company
5.	M/s. Blue Circle Ind. Pic. UK	M/s. Straw Products Ltd.	Expansion of Cement Plant	No equity	—	(technical collaboration)
6.	M/s. Italcementi	—	—	—	—	—
7.	M/s. Cemex	—	—	—	—	—

*[Translation]***Taj Mahal**

*289. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the breaches in the marble of Taj Mahal are causing danger to its very existence;

(b) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the News item on this subject appearing in the "Dainik Jagaran" dated June 17, 2000;

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

(d) the policy being contemplated by the Government for protection and conservation of Taj Mahal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There are no breaches in the marble of the Taj Mahal.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The aspects of maintenance referred to in the news item are of a routine nature and are attended to in the normal process of maintenance and conservation.

(d) The Government is committed to the proper conservation of this World Heritage Monument.

*[English]***Quality of Imported Edible Oil**

*290. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Concern over spurt in edible oil imports" as reported in 'The Hindu' dated July 7, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the quality of imported edible oil was tested;

(c) if so, the results thereof;

(d) whether the Government have made imports of edible oils without keeping in mind the availability of edible oils in the domestic market; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In terms of the provisions of PFA Act and Rules thereunder as also the instructions issued by the Health Ministry, the import of edible oil is required to be tested for ascertaining conformity to the standards of quality as laid down under PFA Act and Rules thereunder before the imported oil is cleared and allowed to enter into the country.

(d) and (e) No Sir. As far as the import of edible oil on Government account is concerned, such imports have been made keeping in view the need to supply oil at reasonable prices to the card holders through the PDS. In view of the comfortable price and availability situation in the country, Government have restricted such imports to meet only the committed requirements indicated by the State Governments.

Agricultural Loan

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

(a) whether cases of irregularities in distributing agriculture related loans by bank officials have come to the notice of the Government during the last one year;

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

(c) the action taken against the officials responsible;

(d) whether unrecovered agricultural loans has been put under bad debts;

(e) if so, the bank-wise amount put under this head during the above period; and

(f) the parameters for putting amount under bad debts?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have stated that no cases of irregularities in distributing agriculture related loans by bank officials have come to their notice during the period asked for.

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

(d) and (e) The bank-wise details of the Non-performing assets in agricultural loans of public sector banks as on 31st March, 2000 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) As per the extant guidelines of RBI, advances granted for agricultural purposes may be treated as Non-performing Assets (NPAs), if interest/or instalment of principal remains unpaid, after it has become 'past due', for two harvest seasons or for a period not exceeding two half years.

Statement

Bank-wise details of the Non-performing Assets in agricultural loans of public sector banks as on 31st March, 2000

(Rs. in crores)

Sr.No.	Name of the Bank	Amount
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	1598.00
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	119.00
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	121.00
4.	State Bank of Indore	56.00
5.	State Bank of Mysore	91.00
6.	State Bank of Patiala	79.00

1	2	3
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	56.00
8.	State Bank of Travancore	76.00
9.	Allahabad Bank	194.87
10.	Andhra Bank	47.50
11.	Bank of Baroda	619.00
12.	Bank of India	427.00
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	113.81
14.	Canara Bank	345.00
15.	Central Bank of India	313.66
16.	Corporation Bank	71.89
17.	Dena Bank	180.20
18.	Indian Bank	271.00
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	179.00
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	56.84
21.	Punjab National Bank	262.38
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	63.14
23.	Syndicate Bank	133.00
24.	Union Bank of India	277.54
25.	UCO Bank	221.00
26.	United Bank of India	134.24
27.	Vijaya Bank	88.62
Total:		6215.69

FDI In Tea, Coffee and Telecom Sector

*292. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

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

(a) whether the Group of Ministers have recommended the clearance of the proposal to permit 100 percent Foreign Direct Investments in Telecom, Tea, Coffee and Rubber Plantation sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted the recommendations;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for allowing 100 percent FDI in these sectors;

(d) whether all the earlier conditions like repatriation of dividends, etc. on MNCs have been removed;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(f) whether country's interest was kept in mind while taking such decision; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted to review the existing sectoral policies and equity caps pertaining to FDI meets periodically to deliberate upon various aspects of the subject. Its recommendations are considered by the Government and policy changes announced after decisions are taken. The GOM has recommended consideration of FDI upto 100% in tea and coffee plantations subject *inter-alia* to the condition that 26% of the equity would be divested in favour of Indian partners/public in five years. FDI upto 100% has also been recommended for certain value added activities in the telecom sector. No decision has been taken regarding these recommendations by the Government.

(d) to (g) The requirement to balance outflow on account of dividends by export earnings during the first seven years of commercial production by 22 categories of companies engaged in manufacture of consumer goods, has been removed from 14.7.2000 with prospective effect. This decision was taken as the condition of dividend balancing was perceived as a hindrance to FDI flows into the country.

Doordarshan Coverage

*293. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to ensure greater access of Doordarshan channels in all the parts of the country and abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the news collection of Doordarshan is very poor in some parts of the country;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Doordarshan to increase better news coverage;

(e) whether there is any proposal to set up more offices in distant areas; and

(f) 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) Expansion of the reach of Doordarshan, within the country as well as abroad, is a continuous process, the progress of which is dictated by availability of resources and technical feasibility considerations. At present, all the twenty one channels of Doordarshan are available throughout the country via satellite. These can be received with the help of appropriate dish antenna system or through Cable network. DD-India, the international channel of Doordarshan, is available in a large number of countries. Almost all the countries in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America are covered by DD-India.

The terrestrial network of Doordarshan is available to about 88.2% of the country's population. In order to further extend the coverage of Doordarshan's terrestrial network, 255 transmitter projects are at present under implementation. It is expected that when all these projects are complete, Doordarshan service will be available to around 93% of the country's population.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan has been facing some difficulties in covering news in the remote and inaccessible parts of the country. In order to ensure better news coverage on Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati proposes to utilize the services of its nationwide network of AIR correspondents. Efforts are also being made to engage more stringers and accredited agencies to cover important events/coverages, particularly in the remote and inaccessible areas of the country. There are 23 Earth Stations at various Doordarshan Kendras for receiving and sending news and other programmes instantly to other Kendras. All the Doordarshan Kendras have Electronic News Gathering Units for collection of news (with visuals) from various areas under the jurisdiction of respective Kendras. Besides, for instant dispatch of news coverage, Digital Satellite News Gathering Units, available with the Doordarshan Kendras at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad, are deployed to various areas where important events are required to be covered.

(e) and (f) Apart from the 255 transmitter projects mentioned above, 16 studios and 42 Maintenance Centres, some of which are in remote areas of the country, are currently under implementation.

Work Orders of Public Sector Enterprises

*294. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

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

(a) whether most of the engineering units and Public Sector Enterprises in the core sector are suffering losses for want of work orders from the Railways, Department of Telecommunications, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of Public Sector Enterprises whose capacity remained underutilised for want of orders during the last three years, Public Sector Enterprise-wise;

(c) whether work orders are being given to the private companies in India and abroad by the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure placement of work orders to at least 30 percent of their requirement on these Public Sector Enterprises for their survival?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Losses are attributable to various reasons including shortage of working capital, surplus manpower, obsolete Plant & Machinery, increase in cost of inputs besides shortage of orders. There are 7 major PSUs namely Braithwaite & Co. (Braithwaite), Jessop & Company (Jessop), Bharat Wagon Engg. Co. Ltd. (BWEL), Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (BSCL), Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. (HEC), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) and Richardson & Cruddas Ltd. (R&C) under the Deptt. of Heavy Industry supplying equipments like Wagons, Locos, Coaches, and Machine Tools to Railways and three major PSUs namely, BHEL, Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) & Instrumentation Ltd. (ILK) supplying equipments for Telecommunications. Details of installed

capacity and the orders received in the last 3 years are as under:

PSUs/Product	Installed capacity	Orders received		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
RAILWAYS				
Braithwaite, Jessop, BWEL, BSCL (Wagons)	14961 FWUs*	3167.5 FWUs*	8242.5 FWUs*	5585 FWUs*
Jessops (Coaches)	72 Nos.	56 Nos.	NIL	NIL
HEC (Machine Tools)	Rs. 25 cr.	Rs. 9.82 cr.	Rs. 2.80 cr.	Rs. 16.86 cr.
BHEL (AC/DC Locos)	30 Nos.	NIL	12 Nos.	NII
R&C (Points and Crossings)	Rs. 15 crs.	Rs. 5.5 cr.	NII	NIL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
HCL (Jelly Filled Cables)	82 LCKM⊗	32.96 LCKM⊗	10 LCKM⊗	87.12 LCKM⊗
HCL (Optic Fibre Cables)	35500 FKM**	NII	NII	46362 FKM**
ILK (Switching Equipment)	Rs. 200 cr.	Rs. 43.17 cr.	Rs. 28.40 cr.	Rs. 54.54 cr.
BHEL (Switching Equipment)	2,00,000 lines	48,200 lines	1,05,480 lines	2,53,048 lines

*FWUs = Four Wheeler Wagon Units

®LCKM= Lakh Cable Kilo Metres

**FKM = Fibre Kilo Metres.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Orders are being placed on considerations of specifications, deliveries & prices.

(e) In one specific case of HCL, Govt. have approved reservation of orders from DOT/MTNL to the extent of 30% of their requirements in 1999-2000 and 25% in 2000-2001. With regard to Wagons, Railways have placed orders for 2000-2001 for 8917.5 FWUs on Wagon Building PSUs which is about 44% of the total requirement. Orders are being placed on the basis of lowest bid.

[Translation]

Action Plan to Promote Cultural Tourism

*295. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to promote cultural tourism in the country;

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

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

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

(b) Promotion of cultural tourism is part of the national tourism policy. The strategy for promotion includes:—

(i) Various facets of cultural tourism like pilgrim tourism, heritage sites and monuments, traditional meditation, yoga, art and crafts, fairs and festivals, cuisine, music and dance forms, etc.

(ii) Government also organise familiarisation tours for travel agents, tour operators, travel writers, decision makers, etc.

- (iii) The State Government being primarily responsible for promotion of tourism, central financial assistance is provided for maintenance and beautification of the cultural products, organisation of fairs and festivals, etc.

- (iv) Production of brochures/information booklets on the various aspects of cultural tourism.

- (v) Collaboration with Archaeological Survey of India and the State Governments for promotion and development of cultural heritage.

(c) The details of various measures are given in enclosed Statements I to IV.

Statement-I

Familiarisation Trip of Media Team, Travel Agents/Tour Operators, T.V. teams and Opinion Makers during 1999-2000

Ministry of Tourism invited Travel Agents/Tour Operators, TV Teams, Media Persons and Opinion Makers from overseas countries on familiarisation trips to cover the tourist attractions of the country for the purpose of giving wide publicity in the international media. The areas covered by the visitors included historical monuments and heritage sites, fairs and festivals, arts and crafts centres, museums and art galleries, Yoga and Ayurvedic centres etc.

A total number of 266 cases of individuals and groups were invited to visit India during 1999-2000.

Statement-II

Projects Prioritised for Development of Tourist Infrastructure for the year 1999-2000

Project/item : Fairs and Festivals
Name of the section : Overseas Marketing (as on 31.3.2000)
(Amount rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	No. of projects prioritised	Amount prioritised	No. of projects received	No. of projects sanctioned and amount	Amount released for new projects	No. and amount released for old projects	No. of proposals with IF and proposed amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	20.00	4	3 6.72	4.04	—	—
2.	Assam	3	18.00	2	2 6.50	3.25	4.00	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	5.00	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	4	33.00	2	1 10.00	5.00	25.78	—
5.	Goa	3	15.00	3	3 9.35	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	7	40.00	7	7 19.00	9.50	9.46	—
7.	Haryana	3	40.00	3	3 38.00	25.15	14.22	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	5	25.00	1	1	1.25	1.00	—
11.	Kerala	5	5.00	5	5	2.50	6.50	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5	30.00	2	1	7.50	3.00	—
13.	Maharashtra	5	25.00	5	—	—	—	—
14.	Manipur	4	8.50	2	2	3.50	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	1	2.00	1	1	0.37	—	—
16.	Mizoram	1	5.00	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	1	6.00	2	2	2.00	—	—
18.	Orissa	6	21.00	4	3	5.00	2.50	—
19.	Punjab	5	25.00	5	5	12.50	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	1	5.00	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Sikkim	2	10.00	1	1	2.50	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	6	12.00	6	—	1.325	—	—
23.	Tripura	1	5.00	—	—	—	0.60	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10	48.00	7	7	17.07	8.44	—
25.	West Bengal	3	14.00	1	1	1.69	—	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	53.00	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	2	1.00	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	5.00	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Delhi	4	20.00	4	4	10.70	0.70	—
30.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
	Swadeshi Vigyan Mela	—	3.00	—	1.24	00.62	—	—
						20.00		
	Total					148.45	75.50	—

(i) Amount released for new projects Rs. 148.45

(ii) Amount released for old projects Rs. 75.50

Total Rs. 223.95

*** Released but could not be spent by the State Govt. hence to be adjusted during 2000-2001. Rs. 1.28

Statement-III

Publicity material produced during year 1999-2000

A. Destination Brochures

1. India Destination of the New Millennium
2. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
3. Delhi
4. Bangalore-Mysore
5. Goa
6. Varanasi
7. Udaipur-Chittorgarh-Mount Abu
8. Agra-Mathura-Bharatpur
9. Jaipur-Ajmer-Ranthambore
10. Darjeeling-Kalimpong-Gangtok

11. Simla-Kullu-Dharmshala

12. Garhwal-Kumaon-Hills

13. Chennai-Mamlapuram-Kanchipuram

B. Thematic Brochures

1. Scuba Diving
2. Adventure Sports Directory
3. Hill Stations of India
4. Museums of India
5. Travel Agents Directory

C. MAPS

1. Mumbai Map

D. Films

1. Trekking Trails of India
2. Fairs & Festivals of India

Statement IV

Sl.No.	Name of the Exhibitions/Fairs	Participated by Overseas Offices/ G.O.I.T.Os
1	2	3
1.	Feria Mundial the Turismo	Argentina
2.	Feria International de Turismo	Argentina
3.	Travel Vacation Show, Ottawa	Toronto
4.	Travel & Leisure Show, Toronto	Toronto
5.	Addison Travel Show, Vancouver	Totronto
6.	L.A. Time Travel Show	Loss Angeles
7.	National Tvl. Exchange (NTE)	Los Angeles
8.	Tour the Globe Show	Los Angeles
9.	ASTA Arizona Chapter	Los Angeles
10.	ASTA's Cruiseifest & Travel Showcase	New York
11.	AWTA Travel Trade Show	New York
12.	National Travel Exchange Trade Show	New York
13.	NTE Travel Trade Show	New York
14.	Tour/Cruise Expo '98	New York
15.	1 Annual A. ASTA Trade Show	New York
16.	Travel Trade/CLIA Cruise-A-Thon	New York
17.	Maisons des Cultures du Monde- Mr. Cherif Khaznadar	Paris
18.	Theatre de la ville - Mr. Thomas Erdos - Conseiller Artistique	Paris
19.	Centre de Relations Culturelles Franco- Indien M. Mahesh Ghatradyal	Paris
20.	Tour Brasialia 5-8 Oct. Brasialia. National	Argentina
21.	Jan. 12 New Castel Travel and Holiday & Travel Show	Johannesburg
22.	29-30 Hobart AFTA Travel Show	Johannesburg
23.	11-14 Pata Singapore	Johannesburg
24.	International Trade Fair, Dar-es-Salaam	Johannesburg
25.	Gataway Travel Show, Johannesburg (SA)	Johannesburg
26.	Gataway Travel Show, Durban (SA)	Johannesburg
27.	Asta Travel Expo '2000' Vkienfibteubm, SA	Johannesburg

1	2	3
28.	Mediterranean Travel Expo '2000 Cairo, Egypt	Johannesburg
29.	Gataway Travel Show Capte Town (SA)	Johannesburg
30.	The first fair (Reiscliv 2001), Oslo Norway	Stockholm
31.	India Trade Exhibition	Tel Aviv
32.	International Mediterranean Tourism Market in Feb. 2001.	Tel Aviv
33.	Arab World Travel & Tourism Exchange (AWTTE) at Beirut, Lebanon 30 March - 2 April, 2000	Dubai
34.	Arabian Travel Market at Dubai, UAE-5 May, 2000	Dubai
35.	Kuwait International Fair at Kuwait 15-19 May	Dubai
36.	69th Izmir International Fair, Izmir, Turkey	Dubai
37.	Gulf-2000 at Jeddah, Saudia Arabia 26-28 Sept.	Dubai
38.	Tehran International Fair at Tehran, Iran	Dubai
39.	Muscat International Fair at Muscat, Oman	Dubai
40.	Damascus International Fair at Damascus, Syria	Dubai
41.	International Autumn Fair at Dubai, UAE	Dubai
42.	Wickers World Show (Consumer Show)	London
43.	World Travel Market (Trade Show)	London
44.	Holiday World Dublin (Trade & Consumer Show)	London
45.	Holiday Show 2001 (Consumer Show)	London
46.	International Confex 2001 (Trade Show)	London
47.	Vakantie info. Beurs, Maastricht Holland	Amsterdam
48.	Vakantiebeurs, Utrecht Holland	Amsterdam
49.	FITUR	Madrid
50.	BIT	Milan
51.	ITB Berlin/Germany	Frankfurt

*[English]***Export of Fruits/Vegetables**

*296. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for Indian fruits and vegetables is fast increasing in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any ban/restriction on the export of some items of fruits/vegetables;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to lift the ban/restriction from those items;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the steps taken/being taken to increase the export of fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) There is a large demand for fruits and vegetables in the major international market and the Indian fruits and vegetables are making a modest entry at an average of 0.5 million tonnes of fruit and vegetables per annum.

(c) to (f) There is no ban on export of fruits and vegetables from India except in the case of export of onions which is canalised. Export of onion is canalised and regulated by periodical release of quantities for export based on harvest/market arrivals and flush and lean season availability. The Government has recently approved a long-term policy for export of onions. Under the long-term policy, quotas for export of onions for the next crop year would be announced in advance. The Government has removed restrictions on export of Bangalore Rose and Krishnapuram Onions with effect from 26th April, 2000.

(g) The steps taken/being taken to increase production and export of horticulture products such as fruits and vegetables during the Ninth Plan include:

- (i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area

expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;

- (ii) grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at export units;
- (iii) grant of air freight subsidy for export of select fresh vegetables and fresh fruits;
- (iv) establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets;
- (v) arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
- (vi) setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables; and
- (vii) providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control, packaging, transport, etc.

Modernisation of Storage Facilities

*297. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains storage facilities are proposed to be modernised and expanded based on the pattern of Canadian silos;

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

(c) the steps taken so far in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per the national policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains recently announced by the Government, integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities for foodgrains is to be introduced through private sector participation. No firm decision on any particular technology in this regard has been taken. In the proposed pattern, the developer-cum-operator, to be selected through a process of competitive bidding,

will submit the technical specifications which will be evaluated for its suitability in Indian conditions. A copy of the resolution on the policy is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

To be Published in the Extra Ordinary Gazette of India Part-I, Section-I

TFC-14/99 Vol. III

Government of India,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution
Department of Public Distribution

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated: July 4, 2000

RESOLUTION

In order to reduce storage and transit losses of foodgrains at farm and commercial level, to modernise the system of handling, storage and transportation of the foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and to bring in additionality of resources through private sector involvement, the Government has approved a National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains, details of which are given below:—

1. Objectives of the Policy

The main objectives of the policy are:

- (i) to reduce storage and transit losses at farm level where about 70% of the total foodgrain production is retained and consumed and also to encourage the farmers to adopt scientific storage methods.
- (ii) to modernise the system of handling, storage and transportation of the foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- (iii) to harness efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to build and operate infrastructure for introduction of bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in the country.

2. Policy for house-hold storage

2.1 Since the house-hold sector retains about 70% of the total production and substantial quantities of foodgrains are wasted due to improper storage at farm

level, the major focus is on the improvement of storage standards at farm level. Presently, the only scheme targeting this need is the Save Grain Campaign, which popularises the use of metallic and non-metallic storage structures and educates the farmers about the adoption of scientific storage methods. The scheme also aims at development/improvement of non-metallic traditional storage structures.

2.2 In order to have a greater success in this area, following initiatives have been approved:—

- (i) introduction of a scheme to encourage use of metal bins as well as non-metallic storage structures at individual farm level and construction of RCC bins at community level with appropriate financial incentives.
- (ii) strengthening of the existing research and training components of the Save Grain Campaign Scheme for scientific storage and preservation of foodgrains and their propagation among farmers.

3. Modernisation and Upgradation of Bulk Grain Handling Infrastructure

3.1 In order to reduce storage losses, it is necessary to develop and modernise the infrastructure for integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation in India. The thrust of the policy should be:—

- (i) encouragement of mechanical harvesting, cleaning and drying at farm and mandi level.
- (ii) transportation of grains from farm to silos by specially designed trucks.
- (iii) construction of a chain of silos at procurement as well as distribution points.
- (iv) transportation of grain from silos to railhead and thereafter to pre-determined destinations by specially designed trucks/rail wagons (with top filling and bottom discharge mechanism)/dedicated trains.
- (v) declaration of foodgrains storage as infrastructure.

3.2 For storage of foodgrains procured by the FCI, integrated bulk handling facilities with silos of large capacity for wheat along with testing facilities for quality control would be created at about 20 identified central locations in producing and consuming areas as well as a few port towns. These facilities, including the infrastructure for bulk transportation to these centres will

be created and maintained in the private sector under the overall-coordination of the FCI. The design of special top filling and bottom discharge wagons would be decided in consultation with the Ministry of Railways. The Ministry of Railways will also be consulted while deciding the locations and the circuits where these wagons would ply. FCI will guarantee utilisation of these facilities to the extent of 100% for the first ten years and 75% for the next ten years. From these points, secondary transportation of foodgrains would be made in bag form to about 500 godowns in important central locations in different States to be owned and maintained by the FCI. Further transportation to the consuming centres for retail distribution under the Public Distribution System will be carried out by the State Governments.

3.3 The private sector will be encouraged to build storage capacities in which they will store and maintain foodgrains procured by the Government agencies, for which they will be entitled to storage charges.

3.4 The private sector participation should be sought and encouraged for development of infrastructure for the integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation through—

- (i) measures such as Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT), Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO), Lease-Develop-Operate (LDO), Joint Ventures etc.
- (ii) generation of funds through public issues by private enterprises
- (iii) automatic approval for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100%
- (iv) loans from financial institutions, NABARD, external commercial borrowings.
- (v) fiscal incentives as given below:
 - (a) 100% deduction in profit for the purpose of Income Tax for the first five years and 30% deduction in profit for the next five years.
 - (b) deduction of 40% of the profits derived by financial institutions financing such projects, as provided to financial corporations engaged, *inter-alia*, in providing long term finance for agricultural development.
 - (c) customs duty exemption for items not manufactured in India, on a case-to-case basis, subject to a list of such equipment being submitted in advance.

4. *Development of Infrastructure Facilities at Ports*

India has been traditionally the importer of foodgrains and, therefore, the infrastructure facilities available at the ports are basically meant for unloading operations and not for exports. For unloading operations, ship gears are normally used. Even the latest mechanised facilities at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Navi Mumbai have been designed for import purposes only. There is also lack of general cargo berths at the major ports and very limited warehousing facilities are available for the storage of foodgrains at ports. For creating the proper port facilities for foodgrains meant for export in due course, the infrastructure facilities would have to be developed for which following actions are required:

- (i) identification of ports to be developed for purposes of export of foodgrains. The distribution of foodgrains traffic may spread over to the non-traditional ports which have spare capacity like New Mangalore and Cochin ports;
- (ii) development of more general cargo berths at the ports through ports' own investment/private participation;
- (iii) water front/berths can be leased to the users who may be encouraged to put up their own facilities; and
- (iv) development of dedicated modern foodgrains handling facilities at selected ports.

5. *Role of the Central Government*

The Central Government would:

- (a) facilitate speedy clearance of projects concerning development of infrastructure for bulk handling, transportation and storage of foodgrains by setting up an Approval Board competent to take final decision;
- (b) enter into bilateral agreements with other countries/international agencies for providing technical/financial assistance;
- (c) take necessary legislative/administrative measures for removing impediments with regard to stock control Orders/Movement control Orders framed by various State Governments;
- (d) utilize the services of an existing independent regulatory mechanism for fixing/regulating tariff for various operations, such as cleaning, drying, storage, transportation, etc.;

- (e) make available facilities of the Railways for bulk transportation;
- (f) promote negotiable Warehouse Receipt System by which farmers could hold their grains back from market and meet their working capital/short term requirement by borrowing from Banks against these receipts; and
- (g) promote research for development of alternate storage technologies like Vacuum Process Storage (VPS) technology which would ensure longer shelf life of foodgrains and help export of foodgrains in vacuum packs.

6. *Role of the State Government*

The State Government would help in:

- (a) acquisition of land required for various projects as for public purpose; and
- (b) making available other facilities such as water, power, road, etc.

Sd/-

(B.K. BAL)

JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

ORDERED that a copy of the resolution be communicated to all the Ministers/Departments of the Government of India, Planning Commission, Chief Secretaries of the State Governments and UT Administrations, Chairmen and Managing Directors of the Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation.

ORDERED also that the resolution be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

Sd/-

(B.K. BAL)

JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

To

The Manager,
Government Printing Press,
Faridabad.

Millennium Negotiations Under WTO

*298. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

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

(a) whether India is participating in the New Millennium Negotiations being held under the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the Government has constituted the negotiating team to put forth India's views before WTO taking into consideration the previous experience of Uruguay Round and GATT;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to face the negotiations of WTO?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) There is no New Millennium Negotiations being held under the World Trade Organisation.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Kisan Credit Card

*299. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI ANIL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for issuing Kisan Credit Cards and the amount of credit released to the farmers against such cards;

(b) the bank-wise and State-wise target fixed to issue Kisan Credit Cards to farmers during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the State-wise and bank-wise number of farmers to whom credit cards have been issued during the above period, till date, alongwith the amount of loan sanctioned under this scheme; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to monitor the proper implementation of this scheme and to make it popular among the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme, all farmers eligible for sanction of crop loan are eligible for issuance of cards. The credit extended under the scheme is in the nature of revolving cash credit limit, which is fixed on the basis of optional land holding, cropping pattern and scales of finance taking into account the entire crop loan requirement of the farmers for the full year.

No targets were fixed for banks for issuance of Kisan Credit Cards during the year 1998-99. Public sector bank-wise targets for issue of Kisan Credit Cards for the year 1999-2000 are at Statement I. The target for the year 2000-01 is 75 lakh Kisan Credit Cards to be issued by the banking sector (commercial banks + cooperative banks). Bank-wise targets for public sector banks for the year 2000-01 are at Statement II. Bank-wise position of Kisan Credit Cards issued and amount sanctioned thereof during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are at Statement-III.

State-wise and bank-wise progress as on 31 March 2000 giving the details of number of Kisan Credit Cards issued and the loan amount sanctioned since inception by cooperative banks and RRBs is given in the Statement IV. Similarly, the State-wise and bank-wise (co-operative banks and RRBs) progress alongwith the targets fixed for issue of Kisan Credit Cards for 2000-01 is given in Statement-V.

(d) In order to popularize the Kisan Credit Card scheme, convenors of State Level Bankers Committee and lead banks have been advised to review the progress in issue of Kisan Credit Cards at State level and district level. The progress of the scheme is also reviewed regularly by Reserve Bank of India and Government and achievement is monitored on a monthly basis. Banks have been advised to give adequate publicity to the scheme through print & electronic media highlighting that this scheme will ensure flow of adequate and timely credit to farmers and also save them trouble of getting their credit requirement assessed by the banks every year.

Statement I

Kisan Credit Card Scheme—Target Allotted to Public Sector Banks during 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of Bank	Targets
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	625000
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	20000
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	75000
4.	State Bank of Indore	20000
5.	State Bank of Mysore	30000
6.	State Bank of Patiala	45000
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	74000

1	2	3
8.	State Bank of Travancore	22000
9.	Allahabad Bank	20000
10.	Andhra Bank	100000
11.	Bank of Baroda	56000
12.	Bank of India	72000
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	33000
14.	Canara Bank	254000
15.	Central Bank of India	28000
16.	Corporation Bank	30000
17.	Dena Bank	20000
18.	Indian Bank	70000
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	92000
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	20000
21.	Punjab National Bank	52000
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	21000
23.	Syndicate Bank	64000
24.	Union Bank of India	64000
25.	United Bank of India	42000
26.	UCO Bank	20000
27.	Vijaya Bank	31000
Total		2000000

Statement II

Kisan Credit Card Scheme—Target Allotted to Public Sector Banks during 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of Bank	Targets
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	577000
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	12000
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	91000
4.	State Bank of Indore	10000
5.	State Bank of Mysore	38000

1	2	3	1	2	3
6.	State Bank of Patiala	77000	18.	Indian Bank	105000
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	62000	19.	Indian Overseas Bank	160000
8.	State Bank of Travancore	37000	20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	26000
9.	Allahabad Bank	20000	21.	Punjab National Bank	86000
10.	Andhra Bank	131000	22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	34000
11.	Bank of Baroda	81000	23.	Syndicate Bank	91000
12.	Bank of India	106000	24.	Union Bank of India	110000
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	63000	25.	United Bank of India	48000
14.	Canara Bank	369000	26.	UCO Bank	22000
15.	Central Bank of India	42000	27.	Vijaya Bank	44000
16.	Corporation Bank	36000	Total		2500000
17.	Dena Bank	22000			

Statement III

Bank-wise Position of Kisan Credit Card Issued and Amount Sanctioned during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 (Upto April 2000) by Public Sector Banks

S. No.	Name of Bank	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
		KCC Issued	Amt. Sanc.	KCC Issued	Amt. Sanc.	KCC Issued	Amt. Sanc.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	State Bank of India	19510	3125.00	325811	64655.19	3534	1407097
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	-	-	17595	5954.27	414	148.82
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	649	120.78	62773	10252.42	371	96.49
4.	State Bank of Indore	250	118.00	19287	6192.20	484	150.55
5.	State Bank of Mysore	-	-	17454	9245.00	650	299.00
6.	State Bank of Patiala	-	-	48418	14480.83	1138	317.25
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	1125	157.50	44461	11163.00	1072	270.00
8.	State Bank of Travancore	22	13.58	13323	3847.49	147	56.94
9.	Allahabad Bank	7794	2312.29	32047	13457.22	266	114.32
10.	Andhra Bank	5032	1063.18	91250	13346.37	1841	273.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Bank of Baroda	1637	612.26	51101	14327.99	648	247.23
12.	Bank of India	5304	—	73467	24022.88	1769	905.80
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	—	—	25549	8700.42	1199	327.02
14.	Canara Bank	377725	106139.51	138414	28490.86	5317	1668.12
15.	Central Bank of India	500	—	24291	7267.95	309	78.04
16.	Corporation Bank	20236	6124.08	29866	15958.00	979	4.11
17.	Dena Bank	4076	1042.97	20198	5919.12	754	465.57
18.	Indian Bank	6475	1405.69	20198	5919.12	754	465.57
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	33	8.57	25221	5474.80	675	157.38
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	—	—	21235	2160.75	357	237.96
21.	Punjab National Bank	6237	597.32	52002	25461.46	1666	9.07
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	—	—	21538	11474.97	1050	736.99
23.	Syndicate Bank	164645	22913.00	119336	27382.48	6854	1926.36
24.	Union Bank of India	—	244.19	16994	3228.78	1151	250.30
25.	United Bank of India	329	39.27	9694	1270.82	200	20.34
26.	UCO Bank	418	168.53	8772	2735.90	444	1.08
27.	Vijaya Bank	3694	839.65	19849	6825.14	404	151.89
Total		622391	147331.17	1365911	353708.19	34171	11855.70

Statement IV

*Kisan Credit Card Scheme/Progress as on 31 March 2000 (Data Provisional)
[as Reported by Banks to the Ros of NABARD]*

S.No.	State/UT	Regional Rural Banks			Co-operative Banks			Total	
		No.	Cards Issued	Amount Sanctioned	No.	Cards Issued	Amount Sanctioned	Cards Issued	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	10349	1601.20	22	1664673	139625.90	1675022	141227.10
2.	Assam*	3	181	34.12	—	—	—	181	34.12
3.	Bihar	21	2274	371.10	13	1629	264.47	3903	635.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Gujarat	8	5226	1208.40	3	6042	1798.68	11268	3007.08
5.	Haryana	4	5788	2993.21	—	—	—	5788	2993.21
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	140	56.92	3	468	90.02	608	146.94
7.	Jammu & Kashmir#	2	269	36.85	4	1042	166.49	1311	203.34
8.	Karnataka	13	39896	9260.58	15	13138	3097.79	53034	12358.337
9.	Kerala	2	53688	9930.55	9	33469	2714.67	87157	12645.22
10.	Madhya Pradesh	20	5468	1461.68	43	75788	14650.79	81256	16112.47
11.	Maharashtra	6	3500	875.00	28	339624	39103.30	343124	39978.30
12.	Orissa	9	17225	1947.19	17	602029	106332.58	619254	108279.77
13.	Punjab	5	3436	1704.76	—	—	—	3436	1704.76
14.	Rajasthan	12	6720	3295.09	26	989543	130900.00	996263	134195.09
15.	Tamil Nadu	3	1762	347.97	13	19587	3849.52	21349	4197.49
16.	Uttar Pradesh	33	23164	6395.89	—	—	—	23164	6395.89
17.	West Bengal	9	633	88.25	9	2732	491.34	3365	579.59
18.	Tripura	1	33	0.31	1	66	2.62	69	2.93
19.	Goa	—	—	—	1	157	62.00	157	62.00
20.	A & N Island#	—	—	—	1	235	23.50	235	23.50
Total\$:		169	179722	41609.07	208	3750222	443173.67	3929944	484782.74

N.B.: This includes cards issued by Bank's under similar existing Schemes.

SCB functions as CFA.

\$ Includes normal credit limit sanctions also for crop loans in some States.

Statement V

Kisan Credit Card Scheme—Progress as on 31 July 2000 (Since 1 April 2000)
[As reported by Banks to the Ros of NABARD]

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	Regional Rural Banks				Co-operative Banks				Total		
		No.	Cards	Amt. Sanc.		No.	Cards	Amt. Sanct.		Cards	Amt. Sanct.	
			Target				Target					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	124000	1153	274.60	22	700000	255919	5151.60	824000	257072	5426.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2.	Assam#	3	700	NA	NA	-	500	-	-	1200	-	-
3.	Bihar	21	4200	3169	1129.15	13	25000	1080	161.63	29200	4249	1290.78
4.	Gujarat	8	21200	7082	2945.76	3	412900	186709	53611.43	434100	193791	56557.19
5.	Haryana	4	10200	290	140.58	-	200000	45084	4754.61	210200	45374	4895.19
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	200	64	16.68	3	25000	1650	3977.04	25200	1714	3993.72
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	200	66	13.66	4	2000	17	6.36	2200	83	20.02
8.	Karnataka	13	60000	12965	8079.81	15	150000	4685	3718.35	210000	17650	11798.16
9.	Kerala	2	108200	7253	1581.75	9	500000	37112	3017.63	608200	44365	4599.38
10.	Madhya Pradesh	20	7600	393	96.18	43	425000	2492	1898.86	432600	2885	1995.04
11.	Maharashtra	6	16800	4752	1012.39	28	1021600	272106	44544.19	1038400	276858	45556.58
12.	Orissa	9	22000	3398	2.00	17	374000	204172	12790.84	396000	207570	12792.84
13.	Punjab	5	12300	889	415.24	-	175000	-	-	187300	889	415.24
14.	Rajasthan	12	8300	2048	1188.17	26	213000	15044	22717.63	221300	17092	23905.80
15.	Tamil Nadu	3	36500	5341	732.65	13	500000	42513	9067.04	536500	47854	9799.69
16.	West Bengal	33	57700	7163	1843.51	15	450000	33133	1468.40	507700	40296	3311.91
17.	Uttar Pradesh	9	9400	-	-	9	525000	205	40.76	534400	205	40.76
18.	Tripura	1	25	20	1.95	1	1000	-	-	1025	20	1.95
19.	Goa	-	-	-	-	1	1000	-	-	1000	-	-
20.	Meghalaya	1	400	115	10.90	1	500	36	1.72	900	151	12.62
21.	A&N Island#	-	-	-	-	1	500	-	-	500	-	-
22.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	5000	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	100	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-
Total\$		170	500025	56161	19484.98	224	5708500	1101957	166928.09	ERR	1158118	186413.07

N.B.: This includes cards issued by Bank's under similar existing Schemes.

SCB functions as CFA. Data is provisional
\$ Includes normal credit limit sanctions also for crop loans in some States. No. indicates No. of banks implementing the Scheme since inception.

Increase in Export/Import after Liberalisation

*300. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether there has been any increase in foreign trade after the announcement of the policy of globalisation and liberalisation;

(b) if so, the percentage of import and export of the country before and after adopting the above policy;

(c) the percentage of import and export by India out of the total import and export of the world by the end of the nineties;

(d) whether the Government have set any target to increase the said percentage; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Exports at the time of liberalisation in 1991-92 were \$17865 million which has increased to \$37538 million (provisional) in 1999-2000. The volume of exports depends on factors like competitive advantage, general state of world trade, etc. As per trade statistics available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, details of the percentage growth in Export and Import in US dollars terms, are as follows:

Year	Percentage Growth in Exports	Percentage Growth in Imports
1	2	3
1985-86	—9.9	11.5
1986-87	9.4	—2.1
1987-88	24.1	9.1
1988-89	15.6	13.6
1989-90	18.9	8.8
1990-91	9.2	13.5
1991-92	—1.5	—19.4
1992-93	3.8	12.7
1993-94	20.0	6.5

1	2	3
1994-95	18.4	22.9
1995-96	20.8	28.0
1996-97	5.3	6.7
1997-98	4.6	6.0
1998-99	—5.1	2.2
1999-2000*	11.6 ^d	10.2

*Provisional
Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(c) to (e) As per the latest figure made available by WTO, India's share in world exports has been around 0.6% while the share in total world imports is 0.8% in 1998. After a negative growth rate in exports in 1998-99, exports growth rate has become positive in 1999-2000 at 11.6%, thus exceeding the export growth target of 11.3%. Growth in exports during April-June, 2000-2001 has been 27.65% over the corresponding period last year. This is against the target of 18% for the year as a whole.

[English]

Oilseeds Crushing Industries

3092. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of oilseeds crushing industries at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the crushing capacity of these industries is sufficient for entire utilisation of the production;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Consequent upon delicensing of vegetable oil industry in July, 1991, no authentic information about the oilseed crushing industries State-wise is available. As per available information, on All India Basis, there are around 1,50,000 oilseed crushing units both in the organised and in the small scale sector, with a total annual capacity of 425 lakh MTs in terms of oilseeds.

(b) Yes, Sir. In fact the capacity utilisation of the oilseed crushing units varies from 10% in case of small scale sector to 30% in the organised sector which shows that the installed capacity of the industry is far in excess of oil-seed production.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Misuse of Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine

3093. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases relating to misuse of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are on rampant and are being diverted to manufacture of synthetic drug amphetamine type stimulants (ATS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the U.N.O. General Assembly had devoted to the world drug problem adopted ATS as one of the area of focus needs a time bound action; and

(d) if so, the details of the action being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAVA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, No case of manufacture of synthetic drugs, ATS in India by diverted ephedrine and pseudoephedrine has come to notice.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Export of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine has been restricted. These two chemicals are allowed to be exported only after obtaining a No Objection Certificate from the Narcotics Commissioner of India. These have been declared as "controlled substances" under section 2 of the NDPS Act, 1985 in December, 1999. All manufacturers, importers, exporters, sellers and consumers of these chemicals are now required to maintain records and file returns with the Zonal Directors of the Narcotics Control Bureau.

Steel Industry

3094. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canadian Government has initiated anti-subsidy proceedings against imports of stainless steel round bars from Indian companies;

(b) whether anti-dumping duties have also been levied by U.S. and European units;

(c) if so, the details of its likely impact on steel industry in the country; and

(d) the steps taken to rescue the steel industry from this crisis?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. United States had imposed Anti-dumping duty ranging from 11.26% up to 21.02% on import of Stainless Steel Bars from India. European Commission had also imposed countervailing duties ranging from 14.4% up to 25.5% on import of Stainless Steel Bright Bars from India.

(c) The imposition of such dumping and countervailing duties by USA, EU and Canada on imports of Indian Stainless Steel Bars have adversely affected the exports of these items from India to those markets.

(d) The Indian industry and Government of India have been defending the Anti-dumping and Countervailing cases initiated against the import of Stainless Steel Bars. The Government have also taken up the matter with these countries at various forums.

Industrial Model Town

3095. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese International Cooperation Agency was entrusted the work of conducting a detailed feasibility for establishing Industrial Model Town in India;

(b) if so, the details of the city so identified by that agency;

(c) whether the Government have received proposals from other multinational companies and non-resident Indians to set up an Industrial Model Town in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of such towns proposed to be established with location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes. Gurgaon (Manesar), Haryana was identified by Japanese International Cooperation Agency for the

development of an Industrial Model Town. However, this project could not be taken up with Japanese collaboration and was subsequently undertaken by Government of Haryana/HSIDC on its own.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Applications for Industrial Licences

3096. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS
PAPPU YADAV:

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

(a) the number of applications received for seeking industrial licences during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications disposed of during the said period and the number of applications lying pending with the Government as on date; and

(c) the reasons for delay and the time by which these are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) A total of 913 applications for issue of industrial licence have been received during the period from January 1997 to July 2000, out of which 802 applications have been disposed of as on 1.8.2000.

(c) All steps are taken for speedy disposal of applications. Actual disposal of applications depends on the sectoral policy adopted by the Administrative Ministries concerned, their recommendations on specific cases and also furnishing of required information by the applicant.

[*English*]

Digital Transmitters

3097. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in setting up of digital terrestrial transmitters at the four metropolitan cities *i.e.* Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta;

(b) whether the area of coverage and transmission quality will be improved by these digital transmitters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these transmitters are likely to be installed, city-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) Frequencies of operation of the transmitters have been worked out, specification of transmitter equipment have been formulated and further action for procurement of the equipment has been initiated.

(b) and (c) The coverage area *vis-a-vis* transmission quality is expected to improve significantly with digital transmission. Some of the other advantages are ghost-free reception even from portable antennae, mobile reception and multi-channel operation.

(d) All the four transmitters are expected to be installed during 2001.

Sugar Mills

3098. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total production of sugar per annum of the said mills, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government have made any survey in the recent past for the establishment of new sugar mills in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) There are 493 sugar mills in the country. The statement showing State-wise number of sugar mills is enclosed.

(b) The total production of sugar in the country during the current 1999-2000 season is expected to be more than 180 lakh tonnes out of which about 47 lakh tonnes would be from the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement**State-wise Number of Sugar Factories in the Country
(As on 30.6.2000)**

S.No.	State	Total Number of Sugar Factories
1.	Punjab	22
2.	Haryana	13
3.	Rajasthan	3
4.	Uttar Pradesh	128
5.	Madhya Pradesh	9
6.	Gujarat	22
7.	Maharashtra	134
8.	Bihar	28
9.	Assam	3
10.	Orissa	8
11.	West Bengal	2
12.	Nagaland	1
13.	Andhra Pradesh	41
14.	Karnataka	37
15.	Tamil Nadu	37
16.	Pondicherry	2
17.	Kerala	2
18.	Goa	1
19.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—
20.	Manipur	—
21.	Himachal Pradesh	—
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
Total		493

Setting up of Industrial Units

3099. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals submitted by the State Governments for setting up of new industrial units in their

respective States which are lying pending with the Union Government for want of clearance, State-wise;

(b) since when these proposals are lying pending;

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government to clear those cases and the reasons for delay in clearing these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No proposal for issue of Industrial License under Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 submitted by any of the State Governments is pending with the Central Government.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Customs and Excise Duty Exemption

3100. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request from Kerala Government to get exemption from customs duty on the equipments proposed to be imported and also exemption from excise duty on the building materials for the proposed Malabar Cancer Centre Society under the State Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The request for excise duty exemption on building materials and locally manufactured equipments etc. for construction of a hospital by Malabar Cancer Centre Society was received from Power (B) Department, Government of Kerala. The exemption request was considered but not found acceptable.

Import of Tea/Coffee

3101. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge import of tea/coffee has created problems for the domestic tea and coffee industry;

(b) if so, the quantum of tea and coffee imported during each of last three years;

(c) the details of problems being faced by tea/coffee industry/growers; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to solve the problems and to ensure that the interest of tea/coffee industry/growers would not be affected due to such import?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Import of Tea/Coffee into India is negligible as compared to our production. Import of Tea/Coffee during the last three years has been as under:—

(in mn. kgs)

Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Tea	2.60	8.93	9.78
Coffee	0.96	2.00	2.40

However, in order to protect the domestic tea and coffee industries from imports, Government has recently increased the basic customs duty on tea and coffee from 15% to 35%. Sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by Export Oriented Units and units in the Export Processing Zones has been banned with effect from 20.7.2000.

Special Economic Zones and Export Processing Zones

3102. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have initiated fresh policy to make big success of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) during 2000 and 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of SEZs and EPZs functioning at present in the country, State-wise and location-wise, alongwith the details of export potential and their performance;

(d) whether the Government have decided to allow 100% foreign direct investment and manufacture of items reserved for small scale in special economic zones;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of special concessions proposed to be provided to these investors;

(f) whether the Government have reviewed its effect on domestic small scale industry sector;

(g) whether any representations from small scale industry sector have been received against this decision;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) In the Export and Import Policy (1997-2002), incorporating amendments made up to 31st March, 2000, the Government has announced a Policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country. The units in the SEZs will be a net foreign exchange earner but they shall not be subjected to any pre-determined value addition or minimum export performance. The entitlements to units in SEZs include exemption from Customs/Excise duty on capital goods, raw materials etc. reimbursement of Central Sales Tax paid on purchase from outside the State and an upgraded infrastructure.

(c) The details of seven EPZs in the country set up by the Government are given below:

Name of the EPZ and location	Exports (Rs. crores)	
	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3
Kandla Free Trade Zone, Kandla (Gujarat)	391.84	543.66
Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone, Mumbai (Maharashtra)	3281.84	4112.62

1	2	3
Noida Export Processing Zone, Noida (U.P.)	752.07	845.63
Madras Export Processing Zone, Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	535.94	545.42
Cochin Export Processing Zone, Cochin (Kerala)	200.05	241.00
Falta Export Processing Zone, Falta (West Bengal)	72.77	266.60
Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	18.00	119.04
Total	5252.48	6673.97

SEZs are yet to become operational.

(d) to (f) Foreign equity up to 100% is permissible in the case of SEZ units. SEZ is an export promotion scheme and no distinction is made between SSI and non-SSI sector in respect of units in SEZ. Any sales in the Domestic Tariff Area by the SEZ units shall be subject to the import policy in force and on payment of full customs duty. SEZs will not, therefore, have any adverse effect on the domestic small scale industry.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) and (i) Do not arise.

Financial Position of Andhra Pradesh

3103. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India subscribed to the view that the State of Andhra Pradesh is passing through a critical phase with regard to its financial position;

(b) if so, whether the Deputy Governor of RBI has recommended that sufficient funds should be given to Andhra Pradesh to meet the financial crisis;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has agreed to provide assistance to the State to meet the financial strain; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Support to Unregistered Publications

3104. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether several publications which are not registered with DAVP are also getting advertisement support from various State Governments;

(b) if so, the names of such States; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to stop releasing advertisements to unregistered 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) Registration/Empanelment with DAVP is not mandatory for getting advertisements from State Governments. State Governments release advertisements to any newspaper/journal of their choice based on their requirement and Policy.

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

Central Sales Tax

3105. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States are maintaining the audited accounts of Central Sales Tax, separately;

(b) if so, the Central Sales Tax collection of each of the State during each of the last three years;

(c) since the Central Sales Tax is an inter State tax, covering all the States of the country, whether the Government propose to put it in the Central divisible pool; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

As per Section 9 of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, the revenue collected under central sales tax is retained by the individual State. A State-wise statement of revenue collection from central sales tax during the last three years, as available from the Reserve Bank of India, is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Statement of Revenue collection from Central Sales Tax in the last three years

	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	1997-98 (Accounts)	1998-99 (R.E.)	1999-2000 (B.E.)
	1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	62324	67620	75734
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Assam	—	10500	15006
Bihar	35366	46742	42166
Goa	2020	2020	2336
Gujarat	67793	77800	88000
Haryana	49165	67670	76817
Himachal Pradesh	2185	1938	2238
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
Karnataka	21317	69437	74080
Kerala	16313	19488	20770
Madhya Pradesh	43242	45933	59747
Maharashtra	127828	138000	152000
Manipur	—	—	—
Meghalaya	1679	2121	2265
Mizoram	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—

	1	2	3
Orissa	—	30319	31000
Punjab	27631	32438	37303
Rajasthan	11517	13000	15000
Sikkim	—	—	240
Tamil Nadu	103458	73007	93412
Tripura	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	23706	29000	42500
West Bengal	33209	53142	58595
All States	628753	778175	889209

[Translation]

Bank Loans to SCs/STs

3106. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to the nationalized banks regarding providing loans to SCs/STs and OBCs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise details of loans disbursed by these banks to the persons belonging to SC/ST and OBC category during the last three years particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) There are various schemes for poverty alleviation and

employment generation such as Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS) administered by different Ministries of the Central Government under which SCs/STs can avail the benefits of loan facilities from banks. While these Ministries are responsible for administering the schemes by providing various inputs that are needed including training and subsidy, banks are required to provide the credit component. Most of these schemes have reservation for SCs/STs and weaker sections. Further, under priority sector domestic banks are required to lend 10 per cent of their Net Bank Credit (NBC) to weaker sections, which include SCs/STs and OBCs.

(c) The State-wise outstanding advances of scheduled commercial banks to SCs/STs and weaker sections including the State of Bihar during the last three years is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Outstanding Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks' to SCs/STs and Weaker Sections

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	March 1996		March 1997		March 1998	
		SCs/STs Beneficiaries	Weaker Sections	SCs/STs Beneficiaries	Weaker Sections	SCs/STs Beneficiaries	Weaker Sections
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70247	176555	100421	217158	69750	249782

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1566	1787	965	1075	366	1103
3.	Assam	12761	23411	12161	23977	7331	24234
4.	Bihar	38880	92976	41240	105025	44591	103666
5.	Goa	206	2044	184	1447	179	1299
6.	Gujarat	24326	57383	21987	69217	25110	67618
7.	Haryana	13329	40865	11600	42829	11549	36382
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4298	10459	5034	12449	5077	12099
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	842	3851	1345	4401	1456	6982
10.	Karnataka	25415	102467	29773	114014	43416	170551
11.	Kerala	19559	107639	20398	119333	13979	104043
12.	Madhya Pradesh	39492	115744	48948	125579	48445	121899
13.	Maharashtra	42864	114537	55086	126118	55434	130462
14.	Manipur	2518	5783	2098	3521	1793	5525
15.	Meghalaya	3225	3268	3044	3117	1103	4919
16.	Mizoram	686	698	1341	1344	388	1554
17.	Nagaland	4828	5192	3059	3290	1211	5098
18.	NCT of Delhi	8690	20316	9704	22306	7312	20771
19.	Orissa	27777	48895	31224	61809	29860	52107
20.	Punjab	21917	65636	22317	68724	24711	77241
21.	Rajasthan	36101	67625	38317	73421	41931	81624
22.	Sikkim	428	573	433	784	564	1315
23.	Tamil Nadu	52915	209340	66196	236362	65249	239202
24.	Tripura	1239	2636	3002	6890	2141	5825
25.	Uttar Pradesh	85006	195249	98808	204624	91229	225460
26.	West Bengal	32445	82534	31852	87536	36685	93229
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	83	337	160	375	175	705
28.	Chandigarh	522	5120	532	6359	492	6482
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	125	150	80	80	260	260
30.	Daman & Diu	120	305	15	60	15	58
31.	Lakshadweep	165	165	175	176	214	214
32.	Pondicherry	962	2887	1322	3341	1093	2548
	All India	573537	1566427	662821	1746741	633109	1855257

T.V. Relay Centre at Vijay Nagar in Ajmer District

3107. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests have been received to start the Vijay Nagar T.V. Relay Centre in district Ajmer;

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

(c) if not, the time by which the action is likely to be taken?

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) Prasar Bharati has informed that installation of a Low Power Transmitter at Vijay Nagar has been completed and it will be commissioned as early as possible after deployment of adequate staff.

[English]

Setting up of Five Star Hotels by Foreign Companies

3108. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed the foreign companies to set up five star hotels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places where those hotels are likely to be set up;

(d) the details of the countries who have shown interest in setting up the hotels in India; and

(e) the names and locations of these five star hotels which are functioning with foreign collaboration at present in the country?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) Some foreign hotel chains/companies have been allowed to enter into technical collaborations with Indian

hotels with approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board/Project Approval Board under the Ministry of Industry. Many such hotels with foreign technical collaborations are functioning in the metropolitan cities and other important tourist centres of the country.

[Translation]

Diamond-Gems Promotion Industry

3109. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an attractive and beneficial Diamond-gems Promotion industry have been identified to boost bilateral trade between India and Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has also proposed to set up joint venture in Russia for Diamond-gems Promotion; and

(d) if so, the response of the Russian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) No Sir. However during the 6th Session of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held in January, 2000 both sides recognised the potential that exists for greater cooperation in the field of diamonds between the two countries and agreed to undertake further necessary steps to exploit the synergy between the Russian Federation which is a major producer of diamonds and India which is the largest processor of diamonds.

[English]

Smuggling of Narcotics

3110. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the incidents of smuggling of narcotics and other intoxicants detected by the Customs officials at Mumbai and Delhi airports since January 2000 so far; and

(b) if so, the details of the seizures made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) 23 cases of seizures involving smuggling of heroin and other narcotic drugs have been effected by the Customs officials at Mumbai and Delhi International Airports, since

January, 2000, till date. The details of these seizures are as under:—

International Airport	No. of Cases	Seizure	Nature of narcotic drugs seized	Quantity of narcotic drugs seized
I. Chatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai	(a)	4	Heroin	4.276 kgs.
	(b)	1	Mandrax Tablets	96.200 kgs.
II. IGI Airport, Delhi	(a)	16	Heroin	11.323 kgs.
	(b)	2	Diazepam (5 mg. Tablets)	3,46,090 Tablets

Fake Five Rupee Coins

3111. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the circulation of the fake Rs. 5/- coins around the capital;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per available information, only a few cases of circulation of fake coins in country including Delhi have come to notice. In Delhi, five cases were detected by Delhi Police since 1998. In one case, the accused has since been convicted. Out of the remaining four cases, three are pending trial and one is pending investigation. A regards such crimes committed in the States, appropriate action against culprits is taken by the State Police.

Listing Corporation of India

3112. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for separate Listing Corporation of India for listing the Companies on various stock exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 provides for listing of companies on recognised stock exchanges and companies are required to comply with the conditions of the listing agreement entered into by the company with the stock exchange concerned. Currently, there is no Government proposal to set up a separate Listing Corporation of India.

[Translation]

Levy Sugar

3113. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of levy sugar in Gujarat and quantity of sugar supplied to the State at present;

(b) the year-wise quantity of levy sugar supplied and the quantity of sugar required in the State during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of levy sugar in the State;

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken to supply full quantity of sugar to the State;

(e) whether the Gujarat Government has written to the Union Government and demanded for supply of full quantity of sugar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to meet the demand of Gujarat in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The monthly allocation of levy sugar to most of the States/Union Territories including the State of Gujarat is being made with effect from 01.03.2000 on a norm of ensuring 425 gms. per capita per month availability on the basis of the projected population as on 01.03.1999. It is not possible, considering the accrual of sugar to the levy account, to allocate levy sugar on the basis of the requirement of the States/Union Territories. From

01.03.2000 till 30.06.2000, the monthly quota of levy sugar for Gujarat State was 20,212 MTs. From 01.07.2000, the monthly levy sugar quota of States/Union Territories has been reduced on account of exclusion of income tax assesseees and their family members. Accordingly, in case of Gujarat, the monthly levy sugar quota with effect from 01.07.2000 is 18,035 MTs.

They levy sugar quota of the State of Gujarat during the last 3 years has been as under:—

(In MTs)

Monthly levy sugar quota		Annual Festival quota	
From 1.1.97 to 29.2.2000	From 1.3.2000 to June, 2000	From July, 2000 onwards	From 1.1.97
17557.0	20212.0	18035.0	4878.0

Besides, due to high level of production, adhoc 10% increase over and above the monthly quota was allowed to all States/Union Territories including Gujarat for the period from January, 1997 to May, 1997.

(c) to (f) Levy sugar quotas of States/Union Territories is fixed as per standard norm keeping in view the production and accrual of levy thereon, etc. As such, it is not possible to meet the additional requirement/demand of levy sugar of a particular State/Union Territory. Levy sugar quotas have been revised from time to time as could be observed from the levy sugar allocations indicated above in the case of Gujarat, during the last three years.

[English]

Guidelines for Entrance of Private Sector in Insurance Sector

3114. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has prepared and notified the transparent guidelines for allowing private participation in insurance sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and

(b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has notified on 19th July, 2000, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2000 which prescribes in detail the procedure for registration of new insurance companies.

Cash Award Scheme to Income-Tax Officials

3115. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the system of giving cash award to the Income-tax officials in case they detect concealed income through searches and seizures;

(b) the number of cases in the Central Circle, Delhi, where searches and seizures were conducted during the last three years;

(c) the number of cases where award money has not yet been disbursed to the officials;

(d) the reasons for delay in disbursing the award money; and

(e) the time by which the backlog is likely to be cleared in disbursing the award money?

