

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 18, 2000/Sravana 27, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT) : Sir, the Report of the Eleven Finance Commission has come. We want to discuss that report in the House..... (Interruptions) We would like to know whether it is going to be discussed or not.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice on the issue of breach of privileges.... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI SADAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue about the way Shri Kumaramanglam is being treated by Apollo Hospital, whose condition is quite critical.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow me to say something.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAR (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of breach of privileges. The way this incident took place... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way which Appollo Hospital is working in Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER : You all will be given chance in Zero-Hour. Question-Hour is of public importance.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, I would like to know whether we are going to discuss that report or not.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to disturb the Question Hour, I cannot help it.

(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, there is a procedure to raise these matters. You cannot raise them in the Question Hour. If you have any urgent matter of public importance, you can raise it in the Zero Hour but not in the Question Hour. There is a well established procedure for that. Please do not disturb the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was prevented from participating in rally.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singhji your proposal is under my consideration. Yesterday also your Members had raised the matter. You can speak in Zero-Hour. You will get the opportunity.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, matter of breach of privileges is taken first. If you take it first, we will sit.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, you can raise this matter in Zero-Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you first take the issue of breach of privileges in Zero-Hour.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, we want a direction from the Chair, whether we will be discussing the Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission in this Session or not (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 361.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is a good understanding between the Chair and the members. It should continue in future also.

* Not recorded.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS*[Translation]***Expansion of ITDC Hotels**

+

361. SHRIMATI JAS Kaur MEENA :*SHRI RAMSHAKAL :**

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

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation has sent a proposal to the Government for expansion of hotels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

[English]

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS Kaur MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Tourism has given reply to my question in negative. But any concern is that there is ample scope of development in the field of Tourism. This country has world famous historical, natural plus and forests which attracts domestic as well as foreign tourists every year. In such a situation there is no scheme for expansion of ITDC hotel. I would like to know whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government for promoting private hotel business ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we can't make scheme for expansion of share is on. Therefore we have taken this decision and we are not expanding and for this purpose we have appointed a Global Advisor.

SHRIMATI JAS Kaur MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether Government is making any alternative arrangement for tourists coming every year ?

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, actually the occupancy

figures of various hotels in the country are below full. In the private sector hotels, it is just 56 per cent and in ITDC hotels it is even less.

Therefore, we can manage the situation ..(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : There is a second name listed in the Question. Please understand.

Shri Ramshakal - Not present

Now, Shri Francis George.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : In the answer that has been given by the Minister, it has been stated that the Government is providing financial assistance for developing tourist infrastructure around the places of pilgrimage. Sir, in Kerala, in my constituency.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, we are still on the first Question. He has gone to the second Question.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : I have given a supplementary for the first Question only.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask your supplementary now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Question on Temples is not the first Question.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : It is not my fault. It has been given as the first Question here. I am sorry. I will raise it next time.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about matter of converting important temples into pilgrimage sites.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Prabhunath Singh ji is asking second question, the first question is about ITDC and its supplementary question is being asked.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Sorry, Now, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the very answer that has been provided by the hon. Minister to the first supplementary, it has been clearly stated that the occupancy rate is much less when

compared to the private hotels. The reason is vivid. The services in ITDC hotels are fairly poor. That is the reason for the low occupancy rate in ITDC hotels.

You can very well understand as to how the tourists who are the major customers there, are being provided meagre facilities and meagre services. What steps are being taken by the Government to improve the services first so that the occupancy rate will be increased and also the viability will be increased? If these steps are not going to be taken, I think, you will have to close them down. What is the further expansion of ITDC hotels in various States like Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, the question is regarding occupancy in ITDC hotels. The major stake of the tourists in ITDC hotels do not come from pilgrims because ITDC hotels are star hotels - five star hotels and three star hotels - across the country. They are 26 in number. It is a chicken and egg situation. The Government of India has taken a decision to disinvest these hotels so that they can go for a financial and organisational restructuring, upgrading and modernising in order to provide better services.....
(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : What about *Yatri Niwas*?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : *Yatri Niwas* do not come under ITDC. They are separate and different. Actually, in the infrastructure development scheme, the Government of India provides money, resource, and allocation to the various State Governments, which, in turn, build *Yatri Niwas* and *Yatrikas*. ITDC has three specific functions - one, 26 hotels; two, duty-free shops; and three, Ashoka Tours and Travels.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chhatrapal Singh.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, my question has not been answered. What are the steps being taken by the Government to improve the services in these hotels so that the viability can be improved? That is the crux of my question.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chhatrapal Singh, just a minute.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any plan to open new hotels at places where there are neither private nor ITDC hotels after conducting survey of the area?

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir the hon. Minister is ready to answer my question. My supplementary question has not been answered. You can answer my question also. What are the steps being taken by you for improving the quality of the hotels?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, if you permit, I will also answer the question eagerly put by the hon. Member. The situation is that Damocles sword is hanging. That means, there is a feeling in the market that the ITDC hotels are being disinvested; and they are being disinvested. We have appointed the Global Advisor also in July. When the Global Advisor has been appointed and when it is there in the scheme of things of the hon. Finance Minister that it should be disinvested within one year, then, naturally, the occupancy rates come down. It is because whatever bookings they want to do in star hotels, especially, for conferences and for various tour operators, they do it in three years or two years or one year in advance. When they feel that ITDC is getting disinvested, when they feel that it is going for a tendering process, and they will not be knowing it will be in whose hands after one or two years, then they will go for a private hotel. That is the situation. Despite that, we have taken various measures for day-to-day routine upgradation of the hotels. It is on the anvil. Therefore, because of that, in the last six months, there has been a welcome trend of increasing the occupancy in, at least, 13 hotels out of 26 hotels. This is my answer to the hon. Member, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Member Shri Chhatrapal Singh has asked why we are not making expansion of ITDC hotels. Since disinvestment is taking place in ITDC, we are not planning any expansion.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : ITDC has earned the status of *mini ratna*. I would like to know from the Minister whether the turnover of ITDC is decreasing during the last two years. This is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question is this. What is the operating profit during the last six months in comparison to the previous years?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Actually, in the last three years, the profit of ITDC is declining. We are incurring losses during the last two years. But this year, there is an upward trend. I am happy to inform the august House that an MoU has been signed by each hotel with ITDC. According to the

MoU, we expect a profit of Rs. 12.50 crore from a loss of Rs. 18 crore by the year ending 2000-2001. There is an amount of upward trend in the Hotels Division. Ashoka Travels and Tours and a definite upward trend in Duty Free Shops also.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Sir, my information is that the hotel industry has got a tremendous potentiality in India. About 12 per cent to 13 per cent such potentiality alone has been exploited so far. If that be the case, why we are not able to exploit such potents area ? This is my first part of the question.

I would also like to know, even assuming that the present policy of the Government is disinvestment, whether they can afford to think of privatisation or private participation involving them to exploit this unexploited area from the beginning of the project.

Thirdly, why should we go in for disinvestment particularly when the hotel industry is thriving very well on the private side unlike ITDC Hotels ? Is it due to mismanagement or is it due to the ineffective management ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Since the last two years, the foreign tourist arrival to India is increasing. Last year it was 2.35 million. This year, it is 2.48 million. Despite Kargil war and despite 2-3 elections in the last three years, their arrival is increasing.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : The private Hotels are doing very well. Why not hotels of the public sector ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am definitely answering your question.

Secondly, regarding domestic tourism because they also want hotel accommodation, budget accommodation, *Yatri Niwas*es and *Yatrikas*, there has been a tremendous improvement. Last year 165 million domestic tourists travelled around. This year it is heartening to record in this august House that 175 million people are going around the country as tourists.

Disinvestment is the policy of the Government led by Shri Vajpayee, that in the non-core sector we should off load and that it should be handed over to private management. Therefore, disinvestment of ITDC has been taken up. In 1997 only the Disinvestment Commission recommended that prime properties both in Bangalore and

Delhi should be given on management lease contracts whereas the other properties had to be de-merged and disinvested one hundred per cent. The occupancy of the hotels and the thriving of the hotels on the business of the hotels are directly linked with the tourist arrivals. Both are happening. We require more than 1,12,000 rooms in star hotels. That is the target to be achieved. We are on to it.

[Translation]

Development of Temples as Tourist Spots

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted a study group to develop the famous temples of India into tourist places;

(b) if so, whether this study group has also recommended to develop some world renowned temples of Himachal Pradesh on this line;

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

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose and the names of temples in Himachal Pradesh which have been developed or are proposed to be developed on this line?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The Central Department of Tourism does not have any scheme for development of temples. However, central financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/Union Territories for development of tourist infrastructure around the places of pilgrimage. Accordingly, central financial assistance was provided to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for ten tourism projects amounting to Rs. 219.41 lakhs for developing tourist facilities around some of the famous temples. The details of the projects are as follows :

Sr. No.	Name of Project/Scheme	Amount
		(Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Construction of Sarai at Chamunda Devi in Distt. Kangra, H.P.	8.23
2.	Tourist Inn at Rewalsar in Nandi Distt.	12.05
3.	Tourist Lodge at Hatkoti, Shimla, Distt.	17.00
4.	Tourist Lodge at Chintpurni in Una Distt.	10.00
5.	Tourist Facilities at Jawalamukhi in Kangra Distt.	12.70
6.	Yatri Niwas at Jawalamukhi	27.19
7.	Tourist complex at Panota Sahib in Sirmour Distt.	27.11
8.	Yatri Niwas at Deotsidh in Hamirpur Distt.	15.00
9.	Integrated Tourism Development Plan at Renuka in Sirmour Distt.	50.00
10.	Development of Prashar Lake area in Mandi Distt.	40.13
Total		219.41

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a negative reply. Sir, through you, I would like to submit that Indians have the habit of going on pilgrimage since ancient times and it is also the basis of going on travel so I would like to request the hon. Minister whether in view of this in future a study group for this purpose is proposed to be constituted. Further I would also like to submit that even today lakhs of people visit Ajmer and Vaisno Devi shrines. People do not go with the intention to pollute water, forest or land of these areas, but they go there only for obeisance. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether plans are under way to set up a study group in view of above for further development of these places.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : A study group was constituted in 1992 and now we are constituting a pilgrimage Development Board in order to develop the pilgrimage centres.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : I would like to know from hon. Minister as to whether the amount of rupees 2 crore 19 lakh, which he has given for development of about 10 places in Himachal Pradesh would be increased as I think that the amount is meagre one. Here in Delhi, there is a temple in Chhattarpur, which has a property of Rs. 500 crores. Mahant of this temple had written a letter to hon. President requesting him to takeover this temple. Trustees

of this temple are having clashes with each other, whether the government plans to take over this temple and develop it as a tourist spot ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : If any new proposal comes for the development of pilgrimage centres in Himachal Pradesh, we would take proper action on that.

Regarding Chhattarpur temple, I would like to say that the takeover of temples is not the job of Department of Tourism and if any facility for tourists, devotees etc. is required in the vicinity of pilgrimage centres, then we are ready to provide that.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, the Government of India, in fact, the Tourism Department is developing tourism potential in and around famous temples in this country.

Sir, as you also know, in Kerala, there is a famous pilgrimage Centre, Sabarimala. You are a regular visitor to Sabarimala every year. You know the tourism potential of that temple and the area around it.

What I gather from the answer that has been given by the hon. Minister is that a Study Group has been constituted to study the tourism potential of famous temples and tourism potential in and around these temples. I see that only a study has been made with regard to the State of Himachal Pradesh.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider expanding the scope of this Study Group to the whole of India and also whether he will consider developing the tourism related infrastructure facilities in and around the Sabarimala temple.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I would like to assure the hon. Member that I would like to visit, with my entire family, Sabarimala soon..... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : You are most welcome.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : During the last eight years, 89 projects have been sanctioned and they are at various stages of completion for providing facilities in various centres around the country.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : I would like to know whether the God and the temple would be kept in the waiting-list for your kind visit.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : The problem is with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. They do not give land.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I have not completed my answer.

As far as Sabarimala is concerned, we have provided Rs. 49.50 lakh for a tourist lodge at Guruvayur..... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : I am talking about Sabarimala. Sabarimala and Guruvayur are two different things.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : As far as construction of Pilgrimage Facilitation Centre at Sabarimala is concerned, we have provided Rs. 1.04 crore also.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : The answer is too short. (Interruptions)

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that not only temples, there are also numerous places of worship of different religious groups in India. I would like to ask whether the hon. Minister has got any plan for including these places of worship of historic importance, cultural and architectural beauty in the tourist map of India. At least, let the foreigners have a glimpse of the existence of our unity in diversity

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Member of this august House should appreciate that I never used the word temple in my answer till now. I am very consciously and intentionally using the word of Pilgrim Centres. Pilgrim Centres in my terminology includes the temples, the mosques, the churches, the gurudwaras, the Jain temples, Buddhist Monasteries and other religious places.

Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member that this has been the mainstay of attracting foreign as well as domestic tourists for this country because basically the tourism in India is cultural tourism. We have not been allocating money since many years for the upgradation of any places of worship or temple, but we are allocating money to create facilities for the pilgrims and the devotees and the tourists go to those Pilgrim Centres. Therefore, it is not the mandate of the Government of India and the Tourism Department to develop the temple or the church or the mosque or the Gurudwara or the Jain temple or the Buddhist Monastery, but to develop the facilities that are in and around there.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, we have been discussing the tourism and, unfortunately, our emphasis has been on foreign tourists and not the domestic tourists. Just now the hon. Minister informed this House that 175 million domestic tourists move from one place to another in our country. Foreign tourism may give us foreign exchange but domestic tourism gives us employment. One of the most important things is that when people from one part of the country travel to the other parts of the country, a sense of national unity develops. Keeping all these things in view and keeping in view the fact that all places of pilgrimage are located in mountains and in forests and those places are bestowed with beauty, anybody going there gets some sort of happiness, some sort of encouragement and some sort of peace of mind. Keeping all these things in view, it would be necessary for the Government of India to spend more money on domestic tourism. But we find that only Rs. 216 lakh have been spent in Himachal Pradesh and, I am sure, that this kind of meagre amounts are spent in other States also. Keeping all these facts in view and keeping the advantage we get out of domestic tourism, are we going to do something more in this respect, is the Government of India going to spend more in this respect, is the Government of India going to ask the State Governments to spend more on the infrastructural facilities, and is the Government of India, which is disinvesting, going to ask the private sector also to help in producing the infrastructural facilities for the domestic tourists at all these places ? If we do not that, I think our policy on tourism will fail. Laying emphasis only on foreign tourism will not suffice, we shall have to develop

the facilities for domestic tourism. That will ultimately help the foreign tourism. Will the Government of India formulate a policy of this nature, stick to it and implement it ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I entirely agree with Shri Shivraj Patil that though tourism is the third highest foreign exchange revenue earner, the gracious and kind attention of the hon. Finance Minister is yet to fall on this sector. The Plan allocation for tourism is Rs. 135 crore. I want to mention here - because I hope all the Members will appreciate this - that with a plan allocation of Rs. 135 crore and an equal amount of the allocation of various State Governments, tourism is earning foreign exchange revenue of Rs. 13,041.81 crore, that is U.S. \$3350.69 million. The first is textiles at Rs. 44,000 crore, the second is I.T. at Rs. 22,500 crore and the third is tourism at Rs. 13,000 crore. One more thing is that for textiles as well as for the I.T. and various other manufacturing industries, there is an outgo, there is an import component, but this is the only sector where there is no import component and we are earning foreign exchange.

Coming to the question of domestic tourism in the country, I want to draw the attention of Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, the Minister of Revenue, that we are creating a tax revenue of Rs. 277.91 crore every year but that is not the allocation for tourism; only half of it is the allocation. There is a tremendous opportunity for employment generation.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Tarachand Sahu.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I am on a point of propriety.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? Everybody is asking a Supplementary on tourism. This is a question relating to development of temples at tourist spots. Please understand the Question also. The entire tourism policy is being discussed during the Question Hour. The Question is regarding development of temples at the tourist spots.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to complete my answer.

Sir, regarding the development of facilities for domestic tourists we are doing two definitive things. The first is, we are thinking of constituting a Tourism Development Board which will take up the upgradation, development and modernisation of facilities in all the pilgrim centres across the country. The second is, we need to have a Tourism Development Fund, like the National Cultural Fund, wherein

hundred per cent I.T. exemption - again with the grace of the Finance Minister - can be given and the corporate sector can participate and pool out the money. We have created a Vision Document and according to that Vision Document, we require an investment of Rs. 48,000 crore in the next ten years for a boom in the tourism sector of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI TARACHAND SAHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, tourists all around the world come to visit India to have a glance of its ancient culture and not its present status and condition. All the countries of the world have lost their past, and the present is prevailing them.

[English]

Past is divided by present and the present is ruling there.

[Translation]

It is only India, where even today the present is struggling with the past for its survival. So tourists attracted by India do not come to see its present, but its past. We have not done any such thing in the last 40-50 years due to which the tourists may come to see the present of our country. Ancient culture of India is really very rich and that is why tourists come to visit this place. I would like to know from hon. Minister as to whether the government are concerned about this matter, whether any plan for the maintenance and protection of ancient, historical and other remains is under the consideration of the government so that tourists in large numbers may come in India and India may get more and more foreign currency.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree to first part of the statement of hon. Member that tourists come here to have a glance of our past and thus cultural tourism is our main stay. But I do not agree to the second part of his statement that no one would come to see our present. We have made many achievements in the present also. Government of India has always endeavoured to make improvement in tourism. So we keep on making plans and work on that.

[English]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister for Tourism and Culture that considering the vast cultural heritage that we have in this country and the keen interest evinced by the foreign as well as the domestic tourists all these years, what broad-based policy has been

drawn, if any, to realise the full potential that is available with us. Has our Government drawn any such policy whereby we can draw foreign as well as domestic tourists to mitigate the scourge of unemployment, as brought out by Shri Shivraj Patil ? In most of the countries, developed as well as developing, we see this form of tourism giving a very handsome generation of income to them. If we realise this potential, I feel we can mitigate this scourge of unemployment. That is number one. Secondly, we can also issue guidelines to the various States. So, may I know whether there is any such policy of the Government ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, a comprehensive Tourism Development Policy is on the anvil in which there is a great impetus being given for the State and the Central co-operation as well as for the private sector participation. I entirely agree with the hon. Member about the potentiality of employment. Direct employment in 1998-99 was 14.79 million persons and indirect employment was 20.11 million. So, the total employment was 34.9 million persons. That means, around four crore people have been employed by the tourism sector alone. After agriculture and textiles, tourism can provide tremendous employment potential.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATRUVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Since you are representing Khajuraho, you are being allowed.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing here about the development of tourist centres based on temples. Questions are being asked. I am lucky enough to have not only been a representative from such an area, where world famous Khajuraho temple is situated but that is also my birth place. I have been witnessing the entire development of these temples in the last so many years. Hon. Mr. Minister, I would like to draw your attention and ask question on a very important and technical aspect. These temples are made of sand stone and no mud or cement was used in the construction of temples at Khajuraho. They are made with the interlocking system. For the last few years work of cleanliness of these temples has been initiated by the Archaeological Department. One report regarding a study

conducted on these temples has also been published, you might have received a copy of that. If this report has not reached your goodself then call one and please go through it. The chemicals, being used for cleaning these temples, are destroying interlocking joints made inside the sandstone and there is a danger that the use of wrong chemicals may destroy such a big and important cultural heritage of the world which is here with us. I would like to know through you as to whether hon. Minister would conduct a study on this and whether a team of experts, including specialists in chemicals would also be included in this team. An extensive investigation may kindly be made on not only Khajuraho temples but all the temples in the country which have been made by sandstone, so that these important tourist centres are not destroyed.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : It is not related to the main question, still it's regarding the prevention and conservation of archeological monuments.

[English]

We have got one National Laboratory for Cultural Conservation which is doing very scientific preservation and conservation of various archaeological monuments around the country. There is no report before the Government to such an effect.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : It is happening, you please ask for the report and please send a team. You please get an inquiry conducted, and if you will not do this then this valuable heritage would be destroyed. I am cautioning you.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I will assure the House that the Government of India will keep no stone unturned to preserve, conserve and promote the archaeological heritage of the country.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, tourism has high potential in India. It gives a lot of direct and indirect employment. What the hon. Minister has said in this august House is that irrespective of whatever is the revenue earned through tourism, the Budget allocation to tourism sector, compared to the earnings, is also very meagre. This is the only area to provide direct and indirect employment. You take the example of Goa. The whole economy of Goa depends upon tourism. So, my humble request through you, Sir, to the Government - the hon. Finance Minister is

also here - is to do something for the tourism on the pattern we are collecting cess from diesel and other petroleum products and giving the revenue earned thereby to the national highways.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, the question is about development of temples. Please stick to this part.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I am talking of tourism and it covers everything. Unless Budget for tourism is enhanced, how can we develop tourism in this country ? Even the Central Budget for Tourism is lesser than the Budget allocated to tourism by some of the State Governments. In my view, the House should pass a resolution and ask the Government to raise the Tourism Budget. Without increase in the budget, we cannot achieve anything. That is why, the hon. Minister should react to this.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : The suggestion of Shri Yerrannaidu is well taken.

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 363.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You had called my name for the first question, whereas I had given the name for the second question.

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. You will get chance in the second question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I have not given my name for the final question but I have given my name for the second question.

[English]

Income Tax Act

+
*363. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp Income Tax Act and a Committee has been set up for this purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Income Tax Department has

decided that no new cases will be taken up for scrutiny during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore ; and

(e) the number of cases pending with Income Tax Department under litigation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Income Tax Act is constantly being reviewed by the Government and the necessary amendments are made through the Finance Acts and the Income tax (Amendment) Acts. No committee, as such, has been set up for revamping the Income-tax Act.

(c) and (d) CBDT has issued instruction to the effect that during the current financial year, selection of cases for scrutiny will be limited to only compulsory category of cases such as, search and seizure assessment survey assessments, re-opened cases, set-aside cases, assessments in pursuance of the order of the Court and cases assessed in Central circles. Any other routine selection of cases for scrutiny by Assessing Officers has been kept in abeyance. However, in exceptional cases of high revenue potential, cases can be taken up for scrutiny with the prior approval of Chief Commissioner of Income Tax. The Action Plan for the Department for the Financial year 2000-2001 envisages collection of taxes and computerization as the top most priority items of work for the year. It is in this context that the scrutiny work has been restricted to cases described here in above.

(e) 122308 appeals are pending with Income Tax Department before CIT (Appeals) as on 31.5.2000.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask just one question and so, I request you to let me put my entire view.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No. You can ask only supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Some background shall have to be made.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Also, you cannot read anything in the Question Hour.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, it is a matter of financial security. The hon. Minister has said in his reply that they are constantly reviewing the Income Tax Act.

[Translation]

My point is that the Income Tax Act does not meet the present requirement and that is why we are reviewing it. This is a requirement. I would like to keep two factors here.

[English]

Sir, it is the need of the hour because the treatment given to the Indian nationals and the treatment given to the multinational companies or foreign institutions is different. What is more dangerous in this is 'keeping control on the external factors.'

My question is whether the Circular which has been issued by the Income Tax Department, the CBDT on 13th April, 2000 is illegal. Sir, I am having the proof. It is written in the Authentication Rules, 1958 that the Chairman of the CBDT can only sign the Circular. I am having with me the Authentication Rules, 1958. I can show it to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

There is some conspiracy behind this circular. The Income Tax notices were given on 10th of April and this circular was issued on 13th of April, due to which there has been a loss of thousands of crores of rupees in the national revenue.

[English]

What is there in this circular ? This circular has amended the Treaty. Treaty article 13(2) is applicable to that Circular. However, that Circular includes Treaty article 13(4) which is not applicable to this case. I am also having the Treaty with me.

[Translation]

When hon. Minister is saying that it would be reviewed from time to time.

[English]

My first question is while reviewing the Income Tax Act, would the hon. Minister consider to review the bilateral and multilateral treaties ? My second question is....

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister will reply.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, in India, historically the tax laws have very definite and pronounced socio-economic objective. Sir, the tax concessions or incentives have a very large spread. Keeping all this in view, it has been the endeavour of the Department to undertake a constant review of the Income Tax Act. In fact in the year 1996, an Expert Group was constituted and that Expert Group had submitted a detailed report, and efforts have been made to implement majority of the recommendations made by the that Expert Group.

Again, one more Expert Group is constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Parthasarathy Shome. This Expert Group is expected to mainly advise the Government on the recommendations and practical policy initiatives aimed at improving resource mobilisation for the Tenth Five Year Plan, consistent with achieving 7.5 per cent to 8 per cent growth. The Expert Group is given time till November, 2000 to give its Report. Whenever the Report is submitted, we will examine that and take necessary steps to implement the recommendations.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, he has not replied to the question.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, he has not replied my question.... (Interruptions) My question was whether the Circular issued on 13th April is illegal or not as per the Authentication Rules. That is my question....(Interruptions) There is no answer to my question. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : He is giving reply, you please sit down.

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : So far as reference made by the hon. Member regarding the Circular issued by the CBDT is concerned, I must emphatically say that the Circular was issued as per the provisions of the law and with the sanction of the law. Now, the hon. Member was trying to draw our attention regarding certain guidelines through which the Circular will have to be authenticated. I would assure the Member that the Circular was duly authenticated, as provided by the law and the rules... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, we must have a half-an-hour discussion on this. The Minister has not answered Shri Mohite's question. Shri Mohite has raised an extremely important question..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Subodh Mohite, please ask your second supplementary.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, I am having a copy of the authenticated rules and regulations with me. The Circular has been signed by the OSD, but the OSD has no powers to sign the Circular..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, we must have a half-an-hour discussion on this. It is the biggest scandal to have overtaken the Income-Tax Department.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we want a half-an-hour discussion on this. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : As per the procedure, let Shri Subodh Mohite ask the second supplementary please.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, there is no answer from the Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this is a big scandal, and we must have a half-an-hour discussion in the House.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, actually, I have a copy of the rules and regulations with me.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Government must come out with all the facts. We must have a half-an-hour discussion on this..

MR. SPEAKER : Let him ask the supplementary question, and then only we can decide about it.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, the Minister is telling that the Circular is valid. The rules are made by the Parliament. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Subodh Mohite, you can ask your second supplementary.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, I cannot ask the second supplementary because I did not get a satisfactory answer. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I would like to remind the House that when the Finance Bill had come up for discussion in the last Session, the question of the Indo-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty had been raised by some Members in this House. I had, in my reply, on that occasion, given a

detailed answer to the various provisions of the Treaty. The Circular which had been referred to by the hon. Member was in existence then, when I was replying to the debate. Though I must hasten to add that I have absolutely no objection, the Government has no objection, either to a half-an-hour discussion or to any other discussion. But to put things in the proper perspective, let me, Sir, remind this House that the Indo-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty was signed in 1982. In 1993, we opened the Indian stock markets for investment by foreign institutional investors. At the same time, Mauritius revised its tax laws. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I must be given a hearing. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, I have a copy of the Circular.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am coming to the Circular.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : While the Minister is answering, you are obstructing him.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I must be allowed to complete what I have to say..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper way to behave, when the Minister is replying to the question. Please take your seat. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, the Minister is giving the reply, please take your seat.

.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there should be a JPC to inquire into it (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, when can we have a discussion on this ? (*Interruptions*)

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

.... (*Interruptions*) *

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anil Basu, please take your seat.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : In 1993, Mauritius amended its tax laws in consonance with the amendments made here, when we permitted the foreign institutional investors to come to the Indian stock market and make investments. Mauritius declared itself to be an island with offshore banking facilities with certain tax concessions. In October, 1993, there was a reference from a Commissioner of Income-Tax in Bombay in regard to certain issues which

* Not recorded.

the Taxation Treaty had raised, and a clarification had been issued by the Board. I had made all these points here. Then, after the clarification was reported in the newspapers, the then Government, totally contrary to that clarification, had issued another clarification in March 1994 saying clearly that companies which can be taxed in Mauritius will not be liable to be taxed in India. Now, the only thing which has been clarified by the 13th April Circular which, as my colleague has said, has been issued within the law is that a company which is liable to be taxed in Mauritius, under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, will not be liable to be taxed in India; and if the Government of Mauritius is issuing a certificate in that regard, we will honour that....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the House agrees, we can have a half-an-hour discussion on this.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed a half-an-hour discussion on this. Now, let us go to next Q.No. 364, Shri Ajay Singh Chautala.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this is a serious matter; this is the biggest scandal (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed a half-an-hour discussion on this.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

.... (Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed a half-an-hour discussion on this. You have asked for a half-an-hour discussion, and the Minister has no objection. So, I have allowed a half-an-hour discussion. Then, why are you making the noise again ?

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record, except Shri Ajay Singh Chautala supplementary.

.... (Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed a half-an-hour discussion. You have asked for a half-an-hour discussion, and the Government has agreed for a half-an-hour discussion.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

.... (Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to all of you. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, you and Shri Dasmunsi have asked for a half-an-hour discussion, the Government has agreed for a half-an-hour discussion, and the Chair has allowed it. Then, why are you making a noise again ?

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anil Basu, this is 'Question Hour', and please understand that you should not disturb the 'Question Hour'. You know that there is a procedure.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

.... (Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? Is this the way to raise matters during the 'Question Hour' ? You have asked for a half-an-hour discussion. The Minister has already agreed for it, and the Chair has also allowed a half-an-hour discussion.

.... (Interruptions)

Foreign Investment in National Income

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

(a) the percentage of foreign investment and foreign borrowings in the national income during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the main five countries that are making maximum foreign investments in our country during the last three years;

(c) the terms and conditions of the above investments;

(d) the impact of foreign investments and borrowings on our economy; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan to mobilise indigenous sources to reduce the role of foreign investments and borrowings in the national income and steps proposed in this regard for the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

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

Statement

(a) Ratio of Foreign Investment and External Debt to GDP at current prices is as under :

Year	Foreign Investment/GDP	External Debt/GDP
1996-97	1.60	24.70
1997-98	1.32	24.40
1998-99	0.57	23.50
1999-2000	1.16*	22.30*

* Provisional

(b) The details of the main 5 countries with maximum foreign investment approvals in the last three years are as under :

(Approvals -Figures in Rs. Cr., calendar-yearwise)

Country	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
				(upto March)	
USA	13570	3562	3575	756	21463
Mauritius	10428	3166	3803	480	17877
UK	4491	3201	2963	195	10850
S.Korea	1956	368	3649	26	5999
Japan	1906	1283	1595	174	4958

(c) The foreign investments are allowed in all the sectors except a small negative list. All the investments are as per FDI policy and subject to domestic laws and sectoral norms, with due scrutiny and approvals wherever necessary.

(d) The impact of foreign investments and borrowing on our economy is limited as can be seen from the fact that the investment rate as exceeded the rate of domestic savings only marginally. The data is as under :

Savings and Investments as a % of GDP at current prices

Year	Saving %	Investment %
1996-97	23.3	24.6
1997-98	24.7	26.2
1998-99	22.3	23.4

(e) The role of foreign investments and other borrowings in national income is quite limited. External sources constituted only 4.4 per cent of the gross investments in the Eighth Plan (1992-1997). The remaining 95.6% of the investments were financed from domestic resources. In the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) external sources are expected to contribute only 7.45% of gross investment.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I want to ask one supplementary. Please allow me to ask one supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has become very difficult to control the House today.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Chautala.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, the Member has not been given a chance....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you have not called the second name in the previous question....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from hon. Minister as it has been given in the answer as to how much amount of World Bank, IMF and NRI.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, how can a question be disposed of like this ?(Interruptions) The second name listed in the question should be called.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The time is very short.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Mr. Speaker, how much amount each of World Bank, IMF and NRI has been invested in different fields viz. agriculture, Industry and Human Resource Development etc. Sir, through you I would

like to have a clear reply of hon. Minister in this regard...
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, he has the right to put his second supplementary....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, please give him a chance...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions) *

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this is the right of a Member(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, they are asking Members of other Parties to ask supplementaries.....
(Interruptions) This is not proper....(Interruptions) You have already given a ruling....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how much amount each of world Bank, IMF and NRI has been invested in different fields viz. agriculture Industry and Human Resource Development etc. Sir, through you I would like to have a clear reply of hon. Minister in this regard.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, he has the right to ask his supplementary(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has no supplementary to ask.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

IIFT-Harvard University Ties

*365. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state .

(a) whether on the initiative of his Ministry, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has tied up with Harvard University for carrying out analytical and policy oriented studies to

improve India's competitiveness, boost F.D.I. and to promote the export of agriculture, bio-technology and information technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of achievements made so far by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) IIFT has entered into an MOU with the Centre for International Development, Harvard University for undertaking joint research programmes on trade and investment issues. The MOU which was signed on 31st July, 2000 envisages joint research projects on areas to be decided upon mutually between the two organisations. The areas identified for research include problems impeding global competitiveness of various Indian export sectors, measures required for increasing India's share in global trade, especially in sectors like agro based industries, knowledge based industries, comparative study of FDI regimes in China South East Asian countries and India etc.

(c) Initial discussions between the IIFT and the Harvard University representatives have identified the issues relating to agriculture and textiles industry as research priorities for the current year.

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues of DD

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

(a) the dues of Doordarshan against various private producers, as on date;

(b) whether the Government are aware of such cases where private producers have not paid the outstanding amount of Doordarshan and have taken the contracts for producing programmes again by changing the name of their companies; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government 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) The details of dues of Doordarshan against various private producers/agencies as on 16.8.2000 are given in statement attached.

(b) Prasar Bharti have intimated that no such instance has come to their notice.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Dues of Doordarshan against various private producers/ agencies as on 16.8.2000

S.No.	Name of Agency	Outstanding As on 16.8.2000 (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3
1.	AALIYA Productions	60
2.	ABCL	2032
3.	Ad Factor Advtg.	7
4.	Advance TV Network	248
5.	Anand Advertising	140
6.	APCA	60
7.	B Y Padhya	13
8.	Balaji Telefilms	25
9.	BAG Films	15
10.	Bidhan Advertising	11
11.	Chaitra Advertising	3
12.	Cinema Vision	14
13.	Clarion Advertising	30
14.	Concept Advertising	208
15.	Contract Advertising	10
16.	Copy Desk	15
17.	Corrum Communications	21
18.	Crayon Advertising	6
19.	Creative Eye	300
20.	Dawnmod Advertising	536
21.	Drishti India	350
22.	Enterprise Advertising	20
23.	Everest Advertising	20
24.	Film Craft	225

1	2	3
25.	Future Communications	10
26.	G N Communications	25
27.	Gold Video	5
28.	Guruji Advertisers	150
29.	High Definition TV	3
30.	HTA	50
31.	Hansa Vision	122
32.	Innovision Film & TV Dist.	25
33.	Jatiyaar Pub.	25
34.	Jaya Advertising	54
35.	Joslin Comm.	42
36.	Kine Scope	70
37.	KLI	40
38.	Lintas	2
39.	Maa Bozell	10
40.	Magna Vision	108
41.	Market Movers	329
42.	Magic Box	14
43.	Media Asia	146
44.	Multi Channel	1500
45.	National Saving Organisation	2
46.	NCYP	61
47.	Neerja Films	46
48.	NFDC	2960
49.	NIMBUS Comm.	612
50.	NUMERO UNO	183
51.	PNC	212
52.	Pas International	30
53.	Pen 'A' Trait	4
54.	Plus Channel	1205
55.	Prominent	72

1	2	3
56.	Prime Time Media	11
57.	Radha Publicity	18
58.	R K Swamy	5
59.	Shree Madhav	800
	(400 protected by Bank Guarantee)	
60.	Triton Comm.	89
61.	Universal	88
62.	Uranus	130
	(80 protected by Bank Guarantee)	
63.	UTV	45
64.	Vigyapan	12
65.	W D Consumer	25 (disputed)
66.	World Media	38 (disputed)
67.	Worldcom M/M	58
Total		13805

Food Policy

*367. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has given certain suggestions to the Government regarding the food policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have prepared an action plan to implement these suggestions;

(d) if so, the outlines of the action plan; and

(e) the date from which it is proposed to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to contain the burgeoning food subsidy bill within accepted levels, Expenditure Reforms

Commission (ERC) in its report on 'Food Subsidy' has made a number of recommendations besides the recommendations which directly concern the determination of Food Corporation of India's economic cost of wheat and rice. The details of recommendations are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) While the Commission's recommendations on readjustment/revision of economic cost of wheat and rice have already been accepted and implemented by the Government w.e.f. 25.7.2000 thereby revising the economic cost of wheat and rice to Rs. 830/- per qtl. for wheat and Rs. 1130/- per qtl. for rice as against the estimated cost of Rs. 900/- per qtl. for wheat and Rs. 1180/- per qtl. for rice at the beginning of the current financial year, the other recommendations of the Commission entail inter-Ministerial/ Departmental consultations and also consultations with the State Governments etc. before final views crystallize.

Statement

Recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC)

1. The State Governments will have to put in major efforts for identifying the BPL population, giving them ration card and reaching the benefits intended for them in a transparent manner.
2. A national food security buffer stock of 10 million tonnes-4 million tonnes of wheat and 6 million tonnes of rice should be maintained at all times.
3. The cost of holding the stocks in excess of the requirement for national food security and for FDS due to very generous minimum support prices based procurement policy, could be reflected in the Budget at producers, subsidy rather than consumer subsidy.
4. Inducing the State Governments and the private sector to enter into the foodgrains trade - procurement, storage as well as including exports, in an organized and big way by moderating the increase in MSP effected every year.
5. Freezing the MSP for paddy/rice and wheat in the forthcoming procurement seasons at the same level as fixed for the last procurement season and accepting the prices recommended by a body of experts like the CACP without making further increases.
6. State Government/private Sector with surplus food-grains production could be allowed to procure, sell and also export upto 3 million tonnes of rice and 5 million

tonnes of wheat every year and also that policy will remain unchanged for at least 15 years and that in the event of drop in foodgrains' production in any year, domestic consumption requirements would be met through imports.

7. Move towards a procurement price instead of minimum support price that will include the MSP as well as reasonable levels of taxes and other levies that can be imposed by the States, thus leaving it to the States to decide on what they should retain by way of taxes and levies and what should be passed on to the farmers.

8. Encouragement to rice procurement through levy route.

9. There be only one rate as is the case with wheat and that be the common variety alone.

10. Fixation of revised levy price with reference to strict quality standard may be announced before the coming season and levy percentage be fixed anywhere between 50%-70% as the miller may choose.

11. Speedy action to be taken on all cost reduction measures in respect of the Food Corporation of India as may be recommended by the Administrative Staff College of India, which is currently undertaking a study to suggest ways and means of reducing the economic cost.

12. Use of synthetic bag for procurement of rice.

13. The States which distribute quantities larger than what is allocated under BPL be paid cash instead of supply of foodgrains at subsidized rates for the BPL population. This would enable the States to procure the required foodgrains directly or through traders at competitive cost which may work out to be less than the economic cost of the FCL.

14. Only quantities sold through the PDS to APL and BPL population, and allocations made to various welfare schemes and sales at the economic cost, should be taken into account for determining the distribution stocks.

15. Freight charges and transit losses to the extent of 1/3rd of the opening stock of buffer in addition to charging in full the transport cost and transit losses to the extent there is accretion to the buffer should be charged to buffer carrying cost as against the present practice of attributing the transportation cost entirely to distribution cost if there is no accretion to the buffer stock in a year.

16. Carry over charges in the form of storage and interest charges paid to the State agencies in the case of wheat for holding stocks beyond 30th June of a year should be charged to the buffer carrying cost instead of being accounted for as a part of pre procurement cost and thus included in the economic cost of wheat.

17. The benefit of stocks procured in the previous years at lower prices should be passed on to the beneficiaries by including it in the economic cost as against determination of the economic cost on the basis of MSP notified for a year.