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

system of giving reward to the Income-tax officials in case they detect concealed income through search and seizure is covered in the Reward Guidelines to the Officers & Staff, 1985.

(b) Out of the Search cases conducted during last three years, 272 cases were assigned to Central Circle, Delhi.

(c) There are no such cases in Central Circle, Delhi where reward money has not yet been disbursed to the officials.

(d) and (e) In view of the answer to part (c) of the question, does not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Burn Standard Company Ltd.

3116. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to close down the Burn Standard Company Limited at Jabalpur and Katani (Niwar);

(b) whether these units are running into losses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have considered any effective policy to restart these units before taking such decision;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the employees of these units are being paid without work; and

(g) if so, the action proposed to be taken in regard to the property, future cost, etc. of the said units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The BIFR sanctioned revival scheme of BSCL did not recommend revival of both the Jabalpur and Katani (Niwar) Units of the Company. As per the scheme, all the employees of these units were to be offered benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme instead of retrenchment compensation as a gesture of goodwill. Loans provided by Government for these units were to be repaid out of sale of assets.

(b) Yes, Madam. The accumulated losses of Jabalpur and Katani (Niwar) Units as on 31.3.1999 were Rs. 4186 lakhs and Rs. 2142 lakhs respectively.

(c) The refractory products which the Jabalpur and Katani Units produced were outdated and unremunerative.

(d) and (e) The operating Agency, appointed by BIFR, could not establish the viability of these units on a stand alone basis. Further, BIFR did not recommend their revival.

(f) Government provided non-plan loan for 2 years from 1.4.1998 for payment of wages and salary to the employees of these units.

(g) As per the provisions of the BIFR revival scheme action has been initiated for disposal of its assets.

Theft of Artefacts

3117. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing laws to tackle the thefts/smuggling of ancient artefacts are proving inadequate and ineffective;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the existing laws so that the thefts/smuggling of the valuable items from the precious monuments can be stopped; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 is under review to identify provisions which need to be revised to make them more effective.

[English]

Publication of Excavation/Exploration Reports by ASI

3118. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) the number of sites explored or excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) since independence;

(b) the number of reports published on the completion of excavation work so far;

(c) whether these reports are not comprehensive;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of reports still pending for publication;

(f) the reason for non-publication of these reports; and

(g) the time by which these reports are likely to be brought out?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (g) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has conducted excavations at 257 sites in India since independence, and mandatory reports on them have been duly published in the ASI annual reports titled "Indian Archaeology: A Review" (IAR), brought out upto 1994-1995. The remaining reports are at different stages of printing, editing or compilation. However, 34 comprehensive reports and 12 reports on specific categories of excavated materials have been published. Detailed comprehensive research papers or books have also been brought out by several excavators.

The reasons for delay in publications are due to the technical nature of the report involving scientific analysis of excavated material by several experts/agencies, detailed documentation and preparation of illustrations. It will therefore not be possible to indicate a specific time frame for the completion of pending reports.

Financial Assistance to Cultural Organisations

3119. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for financial assistance received from cultural organisations of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals approved so far and the details of those are still pending;

(c) whether the Government have since released the amount of assistance sought for;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these grants are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Buildings for Libraries

3120. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released any amount to Karnataka for providing infrastructural facilities and for the construction of buildings for libraries during 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is no scheme under the Department of Culture for extending financial assistance for providing infrastructural facilities and construction of buildings for libraries. However, the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, an autonomous organisation under the Department of Culture, under its schemes released financial assistance of Rs. 1,50,000/- in favour of one organisation under the scheme of "Financial Assistance of Voluntary Organisation Providing Public Library Services" and Rs. 12,10,000/- in favour of eleven (11) organisations under the scheme of "Assistance to Public Libraries below the District level for increasing Accommodation" for construction of Library buildings located in the State of Karnataka during 1999-2000 as per the details in attached Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation with address	Name of library	Amount sanctioned with date	Amount released during 1999-2000
<i>A: Name of the Scheme: Scheme of Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations Providing Public Library Services</i>				
01.	Karnataka Health Institute Ghatprabha, Dist. Belgaum-591310	Hardikar Memorial Education Library Hall	3,00,000/- (1.2.1999)	1,50,000/-
<i>B: Name of Scheme: Scheme of Assistance to Public Libraries below District level for Increasing Accommodation</i>				
1.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Mysore, Karnataka	Branch Library at Byadarahalli, K.R. Nagar Taluk	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-
2.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Mysore, Karnataka	Branch Library at Colmbatore Colony of Hunsur Taluk	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-
3.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Shimoga, Karnataka	Branch Library at Holaluk, Shimoga Taluk	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-
4.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Shimoga, Karnataka	Branch Library at Holehonnur, Shimoga Taluk	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-
5.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Shimoga, Karnataka	Branch Library at Umbalebylu, Shimoga Taluk	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-
6.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Mysore, Karnataka	Branch Library at Periyapattan	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-
7.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Chikmagalur, Karnataka	Branch Library at Seethur Village, Narasimharajapura Taluk	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-
8.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Chikmagalur, Karnataka	Branch Library in the premises of Higher Primary School, Raut	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-
9.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Bellary, Karnataka	Branch Library at Kampli, Hospet Taluk	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-
10.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Bellary, Karnataka	Branch Library at Hooving Hadagali	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-
11.	Chief Librarian, District Central Library Bellary, Karnataka	Branch Library at Kottur, Kudligi Taluk	2,20,000/- 31.03.2000	1,10,000/-

NB: Grant was released as per conditions of the sanction order.

Foreign Visits of Ministers

3121. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed ban on the foreign visits of journalists accompanying Ministers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of journalists went on foreign visits with the Union Ministers during the last three years and the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the persons eligible to go on foreign visits accompanying Union Ministers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued bringing it to the notice of all Ministries/Departments not to refer proposals for the visits of journalists to accompany the Ministers on visits abroad. This has been done keeping in view the need for economy in public expenditure and also the fact that the function of giving publicity to Ministers' visits can be performed by Indian Missions abroad.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

(d) Apart from the officers, the Minister can take one person from his personal staff on visits abroad.

[Translation]

Economic Reforms

3122. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was decided in the meeting of financial advisers that agriculture, education and health would also be brought under the purview of economic reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Mangoes

3123. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties of mangoes being exported from the country;

(b) the variety-wise quantity of mangoes exported during the last three years; and

(c) the total revenue earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The varieties of mangoes exported from the country include: Alphanso, Kesar, Banganpalli, Dussehri, Chausa, Neelam, Totapuri, Raspuri, Suwamarekha, etc.

(b) and (c) Variety-wise export statistics is not maintained. The total quantity of all varieties of mangoes exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1996-97 to 1998-99 for which details are available is given below:

Year	Quantity (M.Ts.)	Value (Rs. crores)
1996-97	24773.5	44.88
1997-98	42894.9	73.80
1998-99	45407.6	79.14

Source: APEDA, New Delhi/DGCI&S, Calcutta.

Gross Domestic Product

3124. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the sectoral contributions, Primary (Agriculture and Allied Services), Secondary (Industry) and Tertiary (Service Sector) to Gross Domestic Product in 1970-71, 1980-81, 1990-91, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 alongwith their contribution to employment generation, Sector-wise; and

(b) the contribution of trade, hotels, transport and communication, social and personal services to the GDP and employment for the above periods in service sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The statements indicating contribution of primary, secondary and tertiary sectors to the Gross Domestic product (GDP) as well as these sectors: contributions to employment generation are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The contributions of trade, hotels, transport and communication and personal services to the GDP and employment are indicated in enclosed Statement II.

Statement-I*Sectoral share of different sectors in Gross Domestic Product (in per cent) at current prices*

(in per cent)

Sectors	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Primary (Agriculture & Allied Sector)	45.80	38.70	31.30	28.00	29.10	27.90
Secondary (Industry)	20.90	24.90	27.70	27.10	25.80	26.00
Tertiary (Service Sector)	33.30	36.40	41.10	44.90	45.10	46.10
Total:	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Notes:

1. Primary Sector - Agriculture, Forestry and Logging and Fishing
2. Secondary Sector - Mining and Quarrying, Manufacturing, Electricity, Gas and Water Supply and Construction.
3. Tertiary Sector-Trade, Hotels and Restaurants, Transport, Communication and Storage, Financial Services, Community, Personal and Social Services

Source: Central Statistical Organisation

Sectoral Distribution of Workers as per Usual Principal Status (UPS) in per cent

Sectors	Census 1971	NSS 32nd Round 1977-78	Census 1981	NSS 38th Round 1983	NSS 43rd Round 1987-88	Census 1991	NSS 50th Round 1993-94
Primary (Agriculture & Allied Sector)	83.00	80.10	81.60	78.50	75.20	81.10	75.30
Secondary (Industry)	7.70	9.90	9.00	10.80	13.90	8.10	12.00
Tertiary (Service Sector)	9.40	10.00	9.40	10.20	11.00	10.80	12.70

NSS: National Sample Survey

Note: Latest estimate available for employment pertains to the year 1993-94 as per the NSS

Statement-II*Sectoral share of different sectors in Gross Domestic Product (in per cent) at current prices*

(in per cent)

Sectors	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Trade, hotels, restaurants	8.40	11.50	12.40	13.80	13.20	13.30
Transport, storage & communication	4.20	4.50	6.00	7.10	7.00	7.10
Community, social & Personal Services	10.50	11.40	12.30	12.70	13.70	14.10

Source: Central Statistical Organisation

Industrial Distribution of Employment as per UPs

(in per cent)

Sectors	NSS 32nd Round 1977-78	NSS 38th Round 1983	NSS 43rd Round 1987-88	NSS 50th Round 1993-94
Trade	6.30	6.80	7.30	7.92
Transport & Storage	2.10	2.70	2.78	3.07
Community and Financial Services	8.30	9.40	9.63	11.06

Note: Latest estimate available for employment pertains to the year 1993-94 as per the NSS

Public Sector Wage Revision

3125. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a five member Ministerial Group headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has been appointed to consider the public sector wage revision;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Group has given its recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Government reconstituted a nine-member Group of Ministers (GOM) headed by Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to consider, inter alia, the public sector wage revision duration. The GOM recommended that in regard to unionized employees of the PSUs governed by IDA pattern, an option may be allowed to avail of either:

- (i) a 10 year periodicity of wage revision with 100% neutralization of DA; or
- (ii) a 5 year periodicity on the basis of graded neutralization as did exist previously.

The Government have accepted the recommendation of the GOM and an order to this effect has already been issued.

Task Force to Consider Impact of WTO Obligation

3126. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any task force to consider the impact of WTO obligation on the farm sector and other sectors and to suggest the strategy to meet them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Government have no proposal under consideration at present to set up any task force to consider the impact of all WTO agreements on the farm sector and other sectors. However, an Inter Ministerial Group has been constituted to assess the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and to suggest suitable corrective measures. Also based on the reports as may be received from the various Ministries/Departments, who are engaged in the regular monitoring of the performance of their respective sectors, various WTO compatible measures are taken by the Government from time to time to protect their interests.

Library of Asiatic Society of Mumbai

3127. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the famous Library of Asiatic Society of Mumbai has been damaged;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken for preservation of this Library?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) 'Library' is a State Subject under State List of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India. The Asiatic Society of Bombay, Mumbai, falls under the jurisdiction of the Government of Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Reconstitution of Advisory Committee

3128. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the process of reconstitution of Hindi Advisory Committee of his Ministry and concerned departments has been completed alongwith the composition of the Committee

(b) the date on which the meeting of the said Committee is likely to be convened and the agenda for consideration; and

(c) the steps taken for convening regular meetings of the Committee and for its smooth functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Hindi Salahakar Samiti of the Ministry was reconstituted on 16th June, 2000 as per the guidelines prescribed by Department of Official Language. Composition of the Committee is given in enclosed Statement.

1. Minister of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution
2. Minister of State for Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution (Food & Public Distribution)
3. Minister of State for Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution (Consumer Affairs)

Members of Lok Sabha

4. Shri Ram Naresh Tripathi
5. Shri A. Venkatesh Naik

Members of Rajya Sabha

6. Shri Sangh Priya Gautam
7. Shri Bal Kavi Bairagi

Representatives of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language

8. Shri Pawan Singh Ghatowar, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
9. Smt. Krishna Bose, M.P. (Lok Sabha)

Non-Official Members

10. Dr. Indu Bali
1541, Sector 18-D
Chandigarh

(b) The meeting of the Committee is proposed to be convened on 6.9.2000 and items relating to progressive use of Hindi in the Ministry & its attached & subordinate offices, Corporations etc. have been included in the Agenda. In addition, points raised by members are given due importance for discussion in the meeting.

(c) Steps are being taken to ensure convening of Hindi Salahakar Samiti meeting on regular basis.

Statement

(To be Published in the Gazette of India Part-I, Section-I)

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution
Department of Food & Public Distribution

New Delhi, dated, the 16 June, 2000

RESOLUTIONS

No. E-11015/95-Hindi. In supersession of Resolution No. E-11015/9/95-Hindi, dated the 8th April, 1999 issued by the Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs, the Government of India have decided to re-constitute the Hindi Salahakar Samiti for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution. The composition and the functions of the Samiti will be as follows:—

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Vice Chairman

Member
Member

Member
Member

Member
Member

Member

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| 11. | Dr. Gautam Vyathi
Village, Nerati,
Shahpur, Kangra (H.P.) | Member |
| 12. | Dr. Ram Dal Pandey
Head of Deptt. of P.G. in Hindi
Shivharsh Kisan P.G. College
Basti (U.P.) 272001 | Member |
| 13. | Shri B.R. Narayana
1691, Anjaneya Temple Street,
Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560060 | Member |
| 14. | Shri A. Sharma 'Panditji', 8 First Cross Street
Kasturi Ba Nagar, Adyar, Chennai-600020 | Member |
| 15. | Dr. Bal Krishan Sharma, R-718
Kotla (Behind Bus Stand), Panipat (Haryana) | Member |
| 16. | Shri Radha Kant Bharti, N-525,
Sector-9, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022 | Member |

Representative from voluntary Organisation

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------|
| 17. | Chairman, Nagri Pracharini Sabha,
1-A, Sunehari Bagh Road,
New Delhi-110011 | Member |
| 18. | Representative of Kendriya Sachivalaya Hindi
Parishad, New Delhi | Member |

Officials

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| 19. | Secretary, Deptt. of Official Language, New Delhi | Member |
| 20. | Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Official Language, New Delhi | Member |
| 21. | Secretary, Deptt. of Food & Public Distribution | Member |
| 22. | Secretary, Deptt. of Consumer Affairs, New Delhi | Member |
| 23. | Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser
Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution | Member |
| 24. | Additional Secretary, Deptt. of Consumer Affairs, N. Delhi | Member |
| 25. | Economic Adviser, Deptt. of Consumer Affairs, New Delhi | Member |
| 26. | All Joint Secretaries of Ministry of Consumer Affairs
and Public Distribution | Member |
| 27. | Managing Director, Food Corporation of India, New Delhi | Member |
| 28. | Managing Director, Central Warehousing
Corporation, New Delhi | Member |
| 29. | Chief Director, Directorate of Sugar, New Delhi | Member |
| 30. | Chief Director, Directorate of Vanaspati,
Vanaspati Oils & Fats, New Delhi | Member |
| 31. | Chief Director, National Institute of Sugarcane &
Sugar Technology, New Delhi/Mau | Member |

32.	Chairman-Cum-Managing Director Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation, New Delhi	Member
33.	Director General, Bureau of Indian Standard, New Delhi	Member
34.	Managing Director, Super Bazar, New Delhi	Member
35.	Managing Director, National Consumer Cooperative Federation, New Delhi	Member
36.	Joint Secretary (Incharge of Hindi), Deptt. of Food & Public Distribution	Member Secretary

II. Functions of Samiti

The Samiti would render advice to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and its attached and subordinate offices on matters relating to the progressive use of Hindi for official purposes and on allied issues falling within the framework of the policy laid down by the Ministry of Home Affairs (Deptt. of Official Language)

III. Tenure

The term of the Samiti will be three years from the date of its reconstitution provided that:—

- (a) a member who is a Member of Parliament ceases to be a member of the Samiti as soon as he ceases to be a Member of Parliament;
- (b) ex-officio members of the Samiti shall continue as members as long as they hold office by virtue of which they are members of the Samiti;
- (c) if a vacancy arises on the Samiti due to resignation, death, etc. of a member, the member appointed in that capacity shall hold office for the residual term of three years.

IV. General

The Headquarters of the Samiti shall be in New Delhi but it may hold its meetings at any other station also.

Travelling and Other Allowances:

The non-official members will be paid travelling and daily allowances, for attending the meetings of the Samiti as contained in the guidelines issued by the Department of Official Language vide their O.M. No. II/20034/4/86-OL (A-2) dated 22.1.1987 and as per prescribed rates and rules as amended by Government of India from time to time.

ORDER

Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to all the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Planning Commission, President's Secretariat, Comptroller & Auditor General of India, Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and all the Ministries and Departments of Government of India.

Ordered also that the Resolution be published in the Gazettee of India for general information.

Sd/-
(B.K. Bal)

JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

To,

The Manager,
Government of India Press,
Faridabad (Haryana)

No. E-11015/9/95-Hindi New Delhi, the June, 2000

Copy to:

1. All Members of the Samiti
2. All Ministries and Departments of Government of India.
3. All State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.
4. President's Secretariat, New Delhi
5. Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi
6. Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi
7. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi

8. Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
9. Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
10. Comptroller and Auditor General of India, New Delhi
11. Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi
12. Election Commission of India, New Delhi
13. Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution, New Delhi
14. Department of Official Language, Lok Nayak Bhavan, Khan Market, New Delhi
15. Committee of Parliament on Official Language, 11 Teen Murti Marg, New Delhi
16. Parliament Library (4 Copies)
17. Information Officer, Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution, New Delhi
18. PS to Minister of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution/PS to Minister of State for Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution (Food & Public Distribution)/PS to Minister of State for Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution (Consumer Affairs)
19. All officers/Sections/Desks of the Department of Food & Public Distribution, New Delhi
20. All attached and subordinate offices of the Department of Food & Public Distribution, New Delhi
21. FCI/CWC, New Delhi
22. Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation, New Delhi
23. Hindi Section, Department of Consumer Affairs (50 Copies) for Distribution among all officers/Sections/Desks of their Department and their subordinate offices.
24. All attached & Subordinate offices of Department of Consumer Affairs, New Delhi.

sd/-

(DR. PUSHPLATA SINGH)
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (OL)

[English]

Pilgrimage Cities Package

3129. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:
DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to allocate funds to Tamil Nadu during 2000-2001 under the "pilgrimage cities package" in view of abundant temples in the State;

(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) Development of places of tourist importance including Pilgrim Centres is the responsibility of the State Government/UT administration concerned. However, based on the specific proposals prioritized in consultation with the State Government/UT Administration, the Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance for provision of infrastructure/basic facilities at selected pilgrim centres in the country every year.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu through Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation operates "Pilgrimage Package Tours" to various pilgrimage cities such as Madurai, Thanjavur, Velankanni, Palani, Nagore, Mantralayam, etc.

Amendment in Tobacco Board Act, 1975

3130. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 to empower the Tobacco Board to regulate production of tobacco;

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

(c) the other steps proposed to help the tobacco farmers?

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

(b) The Bill will be introduced only after the proposed amendments are finalised after inter-ministerial consultations and approval.

(c) Steps proposed to help the tobacco farmers include:—

(a) Assisting farmers in obtaining crop loans and short term loans from the banks.

(b) Advising the banks not to recover past crop loan advances from the tobacco farmers' sales of the first two lots put for sale at the auctions.

- (c) Extending help in insuring tobacco curing barns with the Insurance Companies operating in tobacco areas.
- (d) Arranging supply of inputs like genuine and approved seeds, fertilisers, irrigation equipment, pesticides, suckericides, coal, briquettes, tarpaulins, and spraying equipment to tobacco farmers.

[Translation]

Indian Boilers Act, 1923

3131. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to make certain amendments in the Indian Boilers Act, 1923;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a Bill in this respect was also discussed in the year 1995 but could not introduced;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which the Bill in this regard is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) to (e) A Bill, namely the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 1994 for amendment of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 13th May, 1994. The salient features of the Bill provide for:

- (i) The inspection of boilers during manufacture, erection and use in line with the present technological developments throughout the world;
- (ii) Decentralization of inspection of boilers during their manufacture, erection and use, by additionally allowing independent inspection agencies.
- (iii) Enhancing the penalties for contravention of the provisions of the Act on the lines of the provisions contained in the Factories Act, 1948 as amended in 1987;
- (iv) Change in procedure for filing appeals against the orders made under the Act.

- (v) Energy audit for achieving higher efficiency in the use of boilers;
- (vi) Change in constitution and the powers of the Central Boilers Board for overseeing and enforcing the implementation of the provisions of the Act.

The Rajya Sabha referred the Bill to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry. The Standing Committee after examination of the Bill, comments received from all concerned and the oral evidence of parties invited made certain suggestions, including modifications, in its Report which was presented to the Rajya Sabha in March, 1995. The recommendations have been examined in detail in consultation with the Central Boilers Board, State Governments and other concerned and Government have decided to make further amendments to the Bill. The Amendment Bill together with the official amendments is likely to be considered in the current session of Parliament.

Auto Industry Policy

3132. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate national auto industry policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to benefit the auto industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To draft an auto policy a Committee comprising representatives of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Ministry of Surface Transport, Ministry of Agriculture and Automotive Research Association of India, Pune has been constituted on 10.7.2000 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises).

(c) The extent of benefits to auto industry will become clear only after the policy is finalised.

*[English]***Suvidha and Sahayata**

3133. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI SURESH PASI:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce immediately two schemes named 'Suvidha' and 'Sahayata' to remove the difficulties of tax-payee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. two schemes for 'Suvidha' and 'Sahayata' of taxpayers have been introduced from 1st August, 2000, to remove their difficulties.

(b) and (c) For 'Suvidha' of taxpayers all the computerised branches of the nationalised banks in 133 towns and cities being covered by 1/6 scheme, have been authorised to receive direct tax payments, with effect from 1st August, 2000. Simultaneously, 'Helpline—Income Tax' has started functioning in Delhi as a focal point for bringing to the Department's notice urgent and serious problems of individual and corporate tax payers for immediate action for their 'Sahyata'. This scheme is working under the supervision of an officer of the level of Commissioner of Income tax. Helpline-Income Tax' will be extended to other stations in due course. These schemes are part of Government's efforts to make tax administration more user friendly.

*[Translation]***Shortcomings in Publication Industry**

3134. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the institutions representing newspapers of the country had drawn the attention of the Government to the shortcomings in the publication industry during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action so far to resolve these shortcomings; 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) This Ministry has not received any representation from institutions representing newspapers of the country regarding shortcomings in the publication industry.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Prasar Bharati

3135. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

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

(a) whether the Chairman, Press Council has asked for carrying out comprehensive changes in existing Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard after going through the views expressed by him;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government for providing democratic shape to Prasar Bharati?

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) Prasar Bharati has informed that Chairman, Press Council of India, had forwarded to one of the Members of the Prasar Bharati Board, a brief note on electronic media policy advocating three sectors sets of channels in the electronic media run respectively by - (i) public sector which includes Central and State Governments, local bodies, public undertakings etc. (ii) private sector consisting of private individuals and organizations and (iii) peoples sector which will be independent of both the private and the public sector.

(c) The Government has not received any recommendation or suggestion from Prasar Bharati in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government is of the view that an autonomous Prasar Bharati, as envisaged in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, meets the basic objective of strengthening the democratic process in our country. However, keeping in view the responsibility of Prasar Bharati as a public service broadcaster, the Government had constituted a Committee comprising of Shri N.R. Narayanmurthy, CEO Infosys, Shri Kiran Karnik, MD, Discovery Communications India and Shri Shunu Sen, a well known Marketing Consultant, to study its working and make appropriate recommendations with regard to its organizational structure, legal framework, systems and other relevant areas to ensure quality, credibility and professionalism within the organization. The Committee has submitted its report on 20th May, 2000. 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.

[English]

Credit Flow for SSIs

3136. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms adopted for providing financial services for small scale industries in the country; and

(b) the State-wise credit flow to Small Scale Industry sector, particularly in Karnataka, during the last three years, by public sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Financial assistance to small scale industries is provided by commercial banks on the basis of loan policies and procedures framed and approved by the Board of Directors of each Bank within the overall policy guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). RBI has reported that some of the major policy guidelines for commercial

banks for providing financial assistance to SSI Sector are as under:

- No margin stipulation for loans upto Rs. 25,000/- and for the loans beyond Rs. 25,000/- margin to the extent of 15% to 25% may be asked by banks depending upon the purpose and quantum of loan;
- In regard to security for loans upto Rs. 5 lakh to tiny units pledge/hypothecation/mortgage of assets created out of loans will form the security and no collateral to be taken.
- Interest on loans upto Rs. 2 lakh should not exceed the PLR of the bank
- Aggregate fund based working capital limits upto Rs. 5 crores to SSI units are to be computed on the basis of minimum 20% of projected annual turnover.
- The composite loan limit for SSI Units raised from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh.

(b) As reported by RBI State-wise public sector banks advances to SSI sector during the last three years 1996-1998 (latest available) is given in enclosed statement. In Karnataka public sector banks advances to SSI Sector were Rs. 1714 crores, Rs. 1908 crores and Rs. 2227 crores as on last Friday of March 1996, 1997 and 1998 respectively.

Statement

Public Sector Banks Advances to SSI as on last Friday of March 1996, 1997, 1998

(Amount in thousands)

Region/State	Amount outstanding		
	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4
Haryana	10336601	11017963	13235218
Himachal Pradesh	1623753	1496906	1841855
Jammu & Kashmir	996837	1097441	1317758
Punjab	19188920	21264337	26064423
Rajasthan	7924136	9392952	14047365

1	2	3	4
Chandigarh	1971695	2340966	2530198
Delhi	23908342	25265357	31637841
NORTHERN REGION	65950284	71875922	90674658
Assam	2347556	2487905	2629335
Manipur	324712	401574	407974
Meghalaya	84468	96261	133929
Nagaland	181069	213802	202925
Tripura	189145	206868	212745
Arunachal Pradesh	29011	37731	41447
Mizoram	59456	64678	68385
Sikkim	42258	45553	53643
N.E. REGION	3257675	3554372	3750383
Bihar	8042059	8705597	9132639
Orissa	4293192	4498043	5199051
West Bengal	19919979	20572464	23307405
Andaman & Nicobar	24586	32638	40036
EASTERN REGION	32279816	33808742	37679931
Madhya Pradesh	11051577	11864312	14508265
Uttar Pradesh	26158620	27886569	32286535
CENTRAL REGION	37210197	39750881	46794800
Gujarat	22377348	22175981	28145832
Maharashtra	50291797	53239874	67909798
Daman & Diu	142062	37080	41957
Goa	884351	1160259	1613281
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	31281	29809	90200
WESTERN REGION	73726839	76643003	97801068
Andhra Pradesh	18471037	20340106	23870130

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	17140364	19088545	22277770
Kerala	10434405	10323759	11538736
Tamil Nadu	36923125	39562081	43982509
Pondicherry	343471	321462	342408
Lakshdweep	857	846	600
SOUTHERN REGION	83313259	89636799	102012153
All India	295738070	315269719	378712993

**Entry of Foreign Institutional Investors
in Insurance Sector**

3137. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has decided to allow Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) to invest more than 26 per cent ceiling on direct foreign investments in Insurance joint ventures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this decision is against the initial policy of restricting the foreign equity to 26 per cent; and

(d) if so, the reasons for diluting the accepted policy in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Autonomous Status to ASI

3138. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether several historians recently demanded that ASI be made an autonomous organisation;

(b) if so, the reasons given by the historians for their demand; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Government has not received any demand in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Industrial Policy

3139. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new industrial policy has succeeded;

(b) if so, the comparison of industrial investment in the past and present days;

(c) the anticipated industrial development;

(d) the amount of foreign direct investment during 1998-99, 1999-2000; and

(e) the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government for more industrial growth and increase foreign direct investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) The New Industrial Policy, 1991 (NIP) is aimed towards building on the gains already made, maintaining sustained growth in production and gainful employment. A series of initiatives taken by the Government in respect of the policies relating to industrial licensing, foreign investment, foreign technology agreements, etc., have resulted in increase in the number of industrial investment intentions recorded between August, 1991 and June, 2000 which has exceeded forty three thousand, with proposed investment of approximately Rs. 928 thousand crore.

The amount of foreign direct investment which had been approved during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was approximately Rs. 34 thousand crore and Rs. 22 thousand crore respectively.

(e) Review of the industrial policy and foreign direct investment policy, procedures and their implementation is an on-going process. Corrective measures as and when required would be taken by the Government to increase industrial growth and attract more foreign direct investment.

Change in the Colour and Design of Currency Notes

3140. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change the design and colour of some currency notes;

(b) if so, the denomination of such currency notes;

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be done;

(d) whether the Government propose to make awareness of these notes among the general public before circulation of these notes in the market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to introduce Rs. 500 denomination note in the revised colour scheme in the existing design with additional security features. This note will be put into circulation shortly.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Before putting the new note of Rs. 500 denomination into circulation, the Reserve Bank of India will issue a press communication in all the regional languages for information of general public.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Reserve

3141. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign exchange reserves in the country has become 36 million 47 crore after declining 25 crore 40 lakh dollars during the week ending 23rd June;

(b) whether as per figures of Reserve Bank of India this amount was 36 million 72 crore 40 lakh dollars before a week and 33 million 17 crore 60 lakh dollars before a year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the latest position of Foreign Exchange Reserves; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to enhance the foreign exchange reserves of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The foreign exchange reserves comprising foreign currency assets, gold and SDRs amounted to US\$ 36,470 million as on June 23, 2000, which shows a decline of US\$ 254 million over the previous week's (June 16, 2000) level of US\$ 36,724 million. Compared with the level of foreign exchange reserves at US\$ 33,176 million a year back (as on June 25, 1999), the level of reserves as on June 23, 2000, shows a net increase of US\$ 3,294 million.

(d) The latest position of foreign exchange reserve amounted to US\$ 36,196 million as on July 28, 2000.

(e) The movements in foreign exchange reserves reflect demand-supply gaps in the foreign exchange market, emanating from India's international transactions both on the current and capital accounts of balance of payments. The Government and the Reserve Bank of India monitor closely the developments in the balance of payments and in the financial markets at home and abroad and take such measures as considered necessary from time to time to increase exports and invisible receipts, including remittances, to enhance the flows of capital, particularly foreign direct investments and to maintain orderly conditions in the foreign exchange market.

[English]

NABARD Loan for Irrigation Projects

3142. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been provided by the NABARD for irrigations projects under RIDF to States, particularly to Orissa and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of projects on which this amount was spent;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide more funds to States for irrigation projects during 2000-2001; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of the financial assistance provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for irrigation projects in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. crores)

State	RIDF-III (1997-98)		RIDF-IV (1998-99)		RIDF-V (1999-2000)	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Orissa	22	96.49	15	89.41	31	71.01
Madhya Pradesh	98	128.44	100	141.79	20	112.11

The amount sanctioned have been utilised for 68 projects and 218 projects in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh respectively, for minor and major irrigation.

(d) and (e) Presumably, the question pertains to sanctions of RIDF only. NABARD has reported that it has so far sanctioned a loan amount of Rs. 385.60 crore to nine States including Madhya Pradesh and Orissa for irrigation sector under RIDF-VI during 2000-2001. The sanctions to Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are Rs. 87.38 crore and Rs. 0.57 crore respectively.

Prevention of Black Marketing

3143. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the number of cases have been registered under Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases are pending with the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) As per information available with the Central Government from the various State Governments, the number of persons detained under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during the current calendar year from January, 2000 till 4.8.2000, State-wise, is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of State/UTs.	No. of detentions made
1.	Gujarat	139
2.	Madhya Pradesh	12
3.	Tamil Nadu	13
Total:		164

No cases have been reported by the remaining States/UTs.

(b) As on 4.8.2000, eight representations submitted by persons against whom detention orders have been issued under the Act are pending with the Central Government. In all these cases, comments on the representations or English translation of the representation are awaited from the State Governments.

(c) The representations received are disposed of by the Central Government expeditiously.

NPA of State Cooperative Banks and District Cooperative Banks

3144. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total non-performing assets accumulated in States Cooperative Banks and District Cooperative Banks in the country, as on March 31, 1999 and March 31, 2000;

(b) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to these cooperative banks for recovery of non-performing assets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The details of the non-performing assets (NPA) of State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in the country for the years 1997-98 and 1998-99, as reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	SCBs	DCCBs
1997-98	230399	568737
1998-99	274793	657293

Data in respect of the year 1999-2000 is not available.

(b) and (c) NABARD has reported that it has been assessing the magnitude of the problem of NPAs in Co-operative Banks and the causes of problem, bank-wise, and suggesting measures to be taken. These banks are specifically advised to take action to streamline the pre-sanction appraisal, methodologies, post-disbursement follow-up measures, etc. Besides strengthening measures for recovery of chronic overdues by filing cases before debt recovery tribunals/Co-operative law courts, wherever necessary, the banks have also been advised to go in for compromise and one-time settlement by laying down transparent policies/procedures. The bank specific observations based on analysis undertaken during the course of inspection of banks are incorporated in inspection reports issued to the banks for compliance within a time frame.

[Translation]

New Advertisement Policy of DD and AIR

3145. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

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

(a) the revenue earned by the Doordarshan and All India Radio during the last three years, year-wise along with the projection for the Ninth Plan Period;

(b) whether the Government have recently formulated a new advertisement policy for augmenting revenue during the Ninth Plan Period; and

(c) 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) As per figures furnished by Principal Accounts Office of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, actual receipts of All India Radio and Doordarshan along with Budget Estimates (BE) for the last three years is as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	All India Radio		Doordarshan	
	BE	Actual receipts	BE	Actual receipts
1997-98	129.50	100.98	631.00	467.51
1998-99	124.50	95.67	681.00	419.99
1999-2000	129.50	78.55	581.00	496.23

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Visit of Foreign Tourists in North Eastern States

3146. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government have permitted the foreign tourists for visiting North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the authority which would issue permit for this purpose; and

(c) the period for which the tourists can live there?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Foreign tourists no longer require permits to visit Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. Few places/routes have also been opened up for group of foreign tourists including married couples to visit Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram.

(b) and (c) Permits are issued for a maximum period of 10 days and the authorities competent to issue the permits are given below:

- (1) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (2) All Indian Missions abroad
- (3) FRROs Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta
- (4) Chief Immigration Officer, Chennai
- (5) Home Commissioner of the concerned State.

Writing off Loan of Kerala

3147. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala raised the demand to write-off the credit amounting to Rs. 5648 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Printing of Currency Notes and Minting of Coins

3148. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries from which the Government got its currency printed and coins minted during the last three years;

(b) the value of currency and coins printed and minted respectively during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to stop printing of its currency notes and minting of coins from the foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (e) In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply printed notes had been imported, as a one-time measure, from Germany, France, Canada and U.K. The total face value of the notes was Rs. 1,00,000 crores. These were received during the period 1997-98 and 1998-99. Coins

have been imported from Mexico, Slovakia, South Korea, South Africa, U.K. and Russia as under:

Year	Value
1997-98	Rs. 130 crores
1998-99	Rs. 130 crores
1999-2000	Rs. 290 crores

Development of Buddhist Places

3149. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are receiving assistance from Japanese Government for the development of Buddhist places; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan in January, 1992 for conservation and development of Ajanta & Ellora in Maharashtra. The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund assistance is to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. The major components of the project are afforestation, upgradation of airport facilities at Aurangabad, strengthening and improvement of roads, augmentation of water supply and sewage, improvement of electricity supply, conservation of monuments and visitors management facilities.

The Government had also entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1988 for development of infrastructure facilities along with identified Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It was agreed that Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund would extend financial assistance to the tune of 7.7 billion Japanese Yen. The major components of the project were strengthening of National Highways, State Highways, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply, provision of wayside amenities etc. The places covered under this project are Samath, Kushinagar, Piprahawa, Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar. The project has been completed.

[English]

ASI Venture with German

3150. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has signed a joint venture with the German Centre of Crafts and Historical Monuments for conservation of the Vishnu Temple inside Vittala Complex at the historical Hampi site;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the joint venture;

(c) whether any other similar joint ventures have been worked out/are being worked out for conservation of historical monuments of the country; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Narcotics

3151. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to curb the smuggling of Narcotics and other banned substances into the country;

(b) whether the inflow of Narcotics through Kerala is on the rise;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken by the Narcotics Control Bureau to curb it; and

(d) the details of the seizures of drugs from Kerala during the last three years and the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Sir, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy, which includes constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, gearing up of the intelligence machinery, modernization and upgradation of police, border fencing, intensified border patrolling, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict drugs on the borders etc.

(b) Intelligence gathered and seizures made do not indicate such a trend.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Details of seizures of drugs in Kerala during the last 3 years as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies are as follows:—

Year	Name of Drug (s)	Quantity Seized in Kgs.
1997	Ganja	80.737
1998	Ganja	60.628
1999	Ganja	229.863
	Heroin	1.448
	Hashish	3.600

The culprits are arrested and stringent action is taken against them under the provisions of NDPS Act.

CBI Case against Custom Officers

3152. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has registered a case against seven custom officers and a private person for playing fraud in conspiracy defrauding the Government of the revenue of Rs. 7.5 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such cases in the revenue department are on the increase; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to check such frauds and the reasons for not following the transfer policy?

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

(b) CBI has registered a case at Mumbai on 21.6.2000 against seven Custom officials and certain private persons for conspiring to cheat the Government by fraudulently availing duty drawback mis-declaring the description and value of goods exported.

(c) On the basis of the available data, it is not possible to say whether such cases in the revenue department are on the increase.

(d) Whenever such frauds involving officers are noticed, necessary action is taken against them. So far as transfer policy is concerned, the same is normally followed. However, at times exception is made in exigencies of public interest and on compassionate grounds.

Setting up of a Study Group on Essential Commodities

3153. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of essential commodities and price rise have affected the people in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Study Group to check the availability and equitable distribution of essential commodities, particularly in the areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the composition thereof;

(e) whether the representation of each State is included in the said Group;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) There have been no reports of high prices or scarcity of any essential commodity in any part of the country in recent past.

(c) and (d) In view of comfortable availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices in the country, there is no proposal to set up any Study Group to look into the aspects of availability and distribution of essential commodities in any part of the country.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Trade Agreement with Iran

3154. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India entered into any trade agreement with Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions of the said agreement?

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

(b) and (c) A trade Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Iran was signed on 31.8.1974 which came into force on 17.12.74 after completion of all formalities. It provides *inter alia* for the two Governments to undertake all possible measures for expansion, promotion and diversification of trade between the two countries on mutual advantage basis; grant of import/export licenses to facilitate import/export of goods between the two countries; payments under this agreement to be in freely convertible currencies; review of implementation of the trade agreement every six months alternately in India and Iran; both sides to accord facilities for holding trade fairs and exhibitions subject to their respective laws.

[English]

Production/Consumption/Export of Salt

3155. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to promote the export of salt and salt products from the country; and

(b) the production and consumption of salt in the country and the export of the same from various States with particular reference to Tamil Nadu during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The Government has initiated/taken following measures to promote export of salt:—

- Salt exports have been exempted from the levy of Cess.
- Railways is according 'B' priority for movement of salt by rail for exports of common & iodized salt.
- Setting up of cent percent salt Export Oriented Units is being encouraged.
- Captive units have been impressed upon to export their surplus production instead of selling in the domestic market.
- Salt manufacturers have been advised to set up refineries/washeries for upgradation of the quality of salt for exports.

- Free training & technical guidance is imparted to salt manufacturers/new entrepreneurs in designing the salt works on scientific lines, improvement in the quality, etc.
- Assistance is provided out of Cess proceeds for the construction of approach roads from salt works to the Jetty/Port to facilitate its transport.
- To augment rate of loading and to provide mechanical salt handling facilities at premier port-Kandla, a study has been undertaken.
- Workshops/Seminars are organized for the improvement in quality of common salt.
- Quality of salt for exports is tested free of cost in the Salt Deptt. Laboratories.
- Export Worthy Certificates (EWC) are issued free of cost.

(b) The production and internal consumption of common salt in the country during the years 1997-1999 were as under:—

(figures in '000 tonnes)

Year	Production	Consumption of Common salt for		
		Edible use	Inds. Use	Total
1997	14251.1	4652.4	5551.1	10203.5
1998	11964.4	4694.7	5873.3	10568.0
1999	14452.7	4943.7	6064.3	11008.0

Salt exports from various States during the above period were as under:—

(figures in '000 tonnes)

State	Common salt exports during		
	1997	1998	1999
Gujarat	389.78	328.04	426.60
Tamil Nadu	141.32	78.81	402.20
Total	531.10	406.85	828.80

Effect of Import of Foodgrain on Food Economy

3156. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of food grains has seriously affected the food economy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No report has been received regarding import of food grains seriously affecting the food economy of the country. However, representations have been received suggesting restricting of import of certain food grains like wheat and rice. Import of wheat and rice is restricted and canalized through Food Corporation of India. However, import of wheat is allowed on actual user basis to Roller Flour Mills and import of common/coarse varieties of rice and rice with 50% or more broken, is free.

In view of the representations received, import duty on wheat has been raised to 50% and that on broken rice has been raised to 80%. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic farmers.

Insurance of Livestock

3157. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme for providing insurance cover to livestock, including sheeps, goats all over the country;

(b) if so, the details regarding features of these schemes being implemented and insurance claims received and settled during the last three years alongwith the premium collected thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that a number of insurance claims received and settled with the connivance of officers concerned for invalid reasons; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to plug loopholes in procedure for settlement of insurance claims by unscrupulous elements?

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

[Translation]

Ban on Import of Meat

3158. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to impose ban on the import of meat;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action after contemplating on this demand so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Import of meat except that of swine, lamb, horses, asses and mules is restricted as per chapter 2 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002. Representations have been received regarding imposition of ban on import of meat to provide protection to domestic producers. In view of the representations the basic customs duty on import of meat has been increased from 15% to 35% in the budget for the year 2000-2001. The import duty on poultry meat has been increased from 15% to 100%. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic meat producers.

[English]

Ban on Tobacco Sale

3159. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose ban on sale of Tobacco products and different brands of pan masala keeping in view the increasing number of cancer patients in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are exporting Tobacco products and different brands of pan masala to other countries;

(d) if so, the justification behind exporting these items to other countries; and

(e) whether these products are not harmful for human being there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to bring out a comprehensive legislation to discourage the use of tobacco and its products.

(c) The Government does not undertake export of any tobacco products or brands of pan masala.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Use of tobacco and its products are harmful for human beings.

Loan Against SEBI

3160. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has defaulted in re-payment of loan of Rs. 105 crore to the Government;

(b) if so, whether SEBI utilized the loan money for the purpose other than it was loaned;

(c) if so, the details therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Government of India has been making budgetary provisions in the form of interest free loans every year, from 1992-93 to 1996-97, towards the capital expenditure of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), amounting to a total of Rs. 115 crores. These loans are refundable by SEBI to the Government in 10 equal instalments, after an initial moratorium of two years. Out of the loan of Rs. 115 crores, a sum of Rs. 10 crores has been refuted to the Central Government during the years 1995, 1996 and 1997.

(b) and (c) The money has been utilized by SEBI for meeting its capital expenditure, as intended.

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

Black Marketing of Vehicles

3161. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some vehicles in the country are made available after long waiting while the same are immediately available in black market; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the said malpractice prevalent in auto industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir. Government have received no such complaints in this regard.

(b) Do not arise.

Preservation of Monuments of Orissa

3162. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:
SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL:

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

(a) whether there is a scheme of providing financial assistance for preservation of Heritage Buildings and Monuments in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much financial assistance has been provided to various States during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the amount allocated/provided for preservation of Puri Jagannath, temples on archaeological sites in Western Orissa, particularly in Kalahandi, Koraput and Bolangir districts during the last two years and till date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper maintenance of these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The scheme provides for financial assistance for the preservation of unprotected monuments less than a hundred years old.

The details of financial assistance provided under the scheme during the last three years is given in enclosed Statement I.

(c) The details of allocations made by the Archaeological Survey of India for the centrally protected monuments is given in enclosed Statement II.

(d) In addition to regular upkeep and maintenance of monuments, structural conservation, chemical preservation are carried as per the requirements of monuments in accordance with archaeological norms and availability of resources.

Statement I*Details of Financial Assistance provided during last three years are as under*

Year	Sl. No.	Name of the Organization	Amount
1997-98	1	Jagannathpur Temple Reconstruction Committee, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Bihar	Rs. 4,99,950.00
	2	Maharaja Narasingh Memorial Committee, Narajitsana's Estate, Imphal (Manipur)	Rs. 1,97,700.00
1998-1999	1	Ramakrishna Mandir, Kishankot, Tehsil Batala, District Gurdaspur (Punjab)	Rs. 4,81,500.00
	2	Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Sister Nivedita Memorial School Building, Bikas Bhawan, Bundi Nagar, Calcutta (West Bengal)	Rs. 4,94,200.00
1999-2000	1	Osmania University, Hyderabad for the Ronald Ross Building in Hyderabad	Rs. 6,56,000.00

State wise financial assistance provided are given as under during last 3 years:—

1997-98	Monuments in Bihar	Rs. 4,99,950
	Monuments in Manipur	Rs. 1,97,700
1998-99	Monuments in Punjab	Rs. 4,81,500
	Monuments in West Bengal	Rs. 4,94,200
1999-2000	Monuments in Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 6,56,000

Statement II*Allocation made by the Archaeological Survey of India during last 2 years are as under:—*

S.No.	Name of the monument	Expenditure		Allocation
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
	<i>District Puri</i>			
1.	Jagannath Temple, Puri	Rs. 4,31,413	Rs. 8,71,967	Rs. 9,60,000
	<i>District Kalahandi</i>			
2.	Asurgarh Fort, Asurgarh	Rs. 18,538	Rs. 47,081	Rs. 10,000
	<i>District Bolangir</i>			
3.	Chausanth Yogini Temple	Rs. 60,422	Rs. 41,412	Rs. 10,000

There is no Centrally Protected Monument in the District of Koraput.

*[Translation]***Inadequate State at AIR/DD Centres**

3163. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:

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

(a) whether several T.V. transmitters/All India Radio Stations have not started functioning as on date owing to want of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof, TV Transmitters-wise,

AIR Stations-wise, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government so far for commissioning these TV Transmitter centres/AIR 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) A redeployment scheme has been formulated by Prasar Bharati to commission the projects which are technically ready by redeploying staff from other AIR/DD installations.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Project & Location	
		Doordarshan	AIR
1.	Andhra Pradesh	LPT Pedapalli LPT Machilipattanam LPT Zahirabad LPT Pulamner	—
2.	Karnataka	HPT Hassan	—
3.	Kerala	LPT Kottarakara	—
4.	Mizoram	LPT Lawangtalai	—
5.	Orissa	LPT Chikiti	—
6.	Rajasthan	LPT Bhinmai LPT Vijaynagar	—
7.	Tripura	LPT Amarpur LPT Jolaipari	—
8.	Tamil Nadu	LPT Ambanasundaram LPT Amber	10 kW FM Tr., VB Channel at Coimbatore
9.	U.P.	LPT Narora	—
10.	West Bengal	—	10 kW FM Tr. VB Channel at Siliguri
11.	Bihar	—	6 kW FM Tr., VB Channel at Jamshedpur
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	10 kW MW Tr., at Tawang
13.	Maharashtra	—	Regional Workshop at Mumbai
14.	Delhi	—	Regional Workshop

Programmes in Rajasthani Language

3164. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to broadcast/telecast programmes in Rajasthani language regularly;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in regard to broadcast/telecast programme in Rajasthani language during the last one year;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any time limit for the broadcast/telecast local programmes;

(e) if so, the extent of time limit fixed in this regard;

(f) whether any programme on Environment is proposed to be shown daily on Doordarshan I; and

(g) if so, by when?

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) All AIR Stations in Rajasthan broadcast programmes in Rajasthani dialect regularly. Doordarshan has also started a satellite channel from DDK Jaipur w.e.f. 1.04.2000, which telecast programmes in Rajasthani and Hindi. Besides, the time between 5.02 PM to 7.30 PM on DD-1 of Jaipur is devoted to programmes in Rajasthani/Hindi from Monday to Friday each week.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Development of Ancient Monuments in M.P.

3165. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have sent any proposal to the Union Government for getting financial grants for the documentation of very very important historical remains (AA category);

(b) whether the State Government has sent any project to the Union Government for approval regarding

over all development of ancient monuments in general and Khajuraho in particular; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. An incomplete proposal received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been returned for resubmission in the prescribed format.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted to the Ministry of Finance a comprehensive project proposal for the sustainable development of the Khajuraho Heritage Region, for seeking financial assistance from bilateral sources. As per present information, no such financial assistance has materialised.

[English]

Insurance Claim of Banks

3166. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of claims of insurance of different banks are pending for settlement abroad since 1984;

(b) if so, the total amount of foreign exchange involved in these claim cases and the amount of foreign exchange spent on litigation to collect the claims;

(c) the details of the policy of the Government to collect the claim amount earliest;

(d) whether any target date has been fixed to collect the said claim amount; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

Fiscal Deficit

3167. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of fiscal deficit target fixed in the last year's budget i.e. 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Government have been able to contain the fiscal deficit at the target fixed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to bring the fiscal deficit under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Against the fiscal deficit of Rs. 79955 crore projected under B.E. 1999-2000, the fiscal deficit increased to Rs. 108898 crore under R.E. The increase is mainly due to shortfall in disinvestment receipts (Rs. 7400 crore) as well as tax collection (Rs. 5896 crore) and increase in Non-Plan expenditure (Rs. 17461 crore) and Plan expenditure (Rs. 2395 crore).

(d) Para 10 of the Budget Speech 2000-01 deals with the action proposed by the Government.

Compensation to States for Procurement of Foodgrains

3168. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States and Union Territories have suffered heavy losses while procuring foodgrains for Central pool by procuring agencies of concerned States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof, States and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to compensate such losses to the concerned States and Union Territories; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) During 1993-94 and 1995-96, Government of Punjab reported that a quantity of 11,675 MTs. and 18,704 MTs. of wheat respectively procured by them and the State Agencies, were damaged due to floods. The Government of Punjab preferred a claim of Rs. 8.19 crores and Rs. 10.48 crores respectively for these losses. As the responsibility for storage and preservation of procured stocks before these are taken over by the FCI, is that of State Government its procuring agencies, for which

storage charges are paid to them, the request was not acceded to. The State Government was advised to prefer their claims to the Ministry of Agriculture for relief under natural calamities or that the agencies may be compensated from the funds collected through Mandi charges, purchase tax, etc. Similar claims of Rs. 7.51 crores and Rs. 2.50 crores were received from the Government of Haryana towards losses suffered by them due to heavy rains in July, 1993 and 1995. The request of Government of Haryana was not acceded to.

Government of Punjab had also preferred a claim of Rs. 273.86 crores as losses to have been caused to them in the process of open sale of paddy procured by them during 1994-95. This was examined in detail and a sum of Rs. 120 crores was paid to the Government of Punjab on 19.1.2000.

Bilateral Investment Treaties

3169. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently signed bilateral investment treaties under the auspices of UNCTAD;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have signed any bilateral investment treaties prior to this;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the impact of these treaties on the flow of Foreign Direct Investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements have been finalised with Croatia, Laos and Ghana and not been signed yet.

(c) and (d) Government have signed Bilateral Investment Protection Agreements with 37 countries namely UK, Russian Federation, Germany, Malaysia, Denmark, Turkmenistan, Netherlands, Italy, Tajikistan, Israel, South Korea, Poland, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Oman, Switzerland, Egypt, Kyrgyz Republic, France, Spain, Belgium, Romania, OPIC, Mauritius, Turkey, Bulgaria, Morocco, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Australia, Qatar, Uzbekistan, Argentina, Austria and Philippines.

(e) These agreement have helped create an investment friendly atmosphere and increase investors' confidence.

Revival of Sugar Mills

3170. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ajudhia Sugar Mill at Raja-ka-Sahaspur of Moradabad District in Uttar Pradesh is sick and referred to BIFR;

(b) if so, the amount owed to farmers and employees by way of arrears by the mill; and

(c) the steps taken by BIFR for revival of this mill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that the Ajudhia Sugar Mill separately has not been registered as a sick Industrial Unit with BIFR. However, this Mill is a subsidiary unit of M/s. Lakshmi Sugar Mills Ltd. which was registered with BIFR under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

BIFR have further reported that it has no information regarding amounts due to farmers and other statutory liabilities.

(c) A rehabilitation scheme was sanctioned by the BIFR for the revival of the company M/s. Lakshmi Sugar Mills Ltd., in 1994. After assessing the implementation of the rehabilitation scheme, the BIFR in its hearing held on 31.3.2000, declared the scheme sanctioned in 1994 as failed. The existing promoters have been given a final chance to find and induct a resourceful co-promoter and enter into an One Times Settlement with all secured and other creditors.

[Translation]

Onion Growers/Traders

3171. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Onion growing farmers and traders have been benefited by the new export Policy of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of benefits accrued to the Onion growing farmers by the implementation of the export policy of the Government;

(c) whether the Onion growing farmers are likely to face acute crisis in the next crop season due to the present export Policy; and

(d) if so, the immediate steps taken by the Government to tide over the crisis?

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

(b) In order to enable export of surplus produce, a total quantity of 1,00,000 MTs of Onions (all varieties other than Bangalore Rose Onions and Krishnapuram onions) has been allowed to be exported in the financial year 2000-2001. This would ensure better prices to the farmers. Export of Onions (Bangalore Rose Onions and Krishnapuram Onions) varieties has been canalised through the Karnataka State Agriculture Produce Processing and Export Corporation Ltd., Bangalore and A.P. MARKFED respectively. There is no restriction on the quantities for export of these two varieties through the canalising agencies.

(c) and (d) The Policy on export of onions is constantly under review and changes are made from time to time keeping in view the Onion production in the country to protect the interests of farmers and consumers.

[English]

Defaulting Companies

3172. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified about 2.25 lakh Non-banking defaulting companies who have not been filing their balance sheets, profit and loss accounts as well as the annual returns every year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued notices to these companies;

(c) if so, the names of top 10 companies to whom notices have been issued;

(d) whether any penalty has been imposed against these companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken against those who failed in submitting their documents after the warnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reference is presumably to "The Company Law Settlement Scheme, 2000" which has been announced by the Department of Company Affairs for ensuring compliance with the statutory requirement for companies to file their balance sheet and profit and loss account as well as annual returns and other documents with the Registrar of Companies every year. As far as non submission of balance sheets by Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) is concerned 3760 NBFCs/Residuary Non-Banking Companies (RNBCs) have failed to submit their balance sheet as on March 31st/June 30, 1999 to the RBI. 3024 NBFCs/RNBCs failed to submit annual returns to Reserve bank of India (RBI) as on March 31, 1999. Most of the defaulting NBFCs are those whose applications for Certificate of Registration have been rejected by the RBI. So far, notices for non-submission of balance sheets/annual returns for the year 1999 have been issued by RBI to 2932 NBFCs/RNBCs.

(c) A list of top 10 NBFCs (on the basis of assets size) to whom notices were issued by RBI for non-submission of balance sheet/annual returns for the year 1999 is as under:—

1. MCC Finance Ltd., Chennai.
2. Kuber Mutual Benefit Ltd., Lucknow
3. Integrated Enterprises (I) Ltd., Chennai
4. Shoppers Investment & Finance Company Ltd., Chennai
5. Krishi Export Commercial Corporation Ltd., Lucknow
6. Sanmac Motor Finance Ltd., Chennai
7. Lakshmi Trade Credits Ltd., Chennai
8. Elgi Finance Ltd., Chennai
9. Coimbatore Lakshmi Investment and Finance Company Ltd., Chennai

10. Rapti Growth Fund Ltd., Lucknow

(d) to (f) Steps such as rejection of application for Certificate of Registration, filing of criminal complaints and filing of winding petitions have been taken by the RBI in a number of cases.

[Translation]

Installation of AIR Station/DD Transmitters in M.P.

3173. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the proposed schemes for installation of new Transmitters of Akashwani and Doordarshan and increasing the capacity of existing Transmitter in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the status of the above schemes, as on 31 July, 2000, scheme-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to instal a high power transmitter at Gwalior also;

(d) if so, the amount allocated for the same; and

(e) the steps taken to implement these projects so far?

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 AIR and Doordarshan projects under implementation in Madhya Pradesh are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. A Radio Station with 20 KW MW Tr. and a 10 KW High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) for DD 1 service are already functioning at Gwalior.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

All India Radio

S.No.	Scheme	Status
1	2	3
1.	Mandla-LRS 1 KW FM Tr. & MP Studios	1. Installation is in progress in the Technical area 2. Order for 1 KW FM Tr. and studio equipment placed

1	2	3
		3. Tower being procured by CE (WZ) Order placed
2.	Rajgarh-LRS with 3 KW FM Tr., Studios & S/Qtrs	1. Civil works completed 2. 3 KW FM Tr. installed 3. Studios-installation of equipment is in progress
3.	Saraipalli-LRS with 1 KW FM Tr., studios & S/Qtrs	1. Civil works in technical area are nearing completion 2. 1 KW FM Tr & Studio equipment order has been placed 3. Power supply application filed
4.	Ambikapur-20 KW MW Tr. (Repl of 20 KW MW Tr.)	1. Most of civil modification work complete 2. Order for transmitter placed 3. Mast feeder and earth radial work completed.
5.	Indore-200 KW MW Tr. (Repl. of 100 KW MW Tr.)	1. Civil work awarded on 7/6/2000 2. Power supply application filed 3. Transmitter order placed.