[English]

Smuggling at Attari Border

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

(a) whether smuggling is carried out at Attari Border by 'Sawari' operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Attari had submitted a report to the Ministry in December 1998 in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The intelligence/reports currently available do not indicate that smuggling is being carried out at Attari Road by 'Sawari Operators'. However, in the recent past, there had been reports from time to time that some of the passengers travelling on Samjhauta Express plying between India and Pakistan were misusing the facility of free Baggage Allowance to bring baggage in commercial quantities i.e. in excess of the permissible limit under the Baggage Rules. For the passengers involved in such activity, the necessary finance for procurement of goods, payment of Customs duty and other dues payable on such goods and subsequent disposal of the goods was reportedly arranged by certain other persons known as 'Sawari Operators', with the help/connivance of local agents/railway porters. The passengers indulging in such activity reportedly received some remuneration for acting as a carrier. However, with the tightening of controls such as imposition of heavy redemption fine and penalty coupled with stringent preventive measures has greatly reduced misuse of Baggage Allowance facility by the passengers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A report in this regard was sent to the Ministry by the then Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Amritsar, in March 1999. The report, inter-alia, indicated the activities and modus operandi adopted by certain Sawari operators for smuggling of contraband goods, through Samjhauta Express. In pursuance of the said report, the Government have taken a number of preventive measures, in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Railways to tighten the controls on passenger clearance at Attari Rail, Amritsar and to prevent bringing in of goods in commercial quantity/smuggling of contrabands by passengers. Anti-Smuggling and Vigilance set up of the Customs Department at Amritsar has also been strengthened. Some of the important measures taken in this regard are as under :

- (i) Ban on entry of Railway Coolies at Platform No. 2 & 3 of Attari Rail, Amritsar;
- (ii) Entry of Sawari Operators or their agents at Attari village is kept under strict watch with the help of local Police;
- (iii) Joint manning of all the exit gates by the Customs, RAW and IB officials to guard against any nexus of the employees of enforcement agencies with Sawari operators;
- (iv) Holding of regular joint coordination meetings between the officials of various enforcement agencies posted at Attari Rail such as Customs, Immigration, IB and Police;
- (v) Installation of 4 x-ray Baggage machine for screening the baggage;
- (vi) 100% physical examination and screening through Baggage x-ray Machines of the baggage imported by incoming passengers;
- (vii) Imposition of 100% Redemption fine and 25% personal penalty under the Customs Act, 1962, on the baggage imported in excess of the permissible limits under the Baggage Rules;
- (viii) Reduction of free baggage allowance from Rs. 12,000/- to Rs. 3,000/- in respect of passengers and tourists coming from Pakistan by Land-route; and
- (ix) Joint Rummaging of Samjhauta Express by the officers of Customs, GRP & Immigration.

Reforms in Insurance Sector

*369. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) The recommendations of the Malhotra Committee in respect of reforms in insurance sector;
- (b) the details of the recommendations of the Committee which have been accepted and implemented/proposed to be implemented by the Government; and
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to boost the insurance sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) A High Powered Committee headed by Shri R.N. Malhotra in their Report covered the whole gamut of insurance sector and made recommendations relating to liberalisation of insurance sector, regulation of insurance business, restructuring of LIC, GIC and its subsidiaries, investment of insurance funds, rural insurance, insurance product pricing, professionalisation of insurance intermediaries, upgradation of information technology etc.

Since the recommendations made by the Malhotra Committee had far reaching implications, it was decided to keep these in view while undertaking reforms in insurance sector. In pursuance of these recommendations, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has been constituted under the provisions of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. The Authority has been empowered by the Act to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(c) With the opening of the insurance sector which is a part of the reforms, it is expected that the coverage and penetration of both life and general insurance would improve. Further, additional employment is expected to be generated and also additional funds would be available for investment in important sectors of the economy.

Bounced Cheques

*370. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up special court to deal with the cases relating to bounced cheques;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether confederation of Indian Industry has also submitted a memorandum suggesting measures to deal with increasing cases of bounced cheques;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Confederation of Indian Industry has submitted a memorandum dated 19.6.2000 to Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs suggesting amendment to Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. The memorandum inter-alia, has suggested that (a) Section 138 (b) of the Negotiable Instrument Act be amended to remove the limit of 15 days prescribed for demanding payment in case of unpaid cheques and (b) a Special Court should be constituted to deal with the offences punishable under section 138 of the Act. Such suggestions constitute useful inputs in the ongoing exercise of making economic legislation more responsive to the needs of society.

[Translation]

Revenue Earned by DD

*371. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the total revenue earned by the Doordarshan from the different programmes during the last eight months;
- (b) the extent to which this revenue is higher or lower as compared to the corresponding period of the last year;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the viewership of the Doordarshan has increased as compared to the private channels;
- (e) if so, the details of the comparative figures 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) During the period Dec., 99 to July 2000, Doordarshan earned commercial revenue to the tune of Rs. 450.20

crores. During the corresponding period of last year, i.e., Dec, 98 to July, 99, Doordarshan earned a revenue of Rs. 271 crores. Thus the revenue is higher by Rs. 179.20 crores.

(c) The main reason for this increase is due to realisation of old outstanding dues and telecast of high quality programmes, rationalisation in the commercial rate and card, introduction of Holiday and Saturday feature films and creation of additional chunks.

(d) and (e) Consequent on a number of measures taken by Doordarshan to improve its viewership, there has been a definite upsurge in terms of viewership to DD and it is back in the reckoning of the advertisers. As per special evaluation study by TAM, there has been an overall growth of 26% viewership between June, 1999 and January, 2000. During this period DD-I was the most watched channel in all parts of the country. In a typical home, a viewer spent 54 minutes a day watching DD-I programmes whereas he/she spent 07 minutes with Zee and Sony.

[English]

Industry Status to Cable Network

*372. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are contemplating to grant the status of industry to the cable network; and
- (b) if so, the measures taken/being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of employees working with cable operators ?

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) Ministry of Industry has informed that installation and operation of cable T.V. networks has already been recognised as Small Scale Service and Business Enterprises (SSSBE).

(b) The interests of employees working with cable operators as in case of any other business enterprise/ establishment, are to be taken care of as per the relevant provisions of the different Labour Laws of the country.

Smuggling of Narcotics

*373. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of cases of smuggling of narcotics registered during the last two years;

- (b) the quantity of narcotics seized;
- (c) whether any special conference on narcotics was held by the United Nations Organisation recently; and
- (d) if so, the details of the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Sir, a total of 25475 cases of smuggling of narcotics were registered during 1998 and 1999.

(b) 3666 kgs. Opium, 55 kgs. Morphine, 1516 kgs. Heroin, 108334 kgs. Ganja, 13497 kgs. Hashish, 2 kgs. Cocaine, 2731 kgs. Methaqualone and 285 sq. paper of L.S.D. were seized during the above said period.

(c) The 20th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to countering the World Drug Problem was held from June 8-10, 1998 at New York.

(d) The Special Session adopted resolutions envisaging inter alia the following action in relation to smuggling of narcotics :

- (i) Adoption of comprehensive National Legislation to give effect to the three UN Conventions, namely the 1961 Single Convention against Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention against Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Convention against illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
- (ii) Establishment or strengthening, by the year 2003, of National Legislation and programmes to give effect to the Action Plan against the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of Amphetamine type stimulants and their precursors.
- (iii) Eliminating or reducing significantly the illicit manufacture, marketing and trafficking of Psychotropic Substances including synthetic drugs, and the diversion of precursors by the year 2008.
- (iv) Adoption of a comprehensive approach for the elimination of narcotic drug crops and for International Cooperation in the eradication of illicit drug crops and in alternative development.

[Translation]

Super Bazar

*374. SHRI J.S. BRAR :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

- (a) whether the objective of establishing Super Bazar has been totally defeated;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total investment made therein, till date;
- (d) the number of retail outlets opened in the country along with total amount of sale carried out during 1999-2000;
- (e) whether the Government are unable to provide essential commodities to consumers at reasonable rates;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps being taken by the Government to provide essential commodities to consumers at reasonable rates ?

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

(a) and (b) Due to certain factors such as over staffing in comparison to the volume of business, inadequacy of working capital compared to the requirements, lack of credit based supplies, non-recovery of outstanding dues, increasing level of fixed costs and wage bills, irregularities as well as lack of professionalism in supervision and management, Super Bazar has not been able to fulfil all the objectives adequately for which it was established.

(c) Funds provided by the Govt. of India to Super Bazar, Delhi and the funds redeemed by the Super Bazar, Delhi till date are as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)				
	Share Capital	Loan	Subsidy	Total
(i) Funds provided by Govt. of India	282.84	348.74	99.83	731.41
(ii) Funds redeemed by Super Bazar	166.35	312.10	—	478.45
(iii) Balance as on today	116.49	36.64	—	153.13
			(Excluding Subsidy)	

(d) Super Bazar has reported that it has 152 outlets in the country and the sales during the year 1999-2000 amounted to Rs. 83.01 crores (unaudited).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The Central Government allocates on a monthly basis essential commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar kerosene oil and edible oils for distribution through Public Distribution System at below market price. In addition to this, Government also keeps a close watch on the general price situation of essential commodities such as cereals, major pulses and edible oils, sugar tea, salt, potato, onion etc. Commodities which are in short supply are being imported to supplement the availability in the open market. As and when required, market intervention operation is being undertaken by the Government to ensure the availability of the Commodity to the common man at reasonable prices.

[English]

Export/Import

*375. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

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

(a) whether the overall export position of the country has declined while import has increased during the last two years;

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

(c) the names of items whose export has declined during the above period;

(d) the steps taken so far to boost the export and to reduce the import; and

(e) the present position of the country with regard to balance of foreign exchange due to the import-export situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Exports declined only in 1998-99 while it was positive at 11.6% in US dollar terms which was above the target figure of 11.3% for 1999-2000. Import growth rate was low in 1998-99 and around 10% in 1999-2000 in US dollar terms. The following table gives the details of export and imports and percentage changes in the growth rate.

(in US\$ million)		
Year	Exports (%change)	Import (% change)
1998-99	33219 (-5.1)	42389 (2.2)
1999-2000*	37538 (11.6)	46154 (10.2)

* Provisional

The decline in exports in 1998-99 was due to international factors such as recession in the global market, economic crisis in South East Asian countries, Russia and some of the Latin American countries, infrastructural constraints, other impediments like low unit value realization and lower production. With the change in world trade scenario and the policies taken by the Government, exports have picked up in 1999-2000 and for the first quarter of 2000-01, the export growth rate in US dollar terms is 27.65% over the corresponding period last year. Major commodity groups which registered negative export growth during last two years were plantation, agriculture and allied products, iron ore, processed minerals, leather & manufactures, sports goods, project goods, etc.

(d) Export Promotion is a continuous process. Various measures to increase our exports include simplification of procedures and other measures as enumerated in Exim Policy, multilateral and bilateral initiatives and identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Imports are made to meet the essential demands of the domestic industry for raw material, fuels and capital goods.

(e) The foreign exchange balance affected due to exports-imports situation is reflected in the trade deficit. The trade deficit figures for 1998-99 & 1999-2000 are as follows :

Year	Balance of Trade (in US\$ Million)
1998-99	- 9170
1999-2000	- 8616

Export of Minerals

*376. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA :

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:

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

(a) whether the target fixed for export of minerals during the Eighth Plan has been achieved;

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

(c) whether there has been a step decline in the export of minerals during the past few years from some States, such as, Gujarat, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(US\$ Million)

(e) the minerals exported during each of the last three years, mineral-wise and country-wise alongwith revenue earned therefrom;

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of minerals; and

(g) the names of countries which have shown their willingness to import minerals from India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) As per the available date, annual targets and performance during the Eighth Plan Period (1992-93–1996-97) are as under :

Year	Target	Performance
1992-93	N.A.	697.16
1993-94	N.A.	888.15
1994-95	N.A.	998.32
1995-96	1129.0*	1175.01
1996-97	1361.3*	1145.9

(N.A. : Not available)

(Source : DGCI & S)

The collection of export and import data is done at national level and State-wise figures are not maintained.

* Targets are worked out in advance in Rs./Crores and converted to US \$ based on the average exchange rate.

(e) Details of minerals exported during the last three years along with the destinations and revenue earned are

given below :

(Qty. in Million Tonnes : Value in US\$ Million)

Minerals Exported	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (Prov.)		Major Countries
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	
Iron Ore	29.50	476.16	22.27	384.00	16.14	265.56	Australia, Belgium, Chines Taipei, China PR, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Pakistan, Romania, U.K.
Mica	0.05	10.77	0.05	10.30	0.02	9.44	Belgium, China PR, Germany, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, U.K., U.S.A.
Coal	0.54	23.78	0.82	33.52	1.11	25.57	Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal
Processed Minerals	N.M.*	336.60	N.M.*	253.15	N.M.*	231.70	Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chinese Taipei, China PR, Denmark, Germany, Hongkong, Italy, Japan, Malayasia, Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Srilanka, U.A.E., U.K., U.S.A.
Other Ores & Minerals	N.M.*	213.50	N.M.*	212.47	N.M.*	374.42	Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Chinese Taipei, China PR, Germany, Hongkong, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, U.A.E., U.K., U.S.A.

(N.M. : Not maintained) (Source : DGCI&S) * DGCI&S are maintaining value-wise data only.

(f) In an endeavour to accelerate the export of minerals, following steps have been initiated :

- 'Granite' has been identified and declared as a 'thrust area' and necessary steps initiated for hassle-free export of granite in consultation with the Ministries of Mines and Finance and the State Governments.
- Physical controls over production, storage, clearance and movement of goods, materials and components, to and from Export Oriented Units (EOUs) has been abolished.
- Granite EOUs have been allowed to import duty-free machinery, tools and consumables under the EOU Scheme.
- Threshold limit for import of mining and quarrying equipments under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme has been liberalised.
- Ministry of Mines have notified amendments to the Minor Minerals Regulation & Development Rules paving way for uniform policy throughout the country for prospecting licence for lease/royalty/dead-rent etc. in granite sector.
- Private exporters have been allowed to export high grade iron ore to bring in healthy competition when surplus to domestic demand is available.

(g) Apart from the traditional markets for export of minerals i.e. Japan, South Korea, Australia, Germany, Hong

Kong, Taiwan, recently China, Pakistan and the Middle-East have shown their willingness to import minerals from India.

Anti-Dumping Duty on Synthetic Fibre/Fabric

*377. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether the Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry, JCT, IRSF and JK Synthetics have asked the Government to impose anti-dumping duty on the increasing import of cheap synthetic fibre/fabric;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Finance has rejected the demand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware that domestic synthetic industries are on the verge of closure; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to save this industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The details of petitions received requesting imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Acrylic Fibre, Nylon Tyre Cord Fabric and Polyester Staple Fibre are as follows :

Product	Name of Petitioner	Country
1. Acrylic Fibre	Indian Acrylics Ltd. and Pashupati Acrylon Ltd.	USA, Thailand & Korea RP
2. Acrylic Fibre	Indian Acrylics Ltd.	Italy, Spain, Portugal & Japan
3. Acrylic Fibre	Indian Acrylics Ltd.	Mexico
4. Acrylic Fibre	Forum of Acrylic Manufacturers' Association	Turkey
5. Acrylic Fibre	Forum of Acrylic Manufacturers' Association	Taiwan
6. Nylon Tyre Cord Fabric	Association of Synthetic Fibre	Indonesia, Korea RP, Thailand & Taiwan
7. Polyester Staple Fibre	Indo-Rama Synthetics Ltd. (IRSL) supported by Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry (ASFI) (with IRSL, M/s JCT, M/s. J.K. Synthetics, M/s. Modern Petrofills and M/s. RIL as its members)	Indonesia, Korea RP, Thailand & Taiwan

After due investigations anti-dumping duty was recommended by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties in all cases.

(b) and (c) Anti-dumping duty was imposed in all the cases involving import of Acrylic Fibre and in the case of Nylon Tyre Cord Fabric by Ministry of Finance. However, no duty was imposed on Polyester Staple Fibre as the imports declined substantially while the domestic production, capacity utilization and producer margins improved significantly.

(d) and (e) The figures of production and consumption for the domestic synthetic fibre industry are given below:

(Figures in 000 MT)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Production	980	1248	1379	1478
Consumption	1034	1260	1408	1505

The data indicates that the domestic synthetic fibre industry is growing steadily. However, in the wake of reduction in import tariffs, the domestic industry is increasingly exposed to competition from overseas which may be resulting in difficulties being faced by units which do not enjoy economics of scale and/or have not modernised.

Trade Agreements

*378. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) the details of trade agreements/MOUs signed by the Union Government with various countries during 1999-2000, till June 2000, with a view to promoting bilateral trade and export of various items, particularly food items, spices and cash crops;

(b) whether export of these items has increased as a result thereof;

(c) if so, to what extent and if not, the reasons

therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Outside the context of Multilateral Trading System under the WTO, the bilateral trade agreements signed by India between 1.4.99 and 30.6.2000 are with Tanzania, Mauritius, Portugal, Sudan and Tunisia. The details of these agreements are as follows:

- (i) An agreement on Economic and Industrial Cooperation between India and Portugal was signed in Lisbon on 31.3.2000 by our Minister for External Affairs and his Portuguese counterpart. This agreement, inter-alia, provides for re-enforcement of bilateral economic relationship including the two way flow of trade and investment through measures such as grant of mutual MFN treatment, joint ventures, participation in fairs and exhibitions, exchange of technologies, exchange of information etc.
- (ii) Trade agreement between India and Tanzania was signed on 14.1.2000 at Dar-es-salaam and another trade agreement between India and Mauritius was signed on 10.3.2000 at Port Louis, Mauritius. These two trade agreements aim at increasing trade between the contracting parties on the basis of mutual interest and benefit. However, items to be traded are not listed specifically in the trade agreement nor were the trade agreements signed specifically to promote exports of food items and spices in particular.
- (iii) In June, 2000, a trade agreement was signed by India with Sudan and an existing trade agreement between India and Tunisia signed in September, 1994 was revalidated in June, 2000 to increase bilateral trade.

Besides, 7 Agreements/MOUs have been signed in the field of agriculture with various countries the details of which are given in the following table :

Date of Signing	Country	Subject
1	2	3
15.4.99	Netherlands	Plant quarantine issues.

1	2	3
16.4.99	Russia	Cooperation in veterinary field
22.1.2000	Bangladesh	Agriculture
18.2.2000	Cambodia	Cooperation in the fields of agriculture science and technology, animal husbandry and food processing.
31.3.2000	Turkey	Cooperation in the field of agriculture science and technology, agricultural production and agro processing and economic cooperation.
5.4.2000	Tunisia	Cooperation in the field of agriculture.
2.5.2000	Uzbekistan	Cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education.

(b) In view of the recent conclusion of these Agreement/MOUs, it is too early to assess their results.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Assets Reconstruction Companies

*379. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Executives of the public sector banks have been asked to set up Asset Reconstruction Companies to tackle the problem of Non-performing Assets; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the public sector banks in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) In the budget speech for 1998-99, it was announced that banks with a high level of non-performing assets would be encouraged to set up Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) on an experimental basis. Consequent thereon the question of setting up one or more ARCs was gone into in detail by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India. The modalities of setting up ARCs are under consideration.

Export Growth/Trade Deficit

*380. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether exports have shown a healthy growth during April-May, 2000;

(b) if so, the total growth of exports during the first three months of current financial year in comparison with the corresponding period of 1999-2000 sector-wise;

(c) whether imports have also shown better performance during the same period and trade deficit rose to \$ 1.1 billion;

(d) if so, the main factors responsible therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the export and reduce import and also to check the trade deficit in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. As per provisional figures from Directorate General of Commercial, Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, export growth during April-June, 2000-2001 is estimated at US \$ 10194.34 million which is 27.65% higher as compared to the level of US \$ 7986.28 million during April-June, 1999-2000. During the same period, imports increased from US \$ 10355.66 million to US \$ 13177.09 million showing an increase of 27.25%. Trade deficit for April-June, 2000-2001 is estimated at US \$ 2982.75 million as compared with the deficit at US \$ 2369.37 million during April-June, 1999-2000.

As per the latest disaggregated provisional export data available from DGCI&S for the period April, 2000-2001, positive growth has been witnessed in case of rice (14.4%), nuts and seeds (22%), marine products (14.2%), ores and minerals (40.3%), chemicals and related products (18.6%), gems and jewellery (7.5%), engineering goods (47.7%), electronic hardware (16.5%), textiles (8.0%) and carpets (7.7%) etc. Negative growth has been witnessed in case of coffee (-42%), tobacco (-19.6%) and handicrafts (-1.6%) etc.

(d) and (e) Imports are made to meet the essential demands of the domestic industry for raw material, fuels and capital goods. Therefore, the thrust to reduce trade deficit is on export promotion which is a continuous process. Export Promotion Measures are continuously being taken by the Government to increase the exports. These measures include, besides simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in Exim Policy, multilateral and bilateral initiatives and identification of thrust sectors and focus regions to bridge the gap in trade balance.

Suppliers Registered with NCCF

3997. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of suppliers registered with National Cooperative consumers, Federation with Delhi Branch; and

(b) the total sale made and profit earned by NCCF during each of the last three years, commodity group-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) According to the information supplied by National Cooperative Consumers, Federation, 204 suppliers are registered with their Delhi Branch.