Doordarshan

S.No.	Scheme	Status
1.	HPT Ambikapur (in replacement of LPT)	Construction of building at advance stage of completion. Foundation of 150 M tower in progress by R&C
2.	HPT Bhopal (DD II) (in replacement of LPT)	Ready
3.	HPT Guna (in replacement of LPT)	Construction of building not taken up by the contractor
4.	HPT Indore (DD II)	Ready
5.	HPT Jabalpur (DD II)	Installation in progress
6.	HPT Shahdol (in replacement of LPT)	Construction of building at advance stage of completion AIR tower to be used
7.	LPT Agar	Site available Supply of equipment awaited
8.	LPT Bareilly	Installation works being taken up
9.	LPT Champa	Installation nearing completion
10.	LPT Kharod	Site not available
11.	LPT Konta	Installation in progress
12.	LPT Lakhnadon	Installation in progress
13.	LPT Pandaria	Site not available
14.	LPT Sindhwa	Site not available
15.	LPT Nagda (upgr of 100W to 500 W)	At existing LPT site. Supply of equipment awaited
16.	LPT Piparia (upgr of 100 W to 500 W)	At existing LPT site. Supply of equipment awaited
17.	VLPT Alot	Site selected. Equipment to be ordered
18.	VLPT Pathalgaon	Installation works being taken up

*[English]***DD Channel in North America**

3174. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan failed to launch its channel in North America as per schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the losses to Doordarshan on this account?

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) Doordarshan entered into an agreement with a company in USA for distributing its international channel in USA, North America, Canada, and the Caribbean Islands. However, the company failed to meet its contractual obligation and the agreement has been cancelled. The losses to Doordarshan are notional as DD International continued to be available in free to air mode as earlier.

Maintenance of Monuments

3175. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI:

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

(a) whether Hampi treasure enlisted as a World Heritage site is not being preserved properly;

(b) whether temples in Gorantla, Lepkshi and Tadpatri are required to be properly preserved;

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

(d) the action proposed to be taken to preserve the site properly with cooperation of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka as it reflected history of Telugus and Kannadians?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The centrally protected monuments in Hampi, Karnataka, Shri Mashavaraya Swamy temple at Gorantala, Veerbhadra Swamy temple, Lepakshi and Temples at Tadipatri in Andhra Pradesh are in a fairly good state of preservation.

Besides maintenance of the protected temples, extensive conservation work has been carried out on Sri Veerbhadra Swamy temple, Lepakshi and Sri C.V.R. Swamy temple at Tadipatri over the last four years.

(d) Cooperation of the respective State Government is sought as and when required.

MMTC Projects in Gujarat

3176. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC) running in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is a proposal to set up any new project by MMTC in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated cost and employment generation potentiality?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) MMTC is neither running nor setting up any new project in the State of Gujarat.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Role of SIDBI in Gujarat**

3177. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Small Industry Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for the promotion of Small Scale Industry Sector in Gujarat;

(b) the number of units established/revived in the State by SIDBI by providing loans during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the SIDBI propose to increase its activities in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) As reported by Small Industries Development Bank of

India (SIDBI), the bank is extending financial assistance to small scale sector through direct and indirect financing schemes. SIDBI is operating in the State of Gujarat with two offices located at Ahmedabad and Baroda. The loan assistance provided by SIDBI in Gujarat during the last three years is as under:

SIDBI Assistance in Gujarat

(Rs. crore)

Year	Number of Units assisted	Amount Sanctioned	Amount disbursed
1997-98	3646	673.89	475.74
1998-99	2272	525.37	298.22
1999-2000	3907	480.73	247.89

(c) and (d) SIDBI has been continuously adopting new strategies facilitating healthy growth of SSI sector and is in the process of redefining its business policy. SIDBI is identifying new areas of credit deployment with a view to enhance flow of credit to SSI sector in Gujarat.

State Finance Corporations

3178. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to consider the employees of State Finance Corporations at par with the employees of other commercial banks because the employees of both the institutions perform the same duties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. State Financial Corporations (SFCs) are established by the State Governments and their employees are linked to State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Parity to Film Industry

3179. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give parity to film industry as given to Infotech Industry, since movies

are downloaded through Internet for viewing, thereby losing some traditional revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether tax concessions given to Infotech industry would be extended to film industry also;

(e) whether any recommendations made for waiving/reducing customs duty on colour positive films in jumbo rolls and colour negative films for film industry;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) 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) In view of emerging convergence of Information Technology (I.T.), telecommunications and entertainment technologies and for optimizing growth of entertainment industry, this Ministry was of the view that the film sector may be granted benefits accorded by the Government to the Information Technology sector with a view to tapping its full potential as a foreign exchange earner and to generate employment opportunities. Accordingly, this Ministry has taken up several proposals pertaining to the film sector with the Ministry of Finance.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

(d) to (f) In the budget proposals presented to the Parliament for the year 2000-2001, the following significant fiscal benefits have been granted to the film industry;

- (i) The benefit of the Section 80HHF of the Income Tax Act, 1961 has been extended to individuals/proprietors engaged in the export of entertainment software.
- (ii) Basic customs duty on cinematograph cameras and other related equipment has been reduced from 40% to 25%.
- (iii) Basic customs duty on colour positive films in jumbo rolls and colour negative films in rolls of certain sizes has been reduced from 15% to 5%. Countervailing duty on these items has also been abolished.
- (iv) The limit for submission of statements by film producers under Section 285 B of the Income

Tax Act has been raised from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 w.e.f. 1.4.2001.

(g) Does not arise in view of above.

Andhyarujina Committee Report

3180. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of T.R. Andhyarujina constituted to suggest the amendments in Banking Law;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) whether the Government have examined the suggestions of the Committee; and

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

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

(b) The report includes proposals for amendment to the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, amendment of Section 28 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, a new legal framework for securitisation of debts and devising an appropriate framework for empowering banks and financial institutions to take recourse to securities without the intervention of Courts.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Committee constitute a valuable input into the on-going exercise by Government and Reserve Bank of India for reforms in the financial sector.

Patent of Plants by Multinational Companies

3181. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that USA and many other Foreign Multinational Companies are aggressively trying to patent many Indian plants and other traditional products including basmati rice and medicinal plants;

(b) if so, whether there is any financial intelligence machinery with the Government to collect such information;

(c) if so, the present status in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to acquire patent rights of our traditional plants and products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Patents are granted on application, under the sovereign prerogative of countries according to their respective Patent laws and have territorial effect, that is, they are effective only in the country of grant.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However, as and when information is received about patents being obtained on certain items which are not considered patentable and which affect Indian interests, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of such patent can be challenged under the patent laws of the country concerned.

Earlier a patent granted in the United States of America on the use of turmeric in wound healing was challenged. The said patent was also cancelled.

Limited claims of the patent on Basmati Rice lines and grains granted in the United States of America have also been challenged.

In order to protect bio-resources, the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill 1999, contains provisions for mandatory disclosure of source and geographical origin of the biological material used in the invention while applying for patents in India. Provisions have also been incorporated to include the non-disclosure or wrongful disclosure of the same as grounds for opposition and for revocation of the patent, if granted. Provisions in this regard are contained in clauses 8, 17 and 28 of the said Bill.

In order to protect traditional knowledge from being patented, provisions have been incorporated in the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999, to include anticipation of invention by available local knowledge, including oral knowledge, as one of the grounds for opposition as also for revocation of patent. Provisions in this regard are contained in clauses 17 and 28 of the said Bill.

Apart from this, Government has also initiated an exercise to develop a digital database of traditional knowledge in the field of medicinal plants to prevent patenting of such knowledge.

Guidelines of Venture Capital Companies

3182. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have further liberalized the guidelines of venture capital companies and also enhancing the investment limits of these companies in an effort to give a fillup to the sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also decided to allow venture capital funds to take higher stakes by removing the ceiling of 40 per cent in the equity capital of a venture capital fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps being taken to improve the capital companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Government has decided that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) would be the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds. The Income Tax Act has been amended to provide that the Income of a VCF and a VCC set up to raise funds for investment in a Venture Capital Undertaking (VCU) shall be exempted from income-tax. Any income received by a person out of investment made in a VCC or a VCF shall be chargeable to income-tax in the same manner as if it were the income received by such person had the investment been made directly in the VCU.

(b) to (d) As per the Finance Act 2000 there is no limit on investment by a VCF in a VCU. However, SEBI proposes to limit investment in one VCU upto 25% of the corpus of the VCF/VCC.

Haul of Drugs

3183. SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of large haul of drugs seized in the country during the last one year;

(b) whether involvement of ISI or any such agency could be established in such haul;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken to intensify vigilance at different places along the international borders to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Sir, During 1999 there have been 30 large hauls of drugs. These include seizure of Heroin (5 Kgs. & above), Hashish (20 Kgs. & above), Mathaqualone (over 100 Kgs.) and Opium (over 40 Kgs.).

(b) and (c) Although in some of the cases the suspected source of the seized drugs was Pakistan/Afghanistan, no direct involvement of ISI or any such agency could be established.

(d) The Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy, which includes constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, gearing up of the intelligence machinery, modernization and upgradation of police, border fencing, intensified border patrolling, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict drugs on the borders etc.

Restrictive Trade Practice in CP Act 1986

3184. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enlarge the present scope of restrictive trade practices in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to widen the definition of trade practices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) The proposals under consideration for amendment to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 include enlargement of the definition of "Restrictive/Unfair Trade Practices" to bring within the definition trade practices which tend to bring about manipulation of prices or conditions of delivery or to affect flow of goods and services resulting in unjustified costs or restrictions.

[Translation]

Losses in ITDC

3185. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government to the Indian Tourism Development Corporation during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have made any efforts to ascertain the reasons of the Corporation's sudden running into losses;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make it profitable; and

(e) the reasons for the disinvestment of its share?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) ITDC has not obtained any budgetary support from the Government during the last 3 years.

(b) and (c) The loss making situation is attributed, inter alia, to:

- (i) Higher Wage Bill
- (ii) Low turn-out of international business travellers.
- (iii) Currency crisis in South-East Asian countries making them cheaper destinations.
- (iv) Price under-cutting by private hotels.

(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
- (v) Recovery of outstanding dues
- (vi) Opening up new Duty Free Shops at domestic airports
- (vii) Setting up duty Paid Shop at Ashok Hotel, New Delhi
- (viii) Introduction of more package tours specially through wet-leasing of coaches.

(e) Disinvestment in ITDC is as per declared policy of the Government.

[English]

Export Target

3186. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

(a) the target fixed for export during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether the target was achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have reduced the target of export for the current year after amending the economic target;

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

(f) the details of sectors which have fulfilled the expectation in regard to export during the current year so far or likely to fulfil the expectation by the end of current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The export target growth rates and actual growth rates for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in US dollar terms are as follows:—

Year	Target growth rate (%)	Actual growth rate (%) over corresponding period of previous year
1998-99	12.66	-5.1
1999-2000	11.3	11.6*
2000-2001	18	27.65* (April-June)

*Growth rate for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 based on Provisional DGCI&S data.

Shortfall in 1998-99 has been partly due to international factors such as recession in the world market, South-East Asian crisis as well as crisis in Russia and some Latin American countries. Infrastructural constraints and other impediments like narrow basket of exportable goods and low unit value realization were other reasons.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) With the change in international situation and the measures taken by the Government, the export target was achieved in 1999-2000. In the current year the export growth rate for April-June (2000-2001) has been 27.65% against the target of 18% for the whole year. The major sectors which have achieved higher export growth rate

during this period include Gems & Jewellery, Textiles and Engineering.

DD/AIR Network

3187. SHRI NAMDEO HARBARI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of ongoing projects of Doordarshan/AIR and other infrastructure network in terms of physical and financial targets set and achieved in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise, alongwith reasons for slow progress;

(c) the details of new proposals received from the State Government; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

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) It has been informed by Prasar Bharati that progress of

implementation of ongoing projects of AIR and Doordarshan in different parts of the country including Maharashtra is being reviewed regularly.

(b) Progress of implementation of AIR and Doordarshan projects in Maharashtra during the last 3 years of 9th Plan has generally been satisfactory. Doordarshan has commissioned 3 studio and 28 Transmitter projects during the 9th Plan period. However, AIR had targeted only Mumbai 2nd FM Channel for commissioning during the last 3 years. The project is now ready for commissioning. The details of progress of ongoing projects of AIR and Doordarshan are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Requests for setting up of new Radio Stations and TV Transmitters are received from time to time from various quarters including Chief Minister and other Ministers of Government of Maharashtra. During the last one year, such requests have been received for setting up of TV transmitters at Sindhudurg, Kankauli, Chorghad, Mamrupur, Mahapatgarh and Latur and setting up of a FM Radio Station at Latur. These requests have been noted for consideration in the subsequent expansion plans of AIR and Doordarshan, subject to the availability of adequate financial resources and inter-se priorities.

Statement

All India Radio

S.No.	Project	Target for Commissioning
1	2	3
1.	Second FM Channel in Mumbai	Being Commissioned
2.	Nagpur-300 kW MW Tr. (repl. of 100 kW MW Tr.)	2001-2002
3.	Oros-LRS with 1 kW MW Tr., Studio & S/Qtrs	2001-2002
4.	Amravati-LRS with 10 kW FM Tr.	2001-2002
5.	Ratnagiri-20 kW MW Tr. (Repl. of existing 20 kW MW Tr.)	2000-2001

DOORDARSHAN

1.	Chandrapur (HPT)	2001-2002
2.	Jalgaon (HPT)	2001-2002
3.	Nagpur (DD II) (HPT)	2000

1	2	3
4.	Ratnagiri (HPT)	2001-2002
5.	Bhamragad (LPT)	2000-2001
6.	Daryapur (LPT)	2000-2001
7.	Dhadgaon (LPT)	2000-2001
8.	Raver (LPT)	2000-2001
9.	Nasik (DD II) (LPT)	2001
10.	Sholapur (DD II) (LPT)	2001
11.	Ambet (VLPT)	2000-2001
12.	Sakoli (VLPT)	2000-2001

Legend: LRS = Local Radio Station
HPT = High Power Transmitter
LPT = Low Power Transmitter
VLPT = Very Low Power Transmitter.

Anti-Dumping duty on Vitamin-C

3188. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any anti-dumping duty is levied on import of Vitamin 'C';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recommendations of Anti-dumping directorate are being implemented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. On the basis of Final findings issued after Mid Term Review in the case of dumping of Vitamin 'C' from China and Japan by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties on 13th June, 2000, the Central Government has imposed anti-dumping duties on 21st July, 2000.

In the case of dumping of Vitamin 'C' from Russia and EU; Final findings have been issued on 8.8.2000, recommending imposition of duty.

Package for Tea Growers

3189. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a package for the small tea growers in few States in the Southern region of the country in a bid to cushion them against the fluctuating tea market and other seasonal hardships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to extend the package to the small tea growers in other States too, particularly in the North eastern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) In order to resolve the problem of low price realisation at the auctions, Government has implemented a Price Subsidy Scheme through the Tea Board w.e.f. 1.5.2000 for the small growers of tea (holding tea gardens upto 10.12 ha.) under which subsidy is provided for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and Rs. 55/- per kg. The maximum subsidy under the Scheme was initially Rs. 5/- per kg. and this has been enhanced to Rs. 8/- per kg with effect from 24.7.2000.

(c) and (d) The Price Subsidy Scheme is applicable throughout the country including the North East, subject to the conditionalities mentioned.

Black Marketing of Subsidised Foodgrains

3190. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing black-marketing of subsidised foodgrains in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise number of persons arrested and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken to stop such black-marketings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Public Distribution System (PDS) is in operation of vast magnitude involving large number of agencies under the joint responsibility of the Center and the State Governments. As such offences committed by some functionaries owing to various temptations of easy black money cannot be ruled out. However, it cannot be said that the menace of black marketing is growing in the country. As per the information received from the State Governments, the number of persons arrested for black marketing and other offences in respect of essential commodities including food grains during the period from 1.1.2000 to 30.6.2000 is 2380. State wise figures of arrests made on account of black marketing of subsidized food grains is not available.

(d) Under the guidelines for implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) the States and Union Territories have been asked to draw up inspection schedules for District, Taluk level officers right from Collector/District Magistrate to the Inspector of Supplies, take steps to introduce greater measure of transparency in the functioning of PDS, constitute Vigilance Committees at various levels and to hold their meetings regularly. A model Citizens' Charter for TPDS has been prepared and circulated to the States/UTs for adoption.

State Governments have also been requested to effectively use Section (3) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to curb malpractices in the system.

Debt Recovery Tribunals

3191. SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Recruitment Rules for all the employees of Debt Recovery Tribunals have been notified;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the eligible and willing employees have been permanently absorbed in the respective Debt Recovery Tribunals; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Recruitment Rules (RRs) in respect of Group 'C' & 'D' employees of 10 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) and one Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT) have been framed and notified in the Official Gazette on 29th December, 1998. RR in respect of Group 'A', Group 'B', (Gazetted) and Group 'B' (Non Gazetted) Officers/ Employees of DRTs and DRATs are under process in consultation with Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Law and Union Public Service Commission.

(c) and (d) Under Rule 7 of the RRs in respect of Group 'C' and 'D' employees of DRTs and DRAT, the persons holding the posts in the DRTs/DRAT on the date of commencement of these rules, either on transfer or on deputation basis and who fulfil the qualifications and experience laid down in these rules and who are considered suitable by the Departmental Promotion Committee of the respective Tribunal would be eligible for regularization/absorption in the respective grade subject to the condition that such persons exercise their option for the absorption and that their parent Departments do not have any objection to their being absorbed in the Tribunal.

[Translation]

Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavir

3192. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to celebrate the 2600th Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavir this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The 2600th Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavir would be celebrated from April, 2001. The National Committee that would be set up for the purpose would draw the programmes.

Setting up of DD Centres/AIR Stations in Bihar

3193. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to up Doordarshan Centres and Radio Stations in Bihar especially in Jahanabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be initiated for this purpose?

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) Apart from AIR's scheme pertaining to replacement of existing 1 KW MW Transmitter for Vividh Bharati Service at Jamshedpur by 6 KW FM Tr., which has been completed and being commissioned shortly, the following Doordarshan projects in Bihar are under various stages of implementation:

HPTs:

1. Jamshedpur
2. Patna (DD2)
3. Ranchi (DD2)
4. Muzaffarpur (DD2)

LPTs:

5. Chatra
6. Ramnagar
7. Kishanganj
8. Jamshedpur (DD2)
9. Dhanbad (DD2)

VLPT:

10. Ramgarh Hill

At present, there is no proposal to set up Radio Station or Doordarshan Transmitter at Jahanabad, since it is receiving adequate AIR and Doordarshan coverage from Radio Stations at Patna and Ranchi and High Power TV Transmitter at Patna respectively.

*[English]***Import of Fish Under OGL**

3194. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the livelihood of over ten million fishermen in the country has been affected due to the decision of the Government to allow the import of fish under open general licence;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representations from various organizations of fishermen protesting such import of fish;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interests of Indian fishermen whose livelihood has been threatened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Fish is classified under chapter 3 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002. Import of fish was allowed against surrender of Special Import Licence (SIL) prior to 31.03.2000. Import restrictions on these were removed on 31.03.2000, in view of India's international commitments.

Representations have been received regarding the likely adverse impact of removal of import restrictions on fish and fish products on domestic fishermen. However all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of Custom duties. Further, the imports are being closely monitored and Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers.

With a view to provide adequate protection to the domestic fishermen import duty on fish has been increased from 15% to 35% in the budget for the year 2000-2001.

Loss to Doordarshan and AIR

3195. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether Doordarshan and AIR have incurred losses during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the losses incurred by Doordarshan and AIR, separately, during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the circumstances under which the losses have been incurred; and

(d) the reasons for the same?

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) All India Radio and Doordarshan are Public Service Broadcasters and not commercial organizations. The question of their earning any profit or incurring losses, therefore, does not arise.

Supply of Industrial Machinery

3196. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to supply heavy machinery including railway equipment to Indonesia and consider to set up joint ventures in Indonesia for industrial machinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of present investment opportunities available in India for mutually beneficial business

collaborations with Indonesia and other South-East Asian countries, Western countries like Germany, Italy, Holland, UK and USA; and

(d) the details of new proposals and funds involved in each of the proposal to be initiated in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) It is the endeavour to promote exports of heavy machinery, railway equipment to wherever opportunities exist including to Indonesia. Government also promotes establishment of joint ventures abroad for production of various items including industrial machinery. Government have approved joint ventures to be established in Indonesia for various products.

Approvals issued for setting up of Indian joint venture and wholly owned subsidiaries including industrial machinery in Indonesia during 1994-95 to 1999-2000 amounted to US\$ 20.376 million.

(c) A liberalized FDI Policy is in place which permits investments under automatic route for FDI/NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies in all but certain specified activities. As per this policy, 100% foreign equity participation is permissible in the sector of industrial machinery.

(d) Details of the foreign collaboration and foreign direct investment proposal approved (State-wise) during the period April, 1999 to March, 2000 is furnished in enclosed Statement.

Statement

*State-wise Break up of Foreign Collaboration & Foreign Direct Investment Proposals
Approved During (April, 1999 to March, 2000)*

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI Approved (Rs. crore)	% to Total
	Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	120	19	101	1043.03	4.82
Assam	7	7	0	0.00	0.00
Bihar	13	7	6	24.20	0.11

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	107	52	55	857.84	3.96
Haryana	81	27	54	245.53	1.13
Himachal Pradesh	6	0	6	0.92	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	2	1	1	0.40	0.00
Karnataka	244	30	214	2058.83	9.51
Kerala	32	6	26	207.77	0.96
Madhya Pradesh	22	6	16	272.76	1.26
Maharashtra	510	127	383	6858.75	31.67
Orissa	22	12	10	217.64	1.01
Punjab	19	3	16	28.60	0.13
Rajasthan	30	10	20	174.08	0.80
Tamil Nadu	274	72	202	2205.58	10.19
Uttar Pradesh	86	20	66	616.59	2.85
West Bengal	75	27	48	479.03	2.21
Andaman & Nicobar	1	0	1	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	7	1	6	3.03	0.01
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	3	2	35.92	0.17
Delhi	285	19	266	2294.62	10.60
Goa	18	2	16	33.48	0.15
Pondicherry	10	2	8	27.59	0.13
Daman & Diu	6	2	4	15.56	0.07
State not indicated	305	29	276	3952.57	18.25
Total	2287	484	1803	21654.32	—

Import Trend in Edible Oil Sector

3197. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trends in India's imports during 1998-99 showed significant increase under bulk category;

(b) if so, whether these commodities of import include rice and edible oil and the percentage of increase on both the items;

(c) whether the Government propose to show restraint on import of edible oils since the local industry is capable

of meeting the country's consumption demands to major extent;

(d) whether such indiscriminate import of edible oil is proving harmful to domestic edible oil industry which is unable to secure a remunerative price for its produce in the local market;

(e) whether the Government will consider total ban on import of rice and edible oil to protect the Indian farmer keeping in view of good monsoon and anticipated bumper crops including oilseeds; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

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

(b) The total quantity and value of rice and edible oils imported during the last three years and the percentage increase over the previous year are as under:

Qty: MTs; Value: Rs. Crore

Year	Rice				Edible Oil			
	Qty.	Value	%age Increase over the previous year		Qty.	Value	%age Increase over the previous year	
			Qty-wise	Value-wise			Qty-wise	Value-wise
1997-98	54	0.06	—	—	1265753	2764.67	—	—
1998-99	6654	5.41	12222	8916	2621851	7588.93	107	174
1999-2000 (P)	27602	24.59	315	355	4196000	7983.87	60	0.3

(P) — Provisional

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) and (d) Import duty on crude oils has been increased from 15% (basic) to 25% (basic), on refined oils from 25% (basic) to 35% (basic) and on other oils to 45% (basic) with effect from 12.6.2000. Further, the use of indigenous oils to a minimum of 25% of the oil-mix in the manufacture of vanaspathi has also been made mandatory with effect from 12.6.2000. The objectives have been to encourage the farmers through better return for their produce and support the domestic processing industry in terms of better capacity utilisation and higher value addition.

(e) and (f) Review of Exim Policy is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary to protect the interests of the domestic consumers, farmers and domestic industry.

Industry Status to Cinema

3198. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to grant Information and Technology status to films/cinema;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to check piracy and other major problems of the Film/Cinema Industry?

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) In view of emerging convergence of Information

Technology (I.T.), telecommunications and entertainment technologies and for optimizing growth of entertainment industry, this Ministry was of the view that the film sector may be granted benefits accorded by the Government to the Information Technology sector with a view to tapping its full potential as a foreign exchange earner and to generate employment opportunities. Accordingly, this Ministry has taken up several proposals pertaining to the film sector with the Ministry of Finance.

As a result of these efforts, in the budget proposals presented to the Parliament for the year 2000-2001, the following significant benefits have been granted to the film industry.

- (i) The benefit of the Section 80HHF of the Income Tax Act, 1961 has been extended to individuals/proprietors engaged in the export of entertainment software.
- (ii) Basic customs duty on cinematograph cameras and other related equipment has been reduced from 40% to 25%.
- (iii) Basic customs duty on colour positive films in jumbo rolls and colour negative films in rolls of certain sizes has been reduced from 15% to 5%. Countervailing duty on these items has also been abolished.
- (iv) The limit for submission of statements by film producers under Section 285 B of the Income Tax Act has been raised from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 w.e.f. 1.4.2001.

(c) The Film industry has from time to time been representing against the losses suffered due to video/cable piracy. The responsibility for enforcing the Copyright

Act 1957 rests with the police authorities under the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Copyright Act has been amended to bring it in consonance with the development in modern technology and making the penal provisions more stringent. During the last few years the Central Government has taken various steps to improve the enforcement of the Act. These measures include setting up of a Copyright Advisory Council for reviewing the progress of the enforcement of the Act periodically and to advise the Govt. regarding measures for improving the enforcement of the Act, arranging training/seminars for the police officers and impressing upon the State Govt. to create special cells to deal with Copyright offences; to designate nodal points with which professional or industry associations could liaise. Most of the State Governments have set up special cells.

The Copyright (Amendment) Act, 1994 inter alia provides for, setting up of a separate Society for Copyright Regulation of Indian Producers of Films and Television (SCRIPT). This society has set up special wings to fight piracy and work in close interaction with the police.

[Translation]

Incentives to Food Processing Industries

3199. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food processing industries have been given various incentives during the last three years in order to promote the export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total value of export made by food processing sector during 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(d) the details of investment made each year during the above period in food processing sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Various export facilitation schemes under the Export & Import Policy, 1997-2002, are operational which can be made use of by all sectors of industries including the food processing industry. The major schemes are Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Duty Exemption/Remission Schemes under which capital goods and inputs to be incorporated in the export product may be imported at concessional/zero duty of import. Further, the Government provides assistance under the Plan Schemes for development of food processing sector which also include the units

engaged in export production. The assistance provided in this regard includes grant/loan for establishment of post harvest infrastructure, cold chain facilities for food processing, assistance for undertaking Research and Development, human resource development, for development and modernisation of meat processing, strengthening of traditional fish processing technologies and marketing, grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP, arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions, and setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports.

(c) The value of export of processed food items comprising processed fruits and vegetables and other processed food items such as jaggery and confectioneries, cocoa products, cereal preparations, alcoholic beverages, milled products, guar gum, and groundnuts during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 has been as follows:

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	2256.37
1998-99	1824.21

(d) The inflow of foreign direct investments and domestic investments approved during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 in the food processing industries has been as follows:

Year	Amount of inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (In Rs. crores)	Domestic Investments (in Rs. crores)
1997-98	342.09	1988
1998-99	94.75	2038

[English]

Sector Specific Packages for Export

3200. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether sector specific packages for exports of different categories of items have been evolved;

(b) if so, the details of the packages and the categories of items for which they are applied; and

(c) the criteria adopted for identifying and selecting these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Export promotion is a continuous measure. Sector specific packages have been formulated from time to time to promote exports, on the basis of requirements of various sectors. Apart from others, some of the important sector specific measures undertaken in Exim Policy 2000-2001 are:—

Gems & Jewellery: Diamond Dollar Account Scheme introduced; EPZ & SEZ units allowed to import studded jewellery for repairs, re-make and re-export. Personal carriage of import parcels of Gems & Jewellery allowed.; Replenishment licence, for duty free import of consumables required for Gems & Jewellery items. introduced.

Silk: Input-output norms rationalised; Central Silk Board inspection dispensed with; Import of Silk allowed under SIL.

Leather, Handicrafts & Garments: Entitlement for duty free import of trainings, embellishments and other items increased from 2 to 3% of FOB value of exports.

Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Agro Chemicals and Bio-technology exports : manufacturing firms allowed to import laboratory equipment, chemicals and reagents for R&D purposes upto 1% of the fob value of exports duty free.; Procedure simplified for export of non-prohibited and non-CITES Indian herbs and formulation.

FM Transmitter at Mangalore

3201. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 10 KW FM transmitter project at Mangalore (Karnataka) is scheduled to be commissioned during the current year;

(b) if so, the present status of work of the project;

(c) whether the same will be commissioned on schedule; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay and the steps taken for early commissioning of the project?

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. A 10 KW FM transmitter is to be installed at AIR, Mangalore as a replacement for the existing 1 KW MW Transmitter and is scheduled for commissioning in the year 2000-2001.

(b) The installation work is in progress and the order for transmitter is being placed.

(c) All efforts are being made to complete the project on schedule.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Adulteration in Kerosene

3202. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing incidents of adulteration in kerosene;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the adulteration;

(c) whether the Government have received the complaints of laxity being shown by the State Governments to implement the 'Delivered Supply Scheme' of kerosene formulated in the year 1994; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) There is reportedly no adulteration in Kerosene (SKO) by any adulterant. However, due to price differential between Kerosene and Petrol/Diesel, there is a possibility that some persons may resort to adulteration of automobile fuels by SKO. The oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. Further, to prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (Public Distribution System), furfural doping, filter paper test, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are undertaken by the oil companies. The States are of the opinion that Delivered Supply Scheme of kerosene is step towards prevention of diversion of PDS Kerosene. It

would also ensure that the kerosene reaches the target. The scheme has been introduced in some of the States.

[English]

Simplification of Export Procedure

3203. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export is declining due to delay in processing the cases of exporters in various department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to simplify the procedure of export;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to introduce one window system of clearance to boost exports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the available trends, the exports of the country are not declining. On the other hand, as per the latest provisional data available from DGCI&S, Calcutta exports have grown at the rate of 27.7% in Dollar terms during April-June, 2000-2001. This is significantly higher than the annual growth target.

(c) and (d) With the liberalisation of the economy, the Government has consciously moved towards de-control and de-centralisation of Export and Import regime, simplification of procedures and reducing the avoidable interface between the exporters and various Government agencies. These include provision for electronic filing of applications, time schedules for considering licence applications, substantial delegation of powers and rationalisation of export promotion schemes. These steps have resulted in reducing the delays and harassment, if any, caused to exporters in the process of exporting various commodities.

(e) and (f) Since different Central & State agencies provide different services, it has not been found feasible to introduce a Single Window System for all export items.

NABARD Loan

3204. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for setting up of agricultural based industries in various States;

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

(c) the amount likely to be mobilised by NABARD for these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has conducted two studies for food processing (horticulture products and livestock products) in the Western Region of Maharashtra for ascertaining the credit requirements for these sectors. The study on the credit requirements for horticulture product was undertaken in Pune, Nashik, Jalgaon and Sangli districts of Maharashtra to assess the potential, formulate project profiles and to estimate the credit requirements for processing of agriculture products in the region. The study on livestock products was conducted in Nashik, Pune, Sangli, Solapur districts in the Western Region of Maharashtra to identify the constraints, assess the potentials, formulate project profiles and to estimate the credit requirements in the region. The total credit requirements for these two industries are estimated to be of the order of Rs. 68.71 crores and Rs. 18.93 crores till the year 2001-2002 including bank credit.

Cultural Agreements

3205. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cultural agreements arrived at between India and other countries during the last three years, country-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the main features of these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Since January, 1997 Cultural Agreements have been entered into with the following countries:—

1997:	Lebanon, Botswana, Madagascar & Bolivia
1998:	Nil
1999:	Croatia & Yemen

(b) These Agreements provide bilateral exchanges in the fields of Education, Science & Technology, Art & Culture, Museology & Archaeology, Archives, Literature, Languages, Mass-Media, Youth Activities & Sports and Public Health.

[Translation]

Disparity in Allocation of Foodgrains to States for BPL People

3206. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been committed regarding lifting of foodgrains under the (Revamped) Public Distribution System during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the States having less number of families living below poverty line, get more foodgrains as compared to the States having more number of families living below poverty line;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remove such disparities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Revamped Public Distribution System ceased to exist with the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in June, 1997.

(c) to (e) At present, under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in June, 1997 allocation of foodgrains to the States and Union Territories at subsidised prices for the population living below poverty line is made in proportion to the number of families below poverty line (BPL) in the State @ 20 kg. per family per month. The allocations of foodgrains for families living above poverty line are made on the basis of average annual offtake in the past. Additional allocations are also being made to the States/UTs subject to the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and the constraints of food subsidy. Prior to the introduction of TPDS in June, 1997 the allocation of foodgrains under PDS including the erstwhile Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was based on the demand, offtake trend, availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, prices in the open market and other related factors.

[English]

Trade with Israel

3207. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any bilateral trade with Israel;

(b) if so, the total volume of exports to and imports from Israel during the last three years;

(c) the main items of exports and imports;

(d) whether there are any proposals to increase the volume of trade with Israel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indo-Israeli Bilateral Trade during last three years is as follows:—

(In US\$ millions)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Exports from India	332.21	354.70	506.16
Imports by India	329.00	337.40	560.65

(c) The main items of exports to Israel are Gems & Jewellery, Cotton yarn, fabrics made-ups etc., Drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals, manmade yarn, fabrics, made-ups, cashew. The main items of imports from Israel are pearl precious, semi-precious stones, fertilisers manufactured, fertilisers, crude, organic chemicals, project goods.

(d) and (e) To increase the volume of bilateral trade, the two sides propose measures such as participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, promote interaction with industry and amongst business persons, visit of official as well as business delegations, exposure about India in Israeli media and identification of areas for bilateral co-operation and sorting out of problems in transacting trade through deliberations at the meetings of the Indo-Israeli Joint Committee.

Promotion of Culture and Tourism

3208. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to promote the culture and tourism in the mountain-rocked region in the country;

(b) if so, the programmes drawn up in this regard;

(c) the steps taken to ensure Kailash Mansarovar journey more comfortable and to ensure the safety of the pilgrims; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to promote culture and tourism in other hilly regions?

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

(b) Promotion of festivals like Hemis in Leh-Ladakh, Dushehra in Kullu Valley, Yoga festival in Rishikesh/Garhwal and promotion of tracking, mountaineering, river rafting etc.

(c) Kailash Mansarovar journey alongwith the traditional route across Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh is coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with various Central and State Government Agencies. The comfort and safety of the pilgrims are taken care by the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam and the State Government.

(d) The steps taken include:

Central financial assistance for organising fairs and festivals, organising familiarization trips of media and travel agents to the hilly regions, promotion of adventure tourism etc.

Help to Tobacco Farmers

3209. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had a high level meeting in the month of July, 2000 while reviewing the tobacco purchases from the 21 auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he had directed the Tobacco Board to go for two shifts instead of the present one shift, so that the purchase of tobacco likely to cross 2 million kg;

(d) if so, the extent to which the Government helped the State Governments in lifting the tobacco at minimum support price;

(e) the total quantity provided by manufacturers, the quantity purchased by STC and the extent to which the demand from overseas buyers has been picked up; and

(f) the extent to which the tobacco farmers were helped to meet the hardships faced by them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No meeting was held

with the Commerce & Industry Minister to review the tobacco purchases in Andhra Pradesh in the month of July, 2000.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Tobacco Board resolved to commence Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations for low grade tobaccos whenever prices fall below MSP for respective grades and has procured 27,432 kgs at average price of Rs. 12.08 per kg till 7.8.2000.

(e) The total quantity of purchases made by the manufacturers, exporters, STC etc. as on 7.8.2000 is 79.30 million kgs.

(f) following steps we taken to help the farmers:—

(i) State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) was directed to intervene in Andhra Pradesh tobacco auctions to lend buoyancy to tobacco prices in a situation of over supply.

(ii) Manufacturers and exporters were persuaded to take active part in auctions and purchase their indicated quantities.

(iii) Tobacco Board has entered the market to buy low grade tobaccos at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) in the event of prices falling below MSP in those grades.

(iv) A.P. Tobacco Growers Co-op. Union has also entered the market from 31.7.2000 to buy medium and low grade tobaccos and create competition in the market on the directions of Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(v) Allowing farmers to process their FCV tobacco so as to enable them to obtain remunerative prices.

(vi) Staggering repayment of loans and providing loans for processing the FCV tobacco.

[Translation]

Foreign Aid for Development Projects of Bihar

3210. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the World Bank and other international institutions for various development projects of Bihar during the last five years; and

(b) the project-wise details of utilisation of this assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Donor Currency Figures in Millions & Rs. in Crores

S.No.	Name of the Project	Date of Approval Closing	Donor	Currency	Loan/Grant Amount (DC)	Utilization (DC/Rs.)					Total
						1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	
1.	Bihar Plateau Development	17.12.1992 30.06.2000	IDA	US\$ Rs.	117.00 —	6.78 23.05	5.85 20.92	13.60 50.08	23.69 100.35	20.56 88.87	70.48 283.27
2.	Cooperative Rural Storage Centres	24.02.1988 31.03.2000	EC	EURO Rs.	21.20 —	4.01 17.98	0.04 0.16	0.02 0.07	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	4.07 18.21
3.	DPEP-III	23.02.1998 30.09.2003	IDA	US\$ Rs.	152.00 —	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	4.50 17.75	7.89 33.45	8.56 37.14	20.95 88.34
4.	Eastern Gandhak Canal Hydro Project	26.12.1984 30.06.1996	Japan	Jap. Yen Rs.	1628.00 —	0.00 0.0	9.10 0.30	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	9.10 0.30
5.	Bihar Power Sector Restructuring (PPF)	14.03.1994 3.03.1998	IBRD	US\$ Rs.	1.50 —	0.00 0.00	0.40 1.41	0.00 0.00	0.23 0.90	0.00 0.00	0.62 2.31
Total (Rs. Crore)		—	—	—	—	41.03	22.79	67.90	134.70	126.01	392.13

[English]

Income Tax Raids on Indian Cricketers

3211. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department have recently conducted raids on the houses of prominent cricket players/BCCI Offices/Bookies etc.;

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

(c) the outcome of these raids;

(d) the value of property or objectionable documents recovered from each of the residence during these raids; and

(e) the action the Government propose to take after conducting these raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Searches have been conducted u/s 132 of the Income Tax Act on the houses of some cricket players and other connected persons.

(b) to (e) These searches have been conducted at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Patiala, Chandigarh on the persons mentioned in the Statement enclosed. Assets worth about Rs. Four crore have been seized. Papers and documents seized are under examination. Necessary action in accordance with the provisions of law has been initiated.

Statement

Cricket Players

1. Mohd. Azharuddin
2. Ajay Jadeja

3. Kapil dev
4. Nikhil Chopra
5. Manoj Prabhakar
6. Ajay Sharma
7. Navjot Singh Sidhu

Cricket Administrators

1. Jagmohan Dalmiya
2. Kishore Rungta

Associates

1. Mark Mascarenhas
2. V. Chamundeswamath
3. Dharampal Singh Malhotra & Surinder Kaur Malhotra
4. Hiren D. Hathi
5. Shobhan Mehta
6. Rattan Mehta and Mona Mehta
7. Deepak Kumar, Yudhishtar Kumar and Jyoti Kumar
8. Hans Kumar Jain and Rajesh Kumar Jain
9. Mukesh Gupta
10. Karun Dubey
11. Ms. Tapati Ahuja
12. Anand Saxena
13. Manmohan Khattar
14. Prashant Kumar Dash
15. Praveen Kumar Gupta and Atul Gupta
16. M/s. Kamla Radio, Deepak Kumar

Relatives

1. P.M. Rungta
2. Ms. Sangeeta Bijlani
3. Moti Lam Bijlani
4. Deepk M. Rindani
5. Ms. Shan C.P. (Wife of Shri Daulatsinh Jadeja)
6. Ms. Sharda Bhatia
7. Ms. Shashawati Anand

Judicial Power to Press Council of India

3212. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Council of India has recommended to the Government to grant it judicial powers to prosecute news organisations if they do not follow the council's judgement; and

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

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) The Press Council of India has sought power of punishment for contempt through an amendment to the Press Council Act. The Press Council has proposed that non-compliance or incomplete or inadequate compliance of its directions under Section 14 or Section 15 of the Press Council Act, 1978 will amount to the contempt of the Council. For such contempt, the Press Council shall have, and exercise, the same jurisdiction, powers and authority in respect of contempt of itself, as a High Court has and may exercise. For this purpose, the provisions of the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 (70 of 91), shall have effect, subject to the modification that the references therein to a High Court shall be construed as including a reference to the Press Council of India.

The proposal is for a Legislative amendment, which requires inter-ministerial consultations.

Production of Cement

3213. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the six core sector industries grew by 8 per cent in April to June, 2000;

(b) whether the cement sector had indicated a sharp fall in production in this period;

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

(d) whether any corrective measures are being taken; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The six infrastructure industries grew up by 8 per cent during April-June, 2000.

(b) No, Sir. Cement industry has achieved a production of 27.03 million tonnes during April-June, 2000 against a production of 26.02 million tonnes in the corresponding period of last year.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Tourist Maps

3214. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is redrawing the tourism maps with all important tourist spots, so that tourists can use these maps properly;

(b) if so, whether all important places like resorts, monuments, temples and architects of historical importance are likely to be included in the map;

(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 (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism produces Tourist Map of important tourist destinations from time to time, as per the requirement. These maps provide all relevant tourist information covering historical, cultural and other information of use to a tourist.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Discovery of Remains of Ancient Civilization in Bihar

3215. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the joint-team comprising members from Archaeological Survey of India and Sonaghati Archaeology Council have discovered the remains of ancient civilization at Naur in Aurangabad district and Kabra Kalan in Palamu district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the period of the abovesaid civilization; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for the preservation and protection of the abovesaid sites of archaeological importance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The exploration brought to light ancient sites at Naur in Aurangabad district and Kabra Kalan in Palamu district of Bihar, both multi-cultural mounds yielding materials of the Early Historical, Gupta and Medieval periods in addition to Chalcolithic pottery at the former and ground and polished stone tools at the latter.

(c) No proposal is under consideration for protection of above said sites.

Special Quota for Drought/Flood Affected Families

3216. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have allocated special quota of foodgrains as relief to the State Governments to distribute the same among the recent drought/flood affected families, particularly in Gujarat, Kamataka, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of people benefited therefrom;

(c) whether some drought affected States have refused to lift foodgrains allocated to them by Union Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether complaints regarding irregularities in distribution of food/foodgrains have come to the notice of the Government from these States;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Central Government has given special additional allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) at below poverty line (BPL) rates for drought relief for distribution to all the drought affected families @ 20kg per family per month for three months (May, June and July, 2000) to the State Governments of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan only. The details of number of affected families and quantities of rice and wheat allotted are as under:—

S. No.	State	Number of affected families (in lakhs)	Rice (in tonnes)	Wheat (in tonnes)
1.	Gujarat	53.20	1,27,682	1,91,523
2.	Andhra Pradesh	66.60	3,99,800	—
3.	Rajasthan	58.58	17,573	3,33,889

No special allocation of foodgrains for drought relief has been given to Karnataka. A quantity of 20,000 tonnes of rice has been allotted to Assam for flood relief at above poverty line (APL) rate with validity for lifting upto 31.10.2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Tobacco Stocks

3217. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether a huge stock of tobacco is lying with farmers in the country;

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

(c) whether tobacco manufacturers are not purchasing this stock at competitive price from farmers;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to take any effective steps to intervene in the matter and facilitate for export of this stock to help tobacco farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The FCV tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra have produced a crop of 138.68 million kgs against an authorised crop of 101.61 million kgs. Of this production 79.30 million kgs has been sold at the 21 auction platforms as on 7.8.2000. FCV tobacco farmers of Karnataka are yet to harvest their crop for the current year.

(c) Tobacco manufacturers have purchased 42 million kgs of FCV tobacco so far marketed. This is about 52% of the crop marketed.

(d) and (e) Government has taken the following steps to intervene in the market and to facilitate export:—

(i) STC was directed to enter the market to lend buoyancy in the market. STC began purchasing with effect from 21st April, 2000.

(ii) The Tobacco Board has entered the market to purchase low grades at Minimum Support Prices.

(iii) The AP Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union has entered the market with effect from 31.7.2000.

(iv) An Indian tobacco trade delegation including STC representatives visited Russia to explore opportunities for tobacco export. Further, a delegation visited Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan in May, 2000 to find new market for export of tobacco. A Vietnamese delegation is likely to make a reciprocal visit to India by the end of this month.

According Strategic Status to PSUs

3218. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment has recently decided that the disinvestment of public sector enterprises will be decided on case to case basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the concept of industries in the public sector earmarked for disinvestment as having "strategic value";

(d) if so, the definition of strategic value;

(e) whether the Government have not accepted the views of the participants that oil and heavy engineering companies should be accorded strategic status; and

(f) if so, 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) and (b) The disinvestment policy of the Government clearly states that while Government would continue to retain majority holding in the Public Sector Enterprises involving strategic considerations, in the generality of the cases the Government's shareholding would be brought down to 26% or below. It has been decided that reduction of Government share to 26% or below would not be automatic and the manner and pace of doing so would be decided at the time, the specific Central Public Sector undertaking is considered for disinvestment. A decision in regard to the percentage of disinvestment *i.e.*, Government share going down to less than 51% or to 26%, would be taken on the following considerations:

- (i) Whether the Industrial sector requires the presence of the public sector as a countervailing force to prevent concentration or power in private hands, and
- (ii) Whether the Industrial sector requires a proper regulatory mechanism to protect the consumer interests before Public Sector Enterprises are privatised.

(c) and (d) It has been decided that the Strategic Public Sector Enterprises would be those in the areas of:

- (i) **Arms and ammunitions** and the allied items of defence equipment, defence air-crafts and warships.
- (ii) **Atomic energy** (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries)

(ii) **Railway transport**

(e) and (f) The Companies operating in the oil and heavy engineering sectors are also covered under the disinvestment policy as stated above.

Financial Aid by LIC to Manipur

3219. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial aid granted to Manipur by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for various projects during each of the last three years, till date, project-wise; and

(b) the names of projects for which LIC propose to give assistance in near future to Manipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The following is the statement of investment made by LIC in Manipur during last three years:

		(Rs. in crores)		
	Category	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	State Govt. Securities	3.00	12.50	11.00
2.	Loan to: State Govt. for Social Housing Schemes			
	(i) General	1.75	3.85	
	(ii) Rural	0.25	2.15	
Total:		5.00	18.50	11.00

(b) For the current year, the allocation from Planning Commission has not been received by LIC. Only after receipt of the allocation LIC will decide about the assistance.

[Translation]

Storage of Foodgrains

3220. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to USQ No. 31 of February 24, 2000 and state:

(a) the total payment being made to the Central Warehousing Corporation for the storage of foodgrains during the last one year, month-wise;

(b) the amount of compensation recovered from the Central Warehousing Corporation during the last three years for the foodgrains which got damaged;

(c) the per bag loss as a result of storage of foodgrains and the steps taken to check it;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to take the help of private sector for storing foodgrains; 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) The CWC had realized an amount of Rs. 5320.06 lakh during the year 1999-2000 from the FCI for storage of their foodgrain stocks. The monthwise details of the storage charges realized are given as under:—

AMOUNT REALISED FROM THE FCI FOR THE
YEAR 1999-2000

Month	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
4/99	272.55
5/99	263.34
6/99	287.38
7/99	408.39
8/99	430.49
9/99	312.07
10/99	357.62
11/99	248.63
12/99	400.69
1/2000	406.62
2/2000	695.33
3/2000	1236.95
Total	5320.06

(b) Nil.

(c) The storage loss is not worked out per bag but is computed stackwise every month and regularized by the FCI on merit of each case. The CWC takes the

following steps to control loss during storage:—

(i) Stocks are stored in scientific and storage-worthy godowns as per approved stack plan, using appropriate dunnage.

(ii) Stocks are inspected every fortnight and necessary prophylactic and curative measures are taken to control insect infestation.

(iii) Necessary measures are undertaken to control losses due to birds and rodents.

(d) and (e) Recently, the Government has announced a national policy on handling, storage and transportation, which envisages that private sector will be encouraged to build storage capacities. A copy of the Resolution dated July 4, 2000 issued in this regard is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

To be Published in the Extra Ordinary Gazette of India Part-I, Section-I

TFC-14/99-Vol. III
Government of India,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution
Department of Public Distribution

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated: July 4, 2000

RESOLUTION

In order to reduce storage and transit losses of foodgrains at farm and commercial level, to modernise the system of handling, storage and transportation of the foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and to bring in additionality of resources through private sector involvement, the Government has approved a National Policy on Handling Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains, details of which are given below:—

1. Objectives of the Policy

The main objectives of the policy are:

(i) to reduce storage and transit losses at farm level where about 70% of the total foodgrain production is retained and consumed and also to encourage the farmers to adopt scientific storage methods.

(ii) to modernise the system of handling, storage and transportation of the foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

- (iii) to harness efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to build and operate infrastructure for introduction of bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in the country.

2. Policy for house-hold storage

2.1 Since the house-hold sector retains about 70% of the total production and substantial quantities of foodgrains are wasted due to improper storage at farm level, the major focus is on the improvement of storage standards at farm level. Presently, the only scheme targeting this need is the Save Grain Campaign, which popularises the use of metallic and non-metallic storage structures and educates the farmers about the adoption of scientific storage methods. The scheme also aims at development/improvement of non-metallic traditional storage structures.

2.2 In order to have a greater success in this area, following initiatives have been approved:—

- (i) introduction of a scheme to encourage use of metal bins as well as non-metallic storage structures at individual farm level and construction of RCC bins at community level with appropriate financial incentives.
- (ii) strengthening of the existing research and training components of the Save Grain Campaign Scheme for scientific storage and preservation of foodgrains and their propagation among farmers.

3. Modernisation and Upgradation of Bulk Grain Handling Infrastructure

3.1 In order to reduce storage losses, it is necessary to develop and modernise the infrastructure for integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation in India. The thrust of the policy should be:—

- (i) encouragement of mechanical harvesting, cleaning and drying at farm and mandi level.
- (ii) transportation of grains from farm to silos by specially designed trucks.
- (iii) construction of a chain of silos at procurement as well as distribution points.
- (iv) transportation of grain from silos to railhead and thereafter to pre-determined destinations by specially designed trucks/rail wagons (with top filling and bottom discharge mechanism)/dedicated trains.

- (v) declaration of foodgrains storage as infrastructure.

3.2 For storage of foodgrains procured by the FCI, integrated bulk handling facilities with silos of large capacity for wheat along with testing facilities for quality control would be created at about 20 identified central locations in producing and consuming areas as well as a few port towns. These facilities, including the infrastructure for bulk transportation to these centres, will be created and maintained in the private sector under the overall co-ordination of the FCI. The design of special top filling and bottom discharge wagons would be decided in consultation with the Ministry of Railways. The Ministry of Railways will also be consulted while deciding the locations and the circuits where these wagons would ply. FCI will guarantee utilisation of these facilities to the extent of 100% for the first ten years and 75% for the next ten years. From these points, secondary transportation of foodgrains would be made in bag form to about 500 godowns in important central locations in different States to be owned and maintained by the FCI. Further transportation to the consuming centres for retail distribution under the Public Distribution System will be carried out by the State Governments.

3.3 The private sector will be encouraged to build storage capacities in which they will store and maintain foodgrains procured by the Government agencies, for which they will be entitled to storage charges.

3.4 The private sector participation should be sought and encouraged for development of infrastructure for the integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation through—

- (i) measures such as Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT), Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO), Lease-Develop-Operate (LDO), Joint Ventures etc.
- (ii) generation of funds through public issues by private enterprises
- (iii) automatic approval for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100%.
- (iv) loans from financial institutions, NABARD, external commercial borrowings
- (v) fiscal incentives as given below:
 - (a) 100% deduction in profit for the purpose of Income Tax for the first five years and 30% deduction in profit for the next five years.
 - (b) deduction of 40% of the profits derived by financial institutions financing such projects, as

provided to financial corporations engaged, inter-alia, in providing long-term finance for agricultural development.

- (c) customs duty exemption for items not manufactured in India, on a case-to-case basis, subject to a list of such equipment being submitted in advance.

4. Development of Infrastructure Facilities at Ports

India has been traditionally the importer of foodgrains and, therefore, the infrastructure facilities available at the ports are basically meant for unloading operations and not for exports. For unloading operations, ship gears are normally used. Even the latest mechanised facilities at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Navi Mumbai have been designed for import purposes only. There is also lack of general cargo berths at the major ports and very limited warehousing facilities are available for the storage of foodgrains at ports. For creating the proper port facilities for foodgrains meant for export in due course, the infrastructure facilities would have to be developed for which following actions are required.

- (i) identification of ports to be developed for purposes of foodgrains. The distribution of foodgrains traffic may spread over to the non-traditional ports which have spare capacity like New Mangalore and Cochin ports;
- (ii) development of more general cargo berths at the ports through ports' own investment/private participation;
- (iii) water front/berths can be leased to the users who may be encouraged to put up their own facilities; and
- (iv) development of dedicated modern foodgrains handling facilities at selected ports.

5. Role of the Government

The Central Government would:

- (a) facilitate speedy clearance of projects concerning development of infrastructure for bulk handling, transportation and storage of foodgrains by setting up an Approval Board competent to take final decision;
- (b) enter into bilateral agreements with other countries/international agencies for providing technical/financial assistance;
- (c) take necessary legislative/administrative measures for removing impediments with regard

to stock control Orders/movement control Orders framed by various State Governments;

- (d) utilize the services of an existing independent regulatory mechanism for fixing/regulating tariff for various operations, such as cleaning, drying, storage, transportation, etc.;

- (e) make available facilities of the Railways for bulk transportation;

- (f) promote negotiable Warehouse Receipt System by which farmers could hold their grains back from market and meet their working capital/short term requirement by borrowing from Banks against these receipts; and

- (g) promote research for development of alternate storage technologies like Vacuum Process Storage (VPS) technology which would ensure longer shelf life of foodgrains and help export of foodgrains in vacuum packs.

6. Role of the State Government

The State Government would help in:

- (a) acquisition of land required for various projects as for public purpose; and
- (b) making available other facilities such as water, power, road, etc.

Sd/-

(B.K. BAL)

JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

ORDERED that a copy of the resolution be communicated to all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, Planning Commission, Chief Secretaries of the State Governments and UT Administrations, Chairman and Managing Directors of the Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation.

ORDERED also that the resolution be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

Sd/-

(B.K. BAL)

JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

To

The Manager,
Government Printing Press,
Faridabad

*[English]***Critical Infrastructural Balance Scheme**

3221. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds provided to Maharashtra under the Critical Infrastructural Balance Scheme to remove infrastructural bottlenecks in export centres during the last three financial years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to take some other steps to improve the prospects of State Government in exports during current and next financial year;

(c) whether the Government also propose to monitor the same at Central level; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The details of the funds provided to Maharashtra during the last three years under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme are as follows:

Year	Name of the Project	Amount (Rs. lacs)
1997-98	Strengthening of Uran-Panvel State Highway (in addition to Rs. 250.00 lacs released in 1996-97)	50.00
1998-99	Setting up of a Trade Information Centre, Pune	05.16
1999-2000	Computerisation of Santa Cruz EPZ	16.42
Total		71.58

(b) to (d) The Central Government evolves plan and formulates its policy on a continuous basis to promote exports from all the States/Union Territories of India. With a view to making export a national effort involving all the State Governments, inter alia, a scheme is being formulated for granting assistance to the States on the basis of their export performance. The details of the scheme are being worked out.

Interest Rates

3222. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cross-section of bankers have expressed concern on the interest rates which are set to go up despite the RBI's plan to keep the rates under leash;

(b) if so, the reasons for rising inflation rate and the Government borrowings;

(c) whether it is a fact that US Fed rate, Libor and Repo rate have also been increasing during the last six months; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The prime lending rate (PLR) of major bank groups during the current financial year were as shown below:

(per cent)		
Range of PLR	June 2000*	March 2000
Public Sector Banks	11.25-12.50	12.00-13.50
Private Sector Banks	10.25-15.50	10.25-16.00
Foreign Banks	9.75-17.50	10.50-17.50

* (Figures upto June 2, 2000)

However, certain banks have announced upward revision in their PLRs following increase in Bank Rate and Cash Reserve Ratio requirement by RBI in July.

(b) During the current financial year, the inflation rate has not been showing a rising trend and there is no revision in the gross borrowing requirement of the Government of India.

(c) Trends in the US Fed fund rate, libor and repo rate (of Reserve Bank) during the last six months are as follows:

Date	Fed Fund Rate Average	Libor (Weekly) Average	Repo Rate*
January 2000	5.50	5.86	6.00
February 2000	5.75	5.83	6.00
March 2000	6.00	6.13	6.00
April 2000	6.00	6.12	5.00
May 2000	6.50	6.62	5.00
June 2000	6.50	6.64	5.00#

Note: *Repo rate as at the end of month pertains to fixed rate Repo auctions.