(b) The details of the commodity group-wise sales turnover of NCCF and the net profit earned during the last three years are as under :

(fig. In crores of Rs.)			
Commodity Group	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Grocery	70.68	80.89	53.26
Levy Sugar	53.18	56.47	59.60
Gen. Merchandise	108.63	120.47	153.59
Textiles	7.60	9.36	10.62
Confiscated Goods	14.01	24.93	33.25
Exports	1.67	5.42	2.68
Total	255.77	297.54	313.00
Net profit	0.60	0.94	3.01

Fortification of Food Programme

3998. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the absence of food fortification programme, a large part of population have been affected with serious health disorder like anaemia, night blindness etc;

(b) whether there is no legislation on food fortification;

(c) if so, whether the Government feels it necessary to adopt a policy of fortifying foods like Atta, Cereal etc. and selling it at subsidized rates through Public Distribution System; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, to control micronutrient deficiencies prevalent in the country the Government is implementing programme with strategies of supplementing fortification and dietary diversification. Under prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955, standards of iodised salt and iron fortified salt have been laid down.

(c) and (d) So far as distribution of fortified atta instead of wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at country level is concerned, it is operationally not feasible because of very short shelf-life of the product and long chain of distribution. Besides, only a small part of wheat/ wheat product for consumption of the country's population is in the central pool. Further atta is only popular in northern States of the country. Some State Governments have been distributing atta under PDS depending upon local preferences.

Central Consumer Protection Council

3999. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times Central Consumer Protection Council has met during the last three year;

(b) whether the Standing Working Group has been constituted;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms of reference of the Group;

(d) whether the findings of the Working Group have been placed before the Central Council for consideration; and

(e) if so, the recommendations of Central Consumer Protection Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Central Consumer Protection Council (CCPC) has met twice during the last three calendar years on 31.5.97 & 28.10.98;

(b) and (c) The Consumer Protection Rules, 1987 provide for the constitution of a Standing Working Group from amongst the members of CCPC for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the CCPC and to suggest the working of the Council. The Standing Working Group was reconstituted on 11.5.2000 from amongst the members of the reconstituted CCPC. It consists of 15 members, including officials & non-officials.

(d) and (e) : The deliberations of the Standing Working Group are placed before the CCPC. Meeting of the reconstituted CCPC has not yet been held.

[Translation]

Decline in Domestic and Foreign Tourists

4000. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been some decline in the number of domestic and foreign tourists in the country in comparison with the previous years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the schemes of the Government for providing better facilities and protection to the domestic and foreign tourists, the overall development of tourist spots and making them attractive;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for attracting tourists to the rural natural environment and folk culture of the country; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government so far to highlight these specialities ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The development of tourism in any State including providing facilities and protection to tourists and development of tourists spots etc., is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administration.

However, Department of Tourism provides Central financial assistance to State Governments/ U.T. Administrations for tourism projects which are prioritised every year in consultation with them. The projects include promotion of selected/identified fairs and festivals, rural craft melas, village tourism projects and development of adventure tourism activities etc.

The Department of Tourism has identified 25 travel circuits and 12 destinations for development and promotion of tourism through the joint efforts and Central, State Governments and private sector. Many of these fall within the rural and natural areas.

[English]

NABARD Loan to Kerala Banks

4001. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Kerala State/District Cooperative Banks to direct NABARD to provide refinance facilities to Kerala State Cooperative Bank and District Cooperative Banks and also advise NABARD not to impose such restrictive practices jeopardising the democratic functioning of Cooperative Institution; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Foreign Exchange Earned/Spent by BHEL

4002. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of foreign exchange earned by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited through services and supplies to foreign countries during each of the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange spent by BHEL for import of equipment, materials, service collaborations during the aforesaid period; and

(c) the names and designation of officers of BHEL who visited abroad during the last three years and the amount of foreign exchange spent on them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units

4003. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Bihar to set up 100 per cent export-oriented units in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which such units are likely to set up ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Under the Export Oriented Unit (EOU) Scheme, the applications are received by the concerned Development Commissioner of Export Processing Zone (EPZ). So far twenty (20) Nos. of EOUs have been approved for setting up units in Bihar. Out of these, nine (9) units have already been set up and four (4) are under implementation. Regarding remaining seven (7) units it is primarily for the entrepreneurs to take necessary action for establishing the same as these units are set up by private enterprise.

[English]

Free Sale of Sugar

4004. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have released free sale of sugar to different States; and

(b) if so, the details of the quantum of sugar released during 1999-2000, as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Government releases Free Sale Quota of Sugar to the sugar mills, every month.

(b) Statewise details of Free Sale Sugar released to the sugar mills during the sugar season 1999-2000 (Oct. Sept.) upto August, 2000, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Statewise details of Free Sale Sugar released during the sugar season 1999-2000 (Oct.-Sept) upto August, 2000

S.No.	Name of the State	Quantity (in MTs)
1.	Punjab	210529.1
2.	Haryana	247582.9
3.	Rajasthan	8725.2
4.	U.P.	2352297.5
5.	M.P.	48832.6
6.	Gujarat	595353.0
7.	Maharashtra	3241954.0
8.	Bihar	182703.0
9.	Assam	1418.2
10.	Orissa	33817.3
11.	West Bengal	2739.2
12.	A.P.	674147.6
13.	Karnataka	732840.0
14.	Tamil Nadu	1038843.4
15.	Pondicherry	22151.8
16.	Kerala	5818.3
17.	Goa	9133.3

[Translation]

Birth Centenaries of Prominent Personalities

4005. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the annual functions and the centenaries celebration of prominent personalities held during each of the last three years; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on each of these functions by the Government during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Centenary Celebration	Expenditure incurred (Rupees)
1	2	3
1997-98		
1.	Birth Centenary Celebrations of Sh. V.K. Krishna Menon	12,92,850
2.	Birth Centenary Celebrations of Bhagwan Ramana	1,10,30,218
3.	Birth Centenary Celebrations of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose	3,14,29,726
4.	Birth Centenary Celebrations of Dr. Zakir Hussain	19,16,796
1998-99		
5.	Birth Centenary Celebrations of Sant Kabir	6,69,926
6.	Birth Centenary Celebrations of Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda	1,75,00,000
1999-2000		
7.	Birth Centenary Celebrations of Kazi Nazrul Islam	24,50,134
8.	Birth Centenary of two Musicians viz. Ustad Baba Allaadin Khan and Shri Musiri Subramania Iyer	1,90,000

*Grants Sanctioned to the Voluntary Organisations
for Birth Centenary Celebrations*

Sl.No.	Name of the Organisation	Name of the Centenary Celebrations	Amount released
1	2	3	4
1997-98			
1.	Firaq Centenary Celebration Committee, Allahabad	Urdu Poet Firaq Gorakhpuri	1.00 lakh
2.	Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academi, Kerala	Chembai Vaidyanatha	1.00 lakh
3.	Sri S.R. Venkataraman birth Centenary Celebration, Chennai	Shri S.R. Venkataraman	20,000/-
4.	Aalimi Urdu Conference Firaq Gorakhpuri Centenary Celebration, New Delhi	Firaq Gorakhpuri	1.00 lakh
5.	Kinnera Art Theatre, Hyderabad	Devykaokkku Vankata Krishna Sastry Centenary	1.00 lakh
6.	Shrimat Anirvan Birth Centenary Celebration Committee, Calcutta	Shrimat Anirvan	1.00 lakh
7.	Bhasha Sangam, Allahabad	Novelist Nanak Singh	50,000/-
8.	Mehran, New Delhi	Prof. Mangharam U. Malkani	37,500/-
9.	Nitraj Natya Naritya Sangeet Kala Parishad, Bihar	Ratnanath Sarshar	40,000/-

1	2	3	4
10.	Bhartiya Sanskriti Kala Seva Sansthan, Bihar	Awanindra Nath Thakur	20,000/-
11.	Sruti Foundation, Madras	E. Krishna Iyer	1.00 lakh
12.	Swaralaya, New Delhi	Sh. Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathara	75,000/-
13.	Percussive Arts Centre, Bangalore	Mudikondon Venkataraman Iyer	50,000/-
14.	Acharya Shivpujan Sahai Smarak Nyas, Patna	Acharya Shiv Pujan Sahai	40,000/-
1998-99			
15.	Natraj Natya Nritya Sangeet Kala Parishad, Bihar	Birth Centenary of Bishnu Digambar Puskar	20,000/-
16.	Ma Gangaji Natya Kala Sanasthan, Bihar	Birth Centenary of Zaverchand Meghani	20,000/-
17.	Rakesh Natya Kala Sansthan, Saharsa, Bihar	Centenary of Swami Hari Das	30,000/-
18.	Rakesh Natya Kala Sansthan, Saharsa, Bihar	Centenary of Sardar P.M. Adikesavalu	10,000/-
19.	Ma Gangaji Natya Kala Sansthan, Bihar	Dr. Amulyadhan Mukherjee	10,000/-
20.	Bharitya Sanskrit Avam Kala Seva Sansthan, Bihar	Bankim Mukherjee	10,000/-
21.	Bharitya Sanskrit Avam Kala Seva Sansthan, Bihar	Hansa Mehta	10,000/-
22.	India International Rural Cultural Centre, New Delhi	Shri Krishna Iyer	50,000/-
23.	Mahila Nataka Mandali, Bangalore	Shri Subba Rao	10,000/-
24.	Percussive Arts Centre, Bangalore	Shri T.N. Rajarathnam Pillai	37,500/-
25.	Dr. Laxmi Narain Dubey International Indian Languages and Calcutta Foundation, Sagar	Bal Krishan Sharma Naveen	50,000/-
26.	Ramakrishna Mission Khetri, Rajasthan	Swami Vivekananda visit to Khetri	10,000/-
27.	Saraswathi Vaggeyakara Trust, Chennai	Shri Thiruvadudurai Rajarathanam Pillai	50,000/-
28.	Sirjana Sansthan, Varanasi	Pt. Bal Krishna Sharma Naveen	20,000/-
29.	Rang Yatra, Lucknow	Uday Sankar Bhatt	50,000/-
30.	Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Sister Nivedita Girls School, Calcutta	Centenary Celebration of Sister Nivedita Arrival in India	1.00 lakh
1999-2000			
31.	Bharatya Sanskriti Avam Kala Seva Sansthan, Bihar	Birth Centenary of Sh. Balwant Ray Mehta	80,000/-
32.	Rakesh Natya Kala Sansthan, Bihar	Birth Centenary of Ramakrishna Rao	50,000/-
33.	Raja Chet Singh Shodh Sansthan, Varansai	Centenary of Amar Saheed Sh. Udhm Singh	15,000/-

1	2	3	4
34.	Prachyavani Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal	Kazi Nazrul Islam, Sh. Kabi Jibananda Das and Tarashankar Bhandhapadhyay	20,000/-
35.	Shri Ram Chandra Mission, Shahjahanpur, U.P.	Birth Centenary of Mahatma Ram Chandaraji Maharaji	50,000/-
36.	Mitra Mandli Tarun Samaj Samiti, Bharatpur	Birth Centenary of Maharaja Kishan Singh	75,000/-
37.	Asia, New Delhi	Dr. Burgula Ramakrishna Rao	7,500/-
38.	Varanasi Natya Parishad Varanasi	Birth Centenary of Lala Jagat Narayan	15,000/-
39.	Rang Yatra, Lucknow	Birth Centenary of Shri Bhagwati Prasad Vajpayi	15,000/-
40.	Jeebon Roy Memorial Welfare Instt. Shillong	Anniversary of U. Babu Jeebon Roy	37,500/-
41.	Nabin Sarma Birth Centenary Celebration Committee, Guwahati	Centenary Celebration of Sisupuran Nabin Sharma	37,500/-
42.	Bhartiya Sanskrit Avam Kala Seva Sanasthan, Bihar	Birth Centenary of Dr. Telode Mascarenhas	56,250/-
43.	Bharatiya Sanskriti Avam Kala Seva Sanasthan, Bihar	Birth Centenary of Lila Roy	37,500/-
44.	Raja Chet Singh Shodh Sanasthan, Varanasi	Birth Centenary of Pt. Balchain Sharma	56,250/-
45.	Natraj Natya Nritya Sangeet Kala Parishad, Bihar	Birth Centenary of Vijayalaxmi Pandit	37,500/-
46.	Rakesh Natya Kala Sanasthan, Bihar	Birth Centenary of S.K. Patil	37,500/-
47.	Lohia Addyan Kendra, Nagpur	Birth Centenary of Rambriksh Benipuri	41,250/-

[English]

Investigation by CBI

4006. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1267 dated March 2, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has completed its investigation into the causes of shortage pointed out by C & AG ;

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

(c) whether lot of foodgrains is lying in the open in FCI storage depots at New Delhi were damaged in the two days rain in July 2000;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Food Corporation of India have completed investigations of only seven regions. The investigation of remaining 12 regions is under progress and the final outcome will be known after completion of full investigation by Food Corporation of India.

(c) No quantity of wheat in open storage has been damaged in Delhi region during rains in July, 2000.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Uniform Floor Rate of Commercial Tax

4007. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had warned the States and Union Territories that 25 per cent will be cut in their annual plan assistance if they will not implement the

uniform floor rate of commercial taxes and submit a report by July 10, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of States which have submitted the report and the States which have not complied with the orders; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the State Governments which have not complied with the orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) In the Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories held on 16.11.1999, a consensus decision was arrived that all States and Union Territories will implement uniform floor rates of sales-tax. In a subsequent Conference of Chief Ministers on 22.6.2000, there was a consensus decision that non-compliance with respect to floor rates would lead to withholding of 25% of Central Plan Assistance for the concerned States/UTs. An Empowered Committee of the 9 State Finance Ministers constituted to monitor these reforms, have reported subsequently that all States and UTs have complied with the decisions. Hence, no action is proposed to be taken against any State Governments/UTs.

Merger of PNB with New Bank of India

4008. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have put the merger proposal of banks in cold storage after the New Bank of India-PNB merger experiment which caused a lot of problems to the Punjab National Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government have investigated the reasons for such problems to the PNB; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal, at present, under consideration of the Central Government for merger of public sector banks. The amalgamation of New Bank of India with Punjab National Bank has resulted in smooth and successful integration of the branches of these banks, posting of net profit by Punjab National Bank for the year 1993-1994 after the write off of the losses of erstwhile New Bank of India

against capital and significant improvement in the operations of the branches of erstwhile New Bank of India.

Reopening of Closed Factory

4009. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revival case of M/s Hory Refractory and Ceramics Works is pending with BIFR;

(b) if so, the financial liabilities and assets of the factory;

(c) the reasons for its closure; and

(d) the steps taken by the BIFR to reopen this factory?

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

Export of Sand

4010. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are exporting various kinds of sand such as Ilmonite, Monazite, Zircon, Thorium and Rutile;

(b) if so, the names of countries to whom these are being exported;

(c) whether there is a proposal to start any industry based on Thorium Sand in Kanyakumari; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which proposed project is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Atomic Energy has intimated that thorium is not a sand. The countries to which the materials excluding thorium are exported are as follows :

Ilmonite USA, Norway, S.Korea, Germany etc.

Zircon Dubai, China etc.

Monazite : China

Rutile Nepal, Saudi Arabia etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

IDBI Assistance to Entrepreneurs of Jammu and Kashmir

4011. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) from the entrepreneurs of Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of applications out of these accepted and rejected; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by the IDBI to the industries of Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As reported by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) the number of applications received, sanctioned and rejected by IDBI under direct finance scheme for setting up Industrial Projects in Jammu & Kashmir during each of the last three years is as under :

Year	Applications		
	Received	Sanctioned	Rejected
1997-98	Nil	Nil	Nil
1998-99	1*	-	Nil
1999-2000	2	2	Nil

* 'C' category application soliciting an enquiry only.

(c) The assistance sanctioned and disbursed by IDBI under direct finance scheme to the industries in Jammu & Kashmir during each of the last three years is as under :

(Amt. in Rs. lakhs)

Year	Sanctioned	Disbursed*
1997-98	400@	100
1998-99		100
1999-2000	4148	4200

@ sanctions pertain to applications received in earlier years.

* Disbursements pertain to sanctions during the earlier years.

Manufacturing of Textiles Machines

4012. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of industries engaged in the manufacturing of textile machinery has gone down in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have not given any incentives for promoting the manufacturing of high quality textile machinery during the above period;

(c) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(d) the estimated decline in the manufacturing of the textile machinery during the year 1998-99 in comparison to that the previous year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) The Federation of Indian Textile Engineering Industry has reported that many small scale units and six major units have been closed down during the last three years. The reasons furnished are, lack of orders and competition from imports. The production of textile machinery during the year 1998-99 was Rs. 1135.91 crores compared to Rs. 1500.71 crores in 1997-98. The Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund scheme (TUFS) w.e.f. 1.4.99 for five years for the development of the textile and jute industry as a whole. It is expected that this scheme will help indigenous production and sale of textile machinery.

Closure of BOGL

4013. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had allocated 25 crore rupees for closing down the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited whereas 20 crore rupees were sufficient for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 1500 metric tonnes of glass has to be imported due to closure of the BOGL; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Government had made provision of about Rs. 21 crores for providing voluntary separation to the employees of BOGL. However, Government have recently taken a decision to submit the revival plan of BOGL, as recommended by the Expert Group, to BIFR for preparation of a draft rehabilitation scheme by the Operating Agency.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Losses in ITDC Hotels

4014. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hotels run by ITDC in the country at present;

(b) whether almost all the hotels are running into losses;

(c) if so, the details thereof, hotel-wise;

(d) the total outstanding dues of hotels against different Departments of the Government of India, as on date; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the earnings of these hotels ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Presently ITDC is owning and operating 26 hotels in the country. During 1999-2000 only two hotels generated profits. Hotelwise details of profitability are given in enclosed statement.

(b) The total outstanding dues of ITDC hotels against Government departments were of Rs. 6.06 crores (prov.) as on 31.3.2000.

(c) The steps 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.

Statement

India Tourism Development Corporation Limited
Statement showing profitability of Hotels for the last 3 years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Unit	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Prov.)
1.	Agra Ashok, Agra	-72.50	-112.43	-133.39
2.	Airport Calcutta	127.57	-128.95	-139.59
3.	Ashok Bangalore	168.03	-95.60	-117.04
4.	Ashok, New Delhi	1390.41	1.32	-832.84
5.	Indraprastha Hotel	-63.21	-143.17	-181.08
6.	Aurangabad Ashok	-55.41	-88.94	-90.33
7.	Bodhgaya Ashok	2.51	1.00	-12.85
8.	Hassan Ashok	18.20	12.96	-28.21
9.	Jaipur Ashok	-84.09	-139.73	-147.65
10.	Jammu Ashok	-25.15	-49.10	-70.46
11.	Janpath Hotel	89.88	-91.42	-241.90
12.	Kalinga Ashok	-29.78	-39.93	-112.34
13.	Kaniska Hotel	462.71	-51.01	-640.51
14.	Khajuraho Ashok	-62.21	-82.98	-73.51
15.	KABR, Kovalam	174.00	79.93	-175.32
16.	LMPH, Mysore	204.02	194.89	60.91
17.	LVPB, Udaipur	111.26	-36.44	-72.39
18.	Lodhi Hotel	127.21	-26.99	-80.24
19.	Madurai Ashok	-18.59	-34.19	-47.77
20.	Manali Ashok	-27.67	-33.39	-24.97
21.	Patliputra Ashok	10.16	1.02	-28.78
22.	Qutab Hotel	396.46	98.34	73.55
23.	Ranjit Hotel	-167.93	-212.64	-221.23
24.	Samrat Hotel	80.27	-263.83	-161.76
25.	TABR, Mamallapuram	9.28	-10.53	-6.94
26.	Varanasi Ashok	-90.90	-118.32	-154.53
Total		2674.53	-1370.13	-3961.17

[English]

Fifth Pay Commission

4015. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the implementation of Report of Fifth Pay Commission, senior and subordinate rank officers in pay scale of Rs. 3000-5000 has been merged in the pay scale of Rs. 10000-15200;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such cases referred by the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department, Ministry of Agriculture are pending in implementation cell of anomaly committee for the last two years; and

(d) if so, by when a decision on this is likely to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As a measure of rationalisation of pay scales, the Fifth CPC, had recommended common replacement pay scales by merging different pre-revised pay scales. The pre-revised pay scales of Rs. 3000-3625, Rs. 3000-4500 and Rs. 3000-5000 were, as a consequence, replaced by the common scale of Rs. 10000-15200.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Roll Back of Retirement Age in ITDC

4016. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from any employees forum/officers forum against the move of the Government regarding rolling back of retirement age in ITDC;

(b) if so, the objections raised by the forum; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) ITDC has sent a proposal to the Government for rolling back of retirement age in ITDC which is under consideration of Government. Some of the employees unions etc. have supported the proposal while some others have opposed it.