#The Repo rate was fixed at 5 per cent up to June 4, 2000. Since June 5, 2000, the Liquidity Adjustment Facility was introduced on a variable rate auction basis.

(d) Decisions regarding interest rate on bank credit are taken by banks themselves in keeping with their cost of funds, transaction costs and interest rates ruling in the non-banking sector thereby bringing it entirely within their own purview, without any involvement of Government.

[Translation]

Permission for Trade Fair to German Company

3223. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation has granted permission to a German firm to organise a trade fair in New Delhi by violating the rules and regulations;

(b) if so, whether such action of ITPO has jeopardised the efforts of Indian Firm Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts in promoting the handicrafts industry in the overseas market; and

(c) if so, the action being taken against ITPO for violation of rules of allowing the permission to organise said trade fair?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No Sir, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) planned in 1999 the holding to Ambiente India Fair alongwith Heimtextil-Textiles India fair from October 5-8, 2000 at Pragati Maidan

in association with Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt. Ltd., Subsequently, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) made an application for holding Indian Handicrafts and Giftware Fair (Autumn Fair). In fact, the EPCH was given permission to organise the fair as a special case in the interest of Handicrafts sector.

[English]

Valuation of Goods by Central Excise Authorities

3224. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG has pointed out the incorrect valuation of goods cleared to sister units by the Central Excise Authorities in the country in their report for the year ending March, 1999 at pages 44-46, resulting in short payment of duty to the extent of several crores of rupees;

(b) whether his Ministry has not replied to the observations of the C&AG in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons for not implementing by the Central Excise authorities the provisions of the Central Excise Act, 1944 to the detriment of the country resulting into losses of crores of rupees every year;

(d) whether neither any responsibility has been fixed nor any officials are sternly dealt with; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Ministry has already replied to all the observations of CAG in this regard.

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

(d) and (e) Responsibility of the Government officers is fixed in all such cases where loss of revenue is established and it can be attributed to lapses on their part.

Tourism Finance Corporation of India

3225. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Tourism Finance Corporation of India for disbursement of funds alongwith the Reserve Bank of India's guidelines in this regard;

(b) the tourism related projects in Haryana for which TFCI has provided funds;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding irregularities in disbursement/sanctioning of funds by TFCI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) As reported by Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (TFCI) no guidelines have been issued by Reserve Bank of India specifically for disbursement of funds by TFCI. The disbursement to the assisted concerns is made by TFCI on execution of loan documents and on compliance of pre-disbursement conditions as per policy approved by the Board in accordance with the general prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by RBI from time to time.

(b) TFCI has sanctioned financial assistance to six projects in the State of Haryana involving a total amount of Rs. 4953 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The Government has received one complaint. The same is being examined.

New Guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Companies

3226. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has issued new guidelines to ease norms for Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the public is likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) A new regulatory framework was announced by RBI in January, 1998 to ensure that only financially sound and well run NBFCs are allowed access to public deposits. Some modifications were made in December, 1998 on the basis of the results of interaction with the industry representatives. Further modifications have been made by RBI on 30th June, 2000 to rationalize the norms applicable to non-banking financial companies for facilitating their proper functioning and thus securing the interests of depositors. In order to further protect the

interests of depositors and strengthen the financial system, action has been initiated to introduce a new and comprehensive legislation.

Anti-Dumping Duties

3227. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) the details of items on which preliminary anti-dumping duties have been imposed;

(b) the details of items on which final anti-dumping duty has been imposed;

(c) whether Government have also received representations from certain quarters to impose anti-dumping duty on certain imported items;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Items on which preliminary anti-dumping duty has been imposed are given below.

- (1) Aniline
- (2) Vitamin C
- (3) Phthalic Anhydride
- (4) Sodium Nitrite
- (5) Bisphenol-A
- (6) Black & White photographic paper
- (7) Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer Rubber
- (8) Metronidazole
- (9) Oxo-alcohols*

*Provisional anti-dumping duty was effective upto and inclusive of 26.7.2000. The Central Government has accepted the recommendation to impose final anti-dumping duty on six specified forms of Oxo-Alcohols. The notification is likely to be issued soon.

(b) Items on which final anti-dumping duty has been imposed are given below:

- (1) PVC Resin*

- (2) Theophylline & Caffeine
- (3) 3,4,5 Trimethoxybenzaldehyde (TMBA)
- (4) Iso-butyl Benzene**
- (5) Potassium Permanganate
- (6) Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR)
- (7) Bisphenol-A
- (8) Low Carbon Ferro Chrome (LCFC)
- (9) Sodium Ferrocyanide
- (10) 8-Hydroxyquinoline
- (11) Dead Burnt Magnesite
- (12) Acrylic Fibre
- (13) Specified Catalysts
- (14) Graphite Electrodes
- (15) Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA)
- (16) Vitamin-C
- (17) Magnesium
- (18) Metallurgical Coke
- (19) Polystyrene
- (20) Calcium Carbide
- (21) Lovastatin
- (22) Citric Acid
- (23) Orthochlorobenzaldehyde
- (24) H.R. Coils/Sheets/Strips & Plates
- (25) Industrial Sewing Machine Needles
- (26) P-tert Butyl Catechol
- (27) Fused Magnesia
- (28) Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer
- (29) Styrene Butadiene Rubber (SBR)
- (30) Hard Ferrite Ring Magnets
- (31) PTFE
- (32) Thermal Sensitive Paper
- (33) Nylon Tyre Cord Fabric (NTCF)
- (34) Barium Carbonate
- (35) Sodium Cyanide
- (36) Optical Fibre
- (37) Seamless tubes/pipes
- (38) Disodium Carbonate (Soda Ash)

The duty has lapsed on completion of five years.

** The duty has since been terminated on the basis of Sunset review by the Designated Authority.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties has initiated investigations in 9 cases on the following items:

- (1) Seamless Grade Alloys etc.
- (2) Polyester Film
- (3) Trimethoprim
- (4) Caustic Soda
- (5) Aniline
- (6) Ferro Silicon

- (7) Isopropyl Alcohol
- (8) Sodium Ferrocyanide
- (9) Theophylline & Caffeine

Capital Investment in Industries

322B. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge difference has been found in the approved capital investment and the actual capital investment in the industries being run in the country by foreign capital investment;

(b) if so, the average difference found during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have identified the reasons for this difference;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to solve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir. There has been difference in the total amount of foreign investment approvals *vis-a-vis* the actual inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) from 1991 to till March, 2000.

(b) The percentage of fructification of FDI during last three years is given below:

Year	FDI Inflow/FDI approvals (Percentage of fructification)
1998	43.29%
1999	59.46%
2000 (upto May)	86.91%

(c) and (d) FDI inflow are based on medium and long term considerations and are attracted by the investors perception about the current and future position of economy. The implementation of any project involving FDI is also determined by various factors including the availability of infrastructure, man power, domestic market and fiscal and other incentives provided by the State Governments. Due to these reasons, the approved foreign investment does not fructify to the maximum extent.

(e) The Government is taking all measures to enhance the confidence of international investors in Indian economy. To help the investors in setting up their investments, the Government, last year constituted a Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) whose objective is to ensure that the large projects approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) are implemented. To facilitate this the State Governments are also made members of FIIA.

[Translation]

Incentives for Promotion of Small Newspapers

3229. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether any incentive based action plan was formulated by the Government during the recent years for the promotion and expansion of small newspapers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for their implementation during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the amount actually spent out of that; and

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose during the year 2000-2001 so far?

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) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Import of Arecanut

3230. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the areca growers from Karnataka have requested the Government to restrict import of areca from other countries including Malaysia and Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the steps, if any, taken by the Government to protect the areca growers of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from the arecanut growers of Karnataka requesting re-imposition of import restrictions on arecanut. The basic customs duty on arecanut has been increased from 35% to 100% in July, 2000. This should provide adequate protection to the arecanut farmers of Karnataka thereby obviating the need for re-imposition of import restrictions.

National Heritage Fund

3231. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to create a separate National Heritage Fund;

(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) There is no need to set up a National Heritage Fund as a National Culture Fund is already in existence from 28.11.1996. Individuals and organisations including Corporate entities can collaborate with the National Culture Fund (NCF) in conceiving, developing and implementing projects for conserving heritage sites and for improving the infrastructure at these sites. Contributions to NCF are eligible for cent per cent tax deduction under Section 80(G) 2 of the Income Tax. The normal practice is that NCF enters into a Memorandum of Understanding with the partner who wishes to collaborate. The MoU specifies scope of the project, its duration and the terms and conditions of such collaboration. All contributions for a project are deposited in a separate bank account and the funds are operated jointly by a representative of the NCF and of the partner based on the decisions of the Project Implementation Committee. The Project Implementation Committee has representation of the NCF and specialised agencies like Archaeological Survey of India and the corporate partner.

Prices of Paper

3232. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the export of paper by paper mills has resulted scarcity in the domestic market and upset the balance of supply and demand;

(b) if so, whether the Federation of Indian Publishers has submitted a memorandum to the Government in regard to the increase in price of paper and to save the Indian publishing industries;

(c) if so, the details of the memorandum; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto and the action likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) While no representation from the Federation of Indian Publishers has been received, a representation from the Federation of Educational Publishers in India showing concern about increase in prices of Paper was received in July, 2000. There is no statutory control over the prices of paper and prices are being driven by the market forces.

Growth Rate of GDP

3233. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the growth rate of GDP during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;
- (b) whether it has been decelerating from the past;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to increase it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per the latest available data with the Central Statistical Organisation, the growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) was 6.8 percent in 1998-99 (Quick estimates) and 6.4 percent in 1999-2000 (Revised estimates).

(c) The slowdown in GDP growth in 1999-2000 is mainly due to decline in GDP in agriculture, forestry and fishing from 7.2 percent in 1998-99 to 1.3 percent in 1999-2000 and in trade, hotels, transport and communication from 8.1 percent in 1998-99 to 6.7 percent in 1999-2000.

(d) The Budget for 2000-2001 has outlined a detailed strategy to put the economy on a sustained, equitable and job creating growth path of 7 to 8 percent per year. The various economic reform measures undertaken are also expected to have a favourable impact on the growth of the economy.

Revival of Fertiliser Plant

3234. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the BIFR had appointed ICICI as an operating agency for looking into the scope of revival of Namrup Fertilizers Plant;
- (b) if so whether the ICICI has recommended the bifurcation of the plant from HFC and sent its recommendations to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs;
- (c) if so, the reasons for keeping the issue on hold; and
- (d) the time by which the decision on the recommendations of ICICI is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that M/s. Namrup Fertilizers is one of the units

of M/s. Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation which is registered as sick industrial company with the BIFR. BIFR has further reported that ICICI has been appointed as the Operating Agency for M/s. Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Leasing Out the Godowns of FCI

3235. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether the Government are considering to lease out the godowns of Food Corporation of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government are facing lot of difficulties in managing the storage of foodgrains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether FCI has been asked to surrender majority of depots to Central Warehousing Corporation; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise.

Request from State Governments to Start New TV Channels

3236. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the State Governments for starting some new TV/Akashwani Channels/Stations in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number out of these proposed channels which are likely to be reserved for regional languages; and

(c) the action taken in this regard, 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from various State Governments from time to time for setting up of new AIR/Doordarshan Stations/Kendras. Even though, no specific request has been received for starting additional DD channels in regional languages. Doordarshan is presently operating 10 (ten) Regional Language Satellite Channels in various regional languages. Out of these, duration of transmission in respect of Malayalam, Tamil, Bengali, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati and Punjabi have been recently increased to 24 hours. As regards Akashwani, there is no policy to have exclusive channels for regional languages, though programmes relayed from all Akashwani Kendras have adequate local/regional content.

(c) It is the endeavour of the Government to provide Radio/TV coverage to all uncovered pockets/areas of the country in a phased manner depending on availability of resources and inter-se priorities. Request received from sources are kept in view while deciding locations of new AIR/DD centres.

Financial Restructuring Authority for Weak Banks

3237. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Financial Restructuring Authority for the weak Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also finalised the guidelines of this Authority;

(c) if so, the details of guidelines and the objectives of this Authority;

(d) the details of weak banks for which this Authority has been set up; and

(e) the time by which the turn around is likely to be completed by the said Authority and the extent to which it is likely to help to revive these weak banks?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Note Printing Paper

3238. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of paper factories which produce paper for printing of currency notes in the country and the installed capacity thereof, location-wise;

(b) whether the production of paper of these factories has been as per the installed capacity during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are importing paper for printing of Indian currency notes from foreign countries;

(d) if so, the quantum thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of the paper within the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Paper for printing of currency notes is produced only at Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad, M.P. The present installed capacity of the Mill is 4500 MT.

(b) Due to various reasons such as old machines and the additional security features which have been incorporated in the paper, the production capacity is less than the installed capacity.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The present contract for import of currency paper by Currency Note Press, Nasik/Bank Note Press, Dewas is 10,450 MT; and for Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited (BRBNML) 18,150 MT.

(e) As setting up of a paper mill requires huge investment, Government has decided to encourage setting up of paper mill in the private sector.

[English]

Investment by Indian Companies Abroad

3239. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Indian companies who have made acquisitions abroad;

(b) the extent of their investment in each case;

(c) the return in terms of profits to country;

(d) whether Government are monitoring the performance of these companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the names of Indian companies who have made acquisitions in 64 overseas concerns with equity stake of over 50% and the extent of such investments are given in enclosed Statement I. The available information in RBI on the returns in respect of 10 Joint ventures/Wholly

Owned Subsidiaries (JV/WOS) from such investment by way of dividend royalty, consultancy fees etc. are given in enclosed statement II.

(d) and (e) The performance of the JV/WOS is monitored by the Reserve Bank of India through the Annual Performance Reports (APRs) submitted by the Indian companies after the finalisation of the annual accounts. APRs contain information relating to the turnover, net profit, repatriation made *vis-a-vis* entitlements, non-equity exports actually made, etc.

Statement I

List of Approvals for overseas acquisitions (majority stake) By Indian companies from 1st January 1960 to 31st July, 2000

(Amount in US\$ million)

Indian Promoter Co.	Date of approval	Country	Equity	Loan (L)/ Guarantee (G)	% of equity
1	2	3	4	5	6
Applitech Solutions Ltd.	14.6.1999	Singapore	0.14		100
Applitech Solutions Ltd.	14.6.1999	Australia	000*		100
Applitech Solutions Ltd.	14.6.1999	USA	0.02		100
Arasan International	6.5.2000	USA	0.27		100
Atul Ltd.	2.1.1997	U.K.	1.66	(G) 0.83	100
Avon Cycles Ltd.	6.1.1997	Tanzania	1.95		100
Berger Paints India Ltd.	2.5.2000	Nepal	0.69	(L) 0.29	100
BFL Software Ltd.	8.6.2000	USA	168.03		100
Choice Trading Corporation	23.6.1992	USA	0.01		100
CMC Ltd.	28.4.1997	USA	1.50		100
CMC Ltd.	29.9.1991	USA	0.10		100
Data Line Transcription	26.7.2000	USA	0.11		100
East India Hotels Ltd.	12.7.1999	BVI	8.10		100
Eastern Software System	21.10.1999	Indonesia	0.36		100
Euro-Vista Trading Co.	13.2.1992	Singapore	0.08		65
GE Indian Services HoC	22.3.2000	Mauritius	000*		100
Genesys Technology Ltd.	4.1.2000	USA	0.10		100
Global Telesystems Ltd.	24.3.1995	Mauritius	3.00		100
Goa Carbons Ltd.	31.1.2000	Mauritius	0.03		100
Gujarat Glass Ltd.	22.7.1999	Sri Lanka	9.05		100

1	2	3	4	5	6
H.G.S. Apparels Pvt. Ltd.	5.7.1993	USA	0.15		75
IFB Industries Ltd.	22.9.1997	Mauritius	2.18	(L) 1.70	100
Indian Card Clothing	6.11.1997	U.K.	0.35		60
Indian Organic Chemical	20.5.1999	Mauritius	000*		100
Ind. Telesoft Pvt. Ltd.	18.1.2000	USA	0.07		100
Ind. Telesoft Pvt. Ltd.	18.1.2000	USA	0.01		100
Infotech Enterprises	26.7.1999	U.K.	3.52		100
J.K. Informatics Ltd.	29.10.1999	USA	0.03		100
Kissan Products Ltd.	8.11.1994	Nepal	0.09		53
KLG Systel Ltd.	10.4.2000	USA	5.65		100
KLG Systel Ltd.	9.1.2000	USA	5.87		51
Leading Edge Systems	31.3.2000	Bermuda	139.40		100
Maersk India Ltd.	10.4.2000	Nepal	0.01		95
Mafatlal Industries Ltd.	9.1.1996	Channel Islands	8.47	(G) 5.98	8
Mafatlal Industries Ltd.	13.6.1996	Channel Islands			
ICICI Securities & FI	25.4.1996	Channel Islands			
Mascon Technical Services	19.7.1996	USA	1.58		100
Modi Entertainment Ne	10.4.2000	Mauritius	0.10		100
Nalli Vishwanath	21.9.1992	Singapore	0.06		100
NIIT Ltd.	21.9.1995	U.K.	5.00		100
Ogilvy & Mather Ltd.	19.3.1999	Sri Lanka	0.45		75
Pan Music & Magazines	5.3.1999	France	0.10	(L) 2.30	100
Ramesh Flowers Ltd.	1.10.1999	USA	0.07		70
Rave Technologies	14.6.2000	U.K.	1.59		100
Real Times Holding (P)	20.5.2000	USA	0.50		51.95
Sejal Gems Pvt. Ltd.	5.3.1999	USA	0.05		90
Shriram Global Techno	6.7.2000	BVI	0.50		100
Silicon Software Desi	29.7.1998	U.K.	0.04		100
Silicon Automation System	17.3.1998	Japan	0.08		100
Silverline Industries	27.12.1999	USA	46.25		100
SNR Softech Pvt. Ltd.	18.10.1999	USA	0.01		51
SSI Ltd.	3.11.1999	USA	2.76		100

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sterling Infotech Ltd.	23.12.1999	Singapore	0.68		87.5
Strides Arcolab Ltd.	5.1.2000	USA	8.01	(G) 4.02	100
Subex Systems Ltd.	6.1.2000	USA	6.71		100
Suvi Information System	31.5.1999	USA	000*	000	100
SVG Software Pvt. Ltd.	19.3.1999	USA	0.05		66.67
Synergy Login System	20.5.2000	Singapore	0.44		100
System America India	4.5.2000	Canada	0.18		100
Tata Tea Ltd.	6.3.2000	U.K.	101.69		86.11
Teamasia Semiconductor	8.5.2000	Mauritius	6.48		100
Techmatic (India) Pvt. Ltd.	16.8.1999	U.K.	000*		100
Television Eighteen India	5.11.1998	mauritius	1.00		100
Usha Beltron Ltd.	17.9.1998	USA	0.13		100
Usha Beltron Ltd.	27.7.1999	U.K.	7.75	(G) 3.00	100
Wockhardt Ltd.	8.5.2000	USA	50.00	(L) 20.00	100
Zee Telefilms Ltd.	23.9.1999	BVI	470.59		100
Zenith Infotech Ltd.	10.9.1999	Singapore	0.03		100

Note: Subsequent additional investments in an existing concern acquired earlier is not counted as separate acquisition.

* Investment amount less than US\$ 10,000.

Statement II

Inflow from Overseas Companies

Name of Indian Promoter	Inflow in Indian Rupees (000 omitted)
1	2
Avon Cycles Ltd.	58066.029
CMC Ltd.	3607.9456
Global Telesystems Ltd.	13096
Global Telesystems Ltd.	2335.608
Indian Card Clothing Company	1258.623
Indian Card Clothing Company	1100.2464
Indian Hotels Co. Ltd.	16713
Indian Organic Chemical	1947.825

1	2
Janpath Investments & Holdings	588087
Sonata Software Ltd.	45900
Sriram Global Techno Ltd.	4328.5
Sriram Global Techno Ltd.	4251.02
Usha Beltron Ltd.	7945
Usha Beltron Ltd.	5386.192
Usha Beltron Ltd.	2356.459

[Translation]

Assistance by Tobacco Board

3240. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Tobacco Board is providing assistance to tobacco producers in Bihar;

(b) whether there is any proposal to disband the Tobacco Board and to permit the non-Government parties to operate tobacco business; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) FCV is not produced in Bihar.

(b) and (c) There is a recommendation by the Commission to review Administrative Laws to repeal the Tobacco Board Act, 1975. Tobacco trade is operated by private enterprise. Tobacco Board's Intervention in the purchase of FCV tobacco is governed by provisions in the Tobacco Board Act, 1975.

[English]

Maintenance of Golden Fort of Jaisalmer (Rajasthan)

3241. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether existence of Jaisalmer Fort is in danger due to neglect and lack of proper maintenance of this unique complex of architectural World fame monument;

(b) whether 6 labour died some time back due to collapse of its wall as a result of poor maintenance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken for proper repair and maintenance of this Heritage monument; and

(e) the details of funds allocated for repair and maintenance of this monument and spent during the last three years and percentage progress achieved?

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

(b) and (c) Six persons comprising of unauthorised stall owners and local people died as a result of the collapse of a portion of the fort wall in 1997. As per the administrative enquiry ordered by the District Collector, Jaisalmer the collapse of the wall was due to a combination of factors including the impact of time and nature on the fort wall.

(d) and (e) The Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken measures to repair the portions of fortification which have breached.

The expenditure incurred on the maintenance and conservation of the Jaisalmer Fort during the last 3 years is as under:—

1997-98	Rs. 7,26,450.00
1998-99	Rs. 14,94,389.00
1999-2000	Rs. 18,00,827.00

New Satellite Channels

3242. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any viewership study has been made on three new satellite channels, Doordarshan Sports, Doordarshan News and Gyan Darshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not how do Government know the percentage of viewership, peak timings etc. and how do they analyse the impact of these services;

(d) the revenue earned through advertisements on each of these three channels during the last six months; and

(e) the efforts made to popularize and get more viewers for these channels?

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) No separate study has been conducted to assess the viewership of the DD-News, DD-Sports and Gyandarshan channels. However, Doordarshan is subscribing to Television Audience Measurements (TAM) Ratings which is giving the reach/viewership of these channels at regular intervals.

(d) The revenue earned by Doordarshan through advertisements during the last six months (Feb., 2000 to July, 2000);

Doordarshan Sports: Rs. 45.71 crore

Doordarshan News: Nil

Gyan Darshan: Nil

(e) The efforts to promote and popularize these channels include improved programming and transmission, advertisements about these channels in non-electronic media, and telecasting promos on other channels of Doordarshan.

Global Investors

3243. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether while addressing the Global Investors meet on June 6, 2000 in Bangalore he called upon the States to invite global investors to carry forward second generation economic reforms;

(b) if so, the extent of global investments committed or assured in respect of different States, especially Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Assam, indicating the names of intending investors, the sector of investment and the extent thereof; and

(c) the extent of such investment is expected in respect of infrastructure sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) In his inaugural address at the Global Investor's Meet organised by the Government of Karnataka at Bangalore on 5th of June, 2000, the Finance Minister emphasised upon the irreversibility of the on-going process of economic reforms. He said that the economy would be liberalised further in future to encourage more private participation, including foreign investment, in priority areas, particularly for infrastructure development. He also indicated that the second phase of economic reforms would focus upon reforms at the state level for facilitating infrastructure development.

Rubber Industries in Kerala

3244. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of FDI sought by the Rubber Industries in Kerala and the details of the sanctioned proposals;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to promote the export of Rubber and Rubber products, particularly in Kerala;

(c) the annual turnover of various Rubber Industries in the State and the details of their production, sales and profits during the last three years; and

(d) the number of Regional Centres of Rubber Export Promotion Council located in Kerala and the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) A total number of 8 proposals (6 Financial + 2 Technical) involving Foreign Direct Investment of Rs. 56.04 Crore, have been received and approved in respect of the Rubber Industries in Kerala during the post liberalisation period, i.e. from 1.8.1991 upto 30.6.2000.

(b) to (d) Export of natural rubber is free under the present EXIM Policy. Government of India is taking all possible steps to promote export of rubber goods through the nodal agency, namely, The Export Promotion Council for Chemicals and Allied Products (CAPEXIL) and is making continuous endeavours in this direction. The statewide, industrywise data on the production, sales and profits of rubber products are not centrally maintained.

Sale of Auto Parts

3245. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study conducted by Automotive Component Manufacturers Association has revealed that the Union Government was suffering a revenue loss of Rs. 300 crore annually by the Sale of spurious automobile parts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the action plan formulated for meeting the challenge posed by spurious components; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) had commissioned National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to conduct a study on counterfeit auto parts on a national basis. Based on a survey, NCAER has estimated that the value of production of spurious components in respect of twelve specified automobile components was Rs. 1459 crore in 1997-98. On this basis and on certain assumptions, the NCAER has estimated that the revenue loss to the Central Government in the shape of central excise duty and corporate income

tax was of the order of Rs 300 crore and the revenue loss to the State Governments in respect of Central/State sales tax and Octroi/entry tax was of the order of Rs. 165 crore.

(c) and (d) The Trade and Merchandise Act, 1958 contains provisions against falsifying or falsely applying trade marks and false trade descriptions etc. In addition the Government has enacted the Trade Marks Act, 1999, making penal provisions more stringent against counterfeiting of goods.

[Translation]

Regional Rural Banks

3246. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the loans disbursed by Regional Rural Banks in different States to agriculture sector during the last three years, up-to June 30, 2000;

(b) the State-wise number of complaints received by the Government regarding irregularities committed in disbursing loans by these banks during the above period;

(c) the action taken by the Government in regard to these complaints;

(d) the ceiling of the loan being provided by the above banks to the farmers;

(e) whether the Government propose to enhance this ceiling; and

(f) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The loans disbursed by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in different States for agriculture sector for the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (latest available) is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) No specific complaints have been received by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) The scale of finance for crop loan is fixed crop-wise, district-wise by the District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) consisting of officials from State Agricultural Department, Banks, progressive farmers etc. as per the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India/ National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development. This is also revised periodically. Thus, banks have the freedom to decide the quantum of loan to the borrowers treating the unit cost as guideline and also depending upon the field level conditions. Hence, there is no need for revision of scale of finance at the Government level.

Statement

State-wise loans disbursed by Regional Rural Banks

(Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Total	of which Agriculture & Allied	Total	of which Agriculture & Allied	Total	Of which Agriculture & Allied
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Haryana	14240.31	7728.17	15572.49	10671.17	17999.05	11203.68
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2641.61	432.76	3153.03	465.41	4282.91	606.80
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1724.37	499.46	2482.99	594.53	2798.28	766.47
4.	Punjab	6609.99	4859.34	9731.46	6444.20	11272.96	7739.67
5.	Rajasthan	22202.56	8438.00	27461.32	12195.97	33880.20	14748.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	481.31	101.30	1112.32	140.42	899.84	179.74
7.	Assam	3285.11	413.58	4049.30	527.08	4887.97	734.60
8.	Manipur	106.70	9.79	157.85	14.50	101.18	6.21
9.	Meghalaya	743.53	147.71	800.80	189.05	892.06	221.22
10.	Mizoram	315.29	68.56	481.43	51.43	387.46	36.87
11.	Nagaland	43.09	43.09	21.46	2.00	23.71	0.66
12.	Tripura	300.64	142.87	1250.32	138.90	1603.87	166.37
13.	Bihar	18061.47	5732.66	19367.84	5373.64	22804.21	7341.01
14.	Orissa	17309.16	6598.54	24350.68	7080.52	30041.70	7723.79
15.	West Bengal	14435.55	3020.22	15707.71	2824.36	21264.37	3136.94
16.	Madhya Pradesh	20205.66	8268.86	27384.75	11659.90	33614.17	15577.87
17.	Uttar Pradesh	56439.26	26701.38	62973.27	31419.78	81365.87	40677.61
18.	Gujarat	11803.04	7771.66	15136.76	9349.75	18619.90	11884.59
19.	Maharashtra	11870.46	5056.74	12942.37	5687.90	17582.02	8634.96
20.	Andhra Pradesh	64193.42	37266.95	79897.41	40270.03	93595.42	49726.61
21.	Karnataka	61955.54	30751.10	69563.07	35734.62	77972.09	37873.78
22.	Kerala	42997.00	15782.00	50072.00	20443.00	56899.68	24883.22
23.	Tamil Nadu	20041.96	4987.99	23092.94	8967.40	23291.67	10583.21
	All India	392007.03	174822.73	466763.57	210245.56	556080.59	254454.74

[English]

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

Setting up of More High Power Transmitters in North-East

3247. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set more high power transmitters, low power transmitters and TV extension services/studios in North-East during the current financial year;

(c) the central assistance has been provided so far to the States for this purpose, 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. 12 transmitters for DD1 service and 2 transmitters for DD2 service are under implementation in the North Eastern States. Locations of these transmitters are given in the Annexure.

(c) All the projects are being implemented by Prasar Bharati and not through the State Governments. As such the question of central assistance to States for implementation of the projects does not arise.

Smuggling of Mobile Phones

3248. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs Air Intelligence Unit has arrested five Delhi based passengers for smuggling 115 mobile phones worth Rs. 6.3 lakhs at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai on May 28, 2000; and

(b) if so, the facts with full details thereof?

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

(b) The officers of Air Intelligence Unit, Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai have seized 115 mobile phones collectively valued at Rs. 6.30 lakhs in two separate cases, from 5 lady passengers on 27.5.2000, who had arrived at Mumbai as domestic passengers from Delhi. In both the cases, mobile phones were found on the person, ingeniously concealed in specially made white coloured "pyjamas" worn by the lady passengers, under their saris/salwars. The mobile phones recovered have been seized under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962. All the five lady passengers were also arrested, and produced before the judicial magistrate and have since been enlarged on bail.

Patent Law Treaty

3249. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Intellectual Property Organisation has circulated a new draft on Patent Law Treaty;

(b) if so, whether the new draft is found to be a down version of previous draft;

(c) if so, the difference between the previous draft and the new one;

(d) whether the Government have taken note of this charge;

(e) whether these changes would be reflected in the new patent law of India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (f) The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) organised a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) at Geneva during the period from May 11 to June 2, 2000. The Treaty was adopted on June 1, 2000. The adoption of the Treaty was the culmination of an exercise undertaken by WIPO over several years to simplify and streamline procedures for obtaining and maintenance of a patent. Since such formalities vary from country to country, the procedural standardisation achieved through the PLT will offer several advantages to both inventors and the patent offices, such as,

- use of standardised forms and simplified procedures that reduce the risks of error.
- cost reductions for inventors, applicants and patent attorneys
- elimination of cumbersome and complicated procedures
- improved efficiency of patent offices and lower operating costs.

The Treaty will come into force after ten countries deposit their instruments of ratification or accession with the Director General of WIPO. India has not signed the Treaty. Further, as the Treaty deals with procedural aspects, incorporation of the provisions of the Treaty in the new patents law does not arise.

Indo-Italy Trade Agreement

3250. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Italy trade agreement has been signed recently to promote growth of trade turnover; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of HEC

3251. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (HEC) has been declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The production of HEC for the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)		
1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
260.88	271.61	270.12

(b) and (c) The production of HEC is low & stagnant mainly because of shortage of orders. The matter has been taken up with user PSUs, Departments/Ministries to secure more orders. The performance is also monitored through regular review meetings.

Foreign Consultative Firms

3252. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the country-wise total number of Consultative Firms working in the Country at present;

(b) the total income of these firms; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for preventing the adverse effect of these foreign firms on the domestic Consultative Firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The information is not centrally maintained.

(c) No adverse effect on the domestic consultative firms has been noticed by the Government.

Statement

List of Foreign Technical/Financial Collaboration cases for consultancy firms approved from August, 1991 to May, 2000

Sl. No.	Name of Country firms	Total Number of Consultancy
1	2	3
1.	Australia	22
2.	Austria	5
3.	Bahrain	2
4.	Belgium	2
5.	Bermuda	2
6.	Canada	13
7.	China	1
8.	Czech Republic	2
9.	Denmark	6
10.	Finland	3
11.	France	20
12.	Germany	60
13.	Hong Kong	6
14.	Hungary	1
15.	Isle of Man	1
16.	Israel	3
17.	Italy	10
18.	Japan	16
19.	Korea (South)	4
20.	Malaysia	4
21.	Mauritius	23
22.	NRI	13
23.	Netherlands	26
24.	New Zealand	1
25.	Norway	2
26.	Poland	2
27.	Russia	6

1	2	3
28.	Singapore	27
29.	Slovakia	1
30.	Spain	2
31.	Sweden	7
32.	Switzerland	18
33.	Taiwan	1
34.	Thailand	2
35.	U.K.	87
36.	U.S.A.	137
37.	Ukraine	3
38.	British Virginia	2
39.	West Indies	2
40.	Unindicated Country	1
41.	Iran	1
42.	Vietnam	1
43.	Iceland	1
Total:		549

[English]

Merger of MITCO in MMTC

3253. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MITCO has been merged in MMTC with all its staff and workers;

(b) if so, whether all the staff/workers getting the pay at par of MMTC staff/workers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The scheme sanctioned by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) envisaged that the terms and conditions of service applicable to erstwhile MITCO's employees on the effective date were in no way less favourable to them than those applicable to them immediately before the transfer date. Accordingly, BIFR's order is being complied with by MMTC.

Foreign Exchange Bureau

3254. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Reserve Bank of India to allow foreign exchange bureaux and shops on the lines of telephone STD booths in major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remove regulatory constraints for encashment of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) RBI is interested in enlarging the retail network of foreign exchange encashment facilities in India and to this effect is prepared to issue more licences for setting up forex Bureaux/Money changing shops with a view to making it convenient for the NRIs/Tourists/Businessmen visiting India to encash foreign currency or foreign travellers cheques or acquire Indian Rupees against International Credit Cards.

At present the bank's designated branches, who are authorised dealers in Forex and the money changes extend such conversion/encashment facilities. With the objective of improving such facilities, RBI has recently written to the banks to improve the facilities available at various branches and consider opening kiosks dedicated to provide the facilities. RBI would also consider licencing more non-banks institutions as Full Fledged Money Changers and Restricted Money Changers.

An organisation registered under the Companies Act, with a net owned funds of not less than Rs. 25 lakhs can apply for a Full Fledged Money Changers licence. In the case of Restricted Money Changers (RMC), no net owned funds requirement is stipulated. RMC licences can be given to a number of establishments on the lines of telephone STD booth in all places depending on the demand for such facilities.

(d) Regulations for encashment of foreign exchange are reviewed on a continuous.

Translation]

Privatisation of AIR

3255. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided or contemplating to take any decision for the privatisation of AIR; and

(b) if so, the reasons for privatisation of sensitive broadcasting medium *i.e.* AIR?

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.

[English]

Equity of Foreign Companies

3256. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow equity of 49 percent to the foreign participation out of the total equity in the field of satellite channel;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation to restrict the foreign participation only upto 25 percent out of the total equity; and

(c) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

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 has decided to permit, subject to security clearance, private companies incorporated in India with permissible foreign equity of 49% (including NRI/OCB/PIO, same as in case of telecom sector) to set up uplinking hub (teleports) for hiring out to broadcasters. Government has also decided to permit uplinking of satellite TV channels irrespective of their ownership or equity holding or management control subject to security clearance and compliance with Programme and Advertising Codes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Expert Committee to Overhaul Archaeology Survey of India

3257. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted an Expert Committee to overhaul Archaeology Survey of Indian Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its composition;

(c) the terms and reference of the above Committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A Review Committee has been constituted to streamline the functioning of the Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) to (d) The composition and the terms of reference of the Committee are given in enclosed Statement. The term of the Committee is upto 31st March, 2001.

Statement

The Archaeological Survey of India, an attached office of the Department of Culture entrusted with the gigantic task of preservation of development of ancient and historical monuments of this country has completed about 140 years of its existence. In order to streamline the functioning of the Archaeological Survey of India, the Government of India has resolved to constitute a Review Committee consisting of the following members:

- | | | |
|-------|--|----------|
| (i) | Padma Bhushan Prof. B.B. Lal
Director General (Retd.), ASI
F/7, Haus Khas, New Delhi. | Chairman |
| (ii) | Shri M.N. Deshpande
Director General (Retd.), ASI
D/25, Press Enclave,
Saket, New Delhi | Member |
| (iii) | Dr. S.R. Rao
Former Dy. D.G., ASI,
1233, 34 CROSS, 26-A Main,
4th Block, Jayanagar,
Bangalore-560041 | Member |

- (iv) Dr. S.P. Gupta **Member**
Chairman
Indian Archaeological Society,
B/17, Qutab Institutional Area,
New Delhi
- (v) Shri O.P. Aggarwal, Addl. D.G. **Member**
Ministry of Defence (Retd.)
And Former Director (Admn.) ASI
B-22, SFS Flats, Sheikh Sarai,
New Delhi.
- (vi) Dr. M.B. Athreya **Member**
Athreya Management System
A-18, Chitranjan Park
New Delhi-110019
- (vii) Dr. A. Sundara **Member**
Former Professor,
Dharwad University, Karnataka
C/o Archaeological Survey of India,
Dharwad Circle,
Dharwad, Karnataka
- (viii) Shri Ravi Bhoothalingam **Member**
Member, CII
7, Shammath Marg,
Delhi-54.
- (ix) Shri R.C. Aggarwal, **Convener &**
Director (Archaeology) **Secretary**
ASI

Terms of Reference of the Review Committee

- (i) Restructuring of the Archaeological Survey of India organization and other things so as to make it more professional and effective.
- (ii) Restructuring of the Institute of Archaeology.
- (iii) Reviewing the Recruitment Rules of Group A Officers of the Survey and making suitable recommendations.
- (iv) Recommending ways and means to improve the working of Technical and Academic activities.
- (v) Any other item which the Committee may deem fit in the interest of improved working of the Survey.

The term of the Review Committee will expire on 31.3.2001.

Investment by NRIs

3258. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) the investment made by NRIs during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, till date, in each State, particularly in Gujarat and Bihar;

(b) the concessions being given to NRIs to attract more and more investments;

(c) whether the investment made by NRIs is not facilitating balanced development of areas; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by the Government to attract more and more investment in backward/rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The statewide inflow of NRI investment is not centrally maintained. However the inflow of NRI investment in the country during 1998, 1999 and 2000 (till date) including investment made in the states of Gujarat and Bihar is as follows:—

Year	Amount of NRI investment (Rs. in lakh)
1998	38914.6
1999	35917.6
2000 (up to June)	16321.0

(b) The general policy and facilities for Foreign Direct Investment as available to foreign investors/company are fully applicable to NRIs as well. In addition Government have extended some concessions specially for NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies having more than 60% stake by the NRIs. These include (i) NRI/OCB investment in the real estate and housing sectors upto 100% (ii) NRI/OCB investment in domestic airlines sector upto 100% and (iii) NRI/OCB investment upto 40% in the banking sector.

(c) and (d) As per the policy of the Government, NRIs are permitted to invest anywhere in India, and therefore, the location of project depends upon the choice of the investor. To attract more investment in backward/rural areas the Government provides Tax incentives and runs schemes like Growth Centre Scheme, Transport

Subsidy Scheme, Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme and Central Interest Subsidy Scheme.

(b) the amount of loans released to each State during 1999-2000; and

Outstanding Loan

3259. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(c) the loan and interest paid back by each State to the Centre during 1998-99, State-wise?

(a) the amount of Central loan outstanding against each State, as on June, 2000;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise amount of Central loan outstanding as on June, 2000, loans released during 1999-2000 and loan and interest paid back to the Centre during 1998-99 in respect of Ministry of Finance

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	State	Amount of Loan outstanding on 30.06.2000	Total Amount released during 1999-2000	Out of total releases, amount of loans released during 1999-2000	Repayment of Loan during 1998-99	Payment of interest during 1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14541.43	7545.25	2973.97	472.07	1441.04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	352.98	908.66	75.52	11.49	32.78
3.	Assam	3012.91	3269.55	456.97	153.68	301.10
4.	Bihar	13227.62	8810.45	3051.18	488.41	1285.73
5.	Goa	681.87	252.21	130.68	33.12	75.56
6.	Gujarat	14554.10	6053.63	3645.08	440.22	1477.58
7.	Haryana	4935.39	1878.68	1090.45	242.85	520.12
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2587.90	1925.40	172.87	53.54	311.83
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2744.91	4603.67	484.24	175.56	343.47
10.	Karnataka	9251.99	4698.54	2014.58	289.40	956.48
11.	Kerala	5485.83	2975.97	1066.66	208.99	601.68
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9187.43	6446.74	2349.64	336.20	896.40
13.	Maharashtra	22610.02	8203.53	4968.6	725.47	2431.16
14.	Manipur	333.19	1000.31	94.27	11.28	30.63
15.	Meghalaya	300.72	748.29	53.11	12.12	31.56
16.	Mizoram	228.23	754.78	49.12	7.41	21.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Nagaland	303.66	1007.19	57.83	13.81	32.03
18.	Orissa	6743.12	4426.14	1244.64	239.03	659.40
19.	Punjab	12246.63	2855.73	1997.46	537.62	1480.33
20.	Rajasthan	9411.06	5434.85	2511.11	299.89	997
21.	Sikkim	195.57	438.95	38.66	7.45	19.10
22.	Tamil Nadu	11081.64	5338.52	2000.53	402.93	1177.13
23.	Tripura	563.68	1260.50	159.21	18.88	52.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	29572.28	14401.59	5707.47	966.60	3010.01
25.	West Bengal	22181.61	9735.55	5629.20	482.30	2137.07
Total:		196335.77	104974.68	42023.05	6630.32	20323.10

FDI in Retail Trading

3260. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

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

(a) whether the Government are reconsidering its earlier policy of not allowing FDI in retail trading and opening the way for foreign companies to deal in retail trading as reported in "The Economic Times" of June 26, 2000 captioned "New Policy on FDI in trading arms likely";

(b) if so, whether the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry had assured the representatives of Business Associations and Members of Parliament that Government would not allow FDI in retail trade;

(c) if so, the reasons behind reconsidering of its earlier decision;

(d) whether any representations from Bombay Small Scale Industries Associations have been received in this regard;

(e) if so, the details and reaction thereto;

(f) the number of requests and proposals received from Foreign Investors/Multi-National Companies in this regard and the details of such proposals;

(g) whether the Government are also re-considering its stand to allow cash and carry, semi-whole-sale and Retailing permission given for FDI; and

(h) if so, whether the Government propose to review its stand to allow Spencer & Co. and Mauritius based company's proposal for cash & carry business in India?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Representation has been received from Mumbai Small Scale Industries Association showing concern on FDI approval to multinational toy retailers to start operations in India more particularly approval granted to M/s. Al-Futtaim Sons & Co. for import, manufacture and sale of toys 'R' Us and its likely adverse affect on the Small Scale Industries. Approval was granted to this company on the ground that toys were an SSI reserved item and therefore the applicant could either sub-contract the manufacture of these toys to SSI units or undertake a 50% export obligation as per policy. However, no permission for retail trading has been given.

(f) As the policy is well-known new requests/proposals are not coming forth. Details of earlier approvals are available in SIA Newsletter, which is widely circulated.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) The approvals were granted as per the prevailing policy on the subject.

[Translation]

Transfer of Assets of Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation

3261. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government have sent any proposal to the Union Government with regard to transfer of some assets of Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation to India Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Venture Capital Fund

3262. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to treat venture capital fund (VCF) as passthrough vehicles thereby eliminating instance of double taxation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have set up a Committee to harmonise rules issued by various agencies like SEBI, RBI, CBDT and DEA;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said Committee have laid down any guidelines norms and regulations for the eligibility criterion for VCFs to avail of the tax concessions and for their registration;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the Activities of VCFs who are availing of tax concessions under section 10 (23FA) of the Income Tax Act 1961?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (f) A Committee was set up by the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to look into various issues regarding Venture Capital. The Government examined the recommendations of the Committee and decided that SEBI would be the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.

The Finance Act, 2000 inserted clause (23FB) in section 10 of the Income Tax Act to provide that the income of a VCF and a VCC set up to raise funds for investment in a Venture Capital Undertaking (VCU) shall be exempted from income-tax, Section 115-U was inserted to provide that any income received by a person out of investment made in a VCC or a VCF shall be chargeable to income-tax in the same manner as if it were the income received by such person had the investment been made directly in the VCU.

Foreign Loan by Central PSUs

3263. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Public Sector Undertakings have taken loans for World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other foreign agencies worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, whether although the Government had returned the loans, it has not recovered dues from PSUs;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover such dues from CPSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The Central Public Sector Undertakings borrow money from various sources including foreign parties such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc. to meet their financial requirements.

(b) to (d) Although the refund of loans including loans from foreign parties depends on the terms and conditions of the loan deeds, the financial viability and paying capacity of the PSU concerned is also an important factor. The Government has an obligation, where it stands as guarantor & ensure timely repayment of the loans by the PSUs from the international bodies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, etc.

Raids on FCI Godowns

3264. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various godowns of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) are being misutilised in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any raids on the FCI godowns during the last two years;

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

(d) the action taken by the Government on the findings of these raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) There is no information about misutilisation of FCI Godowns.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

CBEC Cases Pending in Court

3265. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

As on 1.4.1998		As on 1.4.1999		As on 1.4.2000	
No. of cases	Amount involved (Rs. in cr.)	No. of cases	Amount involved (Rs. in cr.)	No. of cases	Amount involved (Rs. in cr.)
47812	6584	47334	7928	46741	8687

(d) Steps taken to expedite recovery of locked up money in adjudication cases relating to central excise and customs include assignment of a large number of Commissioner-level cases involving substantial revenues to Commissioner of Central Excise (Adjudication) posted at Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai, exclusively for adjudication work; active monitoring of pending cases at various levels, viz. Chief Commissioners, D.G. (Inspection), and the Boards; and instructing the field formations for completing adjudication proceedings in cases involving high demands, on priority basis. The amount locked up in other-than-court cases relating to customs duty as on 31.3.2000 was Rs. 718 crore. There is no provision for adjudication proceedings under the Income Tax Act.

(a) whether as on April 1, 1999, a sum of Rs. 8000 crore were locked up in the cases of adjudication in Central Excise Department on a review made by the Central Board of Excise and Customs;

(b) if so, how much amount has since been recovered and how much more money has been added in adjudication cases;

(c) the number of cases pending adjudication, as on April 1, 1998, April 1, 1999 and April 1, 2000 and how much money is locked up therein; and

(d) the steps taken to tone up the working of the Central Excise and other departments under his Ministry to expedite recovery of locked up money in adjudication cases in central excise, customs and income tax, giving their figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Sir, as on 1.4.1999, a sum of Rs. 7928 crore was locked up in pending adjudication cases in the Central Excise Department.

(b) An amount of Rs. 249 crore has since been recovered out of the aforesaid amount. An amount of Rs. 8763 crore is involved in fresh adjudication cases added.

(c) The number of cases relating to central excise pending adjudication and amount locked up therein, is as follows:

[Translation]

ADB Loan to M.P.

3266. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has sanctioned the loan of 25 crore American dollars to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the first instalment of 10 crore dollars has been released in March, 2000;

(c) the names of the works for which the said loan is proposed to be utilized by the Madhya Pradesh Government; and

(d) the rate of interest and terms and conditions of this loan alongwith the period of repayment of loan?

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Asian Development Bank has approved a loan of US\$ 250 million for Madhya Pradesh Public Resource Management Program Loan.

(b) The first tranche of US\$ 100 million has been disbursed by Asian Development Bank on 17th December, 1999.

(c) The loan is to support the State's efforts to improve human development and satisfy basic human needs through enhanced resource mobilization, improved efficiency of resource use, and reallocation for focused social sector interventions within a medium-term framework of sustainable public finances.

(d) Interest is at the Bank's pool based variable lending rate system for US dollars. It carries a commitment charges of 0.75 percent per annum and the loan is to be repaid in 15 years including a grace period of three years.

[English]

Direct Tax Tribunals

3267. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Direct Tax Tribunals in the country with locations and the number of cases pending with each of them, as on March 31, 2000, alongwith estimated amount involved therein;

(b) the details of outstanding amount recovered by Direct Tax Tribunals during the last three years, Tribunalwise;

(c) the details of fresh directives issued by the Government to the Tribunals and recovery targets set for the current year; and

(d) the proposal for setting up of more Tribunals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) There is only one Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) which deals with direct taxes in the country. ITAT is under the administrative control of Department of Legal Affairs. The pendency of cases with the ITAT as on 31.3.2000 is 2,62,652.

(b) to (d) The Income Tax appellate Tribunals does not recover outstanding amounts. Hence answers to parts (b), (c) & (d) of the Question do not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Tourist Resorts in Rajasthan

3268. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance being provided for the development of world famous Maru Trikon in Rajasthan under the Tourist Resort Development Scheme;

(b) whether any scheme is under consideration to the Government regarding the development of tourist resort, Maru Trikon, with collaboration of O.E.C.F., Japan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bikaner-Barmer is an identified travel circuit in Rajasthan for development of tourism infrastructure. Government have sanctioned projects in this circuit for Central financial assistance in consultation with the State Government. The Central financial assistance sanctioned during the current Plan period is as under:—

Year	No. of Projects	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	2	22.17
1998-99	3	53.20
1999-2000	—	—
2000-2001	1	40.00

(b) and (c) OECF is not taking up any new projects in India at present because the Japanese Government have frozen Yen loans for all new projects as per economic measures following conduct of nuclear tests in May, 1998.

*[English]***Expansion of BHEL Units**

3269. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) proposes to expand its units during Ninth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of the expansion plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. BHEL currently has 14 manufacturing units operating in different parts of the country. During the Ninth Plan period, there is no proposal to expand its units. However, BHEL has taken up a programme for modernisation and upgradation of its facilities at various units.

Production of Programmes by DD/AIR

3270. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Doordarshan and Akashvani Kendras which telecast the programmes produced by themselves location-wise;

(b) whether the Government are allowing the Daltonganj DD Kendra of Bihar to produce and telecast the programmes; and

(c) if so, the time by which the programmes are likely to be started from this Kendra?

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 informed that all AIR Stations are having studios with play back facilities and team of professional programmes officers required to plan and produce programmes in dialects/languages of that particular area. In so far as Doordarshan is concerned, DDKs at Delhi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Mau, Allahabad, Varanasi, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Srinagar, Jammu, Simla, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhopal, Raipur, Panaji, Indore, Guwahati, Chennai, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Bangalore, Gulbarga, Thiruvananthapuram, Pondicherry, Calcutta, Shantiniketan, Jalpaiguri, Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, Patna, Ranchi, Muzaffarpur, Daltonganj, Port

Blair, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Shillong, Tura, Imphal, Itanagar, Kohima, Aizawl and Agra, Telecast programmes produced by themselves. Besides, CPC, Delhi, produces programmes and telecasts on the National Channel and DD-Metro. PPC, Guwahati also produces programmes and telecasts on North-East Service of Doordarshan.

(b) and (c) DDK, Daltonganj is already producing and telecasting programmes locally.

Tax Collection From States

3271. DR. SANJAY PASWAN:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of States in total tax collected the Centre has fallen during the current year as compared to each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor in terms of States share in income tax and excise duty combined during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to see the bottlenecks of fall in receipts of revenue in these segments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The share of States in Central taxes/duties has been rising year after year (except 1997-98) as per details given below:—

2000-2001	Rs. 54079 crore
1999-2000	Rs. 43510 crore
1998-99	Rs. 39145 crore
1997-98	Rs. 43548 crore

During 1997-98, there was abnormal increase in States' share in Central taxes on account of large, non-recurring receipts under VDIS' 97.

*[Translation]***Entrance of Banks in Insurance Sector**

3272. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four top nationalised banks propose to form any grand alliance with a foreign partner to operate in the insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the share capital proposed to be contributed by each of the banks and the foreign partner, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not received any proposal from nationalised banks to form a grand alliance with a foreign partner to operate in the insurance sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indian Economy

3273. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has got the recognition as the fastest developing economy of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the achievements of the fastest developing economy of India; and

(d) the latest position with regard to industrial development, poverty eradication and financial investment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Human Development Report 2000 published by the United Nations Development Programme has indicated annual growth rate in gross national product (GNP) at 5.6 per cent for India during 1990-98 as against a growth of 5.1 per cent for all developing countries over the same period. However, there are some developing countries which have posted a higher rate of growth than India for the same period. As per the latest available data with Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) was 6.4 per cent in 1999-2000 (revised estimate) as against 6.8 per cent in 1998-99 (quick estimates); the overall growth in the industrial production as reflected by the Index of Industrial Production accelerated from 3.8 per cent in 1998-99 to 8.1 in 1999-2000 and; the real gross domestic capital formation as a percentage of GDP (at market prices, at 1993-94 prices) was 25.1 per cent in 1998-99. The latest official data pertaining to incidence of poverty is available upto 1993-94. According to this, all India poverty ratio declined from 38.9 per cent in 1987-88 to 36 per cent in 1993-94.

[English]

Directorate of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties

3274. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering expansion of the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties commensurate with more commodities of import being brought under OGL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of investigation on indiscriminate dumping on the identified commodity were undertaken by the Directorate during the last year on complaints by domestic industry/trade;

(d) the number of orders of the Designated Authority on anti-Dumping were challenged on appeal with CEGAT and whether the orders were upheld or quashed;

(e) whether the Designated Authority on Anti-Dumping has initiated investigations suo-moto and whether the Designated Authority has the expertise and manpower to identify the situations whereby dumping of commodities in large volumes might threaten the survival of the domestic industry; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties is equipped to deal with all cases of dumping of commodities causing injury to domestic industry. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties will be suitably strengthened as and if required, to cope with increasing number of cases.

(c) The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties has initiated investigations in 19 cases from 1st April, 1999 to 31st March, 2000. The position of the cases is given below:

(i) Final findings	10
(ii) Preliminary findings	7
(iii) Cases pending preliminary findings	2

(d) The number of orders of the Designated Authority on Anti-dumping challenged in Customs, Excise, Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT) are 20. Out of these in 7 cases Designated Authority's orders have been

sustained, in 1 it has been partially sustained, 3 cases have been dismissed by CEGAT as not maintainable under the rules. In 3 cases Designated Authority's orders have been quashed. CEGAT is still considering 6 cases.

(e) and (f) Under Rule 5 (4) of the Customs Tariff Rules of 1995, the Designated Authority may initiate investigations suo-moto, if it is satisfied with the information received from the Collector of Customs appointed under the Customs Act, 1962 or from any other source that sufficient evidence exists regarding dumping of the foreign goods, material injury to the domestic industry and casual link between the two. The Designated Authority has initiated suo-moto investigations in one case in 1995 against USA.

Development of Print Media

3275. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to simplify and streamline the procedure regarding clearance of huge back-log of title clearance for periodicals/newspapers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith present status of pending titles, State-wise;

(c) the details of the steps taken recently for development of print media and impact thereof; and

(d) the details of other major decisions/changes in advertisement policy etc. under consideration including foreign direct investment for print media?

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) An exercise to de-block the titles, which were blocked by publishers without being used, was undertaken in a phased manner from the year 1998. As on 31.3.2000, nearly 1.87 lakh titles have been de-blocked. There is no back log of applications for title verification, pending with Registrar of Newspapers for India, as on 31.7.2000.

(c) Much of print media consisting of newspapers and journals is in the private sector. As such Government has not taken specific steps for development of print media.

(d) A Group of Ministers has been constituted to review existing sectoral policies and sectoral equity caps and decide necessary changes with respect to foreign investment in various sectors including the advertising

sector. At present, foreign direct investment in the advertising sector is permissible upto 74% of the paid up equity, under the automatic approval route. Foreign direct investment in the print media sector continues to be guided by the 1955 Cabinet decision, which prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals and publication to Indian editions of foreign newspaper/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.

Disinvestment Proposals

3276. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANGA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain proposals have been referred to the Disinvestment Commission during 1998, 1999 and upto June 30, 2000;

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

(c) whether the Commission has offered its recommendations on these proposals so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof proposals-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to take some action to implement these recommendations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and 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) and (b) Since its inception in 1996 72 proposals have been referred to the Disinvestment Commission. Since 1998 the following Public Sector Undertakings have been referred to Disinvestment Commission for consideration:—

1998

1. Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation.
2. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.
3. Project & Equipment Corporation of India Ltd.
4. Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.
5. Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd.
6. Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (I) Ltd. (MECON)

7. National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
8. Spong Iron India Ltd.
9. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.
10. Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.

1999

11. Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.
12. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.
13. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.
14. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
15. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.
16. Bengal Immunity Ltd.
17. Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
18. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
19. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
20. CMC Ltd.

21. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.

22. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.

Out of these one PSU namely CMC Ltd. was withdrawn from the Disinvestment Commission. Six PSUs namely Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Bengal Immunity Ltd., Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., and Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. are under reference to BIFR. In the case of these 6 PSUs the Commission has not given any recommendation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Out of these PSUs the Government has decided in principle to disinvest in the following PSUs namely Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation of India Ltd, State Trading Corporation, MSTC Ltd., Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., HOCL and HIL Ltd.

Statement

S.No.	Name of P.S.U.	Main Recommendations
1	2	3
1.	M.M.T.C.	Offer of 51% equity through strategic buyer alongwith reduction in employee strength through implementation of suitable VRS. Offer of sale to public, when the value of the residual equity holding of Government increases as a result of transfer of management control.
2.	State Trading Corp. India Ltd.	Offer of entire Government of India holding to a strategic buyer, after reserving 5% share for employees who opt for VRS at a discount to the buyers price. Manpower reduction through VRS should be undertaken simultaneously with the decision for disinvestment.
3.	Project & Equipment Corpn. of India Ltd.	No disinvestment at present. In case there is no significant increase in the turnover and profitability of PEC from the exports from the small and medium scale industries within two years, the Government should offer 100% equity in the company to strategic buyer. In the absence of investor interest in PEC, there will be no alternative but to close the company.
4.	Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.	Govt. should try to close down the enterprise. If it does not find it feasible to do so, the only alternative would be to continue the enterprise by meeting recurring annual cash losses of around Rs. 60-70 crores per annum, after meeting statutory liabilities of Rs. 136 crores.

1	2	3
5.	Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd.	100% disinvestment along with MSTCs holding in FSNL.
6.	Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (I) Ltd.	Sale of a minimum of 51% along with an appropriate role in management to a strategic partner who has Lump Sump Turnkly Capability.
7.	National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	Offer of shares upto 20-25% to selected JV partner in return for joining hands with NMDC in their 4 overseas venture(s). Subsequently disinvestment through offer of sale. If disinvestment of up to 20-25% to selected JV partner is not feasible, equity upto 49% should be sold in stages in domestic or international market. Government should retain 51% of the equity till an effective regulatory mechanism is put in place to regulate exploration and export of iron ore.
8.	Sponge Iron India Ltd.	100% disinvestment, after cleaning of the Balance Sheet of the Company.
9.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	Disinvest not less than 51% holding through strategic sale. The strategic sale should be initiated simultaneously with the implementation of finance restructuring. Later, GOI can disinvest its balance holding through public issue to realise better value for its remaining holding.
10.	Mineral Exploratioin Corporation Ltd.	GOI to choose from three options 1. Implement VRS, allow MECI to continue and apply for PLs. 2. Sell 100% equity on as-is-where-is basis. 3. Closure
11.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	Disinvestment of 33% of HOCL shares of the company's equity out of the GOI holding of 59% to a strategic buyer while retaining 26% with GOI.
12.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	Govt. should offer a minimum of 51% of the equity to a strategic buyer along with management control in order to enable it to diversify its present range with new technology and additional investment.
13.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	Induction of Financial Institutions as strategic partners through a disinvestment of 20% of BHEL's equity in their favour. FIs may be offered equity stake of 10% in the company and foreign private equity funds/FI further 10% equity with appropriate role in management to both Indian and foreign parties. The Government should enter into separate shareholder agreements with the strategic partners to ensure that, in the event of the their exit from shareholding in BHEL, Government's prior consent or first refusal is taken, so that the new buyer is also acceptable to Government as a strategic partner, from the point of view of its support to BHEL, and is willing to enter into an appropriate shareholder agreement with Government.
14.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd.	Minimum of 51% of RCF's equity should be offered to a strategic buyer with transfer of management control. The selection of strategic buyer should be done through global competitive bidding.
15.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	GOI should write-off the entire accumulated losses of RINL against its entire 'Share Money pending Allotment' and 'Preference Share Capital' and part of Equity Capital to keep the company from being referred to BIFR and to clean up its balance sheet. The Government should initiate the process of disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity to a strategic buyer.

*[Translation]***Special Package for Foreign Tourists**

3277. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced some special package to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

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

(b) Special packages for foreign tourists including NRIs/PIO are as follows:—

(i) Discover India packages on Indian Airlines.

(ii) Indrail passes for unlimited travel on trains.

(iii) Foreign tourists quota on travelling through international tourist bureaus.

(c) The foreign exchange earned is compiled on national basis and not on specific packages.

*[English]***Production Centre at Udupi**

3278. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan propose to open a in-house production studio in Udupi in Karnataka to tap the rich and unique cultural and social heritage of the area of Dakshin Kannada;

(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) to (c) Two studio centres at Bangalore and Gulbarga are at present functioning in Karnataka. At present, there is no scheme to set up any other studio in Karnataka. Further expansion of studio facilities in the State will depend on availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

*[Translation]***Foreign Banks**

3279. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loss and profit account of the foreign banks functioning in the country during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) whether the turnover of foreign banks has been more in comparison to that of the Indian Banks from June, 1998 to February, 1999; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total net profits of the Foreign Banks operating in India during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under:

1997-98

1998-99

Rs. 629.78 crore.

Rs. 691.00 crore

The details are given in the enclosed Statement I & II.

(b) and (c) Details of deposits and advances of Indian banks and foreign banks operating in India are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	Deposits (Rs.)	%	Advances (Rs.)	%
Public Sector Banks	636860.10	82.79	297350.24	80.46
Private Sector Banks	84915.19	11.04	42710.18	11.56
Foreign Banks	47453.29	6.17	29506.82	7.98

As would be seen the business of foreign banks is not more than that of Indian banks during the year 1998-99.

Statement-I

Details of Net Profit & Loss A/C as on 31.3.1998
Foreign Banks

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Bank	Net profit/Loss
1	2	3
1.	Abudhabi Commercial Bank	2.06
2.	ABN Amro Bank	66.07
3.	American Express	68.16
4.	ANZ Grindlays Banks	229.88
5.	Bank of America NT & SA	177.00
6.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	-16.24
7.	Mashreq Bank	-9.02
8.	Bank of Nova Scotia	7.07
9.	Bank of Tokyo	-336.42
10.	Credit Agricole Indosuez	-14.74
11.	Banque Nationale De Paris	18.14
12.	Barclays Bank	6.08
13.	British Bk of Mid East	3.09
14.	Citi Bank	119.22
15.	Credit Lyonnais	-6.60
16.	Deutsche Bank	117.31
17.	Hongkong Bank	72.74
18.	Oman International	-3.25
19.	Sakura Bank	1.57
20.	Sanwa Bank	3.70
21.	Societe Generale	10.35
22.	Sonali Bank	1.80
23.	Standard Chartered Bank	66.70
24.	Toronto Dominion Bank	1.24
25.	Commerz Bank	-0.85
26.	Bank of Cylon	3.07
27.	Slam Commercial Bank	6.13

1	2	3
28.	Dreodmer bank	4.44
29.	Dev Bank of Singapore	1.49
30.	Bank Int. Indonesia	-9.06
31.	Arab Bangladesh Bank	0.76
32.	CHO Hung Bank	4.12
33.	China Trust Com. Bank	0
34.	Fuji Bank	4.69
35.	Krung Thai Bank	2.30
36.	Overseas Chinese Bank	0.39
37.	Com. Bank of Korea	0.66
38.	Sumitomo Bank	2.01
39.	Hanil Bank	1.13
40.	ING Bank	10.75
41.	Chase Manhattan Bank	3.14
42.	State Bank of Mauritius	8.70
Total:		629.78

Statement II

Details of Net Profit & Loss A/C as on 31.3.1999

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Bank	Net profit/Loss
1	2	3
1.	Abudhabi Commercial Bank	2
2.	ABN Amro Bank	87
3.	American Express	8
4.	ANZ Grindlays Bank	175
5.	Bank of America NT & SA	144
6.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	3
7.	Mashreq Bank	-10
8.	Bank of Nova Scotia	21
9.	Bank of Tokyo	-53

1	2	3
10.	Credit Agricole Indosui	-5
11.	Bankque National De Paris	23
12.	Barclays Bank	1
13.	British Bank of Mid. East	-54
14.	Citi Bank	117
15.	Credit Lyonnais	15
16.	Dresdner Bank	50
17.	Hongkong Bank	54
18.	Oman International Bank	-13
19.	Skura Bank	-26
20.	Sanwa Bank	3
21.	Societie Generale	-22
22.	Sonali Bank	2
23.	Standard Chartered Bank	169
24.	ING Bank	1
25.	The Chase Manhattan Bank	2
26.	State Bank of Mauritius	6
27.	Development Bank of Singapore	3
28.	Dresdner Bank	-6
29.	Commerz Bank	1
30.	Bank of Ceylon	3
31.	The Siam Commercial Bank	4
32.	Bank International Indonesia	-19
33.	Arab Bangla Desh Bank	2
34.	CHO Hung Bank	5
35.	China Trust Bank	-1
36.	Fuji Bank	0
37.	Krungthai Bank	1
38.	Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation	2
39.	Hanil Bank	1
40.	Toronto Dominion Bank	2
41.	Morgan Guaranti Trust Co.	-11
42.	Bank Muscat	-1
43.	KBC Bank NV	-1
44.	The Sumitomo Bank Limited	6
Total:		691

*[English]***Share of States in Export Trade**

3280. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of different states towards the countries export during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to improve the export infrastructure in these States, especially those which are making a significant contribution on the export front?

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

(b) The Central Government evolves plan and formulates its policy to promote exports from all the States/Union Territories of India. The Government strives to boost export infrastructure by giving assistance to States through, *inter alia*, Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme and, Export Promotion Industrial Parks scheme. Export Processing Zones are also set up in States to promote exports.

Instalment of D.A.

3281. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Central Government have become eligible for another instalment of Dearness Allowance due to sharp increase in the price index w.e.f. 1 July, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of D.A. the employees would get w.e.f. 1 July, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July payable with the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The instalment due from 1st July normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of September, and the decision to revise the rates of D.A. w.e.f. 1.7.2000 will be taken well before it becomes payable.

[Translation]

Monuments Under ASI

3282. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of names of sites in the list of national monuments falling under Archaeological Survey of India in Bihar;

(b) the amount provided for the maintenance for these sites during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Government propose to include some more sites of Patna, Bodh-Gaya and Rajgir in the list of national monuments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for their upkeep?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There are 76 sites/monuments in Bihar under the Archaeological Survey of India. A list thereof is available in the Lok Sabha library.

(b) During the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) Rs. 1,54,32,721/- has been provided for the maintenance of these sites.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Tourism Potential of Tamil Nadu

3283. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourists spots of Tamil Nadu listed in the Government of India's tourism network indicating the amount allocated/released and the progress made during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the specific plan taken up to focus tourism potentiality of Tamil Nadu at national and international level?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) In consultation with the State Government of Tamil Nadu following circuits

which include spots of tourist interest have been identified for development:

(i) Chennai-Mamallapuram-Kancheepuram-Vellure-Thiruvannamalai-Ginjee-Pondicherry (Southern Heritage Circuit):

(ii) Kochi-Thekkady-Madurai-Rameshwaram

Central financial assistance has been provided to Tamil Nadu for tourism projects covering several places of tourist interest in the State including the tourist spots of Chennai, Madurai, Rameshwaram, etc. The details are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Year	No. of projects	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1.	1997-98	7	59.74	22.86
2.	1998-99	17	316.29	115.85
3.	1999-2000	26	493.85	104.56

(b) The Government is attracting foreign as well as domestic tourists by promoting India including the State of Tamil Nadu through its 18 overseas offices by advertising in print & electronic media, participations in travel fairs, inviting media and Travel Agents, extensive use of Information Technology in tourism promotion, etc.

Vacancies in AIR/DD

3284. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unfilled vacancies in Doordarshan and All India Radio in the country at present, Station-wise, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the shortage of technical and non-technical staff is a big problem of these stations; and

(d) if so, the steps taken 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) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d) A scheme of re-deployment of staff has been worked out on the basis of a revised staffing norms and, to the extent possible, shortage of staff at a particular station is being met by re-deployment of excess staff at other stations.

Visa on Arrival Scheme

3285. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce "Visa-on-arrival" scheme to increase the inflow of foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme has been cleared by the Government;

(d) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be introduced; and

(e) the extent to which the inflow of foreign tourists is likely to be increased as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) The proposal to introduce Visa on arrival is under examination.

Setting up of Office of STC In Guntur/Vijayawada

3286. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for setting up of a separate office of STC in Guntur or Vijayawada exclusively for agro-exports from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether STC is interested in exports only from Delhi and nearby places;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of steps proposed to be taken to modernise and broaden the STC's outlook especially in the matter of export from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) STC already has three offices in the State of Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad, Guntur and Visakhapatnam and also a warehouse at Kakinada. All branch offices of STC in

India may undertake exports, imports or domestic trading including agro-products as per the trading opportunities available. STC is not aware of any demand for setting up of another office in Guntur or Vijayawada.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is the endeavour of STC to look out for trading opportunities in the States including Andhra Pradesh where such opportunity exists.

Export and Import of Coarse Foodgrains

3287. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coarse foodgrains exported and imported during the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned/spent as a result thereof; and

(c) the target fixed for the export of such foodgrains for the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of coarse grains exported and imported during the last three years are as under:—

Quantity: In MTs.
Value: In Rs. crores

Year	Exports		Imports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1997-98	15350	12.59	1124	0.34
1998-99	9527	8.68	2024	1.07
1999-2000 (Provisional)	7618	8.14	181159	114.62

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) As per Exim Policy, export of coarse grains is allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by DGFT from time to time and issue of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) by Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). For the year 2000-2001, a quantitative ceiling for export of 25,000 MT of coarse grains has been released.

Road Shows to Lure NRI Tourists

3288. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to organise road shows in the foreign countries with high NRI concentration under its 'Know more about India' mission;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the number of NRI tourists are likely to be attracted from the mission every year; and

(e) the estimated increase in tourists inflow and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) "Know India Seminars" will initially be organised in Canada, U.K., USA and Mauritius, which will include the following:—

(v) Organising workshop and seminar.

(vi) Packages on "back to the roots".

(vii) Promotion of fairs & festivals.

(viii) Millennium packages for NRIs and youth.

(c) to (e) NRI/PIO promotion is part of on-going overall tourism promotion programme and specific expenditure cannot be worked out specifically for the proposed seminars. It is expected that these seminars will increase tourist inflows quite substantially.

National Renewal Fund

3289. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Renewal Fund could not achieve its objectives;

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

(c) the gist of its achievements during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) National Renewal Fund (NRF) was set up by a Government Resolution on 3.2.1992 with the objectives of providing funds for retraining/redeployment of employees arising as a result of modernisation, technology upgradation and industrial restructuring; for compensation payment to such rationalised employees; and employment generation schemes.

Assistance from NRF has been made available for two schemes viz. (i) Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings and (ii) Counselling, retraining etc. of workers rationalised from the organised sector.

As per available information, coverage of workers in these schemes in the last three years has been as below:

Category	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
VRS in Central PSUs	14,815	4,500	7,634
Workers retrained	4,918	9,595	12,449
Workers redeployed	1,132	4,648	4,885

The NRF has since been abolished vide a gazette notification on 12.7.2000. However, assistance under these schemes will continue in accordance with the revised procedure announced by the Department of Public Enterprises on 5.5.2000.

Recruitment of Management Trainees

3290. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of management trainees recruited in IDBI and IFCI during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons out of them belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe;

(c) whether the reserved quote for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates have been filled up; and

(d) if not, the efforts being made to fill up their quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported recruitment of 55, management trainees during the last three years i.e. during 1997, 1998 and 1999. IDBI has further reported that one candidate out of the above belonged to scheduled caste (SC) category and none from scheduled tribe (ST) category.

Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI Ltd.) has reported that 24 Management Trainees were recruited during the same period and that none of the above mentioned management trainees belong to SC/ST category.

(c) and (d) IDBI has reported that shortfall in reserved quota for recruitment of SC/ST candidates is made up at the time of direct recruitments. In June, 2000 the bank recruited 7 management trainees out of which 3 are from SC/ST/OBC category.

IFCI has reported that efforts are being made to fill up the backlog of SC/ST quota by direct recruitment. An advertisement has been issued in the recent past for recruitment of SC/ST candidates.

Tourism Master Plan

3291. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether to attract more tourists in States, some State Governments have prepared Tourism Master Plans by appointing consultants;

(b) if so, whether such State Governments have urged the Union Government to share the cost of this scheme; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(c) During the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 1999-2000) Rs. 22.53 lakhs have been sanctioned to the State Governments/UT Administrations like Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Pondicherry for the preparation of tourism master plans.

Exim Bank

3292. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EXIM Bank has sought a cut in Government stake with the objective of reducing Government equity to below 51 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bank's management has expressed certain objections/reservations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether dilution of equity is likely to create problems for small scale exporters in the country; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the small exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Exim Bank has submitted a proposal to the Government for restructuring its equity capital. The proposal includes restructuring of equity without requiring budgetary support from Government and reduction of Government equity below 51%. The matter is under consideration of the Government. The proposal has been submitted to the Government after its approval by the Board of Exim Bank.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The proposed capital restructuring is not expected to affect the flow of credit to small scale exporters in the country.

Development of Tourism in Haryana

3293. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Haryana has sent any proposal for the development of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details of those projects;

(c) the estimated cost of those projects; and

(d) the amount sanctioned for those projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (d) The following tourism projects of Haryana have been prioritised for Central financial assistance during 2000-2001 in consultation with the State Government:

S.No.	Name of Project	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Upgradation of Tourist facilities at Badkhal Lake Tourist Resort	17.50
2.	Construction of Open Air Theatre and Theme Park at Badkhal Lake	25.00
3.	Upgradation/strengthening of Health Centre at Sohna	05.00
4.	Upgradation of tourist facilities at Tilyar Lake, Rohtak	17.50
5.	Upgradation of tourist facilities at Hotel Raj Hans, Surajkund	25.00
6.	Upgradation of tourist facilities at Flamingo Tourist Complex, Hisar	08.75
7.	Surajkund Crafts Mela	30.00
8.	Kartik Cultural Festival	12.00
Total:		140.75

Gold Deposit Scheme

3294. SHRI UTTAM RAO DHIKALE:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector banks which have been designated by Reserve Bank of India to start the Gold Deposit Scheme;

(b) the amount and quantum of gold collected so far by the Government under the Gold Deposit Scheme since its inception;

(c) whether depositors are unwilling to deposit their gold due to melting of gold for assessment of purity before accepting and as a result only a less quantity of gold has been deposited;

(d) if so, whether it is proposed to make any alternate method for assessing purity of gold;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The public sector banks which have been authorised to launch the Gold Deposit Scheme are: State Bank of India, Allahabad Bank, Corporation Bank and Indian Overseas Bank. Canara Bank, though authorised, is yet to launch the scheme.

(b) The total amount of gold collected under the scheme upto 30th June 2000 is about 4742 kg. The value of this gold at current domestic market rate in Mumbai is approximately Rs. 213.39 crores.

(c) to (f) The decision to deposit gold under the Scheme is made by the depositors themselves. No instance of unwillingness on the part of depositors to deposit gold due to melting of ornaments has been reported. Therefore, alternative methods for assessing the purity of gold are not being contemplated.

[Translation]

Publishing of Newspapers

3295. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

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) Registrar of Newspapers for India has reported that as on 31.12.1998, there were 43,828 registered newspapers. State-wise and language-wise break-up is given in enclosed statement. The figures of circulation of all newspapers are not available with RNI as a number of newspapers are not filing their Annual Returns.

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Mizoram	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	78	19	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	18	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Punjab	107	146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rajasthan	59	2726	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sikkim	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Tamil Nadu	414	18	1	2	2	10	0	0	13	0	3	0
Tripura	12	0	0	77	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	369	6345	0	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West Bengal	538	249	2	2214	7	1	0	0	3	0	0	42
Total	6517	17836	208	2425	1408	1455	1	6	1329	41	2046	54

State/UTs	Oriya	Punjabi	Sanskrit	Sindhi	Tamil	Telugu	Urdu	Bi-lingual	Multi-lingual	Others	Total
1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	1	0	0	42
Andhra Pradesh	2	1	0	2	2	958	482	156	21	2	1997
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	5	25	403
Bihar	0	1	2	0	0	0	164	23	11	23	1608
Chandigarh	0	56	1	0	0	0	2	30	13	0	322
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Delhi	10	141	3	5	9	9	454	596	66	32	5967
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	6	15	80
Gujarat	0	0	0	10	0	0	2	39	23	0	1369
Haryana	0	12	0	0	0	0	17	69	11	0	875
Himachal Pradesh	0	2	1	0	0	0	6	20	0	2	151
Jammu & Kashmir	0	2	0	0	0	0	229	18	1	4	350
Karnataka	0	0	2	1	28	5	125	122	19	10	2079
Kerala	0	0	2	0	14	0	0	160	24	2	1637

1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	2	7	0	0	27	76	5	2	3453
Maharashtra	0	8	6	46	18	8	200	296	100	3	4520
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	12	37	134
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	1	37	71
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	101	118
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	14
Orissa	626	0	3	0	0	0	3	49	11	1	791
Pondicherry	3	0	1	0	18	1	0	7	3	3	59
Punjab	0	576	1	0	0	0	105	76	39	0	1050
Rajasthan	0	2	2	18	0	0	22	124	19	12	2987
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	16
Tamil Nadu	1	2	2	0	1669	50	16	118	18	2	2341
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	1	100
Uttar Pradesh	0	7	17	6	0	1	824	278	18	18	7895
West Bengal	13	7	5	0	2	1	67	143	41	19	3354
Total	655	817	50	101	1769	1035	2745	2504	474	352	43828

[English]

Bharat Darshan Theme Park

3296. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up "Bharat Darshan Theme Park" in Bangalore to reflect the Indian tradition and culture and advancement of science and technology;

(b) whether the Government also propose to set up such Parks in other States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) An important aspect of the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the republic would be creation of assets and promotion & dissemination of our rich cultural heritage. Towards this end, Government have decided, in principle, to set

up Bharat Darshan Science/Culture parks at Bangalore & Delhi, to showcase our cultural heritage, promote science education and project our scientific achievements. The concept is in the process of elaboration.

Special Financial Assistance to Jammu and Kashmir

3297. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jammu and Kashmir has been given special financial assistance every year than other States;

(b) if so, the special financial assistance provided during the last three years;

(c) whether the assistance provided has been utilised properly; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor and the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Apart from the Normal central assistance and assistance for other state plan schemes distributed according to Gadgil-Mukherjee formula, special assistance was provided to Jammu and Kashmir for filling up their non-plan gap and allow them to have a reasonable plan size. Details are as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)		
	'97-98	'98-99	'99-00
Spl. Plan Assistance	200	250	300
Spl. Central Assistance	850	850	850
Additional Assistance			400

(c) and (d) Central assistance for state plan allocated by the Planning Commission to states are released in the form of block loans and block grants and are not linked to any specific scheme. However, the expenditure incurred out of this assistance is subject to audit by the C&AG.

Illegal Guest Houses and Travel Operators

3298. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether following the recent attack on Japanese tourist in the capital, the Government have directed its officials to crack down on the capital's illegal guest houses and unauthorised travel operators specially in areas of Karol Bagh and Paharganj;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also issued directions to State tourism departments to keep watch on the hotels and guest houses misusing the Government labels or sign;

(c) if so, the number of guest house/travel operators came to the notice of the Government who are using Government labels or sign illegally; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against such guest-houses?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Acts of

physical attack on a member of the public or a foreign tourist is a law and order subject which falls within the purview of State/UT Administrations. However, in order to curb such acts, including the menace of illegal guest houses and unauthorised travel operators misusing Government labels or signs etc., Ministry of Tourism has written to all State/U.T. Administrations for enactment of suitable legislation. States like Kerala, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir etc. have already enacted such legislation.

Visit of Foreign Tourists

3299. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited various places of tourist attraction/religious places/wildlife sanctuaries/beach resorts during the last two years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide more attractive packages to foreign tourists during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Total number of foreign tourists who visited various places of tourist attractions including religious places, wild life sanctuaries, beach resorts, etc., in the country during the years 1998 and 1999 are 2.36 million and 2.48 million respectively.

(b) The estimated foreign exchange earnings through tourism during the years 1998 and 1999 are Rs. 11951 crores and Rs. 13042 crores respectively.

(c) Government have declared Explore India in the Millennium Year campaign to attract more foreign tourists with attractive packages in collaboration with tourism and travel trade to market India as an affordable destination. India is also being promoted in overseas through Government of India Tourist Offices in various tourist generating markets.

Online Payment of LIC Premium

3300. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any centres for online payment of premium by Policy holders of LIC by the end of current financial year;

(b) if so, the number and location of centres functioning at present;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up such centres in some other places also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) LIC have reported that a decision to set up such centres for online payment of premium by policyholders is still to be taken.

[Translation]

Registration of Magazines/Publications

3301. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of dailies registered under Press and Registration Board Act in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the total number of applications pending for registration, as on March 31, 2000, State-wise; and

(c) the number of weekly and fortnightly magazines for which the applications have been received from Nandurbar and Dhule districts of Maharashtra as on March 31, 2000 alongwith the number of such weekly and fortnightly magazines which have been provided the registration number?

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) As on 31.7.2000, the number of dailies registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), State-wise, is given in enclosed Statement I.

(b) A total number of 685 cases were pending for registration with RNI as on 31.3.2000, the State-wise break-up of which is given in enclosed Statement II.

(c) During the period from 1.1.1999 to 31.3.2000, 5 applications for registration from weeklies and one application from a fortnightly were received from Nandurbar District. Out of these, the fortnightly has been issued the Certificate of Registration. In the same period, 17 applications for registration for weeklies and 4 applications from fortnightlies were received from Dhule

District. Out of these, Certificates of Registration have been issued to 6 weeklies and 2 fortnightlies.

Statement-I

Number of Dailies Registered with RNI as on 31.7.2000 (State-wise)

State/UTs.	Number of Dailies
Andaman & Nicobar	04
Andhra Pradesh	326
Arunachal Pradesh	03
Assam	35
Bihar	407
Chandigarh	38
Delhi	291
Goa	16
Gujarat	148
Haryana	106
Himachal Pradesh	09
Jammu & Kashmir	77
Karnataka	436
Kerala	214
Lakshadweep	00
Madhya Pradesh	489
Maharashtra	523
Manipur	51
Meghalaya	04
Mizoram	41
Nagaland	02
Orissa	101
Pondicherry	03
Punjab	129
Rajasthan	417
Tamil Nadu	375
Tripura	23
Uttar Pradesh	862
West Bengal	159
Total:	5289

Statement II

*Pending Cases for Registration as on 31.3.2000
(State-wise)*

State	No. Pending
Delhi	92
Madhya Pradesh	14
Gujarat	90
Kerala	10
Orissa	07
Goa	01
Andhra Pradesh	75
North-East	15
Maharashtra	19
West Bengal	10
Tamil Nadu	03
Pondicherry	NIL
Andaman & Nicobar	NIL
Lakshadweep	NIL
Chandigarh	06
Bihar	14
Haryana	02
Punjab	13
Uttar Pradesh	156
Himachal Pradesh	35
Rajasthan	15
Jammu & Kashmir	12
Karnataka	96
Total	685

[English]

Selling of NEPA Limited

3302. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to sell of the loss making NEPA Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the erstwhile Disinvestment Commission had recommended for immediate sale of 51 per cent equity to a strategic partner;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the production has been increasing in the company but the company has been consistently incurring losses;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the final decision in regard to selling of the company is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The Government has taken in principle decision for strategic sale of Nepa for a minimum of 51% equity which could go upto 100% in line with the recommendations of the erstwhile Disinvestment Commission. A Merchant banker has been engaged to locate a suitable party.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The reasons for losses are liquidity crunch, obsolete technology, old dilapidated plant, high cost of production and excess manpower.

(g) Department of Disinvestment is carrying out the physical process of disinvestment. Pre-bid conference has since been held. The final decision in regard to selling of the company is dependent on responses received.

Seizure of Pakistani Origin Drugs from Border of Rajasthan

3303. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a drug chain originating from Pakistan to Mumbai through porous borders of Rajasthan, has been unearthed by the Government as reported in the 'Hindu' dated the June 29, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the *modus operandi* adopted by the drug peddlers;

(c) whether Government is aware that funds generated by this illicit trade find way into funding of militants activities; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such drug peddling?

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

(b) The *modus operandi* adopted by drug smugglers/peddlers is to smuggle the heroin packed in wooden boxes with false bottoms, in gunny bags and polythene pouches, concealed in the cavities made in the wooden cases of dry fruits, in the sliding door panel or specially created chambers at the floor of a vehicle, wrapped around the body beneath the shirt or clothing of a person, concealed in the false bottom lining of two rucksacks and on camel back etc.

(c) While there are reports of funding of militancy through clandestine operations, Government has no specific input or concrete evidence of the involvement of funds generated through illicit drug peddling in militant activities.

(d) Significant steps taken by the Government to prevent and check smuggling of narcotic drugs include constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, gearing up of intelligence machinery, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border, holding of periodic cross border meetings in which representatives of Indian and Pakistani narcotic agencies are present and stringent action against all persons arrested for drug trafficking under the NDPS Act.

Conference on Trade and Development

3304. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of issues discussed in the meeting of UN conference on Trade and Development held in Bangkok;

(b) whether the Deputy Administrator of the US Agency for International Development said that Washington does not view the UNCTAD meeting as an appropriate venue to begin negotiations; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Tenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD-X) held at Bangkok from 9 to 19 February, 2000 adopted two

documents (i) the Bangkok Declaration—A political Declaration on the experience of globalisation, liberalisation and the future role of UNCTAD; and (ii) the Plan of Action—an outline of the work programme of UNCTAD for the next four years till the next conference. The Plan of Action is in two chapters; Chapter I—an analytical chapter on the evaluation of the developmental impact of globalisation, stock taking of major international initiatives and measures taken by the international community to ensure successful integration of developing countries into the world economy; and Chapter II—the substantive section on UNCTAD's engagement, highlighting *inter alia*, issues relating to international trade, investment, enterprise and transfer of technology.

(b) The Deputy Administrator for US Agency for International Trade stated in UNCTAD X that "an operational role for UNCTAD in trade negotiations would involve confusion of institutional roles and a diversion of limited resources to activities for which UNCTAD is not the best suited organisation."

(c) The Plan of Action adopted by UNCTAD X preserves the broad mandate of UNCTAD and allows the organisation to continue to examine trade issues from a development perspective without in anyway diminishing its mandate for analysis and consensus building on such issues.

Coverage of DD

3305. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities and persons benefited by the scheme of expansion of Doordarshan Programmes which was implemented in the year 1994;

(b) the total number of relay centres in operation in Gujarat at present together with their capacity;

(c) whether these relay centres are sufficient for the coverage of the entire population of the State; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the capacity of relay centres in Gujarat?

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) 139 transmitters were commissioned by Doordarshan in 134 cities/towns during 1994-1995. Additional 58.98 lakhs

persons in and around these cities/towns are estimated to have benefited from the commissioning of these transmitters.

(b) 69 Doordarshan transmitters of varying power, as given below, are at present operating in the state of Gujarat.

(i) HPTs (10KW/1KW)	5
(ii) LPTs (300W/100W)	61
(iii) VLPTs (10W)	3

(c) It is estimated that about 86% of the population of Gujarat is presently covered by Doordarshan transmitters (including the population in fringe areas).

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that 2 High Power Transmitters with 10 KW power for DD1 service and 3 Low Power Transmitters with 500 Watts power for DD2 service are currently under implementation in the state of Gujarat.

Economic Advisory Council

3306. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Economic Advisory Council in the finance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof with its composition and objectives; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to speed up the economic progress of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The reconstituted Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has the following composition:

Chairman	Prime Minister
Members	Dr. I.G. Patel Prof. P.N. Dhar Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia Dr. Kirit Parikh Dr. Amaresh Bagchi Shri Jagdish Shettigar Shri Ashok Gulati

Dr. Rakesh Mohan
Dr. M. Narasimham
Principal Secretary to Prime Minister

Member-Secretary: Secretary to Prime Minister

The Economic Advisory Council will afford an opportunity for a policy dialogue on crucial economic issues between the Prime Minister and the Members of the Council which will help pursue a bold strategy of economic reforms.

NABARD Loan for North Eastern States

3307. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise amount of loan allocated and disbursed by NABARD to North-Eastern States during the last three years;

(b) the State-wise amount of assistance given by IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, LIC, GIC and UTI to these States during the above period; and

(c) the names of projects for which the loan/assistance was provided by these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The State-wise refinance disbursed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development under short-term, medium-term and long term to the North-Eastern States during the last three years is given in enclosed Statement I.

(b) The State-wise amount of assistance sanctioned and disbursed by All India Financial Institutions to the North-Eastern States during the last three years, is given in enclosed Statement II.

(c) The loan assistance was provided by NABARD for various projects including minor, major/medium irrigation, roads and bridges, soil conservation and other projects. The other financial institutions have provided loan assistance to various projects in the industry, steel and mining, tea industry, oil refineries, etc.

Statement I

State-wise Refinance Disbursements by NABARD under Short-term, Medium-term and Long Term during the last three years

(Rs. lakhs)

Name of the State	1996-97				1997-98				1998-99			
	S.T. Maximum Outstanding	M.T. dis-bnrs.	L.T. dis-bnrs.	Total	S.T. Maximum Outstanding	M.T. dis-bnrs.	L.T. dis-bnrs.	Total	S.T. Maximum Outstanding	M.T. dis-bnrs.	L.T. dis-bnrs.	Total
Arunachal Pradesh	—	0	876	876	0	0	509	509	0	0	459	459
Assam	205	0	6556	5761	84	0	8142	8226	84	0	10343	10427
Manipur	609	0	742	1351	614	0	258	872	614	0	325	939
Meghalaya	360	0	684	1044	292	0	788	1080	292	0	796	1088
Mizoram	0	0	289	289	0	0	222	222	0	0	351	351
Nagaland	120	0	204	324	170	0	203	373	170	0	149	319
Tripura	130	0	1446	1576	436	0	1625	2061	438	0	1735	2171
Sikkim	0	0	89	89	0	0	134	134	0	0	167	167

Statement II

Statement indicating the amount of loan sanctioned and disbursed by All India Financial Institutions in North-Eastern States during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State	Sanctions			Disbursals		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.4	35.6	21.0	0.9	3.7	9.6
2.	Assam	104.0	85.2	95.5	246.7	84.2	59.7
3.	Manipur	62.1	29.2	0.5	2.1	21.5	0.5
4.	Meghalaya	8.6	5.0	4.8	4.4	6.6	2.8
5.	Mizoram	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.3	0.9
6.	Nagaland	10.5	0.9	—	9.3	2.4	—
7.	Sikkim	8.5	14.0	4.6	2.6	3.5	3.5
8.	Tripura	4.7	4.0	3.9	4.7	3.8	3.8
Total (NER)		208.7	174.3	131.3	271.6	126.0	80.8

Import from Nepal

3308. SHRI R.L. BHATIA:

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) whether various business associations, Members of Parliament have drawn the attention of the Government regarding import of vanaspati, photo rolls, winding wire other items from Nepal to India;

(b) if so, whether such items have maximum customs duty in India i.e. 42.5 percent, if imported from other countries;

(c) if so, whether due to the treaty between Nepal and India such items do not attract any customs duty if it is imported through Nepal to India;

(d) if so, whether it become difficult for Indian entrepreneurs to compete with those who import these items through Nepal; and

(e) if so, the precautions the Government propose to take in this regard?

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

(b) These current rates of customs duty applicable to vanaspati, photo rolls and winding wires are as under:—

Sl.No.	Description	Basic+Surcharge	CVD	SAD	Total
1.	Vanaspati	38.5%	Nil	4%	44.04%
2.	Winding Wires	38.5%	16%	4%	67.09%
3.	Photo rolls (other than instant print film)	27.5%	16%	4%	53.82%
4.	Instant print film	5.5%	16%	4%	27.27%

The rates indicated in the table above are MFN rates.

(c) Under Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, Government of India provides access to the Indian market free of customs duties for articles manufactured in Nepal.

(d) In some cases the duty free imports from Nepal are cheaper than similar goods produced in India.

(e) The Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade further provides that corrective measures may be taken by the two Governments in the event of the facility of duty free entry leading to a "surge" in the imports generally or in the import of any particular item from Nepal.

FDI from Mauritius

3309. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Direct Investment proposals are coming to India from Mauritius;

(b) if so, the number of FDI proposals received and approved during the last three years and for which sector;

(c) whether highest Investment proposals have come in power sector and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether many foreign investors are investing through their Mauritius subsidization in India in power, telecommunications and chemicals sectors;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the names of Mauritius based companies being attracted to invest in India by making FDI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total number of 389 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals (Financial and Technical) involving FDI amounting to Rs. 17396.84 crore from Mauritian companies have been approved during the last 3 years (January, 1997 to December, 1999) through the FIPB route. A Statement showing sector-wise break-up of approvals is enclosed.

(c) Yes, FDI amounting to Rs. 5912.54 crore have been approved for the Fuels Sector (Power & Oil Refinery) during the last three years, which constitutes 33.99% of the total FDI approvals in all sectors.

(d) and (e) The intention of the foreign investors to route investment in India through their Mauritian subsidiaries depends upon their commercial judgement, which may be influenced by the tax regime in Mauritius.

(f) The details of the FDI proposals (including proposals from Mauritian companies) approved through FIPB are available in the Monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which is widely circulated including to the Library of the House.

Statement

Sector-wise Break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration Approved for Mauritius During the Post-Police Period from (01/01/1997 to 31/12/1999)

(Amount in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Industry	Total	No. of Approval		Amount of FDI Approved	% to Total Amount Approved
			Tech.	Fin.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Fuels (Power & Oil Refinery)	43	4	39	5912.54	33.99
2.	Telecommunications	38	1	37	3188.84	18.33
3.	Metallurgical Industries	10	0	10	1718.74	9.88
4.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	21	2	19	1579.87	9.08
5.	Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product	4	0	4	832.64	4.79
6.	Transportation Industry	20	1	19	706.92	4.06
7.	Hotel & Tourism	15	2	13	706.54	4.06
8.	Service Sector	32	0	32	617.63	3.55
9.	Textiles (Included Dyed., Printed)	14	0	14	344.54	1.98
10.	Electricals Equipment	68	1	67	335.42	1.93
11.	Agricultural Machinery	1	0	1	215.87	1.24
12.	Food Processing Industries	6	0	6	167.28	0.96
13.	Consultancy Services	14	0	14	167.06	0.96
14.	Ceramics	9	0	9	158.38	0.91
15.	Rubber Goods	3	0	3	126.00	0.72
16.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	4	0	4	119.81	0.69
17.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	8	0	8	112.52	0.65
18.	Industrial Machinery	13	3	10	79.05	0.45
19.	Machine Tools	4	0	4	68.20	0.39
20.	Miscellaneous Industries	23	1	22	49.50	0.28
21.	Trading	11	1	10	44.26	0.25
22.	Glass	3	0	3	30.50	0.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	8	1	7	29.20	0.17
24.	Prime Movers Other Than Electrical	1	0	1	25.00	0.14
25.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	2	0	2	12.75	0.07
26.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	3	1	2	12.40	0.07
27.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	1	0	1	10.00	0.06
28.	Cement and Gypsum Products	1	0	1	7.39	0.04
29.	Timber Products	2	0	2	6.72	0.04
30.	Dye-Stuffs	1	0	1	4.50	0.03
31.	Defence Industries	2	1	1	3.47	0.02
32.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	2	0	2	3.00	0.02
33.	Scientific Instruments	1	0	1	0.30	0.00
34.	Fermentation Industries	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
Total:		389	20	369	17396.84	

Indo-Russian Trade Ties

3310. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government are keen to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation and trade with Russian Federation;

(b) if so, whether he had met the Russian Trade Minister during the month of May, 2000;

(c) if so, the main discussions held;

(d) whether any agreements have been signed between the two countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the Government agreed to help Russia in improving the economic cooperation and trade ties?

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

(b) and (c) A meeting was held with the Russian Trade Minister during his visit to Delhi in April, 2000 wherein a range of trade and economic issues were discussed including the progress on the various decisions taken in the 6th meeting of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

(d) and (e) The Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Russian trade and economic cooperation since the disintegration of the former USSR. The utilisation of the Russian rupee debt fund is governed by the Arrangement between the Bank For Foreign Economic Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Reserve Bank of India for implementing the provisions of the letters dated 28-29 January, 1993 and 6 September, 1993 exchanged between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of India. As per this Arrangement, the funds related to the payment of the Russian rupee debt are to be utilized for purchase of goods and services from India. Our exports to Russia are moving largely on debt repayment track as well as in a small measure, under hard currency.

A Joint Document on Development of Trade, Economic, Industrial, Financial, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was signed with the Russian Federation during the visit of Prime Minister of Russian Federation to India in December 1998. The Joint Document seeks

to enlarge and deepen cooperation between the two countries in various spheres.

(f) Recognising the potential that exists for greater cooperation in various fields and taking into account new opportunities emerging from the processes of economic change in both the countries and wishing to further strengthen and develop economic cooperation and trade ties the Government of India and the Government of the Russian Federation have taken various steps which include promotion of dialogue at the highest level, constant review through the Joint Commission/Working Group/Sub-Group mechanism, promoting direct business contacts through exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs etc.

Credit Ratio Between Agriculture and Food Processing Sector

3311. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap of credit ratio between agriculture and food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that advances by banks to agriculture as well as the food and agro-processing sector are reckoned as priority sector advances. As per the extent guidelines issues by RBI, public sector banks are required to lend 40 percent of their net bank credit to the priority sector with sub-targets of 18 percent and 10 percent to agriculture and the weaker sections respectively. However, there are no such specific targets for advances to the food processing sector.

The outstanding agricultural advances as well as advances to food processing sector of public sector banks, as reported by RBI, as on the last reporting Friday of March 2000, were as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Outstanding Agricultural Advances	46190
Loans to agro industries under the SSI sector	1310
Loans to food and agro processing sector (other than SSI)	3272

(Data Provisional)

Radio Srilanka

3312. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Radio Srilanka (Colombo International Radio) has very powerful transmitting stations having a large broadcasting width which covers Southern parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of advertisers give their advertisements to this radio station;

(d) if so, whether this phenomenon occurs loss to the local AIR stations;

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to counter this; and

(f) the time by which AIR broadcasting transmitters are likely to be upgraded?

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. High Power Transmitting Stations of Srilanka covering Southern Part of India are located in Srilanka at Ekala (on Short Wave Band) and at Puttalam and Maho (on Medium Wave Band)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This phenomenon has caused some loss of revenue to AIR Stations in the areas.

(e) Prasar Bharati is making all out efforts to attract advertisements from the market by selling air time directly to clients through incentives and concession.

(f) AIR already operates on High Power Transmitters (HPTs) in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. At present, there is no scheme to further upgrade the power of HPTs in these States during 9th Year Plan.

Simplification of Stamp Act, 1899

3313. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recommended simplification of Stamp Act, 1899; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and achievements made by different State Governments so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) A new legislation to replace the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 has been drafted by the Central Government in consultation with all the States. It aims at simplification of procedures to make the legislation citizen-friendly.

NABARD Loan

3314. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD has sanctioned a fresh loan for creation of rural infrastructure in some States under RIDF;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States likely to be benefited therefrom;

(d) the manner in which the benefit is likely to be obtained by the States; and

(e) the amount out of this fresh loan likely to be given in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has sanctioned fresh loans for creation of rural infrastructure in some states under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-VI. The State-wise details of sanctioned are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) NABARD has reported that the sanctions made would cover projects relating to minor, medium and major irrigation projects, rural roads and bridges, flood protection, market yard/godown, cold storage, forest management, primary schools, seed/agriculture/horticulture farms, drinking water and soil conservation projects. It is expected that an anticipated 562314 jobs would be created at a production value of Rs. 199 crore by way of irrigation projects. In addition about 8493 Km of road length would be covered and 5251 metres of bridges length would be covered. These projects are also expected to unlock an investment of about Rs. 399 crore in respect of ongoing projects.

(e) NABARD has reported that an amount of Rs. 5070.62 lakhs have been sanctioned to the State of Karnataka so far under RIDF-VI.

Statement

State-wise position of sanctions made by NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development funds VI (upto July, 2000)

		(Rs. lakh)
Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13,112.25
2.	Bihar	2,892.42
3.	Gujarat	14,670.27
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1,856.47
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	5,257.07
6.	Karnataka	5,070.62
7.	Kerala	5,967.42
8.	Madhya Pradesh	10,954.75
9.	Meghalaya	262.64
10.	Nagaland	1,552.58
11.	Orissa	1,139.02
12.	Punjab	8,866.02
13.	Rajasthan	25,029.34
14.	Tamil Nadu	2,181.28
15.	Tripura	889.65
Total:		99,702.44

Urdu Programmes on DD, Bangalore

3315. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for enhancement in time slot of Urdu programmes on All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendra at Bangalore;

(b) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to start Urdu news bulletin on AIR and Doordarshan there;

(d) if so, the probable time fixed for starting the Urdu news bulletin;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether it is due to lack of sufficient funds for the Urdu artists; and

(g) if so, the steps taken to remove this hurdle?

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 has informed that while All India Radio has received representations in this regard, Doordarshan has not received any such request.

(b) All India Radio has informed that the quantum of Urdu Programme being aired by them are considered to be adequate.

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that it does not propose to start Urdu news bulletins on AIR and Doordarshan as the information needs of Urdu speaking population are adequately met by the relay of existing bulletins.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Tax Collection from Foreign Channels

3316. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make a full-fledged study of the working of the foreign TV channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that they pay the actual tax on their revenue earnings?

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) There is no such proposal. According to information given by Finance Ministry, foreign telecasting companies are taxable in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty applicable to them.

Foreign telecasting companies have paid Rs. 71.21 crores as income tax during the past four assessment years.

[*Translation*]

Trade Relations with U.K.

3317. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to improve the trade relations with U.K.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the areas in which the Indo-U.K. trade relations are proposed to be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) It is Government's endeavour to improve trade relations with all its trading partners including UK. The measures to improve trade relations are on going activities on the part of the Government and the private sector. These include interaction with the trading partners, both at Govt. level and at business level, assistance for participation in international trade fairs, exchange of business delegations, conducting market survey, dissemination of commercial information, extending necessary facilities to commercial organizations etc.

(c) Areas for expansion of trade are pursued by the industry and trade depending on the potential. However, processed food products, electronic software, auto ancillaries, pharmaceuticals, speciality garments, value added granites etc. are some of the new areas for expansion of India's trade with EU countries including UK.

[*English*]

Women Entrepreneurs

3318. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of loan cases of different banks regarding special concessions for women entrepreneurs, given during 1984, have gone into litigation particularly of women entrepreneurs of Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of thereof and the details of each case; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to settle these cases outside the court?

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

Announcement of Various Schemes

3319. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various schemes/projects of the Government for the Welfare/upliftment of the people, are not properly announced over AIR and Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government/Prasar Bharati Board to announce such projects/schemes on DD/ AIR for the benefit of each and every person of the country?

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) Adequate publicity is already being given to various schemes/projects of the Government over AIR & Doordarshan through news bulletins and other programmes.

[Translation]

Tribal Affairs

3320. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to preserve the tribal culture in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A major mandate of the Department of Culture is the preservation, promotion and dissemination of the Indian art and culture in its entirety. In order to specifically preserve, promote and disseminate tribal/folk art and culture, the Department

of Culture have a specific scheme the details of which are available in the Annual Report 1999-2000 of the Department which was laid before the Parliament.. The objectives of the Scheme are:

- (i) To provide the tribals with opportunities to conduct their cultural activities in their environment and to collect and preserve their arts and crafts in their milieu so as to ensure the continuity to the tradition of the tribal arts and crafts;
- (ii) To promote and support documentation research and survey;
- (iii) To assist the educational authorities of the State Government concerned in identifying projects which will help to integrate the educational system in tribal areas with the cultural tradition of the tribal and rural communities;
- (iv) To disseminate the awareness of the richness of tribal/rural culture particularly amongst urban educated people; and
- (v) To promote the preservation and development of tribal arts and crafts and other facets of tribal culture by all other means.

Several NGOs/individuals all over the country have availed of the Scheme.

[English]

Earth Matter Series

3321. SHRI RASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Earth Matter series of films produced and screened by DD News Channel has been carved out;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that a film on Whales produced by Mike Pandey has been nominated for an Oscar award;

(d) whether this film is to be shown on all the DD and other channels and dubbed in various regional languages;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government are also find ways to support the Earth Matters Foundation suitably;

(g) whether Government propose to encourage WWF and PFA; and

(h) 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) No, Sir. Doordarshan news channel has been running a weekly serial on environmental matters, called "Earth Matters" for almost a year. This serial is produced by Mike Pandey.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The rights of the aforesaid film are not owned by Doordarshan. The serial (by the same producer) "Earth Matters", on DD is also being shown on DD-1 & DD-2. If the producer wants he can use these windows show excerpts of the film to DD-viewership.

(f) There is no such proposal.

(g) and (h) Doordarshan airs spots and other programmes contributed on Environmental issues, free of cost.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1998-99.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2197/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 1998-99.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2198/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi for the year 1998-99.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2199/2000]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2200/2000]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2201/2000]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Victoria Memorial Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2202/2000]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (18) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2203/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): On behalf of Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 61A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited, Allahabad and its subsidiaries for the year 1998-99.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited, Allahabad and its subsidiaries for the

year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2204/2000]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2205/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): I beg to lay on the table—

- (1) A copy of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 484 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2000 under Section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 together with a corrigendum thereto published in S.O. No. 694 (E) dated the 26th July 2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2206/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfers of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:—

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2207/2000]

- (i) The Indian Overseas Bank General Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. LSD/170/4/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2000.
- (ii) The Vijaya Bank General Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. 51 in Gazette of India dated the 18th December 1999.
- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 643 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the

taxable services in relation to Cattle Insurance from the whole of the service tax leviable thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2208/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Trend and Progress of Housing in India for the year ended the June, 1997 under section 42 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2209/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): I beg to lay on the table—

- (1) A copy of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. APEDA/SEC/GEN/30 in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2000, under section 34 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2210/2000]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): On behalf of Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999:—
- (i) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, Annual Report—furnishing of returns, (statements and other particulars) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 570(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2000.
 - (ii) The Insurance Advisory Committee (Meetings) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/REG./7/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000.
 - (iii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Appointed Actuary) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./

7/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000.

- (iv) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Actuarial Report and Abstract) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./7/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000.
- (v) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Licensing of Insurance Agents) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./7/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000.
- (vi) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Assets, Liabilities and Solvency Margin of Insurers) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./7/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000.
- (vii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (General Insurance-Reinsurance) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./7/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000.
- (viii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./7/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000.
- (ix) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Insurance Advertisements and Disclosure) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./7/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000.
- (x) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Meetings) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./7/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2211/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Insurance and Development Authority (Obligations of Insurers to Rural or Social Sectors) Regulations, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./7/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000 under sub-section (3) of Section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2212/2000]

12.02 hrs.

Roypradhan regarding tax evasion by MNCs; and (ii)
giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO STARRED
QUESTION NO. 671 DATED MAY 12, 2000
REGARDING TAX EVASION BY MNCs-LAID

Statement

[English]

Sir, page two of the Annexure (relating to evasion of
Customs duties) attached to the Reply, may be read as
the Annexure attached herewith.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): Sir, I beg
to lay a statement* (i) correcting the reply given on May
12, 2000 to Starred Question No. 671 by Shri Amar

The error is regretted.

The error came to notice towards the end of the last
Session of Parliament. Hence, the Statement correcting
the Reply could not be laid in the said Session.

ANNEXURE

Cases of Evasion of Customs Duty by MNCs Detected in the Year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Sl.No.	Name of the Multinational Company	Amount of Duty Evasion (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1.	M/s. SEDCO Forex International Drilling Inc.	131.22
2.	M/s. Hyundai Motors India Ltd.	44.40
3.	M/s. Sony India Ltd.	42.90
4.	M/s. Burroughs Welcome India Ltd.	0.03
5.	Ms. Johnson & Johnson Limited	0.16
6.	Ms. Hindustan Lever Limited	5.76
7.	M/s. Ranbaxy Lab., Dewas	0.27
8.	M/s. Usha Martin	1.24
9.	M/s. Schlumber Asia Services Ltd., Mumbai	2.10
10.	M/s. Haliburton Offshore Services Inc., Mumbai	0.69
11.	M/s. Phillips India Ltd., Mumbai	1.88
12.	M/s. Schlumber Asia Services	0.23
13.	M/s. Schlumber Asia Services	0.72
14.	M/s. Emirates Trading Agency	1.60
15.	M/s. Seimens Public Communication Network Ltd.	2.57
16.	M/s. Sony India Pvt. Ltd.	4.58
17.	M/s. L.G. Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	0.36
18.	M/s. Sony India Pvt. Ltd.	0.42

* Also placed in Library, See No. LT-2213/2000.

1	2	3
19.	M/s. Sony India Pvt. Ltd.	1.77
20.	M/s. Electrolux India Ltd.	0.24
21.	M/s. Hawlet Packard	2.64
22.	M/s. Maharaja International Ltd.	2.59
23.	M/s. Salora International	0.47
24.	M/s. Samsung India Ltd.	0.68
25.	M/s. AHP Manufacturing B.V.	0.03
26.	M/s. Honda Sael Cars (India) Limited	3.00
27.	M/s. ICF India Ltd.	0.02
28.	M/s. Siemens Ltd.	0.10
29.	M/s. Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	1.39
30.	M/s. Motorola (I) Ltd.	0.40
Total:		254.46

Note: Details have been shown more than once against the same MNC, where separate cases have been registered by DRI or other field formation.

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Wednesday the 16th August, 2000 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:
 - (a) The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2000
 - (b) The Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill, 2000.

3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha:—

- (a) The Indian Power Alcohol (Repeal) Bill, 2000
- (b) The Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 2000
- (c) The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design Bill, 2000
- (d) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:—

- (a) The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
- (b) The Multimodal Transportation of Goods (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Serious situation arising in the State of Maharashtra where several lakh tonnes of sugar

[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

are rotting because of import of sugar from Pakistan and Brazil. It creates unrest among the cane growers and sugar industry in Maharashtra.

2. Maharashtra is becoming the target of ISI. Government of Maharashtra have been cautioned about plan of ISI to carry out large scale violence and bloodshed in Mumbai. I request the Centre to accede to the demand of Maharashtra Government for Rs. 200 crore to counter the menace of ISI and modernise the police force.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Discussion on total abolition of child labour.
2. Provision of compulsory and free education to the children upto 16 years of age, in conformity with the tenets of the Constitution.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Wide-spread discussion on the existing agriculture policy of India.
2. Discussion on the situation arising out of the rising unemployment in the country.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Discussion regarding providing scholarship on quarterly basis to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students and linking the same with Price-Index and providing adequate hostel facilities to the students of these categories in all the educational as well as professional institutions and ensuring reservation in admissions.
2. Discussion regarding setting up of Navodaya Vidyalayas or Technical Institutions at district level for providing technical education to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's

agenda:—

1. Need to attach a First Class A.C. (1st AC) coach in Delhi Mail running between Delhi and Ahmedabad via Jaipur, Ajmer.
2. Need to run the textile mills under the N.T.C. at Beawer, Vijayanagar and Udaipur in Rajasthan on regular basis and to provide them adequate job work.

[English]

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. The price of coffee has decreased sharply. Therefore, the measures to protect the interest of coffee cultivators should be discussed.
2. Wynad district in my constituency, Kannur (Kerala), is a backward district. The need to open a Postal Sorting Centre in the Wynad district should be considered seriously.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the revised UGC scale for the teachers has been implemented in all the universities of India but the teachers of universities in Bihar are deprived of it. Teachers of Bihar are on strike since 1.8.2000. A sum of Rs. 200 crore, which was allotted by the Central Government under this head, has not yet been properly used. Therefore, my contention is that the teachers of Bihar should be given their dues.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Evaluation of slum improvement and slum resettlement scheme implemented by Urban Development Ministry and HUDCO.
2. Simplification of regulatory system, avoidance of multiplicity of regulatory bodies, adopting a fool-proof mechanism to protect and solve grievances of small investors.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Need to provide special package for the construction of roads and upgradation and

development of infrastructure facilities in urban and rural areas of terrorism affected districts of Dhanbad, Giridih and Bokaro.

2. Need to sell the coking coal in the open market as a free sale by the Central Coal Fields Ltd. and B.C.C.L. to check the black marketing of coal.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that discussion on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission and action taken thereon be included in the next week agenda.

12.08 hrs.

WELCOME TO THE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM MADAGASCAR

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf, and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming hon. Emmanuel Rakotozafy, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Madagascar, and other hon. Members of the Parliamentary Delegation from Madagascar who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The delegation arrived in New Delhi on Thursday, 10 August, 2000. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the National Assembly, and the friendly people of the Republic of Madagascar.

12.10 hrs.

RE: BOMB BLASTS ON AUGUST 10, 2000 IN SRINAGAR (J&K) RESULTING IN KILLING OF SEVERAL PERSONS

[English]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice. ..(Interruptions)

I have been giving notice for the past three days, but I am not getting a chance. Today, I have given the first notice at 9.00 a.m. So, I should get my chance. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will be called today.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country is deeply grieved over the serious and shocking incident which took place in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday. These incidents are being often reported to have taken place in this area and such an increase in these incidents is really a very serious matter. Yesterday, a large number of innocent people were killed.

The judiciary, legislature and Executive are the important pillars of our democracy. However, if we do not have sufficient transparency, our democratic set up would not be able to sustain. The media plays a remarkable role in strengthening the very basis of this transparency. Therefore, I understand that the media alongwith these three, is also a very strong pillar of our democracy. Today, in this context, we remember Shri Pradeep Bhatia, a brave young photographer of 'Hindustan Times'. He died while performing his duty and his sacrifice may be termed as martyrdom because he sacrificed his life for the noble cause of our democracy. Today, we share all our grief and sorrow with his family members at this moment. His eight month old child might not be able to ever see his father again nor he might be able to recognize him any more. Today, we have full sympathy with the grieved family.