International Development Research Centre, Canada

4017. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the name and address of the organisation/organisations to which the fund is provided by International Development Research Centre, Canada (IDRC) for the project entitled, "CD-ROM of Asian Information on Health and the Environment" funded after April 1994 and the address of the organisations in India and other Asian countries participating in the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : Funds of the project entitled "CD-ROM of Asian Information on Health and the Environment" was provided to National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM), CSIR (formerly Publication and Information Directorate (PID) of CSIR). The names and addresses of the organisations who participated in the project are as under :

1. Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand.
2. Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology (APPROTECH ASIA), Manila, Philippines
3. National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM), New Delhi, India
4. Asian Pacific Information Network on Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (APINMAP), Philippines
5. The National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore.
6. International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Bangladesh (ICDDR-B), Dhaka, Bangladesh
7. SEAMEO-TRPOMED Regional Centre for Tropical Medicine, Thailand
8. National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions & Environment (NICE), Bangkok, Thailand
9. National Institute of Traditional Medicine & Banleology, Ulaan Baatar, Mangolia.

Richardson and Cruddas

4018. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have completed the enquiry of firing incident took place at Richardson & Cruddas Limited, Mulund, Mumbai last year;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty person;
- (d) whether the Workers' Organisation has also lodged complaint against the higher management of Richardson & Cruddas;
- (e) whether the Government have received complaints regarding corruptions, nepotism, favouritism against the management;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (h) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the efficiency of the company and for the benefit of labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The officer has been placed under suspension.
- (d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The complaints relate to operation of site jobs, sub-contracting of jobs, recruitment of personnel in management cadre, etc.
- (g) An enquiry has been instituted.
- (h) Government has given various reliefs and concessions for successful implementation of the rehabilitation package sanctioned by BIFR in 1995 in respect of the company. The company turned around in 1996-97 with a profit of Rs. 7.45 crore. Assistance is being given for securing of orders and also for raising funds for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) by way of giving Government counter guarantee.

[Translation]

LPT for Dondaicha City, Maharashtra

4019. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a Low Power Transmitter station for Dondaicha city in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra has been approved;

- (b) if so, whether the work on the said station has not been started so far due to non-availability of the site; and

- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far and the time which the site for the said station is likely to be made available ?

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]

Evasion of Tax

4020. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large number of rice-exporting companies have evaded tax under various pretexts and some of them have been identified by the Government agencies;
- (b) if so, the total number of companies involved, State-wise;
- (c) the details of action initiated by the Government against those erring companies; and
- (d) the total number of FERA and COFEPOSA violations of these companies ?

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

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

- (d) Two companies engaged in export of rice have been issued with Show Cause Notice for alleged violation of the provisions of FERA, 1973. COFEPOSA Act does not relate to companies.

[Translation]

LPTs/HPTs in Bihar

4021. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Low Power Transmitters and High Power Transmitters set up/proposed to be set up in Bihar location-wise;

(b) the number of LPT/HPT are lying incomplete, location-wise;

(c) the time by which the telecast is likely to be started there;

(d) whether the Government propose to remove the regional imbalance by providing facilities to this State;

(e) if so, the efforts made in this regard; and

(f) the schemes formulated to modernise and improve the status of AIR and Doordarshan in the 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) and (b) The location-wise details of 56 Doordarshan Transmitters of varying power presently under operation and 10 transmitter projects under implementation in Bihar are given in enclosed statement.

(b) The ten projects under implementation are scheduled to be completed and commissioned in phases during the 9th Plan period.

(c) and (e) The area-wise and population-wise coverage of Doordarshan in the State of Bihar is 94.4% and 94.2% respectively, which is far ahead of the national average of 75.4% by area and 88.2% by population.

(f) The replacement of existing 1 KW MW Transmitter for Vividh Bharati Service at Jamshedpur by 6 KW FM Transmitter, has been completed and is being commissioned shortly. Also, a modern Doordarshan studio has been set up at Ranchi and is scheduled to be commissioned shortly. In addition, the power of 8 Low Power TV Transmitters is proposed to be upgraded.

Statement

Existing	Under Implementation
1	2
HPT (6)	HPTs(4)
Daltonganj	Jamshedpur
Katihar	Patna (DD2)
Muzaffarpur	Ranchi (DD2)
Patna	Muzaffarpur
Ranchi (DD-1)	

1	2
Ranchi (DD-2)	
LPTs (47)	LPTs (5)
Aurangabad	Chatra
Begusarai	Ramnagar
Bettiah	Kishanganj
Bokaro	Jamshedpur (DD2)
Bhagalpur	
Brahawa	Dhanbad (DD2)
Buxar	
Chaibasa	
Darbhanga	
Daudnagar	
Deoghar	
Dhanbad	
Dumka	
Forbesganj	
Gaya	
Ghatshila	
Giridh	
Godda	
Gopalganj	
Gumla	
Hazaribag	
Jamshedpur	
Jamui	
Khagaria	
Kodarma	
Lakhisarai	
Lohardaga	
Madhepura	
Madhubani	

1	2
Motihari	
Munger	
Mushabani	
Nawada	
Noamundy	
Phoolparas	
Raxaul	
Rosera	
Saharsa	
Saraikella	
Sasaram	
Sheikhpura	
Sikandra	
Simri Bakhtiarpur	
Sitamarhi	
Siwan	
Supaul	
Patna (DD2)	
VLPT (2)	VLPT (1)
Simdega	Ramgarh Hill
Garhwa (DD2)	
Trans(1)	
Ramgarh Hill	

[English]

Incentives Rewards for Clearing NPA

4022. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give any incentives rewards to the employees of public sector banks for clearing their NPAs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) While there is no proposal under consideration for providing any incentives specifically for reduction of Non-Performing Assets, action has been initiated to devise a suitable scheme for rewarding good performance by way of incentives.

Survey by NIPFP

4023. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) conducts studies on the phase out pattern of Central Sales Tax (CST);

(b) if so, whether NIPFP has highlighted the dangers in delay of the phase out programme of CST;

(c) the full details of the dangers highlighted by NIPFP;

(d) whether the Government have studied these suggestions; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Union Government entrusted a study on Inter-State sales Taxation in India to NIPF&P. The NIPF&P in its report has highlighted the fact that high rate of CST acts as an obstacle to the formulation of a common market. It has cascading effect, violates inter jurisdictional equity and distorts resource allocation.

(d) and (e) An Empowered Committee of Finance Ministers of 9 States has been constituted by the Union Government to Monitor reforms in the Central Sales Tax system. This Committee has asked a Committee of Finance Secretaries of all the States to examine the recommendations made by NIPFP in its report on 'Reform of Inter-State sales Taxation in India' and advise the Empowered Committee.

Bonus to Government Employees

4024. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to raise the eligibility limit for payment of bonus/ex-gratia to the non-gazetted employees of Central Government including autonomous bodies of Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) All non-gazetted employees of the Central Government are eligible for the grant of bonus without any monetary ceiling of emoluments. Thus, there is no question of raising the eligibility limit for payment of bonus to such employees.

Setting up of New AIR/DD Kendras

4025. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have laid down any policy norms to set up Akashvani and Doordarshan Kendras;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for setting up of Akashvani and Doordarshan Kendras during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(e) the steps taken to ensure that the target is achieved within the stipulated time ?

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 various factors which are taken into account for setting up of a new radio station/Doordarshan Kendra are the existing coverage in the area, the extent of resultant coverage of the new Kendra, need to provide services to remote, tribal, backward hilly and sensitive border areas. Besides this, the economic and cultural importance of a place is also taken into account.

(c) For the 9th plan period, 103 radio stations including relay transmitters and 259 new TV transmitters were proposed to be set up. These projects were in addition to the spill over projects of the 8th Plan.

(d) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(e) To ensure achievement of targets fixed, the implementation of projects is monitored regularly at various

levels in consultation with the implementing agencies concerned, impediments are identified and removed expeditiously by taking up the matter with the concerned agencies such as State Governments, civic authorities etc.

Items Reserved for Small Scale Industry Sector

4026. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some items are reserved for small scale industry sector in the context of globalisation and liberalisation;

(b) if so, the details of such items;

(c) whether the goods produced by SSIs are unable to compete the quality with items produced in big industries;

(d) if so, the justification behind keeping these items reserved for small scale industries; and

(e) the manner in which the quality of products which are being produced by SSIs would be improved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) In tune with the policy of Government to protect the interest of the small scale sector, there are at present 812 items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector. These items are listed in the notification of Government of India in the Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Development, No. S.O. 477(E) dated 25th July, 1991, as amended from time to time, published in the extra-ordinary issue of the Gazette of India.

(c) No Sir. The export performance of small scale sector has gone up from Rs. 36,470 crore in 1995-96 to Rs. 48,979 crore in 1998-99 which indicates that goods produced by the small scale sector are of international standard.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Supply of Electronic Items to Government Departments

4027. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some electronic items such as fans, geysers, heat convectors, tubelights, electric bulbs etc. which are being supplied to various Government departments are not of standard brands and rates as prescribed by DGS & D ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that only popular and reputed brands and rates prescribed by DGS & D are supplied to the Government departments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) After the decentralisation of adhoc purchases, the main role of DGS&D is restricted to conclusion of Rate Contracts for common user items required by various Government Ministries/Departments. The Rate Contracts are concluded by the DGS & D to generalised specifications on the basis of open tender/advertisement tender enquiry, keeping in view the guidelines given in the General Financial Rules (GFR) issued by the Ministry of Finance. Under the provision of the GFR, Government purchases normally should be made through open tender system. The Central Government Ministries/Departments are expected to make use of the DGS&D Rate Contracts for procurement of items covered on the DGS&D Rate Contract. The GFR, however, also provides that in all cases of urgent need where there is likely to be delay in getting supplies of DGS&D Rate Contracted items through operation of such Rate Contracts, the same items could be purchased from the open market as long as the prices to be paid for such items do not exceed those stipulated in the Rate Contracts provided value of these purchases do not exceed Rs. 20,000 at a time and Rs. One lakh in a year.

It may also be added here that parallel Rate Contracts are concluded by the DGS&D within a width of prices so as to include a number of suppliers. The parallel Rate Contracts are awarded for items including the items referred to in para (a) of the question, to all the eligible firms, irrespective of their brands, whose quoted prices are within the band of prices found reasonable for award of the Rate Contract for a particular items.

[Translation]

Hawala

4028. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large sum of money has been siphoned off the country through Hawala;

(b) if so, the number of persons have been found involved therein during the last six months; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) During the last six months, 33 persons were found involved in Hawala transactions. Searches have been conducted and these persons have been booked by the Directorate of Enforcement under the relevant provisions of law. This involved an amount of approximately Rs. 24.78 crores.

[English]

Display on Packed Material

4029. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the packed materials do not display the items contained therein;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure that items contained in any commodity package are displayed on the package itself;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to bring a suitable law to regulate packed commodities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be prepared/implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, inter alia requires declaration of the name of the commodity either on the package or on a label securely affixed thereto. Action is initiated by the enforcement authorities of States/U.T.s in cases of non-compliance.

(c) to (e) The said Rules, among other things, require declaration of the following essential information on the packages or on a label securely affixed thereto: Names and address of the manufacturer packer, name of the commodity, net quantity, month and year of packing, retail sale price of the package. These Rules do not apply to drugs, which are regulated by the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995.

FDI in Medical Sector

4030. SHRI P.E. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the name of liberalisation and globalisation of economy, the Government are permitting more FDI to increase in foreign equity in existing companies which are manufacturing homeopathic medicines and food products and as per the reports of WHO, they are producing sub-standard and spurious products;

(b) if so, the details of such industries which are being given permission to increase FDI; and

(c) the justification behind permitting such MNCs despite receiving detailed report from WHO against the said MNCs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) Foreign Direct Investment is permitted for the manufacture of homeopathic medicines and food products in consultation with the administrative ministry concerned. Each administrative ministry is required to provide comments on the proposals relating to that ministry taking into consideration all relevant aspects.

Irregularities in Cement Corporation of India

4031. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) whether Central Vigilance Commission have advised to his ministry for disciplinary action against those officers of Cement Corporation of India Limited who are involved in large irregularities for procurement of coal from private parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the taken/being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether an audit of corporate material management department of CCI was ordered but the same was abandoned abruptly and whimsically; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Vigilance Commission has advised initiation of disciplinary proceedings against the concerned officials. The Government is taking necessary action in the matter.

(c) and (d) The audit of the Material Management Deptt. of the Corporate Office was not abandoned but has been done by an independent firm of Chartered Accountants.

Pension for Bank Employees

4032. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the associate banks of the State Bank of India have decided to introduce the pension scheme for their employees and invited options from the employees;

(b) if so, the number of employees who opted for the scheme in each Bank;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints to the effect that some associate Banks have not forwarded the options of some employees to their Head Office;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the employees whose options have not so far been accepted ?

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

(b) Bank wise number of employees who opted for the pension is as under :

S.No.	Name of the Bank	No. of Employees
1.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	11,678
2.	State Bank of Hyderabad	1,340
3.	State Bank of Indore	4,914
4.	State Bank of Mysore	6,535
5.	State Bank of Patiala	7,056
6.	State Bank of Saurashtra	4,456
7.	State Bank of Travancore	8,272

(c) Representations have been received by the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur and State Bank of Indore from some of their employees.

(d) and (e) According to State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, their 11 employees had represented that though they submitted their pension options in time but the same were not received/recorded at Pension Cell of the Head Office. The bank have reported to have informed the concerned employees that as their pension options were not received in time, no action could be taken as per Pension Regulations.

State Bank of Indore have reported that consent letters for pension of their 14 employees were inadvertently not forwarded by the concerned branches to the Head Office in time. The Board of Trustees of Pension Fund of the Bank at their meeting held on 28.7.2000 have approved acceptance of the pension options of the said 14 employees.

[Translation]

Purchase of Shares of Air India by Air France

4033. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air France has proposed to purchase shares of Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Bank Fraud Under PMRY

4034. SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loan of Rs. One lakh is provided at concessional rate for starting self-employment under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the number of applicants who have been provided loans under the said scheme during 1999-2000 State-wise;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Ki Yojana Hadap gaye Dalal" appearing in Hindi daily 'Jansatta' dated July 22, 2000;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of such incidents brought to light and the action taken thereon since the year 1999 to till date; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the payment of loan sanctioned under the said scheme should be made to the applicant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is a subsidy-linked credit scheme which has been Centrally sponsored for providing self employment to educated unemployed youth in the country. The PMRY is aimed at assisting eligible youth in setting up self-employment ventures in industry, service and business sectors with project cost being Rs. 1.00 lakh for business sector, Rs. 2.00 lakhs for other activities (loan to be of composite nature) and upto Rs. 10.00 lakh if two or more eligible persons join together in a partnership. There is no concessionality in interest rates under this scheme. As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the details of State-wise number of applicants provided loans under the PMRY during 1999-2000 are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In the news-item referred to by the Hon'ble Member, certain irregularities in disbursement of loan under PMRY in a particular case, were highlighted. The complaint was got investigated by SBI who have reported that loan of Rs. 95,000/- was sanctioned in this particular case, out of which Rs. 63,500/- was disbursed in two instalments. However, on post-disbursement inspection by Bank's Officials, it was observed that the loan amount was misutilised by the borrower.

(e) RBI has reported that 92 complaints of this nature were received from applicants/borrowers under PMRY scheme during the year 1999-2000. These complaints received in Central Office, RBI are processed and forwarded to Regional Office for examination. Regional Offices, after inquiry at the concerned bank branch deal with these complaints suitably as per the extant PMRY guidelines.

(f) The steps taken by Government to ensure the payment of loan sanctioned under this scheme inter-alia include, fixing quarterly targets fixed for achievement, rescheduling the cut off date for completion of disbursement for sanctions made during 1999-2000 at 31.12.2000, periodic inspections by Banks/District Industries Centres and post-disbursement visits by banks to ensure proper maintenance of assets created out of the loan amount. Banks are regularly instructed to ensure that incidents of this kind do not recur by exercising greater vigilance.

Statement

The number of applicants provided loans under PMRY during 1999-2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)

States/Union Territory	Number of Applicants	Amount Disbursed
1	2	3
Northern Region		
Haryana	3845	2247.24
Himachal Pradesh	1690	1122.60
Jammu & Kashmir	772	618.41
Punjab	6622	4158.22
Rajasthan	7339	3962.23
Chandigarh	42	29.59
Delhi	502	305.93
North Eastern Region		
Assam	2176	1492.06
Manipur	40	13.79
Meghalaya	107	72.08
Nagaland	20	16.59
Tripura	41	25.57
Arunachal Pradesh	22	14.88
Mizoram	1	0.95
Sikkim	38	21.76
Eastern Region		
Bihar	5388	4138.98

1	2	3
Orissa	569	299.38
West Bengal	1758	886.63
Andaman & Nicobar	92	66.29
Central Region		
Madhya Pradesh	10765	7499.45
Uttar Pradesh	29110	18090.13
Western Region		
Gujarat	9615	4490.64
Maharashtra	20956	12169.07
Daman & Diu	16	8.21
Goa	380	356.52
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	25	19.12
Southern Region		
Andhra Pradesh	9757	5709.69
Karnataka	7418	4743.16
Kerala	10026	5483.44
Tamil Nadu	9142	4886.26
Lakshadweep	19	18.88
Pondicherry	206	104.37
Total	138499	83071.94

[English]

Government Policy for Disinvestment/Privatisation

4035. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the Government policy for disinvestment/privatisation of public Sector Enterprises, the number of foreign companies which have shown their inclination in the scheme, especially in the field of oil refineries, power, communications, exploration and distribution with related operation etc.

(b) if so, whether these foreign companies would be allowed to repatriate cent percent operation profit without reploughing the profit for further investment;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take adequate measures to ensure that repatriation does not take place in full at lease for the next five years or so; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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) Disinvestment results in reduction of Government equity in various Central Public Sector Enterprises. Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the specific company and in accordance with the declared policy of disinvestment, Government equity is reduced in various Public Sector Companies through different methods like strategic sale, offer of shares in domestic or international markets etc. Depending on the method of sale, the eligible bidders/institutions, which include foreign companies, show their interest to pick up the shares offered during disinvestment. Some foreign companies have also shown such interest in the disinvestment under consideration.

(b) to (d) Under Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999, no restriction has been placed on remittance of profits and dividends to foreign investors.

[Translation]

Per Capita Allocation for Bihar and Maharashtra

4036. MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita allocation made to Bihar and Maharashtra by the Planning Commission and the Finance Commission is lowest in comparison to other States in the country;

(b) whether the allocation made through IDBI is also negligible;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) State Plan outlays are approved by the Planning Commission on the basis of the States' Own Resources and Central assistance allocated under the Gadgil Mukherjee formula

which takes into account population, per capita income, performance and special problems. The Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) whose report was placed in Parliament recently has worked out the inter se devolution to States on the basis of population, income, area, index of infrastructure, tax effort and fiscal discipline. Thus, both Planning Commission allocations, as well as Finance Commission awards, give due weightage to a number of economic indicators in determining States inter se shares. Enclosed statement-I gives details of the Ninth Plan outlay for States, enclosed Statement-II gives EFC recommendations on devolution of share in Central taxes, revenue deficit grants, upgradation and special problem grants, local bodies grants etc., to the States.

(b) to (d) Negotiated Loans from all financial institutions (including IDBI) included in the scheme of financing for Annual Plans of States, is only an enabling provision. The State Governments are required to negotiate with the financial institutions for project based assistance subject to the Guidelines of these institutions, and financial viability of the proposed schemes.