Besides this, several people from our media namely Faiyaz Kabuli, the writer, Shri Bilal Bhatt, the cameraman of ANI and Irfan Ahmed, the cameraman of the Zee TV also received serious injuries. We pray for their quick recovery. We have full sympathy with the family members of those police personnel who died in this unfortunate incident.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had welcomed peace process initiated in Jammu and Kashmir at the present juncture. We had always been making efforts to avoid any untoward incident which could hamper this process. But, we had also said that the Government shall have to be very alert. Unfortunately, it seems that. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss it on 21st also.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: This is a very delicate as well as sensitive matter. Therefore I would request you to kindly give me two more minutes. We could not be able to keep ourselves alert in the manner it was required under such circumstances. After Lahore, we had to face the Kargil war and as soon as we had initiated talks with the Hizbul Mujahedeen, the massacre of 100 people followed immediately after that. Now when this dreadful incident has already taken place, we can very well see a state of gross confusion in these talks. If the Government moves ahead with some planning, then we are ready to extend our support to them. However, we will have to go ahead with a long term planning and proper programme. I would like to assure you that today in such a critical stage, we are not there just to criticise the Government. This is not the time to criticise because

[English]

It is such an emotional time that we are only pointing out some ideas, some thoughts that occur to us which are of great concern.

[Translation]

We want you to accept our views only in the same spirit.

[English]

This is a very emotional time.

[Translation]

I will not politicize it. I do not even want to make any criticism in this emotional time. Please consider our suggestions by adopting a positive attitude and ponder over the same because the whole nation is very much anxious about this matter.

At the end, I would again like to express my deep feelings to the grief stricken families of the deceased.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Mohan Rawale, Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi can also associate with Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, the Minister had also made a statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, such a large number of people are being killed in Kashmir...(Interruptions) We demand from the Government that Government should take action in this direction and the army be given a free hand...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: On 21st also, we are going to discuss this matter. Is there anything from the Government's side?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice about it. Please give us two minutes' time. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate with him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called your names.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; all of you can associate with him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Israel is not yielding to Palestine but is pressurizing that country. ...(Interruptions) Our Government is yielding...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a serious issue raised by the Deputy Leader of the House. All of you have given notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate with him. Please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; I have called the names. All those Members who have given notices can associate with Shri Scindia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is on the same subject. I cannot call all the names. Other Members have also given notices. I cannot call all the Members on the same subject. It is also very difficult for me. Now, please hear Government's reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing you to please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, only Minister's reply will be there.

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are other Members also. Please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, Please take your seat. I am making an appeal.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, your name is also there. I have already called your name.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are other matters. Now, only the Minister's reply will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are going to discuss this subject on 21st also. Please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; I will not allow you. Nothing should go on record. Otherwise I will go to the other subject.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? There are 35 notices with me. How can I allow all the Members on the same subject?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; I am not allowing anybody on this subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Uttamrao Dhikale. You are not allowing the Minister also to give the reply. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are senior Members. I appealing to you. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everyday the same system is continuing in the 'Zero Hour'. There is a procedure for that. We have all decided in the BAC that whenever there are more than one speakers on a subject, one can speak and others can associate with him. But again everyone wants to speak here. This is not good. Now, the Minister please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to all of you to take your seats. This is not the way to raise an issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Alvi, please take your seat. This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not taking serious issues seriously. It is a pity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: 'Zero Hour' is not an hour for debate.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, let me speak for just one minute. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

Please take your seat. Not today.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not today. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Now the Minister please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House should take a serious view about such kind of incidents.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Deputy leader of Congress Shri Madhavrao ji Scindia and several

Members of all the Parties have given notices and I fully agree with the sentiments expressed here during zero hour over this incident which occurred in Srinagar yesterday. The journalists are, of course, the fourth pillar of our democracy and were there to cover all that which was happening in Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of this proxy war waged by Pakistan against the public at large there. It seems that an attempt was made to kill them all under a conspiracy. Madhavrao ji called the journalist of "Hindustan Times" Shri Pradeep Bhatia as a martyr. I fully agree with this. It is not that only the soldier who dies while fighting in a war, is a martyr. Sometimes, common citizens or the journalists also sacrifice their lives for their nation. So, I pay my tributes to them on behalf of the Government. I agree with the sentiments expressed by you all. Yesterday, just before the adjournment of the sittings in both the House, a brief statement has also come up from the Government side in this context as per the directions of the Speaker. As Shri Madhavrao ji has just said that each time there is no issue as such for politicizing or scoring upon. So whatever he said was reflecting all about the positive approach in this regard and the Government should feel its responsibility and save the country from these incidents.

I think the constructive way in which he has said it, Madhavrao Scindia ji and other leaders have given suggestions giving no political colour or not making the each item a topic of criticism and taking it as National calamity, the Government would definitely consider it thoroughly and we all will try to fight with terrorism collectively. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record, except the submission of Shri Uttamrao Dhikale.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Sugar sector. Vilas Muttemwar ji has also raised this issue. There has been a huge production of Sugar in Maharashtra. The production of sugar is going up day by day not only in Maharashtra but also in the whole country. Even at the world level the production of Sugar has increased more than 45 lakh metric tons. That is

why the prices of sugar are going down day by day. It has come to my notice and I have read somewhere that some quantum of sugar has been imported from Brazil and Pakistan. This is because of free marketing. There are several sugar mills in Maharashtra where huge quantity of sugar is lying. I would like to request the Government that the buffer stock, cancelled earlier should be allowed to retain now. The Co-operative mills should be allowed to export. When you want to give good price for sugar then levy prices should be announced at the start of the season. Not only an announcement should be made but keeping in mind the levy and free sale, free sale quota should be enhanced. The Central Government should make an amendment to reduce the price of sugarcane. It should also be looked into by the Government as to how to determine the minimum price of sugarcane. Sugar area is increasing day by day in Maharashtra and the number of co-operative sugar mills is also increasing. They are finding impossible to get the labourers. I would like to request the Government, through you, to impose tax on the sugar imported due to free marketing.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vilas Muttemwar, you can also associate with the submission of the hon. Member.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, I have got a separate issue.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir the on-going work of National Highway from Jaipur to Delhi is lying incomplete. The road has been damaged on several points by rain. The road has not been constructed between Mohan Nagar and Kotputli.

MR. SPEAKER: Bhargavaji, you have raised the same issue twice.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: People are facing problems in going Delhi from Jaipur. It should become a four hour route. It takes three hours to go to Chandigarh from Jaipur by train. My request is that road should be well maintained. Where four lanes are proposed but could not be completed, the work should be completed at the earliest so that the people going to Jaipur may get some relief and their vehicles may not be damaged due to ditches.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, pollution is increasing at a very fast speed in Delhi. There are many colonies located on the eastern bank of

river Yamuna in my constituency—East Delhi. Lakhs of people move on the road alongside these colonies. There is a constant danger of spreading of diseases due to the non-cleaning of river Yamuna. Efforts are on to rehabilitate the jhuggi clusters at some other place by providing them alternate sites.

In this situation, the 15 km stretch from Sonia Vihar to Madhu Vihar may be developed as a garden by preparing a scheme for afforestation so that the people can go there for a walk and pollution can be checked. I have come to know that the Department of Environment of Union Government in consultation with the Delhi Government has prepared a scheme to spend Rs. 10 crore here, which has not been implemented so far. I would like the Government to implement this scheme so that my constituency could be protected from pollution.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, about your matter, please hear me first because some hon. Member has raised it this week on the 9th August, 2000 about the derailment of a train. Somebody had already raised this issue.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): It is not one particular incident. For the past three to four years, there have been several railway accidents and derailments, particularly in the Vijayawada Division of the South-Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh.

In the recent one, in the derailment of the *Simhadri Express* on the 4th of August near Chagallu about five bogies had derailed. The reason that the Railway authorities have been giving is that there was an expansion of the track owing to the severe hot sun! This derailment had happened at about 10.45 a.m. in the morning. I think that the reason that is being assigned that there was hot sun and the railway track had expanded, is no reason.

Recently, some seven to eight months ago, a train had derailed and one of our Ministers also passed away in that accident. There must be some defect in the track in the Vijayawada Division in the South Central Railway. As and when there is some derailment or accident, people have been just giving some reason and they have been conveniently forgetting about the total accident.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government and request them to look into the whole track as well as the bogies that are being supplied to the South Central Railway, particularly the Vijayawada Division and to find out the reason which such frequent accidents are there.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

There is neither a cyclone nor a flood, it is just a normal period and this derailment had occurred on the 4th August. This must be taken note of as a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Somebody should take note of this.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Somebody can make a note of this and find out why in the past four years there were as many as 25 to 30 derailments and accidents in the region.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this serious issue.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for launching the "Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojna" for the development of the rural areas. The diesel cess fund allotted by the Ministry of Finance will be used to ensure one hundred per cent rural connectivity. The criteria for allotting the funds to the States are based on rural connectivity and population density. Tamil Nadu, which has utilised the State funds for the road infrastructure in the rural areas will be affected if the criteria are implemented.

I request you to allot funds to the States based on the collections of the diesel cess and rural population. Here I would like to mention that the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has announced a scheme to connect the colonies of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes with cement roads. This is one of his welfare schemes towards the development of rural areas and the Scheduled Caste people. If he gets more funds, his schemes will be implemented quickly.

I came to know that the Central Government has yet to take a decision on the modalities of the fund allocation. I request you to take a decision at the earliest and allot funds according to the collection of the diesel cess fund. The delay in allotting the fund will hamper the work as the Southern States will face heavy rains in the forthcoming months.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a survey was conducted 25 years back to lay a railway line between Bilaspur and Mandla. Then its survey was due in 1992, but it was extended upto 2000 and keeping the circumstances in view it should have been sanctioned by the Planning Commission. I would like to request the Hon'ble Union Minister that work for laying of Railway line between Bilaspur and Mandla be completed in the year 2000-2001 and this scheme should be forwarded to the Planning Commission for its sanction.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): Sir, I want to draw your attention and attention of this august House to an important matter of Rs. 5000 crore fraud in Reliance ONGC oilfields lease.

There are widespread reports about a case file relating to Enron Reliance Company's joint venture Mukta-Panna Oilfields lease agreements. By very very conservative estimates, the oilfields Mukta-Panna are valued at Rs. 5,000 crore. These were leased out for very nominal throw away price of Rs. 11 crore by ONGC officials. These very officials, who fixed the price of Rs. 11 crore for Rs. 5,000 crore oilfields, later joined the Reliance.

Later a Committee was appointed to investigate the scandal. The Chairman of the Committee after ruling out any corruption in the deal, later took premature retirement to join Reliance Group. This file relating to CBI investigation is missing or misplaced. I request hon. Speaker to direct the Government to appoint a sitting Supreme Court Judge or House Committee to investigate the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I think, it is a very serious allegation and the matter needs to be enquired into. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Something should be done about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): The Government needs to respond in such a serious matter. It is a very serious allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, whatever is talked during 'Zero Hour' is communicated to the concerned Ministers and the concerned Ministers will take note of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is a very serious charge. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You are shouting every time. You do not want to listen to somebody else. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the Member has raised a very important matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, this is what is said that in 'Zero Hour' no Parliamentary Affairs Minister will

be able to answer the questions on the spot and I hope you will appreciate it. If the hon. Member has made some kind of an allegation in this House, naturally, with responsibility I said that the concerned extracts will be sent to the concerned Minister to take a decision. What else can I do at this juncture?...(Interruptions) If the hon. Speaker wants to direct anything, he has all the authority to do that. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, you can direct the Minister to respond to such a serious charge. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pal, I have already asked the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to convey about the seriousness of the issue to the concerned Minister. He has already replied.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, you can direct the Minister to come to the House and explain the position. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already asked the Minister to convey to the concerned Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of this august House, through you, that by virtue of fundamental rights embodied in Article 19(1)(e) and (g), all citizens of India have got the right to reside anywhere in India by adopting a subject and profession of their choice. Since Agriculture is a State subject, thus Article 19(1)(f), right to acquire, hold and dispose of property was a protection of law to the farmers to enjoy the fruits of the above-mentioned rights.

Omission of article 19(1)(f) by Forty-fourth Amendment amounts to singling out the farmer citizens to be subjected to the discretion of the State legislature to enjoy the fruits of the right to reside in India by adopting a profession of his choice.

12.40 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

How can a farmer citizen reside anywhere in India after the omission of article 19(1)(f)? Now either he can

reside only in those States which permit him to buy land or he has to change his profession. Thus, article 19(1)(f) must be inserted in the Constitution, otherwise it is discriminatory. Farmers are the main sufferers as they are not allowed to purchase land in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh by way of discriminatory laws of these two States. On the one hand, the BJP wants to abrogate article 370 of the Constitution and, on the other, allows such laws which are discriminatory, to remain on the Statute Book.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the recruitment of Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) which is in process in Gorakhpur from 1.8.2000. Nearly 2 lakh applications were received for the same. About 21 thousand call letters have been issued. Only six or seven thousand call letters have been issued to OBC category. Most of the applications have been rejected only because the OBC certificates were issued on the format issued by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, but the student of 10th class cannot understand that the certificates should be issued on the lines of centre. OBC certificates were enclosed on the lines of format issued by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my request is that whatever the error has taken place, it should be examined and OBC candidates should be delivered justice. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is estimated that there are over six lakh Indian systems of medicines and homoeopathy practitioners in our country. Many of them work in remote, rural and urban slum areas and they can play an important role in improving the quality and outreach of the health services. I would appeal to the Government of India to expedite the Action Plan for mainstreaming, regularisation and utilisation of their medical services so as to achieve the national goal of population stabilisation and assisting the national health care delivery system, and also to associate them in the implementation of all the schemes.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is again going to face famine. Due of lack of rain, the crops sowed began to dry up.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

I, therefore, through you, would like to request the Government that some share of current flood water of 'Ganga' be diverted towards Rajasthan. Since there is scarcity of rain and availability of water from internal sources in Rajasthan is limited, it is but natural that share of the State in the Inter state water should be given priority. In this regard, I would like to draw your attention that Central Water Commission had submitted a detailed study report in the 11th sitting of the Ganga Flood Control Board on 4.1.1998. On the basis of that report it was decided that whenever there is a flood in Ganga, the surplus flood water should be given to Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)*

I, therefore, through you, request that the surplus flood water of Ganga and Yamuna be given to Rajasthan.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a serious matter of Maharashtra. Recently the Deputy leader of our House and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has also agreed that all of us are concerned about whatever is happening in Jammu and Kashmir and appropriate action would be taken in this regard.

Sir, I would like to draw your as well as the Government's attention towards the fact that second target of ISI is Maharashtra, Mumbai and as per the report of Intelligence Agencies the State Government has been warned that ISI has started its activities in Mumbai and other districts of the State.

According to the intelligence report of the Ministry of Home Affairs also, Abu Bakar Siddique and nine other persons involved in the Tamil Nadu bomb blast case, are hiding in different districts of Maharashtra and they work there on the dictates of the I.S.I. They are looking for an opportunity to create havoc in Maharashtra. They may try to mislead people by somehow creating communal or social tensions. Such efforts had also been made even during the election. However, the State Police did not let them create such things. Recently, Sayyed Ahmed, Mohammad Desai and five other terrorists Sahebzada, Bare Saheb, Shaikh alias Abbu Shaikh, Rajesh and Yashwant Bhagat etc. have been apprehended. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has sought an assistance of Rs. two crore from the Central Government for putting a check on the activities of the I.S.I. The I.S.I. is conducting its activities in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane and a number of other important cities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know that Mumbai is the industrial centre of the country and in 1991-1992 also, the I.S.I. had created major havoc. They are making

Mumbai their target even now and they may dare take any step. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has chalked out a plan to strengthen the Mumbai Police Force, to set up a special rapid action force, to purchase state-of-the-art electronic equipment, arms and instruments to counter the anti-national elements. But, the Central Government's assistance is required for this purpose. So, through you I request the Government to provide help to the Government of Maharashtra for maintaining the industrial set up of Mumbai and Maharashtra.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is Manmad junction railway station in Nasik district. At this railway station, there is the biggest factory to manufacture engines and other materials related to railway in the country. Hon'ble George Saheb also honoured the workers of this factory for their good performance. However, now the work is being assigned to the contractors. so, these workers are facing a major problem. Through you, I request the Hon'ble Minister that the work should not be assigned to the contractors and, at the same time, the number of workers should not be curtailed.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi is a premier institution. But a lot of corruption is taking place in regard to many of the matters connected inside the Institute. Recently a batch of about 50 students passed out from the Institute. Normally they execute a bond that after the completion of their course, they will do job for about two years there. For each student a stipend of Rs. 500 per month is being paid by the Government of India and that has been utilised also. Now, they have taken a decision not to utilise their services and they are going to take others. In taking others, a lot of corruption is being alleged. Many students came to many of us and they say that they are not being admitted in the hostel and many of them, who have come from various parts of the country, are not even admitted to the hostel and they are told that their services are not wanted. Some action has to be taken immediately. I will urge upon the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to bring this to the notice of the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare so that action is taken immediately. At least the students who are already inside the hostel—who are going to be evicted saying that their services are not necessary — may be helped.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been elected from the

Jodhpur Parliamentary Constituency of the Western Rajasthan. The people of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Pipad, Floudi have a long pending demand that a direct train each should be started from Jodhpur to Hardwar, to Chennai and to Mumbai.

Jodhpur is an important centre of Western Rajasthan. The people mostly transact their business from here with the South Indian cities and travel to and fro. The Marwaris play an important role in the commercial centre of Mumbai. The illiterate people of the villages are facing problem because there is no direct train to Mumbai nor is there any direct train for Hardwar. They are not able to get down from one train and board another train. So, I request through you that a direct train each from Jodhpur to Chennai, Mumbai and Hardwar should be started.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, about two years back, there was a direct airbus service everyday to Orissa, but it was withdrawn and a Boeing plane was provided and Bhubaneswar route was also attached to Visakhapatnam. But the airport at Visakhapatnam does not have night landing facility or facilities for servicing the airbus. So, most of the days, plane goes very late and first it is being taken to Visakhapatnam and then it comes back to Bhubaneswar. Therefore, my appeal to the hon. Minister for Civil Aviation, through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, is that a daily airbus service should be provided to Bhubaneswar via Varanasi so that it becomes a tourist route and there are enough passengers in the plane.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I am discussing a very important topic in the House today. Rohtas, Bhojpur and Kaimur districts of Bihar are on the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The river Sone flows to the South. These are hill areas. These days, the M.C.C. and other anti-social elements make these hills their centre of activities after committing crime anywhere. When I was a member of this House last time, then also, I had drawn the attention of the Government towards this subject and suggested that a military cantonment should be set up there for making these hills free of the criminal elements. Kaimur district is on the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. If the Government sets up a military cantonment there, then this area will be free of becoming the shelter of the M.C.C., the terrorist organizations and anti-social elements. Then, there will be no crimes. I, therefore, request the Government of India to set up a military cantonment in these hills soon.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today, casteism is raising its head in our country. If we want to strengthen this country, we will have to banish casteism from this country. For this purpose. My only submission is that the Government should constitute caste abolition commission at centre and state level as it will help to abolish casteism in the country.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, caste-free society should be built by abolishing caste-system in the society. I agree with the views of the hon. Member expressed here. Discrimination on the basis of caste should be abolished. There would be egalitarian society and the suggestion made for constituting a commission will have to be studied.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has issued the Coastal Regulation Notification which prohibits any kind of activity within a radius of 500 metres. I think, it is applicable of Lakshadweep also. If that is the case, nothing can be done within the radius of 500 metres.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, there is something related to Lakshadweep.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Kerala is a strip of land on the sea coast and due to this notification, the poor fishermen who are residing in the coastal areas could not get the land registered.

They would not get *pattas* in their name. Thousands of fishermen are staying in the coastal area. If this 500-metre regulation is strictly adhered to, none of these people will get their right, and no development activity is possible. More than that, some tourist centres, like Cochin and Kovalam, are located in the coastal area. If this 500-metre regulation is implemented, then the entire tourist activity in the coastal region will be in peril.

Long before, the Chief Minister has brought this matter to the attention of the Central Government. In spite of repeated requests, nothing has been done to remedy this process. If it is 50-metre or 100-metre regulation, I can understand that, but if it is 500 metres, then it is too much for a State like Kerala.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think, you also understand the position of Kerala because more than one-third is hilly region, another one-third is middle region, and the coastal region is very, very narrow. So, if you strictly apply this

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

regulation, the Kerala State will be facing much difficulty. It is a peculiar problem. The Government may be pleased to consider this peculiar aspect and see that land is registered in the name of the poor people who are residing in the coastal area, and also think about the development activities.

We request you to take up this matter with the Government of India and see that this 500-metre regulation is relaxed at least in the State of Kerala.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What about Lakshadweep?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This regulation is also applicable in Lakshadweep.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. Minister wants to respond, he can do so.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I totally appreciate the concern expressed by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, and you, Sir.

It is not only a question of Kerala or Lakshadweep. We have a coastline of about 6,000 kilometres, and the CRZ regulation is naturally creating problems for fishermen and tourism industry. Though I do not deal with this subject, I vaguely remember that there is some Supreme Court ruling on this subject. As I said, I appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Member, and the indirect directives given by you. I will take up this matter with all seriousness with the Environment and Forests Minister. Let us try to resolve this issue. As I said, there is a judicial pronouncement also on this issue. We would like to find a way out. I will definitely ask the Environment and Forests Minister to seriously look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of Union Minister of Industry towards Sansarpur area of Kangra district. The Union Government had granted sanction on 20 February, 1997 for developing industrial area there. But even after so many years, the infrastructure for developing industries which should have been developed, is still to be developed. There was one more provision in that scheme that a mini tool training centre would be set up for imparting training to employees and testing the high quality products, which was under consideration, but even this could not be set up yet. I would like to request the Government that it should be completed at the earliest so that a good industrial set up could be developed there.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 14 announcers and comperes have been working for the last 15 years in All India Radio, Patna. CAT has also made an award in regard to their regularization on 3.12.1999, but nothing is being done in regard to their regularization as yet. I would like to demand from the Government of India, through you, that steps should be taken immediately towards their regularization and justice may be done to them.

13.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Phoolan Devi, today, half an hour discussion is to be held on your subject.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission regarding irrigation facilities in my constituency Mirzapur. The area of 90 assembly constituencies upto Allahabad is irrigated through the canals drawn from Adhva dam and Sarsi dam in Mirzapur. These canals are damaged every year and crores of rupees are given by the Union Government for repairing them, but neither canals are maintained nor repaired. The whole fund goes in vain due to malfeasance. I request the Union Government that the Minister of Irrigation of Uttar Pradesh should be directed to get repaired these canals because for want of the repairs water gets wasted, crops get damaged for lack of water for irrigation. Paddy crop is standing in the fields. It is hilly area. Poor are starving and due to drying up of crops. Canal department realizes dues from farmers, but water is not supplied for irrigation. Damaged canals should be repaired so that water could flow into the fields properly. I would like to request the Government through you that concerned Minister of Irrigation of Uttar Pradesh should be directed to get damaged canals repaired and proper arrangement need be made.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to long term planning, there has been decrease in coal production in several companies of Coal India Ltd. even after 27 years of nationalisation of coal mines and cost production of coal is increasing. Therefore short term plans with immediate effects should be operated in all the coal mines keeping in view the future progress and for this purpose, suggestion of the CMPDI should be translated into action, which is very much necessary for the future of the coal industry. I, therefore, would like to request the Government through you that this matter should be taken up with the Ministry of Coal and necessary steps should be taken to convert the loss making coal companies into profit making companies and enhance production capacity.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 P.M.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eight Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL—*contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up the legislative business.

Item No. 9—Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

Shri Bansal, you had already taken 15 minutes yesterday.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): No, Sir. I took 13 minutes yesterday. I keep account of my time. Yesterday, I started at 1547 hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said yesterday, the objective behind this Bill is, indeed, laudable. This intends to do away with certain practices which have, in the past, come in the way of the general public in seeking redressal to their grievances and to have access to the Government-held knowledge.

For instance, beat of drum. That is a farcical practice. And, after the passage of this Bill, I think, a practice like that would come to an end. Similarly, everywhere, we find, without giving any reasons, the order passed always is "considered and rejected". This will hopefully not happen in the future.

'Public interest' is the expression used to deny access to the public to any information whatsoever.

There are certain amendments that I had suggested. I would not like to go into the details of those amendments at the moment because I hope that the hon. Minister would give an assurance that some of them would be met. But there are certain basic difficulties that I find in this Bill.

I do not have the right and I do not have the competence even to doubt the legal expertise or legal skill of the gentlemen who have drafted this Bill. But I have not been able to appreciate the legal finesse as far as clause 8 (2) of this Bill is concerned.

I do not know what the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to convey to me.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Nothing. You may please continue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is supporting you.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, discretion gets the better of me. I think, I should not really comment on that.

Even if I have to make a demand for referring this Bill to a Select Committee or a Standing Committee, I think, it is my duty to refer to a particular point to say that this is the reason behind my demand. It is for the hon. Minister to accept it or not. If that is the attitude, I would continue with my argument. I did of course say—and let me not hesitate in saying it — that I had put across a viewpoint that this Bill requires to be referred to a Committee. For that, I think, I have to make a point. If it is expected of me that I just say that and do not even make my argument, I think, that is really stifling the debate, which, of course, nobody can really do excepting you. ...(*Interruptions*)

In clause 8(2), it has been said:

"Any information relating to any occurrence, event or matter which has taken place, occurred or happened twenty-five years before the date on which any request is made under section 6 shall be provided to any person making a request under that section..."

14.13 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

I have tried to read, re-read and discuss this clause with anyone I could and I have really failed to understand

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

what this conveys. The words used here are 'occurrence, event or matter', which have not been defined in the Bill. So, do you mean to suggest that if a person seeks information on an event that is not 25 years old, it would be denied to him under this clause? What could be the nature of information sought? It could be for instance, about the Government's decision and the reasons for the transfer or the change of telecom policy from the licence fee regime to the revenue sharing regime. It could be regarding the hon. Minister's Department itself regarding any award of Arbitration not being accepted by the Government. It could even be regarding the recent disinvestment decisions. If we want to seek some information on these and many other matters, does this sub-clause convey that that information would be denied? I have very serious doubts about the efficacy of this Bill. That is precisely the reason why I said yesterday that this Bill when enacted could turn out to be a dead letter. If that is not so—as I infer the hon. Minister of Law wishes us to understand—I am happy. Then, I have all my words of appreciation for their bringing in this piece of legislation.

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): Since it is an important query that has been raised, I would like to respond. The tenor of this clause is that everything under clauses 3 and 5 is open to public gaze, inspection or for copies. The only exceptions are listed in clause 8 (1). Clause 8 (2) says that after 25 years, even those exceptions listed in clause 8 (1) — if you read it in harmony—will not be a secret and everything will be made public on the expiry of 25 years.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I thank the hon. Minister for clarifying this point. This in fact removes one of the very serious doubts in my mind. If any information, whether classified or relating to any of these matters, would be made available to the citizens after 25 years — even about those exceptions which are listed — I would welcome the initiative. Those exceptions are also very valid ones and any Government ought to bring in those exceptions which have been incorporated there. If the purpose of clause 2 is to rather do away with those exceptions, after lapse of twenty five years I would welcome this initiative.

Besides this, there are many other things. On one particular matter, I feel that it would cause a lot of difficulties for the Government. In a particular clause, it is mentioned that the Government ought to publish the procedure or the system devised by it for arriving at various decisions. Clause 4(b) (ii) at page 3 of the Bill, says:

"The powers and duties of its officers and employees and the procedure followed by them in the decision-making process."

If the Government really wishes to bring it to the people, I would welcome it but this could cause difficulties for the Government. This is my feeling because this would open floodgates to filing of writ petitions in courts. There could be a lot of problems. Always directions would be issued to the Government to frame detailed procedures, etc. It may not be codified, but it would be expected to be something akin to codified laws.

I think, these are the points among others, which need to be deliberated at length, in a Joint Select Committee. I am cutting short all my points like appellate authority etc. If the hon. Minister responds to this, we need not proceed further with the arguments or with the debate here; and we would certainly like to put all the points across in a Committee. I think, the right forum to do this is the Select Committee of the two Houses where Members could sit and deliberate.

If the hon. Minister respond to this at this stage, I would not have to proceed further with my points.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: As far as the Freedom of Information Bill is concerned, the whole country is waiting for this Bill for the last about a decade. It has gone through many processes and many Governments. Really, the Government of Shri Vajpayee is very keen to give freedom of information to the people of this country. We are really very keen to get it passed in this very Session. But if this is the consensus of the House that it should be sent either to the Standing Committee or to the Select Committee—which we will decide later—I think, the Government has no objection in sending it to the Committee. But it should be the consensus of the House. If that is the consensus of the House, we can take up the next Bill, leaving aside this Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It will again transmit it to this House within two or three months.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maybe, the first week of the next Session.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, I had the privilege of piloting the first Cable Television (Regulation) Bill. It was a very innocuous Bill. The hon. Minister was a Member of the then House. Along with him was my distinguished successor, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. The Chair directed me that it should go to the Standing Committee. At that time, it was the Standing Committee. An innocuous Bill like the Cable Television (Regulation) Bill, had to go and come back within seven days.

Now, there are very valid points in the present Bill and it is a very important legislation. Right to information is fundamental today. There are many judicial pronouncements on it. So, I feel that it should go to a Joint Select Committee.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I fully support the plea of my esteemed colleague, Shri Bansal, that this Bill should be sent to a Joint Select Committee. Within a timeframe, it could scrutinise the Bill and send it back to us. The Bill has several serious provisions, which need to be changed, according to the requirements of the situation. So, I fully agree with what has been suggested; and the Bill should be sent to a Joint Select Committee. Only thereafter, we can take it up in this House.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully endorse the views of Shri Bansal. This is an important piece of legislation. Transparency is the administration is the essence of the matter. So, let the matter be not delayed. Let a time frame be given to the Select Committee. We are in favour of sending this Bill to the Select Committee.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I have already said that we have no objection to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A motion has to be brought.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I will consult the Leaders of other parties. It is because many times the Members of the Standing Committee concerned feel that they are bypassed in enacting certain legislations. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Let it be examined by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs. We are examining the Lottery Bill and the Companies Act Amendment Bill. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, in this connection I would like to refer to the Official Secrets Act. That colonial Act has a direct bearing on the Right to Information Bill. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I have an objection. If we are sending the Bill to the Select Committee or the Standing Committee, we cannot go on debating the Bill itself. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, you just say whether this should be sent to the Select Committee or not.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am in favour of sending this Bill to the Select Committee. And I would like to strengthen that argument by saying. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: There is no need for an argument. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, you just say whether this Bill should be referred to the Select Committee or not.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I support that view. In order to strengthen the view, I was referring to the Official Secrets Act. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There should not be any debate on the Bill.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Sir, my point is different. While constituting the Committee, I would request the Government to consider involving in the Committee those Members who were bureaucrats so that they can correctly advise the Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion on the Bill may be deferred for the present. Time frame for reporting back to the House may be decided later.

Now, we will take up Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2000.

14.24 hrs.

CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

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): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, be taken into consideration."

Sir, Shri K.P. Singh Deo has just mentioned that he had the privilege of piloting the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. As a result of the advent of

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

satellite television, several new avenues came to the fore. In 1995, Parliament legislated the 1995 Act. Since then we have put this Act into motion and implemented it for several years. There are several areas where the Act requires to be strengthened. I will briefly indicate the areas which this Bill deals with.

Under section 5 there is a provision to frame a programme code. Similarly, under section 6 there is a provision to frame the advertising code. Accordingly, regulations have been framed in which a programme code and an advertising code had been framed. But sections 5 and 6 carry a proviso which says that nothing in this section shall apply to programmes of foreign satellite channels which can be received without the use of specialised gadgets and decoders.

A similar proviso is there in Section 6. The result of these two provisos has been that every time there is a foreign satellite channel which is uplinked from outside the country down-linked into India, it is further transmitted without the use of any specialised gadgets or decoders, they get a complete exemption from the applicability of the programme code as also the advertising code. The special gadgets or decoders are used for the purpose of those channels only which are pay channels. That is to say, the cable operator charges every household a certain amount of money. Those who are free channels are transmitted without any specialised gadgets or decoders. Therefore, if there is a foreign satellite channel—we have a large number of foreign satellite channels which are down-linked into the country, which are free to air channels, where no decoder is required—then there is a complete exemption to the cable operator to show that programme and transmit it further without any consequence, irrespective of whether our programme code or advertising code have been complied with in that programming or not.

In the new amendment, it is proposed to delete this particular provision, the provisos themselves, so that the effect of the deletion would be that our programme code and broadcasting code would be applicable to all kinds of channels, whether they are pay-channels, encrypted-channels or they are free to air channels.

The second amendment which has been suggested is the definition which has been added in clause 2(a), where we are defining an authorised officer. There are several sections in which this Act has to be implemented in every district of the country to see that there is compliance of the provisions of this Act and several officers are required to be notified to implement this Act. The experience of the last five years has been that since this is required to be implemented in every district of the country, in several States, the concerned officers have

not been notified or have not been spared by the State Government for this particular purpose. Therefore, those definitions are being substituted, that instead of saying which particular officer, the phrase being introduced is an 'authorised officer'. The word 'authorised officer' is being added to the definition that he shall include the District Magistrate, the sub-divisional Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police who will have the primary responsibility for implementing several provisions of this Act. This is intended in order to make the implementation of the Act easier.

The next provision is sought to be brought in by an amendment. Under Section 8 of the original Act, there was a provision that Doordarshan being a public service broadcaster, there was a mandatory clause that at least two programmes of the public service broadcaster must be carried by every cable operator. There have been several difficulties in the enforcement of it. These difficulties are in the nature of either not transmitting them properly or not transmitting them at all or also transmitting in a manner in which Doordarshan which has simultaneously satellite and terrestrial signals, both being put into the same channel as a result of which a lot of people complain that there is a hazy picture.

As far as Doordarshan is concerned, the Prasar Bharati has been able to have a special emphasis on regional language programming. In several regional languages, in the course of this calendar year, they have started 24-hour satellite channel. Therefore, these satellite channels which are in regional languages give a great fillip to regional languages, regional music, regional news, regional current affairs as also various cultural events of the artists of those particular regions. It is important that people get access to these channels also. Therefore, Section 8 is proposed to be substituted and the new Section 8 would provide that every cable operator would transmit at least two Doordarshan's terrestrial channels. There are two channels which are terrestrial; DD-National and DD-Metro and one regional language channel of a State in the prime band in the satellite mode on frequencies other than those carrying terrestrial frequencies. Therefore, two terrestrial channels would be carried on the terrestrial frequencies so that there is no mis-match. The regional channels which are in the satellite mode would be carried on the satellite frequency in the prime band itself so that the signals which reach every house are of good quality. There have been several complaints that cable operators do not transmit those signals properly. There is also a provision for notifying those channels which are to be carried by the Prasar Bharati itself.

There is also a proposal to amend Section 20 of the Act to include programme or which district should be carried by the operators.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Who has got the discretion as to which programme to be carried by the operator?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, there is no discretion with regard to a programme. There will be two layers of this. The suggestion is that a cable operator is free to carry any channel, provided that the programmes are complying with the programme code and the advertising code. If there are channels which are violating them, they will not be permitted. For instance, there was a particular channel which offended decency, and which was vulgar, that channel was not permitted. Every channel which is within the parameters of the programme code and the broadcasting code, the cable operator can carry that.

As far as Doordarshan is concerned, there is provision proposed in Section 8(3) which says that "the Prasar Bharati established under Section 3 of the Prasar Bharati Act, may, by notification in the official Gazette specifying the number and the name of every Doordarshan channel to be transmitted by the cable operator in their cable service and the manner of the reception and the re-transmission of such channels..." There are only two such terrestrial channels. Therefore, they will be obvious. But as far as the regional language channels are concerned, the notification would be that such regional language channels which has the most popular acceptability and understanding in that particular region. We are now in the process of setting up regional language channels in most parts of the country. In fact, a large number of States have been covered in the past few months. Therefore, those regional language broadcasts must also get a reasonable fillip. That is the object of this particular amendment.

The last limb of the amendment is to add Section 20 sub-section 2 where Section 19 and Section 20 were enacted originally, this amendment is more classificatory in nature. The reason for this amendment is that under Section 19, there is a power to prohibit a transmission which promotes hatred on the grounds of religion, race, language, caste, community, disharmony or linguistic disturbances between castes etc. So, Section 19 prohibits any programme which generates caste or communal or religious hatred. It is a valid provision which should be there. Section 20 has a specific provision that the Government may in public interest prohibit a particular channel. Since the other matters are not defined, for example, if there is a channel which is substantially pornographic we can perhaps try and invoke the clause under public interest Section 20 as to what those

proponent would be are not defined under Section 20. Therefore, in the past when an occasion arose to prohibit a channel which offended decency and was pornographic in character, a doubt was raised. Section 19 gives the specific power with regard to prohibiting channels which are generating caste and religious hatred, but there is no power with regard to such channels which are pornographic in character. Therefore, the language of article 19(2) of the Constitution which is the reasonable restriction on the freedom of expression has been brought into Section 20 sub-section (2). Therefore, the power is only relatable to those restrictions which are already Constitutionally permissible restrictions, viz. programmes which offend the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of India and friendly relations of India with any foreign State or public order, decency or morality. Now these are all phrases which are the constitutionally permissible restrictions. Sir, the main object behind this amendment is that we have worked this Act for over five years. There are several factors which emerged in the process of its functioning. The Parliamentary Standing Committee and various other Consultative Committees have been discussing these issues from time to time, and raising these issues and concerns with regard to each of these subjects. These issues have been stated in this House on various occasions. In fact the Standing Committee has also recommended that on the pattern of some of the countries abroad, there must be a must carry clause. That is why we take two plus one of these channels. The Standing Committee itself has recommended this. Therefore, this should be introduced into this Bill. It is in consonance with a popular opinion which has been expressed in this House also on several other occasions that the Government has considered it necessary to move for the amendment of this law in order to really strengthen the Cable Law in India.

With these words, I commend to this House that this Bill be taken up for consideration and be approved.

MR. CHAIDMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, be taken into consideration."

There are amendments to the Motion for Consideration. I think Shri Vilas Muttemwar is not present here. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to move his amendment.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th November, 2000." (1)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill because this is a very important Bill.

The authorised officer is having a very high power to interfere in the cable operators' work on a day-to-day basis. I plead that it should not be discriminatory and arbitrary. That type of an unbiased view should be taken by the authorised officers who are going to be appointed under clause 2(a) of the Bill.

In clause 5, it is suggested that Doordarshan is to get two channels. It is a very good amendment because Doordarshan is now trying to stand up to the private TV channels in competition. Private TVs are coming up with very powerful picture transmission and films. It is good that Doordarshan is also coming up gradually. But it has to spread itself much more because in the rural areas, Doordarshan is the only medium through which people get their television. Whereas in the towns and cities, cable operators are also working, in the moffusil areas only Doordarshan is giving information to the people. As a medium of information, Doordarshan has to be there in cities and towns also. Therefore, this provision is very important. Doordarshan should have its prominence in this cable operation.

I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the fact that now the cable operators are becoming monopolies. I know that in Chennai City it is dominated by a single operator. Everything is purchased by them. Therefore, there is nobody who can give a choice of channels to the people.

Nowadays even the TV channels are becoming politicised. Every political party is having a particular channel. If one person is in the ruling party and another person is in the opposition party and they are having a TV channel each, one can very well be stopped from being viewed by the people. Therefore, this monopoly should be restricted. For that purpose there is no provision in the Bill. We can do it because when there can be monopoly restriction in business, this is also a kind of business. If there is any complaint that there is monopoly in a particular city and I am ready to provide a second channel, that type of choice should be considered in order to end the monopoly in the field. It is very much a mass media and people are suffering because of this monopoly. Especially in Tamil Nadu, in each and every town there is monopoly.

Hon. Members know that unemployed graduates, engineers and others are now going in for cable operation. They are earning money. If there are 100 or 120 customers, then they can very easily earn some money.

It offers self-employment opportunities to the cable operators. But this is going to be dominated again by the TV producers themselves.

If the television station holders themselves are going to dominate the cable operation, then self-employment will not be there and there will be monopoly in due course. Even particular channels may not be for the view of the public. Therefore, this is a very important point that has to be considered.

I would like to attract the attention of the hon. Minister to another point. Especially in Chennai, cine actors had already come to the streets. They agitated about the pirated cassettes and that the entire industry is going to face the problem. The industry is not able to produce a picture, go to the public, run the film for 100 or 200 days and then go in for a better chance of producing another film. Now there is no scope for it in Chennai and other areas because immediately on release of a film, Arabian cassettes come here. Very beautiful pictures are there. Pirated pictures are there. Once there is a complaint from the film industry or from the actors, they come in procession to the Chief Minister, the premise is raided and then, the next day, they start doing it again. Therefore, piracy which is there has to be controlled.

Piracy is there in the cable television also. The local operators are screening the latest pictures released in the market. Thus, people are not going to the cinema halls at all. They watch them in the local cable channel itself. The local operator adjusts themselves with the local police and the local police adjusts itself with the authorised officers. By this way, it keeps automatically running as usual. Therefore, there should be a very careful policing. If any individual complains, proper action should be taken. Especially when the Films Chambers of Commerce comes out with this type of a request, then that should be carefully looked into.

Finally, only this type of cable operation alone is coming under the purview of this law. What about rich people who are having their own powerful dish antenna in their houses and are enjoying pictures which should not been seen. Moreover, they are taking advantage of internet also. There are a lot of objectionable things which are going on in the clubs also. This also should be restricted. If there is a dish antenna put up, then the authorised officers should have some right to look into it. If there is any complaint that a particular group of people are enjoying in an undesirable way, by payment or at their own social clubs, then powers should be given to the authorised officers to interfere in such activities. Even though the guilty ones are rich people and having separate social clubs, they should be curtailed from indulging in such activities so that decency is maintained all the time.

Clause 6 speaks about public decency or morality and Sub-Clause 5 has very wide terms. Individual authorised officers can enter any place very easily. They can interfere the privacy of any individual also. Proper instructions should be given in this regard. As regards the code of conduct, it should be properly drafted. The authorised officers should be reviewed then and there so that modern methods of mass communication are used in a civilised manner and not in an uncivilised way.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, on the basis of the experience of the last five years with regard to the operation of the several provisions of the Cable Network Bill, certain amendments are being proposed and there cannot be any difference of opinion with regard to particular amendments being proposed. But I have a different thing to place before the House for consideration.

Firstly, how far is the programme code itself being honoured by the private channels and even by Doordarshan?

Because, in our country, our Constitution has given us a direction about the type and kind of democracy we are going to practice. The foundation of the Indian democracy, I mean the secular democracy, would find that through the serials, shows, presentation of views and all these things. Several programmes are there. In these things, secularism is the first casualty. I am not mentioning to you some very popular programmes as a result of which we have found that particular sections of people rather the religious groups had reacted in a particular fashion. But what I want to say is that a time has come when the programme code should be suitably amended taking into account the needs of the nation. We have reached a stage and we have to protect the vital interest of this nation which was visualised during the Freedom struggle.

About the advertisement code, I can tell you that it is honoured more in violation than by compliance. Let me take one example. The advertisements of liquor in the channels are gradually being directly presented for the promotion of whisky and different types of liquors as it happens in the Western countries. About tobacco, earlier in the advertisement code, there were certain limitations with regard to the use of it. We have repeatedly discussed on the floor of this House about sex and violence which is a menace. If you just watch certain channels, you will find that in the name of fashion show, in the second channels, they are presenting only nude presentation of female bodies. Even on Doordarshan, we have seen such presentations not only in the serials, advertisements and other programmes but also in different ways where the programme code and the advertisement code have been

violated by Doordarshan, which is the public broadcasting service itself. More so, the private agencies are being allowed to operate through the system of Doordarshan itself. I am not naming any particular agency. In the name of presenting news, they are taking the prime time away from Doordarshan and Doordarshan is foregoing its own rights. Such agencies are not only minting money at the cost of Doordarshan but also they are, with political motivation, being encouraged by interested corners and they are using those channels.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to some such cases. As you know, on the birth day of a legendary leader of the Russian Revolution, who is honoured throughout the world, who is a source of inspiration to the downtrodden throughout the world, it was shown in such a ridiculous manner that it hurt us very much. Of course, an interference was made by some important people from informed quarters and they had apologised. But it did not end there. They have been violating the programme code in several ways. Here, it has been mentioned that if it involves the sovereignty and integrity of the country, the security of the country, the friendly relations of India with any foreign State, public order, decency or morality, the Central Government may, by order, regulate or prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of any channel or programme. But all these things are being violated.

So, I would support the hon. Minister and his Government if it comes out with a new programme code, with a new advertisement code, which should be strictly implemented by this Government.

I have another point to make—the share of information, education and entertainment. Even when the Doordarshan was started, Shrimati Indira Gandhi said that it would be an instrument of social change. Instead of it being used as an instrument of social change, with adequate emphasis on education and information part of it, it is essentially entertainment, and not even wholesome entertainment. The entertainment is based on sex-related, violence-related stories, and rerun of films only. We do find that education had become a casualty. Of course, of late, the Government has announced 'Gyan darshan' an enrichment channel which would be available throughout a day, 24 hours a day, providing educational opportunities for those deprived young people or elderly people through the non-formal system of education, and also supportive of the formal system.

I have to make a third point and that is very important. In these days of convergence as in the Western countries, developed countries, cable is being used for telecommunication also. In convergence, telecom.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

computer and broadcasting are the several faces of one entity. In our country, of late, we hear that the network of power, the network of railways, the network of Gas Authority of India, and all others are going to be used for laying of the optical fibre backbone. Of course, in this regard some private agencies are also proposing to set up, covering the whole country. What is happening? The private agencies are negotiating with these public sector undertakings to have access to this network or even to organise such network which they can themselves use. In our country individual and groups belonging to different commercial, political, social and other interests have come out with cable network. Particularly, in the South, we do find that many political leaders do have their own areas of influence, and their own areas of control in the cable network. But who will voice the concern of the common people? Common people do not have any say. In a situation like this, information is controlled, both in terms of dissemination and access. In such a situation, I will remind the Government to a landmark judgement. The Supreme Court once said that the airway is a public property. But till today, the Government has done little to ensure that public has enough access to information, and also enough right and power for the dissemination of that information. We see in Indian situation that there is a serious divide, a yawning gap between the information-rich and the information-poor. More and more rich sections are having control over the information, the global information, the national information and also the right to misinform and disinform people. Of course, the Committee should consider freedom of information. Appropriate Committee had been suggested. My suggestion is that that time has come. The Government should statutorily declare the proportion of education, information and entertainment. You may say that it would just violate the provision of the Constitution and the freedom of expression. It is not so because in a developing country, the Government has a responsibility.

Sir, information and education in a knowledge-based society are essential ingredients not only for their social and economic development, but also for empowerment of the deprived sections of the society, namely women, the downtrodden and weaker sections, socially or otherwise. In such a situation, I would suggest that the Government should come out with a comprehensive policy statement as to how they are going to empower the people, as per the direction of the Supreme Court. The Minister, as far as I know, has prepared a Report of the Review Committee on the Working Group of Prasar Bharati. They will discuss it and ultimately, during the course of time, this House will have access to that material.

Sir, the problem lies in the implementation of the Cable Television Network (Amendment) Bill. It is very difficult to implement whatever is being provided in the several provisions of this Bill, because hardly any punishment is meted out to the people who violate them. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how many people, who have violated the several provisions of the existing Act, have been booked. If the hon. Minister can apprise the House of this, it would be better.

Sir, these days, several multinational companies, big companies, are buying up the small operators and in the Eastern and Western parts of our country, this is happening. I do not know much about the situation in Southern part of our country. The Minister may know about it because he has his own colleague in the Cabinet, Shri Murasoli Maran, whose son is running the Sun T.V. channel and, of course, his leader's channel is also there. *...(Interruptions)* There are so many channels that are being gobbled up by his friends. *...(Interruptions)* We want to have one and, with your cooperation, we will have a new Bengali channel also. By competition, we shall be able to demonstrate that we are in no way inferior to any of the channels. *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, the views of the hon. Minister should also be presented as objectively and unbiasedly as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I would like to continue next time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me take the sense of the House. Please take your seat.

There are four hon. Members who want to speak on this Bill and if the House agrees, then the Private Members' Business can be taken up at 3.30 p.m., so that this Bill can be passed.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): No; it can be done after the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

15.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At 5.30 p.m., there is Half-an-Hour Discussion. That cannot be postponed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, then only we can take it up.

SHRI A.C. JOS: No, Sir. After the Private Members' Legislative Business, it can be taken up.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I want to make a request. The House can take a decision. Either we extend it now or we can continue this discussion after the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

SHRI A.C. JOS: It could be after the Private Members' Business.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: After that, we can continue.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No; on another day.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Why?...*(Interruptions)* You want Monday to be a holiday. You do not want anything to be completed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would request Shri Rupchand Pal also. It is true that the time allotted for the Private Members' Business should not be encroached upon. Between 3.00 and 5.30 p.m., many Members will react. We could not transact any Government business today because we referred that matter to some other Committee. After the Half-an-Hour Discussion, if we sit for 30-40 minutes and finalise the Bill, it would be proper. It would also be proper for the Opposition to some extent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the sense of the House that we take up this Bill after the Half-an-Hour Discussion?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Shri Rupchand Pal will continue.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a mention in the rules and procedure that the proceedings of the Parliament will continue up to 6 o'clock but the honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has made it a practise to continue the proceeding of the Parliament up to 8 o'clock every day...*(Interruptions)*. You may extend the sitting of the House beyond 6 o'clock upto 8, or 10 o'clock for any particular day but now-a-days the proceedings of the house continue up to 8, 10 or 11 o'clock every day...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee that if required, the proceedings of the House will continue up to 8 o'clock.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The rule is of up to 6 o'clock. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: As per the rule 6 o'clock is the stipulated time but it was decided in the Business Advisory Committee that if required, the House will continue upto 8 o'clock.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Just now Bill regarding disinvestment was discussed. What is the meaning of that debate? Laws are enacted but how much publicity is made in this regard?...*(Interruptions)* It even is not mentioned in the news papers that law as has been passed. ...*(Interruptions)* How will the public come to know? People speak here but it does not carry any weight. We are against this practise. You may continue debate beyond six o'clock upto 8 o'clock, 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock but to continue debate up 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock every day, is not a right thing...*(Interruptions)* it is not practical. It is suitable to the parliamentary tradition. ...*(Interruptions)* Today is Friday and after this, there is four days holiday, therefore all the hon. Members will go to their parliamentary constituencies. They say that you may get this bill passed after 6 o'clock. You may get it passed because you enjoy the majority. There is no need for debate? It will get passed easily. Such type of debate is not required. Otherwise the rail of hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is running without brakes. ...*(Interruptions)*. They will talk with everyone of them. You should maintain some tradition. ...*(Interruptions)* All these legal works are important. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that the discussion continued on the Disinvestment Bill upto 11 o'clock in the night yesterday but who knows about this. ...*(Interruptions)* They conduct secret sittings in the night which I, therefore, oppose. It should be considered.

15.03 hrs.

UTTAR PRADESH REORGANISATION BILL

Amendments made by Rajya Sabha—Agreed to

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up the Supplementary List of Business.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): That is why, we have repeatedly urged that it should be sent to the Committee first. Now we are receiving amendments from there. What is this. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): You have some amendment ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration:"

Clause 5

Amendment of the First Schedule to the Constitution

1. That at page 3, line 1,—
for "25", substitute "26"
2. That at page 3, line 2,—
for "26", substitute "27"

Clause 7

Amendment of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution

3. That at page 3, line 12,—
for "16", '27', '17' and '28',
substitute "'17', '28', '18' and '29'".
4. That at page 3, line 13,—
for "15", substitute "16"
5. That at page 3, line 14,—
for "15", substitute "16"
6. That at page 3, line 15,—
for "16", substitute "17"

Clause 12

Provisions as to Legislative Assemblies

7. That at page 3, line 41,—

for "'24', '25', '25' and '26'",

substitute "'25', '26' and '27'"

8. That at page 3, line 42,—
for "23", substitute "24"
9. That at page 3, —
for line "43", substitute —
"—————"
1—————5
25. Uttaranchal70.;"
10. That at page 4, line 1,—
for "25", substitute "26"

The Fifth Schedule

11. That at page 31.—
for lines 4 and 5, substitute.—
"In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,—
(a) in paragraph 2, for the figures "XXIII", the figures "XXIV" shall be substituted;
(b) in the Schedule, after Part XXIII, the following shall be inserted, namely:"
12. That at page 31,—
for line 6, substitute —
"Part XXIV Uttaranchal".

The Sixth Schedule

13. That at page 33, line 5,—
for "'XIX' and 'XX'",
substitute "'XX' and 'XXI'"
14. That at page 33, line 6,—
for "XIX",
substitute "'XX'"
15. That at page 33,—
for line 8, substitute —
"Part XXI Uttaranchal"

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Clause 5

1. That at page 3, line 1,—
for "25" substitute "26".
2. That at page 3, line 2,—
for "26" substitute "27".

Clause 7

3. That at page 3, line 12,—
for "'16', '27', '17' and '28'"
substitute "'17', '28', '18' and '29'".
4. That at page 3, line 13,—
for "15" substitute "16".
5. That at page 3, line 14,—
for "15" substitute "16".
6. That at page 3, line 15,—
for "16" substitute "17".

Clause 12

7. That at page 3, line 41,—
for "'24', '25', '25' and '26'"
substitute "'25', '26', and '27'".
8. That at page 3, line 42,—
for "23" substitute "24".
9. That at page 3,—
for line "43" substitute—
" _____"
1 _____ 5
25. Uttaranchal.....70.;"

10. That at page 4, line 1,—
for "25" substitute "26".

The Fifth Schedule

11. That at page 31.—
for lines 4 and 5, substitute —
"In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order,
1950,—
(a) in paragraph 2, for the figures "XXII", the figures
"XXIV" shall be substituted;

(b) in the Schedule, after Part XXIII, the following
shall be inserted, namely:—"

12. That at page 31,—
for line 6, substitute —
"Part XXIV Uttaranchal".

The Sixth Schedule

13. That at page 33, line 5,—
for "'XIX' and 'XX'"
substitute "'XX' and 'XXI'"
14. That at page 33, line 6,—
for "XIX".
substitute "XX"
15. That at page 33,—
for line 8, substitute—
"Part XXI Uttaranchal"

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman Sir, the Central Government could not keep its words on the issue of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar. Even today the people of Udham Singh Nagar are demonstrating. ...*(Interruptions)* So I would like to submit that firstly, the Government should put the amendments to include Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, then afterwards, it could be considered ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Amendments made by Rajya Sabha.

Clause 5

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I beg to move:

That at page 3, line 1,—
for "25" substitute "26". (1)
That at page 3, line 2,—
for "26" substitute "27". (2)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That at page 3, line 1,—
for "25" substitute "26". (1)

2. That at page 3, line 2,—
for "26" substitute "27". (2)

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I beg to move:

3. That at page 3, line 12,—
for "'16', '27', '17' and '28'"
substitute "'17', '28', '18' and '29'".
4. That at page 3, line 13,—
for "15" substitute "16".
5. That at page 3, line 14,—
for "15" substitute "16".

6. That at page 3, line 15,—
for "16" substitute "17".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

3. That at page 3, line 12,—
for "'16', '27', '17' and '28'"
substitute "'17', '28', '18' and '29'".
4. That at page 3, line 13,—
for "15" substitute "16".
5. That at page 3, line 14,—
for "15" substitute "16".
6. That at page 3, line 15,—
for "16" substitute "17".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I beg to move:

7. That at page 3, line 41,—
for "'24', '25', '25' and '26'"
substitute "'25', '26', and '27'".
8. That at page 3, line 42,—
for "23" substitute "24".
9. That at page 3, —
for line 43, substitute—
"
1_____5

25. Uttaranchal....70.;"

10. That at page 4, line 1,—
for "25" substitute "26".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

7. That at page 3, line 41, -
for "'24', '25', '25' and '26' "
substitute "'25', '26', and '27' ".
8. That at page 3, line 42,—
for "23" substitute "24".
9. That at page 3,—
for line 43, substitute—
"

1_____5
25. Uttaranchal.....70.;"
10. That at page 4, line 1, -
for "25" substitute "26".

The motion was adopted.

The Fifth Schedule

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I beg to move:

11. That at page 31,—
for lines 4 and 5, substitute —
"In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,—
(a) in paragraph 2, for the figures "XXIII", the figures "XXIV" shall be substituted;
(b) in the Schedule, after Part XXIII, the following shall be inserted, namely:—"

12. That at page 31,—
for line 6, substitute —
"Part XXIV Uttaranchal".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

11. That at page 31,—
for lines 4 and 5, substitute —
"In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,—
(a) in paragraph 2, for the figures "XXIII", the figures "XXIV" shall be substituted;

(b) in the Schedule, after Part XXIII, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

12. That at page 31,—
for line 6, *substitute* —
"Part XXIV Uttaranchal"

The motion was adopted.

The Sixth Schedule

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I beg to move:

13. That at page 33, line 5,—
for "'XIX' and 'XX'"
substitute "'XX' and 'XXI'"

14. That at page 33, line 6,—
for "XIX".
substitute "XX".

15. That at page 33,—
for line 8, *substitute*—
"Part XXI Uttaranchal"

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

13. That at page 33, line 5,—
for "'XIX' and 'XX'"
substitute "'XX' and 'XXI'"

14. That at page 33, line 6,—
for "XIX".
substitute "XX".

15. That at page 33,—
for line 8, *substitute*—
"Part XXI Uttaranchal"

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

The motion was adopted.

15.06 hrs.

MOTION RE: SEVENTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up Item No. 12.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 9th August, 2000."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 9th August, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

15.07 hrs.

(i) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

Amendment of the Eighth Schedule

[*English*]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): 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 BIR SINGH MAHATO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

(ii) OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (REPEAL) BILL*

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Official Language Act, 1963.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2 dated 11.8.2000.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Official Languages Act, 1963."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.08 hrs.

(III) USE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES IN COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS AND ON PACKAGES OF CONSUMER GOODS BILL*

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the compulsory use of Hindi language and one of the other Indian languages specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in all commercial advertisements and on packages of consumer goods and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the compulsory use of Hindi language and one of the other Indian languages specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in all commercial advertisements and on packages of consumer goods and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.8 1/2 hrs.

(IV) MERITORIOUS STUDENTS (ASSISTANCE IN HIGHER STUDIES) BILL*

[English]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for loan facilities to meritorious students for pursuing their higher studies and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for loan facilities to meritorious students for pursuing their higher studies and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.09 hrs.

(v) CHILD LABOUR IN HAZARDOUS EMPLOYMENT (ABOLITION, REHABILITATION AND WELFARE) BILL*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to abolish employment of children, bonded or otherwise, in hazardous employment, rehabilitation of those children who are employed and for welfare measures for them and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to abolish employment of children, bonded or otherwise, in hazardous employment, rehabilitation of those children who are employed and for welfare measures for them and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.***

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 11.8.2000.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.10 hrs.

(vi) **FOREST CONSERVATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL***

(Amendment of Section 2, etc.)

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): 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.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I introduce the Bill.

15.10 1/2 hrs.

(vii) **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL***

(Amendment of article 243C, etc.)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): 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 PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I introduce the Bill.

15.11 hrs.

(viii) **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL***

(Insertion of new article 31)

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): 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 Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: I introduce the Bill.

15.13 hrs.

**NATIONALISATION OF INTER-STATE
RIVERS BILL—contd.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, let us take up Item No. 13. Shri A. C. Jos is on his leg. He is to continue the debate.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): The other day, I had been mentioning about Item No. 56 in the Seventh Schedule, that is, the Union List, where 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. My complaint is that the Central Government till date has not effectively used this authority given by the Constitution in the case of Inter-State rivers. We have not been able to have a National Water Policy till date. In 1986, the late lamented Shri Rajiv Gandhi evolved a National Water Policy but it could not be passed by all the States. Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao who succeeded him sent it for the comments of the States. I understand that it was discussed in the National Water Council which is the official body representing all the states. Though it was discussed, it could not be passed. With the result, it is

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 11.8.2000.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 11.8.2000.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri A.C. Jos]

still hanging without any decision. My request to the hon. Minister of Water Resources is this. Sir, he is not here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is here. He is very much present here.

SHRI A.C. JOS: I am sorry. The Minister is sitting there. I looked at the Treasury Benches where he is not seen.

15.14 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

So my submission is, may be, because of political instability or whatever it is, we could not have a National Water Policy. Now, it is high time to have a National Water Policy. With the consent of all the States, a National Water Policy is to be evolved, and enough leeway should be given for all the States to express their opinion. As per the drawing authority from Entry-56, we have two laws. One is the River Boards Act and the other is Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. It is ridiculous that after 1956, this Act has become an archive and outdated. A lot of water has flown down after that. We have not been able to make a concerted effort to have a comprehensive Act. Either a new Act should be brought into or different amendments are to be brought into that Act. Section 11 of this 1956 Act precludes, excludes the Supreme Court from taking a decision. The Minister may be well aware that the Supreme Court, when it is seized of the matter, formed a Constitution Bench to consider this matter.

In our system a particular Act which precludes Supreme Court jurisdiction cannot be thought of or cannot be permitted to exist. So, considering all the aspects, after the development of many things we have to have a comprehensive legislation regarding the inter-State river disputes.

Even in the United Nations in 1994 there was an International Convention on Navigable River Waters. After that Convention, in 1997 they passed a Resolution — of course, India abstained from it—and in that Resolution it was decided to have a survey of the situation. Even that did not permit a survey by an independent body by which negotiations can be had. So, that is absolutely necessary. Especially, every other day, disputes are propping up from State to State regarding this.

I come from Kerala. Kerala has got disputes with all the neighbouring three riparian States, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Presently because of nature at times blessing us the position is not so difficult. Otherwise,

things would have been more different. So, there is an urgent necessity that we have to amend comprehensively this 1956 Act.

There are a number of organisations. The National Water Board is there, the National Water Development Agency is there and so on. Any number of agencies are there. But are they accountable to this Parliament? I have not seen any Reports. So, instead of that, either under this Act or by a different Resolution of the order, I appeal to the Government that they should form one agency.

Sir, what is happening? When a dispute comes, one agency of the Government cannot solve it immediately. Another agency is formed or a committee is formed. That is left to them. After that what happens to that committee nobody knows. Then comes another dispute. When the dispute between Haryana and Punjab came we formed a Committee. Instead, now many international agencies are there.

Our very eminent scientist Minister, Dr. K.L. Rao was the Minister of Irrigation. At that time the name of the Ministry was 'Ministry of Irrigation'. Now it has been changed to 'Water Resources'. Dr. K.L. Rao dreamt of many schemes. He said that the river Ganga should be merged with the Cauvery and that a national grid should be formed. But unfortunately it was not done.

Presently, we are coming to the conclusion that it is very grossly under-estimated. That is the reply given by the Government to a question and that it needs a lot of power. So, that has not been taken into consideration.

Even now what is the situation today? As on today Bihar is reeling under floods, whereas Tamil Nadu is having a drought. Thirty people died in Assam of floods and Gujarat is in difficulties. Also, the time has come wherein a masterplan has to be drawn up by which the Brahmaputra could be tamed and water is used properly. Last time itself I submitted that we are using only one per cent of the rain water which we are getting from nature. The rest, 99 per cent of the water, which is very precious is flowing to the sea, which we are not using.

The result is that one part of the country is suffering from floods, the other part is suffering from drought. Is it not a shameful thing for a modern nation like us wherein we have to plan all these things and tame our water?

Sir, in the last century or in the early part of this century, wars were fought on firm grounds, but I warn the Government that wars will come in this century for water. A lot of things have been said, but I do not want to go into the details. *Mahanadi* can be harnessed. Even the big cities like Cuttack and Bhubaneswar are flooded with water of *Mahanadi*. It can be linked to South. The

water from that place can be given to the Southern people.

Sir, *Brahmaputra* is a wild river. What can we do? Every year, year after year, we are spending a lot of money on relief work. My submission to the hon. Minister is why do you not pool all these relief money, which we are spending on relief work. We have a National Relief Rolling Fund. Even now some States are expecting money. There will be some money on floods and works are being earmarked, to be executed after the floods. That system has to be changed. Now, if we can have Narmada Project of Rs. 6,000 crore or even bigger than that, then why do you not envisage a scheme by which *Brahmaputra*, both its pacific rivers as well as Himalayan rivers, can be taken into consideration?

Sir, I had mentioned last time also that I went to Rajasthan. The canals, which we built there, have really brought prosperity to that desert State. Our agriculture can be encouraged and more work can be given. So, we have to think about water. However, I am not going deep into it.

Sir, now, this House is seized of the matter. I really appreciate Shri Vaiko. This matter has been seized by the House. Now, the hon. Minister is armed enough with powers and public opinion also. Every other day, during drought time, we hear either tussle between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu or between Kerala and Tamil Nadu or between Haryana and Punjab. Why should we give room to that? In fact, our rivers are the source for national integration. The water flown unwantedly and unused to the Arabian Sea or to any other place can be used. Even the underground water also is being repleted every day.

Therefore, my submission is that a Master Plan is to be envisaged or drawn by the hon. Minister by which the entire country can be covered. The National Water Policy, which is on the anvil, has been discussed thoroughly by the National Water Council, but the only thing is that it has not been formulated and it has not got the stamp of authority.

Thirdly, there is an urgent necessity to have the present Act either repealed or abrogated. You can bring a new comprehensive legislation by which the disputes can be taken care of. That should be the outcome of this discussion. That is what I have to submit to the hon. Minister.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on the nationalisation of rivers.

River is a connecting link to all mankind, irrespective of the language, culture or religion. Rivers flow from one State to the other. Cauvery water flows from Karnataka State to Tamil Nadu State and to Pondicherry. Dams were constructed towards the upper part of the Cauvery river basin. So, the rights of the lower riparian States were infringed, which led to the appointment of our Tribunal. The Tribunal has passed an Interim Award but the execution of that Award is not imminent. It has so much ramifications. Though we are together, though India, that is, Bharat, is a union of States, though we are all Indian citizens, yet one State objects to the other State getting more water. In the modern civilisation, these fissiparous tendencies and paranoiac approach should be undone. In my district and the district of the Mover of this Bill, Shri Vaiko, there is a river called *Tambrabarani* *Porunai* river which originates from *Podigai* hills and mixes with the sea. That is the only river which originates from our district. It is a perennial river which caters to the needs of the mankind of all the adjacent districts to get potable water. Towards the western side of Kerala, time and again, our forefathers and the administrators, MPs, MLAs of that time, that is, about 20 years back, have been advocating that the water of the west flowing rivers should not mix into the sea because it is going waste, and that we must construct a dam towards the upper part of that west-flowing river. I thought I could ventilate these grievances during the Half-an-Hour discussion wherein it was stated that major projects had not been formulated or advocated or mooted by the Tamil Nadu Government. At that time, in the statement furnished by the Minister, it was stated that there was no major project mooted by the Government of Tamil Nadu. I thought that I could mention that during that discussion. At least now the Minister may communicate to the State Government to formulate a major project - as such, there is no major project; there are only minor projects — to contain these west-flowing river waters to cater to the needs of lakhs and lakhs of agriculturists. Coming down from that part of that river, you have *Kodumukdiyar*, you have *Kudambiyaru*, you have *Patchayaru*, but these are all minor projects.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): But these can be executed by the State concerned.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: But, Sir, I would like to say that we need environment clearance. We have the full-fledged *Patchayaru* scheme. Now they have laid the foundation and the scheme is being executed as *Vadakku Patchayaru* scheme. The entire North *Patchayaru* scheme has not been mooted. So far as the *Kodumudiyaru* scheme is concerned, the environmental clearance of the then Minister of Environment and Forests,

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi was obtained as early as in the year 1990.

But that clearance was not communicated or was not carried out. The lion-tailed monkeys were prevalent in that *Kodumudiyaru* area. They are called *Singaval Korangu*. When I was a Member of the Legislature in Tamil Nadu Assembly, a proposal was mooted by all the Members of the Assembly from that district saying that we have to formulate this project setting aside the prevalence of lion-tailed monkeys. But what is the position now? I want to know whether the Central Government has given environmental clearance of this entire *Kodumudiyaru* scheme or not. There are lakhs of acres of land in *Kodumudiyaru*, *Nambiyaru* and *Patchayaru* areas which depend upon these west-flowing waters.

I heard the speeches of the other hon. Members. The mover Shri Vaiko has said that I must participate in this discussion. It is a great pleasure and it is my duty to participate as such. I want to say that rivers must be nationalised to uphold the dignity of mankind. Rivers must be nationalised to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India. Rivers must be nationalised to promote emotional integration. Emotional outburst is there now because of certain differences over sharing of waters. How was the Suez Canal dispute settled? How were the other disputes settled? Here the water dispute has not yet been settled so far amicably, either through negotiation or through a decree. We cannot execute a decree. It can be negotiated. It can be settled by constitutional functionaries at a higher level. But to arrange for a meeting between two Ministers, the Supreme Court has to order that the Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka should meet. The state of affairs has come to that level.

Irrigation projects, whether minor or major, the agriculturists — smaller or bigger, the States whether bigger or smaller depend upon water. Water is an important commodity for existence of mankind. Potable water is another important commodity for living. So, if water conservation is done by the nationalisation of all rivers put together, the survival of mankind is guaranteed. It is the Central Government which should guarantee the agricultural operations. It is the Central Government which should give guarantee to all the agriculturists as it has to give constitutional protection under article 19(g) of the Constitution which is on freedom to carry out profession, business or avocation.

We have water dispute even towards Pakistan border. When we are able to survive with enemy border of India, why should we not survive and why should we not settle these water problems and water disputes between the States? The only solution to settle water dispute between the States is nationalisation. So, I appeal to the Central

Government—the hon. Minister of Water Resources is here—to moot a proposal with the Government of Tamil Nadu to formulate major irrigation projects and solve the water problem.

During question hour some time ago, when your predecessor Dr. C.P. Thakur was the Minister incharge, I asked for allocation of funds for my constituency, particularly, Tuticorin where there is no potable water. It is on the seaside and it is a port city.

At that time, he said that he would look into it. We need about Rs. 70 crore for drinking water alone. I also asked for desilting of *Tamirabarani* river, on the floor of this House. It seems that the Central Water Commission had sent officials to Tirunelveli and they have ascertained the cost and formulated a project for about Rs. 70 crore. The Union Minister has also announced that Rs. 70 crore project has been formulated. Sir, the project of desilting of *Cauvery* is there, but the Central Water Commission has not included the project regarding desilting of *Tamirabarani* river. So, I would again urge—because he is a new Minister—that *Tamirabarani* river in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu may be desilted right from *Podugai* river up to the sea, whether it is Tuticorin or Tirunelveli district. They may incur heavy expenditure, but they are catering to the need for potable water of about 2 crore people. So, it is necessary for providing them drinking water. We also have industries in that district. Also, we have drought prone area to which the Mover of this Bill belongs. In Ottapidaram and Vilathikulam Assembly segments, there is no water of *Tamirabarani* river. So, we must take *Tamirabarani* water from either Seevelappery or Tirunelveli to that area.

So, I call upon the Minister on behalf of myself and on behalf of the people of Tirunelveli district and V.O. Chidambaranar district to undertake this. The Mover of the Bill is also interested, because he also once contested from that Assembly segment, to see that relief is given to solve the water problem of those areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up item no. 12, Shri Vilas Muttemwar.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been discussing Backward Area Development Board Bill, 2000 for the last three days. Therefore, my Bill may please be taken up for consideration. It is very important Bill. This Bill is regarding 10 States, such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Telangana, Eastern Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, so it should be taken up immediately for discussion. Otherwise, we will miss our chance. Therefore, it should be given priority.

15.37 hrs.

(ix) CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL***(Amendment of article 103, etc.)***[English]*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

NATIONALISATION OF INTER-STATE RIVERS BILL—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, our colleague has introduced this Bill in the name of non-official Bill but actually this Bill was supposed to be introduced in the House by the Government. So the hon'ble Minister should introduce this Bill as an official Bill and not as a Private Bill. So far as allocation is concerned, drinking water, irrigation, hydroelectricity etc. are given top priority. The National Water Development Agency was set up in 1981, according to which the water should be provided from the states having surplus water to the States where there is scarcity of water. Such provision has been made in it. But it is a matter of regret that the Government of India has done nothing in this regard. Similarly, it has been stated in the manifesto of the National Democratic Front that the Government of India will give top priority to the diversion of rivers water from one basin to the other basin. But that too has not yet been done according to their manifesto.

I think on the basis of every principle, either it is a natural or a pre-planned one but on the basis of the principle of public interest, the nationalisation of rivers water is very necessary. The rivers, in a sense, are the nation's heritage, these are not the property of a single State from where these originate or flow and as such their water is likely to be utilized by that particular State only. The rivers flow through several States. Thus these rivers, just look like as a necklace of our Mother India. Therefore, this water should be supplied to those States which have water scarcity. I would request the Government to formulate any scheme at Central level. The policy formulated by the Government should be followed in toto by all the States. In this respect an 'IRADI' Tribunal was constituted according to which, the formulation of water policy is very much necessary. We should keep ourselves aloof from this dispute. It is true that there are rivers in some States and some States do not have any rivers. Rajasthan gets only one percent of the total river water of the country. It is the desert state having small mountains and uneven land. Rajasthan is facing a grave situation due to scarcity of potable water.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say something about Jaipur. The Ramgarh Lake, which is located there, can provide water to the city but it has now dried up. There is no rainfall yet and only scant rainfall has been noticed there. The water level in the Ramgarh Lake is not going to rise with such a little water. People have constructed 17 anicuts on the river near Kotputli and have blocked the water there so, how Ramgarh Lake will receive water? People of Jaipur would die due to this scarcity of water. In the west there is the Bandi river where people have installed tube-wells and the influential politicians of Congress are using them. The Kanonta Dam receives sewer mixed water from Jalmahal. Similarly banas scheme was likely to be started to provide water to the people of Jaipur but this scheme can not be materialised because the people of Ajmer will certainly oppose it and they will not allow any supply of water to Jaipur. I think if the river water is provided in this way, it will be a great achievement.

Mr. Chairman, sir, Rajasthan canal was constructed. With this Rajasthan has totally changed. My request is that the Ganges water should reach upto Bharatpur and Alwar. Nobdoy has any dominance over air and water. Both these elements are God gifted. The water level of wells has come down in Jaipur and handpumps are lying out of order. No more water is left in the deep wells. These are neither being repaired nor cleaned. People have constructed deep wells at several places for their personal use. Gular dam is also not being repaired and same is the condition of Kanonta dam.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 11.8.2000

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

I would urge upon the Government to formulate National Water policy and nationalise all the rivers water on national level. The States, where water is not available, should be provided with water, only then the country can prosper. No single State should have any type of dominance over the river. The Union Government should have over all control over it. The State which has no river should be provided with the river water. Therefore, I support the Bill introduced by hon'ble Shri Vaiko and am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri V. Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARAKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have already spoken on this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support Shri Vaiko's Bill. It is, I think, perhaps in many ways, the single-most important Bill that has been brought in this Lok Sabha.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): I also support the Bill. I forget to mention it when I spoke. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, there is a strange combination of Tamil participants in this debate!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the rivers of India are not being treated as the wealth of the nation. They are being treated as the personal fiefdom of different States through which the rivers run. Since by definition, the upper riparian controls the tap, the lower riparian lies at the mercy of the upper riparian. This is particularly and acutely true of the Cauvery basin. So, I think, although neither Shri Vaiko's intention is it to limit this matter to the Cauvery river, nor do we have before us a Bill relating to the nationalisation of the Cauvery river, the Cauvery is relevant.

Sir, I think, what happened to the Cauvery in the course of the last 25 years is illustrative of what difficulties we currently have with the Inter-State Water Dispute Act and why, therefore, the Bill that has been brought before this House, as a Private Member's Bill by Shri Vaiko, needs to be examined by the Government with the utmost care with a view to bringing Government legislation on similar lines before us.

Sir, in 1956 when the Inter-State Water Disputes Act was passed by Parliament, it seemed to Tamil Nadu, which was then at the virtual mid-point of the 1924-1974 Mysore—Madras Agreement on the sharing of the Cauvery river water, that we had here a mechanism whereby in a peaceful manner and in an atmosphere of good neighbourliness we would have arrived at some kind of an Agreement with our neighbour the upper riparian State, leading to a solution of the problem well before the expiry of the Agreement in 1974. But the fact of the matter is that it did not happen. It did not happen despite the fact that we had 50 years of notice that the Agreement was going to expire in 1974. It is a tragic truth that today, 26 years after the expiry of the last Agreement, there is still no basis on which to definitively resolve the question of the sharing of the Cauvery river basin between the two primary States who are beneficiaries of that river, namely, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as well the other two States who also have an interest in the river, namely, Pondicherry and Kerala.

Sir, why has this happened? I think, what happened to the story is illustrative of what is wrong with the River Disputes Act. Between 1974 and 1990, for a period of 16 years, the Inter-State Disputes Act was evoked to conduct talks and negotiations between the two States. These talks and negotiations took place when the two States were either being ruled by similar Parties or Parties in alliance as also when the two States were being ruled by Parties that were opposed to each other here at the Centre. Irrespective of the political complexion of the State of Karnataka or the State of Tamil Nadu, the 16 years of talks from 1974 to 1990 yielded no results whatsoever.

Therefore, one of the wisest things that the V.P. Singh Government did—and I pay a tribute to that Government—was to persuade a Congress Government in Karnataka—that was the Government of Shri Bangarappa—to not insist on the path of negotiations and to move instead to the path of adjudication. Before we reached that stage, through negotiations, there had been an agreement arrived at between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka by the Governor of Tamil Nadu, who was at that time the executive head of the State because during the Emergency the previous Government of Dr. Karunanidhi had been dismissed and the State was under Governor's Rule. The Governor concerned was Shri Mohanlal Sukhadia. Negotiating this matter on behalf of Tamil Nadu he persuaded the Congress Government of Karnataka to come to an agreement. Before that agreement was brought into effect, the Emergency ended and there were elections all over the country. The Government that came into power in the State of Tamil Nadu in 1977 did not accept and revive the agreement that had been negotiated by Governor Mohanlal Sukhadia on behalf of the State.

If you look at these three stages, between 1924 and 1974, the flow of water into the Mettur reservoir from Karnataka was of the order of 600 TMC. The agreement that was arrived at when Shri Mohanlal Sukhadia was the Governor was for approximately just below 400 TMC. So, when we arrive at 1990, the lower riparian Tamil Nadu was looking back to 16 years earlier when the flow of water had been 600 TMC.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time period for this purpose was fixed up to 3.49 p.m. If members are agree then it could be extended for half an hour.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request you to extend the time by one hour so that the other Member also could initiate the discussion before 5:30 p.m.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one member is left. Half an hour will be sufficient.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO: Then it is okay.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for this Bill is extended by half an hour with the leave of the House.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Therefore, in 1990 when the adjudication process started a Tamil beneficiary of the Cauvery waters could look back 16 years to the Mettur having received 600 TMC per year, and look back 14 years to the agreement of 1976 under which Tamil Nadu was to receive 400 TMC, and, therefore, look forward to the Cauvery Tribunal more or less confirming what had been agreed to during Governor Mohanlal Sukhadia's time. The Cauvery Tribunal require only 15 months to arrive...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is Tamil Nadu that is losing as a result of Shri Pandiyan's talking to the Minister just now.

So, it would have been reasonable for Tamil Nadu to look forward to the Cauvery Tribunal giving us an outcome which would more or less correspond to what Mohanlal Sukhadia had negotiated in 1976. The Tribunal

did its work extremely thoroughly and extremely quickly and within 15 months of its constitution—it was constituted in March, 1990 and it gave its Interim Award in June, 1991—it gave its Award. It granted to Tamil Nadu in an entire year, just about half of what Shri Mohanlal Sukhadia had secured and one-third of what Tamil Nadu had been getting up till 1974.

It is just one-third of the traditional flow and less than half of a negotiated agreement and yet, Tamil Nadu immediately accepted the Interim Award. There was no argument with it. Not only the AIADMK Government at that time but every single political party in Tamil Nadu accepted that award even though it gave Tamil Nadu only one-third of the water that it had been receiving till seventeen years earlier. Why? There was only one reason why it was done. It was because it was recognised that the total quantity of water that flows down the Cauvery is not relevant to agriculture. What is relevant to agriculture is the quantity that is made available at the time of what in North India is called the *Kharif* crop which we, in Tamil Nadu, call the *Kuruvai*, and at the time of what in North India is called the *Rabi* crop which we in Tamil Nadu call the *Samba*.

What you needed water for was not right through the year, what you needed water for, was for agriculture, for the *Kuruvai* crop in the summer, and for the *Samba* crop in the winter.

Now, the interim award did two things. One, it limited the total annual flow to just 205 TMC. But it specified what the week-by-week flow should be. When we looked at the week by week flow, it was clear that the largest quantity of water was to be supplied in the summer months for the summer crop, and that any water supplied outside this period would really be to fill the Mettur reservoir, to keep it in readiness for the rest of the year, but there was no purpose to be gained from supplying 205 TMC in one day and nothing for the rest of the year.

The only reason why one-third water was acceptable to us was that that one-third would be made available at the time when we needed it.

Now, Sir, the crucial months, as I said, are June, July, August and September. In this period, it was specified that for the months of June, July, August and September, we would get 147 TMC. The total is 205 TMC. Half of that is just 102. But instead of asking for half to be supplied in half the year, it said, "two-thirds will be supplied in one-third of the year." So, two-thirds of the water was to come to us in one-third of the year and that one-third was specified as the four summer

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

months of June, July, August and September. It was on this basis that Tamil Nadu accepted the award. And, if we have had trouble since then, it has not been on account of the figure of 205 TMC. It has been on account of the weekly flow or the monthly flow not corresponding to what is specified in the Interim Award. That is the only dispute. The dispute is not over the total quantity at all.

15.58 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

So, if Karnataka supplies 205 TMC but supplies it at the wrong time, then it serves no purpose. They need not supply it at all. It matters only if they supply it when Tamil Nadu needs it. When I say, Tamil Nadu needs it, I am not being narrow or partisan here. After all, the rice that we grow in the Cauvery delta is not rice that is eaten only by Tamilians. It is part of the nation's foodgrain stock. The sugarcane that we grow in Tamil Nadu is not just meant to be put into our *Pongal*, it is meant for the consumption of the country, for exports from the country. The Cauvery Delta farmer is not working for the consumer in the Cauvery delta or the consumer in Tamil Nadu alone, he is working for the consumption of the people of India.

16.00 hrs.

If he is harmed, it is not just Tamil Nadu that is harmed. It is not just the Cauvery delta farmer who is harmed. It is India that is being harmed because instead of treating the River Cauvery as a national asset, it is being treated as an asset of the Upper Riparian to be shared with the Lower Riparian at the will and desire of the Upper Riparian and not in terms of the agricultural requirement of the basin as a whole. That is why this dispute went on and eventually there were a number of clarificatory orders that had to be issued by the Cauvery Tribunal in addition to its Interim Award.

In 1995, the Karnataka Government went to the Tribunal with a very specific plea. They said that if for any reason whatsoever they were not able to supply the stipulated quantity of water in a particular month, whatever deficit there is should be ended with that particular month. They said that if it did not come in that month, it should not be carried over to the next month. In giving its decision on this plea, the Tribunal stated as follows. I have to read the whole passage. It is from the Tribunal's Clarificatory Order of the 19th December, 1995 on which the Central Ministry of Water Resources has based itself

a hundred per cent. So, it needs to be explained. It says:

"We also reject (please note this) the contention raised on behalf of the State of Karnataka that in fulfilling its obligation to release of water every week the deficiency if any must be limited to a particular month in which such deficiency might occur..."

That is the first sentence of the paragraph. The clarification is with respect to the Karnataka Government's request that their obligation should be extinguished at the end of the month. It says:

"Our Order dated 25th June, 1991, (which is the Interim Award) clearly spelt out that the deficiency in a particular week has to be made good in a subsequent week and not necessarily within a particular month in which the deficit occurs."

Please see the context here. The Karnataka Government says that if it had fallen short by 5 TMC in a given month, it should not be asked to give it in the next month. The Tribunal says that if they fell short by 5 TMC in a given month, they would have to make it good in the next month and if they did not make it good in the next month the deficit would continue until the end of the season. That is what the order says.

This is now being interpreted by the Union Ministry of Water Resources in the following manner. I refer to the hon. Minister's reply to my Unstarred Question No. 3921 of the 19th April, 2000. It says:

"The National Water Disputes Tribunal has further directed that the State of Karnataka shall regulate the release of water in a particular monthly pattern. In respect of a particular month, the releases have to be made in four equal instalments. If in a particular week it is not possible to release the required quantity of water, the said deficit shall be made good in the subsequent week. The Tribunal has further clarified that the deficiency in a particular week has to be made good in the subsequent week and not necessarily within a particular month. Until the deficit is made good, the deficit would accumulate."

Now, the result of leaving out the first sentence of the Tribunal's Award from the reply that is being given to me is that the context in which that Order was made has been dropped by the Ministry of Water Resources. The Government of Karnataka said that if they could not make it good it would get expired but the Tribunal said that they have to make it good within the season. The Ministry of Water Resources has forgotten the first sentence, relying exclusively on the subsequent sentences. What is the result of it? The result is as follows.

The figures are stark. I have obtained them from the Ministry of Water Resources. In the first week of July, 1999, the Award said, the release has to be 9.6 TMC but the supply was 0.9 TMC. It was only ten per cent of what we were supposed to get at the height of the agricultural season.

The Award says that in the second week, we should get 9.6 TMC of water. What do we get supplied? It is only 0.9 TMC. Again, it is 10 per cent. In the third week, the Order says that we should get 9.6 TMC. We are supplied 4.2 TMC in the three weeks of July, when the poor agriculturists have to make do with whatever water that is available, water does not come.

Let us turn it around. Karnataka starts supplying water in the months of October, November and December. Shri Ananth Kumar, in particular, is familiar with this. In the month of October, the North-East monsoon starts setting in. In the month of November, we regularly have cyclones hitting the Cauvery delta. On the 4th of December 1993, there was the worst cyclone to ever hit the Nagapattinam coast. In 1997, we had such heavy rains that it completely washed out a large number of villages. The Kollidam River is usually in flood in the months of November and December. During the time when Tamil Nadu is desperately attempting to cope with too much water in the Kollidam and in the Cauvery, what does Karnataka do? It says that this is the right moment to further flood an already flooded State.

In the year 1999, according to the Interim Award, in October, they were to supply only 30 TMC of water. What did Karnataka do?

I am sorry, I said, "you", looking at Shri Ananth Kumar. It is not his fault. I am talking about Karnataka, the State Government.

Karnataka was required to supply 30 TMC of water in October 1999; it actually supplied 82 TMC. We asked for only 30 TMC and we did not want more. But they flooded us with 82 TMC. The Order says that in November, they are to release 16 TMC. It is just to fill up the Mettur Reservoir. But Karnataka flushes down 40 TMC in the month of November, when we are reeling under cyclones and floods. When we want it in June, they give us only 10 TMC; when we want it in July, they give us only 24 TMC; and when we do not want it, they supply us with 82 TMC in October, 40 TMC in November and another 20 TMC in December, when the Order says that they have to supply us only 10 TMC. So, you can see what is happening.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): Their argument is that only during the return monsoon, they get rainfall and that, during the South West monsoon, they get little rainfall, as a result the reservoirs are not filled. That is what they say. This is their argument and not mine.

SHRI VAIKO: But you are the umpire.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Please do not misunderstand me. It is their argument and it is not mine.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am convinced. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's attempt to understand the argument of both the sides. When I am putting the argument of Tamil Nadu, I think he is justified in bringing to my attention, the argument of Karnataka. The problem is that while the Minister is new, the problem is old; and everything that the Minister has been told about the Karnataka side of the argument has already gone before the Tribunal.

The main plea made by Karnataka before the Tribunal was that this 'weekly schedule' cannot be adhered to. That was the main plea. And the Tribunal has repeatedly, in every clarificatory Order said that Karnataka must adhere to that 'weekly schedule'. Their first duty is to fulfil the 'weekly schedule' and only in the event that in a given week, they are not able to do it, they used the words, 'the subsequent week'. This is actually what Shri Thakur said. He has very cleverly changed his Ministry.

[Translation]

Shri Thakur, you are being mentioned.

[English]

When he was the Minister, he gave me this reply. He used the words, 'the subsequent week'. I just read it out to you. Your own Ministry, as the umpire, said that if they do not make it up in a given week, they should make it up in 'the subsequent week'. Now, I have shown to you — from the figures that you yourself have given me—how much is the shortfall. You may forget about last year. Forget what happened last year. It is dead and gone. Let us take the current year. In the first week of June, we were to get 2.3 TMC, but we got 1.9; in the second week of June, we were to get 2.30 TMC, but we got only 0.40 TMC; in the third week of June, we were to get 2.30, but we got only 0.1 TMC; in the fourth week of June we were to get 3 TMC, but we got only 1.30 TMC. In the month of July, in the first week we were to get 9.6 TMC; but we got less than half, that is 4.3 TMC;

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

in the second week we were to get 9.60 TMC, but we got only one-third of it, that is 3.70; in the third week they made up a little, though it was still short by 2 TMC; in the fourth week of July, they were to supply 13.80 TMC and they supplied 1.60 TMC. I think you will agree with me that this is a scandal. There cannot be any other word for it. Why have we established Cauvery River Authority? It is a simple question. From 1991 June, all the way through to the beginning of 1998, for a period of 6 to 7 years, the Karnataka Government repeatedly went to the Cauvery Tribunal to get clarificatory orders that would save their skin. Then we went before the Supreme Court. The issue was taken up by the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka Governments and the Government of India was impleaded. At that time the Attorney-General of India—I know he has become a fairly notorious gentleman since then, I am not referring to Shri Soli Sorabjee as an individual, but to the Attorney-General of India—went before the Supreme Court of India in the first quarter of 1998 and solemnly stated before the Supreme Court that the Government of India intended to frame a scheme under Section 8 (A) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act to implement the Interim Award of the Cauvery Tribunal. There is no question about what the scheme was intended to do. Now, the Supreme Court is rather brighter than sometimes your Attorney-General thinks. What did they do? They did not conclude the hearings but only suspended the hearings. The hearings are still on. The case is not over. But they accepted the solemn promise of the Government of India that the Government of India would fulfil its umpiring duty under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act to frame a scheme under Section 8 of the Act to implement the Award. In other words it is a legal act which flows from the legal provision. Have you implemented the Award? Do any of the figures of the 100 weeks that have elapsed since August, 1998 reflect implementation of the Award and in what manner, an ordinary human being, not the Attorney-General or Chief Justice, would regard as an implementation of the Award?

Sir, I have done the counting. Out of these 100 weeks, there has been an exact supply in zero weeks. In not a single week has the actual flow equalled the stipulated flow. If I define approximation as within one TMC of the stipulated flow, then out of the last 100 weeks, you have succeeded in 21 weeks. You have failed to give me the figures for April and May, 2000. Your office does not have that. So, I cannot swear to this. So, it is approximately 21 out of 100 weeks where the supply from Karnataka has more or less matched the stipulated flow. In 80 weeks out of 100, there is no correspondence whatsoever between the stipulated flow and the actual flow.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): He has been speaking for more than half an hour.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, even if this discussion goes on up to 5.15 p.m. or so, even then the hon. Member can initiate the discussion on his Private Member's Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I request that you will be given an opportunity to present the Bill.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. He should not be deprived of his opportunity to initiate the discussion. The time for PMB is up to 1730 hours. Even if the hon. Members starts at 1725 hours, he will not lose the opportunity.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I would not need more than 10 minutes to complete. I am on my last point.

Sir, I was saying that out of 100 weeks, there has been no equivalence in a single week. Out of 100 weeks, there has been approximation in 20 weeks. Out of 100 weeks, in 80 weeks there has not even been approximation. If you look at, it not in terms of the statistical table but in terms of the requirements of the agriculturists, then the position becomes even more desperate because precisely when the water is needed, it is not available and precisely when the water is not needed, it is made available.

Sir, the South-West monsoon and the North-East monsoon are not new phenomena. The full meteorological data was available to the Cauvery Tribunal in 1990-91. It so happens...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House has taken a unanimous decision that this Bill will be discussed for half-an-hour. Since it is still continuing, is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for the discussion of this Bill till 1720 hours?

SHRI VAIKO: I would request that it may be extended up to 1715 hours by which time the discussion should be over so that the hon. Member can initiate the discussion.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It so happens that my ancestral village is on the banks of the Cauvery and I was there when the Tribunal visited the village. I took them to the banks. It was the month of March which is

not really a very agriculturally exciting month. I told the Tribunal there personally that as a child every time I visited my village I would only bathe in the Cauvery because even in the leanest of seasons there would be enough water in the river for us to bathe in. But, now if you were to visit the Cauvery basin, the Cauvery delta, in the months of even June, July and August, there are vast areas where there is hardly a drop of water. That is what one needs to understand. There are two major festivals that the Tamils celebrate which are connected with the river. One is called, *Adi Pathinettu* which is the 18th of the month of *Adi* and the other is called *Avani Avittam* and both of these tend to fall in the Roman calendar month of August. For two years running in the month of August, we have seen large parts of the Cauvery delta either not having any water at all or just a trickle of water at a time when traditionally the festivals are celebrated by going to the banks of the river and propitiating the Goddess Cauvery in various ways. Is that not merely a hit at the agricultural economy of the Cauvery delta but even at its historical or cultural heritage? You are destroying an entire way of life by not implementing the Cauvery Tribunal's Award. That is the measure of responsibility which the Central Government has pledged itself before the Supreme Court to fulfil it. How has this process of implementation gone on?

Nothing could have been a greater honour to Tamil Nadu than we have the Prime Minister himself saying that he is going to be the Chairman of the Cauvery River Authority. Who are the other Members? They are the four Chief Ministers. It is impossible under the Constitution of India to think of a more high-powered body than the Prime Minister and four Chief Ministers. How many times has this Committee met?

They have met only twice. From August, 1998 to August, 2000 this high-powered Committee has found the opportunity to meet only twice. During that time the Monitoring Committee has been giving you these figures. You could tell me that the Prime Minister is a very important man so he does not have the time to meet. So, by putting up a high-powered committee, you lowered us in your priorities. If only you, Mr. Minister been the Chairman, maybe we could have had 20 meetings. Why do we not need the Cauvery River Authority to give ourselves a badge of honour? We need the Cauvery River Authority to implement the Interim Award of the Cauvery Tribunal as promised to the Supreme Court. If you make the Prime Minister the Chairman of the CRA, you are, in effect, making the Prime Minister a party to the non-fulfilment of the pledge made to the highest court in this land. Shri Vajpayee, even though he is of the BJP, is an honourable man and I do not want to see his reputation getting stained. I do not want to see the

reputation of Shri Karunanidhi or Shri Krishna to be stained. But if you have such a high level committee, it must be to ensure that what you yourself have promised is fulfilled. The source of that information is you yourself because you are the source of all this data has come before us.

So, in these circumstances, there technical problems to be solved. In the first meeting of the Cauvery River Authority, held in November, 1998, there were problems that arose. In the first full month of the implementation of the August 1998, accord, according to the Central Water Commission's post at Billingudlu on the border between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, 16 TMC of water had flown out of Karnataka. According to the Tamil Nadu Government's observation point at the Mettur reservoir, in the month of September, 1998 only 8 TMC of water had been received. Now, the distance from Billingudlu to Mettur is about 60 kilometres. There is a heavy fall, the Hogenakkal falls, and after that the water comes into Mettur. But there is virtually to agriculture in that area. So, where did 8 TMC in a single month go? It was a good technical question to ask. If 16 TMC have left Karnataka and 8 TMC have been received in Tamil Nadu, what happened to the other 8 TMC? When I asked your predecessor, Mr. Minister, as to what happened to the 8 TMC, he said that they were not even going to enquire into it. He also said that they do not know anything about it. Our data is so inferior. This is what the Monitoring Committee is doing. They have got all the experts of the CWC. By the CWC, I do not mean the Congress Working Committee but I mean the Central Water Commission. They have got the best bureaucrats of the Tamil Nadu Government, the Karnataka Government, the Pondicherry Government, the Kerala Government and of course, the Central Government. None of them is able to find 8 TMC—as if the Hizbul Mujahideen has taken it. You still do not know two years on.

Sir, these technical problems will continue unless there is a political will. If the political will is expressed in this manner that once every two years we will meet and we will not only have *sambar* but we will also have *varutha kozhambu* along with it, you will not be able to solve this problem. But if you really want to solve it, then I think there are two or three ways. Either you fulfil the pledge that you yourself made to the Supreme Court and come to Parliament with figures which show at least as approximation of flows from Karnataka to the stipulations in the Award or kindly go back to the Supreme Court which was about to conclude its hearings and let them give their judgement which should come at approximately the same time as the final Award of the Cauvery Tribunal. Or there is a third solution : accept

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Shri Vaiko's proposal and nationalise this river. Let us deal with it as a river basin.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: In the second meeting of the Cauvery River Authority with the four States and which was chaired by our hon. Prime Minister this problem was sorted out amicably.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the agreement that was arrived at at that time was exactly similar to Veerappan keeping Raj Kumar because what was agreed to was that 6 TMC would be released 30 days after the 14th of July which brings us to August.

Sir, we lost everything in June, we lost everything in July and by the grace of God, Allah and Shri S.M. Krishna we got 6 TMC in the middle of August when according to the figures that you yourself have supplied to us, in June the shortfall was 7 TMC and in July the shortfall was 25 TMC. So, against a total shortfall for the months of June and July of 7 plus 25 which is equal to 32 TMC, we are told that by the grace of God, Allah and Shri S.M. Krishna we are going to get 6 TMC. Of course, we agreed, because if we had not, we would not have got even 6 TMC. It can be 6 TMC, it can be 16 TMC.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Whatever was the deficit was agreed to be released.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It was not. I am sorry, that was not the agreement. This is not the manner. You are negotiating again. If we were going to negotiate, there was no need for an adjudication ten years ago. We negotiated for 16 years, then came to the conclusion that we must have an adjudication and that adjudication has reached a point where the Supreme Court was told that your scheme was to implement the award. But the scheme, instead of implementing the award, is to start the process of negotiation. It is fundamentally flawed. I think you cannot help it. In case you cannot implement the Cauvery award, please convert the Cauvery not into a river which is divided between four States, but a river which is owned by one country. We rest our case on that.

We are not asking for one single Karnataka farmer to be deprived. We certainly do not want any harm to reach Kerala or Pondicherry. What we want is, having scaled down our own requirement from 600 TMC to 200 TMC, we at least get the water when we need it.

Furthermore, and with that I end; this is my last remark, there is a Cauvery Modernisation Plan for which the World Bank has promised full assistance. It is pending for the last 25 years. Why? Because the umpire is unable

to say whether the batsman is bowled out or not out. We do not know whether it is a wide or a no ball. And you say, let us return to the pavilion and have tea. This is no way of implementing the award. There is no modernisation in the Cauvery Delta. There are brilliant plans worked out by the Ministry of Water Resources in its research station at Tiruchy which remain unimplemented. The country is losing hundreds of crores of rupees every single year only because the umpire constantly wants to pull up stumps instead of allowing the match to continue. I would much rather have the match fixed than continue to keep on getting the declaration that it is a draw.

I plead with you that this matter be taken seriously and above all that the new Minister of Water Resources visits the full Cauvery basin along with all the MPs who are connected with the Cauvery basin. I am sure, your predecessor would have done as much and I hope you would do so soon.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one important issue has come up in the House. So, besides resolving this issue, the other various issues pertaining to water dispute among different States should also be solved. The share of water of the various rivers which are flowing through different States such as Kaveri, Godavari, Krishna etc. should also be distributed among these States accordingly. There should be a law about the distribution of the water. Water is a national property and for this sole reason, Maharashtra has been divided into two parts. The total quantity of water, whatever may be its sources, finally go waste and fall into sea but it can be fully utilized for the irrigation purpose if big dams are constructed in this area and as a result there of, drinking water may also be made available there. For instance Girinah dam was constructed during Congress regime and this has helped in providing sufficient quantity of water to Jalgaon. So you can well imagine that the huge quantity of banana which arrives in Delhi is generally brought from Jalgaon.

Narkhede brothers were big farmers but there was a time when this banana trade was undergoing a recession period and as such it had to be exported to Australia. At the same time we were also importing wheat from Australia. Once Narkhede brothers were implicated in a murder case and the Court gave the judgement that they should be hanged. When these Australian traders came to know that Narkhede brothers are from Jalgaon and they are likely to be hanged, then their Australian counterpart had a talk with Nehruji and thus they were acquitted of the charges and their execution was retrieved.

So water is precious and Government of India should provide more and more water to the States by constructing dams.

Sir, we have Nasik district in Maharashtra. All the water of the Western part of this region goes in sea passing through Gujarat. If we could have dam facility there, the water from western region could be shifted to eastern region and vice-versa. I am really thankful to the hon'ble Member who has presented this Private Member Bill in this House and I am also thankful to the Members who have participated in this discussion and given their suggestions in this regard. Water is a national property and it should be more and more utilized. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, I welcome the Bill moved by Shri Vaiko on nationalisation of inter-State rivers. After 50 years of Independence, we are still fighting between each other, State-wise for a share in the river water. I think it is shameful and the only way to get over this is the nationalisation of rivers. More than sharing the water, something which is even more important today is the generation of electricity. Now, it is being proved in India that we must have a correct mix of hydel and thermal power. Everybody says that it should be 30 per cent and 70 per cent or it should come down to 40 per cent hydel and 60 per cent thermal. The ideal ratio would be 50:50. But right now, the share of mix between hydel and thermal is something around 22 per cent and 78 per cent which is not correct. The potential of hydel power of the rivers in the country which has been estimated is something over a lakh megawatt. That is the potential which is there. It has not been tapped for the very reason that the rivers are not nationalised. There are no Tribunals to decide on the hydel power capacity.

There are States in the North-East and there are States like Himachal Pradesh and also Jammu & Kashmir where they have ample capacity which can feed the whole country. Now, we have a Power Grid Corporation. It is called the National Power Grid Corporation. It has been proved that instead of transporting coal from one area to another, one could have a power station at the pit-head itself. If you have a hydel power station, it would be helpful. It produces electricity and the whole area is ash free and greener. It is pollution free. That is what should be generated in the country. So, I welcome this Bill for that reason as well.

On the river water distribution issue, I have only two or three points to make. We have had some problems

with Punjab because we have the IGNP. We get water from the *Bhakra* river from Punjab and we also have the same sort of a problem that has been there in your State also. There is an Award. But we always faced this problem because for one reason, the heads are not controlled by the Central Government. They are controlled by the States themselves. It is on their liberty that we survive. If they want to give us water, they give it. If they do not want to give it to us at certain times, they do not give it. We ask for it because the heads are not at all in our control. Even if they are not in our control, they should not be under the control of the State.

There is another very important point that I want to raise. It is about water-logging. Punjab has been the food granary. It is an accepted fact that Punjab really produces so much of wheat. It is supplied to the whole country. But now it is also facing the water-logging problem. The water-logging problem is there in that State itself. But it does not realise that so much water should not be consumed there alone. It should be sent across the other States like Haryana and Rajasthan. But the peasants are not really educated enough to realise it.

Sir, the first canal that came to India from the then Punjab province was the Gang canal. It was started in the 1930s. It was the *Maharaja* of Bikaner who had the forethought that we must have this water coming all the way from Punjab because we have a great expanse of land which is desert. He had the foresight and he had a dream and it became a granary. That is how Ganganagar, Suratgarh and all the area benefited. That is really a big area. That water can be utilised in Barmer and Jaisalmer areas also. They are in the desert area. If that is done, Rajasthan can also become a granary. But the problem is that our share of water which should come to us is not coming to us. On the other hand, there is water-logging in the area where it comes from. Therefore, the only way out is that if inter-rivers are nationalised, they will have a policy of how much water allowance should be there. Now, they have a water allowance of 4.5 which is not required and a water allowance of 2.5 is good enough. So, this is the real problem.

Another point I want to mention here is this. It is about the riparian rights. There are dams which never overflow. The rivers which are not perennial rivers, when they never overflow, that is the time to have a dam. The downstream of the dam and the villages which are basin-villages will get the benefit. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was saying that in his good old days, when he was a child, he used to see the water flowing and at the same time there was no water. This is a big problem. It is in the real sense the downstream problem. Nobody understands

[Shri V.P. Singh Badnore]

the riparian rights. I was a Minister in the Rajasthan Government looking after irrigation. The first time I talked about the riparian rights, they said that they did not have a thinking with regard to riparian rights.

The say that there is a dam. They make a Cultural Command Area (CCA) and they are not giving water to these river basins. Now, whose rights are there on the river waters? Did the dam come first or the river come first or the basic villages come first? To that extent, for hundreds of years the rights of those villages in the basin were overlooked by the CCA, and the Irrigation Department which gives water. The flow in the river is stopped. A consideration, a thinking on the riparian rights was required. The problem of the upstream and downstream of the dam should also be kept in mind.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I share myself with the anxieties and concerns expressed by the hon. Members in the course of the debate on the Nationalisation of Inter-State Rivers Bill, 2000, moved by the hon. Member Shri Vaiko in the august House. I thank all of them for having taken the initiative, interest and for drawing the attention to the most important problem of water of not only this august House but also of the country at large. They have also suggested steps to resolve inter-State problems in the country. While recommending for the nationalisation of inter-State rivers, they have also pointed out the working of this particular Act, that is, the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

Water is a sensitive subject and as per entry-17 of the Constitution, the State Governments have the responsibility of development of water resources in their respective territories subject to the provision of entry-56 of the Union List-I. Under entry-56 of List-I (that is, the Union List), the Union Government has the power of regulation and development of rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such development and under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest.

As per this entry, the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 was enacted, and till date this Act is in force. As the hon. Members are aware, about 80 per cent of our water resources are contributed by the inter-State rivers. The nationalisation of river and taking over of the control of development of these rivers would require an extensive role of Central Government spread over a large part of the country. Water is a very precious resource, which is essential for the day-to-day use in almost all activities related to development and human needs. It would, therefore, not be possible for the Central Government to successfully manage this resource without the full cooperation and assistance of the States. Moreover, our

Constitution is unitary in character and federal in nature, where the State Governments are free to exercise their rights enumerated in the List-I of the State List of the Constitution.

It would be desirable to have Central intervention only as a last recourse. As I have already said, this is enumerated in the State List and only if the States concerned are agreeable and unless they give their full cooperation, it is impossible for the Centre to intervene and to impose something on them which will not be palatable to them. So, the Central Government, over the years, have been giving more thrust on evolving consensus in relation to all the contentious issues that have cropped up in the working of the system that we have adopted after the enactment of the Constitution.

Sir, the main reason for the Bill proposed by the hon. Member is that the State Governments fight for their share of river water and there are many cases of inter-State water disputes pending in Tribunals for settlement, which take long time in delivering judgement. Under article 262 of the Constitution, the Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956 was enacted by Parliament. The Act provides for formal reference of a water dispute to a Tribunal for adjudication if all efforts for bilateral negotiations between the State Governments with the interventions of Central Government have failed. So, there has been a practice that whenever there is consensus between the States concerned, the Centre can mediate between the States so that any particular problem of inter-State river water dispute can be solved. Although, water resources development in certain river basins has suffered for want of agreements on sharing of waters, the mechanism in the form of mutual discussions and negotiations have been generally successful and about 130 inter-State agreements have been concluded, with the concurrence of the States of the Union. A few water resources projects and hydro-electric projects on inter-State rivers are being implemented and managed by setting up of Inter-State Boards like Tungabhadra Board, Betwa River Board, Bhakra Beas Management Board and Bansagar Control Board with inter-State agreements.

There are, however, certain provisions in the Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956, as was pointed out by my hon. friend, which need to be reviewed. These shortcomings are proposed to be addressed by amending the Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956, as recommended by the Sarkaria Commission and Inter-State Council. It is very difficult to allocate inter-State river water among the States according to any fixed formula, as the distribution of inter-State river water depends on many factors. The Ministry of Water Resources has been trying to evolve a consensus on guidelines for allocation of water among

the States for quite some time. The guidelines for allocations were placed before the National Water Resources Council in its 4th meeting held on 7.7.2000. However, the Council decided to *inter alia* entrust the draft guidelines to a Working Group headed by the Union Minister of Water Resources for harmonising views of all the State Governments and bringing a consensual draft for the consideration of the Council at its next meeting.

As regards the proposal for Union Government to have rights over electricity produced on projects constructed on inter-State rivers, it is mentioned that electricity is already in the Concurrent List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The Policy of Hydro-power Development, 1998 lays an emphasis on evolving an approach to ensure that the available hydro-electric potential is fully utilised without prejudice to the rights of the riparian States as determined by the Awards and inter-State agreements.

In view of these facts, it is considered that the existing Constitution provision relating to water gives enabling power to the Union Government under entry-56 of List-I to play an effective and even a decisive role in respect of Inter-State River Projects by enacting suitable laws in the Parliament and there is no need to nationalise all the rivers as proposed under this Bill.

I fully appreciate and also commend that the hon. Members not only discussed these problems in this august House but they have also highlighted and tried to understand how enormous time and energy are being lost due to such kinds of disputes which have been continuing over the years.

As I have stated earlier, we are for amending the ISWD Act, 1956 to cope up with the situation. The hon. Prime Minister also assured the nation while delivering his speech through the electronic media that the "Government will not allow water to go waste and Government will try to clean the river waters." So, the Government, as a whole, is very much sincere and desired to use water most judiciously.

We are also aware of the problems that are being faced by the States. But as I stated here and also keeping in view the Prime Minister's assurance to the nation over the electronic media, the Government is trying its best. We are also on the job to bring forward an amendment to this particular Act as I have referred to earlier so that this problem of inter-State river disputes can be resolved immediately for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

Several hon. Members have spoken about particular Projects and problems. But I have no time at my disposal to reply to all the points. However, as far as my friend, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is concerned, I would like to reply to his points about the Cauvery dispute. I have been informed that the clarificatory order of the tribunal of December, 1995 provides as follows:

"The deficiency in a particular week has to be made good in a subsequent week and not necessarily within a particular month in which the deficiency occurs. Until the deficiency is made good, the deficit would accumulate. In a particular year, the shortfall and excess would have to be adjusted in an appropriate manner before close of a particular season."

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: That was the portion of the order which I read out to you. I only ask you and your officers to give you also the first sentence before that. That is all.

SHRI VAIKO: That was the lifeline of the judgement.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): How can you release unless you have enough water to release? It is all right to say. ...*(Interruptions)* We are all three from Tamil Nadu. We too need to be protected. ...*(Interruptions)* The Chairman is impartial. Do not stop. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: You did not listen to the speech.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Unfortunately, I could not come because I went for a Press briefing. But I listened to the whole speech on the Television.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: However, this is an old problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Cauvery River Authority headed by the hon. Prime Minister has been created. This Authority as well as the monitoring body are having regular discussions to solve the problem. I am sure that this highest body will be able to arrive at a satisfactory solution in the near future.

Moreover, I am told that this is also pending in the Supreme Court. Unless the Court gives its final verdict on this particular subject, I think it will be unwise on my part to say something which will be contrary to it.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, Veerappan is solving out the problem for them. They have found a good spokesman for themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you have to implement the interim award.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, just a clarification. The Cauvery Tribunal is still to give its final award. The case in the Supreme Court is suspended. The case in the Supreme Court relates to the interim award and if the authority cannot ensure the implementation, then I think we should just return to the Supreme Court and there Shrimati Alva and I can argue our respective cases. But, at the moment, it is suspended and the Tribunal which gave its interim award in 13 months has now taken eight years to give its final award, I request the hon. Minister through this House to please go to the Tribunal asking them to give us the final award. We will accept whatever it is.

SHRI VAIKO: Shrimati Alva has no case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tamil Nadu has requested the Minister to approach the Supreme Court and apprise them of the legal position.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: As I have stated, this is an old case and still pending, as my friend mentioned here, in the Tribunal as well as in the Supreme Court. Unless the final verdict is available to us, it will be very difficult on our part to say something which will be contrary to the judgement. So, I should not prejudice anything. As I have already assured this House that we are going to amend this particular Act to make it more stringent and meaningful, I once again request my learned friend, Shri Vaiko, to withdraw this Bill. Let us be given time so that this particular Bill can be amended in the interest of the States as well as for the meaningful resolution of the dispute.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Mr. Chairman Sir, at the outset, I have to express my hearty thanks and gratitude to the hon. Members belonging to different political parties who have come forward to support the Bill, except two hon. Members and the hon. Minister.

The hon. Minister has agreed it in spirit that our concern will be taken care of. At the same time, my friend, hon. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar gave an excellent speech, highlighting the serious problem of Cauvery River Water Dispute. Hon. Members Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan, Dr. Nitish Sengupta, Shri K. Swain, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shri V. Radhakrishnan, Shri Simranjit Singh Mann, Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora, Shri A.C. Jos, Shri P.H. Pandiyan, yourself Sir, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Shri Haribhau Mahale, and Shri Vijendra Pal

Singh have contributed in this very remarkable and purposeful discussion over the Bill that I moved here on the 5th of May of this year for the nationalisation of inter-State rivers.

Of course, Shri V. Radhakrishnan was very vehement in his opposition because he expressed his concern when we pleaded that the Westward flowing rivers, abundant water going waste into the Arabian Sea, should be diverted towards Tamil Nadu.

17.00 hrs.

So that they could also be benefited with electricity. Also, in the name of water, we could give foodgrain and whatever the need. He was highly critical. He was so emotional. At times, friends like him who say that they are always for global outlook and international outlook, become so parochial. They are our friends from the Marxist party. But I appreciate very much my friend Shri A.C. Jos. He is also from the State of Kerala but he agreed with our contention that the West flowing rivers could be utilised.

Sir, the purpose of my moving the Bill in the House is very clear. The Central Government should have the exclusive right and control over all the Inter-State rivers and it should distribute river waters according to a pre-determined formula of allocation of waters. That will not only enable distribution of river water among the different States without affecting the interests of the concerned States but will also enable proper utilisation of available resources.

Sir, the other day, I spoke at length. When my friend, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar appreciated and applauded my Bill, he suggested that the motive and purpose of this Bill was to highlight Cauvery river water dispute. Of course, that is also one of the reasons but not the sole reason. We saw the plight recently in Himachal Pradesh. The precious lives are devoured by the floods. In India, we see in one place the cruel punishment by nature when floods destroy not only crops but also the entire villages. At the same time, in some parts of the country, the people are suffering, reeling under the severe drought. I recall the words of a poet.

"Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink"

Of course, today the Minister may not agree but a day should come when all the Inter-State rivers should be nationalised. My eyes are speaking about the future scenario of the country. India will emerge as a powerful country in the world. The resources are so abundant, incomparable with any country in the world. The resources

are so abundant, incomparable with any country in the world. The resources are so abundant that it should be exploited for the welfare of the country, for the welfare of the 100 crores of people. For that purpose, a day should come, a day will emerge that the Government itself, as my hon. friend suggested, should bring but a legislation so that all the Inter-State rivers could be nationalised.

Sir, we are speaking about the integration of the country. We are fighting the British then. Sir, I belong to a place where from you, Mr. Chairman, also belong, the southern-most part of this country, where the fiery poet, Subramanya Bharati also belonged. His poems were like the eruption of a volcano. Bharati had a dream.

*"gangai nadhi purathu kothumai pandam kaverien
vertrilaikku maaru kozhuvear"*

So, the people of the Cauveri basin could exchange betel leaves for wheat from the plains of the Ganges.