Statement-I

Ninth Plan Outlay (1997-2002)

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	State	Plan Outlay
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25150.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3569.89
3.	Assam	8983.93
4.	Bihar	16680.00
5.	Goa	1500.00
6.	Gujarat	28000.00
7.	Haryana	9310.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5700.00
9.	J & K	9500.00
10.	Karnataka	23400.00
11.	Kerala	16100.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20075.00
13.	Maharashtra	36700.00

1	2	3	1	2	3
14.	Manipur	2426.69	20.	Rajasthan	22525.83
15.	Meghalaya	2500.62	21.	Sikkim	1600.00
16.	Mizoram	1618.51	22.	Tamilnadu	25000.00
17.	Nagaland	2006.43	23.	Tripura	2577.39
18.	Orissa	15000.00	24.	Uttar Pradesh	46340.00
19.	Punjab	11500.00	25.	West Bengal	16900.00
Total					354664.29

Statement-II*Estimated total transfer recommended by Eleventh Finance Commission (2000-2005)*

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	States	Share in Taxes & Duties	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant	Upgradation & Special Problem	Local Bodies Grant	Relief Expenditure	Total Transfer (Col. 2 to 6)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Spl. Category States							
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	918.22	1228.02	90.59	28.52	49.83	2315.18
2.	Assam	12362.05	110.68	132.54	254.99	420.60	13280.86
3.	Himachal Pradesh	2570.25	4549.26	91.16	69.56	180.20	7460.43
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	4854.50	11211.19	127.82	90.07	144.64	16428.22
5.	Manipur	1377.32	1744.94	58.59	23.17	11.89	3215.91
6.	Meghalaya	1287.01	1572.38	57.39	28.31	16.32	2961.41
7.	Mizoram	745.11	1676.30	89.84	11.70	12.32	2535.27
8.	Nagaland	827.90	3536.24	62.84	14.66	8.12	4449.76
9.	Sikkim	692.43	840.58	66.78	5.50	28.63	1633.92
10.	Tripura	1832.67	2414.16	60.18	32.48	21.55	4361.04
Total (I)		27467.46	28883.75	837.73	558.96	894.10	58642.00
Non-Spl. Category States							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28980.25	0.00	285.23	924.90	820.80	31011.18
2.	Bihar	54934.90	0.00	401.60	878.94	512.46	56727.90
3.	Goa	775.22	0.00	27.28	13.91	5.15	821.56
4.	Gujarat	10615.93	0.00	234.85	480.56	668.88	12000.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. Haryana	3552.44	0.00	132.65	183.73	336.95	4205.77
6. Karnataka	18552.48	0.00	311.53	518.94	309.03	19691.98
7. Kerala	11504.04	0.00	129.14	404.88	278.66	12316.72
8. Madhya Pradesh	33258.98	0.00	494.52	871.48	373.40	34998.38
9. Maharashtra	17431.05	0.00	331.97	972.98	651.49	19387.49
10. Orissa	19026.64	673.60	215.05	385.55	453.66	20754.50
11. Punjab	4316.37	284.21	110.01	209.37	508.57	5428.53
12. Rajasthan	20595.88	1244.68	299.85	590.37	857.85	23588.63
13. Tamilnadu	20264.72	0.00	251.86	659.49	425.36	21601.43
14. Uttar Pradesh	74501.56	1026.74	669.91	1570.76	740.33	78509.30
15. West Bengal	30540.09	3246.09	239.45	775.22	419.00	35219.85
Total (II)	348850.55	6475.32	4134.90	9441.08	7361.59	376263.44
Grant Total (I+II)	376318.01	35359.07	4972.63	10000.04	8255.69	434905.44

Requirement of Industrial Licences

4037. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether industrial licences are still required for some industries;

(b) if so, the details of such industries;

(c) whether the Government propose to make the industrial licence policy more liberal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) There are now only six industries requiring industrial licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. These are - (i) Distillation and brewing of alcoholic drinks; (ii) Cigars and cigarettes of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes; (iii) Electronic Aerospace and defence equipment : all types; (iv) Industrial explosives including detonating fuses, safety fuses, gun powder, nitrocellulose and matches; (v) Hazardous chemicals ; and (vi) Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (according to modified Drug Policy, 1994, as amended in 1999).

(c) and (d) Review of the industrial policy including licensing matters, procedures and their implementation, with a view to facilitate industrial growth, is an on-going process with the Government.

[English]

Export/Import of Meat

4038. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) the name of countries to which meat is being exported;

(b) the quantum of meat exported during each of the last three years to these countries and the foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether the Government have imported meat during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the foreign exchange spent thereon;

(e) whether the Government propose to enhance the quantum of meat export under the grab of liberalisation and globalisation;

(f) if so, whether there has been great resentment within the Government for such a move; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Meat is being exported from India to Albania, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Peoples Republic of China, Comoros, Congo, Czech Republic, Denmark, Arab Republic of Egypt, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Gibraltar, Greece, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, UK, USA, West Samoa, Yemen Republic and Zimbabwe.

(b) Figures of India's country-wise exports of meat are available in the 'Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India', published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta and are available in the Parliament Library. India's total exports of meat during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as follows:

Year	Qty.(Tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
1997-98	184471.0	794.43
1998-99	162877.0	772.14
1999-2000*	77288.0	333.22

(April-September, 99)

Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta

* Provisional

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India's total imports of meat during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as follows :

Year	Qty (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1997-98	—	—
1998-99	0.6	4.0
1999-2000*	2.7	8.7

(April-September, 1999)

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

* Provisional

(e) As a matter of policy, Government has been making continuous efforts to boost exports from India including export of meat.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Subsidy on Different Sectors

4039 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister at the 60th meeting of Inter-State Council held recently while referring to the severe financial crisis the country was passing through, made a strong plea to reduce the growing subsidies in power, transport and other service sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken at the Council meeting;

(c) the response received from the State Governments thereon;

(d) the existing subsidy of different sectors extended by different State Governments; and

(e) the extent to which the reduction of subsidy is likely to help the country to tide over the widening fiscal deficit ?

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

The Prime Minister in his inaugural speech at the Sixth meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 20th May, 2000 had made a mention about rationalisation of scale and structure of central subsidies. The growing subsidy burden was one area which had to be tackled jointly and States were urged to act quickly in setting their finances in order. Some of the areas which required urgent attention include reform of power sector, transport and other services sectors, rationalisation of electricity tariffs, reduction in cross subsidy and improvement in the operational efficiencies in transmission and distribution, in the interest of the consumer. There was no response from the States on the issue of reduction in subsidies in power, transport and other services sectors and no specific decision was taken by the Inter-State Council in its Sixth meeting on the above issue.

Sugar Stock in Karnataka

4040. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantum of sugar lying in the godowns of various sugar factories in Karnataka State;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that sugar factories are in a great difficulty due to non-lifting of stocks;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government are also aware that farmers have become defaulters to banks as the sugar factories have not paid the arrears to them; and
- (e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to mitigate the sufferings of sugar factories in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) As per information available with the Directorate of Sugar, stocks lying in the sugar factories of Karnataka as on 22nd July 2000 were 11,92,453 MTs.

(b) and (c) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not lifted 18397.7 MTs. of sugar allotted for the months of November and December, 1999 in respect of certain sugar factories of Karnataka State. These factories were compensated to the tune of 5486.00 MTs. by way of fresh allocation of levy sugar and balance 12911.7 MTs. was allowed for sale in the open market as advance freesale quota subject to adjustment against their freesale entitlement and subject to maintaining the overall levy obligations.

(d) As per the information received from the sugar mills as on 15.6.2000, the total cane price arrears of the Karnataka sugar mills, was to the tune of Rs. 155.10 crores. The clearance of cane price dues is the responsibility of the State Government who has been requested to ensure the liquidation of cane arrears. The Central Government has not received any information regarding sugarcane farmers having become defaulters of banks due to non-payment of dues by sugar factories.

(e) The following remedial measures have been taken to improve the financial health of the sugar industry with a view to enabling it to reduce the cane price arrears :

- (i) The Central Government have reduced the levy obligation of domestic sugar factories from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 1.1.2000 with a view to improving the financial position of the sugar factories which would enable them to pay the cane price dues promptly.
- (ii) To restrict inflow of imported sugar in the country, Government w.e.f. 9.2.2000, have increased the custom duty to 60% along with the existing countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne.
- (iii) The Central Government is also pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious releases of freesale sugar quotas to enable the sugar factories to clear the cane price dues of the farmers.
- (iv) Advance releases of freesale sugar are being made to needy sugar factories enabling them to pay the cane price dues.
- (v) Government have decided to allow export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar and exempting the sugar factories their levy obligation on the exported quantity. Such exemption would be given for exports for a period of six months w.e.f. 1st June 2000.

[Translation]

Procurement Centres

4041. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the farmers have to sell their foodgrains at cheaper price owing to insufficient number of procurement centres near the production areas or Mandis; and

(b) if so, the number of such centres are proposed to be set up near the production areas of Mandis, State-wise?

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

Sufficient number of purchase centres are opened by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each marketing season, to avoid distress sale and inconvenience to the farmers.

(b) Statements showing State-wise number of procurement centres opened during the Rabi Marketing Season 2000-2001 and Kharif Marketing Season, 1999-2000 are at enclosed statement-I and II.

Statement-I

List of Purchase Centres being operated during 2000-2001 (Rabi)

State	FCI	Jointly with state agencies	State agencies	Total
Punjab	446	49	1059	1554
Rajasthan	22	-	118	140
Haryana	40	90@	227	357
Bihar	26	-	-	26
Madhya Pradesh	22	-	1086	1108
Uttar Pradesh	44	-	4881	4925
	600	139	7371	8110

@ : Out of 90, 35 jointly operated with FCI.

Statement-II

*The number of Purchase Centres/Mandis Operated Kharif 1999-2000.
Paddy/Coarsegrain 1999-2000*

Region	FCI	Jointly	S.Agen.	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	476	61	895	1452
Haryana	25	1	218	244
Uttar Pradesh	27	-	698	725

1	2	3	4	5
Delhi	4	-	-	4
Rajasthan	12	-	-	12
Andhra Pradesh	172	-	-	172
Madhya Pradesh	55	-	-	55
W. Bengal	All FCI & By State	State Govt.	Depts.	Designated
Karnataka	18	-	82	100
Pondicherry	2	-	2	4
A. Pradesh	-	-	-	-
Bihar	11	-	142	153
Orissa	42	-	-	42
H.P.	-	-	-	-
Maharashtra	-	-	255	255
Total	844	62	2292	3198

[English]

Development of Buddhist Places

4042. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any task force was constituted in 1998 for the development of Buddhist places;

(b) if so, the number of names of places identified for development, State-wise; and

(c) the name of places developed so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No Task Force was constituted in 1998 for the development of Buddhist places. However, the Department of Tourism had constituted two task Forces in 1986 & 1987 which identified 62 centres for development.

Uttar Pradesh : Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piparhwa, Sravasti and Sankasia.

Bihar : Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali.

Andhra Pradesh : Nagajunakonda, Amravati, Chandavaram, Guntupalli, Sankaram, Salihundam, Jaggayyapeta, Battiprolu, Ramatirtham, Ghantasala, Phanigiri, Nelakondapalli, Bavikonda, Mangamaripeta.

Arunachal Pradesh : Tawang

Himachal Pradesh : Rawalsar, Tabo, Tashjong, Kye, Kardang, Guru Ghantal. Meleodganj, Bir, Triloknath, Chango.

Jammu & Kashmir : Hemis, Lamayuru, Mullbek, Alchi, Sani, Rangdum, Phugtal, Karsha.

Madhya Pradesh : Sanchi

Maharashtra : Kanheri, Bedsa, Karla, Bhaja, Ellora, Ajanta, Aurangabad, Pitalkhora.

Orissa : Udaigir, Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri, Dhauli

Punjab : Sanghol

Rajasthan : Kolvi, Binnayaga

Sikkim : Pemayangtse, Rumtek, Phodong

Tamil Nadu : Kaveripattinam

(c) The Government of India has developed the Buddhist Circuit of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and Ajanta and Ellora with the assistance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) loan from Japan. In addition, the Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government/Union Territory Governments has also provided Central Financial Assistance for projects for development of tourism infrastructure at the following Buddhist places in the country.

Uttar Pradesh : Piprahawa, Sarnath, Srasvati, Kushinagar

Bihar : Bodhyaga, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali.

Madhya Pradesh : Sanchi

Sikkim : Lachung, Phodong, Pamayantse and Tashiding

Andhra Pradesh : Nagarjunasagar

Arunachal Pradesh : Tawang Monastery, Twang

Orissa : Dhauli, Lalitgiri, Udaigiri and Ratnagiri

Maharashtra : Ajanta & Ellora & Karla

Jammu & Kashmir : Hemis & Pethub Monasteries and Choglamser in Leh.

Himachal Pradesh : Tabo/Kaza, Rawalsar and Meleodganj.

LPTs/HPTs in Orissa and Assam

4043. SHRI SALKHAN MURMU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Low Power Transmitters and High Power Transmitters installed in the State of Orissa, till date;

(b) the areas not covered by Doordarshan through LPTs or otherwise for clear viewer ship in Orissa; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for setting up of new LPTs in Orissa and Assam during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

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) 92 transmitters of varying power are at present functioning in Orissa.

(b) Doordarshan telecast is available all over the country via satellite, including Orissa. However, terrestrial telecast of Doordarshan is not available to about 15.9% area of Orissa.

(c) 27 TV transmitters including 12 LPTs in Orissa and 5 TV transmitters including 3 LPTs in Assam have so far been commissioned during the 9th Five Year Plan period. In addition, 6 more transmitters including 3 LPTs are being set up in Orissa under the Ninth Plan.

[Translation]

Insurance of Vehicles

4044. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vehicle theft cases registered in different insurance companies during the last three years;

(b) the criteria being adopted by various Insurance companies for settlement of these cases;

(c) whether the Insurance companies have received complaints regarding registering of fake cases of vehicle thefts by their own officers; and

(d) if so, the action taken against such officers ?

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

Funds from UNDP

4045. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount received under United Nations Development Project during 1998-99, 1999-2000, till date and the areas where the same have been utilised; and

(b) the names of projects and the amount spent thereon in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Core funding by UNDP to India under the GOI/UNDP Country Cooperation Framework-I over 1998-2000 is as follows :

Year	Assistance (\$ Million)	Areas
1998	09.59	UNDP assistance has been utilised in the areas of sustainable human development which encompasses a variety of dimensions including poverty alleviation, good governance, building equity, employment, empowerment and environmental regeneration.
1999	15.92	-do-
2000	25.00 (planned)	-do-

(b) The names of the UNDP assisted projects in Gujarat and the funding details are as under :

Name of the Project	Funds allocated to the project	Funds utilised till date
1. Support to consumer education Research Centre	859,970	844,701
2. People's Participation in dealing with desertification	753,395	143,018
3. Harnessing People's collective strength for poverty alleviation.	375,234	140,000 (planned till 2000)
4. Support to Low Income House holds for basic Water and Sanitation facilities	60,000	60,000 (planned till 2000)
5. Comparative Testing Ranking and Evaluation of Pesticides Sprayers	25,000	25,000

[English]

Opening of Banks

4046. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware about the number of Indian Citizens residing in Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh Territory;

(b) the names of such enclaves where facilities such as banks have been provided as on 31.12.1999;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend such facilities in any of these enclaves in the near future;

(d) if so, the details and the names of these enclaves, where these are likely to be provided; and

(e) if not, the reasons in detail for neglecting these Indian citizens for the last over 50 years ?

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

Withdrawal of Kerosene Subsidy

4047. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to withdraw kerosene subsidy from 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from Karnataka Distributors against the withdrawal of the kerosene subsidy;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government in November, 1997 had decided to dismantle the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector in a phased manner. As per the decision, the ex-storage point price for consumers of PDS Kerosene is required to be increased by 20% in the year 2000-01 and suitable adjustment in prices are required to be made during 2001-02 to reach subsidy level at 33.33% of the import parity price.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Tourist Police Force

4048. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

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

(a) the number of cases of harassment of foreign tourists at heritage sites throughout the country reported during the last three years;

(b) the action taken on such complaints;

(c) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to create a Tourist Police Force to encourage tourism in the country;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Crimes including harassment of foreign tourists etc. at the tourist spots including heritage sites as a law and order subject of the State/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism in order to inculcate confidence in tourists, regularly takes up reported cases with the concerned authorities on top priority basis.

(c) to (e) In order to promote India as a hassle free destination for foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism has written to all the State/UT Administrations to set up Tourist Police Force for the safety of tourists. States of Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Goa, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh etc. have already set up such a Tourist Police.

Revival of Industries in Orissa

4049. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Orissa regarding revival of industries on the aftermath of super cyclone in the State;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the total loss in the industrial sector in the State and the cost involved therein;

(d) the response of the Union Government in regard to assist the State Government; and

(e) the steps taken by the newly formed Orissa Cyclone Reconstruction Authority ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Funds Required by STC

4050. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has requested the Government to provide funds for procurement of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have asked the State Trading Corporation to buy tobacco from tobacco growers; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not arranging funds for STC for that purpose;

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

(b) State Trading Corporation (STC) has requested to provide an amount of Rs. 50.00 crores towards

expenditure incurred on purchases of FCV tobacco during 1999 and cost of holding those stocks and further to finance the marketing operations undertaken during 2000.

(c) The finalization of accounts after the disposal of stock by STC, will enable Government to determine the nature of assistance.

(d) STC has been directed to purchase only straight grades of FCV tobacco from the auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh when prices of various grades fall below their 1999 average prices.

(e) STC was directed to initiate the tobacco procurement operations with commercial borrowings from the banks.

National Savings Organisation Schemes

4051. SHRI BRAHMA NANDA MANDAL : Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the net amount deposited under various National Savings Organisation Schemes in different States during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the amount allocated for the development of States from the deposits made under various schemes of the National Savings Organisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Two statements showing State-wise net small savings collections during the years 1997-98 to 2000-01 (upto June, 2000) and the State-wise amounts released as share of States and Union Territories (with legislature) are enclosed at Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Net Small Savings Collections (excluding PPF)

(in Crores of Rupees)

S.No.	Name of the States/U.Ts.	1997-98 Net Coll.	1998-99 Net Coll.	1999-2000 (Preliminary) Net Coll.	(upto June, 2000) Net Coll.
1	2	3	4	5	6
States					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	661.81	1180.22	1537.15	360.31
2.	Bihar	1305.60	1690.48	1919.97	471.45
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	206.97	256.09	252.02	59.55
4.	Karnataka	325.39	1197.71	1299.81	245.51
5.	Madhya Pradesh	753.35	1031.66	1176.54	253.42
6.	Orissa	364.70	448.28	514.96	174.02
7.	Rajasthan	1044.62	1628.57	2092.96	189.98
8.	Uttar Pradesh	2775.77	3831.98	4236.14	774.15
9.	Haryana	666.53	921.08	928.85	189.03
10.	Tamil Nadu	395.25	963.09	1245.28	87.75
11.	Maharashtra	2435.56	3040.29	3036.20	413.33
12.	Goa	38.48	74.42	80.52	19.72
13.	Gujarat	1754.38	2662.07	3127.27	710.59

1	2	3	4	5	6
14. Kerala	263.44	600.60	681.11	94.09	
15. Punjab	1213.70	1675.42	1832.57	408.73	
16. Himachal Pradesh	941.95	71.18	−514.24	62.38	
17. West Bengal	3801.61	4560.19	5195.06	1207.07	
18. Sikkim	7.72	10.84	12.04	*	
19. Assam	274.53	200.60	449.09	129.18	
20. Manipur	18.82	19.88	20.57	6.02	
21. Meghalaya	16.16	23.20	16.21	3.60	
22. Tripura	70.90	76.92	102.14	31.23	
23. Mizoram	4.79	9.44	11.97	4.96	
24. Nagaland	7.83	9.58	6.50	1.52	
25. Arunachal Pradesh	12.53	16.82	11.45	1.12	
U.T.s (With Legislature)					
1. Delhi	997.51	1354.54	914.77	188.22	
2. Pondicherry	7.89	8.32	19.84	1.42	
Other U.Ts. etc.	44.41	55.88	40.49	−2.82	
Total	20412.20	27619.37	30247.24	6085.53	

* Not available.

Statement-II*Small Savings Transfers to State/UT Governments*

(in Crores of Rupees)

S.No.	Name of the States/U.T.	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 Provisional	2000-01 (upto 31.7.2000)
1	2	3	4	5	6
States					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	435.87	986.60	1141.07	408.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.67	12.64	12.92	3.65
3.	Assam	210.77	131.97	300.27	238.89
4.	Bihar	841.74	1432.37	1463.93	530.42
5.	Goa	36.33	78.56	82.95	20.99
6.	Gujarat	1418.14	2325.09	2594.93	815.24

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Haryana	484.03	714.62	741.69	258.73
8.	Himachal Pradesh	648.88	279.29	68.88	20.45
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	154.16	207.86	194.65	79.1
10.	Karnataka	491.88	799.74	1113.85	387.6
11.	Kerala	182.65	392.77	571.37	177.32
12.	Madhya Pradesh	562.70	886.81	993.55	280.26
13.	Maharashtra	2521.69	3694.10	4119.51	625.21
14.	Manipur	12.60	13.79	18.86	9.44
15.	Meghalaya	15.16	15.54	12.93	8.47
16.	Mizoram	3.27	5.18	7.36	4.96
17.	Nagaland	4.68	8.15	10.56	1.36
18.	Orissa	263.53	378.31	384.47	198.85
19.	Punjab	990.26	1350.44	1711.63	551.38
20.	Rajasthan	782.64	1130.13	1705.34	740
21.	Sikkim	4.74	7.82	8.33	4.17
22.	Tamil Nadu	396.99	780.31	1013.56	573.2
23.	Tripura	43.30	65.01	64.52	28.77
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1991.47	3406.49	3255.69	1506.07
25.	West Bengal	2550.54	3922.90	4160.40	1516.18
Total		15054.69	23026.49	25753.22	8989.19
UTs (With Legislature)					
1.	Delhi	668.32	754.66	1164.81	346.88
2.	Pondicherry	9.18	6.95	18.62	11.34
Total		677.50	761.61	1183.43	358.22
Grand Total		15732.19	23788.10	26936.65	9347.41

[English]

**Declaration of Tourist Spots as World Heritage
by UNESCO**

4052. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the
Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourist spots which have been
declared World Heritage by the UNESCO;

(b) whether the UNESCO has threatened to delist
some of the places as World Heritage;

(c) if so, the places which have been threatened to
be delisted and the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF

CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Sixteen centrally protected monuments have been declared World Heritage Sites by the UNESCO, as per enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) UNESCO has declared the Hampi Group of

Monuments as an endangered site due to the construction of two bridges within the heritage site. The State Government has decided to dismantle and relocate the bridges.

Statement

Monuments Inscribed on World Heritage List

S.No.	Name of the Monuments	Location	State
1.	Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Maharashtra
2.	Ellora Caves	Ellora	Maharashtra
3.	Elephanta Cave	Elephanta	Maharashtra
4.	Agra Fort	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Taj Mahal	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Fatehpur Sikri group of Monuments	Fatehpur Sikri	Uttar Pradesh
7.	The Sun Temple	Konark	Orissa
8.	Churches and Convents of Goa	Old Goa	Goa
9.	Khajuraho Group of Monuments	Khajuraho	Madhya Pradesh
10.	Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi	Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Humayun's Tomb	Nizamuddin	National Capital Territory of Delhi
12.	Qutab Minar and its Monuments	Mehrauli	National Capital Territory of Delhi
13.	Group of Monuments at Hampi	Hampi	Karnataka
14.	Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	Pattadakal	Karnataka
15.	Brihadisvara Temple	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu
16.	Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram	Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu

Special Tourism Areas

4053. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of places identified and developed as Special Tourism Areas since 1992 under the national action plan;

(b) the total amount released to the State Governments since 1992 for identification and development of places as tourism places;

(c) whether the Government have agreed to provide financial assistance for setting up of a Special Tourism Area in the Muttukadu-Mamallapuram Beach in

Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether the Government have received the required master plan from the Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) National Action Plan to Tourism 1992 identified five places for development as Special Tourism Areas in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Maharashtra and in UT, Daman and Diu.

(b) Since 1992 the Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned 2001 projects for which an amount of Rs. 161.52 crores was released to State Govts./Union Territories for development of places of tourist interest in the country.

(c) to (e) In consultation with the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the Department of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 48.31 lakhs for the development of Muttukadu-Mamallapuram which is a Special Tourism Area.

Allocation of Amount to Nasik for Infrastructure

4054. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allocate some amount to Nasik city for development of infrastructure under tourism development scheme;

(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) Central financial assistance is provided for tourism projects prioritised by the Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories depending upon the merit of the proposal, inter-se priority and availability of funds. No proposal for Nasik city has been received during the current year.

Bank Rates

4055. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI NAGMANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have raised the bank rates from July 21, 2000 by one percent i.e., 8 percent and the Cash Reserve Ratio by half a percent i.e., 8.5 percent in the context of fall in the rupee value to all time low of Rs. 45.09 per Dollar;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is likely to effect the economy of the country;

(c) whether interest rates of fixed deposits for the common man and that on provident funds for the workers have also been increased; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) After a review of recent developments in the international and domestic financial markets, Reserve Bank of India, on July 21, 2000, increased the Bank Rate by 1 percentage point from 7 per cent per annum to 8 per cent per annum and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 0.5 percentage point from 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent in two stages by 0.25 percentage point each effective from fortnights beginning July 29, 2000 and August, 12, 2000. The increase in CRR would absorb resources of scheduled commercial banks to the extent of about Rs. 1900 crore at each stage.

(c) and (d) Interest rates on fixed deposits are deregulated and determined by Banks themselves. Reserve Bank of India have reported that some banks including public sector banks have raised their fixed deposit rates by 0.50 to 0.75 basis points. Provident fund rate which is determined by the Government is not directly related to bank rate. For the year 2000-01 it has been fixed at 11% per annum.

Working of Private Sector Banks

4056. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had set up an in-house working group to examine the various aspects of working of new private sector banks and to suggest the policy frame work of licensing new banks in the future;

(b) if so, whether the said in-house working group had submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total number of applications pending with the RBI to set up new private sector banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up an in-house working group of review the policy for licensing of new banks in the private sector and to prescribe fresh guidelines in the light of experience gained so far under the existing licensing policy. The working group has submitted its report. RBI has reported that eleven applications in terms of 1993 guidelines are pending for setting up of new banks in the private sector. Consideration of the pending application for setting up new private sector banks awaits the finalisation of revised guidelines.

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12. Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13. Maharashtra	30000	30000	25131	46000	40231	40061	56000	41800	9347	
14. Manipur	800	800	800	2400	1600	724	7800	5215	56	
15. Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil	400	400	110	1000	560	26	
16. Mizoram	800	800	150	800	270	130	600	306	45	
17. Nagaland	1600	1600	1040	2400	2400	1782	4800	3740	1636	
18. Orissa	7300	7300	4271	11000	9000	5490	20900	10000	956	
19. Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
20. Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	8000	2000	320	Nil	Nil	Nil	
21. Sikkim	880	880	540	1480	1000	647	2200	1720	960	
22. Tamil Nadu	4000	4000	4000	5500	5000	4542	5400	3950	914	
23. Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil	200	200	106	1100	660	101	
24. U.P.	1700	1700	8	15000	5000	1747	5000	5000	Nil	
25. West Bengal	20000	20000	3228	14000	14000	7691	53000	28000	5479	
26. A & N Islands	100	100	Nil	400	275	Nil	250	177	Nil	
27. Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
28. D & N Haveli	320	320	310	560	500	390	960	808	448	
29. Daman & Diu	500	500	490	800	790	590	1850	1561	530	
30. Delhi	2104	2104	1478	8704	6398	6038	5900	4950	1951	
31. Lakshadweep	400	400	200	400	300	224	400	334	147	
32. Pondicherry	2000	2000	1695	6000	4000	2591	11000	6800	988	
Total	173304	136104	62269	245319	190480	150931	338990	217233	49789	

Development of Tourism and Culture

4058. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote tourism and culture in the North Eastern States;

(b) the funds made available for the promotion of tourism and culture, Scheme-wise and State-wise during the last three-years;

(c) whether a huge amount is lying unspent on this account;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the proper utilization of the funds allocated to these States ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Steps to promote Tourism and Culture in the Ninth-Eastern States include :

Production of promotional material, CD-ROM and films, organizing familiarization trips of media and travel agents from overseas to North-Eastern Region and provision of 10% of total plan funds allocated to the Ministry of Tourism for development and promotion of Tourism in North-Eastern States etc.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement-I & II.

(c) and (d) Utilization of funds provided by Central Government is the responsibility of State Governments/ Union Territories.

(e) To monitor progress of sanctioned projects, funds are released in instalments. The second and third instalment is only released on receipt of Utilization

Certificate from the State Government. Recently a monitoring system through Regional Directors/Directors of Govt. of India Tourist Officer and State Governments has also been set up to oversee the progress of the sanctioned projects.

Statement-I

*Projects sanctioned and amount sanctioned to North East during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000
(All the Projects including Fairs and Festivals)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000		
		No.of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	No.of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	No.of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1.	Assam	14	288.88	94.20	15	457.95	146.14	17	357.35	76.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	271.00	82.50	6	216.32	65.55	11	239.28	51.03
3.	Manipur	5	186.11	56.35	8	140.49	41.40	10	229.00	70.10
4.	Meghalaya	5	97.70	30.55	5	120.48	37.50	5	30.72	6.46
5.	Mizoram	6	142.45	43.50	8	203.34	62.90	13	292.17	94.41
6.	Nagaland	3	113.90	51.36	11	230.54	69.00	16	291.80	93.75
7.	Sikkim	11	73.20	36.95	15	136.03	58.92	13	118.98	43.57
8.	Tripura	8	126.68	44.65	9	169.21	53.00	7	340.76	99.12
Total		61	1299.92	440.06	77	1674.36	534.41	92	1900.06	535.40

Statement-II

Details of Projects/Schemes

Central Financial Assistance for Infrastructure Development Tourist Bungalow, Refurbishment of Monuments, Sound and Light Show, Fairs and Festivals for North Eastern States for the years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	No. of projects completed	No. of projects incomplete
Arunachal Pradesh	26	726.60	199.08	—	26
Assam	46	1104.18	317.30	—	46
Manipur	23	555.59	167.85	—	23
Meghalaya	15	248.90	74.51	—	15
Mizoram	27	637.96	200.81	—	27
Nagaland	30	636.24	214.11	1	29
Tripura	24	636.65	196.77	1	23
Sikkim	39	328.21	139.44	—	39

*[Translation]***Medical Insurance Scheme**

4059. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme of medical insurance is being formulated for payment of expenditure incurred on accidents or disease like developed countries;

(b) whether a part of insurance amount for poor and middle class families would be borne by the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(d) by when it is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A Medical insurance policy called 'Mediclam' is already available with the four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India viz. (i) National Insurance Co. Ltd. (ii) New India Assurance Co. Ltd. (iii) Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. and (iv) United India Insurance Co. Ltd. The policy covers hospitalisation expenses incurred on medical and surgical treatment, arising due to accidental injury, illness and disease. Any person can purchase this policy by paying the appropriate premium.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

*[English]***Loan Assistance to Orissa**

4060. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total Central loan assistance provided to the Government of Orissa till the financial year ending 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Government of Orissa has represented to the Union government and the Eleventh Finance Commission to waive the 1700 crores Central loan assistance in view of the Super Cyclone and the chronically drought affected area of the KBK districts;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the interest burden to the tune of 2000 crores which is to be paid every year for which the State Government of Orissa has also represented to the Union

Government for making a moratorium of three years for payment of the same; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Central loan provided to the Government of Orissa by the Ministry of Finance under Plan assistance, during the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 86017.15 lakhs;

(b) to (e) Representations to the Finance Commission, are submitted directly by the State Governments, to the Commission. The Eleventh Finance Commission has not recommended any specific debt waiver to Orissa in view of the Super Cyclone and the chronically drought affected area of the KBK districts. However while recommending their award to the State, the Commission would have taken into account the requirement of this State keeping in view their debt burden and resource availability in the post scenario of the Super cyclone.

Government of India has received request from the State Government for waiver of certain repayment liabilities on Central loans payable during 2000-01 and phasing out of loan burden payable in 2000-01. The Government of India has re-phased the repayment of loan and payment of interest for the months of November, 1999 to March, 2000, for recovery in two years with a moratorium of six months, with the first instalment of recovery commencing from October, 2000.

*[Translation]***Setting up of DD Relay Centres**

4061. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise locations approved for setting up Doordarshan relay Centres in the country during the last three years;

(b) the names of places where these centres have been commissioned till March, 2000; and

(c) the locations where such centres are proposed to be set-up till March, 2001 ?

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)

Details of Doordarshan relay transmitters approved after 1/4/1997, commissioned till March, 2000 and commissioned between 1.4.2000 and 15.8.2000 are given in

the enclosed statement. The transmitters not yet commissioned are expected to be commissioned in phases during the remaining part of the 9th Plan.

Statement

State/Union Territory		Location
1		2
Andhra Pradesh	HPTs	LPTs
	Warangal	Machilipatnam
	Vijayawada (DD-2)	Madugula
		Miryalaguda
	VLPTs	Pulamaner
	Duttalur	Punganur
	Kanigiri	Sirisilla
	Madipardu	Udaigiri
		Velanda **
		Vemalvada
Assam		Vinukonda **
		Zahirabad
	HPTs	LPT
	Guwahati (DD-2)**	Godhpur*
	Silchar (DD-2)**	
Bihar		Transposer
		Guwahati
	HPTs	LPTs
	Jamshedpur	Kishanganj
	Patna (DD-2)	Banka
	Ranchi (DD-2)**	Rosera **
	Muzaffarpur (DD-2)	Jamshedpur (DD-2)
		Dhanbad (DD-2)
	VLPT	
	Ramgarh Hill	

Note : * indicates projects commissioned by 31.3.2000.

** indicates projects commissioned between 1.4.2000 and 15.8.2000.

1	2
Goa	HPT Panaji (DD-2)
Gujarat	HPTs Surat Vadodara
	LPTs Jamjodhpur* Lunawada * Rajpipla * Vyara **
	Punandhro (mobile)* Vadodara (DD-2) Surat (DD-2) Rajkot (DD-2)
Haryana	LPT Bhiwani (DD-2) Firozpur Jhirka** Karnal**
	Mahendragarh ** Tohana* Yamunanagar**
Himachal Pradesh	HPT Shimla (DD-2)
	VLPTs Ashapuri ** Bijli Mahadev
	LPT Mandi (DD-2)**
Jammu & Kashmir	HPTs Jammu (DD-2)* Srinagar (DD-2) * Srinagar (Kashir Channel) * *
	Naushera (DD-2) Gurez Gurez (DD-2)
	Kupwara Kupwara (DD-2) Naushera
	Tithwal Tithwal (DD-2) Ranbirsingh Pura/Samba (DD-2) Poonch (DD-2)
	LPTs Bandipura (Mobile) * Darthal (Mobile) * Naushera (Mobile) * Kathua (DD-2)**

Note : * indicates projects commissioned by 31.3.2000.

** indicates projects commissioned between 1.4.2000 and 15.8.2000.

1	2		
	Mobile LPTs - 12 Nos		
	VLPTs		
	Abran	Chumathang	Hot Spring
	Ashmuqam	Dah	Ichar
	Banihal	Darhal	Kangan
	Basoli	Dhar	Keran
	Batalik	Domchuk	Khatai
	Befiaz	Gandoh	Khrew
	Bodh Khurboo	Gool	Kotranka
	Boniyar	Gulabgarh	Lati
	Mandi	Gulmarg	Lingshed
	Manjkot	Handle	Lolab Valley
	Mansur	Hira Nagar	Loran
	Mendhar	Ringdom Gompa	Machil
	Nowgam	Shopian	Mahore
	Panamik	Sonmarg	Turtok
	Pestha	Sunderbani	Yusmarg
	Poni	Tangmarg	Zangla
	Pulwama	Tatapani	Tral
	Ramkot	Thathri	Tregam
	Ramnagar	Tilel	
Karnataka	HPTs	LPTs	
	Hassan **	Mundargi	
	Mangalore	Sindhur	
	Mysore	Mysore (DD-2)	
	Raichur		
Kerala	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs
	Cannanore	Kottarakkara	Erattupetta
	Cochin (DD-2)	Manjeri	Mundakkayam
	Trivandrum (DD-2)	Pala**	

Note : * indicates projects commissioned by 31.3.2000.

** indicates projects commissioned between 1.4.2000 and 15.8.2000.

1	2	
Madhya Pradesh	HPTs	LPTs
	Ambikapur	Agar
	Guna	Badwani **
	Shahdol	Bareilly
	Bhopal (DD-2)**	Champa
	Indore (DD-2) **	Karaira **
	Jabalpur (DD-2)	Kharod
	Raipur (DD-2) *	Konta
		Kukshi **
	VLPTs	Lakhnadon
	Pathalgaon	Multai **
	Alot	Pandaria
		Sindhwa
Maharashtra	HPTs	LPTs
	Chandrapur	Akalkot**
	Jalgaon	Ambajogai (DD-2)*
	Ratnagiri	Bhamragad
	Nagpur (DD-2)	Bhandara (DD-2) *
		Daryapur **
	VLPTs	Dhadgaon
	Arjuni*	Dharmabad*
	Ashti *	Khanapur **
	Chimur*	Mangalwedha **
	Karanja*	Pandharkawada *
	Kurkhera *	Patan *
	Pimpalner Sakri *	Phaltan **
	Sakoli	Pulgaon **
	Sindewahi *	Raver
	Tivsa *	Tumsar *
		Nasik (DD-2)
		Sholapur (DD-2)

Note : * indicates projects commissioned by 31.3.2000.

** indicates projects commissioned between 1.4.2000 and 15.8.2000.

1	2		
Manipur	VLPT		
	Churachandpur *		
Meghalaya	HPT	Transposer	
	Tura (DD-2) **	Shillong **	
Mizoram	Transposer		
	Aizawl		
Nagaland	VLPT	Transposer	
	Shamtorr *	Bara Basti	
Orissa	HPTs	LPT	VLPTs
	Berhampur	Baleshwar (DD-2)	Paikamal **
	Sambalpur (DD-2)		Subdega *
Pondicherry	HPT (Pondicherry)		
Punjab	HPT		
	Amritsar (augmentation)		Amritsar (DD-2)
Rajasthan	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs
	Ajmer	Bali **	Aandhi *
	Jaipur (DD-2)	Bharatpur *	Kotra *
	Jodhpur (DD-2)	Bhinmal	Sikrai *
		Kishangarh	Viratnagar *
		(Ajmer)	
		Kishangarh Vas*	
		Kushalgarh **	
		Nagar **	
		Nasirabad	
		Navalgarh **	
		Pirawa	
		Sagwara *	
		Sanchor	
		Sojat	
		Taranagar **	

Note : * indicates projects commissioned by 31.3.2000.

** indicates projects commissioned between 1.4.2000 and 15.8.2000.

1	2		
		Vijaynagar	
		Ajmer (DD-2)	
		Bikaner (DD-2)	
Tamil Nadu	HPT	LPTs	
	Kumbakonam	Ambasamudram	Peranampet **
	Ambur	Pollachi	
	Denkanikotta**	Vandavasi**	
	Kallakurchi	Gingee**	
	Nattam**	Trichy (DD-2)	
	Palani	Coimbatore (DD-2)	
Tripura	HPT		
	Agartala (DD-2)		
Uttar Pradesh	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs
	Lakhimpur	Bidhuna	Aroli
	Agra (DD-2)	Dak Pathar **	Khubia Nangal *
	Allahabad (DD-2)	Gopeshwar	Nandprayag *
	Lucknow (DD-2)	Kalagarh **	Okhimath *
	Varanasi (DD-2)	Khetikhan	Pokhri *
	Gorakhpur (DD-2)	Bareilly (DD-2)	Thakurdwara (DD-2)
	Mussorie (DD-2) **	Aligarh (DD-2)	
		Jhansi (DD-2)	Transposer
		Rampur (DD-2) *	Mussorie (DD-2)
West Bengal	HPTs	LPTs	VLPT
	Balurghat	Garhbeta**	Baghmandi*
	Kharagpur	Jhalda	
	Kishannagar	Kooch Behar**	
	Shantiniketan		
	Asansol (DD-2)		
	Murshidabad (DD-2)		

Note : * indicates projects commissioned by 31.3.2000.

** indicates projects commissioned between 1.4.2000 and 15.8.2000.

*[English]***Revival of PSUs**

4062. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Export Group was appointed to explore the possibility for revival of six PSUs including Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the main recommendations of the said Group; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Out of 6 sick PSUs for which Govt. has decided to take action for closure, Expert Group concluded in case of 4 PSUs namely National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd. (NBCIL), Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL) Tannery & Footwear Corporation (TAFCO) and Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (RIC) that there was no reasonable prospect of revival of these PSUs. In one case of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC), the Expert Group concluded that the company cannot be revived with reasonable cost and effort. The Group had recommended other options for forming co-operatives/joint venture/privatisation in these cases. BPME was considered an unviable enterprise. Government had taken a decision to take action for closure of these six sick PSUs after carefully considering the recommendations of the Expert Group and deliberating on further prospects of revival taking into account the futility of repeating the earlier efforts that had been adopted for revival through various options.

Trade and Commerce in Bangladesh

4063. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop trade and commerce in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talk has been held between the two countries in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) It is Government's Policy to develop trade and commerce with all countries including Bangladesh.