That was his dream. So, for this purpose, Dr. K.L. Rao, the eminent engineer Minister in the sixties, had evolved a formula for connecting the Ganges with the Cauvery. But that was shelved because the expenditure would be huge and because the cost of lifting electricity beyond the Vindhyas would not be practically possible.

Then the Government developed a national perspective for river waters into two components, as narrated earlier, the Himalayan River Water Programme and the Peninsular River Water Programme According to the Peninsular River Water Programme, the waters of the Narmada and the Mahanadi could be taken up to by far the Tamraparni.

Regarding the Cauvery River Water Dispute, we are not begging for any privileges from any State. As a matter of fact, we have been claiming, as a matter of right for ages, for thousands of years. There have been four Doctrines or four theories on river water disputes almost all over the world, over the river of Nile in Sudan and Egypt, Rhine in Europe and over the rivers in Mexico and Canada. There have been disputes and those disputes have been solved. Amicable settlements have been arrived at.

There have been four Doctrines. One is the Harmonic Doctrine. That we could not accept; and the second theory, Natural Water Flow Theory and that also was not be accepted by many. the third theory, the Doctrine of Proper Appropriation, the last theory, the Community of Interest theory, all over the world according to the Helsinki Rules that theory has been accepted.

Therefore, to find an amicable solution for the problems of the inter-State rivers, they should be nationalised for the betterment of the country as a whole of every citizen of the country. That is the purpose.

As far as the Cauvery river dispute is concerned, my hon. friend was correct that 100 TMC ft. of water should have been made available to the state of Tamil Nadu. The Interim Award suggested 205 TMC. When the Interim Award was given, the State of Karnataka went to the extent of issuing Ordinances by the Governor. I do not want to enter into any controversy here. But the matter was taken to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court stated in clear cut terms that the ordinances were *ultra vires* the spirit of the Constitution and the spirit of the act.

Therefore, it is the bounden duty of the riparian State to release 205 TMC ft. of water according to the formula enunciated, weekwise and monthwise. That is the principle and at the time of a cyclone, when the Goddess of Rain bestows with heavy rain, they have no other option than to release the water in order to protect themselves. That is what he explained.

Therefore, the purpose of initiating the discussion is clear. Most of the Members have supported it.

Our friend, Shri Simranjit Singh Mann has got his own genuine apprehensions about the river water dispute between Punjab and Haryana.

I am hopeful and confident because the hon. Members from different political parties have supported the Bill. The Government also should come forward with a legislation to nationalise all the inter-State rivers.

Once again, I thank all the hon. Members who have given their valuable suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask the Government to support your legislation.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, it is the first step. More or less, most of the Members have supported the Bill. I do not want to embarrass the Government at this point because some of the States like Punjab are having serious apprehension and concern. Therefore, I do not want to create any suspicion in the minds of some of the people. But a day will come in the coming years when they will also accept it. I hope and I am fully confident, one day the Government, this Parliament will see the passing of the Bill, Nationalisation of inter-State rivers Bill.

[Shri Vaiko]

Therefore, once again, while I am thanking all the Members who have participated in the discussion, I withdraw the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for nationalisation of inter-State rivers for the purpose of equitable distribution of river waters among the States and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for nationalisation of inter-State rivers for the purpose of equitable distribution of river waters among the States and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO: I withdraw the Bill.

17.11 hrs.

BACKWARD AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we will take up item no. 14.

Shri Subhddh Mohite, you can initiate the discussion till 1730 hrs. Thereafter, half-an-hour discussion will be taken up.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for all-sided development of all economically backward areas of the country, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to give thanks to the Hon. Members and specially to you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

My Bill should also have been taken up during the time when the Bill on Interstate Rivers was being discussed.

[English]

I feel very sorry.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

That I interrupted in between. I had a doubt whether justice will be done with me or not.

[English]

I am very thankful to you.

[Translation]

For considering the Bill and giving an opportunity for discussion on it.

Backward Areas Development Board Bill has a meaning on its own. It has a special importance for the entire country. In view of the tradition and culture being followed in our country, it has an unique place in the whole world. This country has given home to different cultures and the 100 crore population of this country is representing them for a thousand years. I would like to tell about its history in few words. I am proud of the fact that I have been born in this country. As Shri Vilas Muttemwar has said that this country has an unique history. I would also like to emphasise on this word that India is the only country in the world which has such a great history. Lord Shrikrishna and Lord Ramchandra ji were both born in this country.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

17.15 hrs.

I fully agree with the views expressed by Shri Muttemwar. I am very happy that my Parliamentary constituency, Ramtek is also known for Lord Rama.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Lord Rama had went there.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I am a follower of Shri Rama. I am known as a devotee of Lord Rama. When I think myself a devotee of Shri Rama, then I should also work accordingly. Therefore, I have brought this Bill to follow the path of Shri Rama. I hope that all of you will extend your support to this Bill. With this hope I start my speech.

During the reign of Lord Rama, the people were given higher place than the king. The King was given the second place. I have already stated that India is a country of various castes and creeds. Whenever the country faces any crisis, we follow the path of brotherhood and leaving behind our religions and castes, we come together to face the crisis. We have the example of Kargil

before us. Our jawans who fought for the country, never throughout about their religion, caste or the reason for which they were fighting. We used to watch their interviews on Doordarshan. They always said that they were fighting to save the country.

Our ancestors had shed their blood for the independence of this country. Lakhs-crores of people sacrificed their lives. To achieve independence for the country, many a people had a bear the brunt of lathis and many lost their lives. They had a dream that even though they were living in slavery, their children will live a happy life with the independence of country. Their future generation will have a good dream, even if they had to die for that. They sacrificed their lives with this hope. However, fifty-three years have passed since independence and their dream remained a dream only. They could not achieve what they wanted. The poor remained poor and the rich continued to get richer. Therefore, after the independence of the country, when the first national agenda was prepared in 1948, the national objective in it was to remove economic disparity at the national level. A Committee was set up in this regard and it was chaired by the Principal Additional Secretary, Planning. They submitted their report on 6th of February, 1988. In their report, they identified 100 districts in country as the most backward. On the basis of their recommendations, a special action plan was also prepared on paper.

[English]

But with a very sad heart I say that no action has been taken till this date.

[Translation]

What happened to that Committee is not known, what happened to its report and what is about the recommendations, it is also not known. The Bill presented here has the provision of a special action plan which is likely to be prepared by the Union government later on for the backward areas of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Other remaining Members of Parliament will speak about their constituencies separately.

But the constituency which I represent is Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and that too is precisely Ramtek area of Vidarbha region. Since I gained consciousness, I have been closely watching each and every step of politics for the last 20 years. Politicians come in white clothes and the first and foremost thing which they say is that they will have to work for the development, they will certainly be able to develop this area, so they are just delivering speeches. That is why I don't wear white clothes. They only talk about the development of the

region and assure us not to worry about it. Hon'ble Narsingh Raoji who became the Prime Minister later on, once visited this Ramtek region. He offered prayers in the temple of Lord Rama and announced before the public that even though he was from Andhra Pradesh but if he is elected, he will work for the overall development of the Ramtek region. The man who swore in the name of Lord Rama that in case he is elected he would take care of them, the people of Ramtek were so innocent that they started believing him. They thought that he took a pledge before Lord Rama so they would not be deceived. He got elected and people started searching for him as to where he went. He became Prime Minister and the commitment which he made in the name of Lord Rama proved to be just an eye wash. Narsingh Rao ji became Prime Minister. His dream of development proved to be futile. Poor people just remained shedding tears. I would like to make a special mention that for the last 20 years politics has become nothing but discussion and only discussion in the name of development. I think that there is an urgent need to stop all such absurd things and we are required to take concrete steps.

Like the History of Hindustan, the Maharashtra has its own peculiar history. Since independence of the country, Ramdas Athawale is well known leader of the State. Earlier he was the leader of Congress and presently he is in N.C.P. Previously he was a nationalist leader and now he is in National Congress. After independence in 1960 when a question has come up that what is Maharashtra. A lot of discussions took place in this regard and it was told that a separate Maharashtra would be formed. After that a dispute has emerged as to where the Vidarbha would go. Sakha Patil ji was the Central Minister from there at that time. He said that Vidarbha would be attached to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and Mumbai would be linked. Shri Morarji Desai has put forth an idea that a new Maharashtra would be formed by connecting Gujarat and Bombay but I would like to add here with pride that father of our Bala Saheb Thakare, whom we consider as our Lord, Shri Prabhudatta Thakareji was the first to take an initiative in this regard that Vidarbha would not be linked with Madhya Pradesh and instead it would be linked with Maharashtra. Shri Bala Saheb Thakare ji was very young at that time. This resulted in to shoutings, scrambles, blood-shed, massacre and lathicharge. 105 people were killed as a result thereof. After the killings of 105 people United Maharashtra was formed so at the time when Maharashtra was being formed a promise was made to the public of Maharashtra that we would bring prosperity in Maharashtra, but had that promise with which the United Maharashtra was formed in 1960 could have been fulfilled then the need to bring this bill in the House would not have arisen. Here I would like to say one thing. When the movement

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

of United Maharashtra was started, Bala Saheb Thakare was very young at that time but even today he has been engaged in augmenting the same idea and concept. He said that the way Maharashtra was formed, the way Vidarbha was formed and 105 precious lives were lost therein, we don't want to loose more lives of people and shed blood dividing Vidarbha. On this issue we should make an analysis as to why all this happens. Here I would also like to say one thing that I apologise to my friends sitting here and I will only say the truth. I don't want to criticize anybody. If we look into the history of 5 years back then it seems that there has been no development of this area in last 45 years. The first thing which came into the notice was that State Government funds have not been equally distributed. I asked—who was handling this distribution. Reply came—This is in the hands of the State Government. I again asked who—was running the Governemnt. This would be replied by Shri Ramdas Athawale ji—Congress. Vidarbha remained backward for 45 years because of this unequal distribution of funds. Congress Government or any other Government didn't take this seriously. Due to this, the area gradually went on becoming backward. After 1960, in 1982, after 22 years one leader realised that injustice was done to them. People will die if more injustice is done. So, they set up Dandekar Committee and entrusted them to find out the extent of injustice done to that region because they were not provided funds. Dandekar Committee gave its report in 1984. There was a bomb blast after that report was submitted. It was said in that report that in 37.32 per cent *i.e.* in more than one third cases injustice was done. After the submission of this report was decided in 1984 that 85 percent of the total budget would be given to such regions where there is more backlog and 15 percent would be given to other regions. But the Government of Maharashtra did the opposite. 85 percent amount was given to other regions and 15 percent to the backlog regions. Thus, the backlog went on increasing and we kept on talking about development. Then after the formation of Maharashtra, Yashvantrao Chavan ji became the Chief Minister of that state. He said—I have become the Chief Minister and want to promise you one thing.

He said that he was making an agreement and he signed Nagpur agreement with the people of Vidarbha. It was decided in it that under Article 371(2) of Constitution a Statutory Development Board is likely to be formed for Vidarbha region.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, you can Continue next time.

17.31 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Ongoing Irrigation Projects

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up the half-an-hour discussion. Shri Naresh Puglia to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, one important question No. 143 had come up for discussion on 2nd August in which it was mentioned that all the ongoing projects under the sixth, seventh and eighth plan in the country remained incomplete. Several Members wanted to ask counter questions and express their views on that question. The Hon'ble Speaker had allowed half-an-hour discussion on the same. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the subject.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hail from Maharashtra which is a developed State of the country and has made rapid progress in agriculture, education, industry and in various other sectors. However, as Hon'ble Minister had stated in his reply on 2nd August that there are major and medium incomplete or ongoing irrigation projects in 22 states of the country. Out of these 162 major irrigation projects, 36 projects are in Maharashtra. Out of the 240 medium ongoing or incomplete irrigation projects in the country, 66 projects are in Maharashtra only. Thus, injustice is being done with Maharashtra. 70 percent population of our country lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture. A farmer gets his subsistence from agriculture. Our irrigation policy should be formulated accordingly in Western Maharashtra, there is 70 to 80 percent irrigation and sugarcane, grapes, pomegranates are cultivated there. Large areas are covered under horticulture, floriculture and agriculture. However, there are Marathwada, Konkan and Vidarbha in the same State where forests and minerals are in abundance, but only 11 percent area is covered under irrigation. So, the percentage of irrigation in one region in the same State is 10 to 11 while in another region there, it is 60-70 percent. There are such regions in many States of the country where influential leaders brought money and projects in large scale in their regions. Recently, our

country where influential leaders brought money and projects in large scale in their regions. Recently, our respected colleague Mohiteji had brought a bill in connection with the development of Vidarbha. The people are compelled to take to guns in the regions which have been backward, be it Telengana, Vidarbha or Bodoland. When no attention is paid towards the well being of the people within democracy, some persons take to guns. We have faith in democracy.

Some people do not have faith in democracy and try to seek justice from the Government by taking to guns. Do you want to develop such type of system in the country and compel people to take to guns? At present, there are 36 major projects in Maharashtra which are incomplete. Shri Muttemwarji is sitting here who was a Member of Parliament from Chimur previously. He had got sanctioned a major project at Gosikhud in 1986. That time, the cost of that project was 450 crores. The work on that project is being carried out expeditiously and it is hoped that the dam is going to be completed in one to two years. One of its channel falls in my district Chandrapur. One lakh 50 thousand hectare land of my district is likely to get irrigated from this channel and 8 Taluks will be benefited by the same. However, I am sorry to say that those who saved the forests, are being punished under the Forest Conservation Act instead of rewarding. There are more than 40 percent forests in Chandrapur and more than 77 percent forests in the adjoining district of Garhchiroli. Thus, the forests cover 20 lakh hectare of land in Nagpur division. Today, in Nagpur division, 106 major and middle project forests are awaiting clearance. You are talking about irrigation projects in the discussions, but a number of projects are not getting clearance under the Forest Conservation Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the naxalite activities in five States of the country namely, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Maharashtra are on the rise. The Dept. of forests is responsible for this. The regions where forest cover is more than 33 percent, there is no co-ordination between you and the Department of Forest. Shri Thakur Saheb is sitting here who had previously held the charge of the Department of Irrigation. I would like to know why naxalite activities are only confined to tribal areas. The reason behind this is that this is an undeveloped area. If you go to the villages of the districts of Chandrapur and Garhchiroli, you will find the people with only one or two kilograms of rice, a little salt and a lamp of kerosene oil. They have nothing except this. In such a situation if they take to guns, then who is guilty? Either you and we all are guilty or the Government of that State or the centre is guilty. Therefore, I request you to consult the Department about the naxalite infested areas as per the Forest Conservation Act and

about the pending projects. It has been observed that the projects are awaiting clearance for over 18 years in those districts which have more than 33 percent of forest cover. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had laid the foundation of a dam there and that dam is nearing completion. However, the construction work of that dam was stopped. We were compelled to take the matter to the Standing Committee on Forest and Environment. Thereafter, the Committee took on the spot decision and got this project cleared. I request you to complete this project.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 30 percent share of this project in the State is provided by the Centre but it came down to 14.5 per cent in the ninth plan. There is 70 percent of rural population which depends on agriculture but the budget is being curtailed again. It is because of this that the people of the rural areas are heading towards the cities. Some of them get jobs in hotels in cities, others are working in shops, some others are running betel shop and they like to do these jobs. There is no work in villages. They hail from backward areas. The hon'ble Minister also comes from the backward area and he knows that Orissa is facing naxalite problem. Likewise, there is irrigation problem as well. I appeal to the hon'ble Minister that keeping in view all these things the way you have accorded approval to the Department of irrigation for privatisation, you should also think over it on the same line.

In Maharashtra also, out of the two major projects, Krishna Valley project is such a project which supplies water to lakhs of hectare lands. This is going on in your corporation. Sardar Sarovar Project is the second project. The work of this project is being carried out by setting up Narmada Corporation. The third one is the project of Kamataka. It is working in the name of Jai Bhagya Nigam. At present, the work of getting major projects has been started in Vidarbha also by making Vidarbha Development Irrigation Corporation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say that unless you establish this irrigation sector by providing its lost vitality and provide justice to the rural people particularly the farmers, nothing is going to happen whether you are in ruling party or in opposition, whether you sit on that bench or this bench. In this Parliament, 70 percent of our representatives come after having been elected. They have their rural base and they are farmers. I myself am a farmer. However, I am sorry to state that when we are in constituency, we say something but after elected to Parliament we speak in a different tone and forget everything after getting a Ministerial post.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please ask one question. You have said so much and now you may ask a question.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: It was necessary to explain the background of the matter to the Hon'ble Minister before asking a question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have explained for 11 minutes.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude in two minutes. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that as we talk of the development we should discuss with the Planning Commission on our next plan. It is noticed that Government provide funds to those districts only in which more than 50 per cent irrigation work has been completed. What efforts are being made by your department to provide more funds to the districts where even five-ten percent of land is not under irrigation and where percentage of land under irrigation is low. Our projects have been stopped in the Naxalite affected areas due to the Forest Conservation Act. 201 projects in Vidarbha, 96 in Amravati Division and 106 in Nagpur have been stopped. Whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests and your irrigation department are making any joint efforts to find a way out to clear the irrigation projects pending due to the Forest Conservation Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is an agricultural country and irrigation projects pertaining to agriculture have a great importance here. Because Indian Budget is a gamble of Monsoons, sometimes there are excess rains, sometimes there is drought and floods and this water goes waste. Whenever the rain comes, whatever be the quantum of rain, it is very necessary to prepare irrigation projects for storing water by constructing dams. After independence the leaders of our country also paid attention on such projects and irrigation schemes have also been prepared. But it is a matter of regret that there are 162 major irrigation projects and about 240 minor irrigation projects in 22 States are still under construction, as stated by the Hon'ble Minister in his reply. As you know if there is a delay in implementations of these projects, the cost goes high, wages of labour increases and several other obstructions crop in. How the negligence to the irrigation projects in a country like India which is dependent on agriculture could be justified. I think it is worth consideration of the Government also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that in a discussion held here it was stated that water is the

National property so there must be a national water policy and a National Water Commission also. I would like to know the time by which the Government would set up a National Water Commission by formulating the water policy so that the river water flowing from one state to another may be utilized for irrigation purposes. One more issue which is related to this issue is Maruganga Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan which was earlier known as Rajasthan Canal.

After spending crores and billions of rupees on this canal a green revolution have come in whole of the sandy plains along the Northern and Western sandy regions of Rajasthan, but the work pertaining to this canal has not yet been completed due to lack of funds. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the reasons for rejecting the proposals for allocation of more funds sent to you by the Government of Rajasthan to complete the Indira Gandhi Canal this year and also the reasons for delay in sanctioning the funds during the last years. Whether the Union Government propose to provide full assistance to the Indira Gandhi Canal project considering it same as national Irrigation Project? Similarly, there is drought condition in Barmer and Jalaur and livestock are dying there. Narmada Sagar and Sardar Sarovar Projects have also not been completed in Gujarat and there is a controversy on the height of the Dam. If it is completed then it would meet the demands of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and at the same time there is a plan to provide potable water and irrigation facilities to Jalaur and Barmer regions of Rajasthan. Why the Maisagar project of Rajasthan and Bansagar and Rajghat projects of Madhya Pradesh are lying incomplete. I would like to know as to what efforts are being taken by the Government to complete the pending minor and major irrigation projects of Rajasthan and why the grants for Indira Gandhi Canal, considering it a National Canal Project have been stopped and when these are likely to be released.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Sir, I had also given a notice to speak because the issue of Narmada Dam is very serious.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pravin Rashtrapal, according to the rules, for speaking in the half an hour discussion, one has to give notice.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I had given the notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have not received that.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: But Sir, I had given the notice on the same day.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Though we have not received it, I am giving you a chance, as a special case to seek clarification from the hon. Minister. But it cannot be made as a precedent.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Thank you very much. Sir, I am very happy that along with the concerned hon. Minister, Dr. C.P. Thakur is also present here. Here, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister Shri Arun Jaitley also because he is not representing a particular constituency but he is representing the entire Gujarat. ...(*Interruptions*)

Shri Jaitley, please. I want your help because you are also elected from Gujarat.

According to the details given by the hon. Minister, the figure of the spill over cost in the Ninth Plan was Rs. 64,183 crore. As far as Gujarat is concerned, the figure is the highest. It is Rs. 16,779 crore.

Sir, everybody in the country knows about the seriousness of Narmada Dam. Every day, the State is losing Rs. 8 crore even if there is construction or no construction. Hon. Dr. C.P. Thakur also came to my constituency about two-three months back for inauguration of Narmada canal. Everything is ready in Gujarat.

Sir, in one of the written answer, it was stated by the hon. Minister that there is a dispute about the height of the dam. Sir, according to my information, the Supreme Court has gone on record that 'they are not going to listen to any argument as far as the height is concerned because the matter is settled by the Narmada River Dispute Tribunal.'

The dispute is about the rehabilitation of the displaced persons from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, that is, the project-affected people. I am also concerned about that. But as far as the height is concerned, there is no dispute.

I would like to quote the hon. Prime Minister who intervened in one of the debates held on 15th December. There, he said:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a serious situation has arisen due to the drought in many parts of the country like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh. What will happen to the crops, is a matter of future. No hope of rain seems there.

Scarcity of drinking water has come as a big trouble before us. The State Governments are taking steps in this regard. The Government wants that there should be a discussion in the House on this matter and we should discuss the shortcomings, if any, with each other. Neither it is an issue of a state, nor it is a political issue. We have to face this national crisis. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, please fix a date after consulting all the leaders. ..There should be a separate discussion on it. The Government will also come prepared, put up all the facts and welcome your suggestions."

[*English*]

This is what the hon. Prime Minister spoke on the 15th December. There was an assurance by the hon. Prime Minister during his speech in Ahmedabad that when they come to power, within fifteen days the River Narmada dispute would be solved. As the Government has called the meeting of the Cauvery dispute States twice during the last one year, I want to know from the hon. Minister when the Government would call a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to settle the dispute. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only one question is allowed.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I want to know when the meeting would be called and when the issue would be settled.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is considered to be one question.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members who have raised this Half-an-hour Discussion. Through this discussion, they have sought to know the position of the on-going projects.

All of us know that irrigation being a State subject, the irrigation projects are planned, investigated, formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments themselves out of their resources as per their own priorities. So, the projects, which have been spilled over since the planning process began in the country, have been planned, investigated, formulated and also funded by the States. They are being executed as per their own priorities. The Central Government or the Ministry of Water Resources only provides them assistance under different scheme when they require or ask for funds for the completion of these projects.

[Shri Arjun Sethi]

As my hon. Members here stated, since 1951-52 till the end of the Eighth Plan, 288 major and 938 medium projects were taken up for construction by various State Governments. As they have also stated here, out of these projects, 162 major and 240 medium projects have spilled over into the Ninth Plan as on-going projects. The spill over cost of these on-going projects into the Ninth Plan for completion is of the order of Rs. 68,044 crore, which is the outlay under the Ninth Plan. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): You are repeating the same things. You have already said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: The outlay for the Ninth Plan for major and medium projects is Rs. 42,644 crore. From this also we can see that there would be a deficit of funds in respect of the projects that have spilled over to the Ninth Plan period.

The main constraint, as I have pointed out here, in the completion of the projects is the paucity of funds with the State Governments. The other important contributing factors for delay in the completion of the projects are land acquisition problems, resettlement problems, rehabilitation problems and the problems related to acquisition of forest land. There is also the tendency of the State Governments to take up too many projects resulting in thin spread of scarce resources. These are the causes. These projects have been taken up by the State Governments themselves.

Whenever they come to us for funds or for any other assistance to complete the ongoing projects, the Government of India provides them funds under different schemes. The schemes are Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) which is being funded through NABARD, and under, the Water Resources Consolidation Project (WRCP). We provide funds through these schemes for the completion of ongoing projects. My hon. friends will agree with me on this point. They will be interested to know the quantum of funds that has been provided under different schemes. Under AIBP scheme, which was started during the year 1996-97. Since inception in 1996-97, till 1999-2000, we have provided to 22 States for 112 projects, an amount of Rs. 4032 crore. The Budget provision under AIBP for the current year is Rs. 1712 crore. You can well imagine and appreciate that whenever the State Governments sought the assistance of the Central Government, the Central Government from time to time, have been providing assistance for early completion of the spill over irrigation projects.

Similarly, under RIDF, the Government is providing loans through NABARD. As I have said earlier, this

scheme was launched in 1995-96. An amount of Rs. 3080 crore has been released through NABARD for irrigation projects during the last five years, that is, from 1995-96 to 1999-2000.

These funds are provided mainly for early completion of the ongoing projects only. My hon. friends will appreciate that whenever the State Governments approach the Central Government for funds, the Central Government or the Ministry of Water Resources have been providing funds under different schemes. But the States are to fulfil formalities to get these assistance on their part.

Hon. Member, Shri Naresh Puglia from Maharashtra said that there has been unequal distribution of funds or whatever irrigation potential that has been created, it is unequal, in different parts of the State of Maharashtra. As I said earlier, these irrigation projects have been planned, investigated, funded and executed by the State Government, fixing their own priorities. The Central Government has nothing to do with them and it cannot interfere in those matters. Whenever any project comes to the TAC of the Water Resources Ministry, we examine it; we only advise on technical points; entire funding and its execution remain with the State Government concerned. There is no scope for the Central Government to come in and execute on its own.

Sp, I will request my friend Shri Naresh Puglia to try to convince his own State Government so that they can execute and complete the projects. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me conclude and then you can seek clarifications.

So far as Vidarbha region, etc. are concerned—about which he mentioned—I would repeat what I said earlier. The whole process of irrigation project being planned, being investigated, etc. is with the State Government. So, the State Government should look into the difficulties and the spread the irrigation schemes all over the State.

18.00 hrs.

So far as the Forest Conservation Act is concerned, the Members know that it does not come under my Ministry. There is a separate Ministry for that. The State Government can approach the Ministry of Environment and Forests and it can do the needful. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat said that there is no National Water Policy. In fact it is there since 1987 and it has been working. Recently we tried to amend it as per new challenges and priorities emerged. We are also trying to have a new policy so that whatever deficiency is there in the old policy can be made good of in the new policy. For the Indira Canal from 1996-97 to 1999-2000, a total sum of Rs. 160 crore have been provided. ...*(Interruptions)* I have no information

for this year. But I can supply the information to the hon. Member. But unless the states send the utilisation certificates required, they cannot get further assistance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can collect the information and send it to the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is not the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: As far as Narmada is concerned, hon. Member, Shri Pravin Rashtupal, knows that it is pending in the Supreme Court. He is a very learned Member. ...(Interruptions) There is a stay. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: There cannot be a stay on holding the meeting. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Holding of meeting is different. It is about the raising the height of the dam. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Neither there is a ban nor is there a stay. There is no question of height. It is only a question of rehabilitation. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, I will supply the information to the hon. Member. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2000.

18.04 hrs.

CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION)

AMENDMENT BILL (contd.)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall be very brief. Following a Common Cause Public Interest Litigation, the Supreme Court has given certain directions to the Union Government as to how to contain the violation of this Act. The Government owes an explanation to the House as to how they proposed to take certain steps apart from what has been

suggested here. When the Government is bringing this amendment to ask the private satellite channels to carry, at least, two DD channels and one regional language channel, I would like to emphasise that the quality of DD programmes should be improved. If DD cannot inspire other channels, then the viewership of the DD will continue to decline. In this context, if I remember correct, P.C. Joshi Committee had suggested that Indian television should have its own Indian personality. The basic ingredients of that personality are, it should be the voice of the people, not the elitist and urban-oriented, not politician-centred and leaders-centred. What is happening today? Lack of credibility or erosion of credibility of DD has happened because it is being used for partisan ends.

When the Congress was in power the Doordarshan was called 'Indira Darshan' and now it is being called by a different name. Different partners of the NDA Government are using it for image building exercise. The first casualty is the credibility of DD. If the quality of the programmes of DD cannot be more attractive, for that purpose it should not compete with the channels which are indulging in just their own advertisement code, as is known in the Mumbai case of Channel-V. The nation was shocked to see that two Pune University girls were asked to undress, slip to the bare minimum and that shooting had taken place in a public place in Mumbai. Those two girls were even paid Rs. 1500. The Mumbai Police caught them also but nothing could be done about them. If you look at the Fashion Show, as I was referring to, it is obscenity to infinity sometimes. It is un-imaginable. What is the definition of obscenity? Even after this Bill is passed, your programme code will continue. You are the best interpreter of things. You are such an eminent lawyer. What is the definition of obscenity? This House wants to be assured that the Government is quite aware of the things that are developing. In J&K, the North-East, repeatedly you had said that the Pakistan TV had a wider coverage. Our transmission system can go only to 70 kms or whatever it may be. Because of the mountainous region, what role private channels are playing? This should be explained. The Government owes it to the House to explain what steps they are taking.

I have another very important point to make. There is a Broadcasting Bill pending. Fortunately or unfortunately, I was the Member of that Committee Chaired by Shri Sharad Pawar. We made a lot of recommendations. What has happened to that? There is another Bill pending. I was mentioning the convergence part, what the cable operators should be doing, the optical fibre, the public undertaking network is being used in such a way, how monopolisation is taking place and the small operators have been gobbled up by big operators and so on. The Bill which I was referring to is the Information,

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Communication and Entertainment Bill, popularly known as the ICE Bill. Why do we have this piecemeal Bill? We should have a comprehensive Bill which should contain all these things. It should have a revised amended programme code. As I have said, the programme code amended because till today it does not contain the ethos of pluralism. If it is violated, Gods, Goddesses, institutions and leaders are commercialised in a manner for earning revenue only. This is happening. This should not be allowed. The Programme Code and the Advertisement Code should be suitably amended.

Now I come to the reaction of the private channel to this proposed amendment. I would just refer to it as I have read it somewhere. Some private channel says that after this amendment, the revenue of the private satellite channel will come down. That means they are using the advertisements in such a manner. But, it is not in respect of cigarette or liquor because they are uplinking from abroad and their laws permit the presentation of such advertisements. Now that you have decided that the foreign channels should uplink from the Indian land, they should be subjected to the Indian laws. I am very much eager to know as to what do you propose to do with regard to this.

Lastly, I come to implementation part of it. There is no dearth of good laws in this country. Look at the Censorship. We have some idea of censorship. I had the occasion to be associated with two Committees which had been involved in the exercise of studying and reviewing the censorship. There were two opinions that the censorship in the Indian situation have failed miserably because the Government did not give them the right direction as it should be in the Indian situation. Now there is a suggestion that even in the case of TV, there should be another Censor Board. I do not subscribe to this at all. But the programme code as well as advertisement code should be suitably amended.

As regards the implementation part of it, as has been proposed, right now, I am not giving any other suggestion. This can be given only in a comprehensive manner and in the light of the convergence that is taking place. Only then I can give you the concrete suggestion.

With these words, I do not oppose it but say that it is a piecemeal amendment. But still I welcome it.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2000. I would like to extend my thanks to Hon'ble Minister as well as the Government led by Shri Atal ji for having amended the Section 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 18, 19, 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Bill, 1994-95, which is effective in this country, through this Bill in order to fulfil the desires and aspirations of the people of the nation. Through those amendments, control can be exercised on the adverse publicity given by television in the country, the programmes depicting violence being telecast, programmes criticising the deities as well as the news channels telecasting anti-national news. Though this Act is notified since 1995, yet it was felt throughout the country that this Act is not being implemented anywhere. I request the Hon'ble Minister that it would be nice if you tell us about the implementation of this Act by the previous Governments and the actions taken so far as per the provisions made in this Act. A provision of this Act is that any operator or institution willing to telecast television programme, is required to compulsorily get itself registered. I would like to know how many such registered operators or institutions are there in entire country, at present?

There is provision in this Act to register cases if some mistakes are committed or some crime is committed or the provisions of this Act are violated. If someone is a first time offender, then the person is liable to be punished with a fine of Rs. two thousand and two years' imprisonment as per the provisions of the Act. If someone violates the Act twice or a number of times, then there is provision to punish guilty with a fine of Rs. five thousand or to sentence him to five years' imprisonment. With regard to Madhya Pradesh, no such case has been made out there. I am aware that there is same condition in the country also. No effort has been made to implement this Act anywhere.

There is a very big reason which you are removing by making amendments. This had been already done by detailing some names and by making clear the definition of the authorised officer and it had been left with the State Governments but the State Governments did not take any interest in it. Now, you have made provision directly from here and I feel that it will really improve. The manner in which you have mentioned the three category of posts of the District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate or Police Commissioner, the State Government does not need to make any announcement about it. If there are no such posts and such officers, then other officers of same rank can also be declared as authorised

officers. Now, there will certainly be some improvement because of this provision. You are quite learned and a successful advocate. That is why, I hesitate to give any suggestions. You have made provision to authorise Police Commissioners also but the Police Commissioner system in the country is in operation at some places only. This provision is there in metropolitan cities or in some other places. This system is not there in Madhya Pradesh and there are more than half of the total number of States in the country where Police Commissioner system does not exist. That is why, I would like to request you that it would probably be better if the Police Commissioner or Police Superintendent or I.P.S. Officer provision is made. I am giving this suggestion because these days D.M. and Sub-Divisional Officer or Sub-Divisional Magistrate do not have enough time because of the law and order problems. They have to face the problem of law and order for 18-20 hours in 24 hours. They have not got ample time to overcome these situations. They do not take interest in such type of work and even if they take interest, they will not be able to find enough time for the same. The Police officers cover various areas and if they take much interest in it, they will be able to implement it properly. According to this Act, if someone has committed any crime or made any mistake, then there is also a provision to seize his equipment. No action has been taken in this direction as well. If any action has been taken, then the Department is only aware of the same. If you have any such information about it, then please apprise the House of the same as it will be a very nice step.

You and I are aware that the cable operators show Doordarshan Channels. As per rules, two channels of Doordarshan are required to be shown, namely Delhi Doordarshan one and D.D. two. Any two Doordarshan channels are required to be relayed but they do not relay even one D.D. Channel and in some cities they sometimes relay one or two channels. In rural areas, the Cable Operators who relay programmes through operators' disk because of non availability of Doordarshan relay centres, never relay Doordarshan Channels. They prefer to show the programmes involving violence and vulgar scenes because people take more interest in such programmes also. The provision of relaying two programmes, was also violated but one more provision was made in it. Now, another Doordarshan relay centre is likely to be set up, that means three Doordarshan programmes will be relayed besides the two D.D. programmes. There will be an another Doordarshan Channel which is to show programmes in regional languages. I would like to thank you for this and congratulate you also. I believe that the Doordarshan has had only ill affects in the country but at the same time I also believe that the Doordarshan has shown its merits

to the country by producing the programmes like the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Krishna and Hazarat Mohammad which have been watched by the entire country and the people have learned a lot from these. The biggest benefit of these programmes is that the Hindi language has got wide publicity. Our ancestors were great leaders who were ready to struggle for the country's freedom and sacrifice their lives to make Hindi the official language of the nation which was their dream.

Though a provision has been made about granting Hindi the status of an official language of the country but practically it has not been implemented. The people of the whole country as well as of the foreign countries have got a chance to learn and understand Hindi language through the Doordarshan programmes. People of India have been benefitted by these programmes but at the same time programmes influenced by Western culture are also shown on it. These programmes are having a bad affects on the public and therefore we should not show vulgar programmes on Doordarshan. Such provision was not made in the earlier Act, but now the hon'ble Minister has made a provision in this Bill and after the passing of this Bill, the vulgar programmes or programmes influenced and inspired by the western culture would not be telecast. The hon'ble Minister is very active in this direction and due to his earnestness, the telecast of obscene programmes on television will be stopped in the country. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that a code of conduct should be formulated for telecast of Information and Broadcasting programmes. In the absence of the code of conduct, people show the programmes of their own choice. Even the Censor Board is unable to decide whether some clipping of a film is obscene or not. Though the laws are there but the obscene programmes get approval of the Censor Board by finding out lacunae in the laws. Afterwards those programmes are shown on television or in cinema halls. I think an amendment should be made in this regard. Similarly, there is scope of bringing an amendment in the Copyright Act. The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 has also not been complied with. It has a provision that the equipments of the cable operators shall be considered expired after every three years. I would like to make one more submission to the hon'ble Minister that expansion of Doordarshan Relay Centres should be undertaken in the country. Doordarshan Relay Centres have been set up at many places but their range is so limited that only 33 percent of the population of the country are able to see the programmes relayed by these Doordarshan Relay Centres. And rest of the programmes can be seen through disc. They don't get the news of the Doordarshan but they can understand as to what is happening in Pakistan because those programmes can

[Shri Thawarchand Gehlot]

be seen through disc. Therefore, by developing the Doordarshan Relay Centres, we can provide its benefit to the people of the entire country.

Finally, I would like to say one more thing. Though the authorities are being appointed but unless the Court is approached in writing, it would not take cognizance of the persons who violate the law in this regard. Therefore, we need to review this provision in order to ensure punishment of the guilty persons and achieve success in this regard. I hope, we will be able to take effective steps in this regard during the tenure of the hon'ble Minister. With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in the modern, changing and moving society, no law can be static and hence, necessary amendments have to be brought about as warranted, as necessitated by experience and the situation prevailing at any particular point of time. About a decade back, when the cable television made its entry in the country, there was no law governing its operations. The need to bring about a law to regulate the operation was felt in 1995. Thus, this Act of 1995, that is, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act was brought on the Statute Book.

Today, I am happy that we have this Amending Bill before us incorporating certain amendments, the necessity of which has been felt by all of us during the last few years. I would indeed like to be very brief on this matter and refer only to one or two matters which need to be referred to. They are not strictly within the domain of the Government, but I would certainly request the hon. Minister to take note of them somehow.

One is the emergence of cartels or what Shri Rupchand Pal also referred to as the big fish gobbling up the small fish. What do we do about it? The cable mafias have sprung up at many places and ours is also not so well. I would leave this matter at this stage only requesting the hon. Minister to take note of the situation as it prevails on the ground and see as to how we can regulate and bring about a smooth working of the cable network in the country. Along with this is the other question relating to the area of operation of different cable operators.

The important point which I would like to refer to here is this. I do welcome the amendment brought about to that effect, that is, making it imperative for the cable operators to re-transmit at least two *Doordarshan* channels and one regional channel of the *Doordarshan*. A provision

did exist earlier also in Section 8 of the Act but that has not been found to be adequate. The point that I would really like to make is that despite the provision being there, it is not meeting the requirements. There was a reference being made to the quality of the *Doordarshan* programmes. My experience is that the quality of the programmes of the *Doordarshan* as such is in no way inferior to those of any other channel. But the defect that I found is this. I do not know how it occurs. Is it because of some machination of the cable operators somewhere either on their own or at the bidding of somebody else whose programmes they are telecasting that the reception of the *Doordarshan* programmes is not really up to the mark. I would like the hon. Minister to go into this question and see as to what really can be done. I think the provision which is being made by him now should take care of it because the *Prasar Bharati*, that is, the Broadcasting Corporation of India, is being authorised to even prescribe the manner of reception of transmission of such channels. I think that is meant to take care of that. But what I would really want is the result on the ground. The programmes, the objective and the *raison d'être* of the *Doordarshan*, are different. Obviously, they have to be different from that of the private channels. It has to serve a national cause. For that reason, people all over the country would certainly like to switch on to the *Doordarshan* channels, provided that with the receiving sets which they have the reception is good. For that, you have to fix the responsibility on those cable operators who do not really come up to the responsibility and perform the task assigned to them.

I would like to make only one more point. As I said earlier, laws have to change with the passage of time. Similarly, the Codes about which a reference has been made earlier—the programme code and the advertisement code — also have to change. I happened to be a Member of the earlier Committee where we discussed about it a few years back. I think it is time to do it again. At that time, it was primarily the codes of other developed countries which were being circulated to us saying that these were the codes being followed by other countries. Our code has to be a completely indigenous one respecting the ethos and the culture of our country.

When we talk of various programmes being uplinked by foreign channels from outside India and our helplessness over that, I do find a provision here. I do not know how effective that can be in checking that situation and bringing it in conformity with the other stipulations of the Indian law as also the Indian Codes, the programme code and the advertisement code. It is our experience that the programmes may be uplinked from other countries but the advertisements relate to the Indian brands of liquor. The target is the Indian group.

the Indian audience. The programmes are generated outside but meant primarily for the Indian audience. They could have deleterious effect and impact on the minds of the Indian youths as also the general public. I would like the hon. Minister to take note of it.

Finally, I would also say that we do not have objection to bringing in enactment of any law as warranted by the situation but because of this exponential growth in the entire field and the convergence of technology which was being referred to, it is time now that you give a holistic approach to the entire matter. Keeping that in view do come out with law which takes care of all ramifications of the different activities relating to the field of information and technology.

With these words, I would also support this Bill.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharaganj, (U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the Gorakhpur Doordarshan Kendra. Gorakhpur Doordarshan Kendra has been functioning from the hired premises for the last several years. The District Magistrate of Gorakhpur has threatened to vacate the said premises. Though the land has already been purchased for the Gorakhpur Doordarshan Kendra, yet the Central Government had not allocated funds for the studio. I, therefore, request the Government, through you, to allocate the funds on priority basis for the construction of the studio.

18.32 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—LAID

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:—

I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Bihar Reorganisation Bill, 2000, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd August, 2000, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 2000, with the following amendments:—

Clause 5

Amendment of the First Schedule to the Constitution

1. That at page 2, line 39 for the figure "25" the figure "27" be substituted.
2. That at page 2, line 40, for the figure "26" the figure "28" be substituted.

Clause 7

Amendment of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution

3. That at page 3, line 6, for the figures, "27" and "28" the figures "29" and "30" be substituted.

Clause 12

Provisions as to Legislative Assemblies

4. That at page 3, line 39, for the figures "10", "25", "11" and "26" the figures "11", "27", "12" and "28" be substituted.
5. That at page 4, line 1, for the figure "9" the figure "10" be substituted.
6. That at page 4, line 2, for the figure "10" the figure "11" be substituted.

The First Schedule

7. That at page 24, for lines 3-9, the following be substituted, namely:—
 "(I) Of the seven sitting members whose term of office will expire on 9th April, 2002, namely, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo, Shri Nagendra Nath Ojha, Shri Prem Chand Gupta, Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav, Shri Shatrughan Sinha and Shri Ram Deo Bhandari; Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi and Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand and the other five sitting members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill five of the seats allotted to the State of Bihar."
8. That at page 24, lines 19-21, for the words "such two as the Chairman of the Council of the States may determine by drawing lot, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand" the words "Shri S.S. Ahluwalia and Shri Ram Kumar Anand shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand" be substituted.

The Sixth Schedule

9. That at page 35, line 5, for the figures "XIX" and "XX" the figures "XXI" and "XXII" be substituted.
10. That at page 35, line 10, for the figure "XIX" the figure "XXI" be substituted.
11. That at page 35, for line 11, the following be substituted namely:—

"Part XII-Jharkhand

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 128 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendments be communicated to this House.

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Bihar Reorganisation Bill, 2000 a returned by Rajya Sabha with amendments which was passed by Lok Sabha on 2nd August, 2000.

18.32 hrs.

CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL—contd.

[English]

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): Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members, each one of whom has supported this amendment Bill and have also made some very constructive suggestions. There was an observation made that this Bill is perhaps dealing with the area of cable, a piecemeal legislation. Shri Rupchand Pal, said it. There was yet another observation which said that we would also have to contemplate, within the system of cable laws, a system to check piracy. A query was also raised as to what is the plight of the Broadcast Bill which had earlier been introduced in this House, and had been referred to a Select Committee in 1997. There have been several suggestions made with regard to the impossibility of this law, as also improvement in the quality of television programming in this country. May I respond to the larger question which had been raised? It is perhaps correct that this is a legislation which is operating in a limited field today.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): That is what is meant by 'piecemeal'.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I quite concede to that. We are operating in an area where technology has been moving at a very fast pace. Actually, Shri Rupchand Pal himself suggested that. We were initially contemplating a Broadcast Bill and he himself suggested that now is the era of the convergence law.

Therefore, we have entered the era of the evolution which takes place in the fields of broadcasting, telecommunications and information technology, converging them into a common technology, making them easier to the people and making even communications cheaper to the people. As I indicated in my opening remarks, certainly the Government is fully seized of this matter. There is a Group headed by the hon. Finance Minister which is working on that legislation and a lot of what we are doing today, in the normal course, would also get incorporated into that proposed scheme of legislation with, of course, a much larger scope. But, in the meanwhile, what is really to be done?

We have worked the Cable Law for about the last five to six years and we have seen some obvious shortcomings in the Cable Law. For instance, one of the shortcomings that we saw was that the foreign satellite channels which do not use a decoder and which are not encrypted channels are almost outside the Programme and Advertisement Codes. It was a lacuna in the law. We have attempted to cure that lacuna. The second suggestion, which has been made—Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot and Shri Rupchand Pal made it — was that, what is really happening to the enforceability of even the existing provisions in the 1995 legislation. I must concede that in the absence of authorised officers appointed in every district and sub-division of this country, the enforceability of those provisions was very weak. For instance, if somebody relays a programme or an advertisement, which is contrary to the Code, there was, almost, no machinery to check it, since it was being done locally, because in a large number of places, even at the decentralised level, officers had not been appointed.

Therefore, now, by virtue of the amendment to the Act itself, we have, in the Act itself, designated the authorities. A suggestion was made that we have made the District Magistrate, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and also the Commissioner of Police as the Designated Officers and there are several places where there is no Commissioner of Police. So, the Act itself says that where the Commissioner of Police is operating as a Director-General or with any other nomenclature, in addition to these three officers, we can include any other officer

notified in the Official Gazette of the Central Government or the State Government. So, where there is an officer with any other nomenclature, we only require a subordinate legislation, a notification, in order to make sure that it can be notified and such an officer would, obviously, be in place.

Sir, two very important questions have been raised though they are, at the moment, outside the purview of this Bill. A large number of Members have expressed serious concern with regard to the fact that in the matter of communication of cable television, effectively in each locality and area, a monopoly of one operator is created. It is, certainly, a matter of concern. There are several other issues which relate to this monopoly with which we are, certainly, concerned and we will take them into consideration when we consider a more comprehensive legislation in the field of convergence. Under the present law, there is only a provision for registration. So, whoever can register with the Post Office in an area is entitled to operate a cable service in that particular area. There are several areas where there is more than one cable operator, but there are a number of areas where there is only one cable operator. So, in the absence of competition, the quality of service or the number of channels shown starts suffering. Competition, in fact, becomes the greatest protector of the viewers' and the consumers' interests.

Similarly, many suggestions about piracy have been made by many hon. Members. This is not a law which deals with piracy. As I said, piracy is dealt with by the Copyright Act, but since the enforcement of the Copyright Act is only through law courts, could it be considered when we conceive this larger legislation? As I indicated this morning also while answering a question, this is, certainly, one of the factors which is present in our minds and when we work on a larger scheme we have to consider whether we can try and see that the tariff system itself acts as a certain constraint that copyright violations, in terms of piracy, do not take place.

Sir, there are several other suggestions which have been made with regard to the quality of programming and a constant review of the Advertisement and the Broadcasting Code so that we meet the changing challenges of the society itself. I take these suggestions in the right spirit. Certainly, this is one area where we are going to work on it.

You raised the question as to how one would define obscenity because it can mean differently to different people. I must mention that in this Act, the phrase which we have used is 'morality and decency'. 'Morality and decency' is the phrase which we have picked up from

article 19(2) of the Constitution. But obscenity is a phrase which is used in the penal provisions of our penal laws. It provides for trial and punishment. If there is something which is obscene, the test is that you can be tried and prosecuted if something is obscene. But when you frame laws relating to exercise of freedom of expression and you put restraints in those laws, the Constitution itself does not use the word 'obscene', but it uses the word 'decency'. Therefore, we have consciously used the phrase 'decency' which part, as you have submitted, really comes within the parameters of the phrase which we have used that the quality of programming must be such which does not offend morality and decency. There are other phrases which we have picked up from article 19(2). Therefore, the restraints which we have put in this section are only those restrictions which are constitutionally permissible and which have stood the test of time from 1950 onwards.

You are right when you say that it is the quality and the credibility of the programming that really will eventually determine the viewership of the public broadcaster or Doordarshan itself. I must say that even contrary to an impression which is normally created, the mandate of both All India Radio and Doordarshan is not commercial in character. Their mandate is not merely to compete with the private channels. You are right when you said that it is education, information and entertainment. The recent figures have indicated that on the National Channel that the content of the information, news and the educational programmes is almost 58 per cent. The entertainment programmes are about 42 per cent of the National Channel. DD-II is essentially an entertainment channel. That content is much larger on the entertainment channel itself. Therefore, these organisations have been trying to discharge—in a small way—their own mandate.

The All India Radio, for instance, in so many different languages has 192 Production Centres in this country where it is relaying programmes. May I just correct the impression when you said that there is a small area in this country which is covered by Doordarshan? Today, there are 21 channels which they are running all over the country. Therefore, it is the extent of viewership in terms of population of the terrestrial channel which is DD National. It already covers 89 per cent of India's population. Therefore, even in certain areas where it is commercially not viable but it is in the national interest to reach out to those areas, they have been trying to reach out in terms of several areas where private sector has not ventured to come in because it may not be commercially possible. In order to discharge this mandate, they have been trying to enter into those areas, for example, in the remotest areas in the hilly areas, in the North-East, in Kashmir. You said that PTV is very popular

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

in Kashmir today both in terms of the national channel, the Metro Channel and also the Kashmir local channel which has already been given terrestrial support. In addition to being a satellite channel, they have tried to enter those areas. Of course, they cannot enter every area to compete with the private channels because private channels essentially concentrate in a big way only on entertainment. Here you have also to keep programmes for various sections of the society. You have to keep programmes relating to women, tribals and farmers. The programmes of all kinds have to be telecast for various sections of the population. That is why we consider it necessary that a clause—we must restrict—must be present for essentially two terrestrial channels, that is DD-I and DD Metro. Metro is essentially a satellite channel but is now terrestrially supported in very large number of places in the country. In addition to that, one regional channel must also be on the cable operation. These would be the ones which would be notified from different regions of this country. Therefore, the object of this amendment really is to enforce and implement a broadcasting discipline on the cable operators so that the kind and quality of programmes which reach the human mind, which reach the mind of our children, do not offend ethics, do not offend morality, do not offend decency.

I am extremely grateful to almost all the speakers for having supported these amendments. Certainly, this is the process which is an evolving process.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Why did you use the word 'decency' and not a common word like 'obscenity'?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has explained this.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: In the Act itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, before your arrival, he explained both the words.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I must make my presence felt, I have just entered, Sir. I lost my chance of speaking. Thank you Sir.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, this question has been raised by Shri Rupchand Pal. I had, at length, explained to him. I shall also explain to him, maybe outside the House. I explained the rationale for using this word 'decency' and not 'obscenity' in the Act.

I am extremely grateful to all the Members who have supported this Bill and I commend to this hon. House that the Bill be approved and passed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to vote.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1955, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Amendment Nos. 3 and 4. Shri Vilas Muttemwar—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Amendment No. 5. Shri Vilas Muttemwar—not present.

The question is:

"That clauses 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 6 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Amendment No. 6. Shri Vilas Muttemwar—not present.

The question is:

"That clauses 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 7 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Amendment No. 7. Shri Vilas Muttemwar—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Amendment No. 8. Shri Vilas Muttemwar—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, this is the final reading. I may please be allowed to speak on one clause.

[English]

I want to speak for one hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to give notice for that. You are frightening me, Shri Banatwalla.

The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.50 hrs.

BIHAR REORGANISATION BILL

Amendments made by Rajya Sabha

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the item listed in the Second Supplementary List of Business.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri L.K. Advani, I move that the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Bihar and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration:

Clause 5

1. That at page 2, line 39,—
for "25" substitute "27".
2. That at page 2, line 40,—
for "26" substitute "28".

Clause 7

3. That at page 3, line 6,—
for " '27' and '28' "
substitute " '29' and '30' ".

Clause 12

4. That at page 3, line 39,—
for " '10', '11' and '26' "
substitute " '11', '27', '12' and '28' ".
5. That at page 4, line 1,—
for "9" substitute "10".
6. That at page 4, line 2,—
for "10" substitute "11".

The First Schedule

7. That at page 24,—
for lines 3 to 9,— substitute

"(i) Of the seven sitting members whose term of office will expire on 9th April, 2002, namely, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo, Shri Nagendra Nath Ojha, Shri Prem Chand Gupta, Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav, Shri Shatrughan Sinha and Shri Ram Deo Bhandari; Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi and Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand and the other five sitting members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill five of the seats allotted to the State of Bihar."

8. That at page 24, lines 19 to 21,—

for "such two as the Chairman of the Council of the States may determine by drawing lot, shall be deemed

to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand"

substitute "Shri S.S. Ahluwalia and Shri Ram Kumar Anand shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand"

The Sixth Schedule

9. That at page 35, line 5,—
for " 'XIX', and 'XX' " *substitute* " 'XXI' and 'XXII' "
10. That at page 35, line 10,—
for "XIX" *substitute* "XXI"
11. That at page 35,—
for line 11, *substitute* —
"Part XXII Jharkhand"

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Bihar and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration:"

Clause 5

1. That at page 2, line 39,—
for "25" *substitute* "27".
2. That at page 2, line 40,—
for "26" *substitute* "28".

Clause 7

3. That at page 3, line 6,—
for " '27' and '28' " *substitute* " '29' and '30'".

Clause 12

4. That at page 3, line 39,—
for " '10', '11' and '26' " *substitute* " '11', '27', '12' and '28'".
5. That at page 4, line 1,—
for "9" *substitute* "10".

6. That at page 4, line 2,—
for "10" *substitute* "11".

7. That at page 24,—
for lines 3 to 9,— *substitute*

"(i) Of the seven sitting members whose term of office will expire on 9th April, 2002, namely, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo, Shri Nagendra Nath Ojha, Shri Prem Chand Gupta, Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav, Shri Shatrughan Sinha and Shri Ram Deo Bhandari; Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi and Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand and the other five sitting members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill five of the seats allotted to the State of Bihar."

8. That at page 24, lines 19 to 21,—

for "such two as the Chairman of the Council of the States may determine by drawing lot, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand"

substitute "Shri S.S. Ahluwalia and Shri Ram Kumar Anand shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand"

The Sixth Schedule

9. That at page 35, line 5,—
for " 'XIX', and 'XX' " *substitute* " 'XXI' and 'XXII' "
10. That at page 35, line 10,—
for "XIX" *substitute* "XXI"
11. That at page 35,—
for line 11, *substitute* —
"Part XXII Jharkhand"

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Amendments.

Clause 5

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I beg to move:
That at page 2, line 39,—

for "25" substitute "27". (1)

That at page 2, line 40,—

for "26" substitute "28" (2)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 2, line 39,—

for "25" substitute "27" (1)

That at page 2, line 40,—

for "26" substitute "28" (2)

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I beg to move:

That at page 3, line 6, —

for " '27' and '28' "

substitute " '29' and '30' " (3)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 3, line 6, —

for " '27' and '28' ".

Substitute " '29' and '30' ". (3)

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I beg to move:

That at page 3, line 39,—

for " '10', '11' and '26' "

Substitute " '11', '27' and '28' " (4)

That at page 4, line 1, —

for "9" substitute "10" (5)

That at page 4, line 2,—

for "10" substitute "11". (6)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 3, line 39, —

for " '10', '11' and '26' "

Substitute " '11', '27', '12' and '28' " (4)

That at page 4, line 1,—

for "9" substitute "10" (5)

That at page 4, line 2,—

for "10" substitute "11". (6)

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I beg to move:

That at page 24,—

for lines 3 to 9,— substitute

"(i) Of the seven sitting members whose term of office will expire on 9th April, 2002, namely, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo, Shri Nagendra Nath Ojha, Shri Prem Chand Gupta, Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav, Shri Shatrughan Sinha and Shri Ram Deo Bhandari; Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi and Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand and the other five sitting members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill five of the seats allotted to the State of Bihar." (7)

That at page 24, lines 19 to 21,—

for "such two as the Chairman of the Council of the States may determine by drawing lot, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand"

substitute "Shri S.S. Ahluwalia and Shri Ram Kumar Anand shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand" (8)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 24,—

for lines 3 to 9, — substitute

"(i) Of the seven sitting members whose term of office will expire on 9th April, 2002, namely, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo, Shri Nagendra Nath Ojha, Shri Prem Chand Gupta, Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav, Shri Shatrughan Sinha and Shri Ram Deo Bhandari; Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi and Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand and the other five sitting members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill five of the seats allotted to the State of Bihar." (7)

That at page 24, lines 19 to 21,—

for "such two as the Chairman of the Council of the States may determine by drawing lot, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand"

substitute "Shri S.S. Ahluwalia and Shri Ram Kumar Anand shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Jharkhand" (8)

The motion was adopted.

The Sixth Schedule

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I beg to move:

That at page 35, line 5,—

for " 'XIX', and 'XX' "

substitute " 'XXI' and 'XXII' " (9)

That at page 35, line 10,—

for "XIX"

substitute "XXI" (10)

That at page 35,—

for line 11, *substitute* —

"Part XXII Jharkhand" (11)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 35, line 5,—

for " 'XIX', and 'XX' "

substitute " 'XXI' and 'XXII' " (9)

That at page 35, line 10,—

for "XIX"

substitute "XXI" (10)

That at page 35,—

for line 11, *substitute* —

"Part XXII Jharkhand" (11)

The motion was adopted.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I beg to move:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha be agreed to."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is: •

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha be agreed to."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, we have exhausted all the items.

The House now stands adjourned to meet on Wednesday at 11.00 A.M.

18.52 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 16, 2000/Sravana 25, 1922 (Saka)

© 2001 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Ninth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