(c) and (e) Trade Review Talks between India and Bangladesh at Commerce Secretary level were held at New Delhi in May 2000. With the intention to develop trade and commerce between the two countries, measures for co-operation in Customs procedures, long term multiple entry visas for businessmen, improvement in infrastructure facilities etc. were discussed.

Shunu Sen Committee

4064. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report submitted by Shunu Sen Committee has been accepted by the Prasar Bharati Board;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the recommendations which the Government have accepted; and

(d) the recommendations with which the Government differs alongwith the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The recommendations/suggestions of the Committee, amongst others, relate to mission and objective for Prasar Bharati, accountability and structures of Prasar Bharati, financing and funding mechanism, channel positioning, programming content and production, restructuring of transmission and engineering services, improvement in marketing, human resource development and exploitation of new technologies. The recommendations also include certain amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. A copy of the report is available at Ministry's website i.e. mib.nic.in. View on some of the recommendations of the Committee is to be taken by Prasar Bharati, whereas in respect of some others, Government has to take a view. The Government is in the process of consulting the Members of the Prasar Bharati Board representatives of

staff and employees unions before taking a final view. The report has also been circulated among the Members of the Consultative Committee and their views are also being sought.

Inland Container Depots in Karnataka

4065. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow private participation in the setting up of Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that more container depots are being set up in Bangalore ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Since 1992, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations (ICDs/CFSs) is functioning in the Department of Commerce to accord approvals to the proposals for setting up of ICDs/CFSs in the country including those from the private sector. The setting up of ICDs/CFS is an ongoing process. The IMC considers the proposals as and when received and has so far met 29 times. It has approved 124 proposals including 47 in the private sector.

(c) The IMC on ICDs/CFSs has recently approved a proposal for setting up of a ICD at Bangalore (Whitefield). An ICD has been in operation at Bangalore, which was set up prior to the constitution of the IMC. At present no other proposal for setting up of an ICD/CFS at Bangalore is pending with the IMC.

Projects Financed by IIBI, IDBI and IFCI

4066. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of first-generation entrepreneur projects financed by IIBI, IDBI and IFCI and the scheduled banks during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the time taken in the sanction and disbursement of the loans;

(c) whether non-conformity to the stipulated norms for sanction of loans has led to industrial sickness in large number of cases; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has financed 50 projects during 1997-98, 39 projects 1998-99 and 40 projects in 1999-2000 of first-generation entrepreneur. Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI) has financed 6 projects in 1997-98, 4 projects in 1998-99 and none in 1999-2000 of first-generation entrepreneur. IFCI Ltd. has reportedly have not financed any project promoted by first generation entrepreneur during the last three years. The State-wise break-up of projects sanctioned by IDBI and IIBI the last three years is enclosed.

The normal time taken for sanction of loan for projects is between two to three months. Disbursements depend upon execution of necessary documents and fulfilment of requisite conditions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks for rehabilitation of sick SSI units which are found potentially viable. The State level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC) has also been set up in each State to deal with the problems of coordination for rehabilitation of sick SSI units.

Statement

State-wise Break-up of Projects Sanctioned by IDBI & IIBI in respect of first generation entrepreneurs during last three years.

States	IDBI		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4	7	7
Assam	4	4	6
Bihar	-	-	1
Gujarat	7	3	4
Haryana	-	1	1
Himachal Pradesh	2	-	-
Karnataka	6	2	5
Kerala	1	3	1
Madhya Pradesh	2	-	1

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	13	10	5
Punjab	1	2	2
Rajasthan	3	1	3
Tamil Nadu	3	4	2
West Bengal	4	1	2
Delhi (UT)	-	1	-
Total	50	39	40

IIBI			
States	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	4	2	-
Gujarat	1	-	-
Maharashtra	-	1	-
Punjab	1	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	1	-
Total	6	4	-

Closure of Media Units

4067. SHRI KRISHAN SINGH SANGWAN :

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

SHRI K P SINGH DEO :

SHRI T GOVINDAN :

DR. V. SAROJA :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended the closure of several media units/ organisations/office and also rationalization of staff strength;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of units which have recommended for closure; and

(c) the number of employees likely to be affected

as a result thereof and the steps taken to protect their interests ?

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.

Grants to Orissa

4068. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the various types of grants provided to Orissa Government during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the special assistance provided to the State to overcome the financial crunch and rebuild the infrastructure during the above period;

(c) whether the flow of funds from the Centre is very slow;

(d) if so, the amount spent in Orissa for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years;

(e) whether there is any check that the funds provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are utilised for the purpose for which these are provided and the Utilisation Certificates provided by the State in time;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance releases central assistance for State Plan in the form of Block grants and Block loans. Apart from this, the State Government is also receiving funds under the award of the Finance Commission. Details of release from the Ministry of Finance under various categories to the State Government of Orissa for the last three years is enclosed in the Statement.

(c) and (d) The funds are generally released in monthly quarterly instalments or as per stipulated terms and conditions. Sometimes advance releases are also made to the State Government to facilitate their cash management.

(e) to (g) Mechanism and monitoring of releases under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes as also expenditure against each Scheme is controlled and monitored by the concerned Central Ministries.

		Statement			
S.No.	Item	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
		Till date			
		(Rs. in crores)			
1.	Normal Central Assistance	533.63	557.13	469.66	206.83
2.	Basic Minimum Services	147.45	150.09	159.05	-
3.	Slum Development Schemes	5.28	5.60	7.27	1.70
4.	Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects	535.54	415.83	391.56	330.95
5.	Loan Assistance for AIBP	85.00	71.50	90.25	-
6.	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant	38.34	7.18	-	89.62
7.	Calamity Relief Fund	48.98	30.58	42.50	30.70
8.	National Fund for Calamity Relief	4.00	-	828.15	-
9.	Central Assistance for PMGY	-	-	-	36.96
10.	Additional Central Assistance	-	-	105.00	-
11.	Share in Central Taxes including Railway Passenger Grants	1600.13	1671.04	1783.62	808.25
12.	Loan against Small Savings	263.53	378.31	384.47	198.85
13.	Upgradation and Special Problem Grants	11.95	39.98	34.23	-
14.	Grants for Local Bodies	27.52	7.17	130.39	-

Agricultural Specialist Bank Branches

4069. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of agricultural specialist branches opened by the banks in public and private sector during the last three years, bank-wise :

(b) the number of more such branches proposed to be opened during the current year;

(c) whether there is any foundation for banks to open such branches; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Bankwise position of number of Specialised Agricultural

Finance Branches of public and private sector banks as on 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) RBI has reported that it has issued authorizations for opening five such specialised agricultural finance branches. These branches are yet to be opened as their opening depends on various factors such as availability of infrastructure, premises etc.

(c) and (d) In terms of RBI's circular banks had been advised that with a view to promoting investment in agriculture, particularly in the high-tech areas, there should be atleast one Specialised Agricultural Finance Branch (SAFB) of a commercial bank in each State to adequately deal with high-tech agricultural loans. Accordingly, banks may draw a suitable plan for opening of such branches in the State(s) where the bank is the convenor of the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC).

Statement

Bank-wise position of Specialised Agricultural Finance Branches during the years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000

Name of Bank	No. of Branches as on		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Bank of Baroda	5	6	6
Bank of India	2	5	5
Bank of Maharashtra	5	5	5
Canara Bank	11	12	12
Central Bank of India	1	1	1
Dena Bank	3	3	3
Indian Bank	7	7	7
Indian Overseas Bank	1	1	1
Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	0	1	1
Punjab & Sind Bank	0	0	1
Punjab National Bank	2	2	2
State Bank of India	2	2	2
State Bank of Mysore	0	1	1
State Bank of Patiala	1	1	1
Union Bank of India	7	7	7
United Bank of India	3	3	3
United Western Bank Ltd.	0	0	1
Vijaya Bank	2	2	2
Total	52	59	61

Central Investment

4070. SHRI N.N. KRISHNA DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the total Central investment in the country rose to Rs. 314635 crores in the year 1998 from Rs. 3795 crores in 1975;

(b) whether there was sharp decline in the share of Kerala State from 3.24 percent in 1975 to 1.5 percent in 1998 stalling the infrastructure and overall economic development of the State ;

(c) if so, the reasons for such discrimination; and

(d) the trend of decline/increase in investment in infrastructure sector registered in other States during the above period, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Gross Block of central public enterprises as on 31.3.1998 was Rs. 314635.34 crores. The corresponding figure as on 31.3.1975 was Rs. 7423.90 crores according to the erstwhile Bureau of Public Enterprises.

(b) The share of Kerala State in Gross Block as 2.72 percent as on 31.3.1975 and 1.50 percent as on 31.3.1998.

(c) There is no discrimination. Central investment is made keeping in view national priorities and after taking into account the backwardness of various regions, and considerations of techno-economic feasibility etc.

(d) The required information for the major States, taking all sectors together, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Gross Block in Major States*

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	States	As on 31.3.1975	As on 31.3.1998
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	269.00	20253.06
2.	Assam	198.50	14986.90
3.	Bihar	1671.80	21000.26
4.	Goa	2.90	163.44
5.	Gujarat	301.30	23160.87
6.	Haryana	19.40	5248.40
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.90	5981.52
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.90	6905.11
9.	Karnataka	186.80	7392.14
10.	Kerala	202.20	4715.80
11.	Madhya Pradesh	837.60	22069.54
12.	Maharashtra	306.40	56677.16
13.	Orissa	577.00	18509.58

1	2	3	4
14. Punjab		77.50	2435.53
15. Rajasthan		160.20	6635.28
16. Tamil Nadu		384.50	15120.92
17. Uttar Pradesh		256.50	22902.66
18. West Bengal		785.30	21037.92

Ceiling of Foodgrains

4071. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ceilings of foodgrains stock throughout the country has since been removed;

(b) whether restrictions on the movement of foodgrains from one State to another have also been removed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; separately;

(d) whether blackmarketing and hoarding of foodgrains in the country are likely to be encouraged as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, the details of steps being taken to check the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) As per Central Government's present policy, there exist no stock-limits on rice and coarsegrains. As regards wheat, taking an overall view of the food situation and also the major storage constraints being faced all over the country in April, 1999. Central Government advised all the States/UTs to abolish stock-limits on wheat and wheat products. Subsequently, in Sept. '99, we advised all the States/UTs to reimpose the stock limits on wheat and wheat products, with a view to check the rising trend in their open market prices, if the situation so warrants.

(b) In March, 1993, Central Government adopted the national policy of treating the entire country as a single food zone for free movement of foodgrains so that the farmers could get remunerative prices of their products anywhere in the country.

(c) In the case of rice, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Tamil Nadu are

still keeping stock-limits on account of local conditions. In the case of wheat, we per our records, at present only Bihar and Andhra Pradesh are having stock-limits. All the States/UTs, excepting J & K, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, have taken action to adhere to the national policy of free movement of foodgrains. These three States want to keep the movement restrictions on paddy/rice on account of local conditions.

(d) No such instance has come to our notice.

(e) Does not arise.

Retaining of Foreign Exchange by SEZs

4072. SHRI ANAND GUDHE :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

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

(a) whether the Government have recommended to the RBI that units located in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) be permitted to retain their entire foreign exchange earnings and allow them to make payments to each other in foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the justification for making such recommendation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) A suggestion has been made to the Reserve Bank of India to permit units located in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to retain 100% of their export earnings in their EEFC Account for meeting their foreign exchange requirements. This has been suggested to RBI with a view to improve the operations of SEZ units and to minimize conversion losses.

[Translation]

Industrial Production Index

4073. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the industrial production index in 1999-2000 in comparison to that in the year 1998-99;

(b) the performance of the capital goods industry in comparison to that of the consumer goods industry during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) the reasons for decline in the industrial production during the year 1999-2000; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost industrial production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

Index of Industrial Production - Use Based Classification

(Base : 1993-94 = 100)

Sector	Weight	1998-99		1999-2000	
		Index	Growth Rate (%)	Index	Growth Rate (%)
Basic Goods	35.51	134.3	1.4	141.3	5.2
Capital Goods	9.68	151.2	11.5	159.0	5.2
Intermediate Goods	26.43	155.5	5.9	179.3	15.3
Consumer Goods	28.36	144.3	1.8	152.1	5.4
Overall	100.00	144.4	3.8	156.1	8.1

The above table shows that the rate of growth in capital goods sector has been recorded at 5.2% in 1999-2000 as against 11.5% in 1998-99, where as the consumer goods sector recorded a growth rate of 5.4% in 1999-2000 as against 1.8% in 1998-99. Industry as a whole recorded a higher growth rate in 1999-2000 compared to 1998-99.

(d) The Government has taken various steps from time to time to accelerate industrial production. This has been supported by continued reforms in industry (including foreign direct investment policy), trade, infrastructure, information technology and financial sectors which have helped industry to improve its efficiency, productivity and international competitiveness.

[English]

Visit of Indian Tourists Abroad

4074. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the outflow of Indian tourists abroad during the last three years including first quarter of the current financial year and also the amount spent by such tourists in foreign countries (in Dollar); and

(b) the inflow of foreign tourists during the same period and the foreign exchange earned from such foreign

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) The overall Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and the indices as per use-based classification alongwith growth rates for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:

tourists (in Dollar) ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Total number of Indian nationals departed from India for visiting other countries during the years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 (January to June) are as follows :

Year	Number of Indian Nationals going abroad (In Million)
1997	3.73
1998	3.81
1999	3.88
2000	2.00

(January to June)

Information regarding amount spent by such tourists in foreign countries is not maintained.

(b) Total number of foreign tourists who have visited the country along with the estimated foreign exchange earnings from them during the years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 (January-June) is as follows :

Year	Number of foreign tourists (In Million)	Estimated Foreign Exchange Earnings (In Million US\$)
1997	2.37	2913.54
1998	2.36	2935.15
1999	2.48	3035.69
2000	1.26	1548.62

(January to June)

Production/Consumption/Export of Coffee

4075. DR. V. SAROJA :

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE :

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

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

(a) the total production of coffee in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the quantity of coffee consumed in the country during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the quantity of coffee exported during the above period and till date and foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(d) the estimated production of coffee likely to be achieved during the current year;

(e) whether the Government propose to include coffee crop in the price support operations;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor;

(g) whether the Government propose to waive the loan of coffee growers due to steep fall in prices;

(h) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(i) the steps being taken by the Government to procure, store and export of coffee to create competition in the open market and also to safeguard the interests of domestic coffee growers from increasing trend of import of coffee ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total production of coffee during the last three years is as under :

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Karnataka	1,58,650	1,82,900	2,09,100
Kerala	50,850	61,150	60,470
Tamil Nadu	16,500	18,300	19,400
Others	2,000	2,650	3,030
Total	2,28,000	2,65,000	2,92,000

(b) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, the quantity of coffee consumed in the country is estimated at 0.50 lakh tonnes, 0.53 lakh tonnes and 0.52 lakh tonnes respectively.

(c) The quantity of coffee exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years is as under :

(Qty. in Lakh Tonnes/Value in Rs. crores)

Year	Quantity	Value
1997-98	1.79	1708
1998-99	2.12	1752
1999-2000	2.44	1896
2000-01 (as on July 2000)	0.72	376

(d) The estimated production of coffee during 2000-01 is 2.95 lakh tonnes.

(e) and (f) The Government does not propose a support price mechanism for coffee as in the free market era, prices are primarily determined by the market forces. Further, unlike most of the agricultural crops which are under MSP mechanism, coffee is a perennial crop with long plant life and generally cultivated with high value crops like pepper etc.

(g) and (h) Coffee Board has waived penal interest to the extent of Rs. 9.84 crores on developmental loans availed by coffee growers.

(i) Since 1996, Coffee trade has been liberalized and 100% free sale has been introduced, and Government does not procure or market coffee. In order to safeguard the interests of coffee growers, duty on import of coffee has been increased from 15% to 35%.

[Translation]

Opening of New Banks

4076. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of banks set up, as on date, category-wise;

(b) the details of deposits and turnover of these banks;

(c) the number of proposals lying pending with RBI for opening of new banks, as on date, State-wise; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Banks are not set up State-wise. Perhaps information

sought is about bank branches/offices. State-wise number of bank offices, deposits and credit of all scheduled commercial banks as on the last Friday of March 2000 is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) and (d) Under extant policy of Reserve Bank of India, opening of bank branches is left to the discretion of banks and they do so after taking into consideration all relevant factors such as viability, potential for development of the area, commercial prospects availability of infrastructure etc. State-wise authorizations pending with banks for opening branches is given in the enclosed statement-II. Bank branches at the allotted centres will be opened on completion of infrastructural arrangements etc.

Statement-I

State-wise Number of Bank Offices, Deposits and Credit of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as on the last Friday of March 2000

State/ Union Territory	Number of Bank Offices				(Rs. lakh)	
	Rural	Semi- Urban	Urban Metropolitan	Total	Deposits	Credit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2443	1180	1488	5111	4646470	2955095
Arunachal Pradesh	68	1	0	69	53694	8896
Assam	819	254	159	1232	847803	266890
Bihar	3506	905	597	5008	3687126	830442
Goa	160	151	0	311	620494	149913
Gujarat	1547	809	1279	3635	4751767	2368755
Haryana	697	351	443	1491	1705250	706138
Himachal Pradesh	657	121	0	778	617464	141372
Jammu & Kashmir	570	77	162	809	865785	350738
Karnataka	2216	1001	1493	4710	4580860	2794913
Kerala	347	2301	585	3233	3893263	1646501
Madhya Pradesh	2679	911	902	4492	3078797	1513435
Maharashtra	2309	1074	2833	6216	15299610	12820100
Manipur	51	14	21	86	46073	16780
Meghalaya	131	16	32	179	140917	22148

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mizoram	61	9	8	78	31801	7732
Nagaland	36	33	0	69	76733	11845
NCT of Delhi	56	17	1299	1372	8870874	6822604
Orissa	1614	308	297	2219	1273396	506215
Punjab	1120	655	729	2504	3857207	1506296
Rajasthan	1905	730	682	3317	2378442	1110506
Sikkim	36	10	0	46	51068	7049
Tamil Nadu	1830	1211	1721	4762	5594317	4922967
Tripura	120	28	31	179	126599	32603
Uttar Pradesh	5403	1509	1993	8905	8196036	2253840
West Bengal	2274	562	1555	4391	6059339	2737058
Andaman & Nicobar	17	14	0	31	33431	5604
Chandigarh	9	10	151	170	629712	331111
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	6	0	11	16824	3648
Daman & Diu	1	14	0	15	36630	5787
Lakshadweep	9	-	0	9	6137	474
Pondicherry	23	19	41	83	139359	45716
All India	32719	14301	18501	65521	82213277	46903171

Statement-II

*State-wise Authorisations Pending with Banks for
Opening Branches as on May 9, 2000*

State/ Union Territory	No. of Authorisations Pending
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	61
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0
3. Assam	11
4. Bihar	49
5. Goa	12
6. Gujarat	61
7. Haryana	53

1	2
8. Himachal Pradesh	9
9. Jammu & Kashmir	10
10. Karnataka	79
11. Kerala	43
12. Madhya Pradesh	41
13. Maharashtra	202
14. Manipur	0
15. Meghalaya	1
16. Mizoram	0
17. Nagaland	0
18. NCT of Delhi	134
19. Orissa	15

1	2
20. Punjab	70
21. Rajasthan	49
22. Sikkim	1
23. Tamil Nadu	83
24. Tripura	1
25. Uttar Pradesh	118
26. West Bengal	52
27. Andaman & Nicobar	0
28. Chandigarh	20
29. Dadra & NH	2
30. Daman & Diu	2
31. Lakshadweep	0
32. Pondicherry	0
All India	1179

*[English]***Bank Branches in Foreign Countries**

4077. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the various public sector banks operating outside India;

(b) the branches of each of these banks in different countries and locations thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more branches in foreign countries during 2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) A statement indicating the branches of eight public sector banks operating outside India is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Opening of branches in foreign countries by public sector banks, depends on a number of factors including business potential, economic relations with the host country, regulatory policy of the host country. There are no year-wise targets for opening of overseas branches by public sector banks.

Statement*List of Foreign branches of Indian Banks*

Name of Bank	Country of Operation	S.No.	Name of the Branch	Date of Opening	Address
1	2	3	4	5	6
State Bank of India	U.K.	1	London	27.1.1921	State Bank House 1, Milk Street London EC2P -2JP
		2	Southall	12.8.1974	Kings House The Green Southall Middle Sex, London VB 24 QH
		3.	Goldens Green	3.5.1976	630, Finchley Road Goldens Green, London NW1117 RR U.K.
	U.S.A.	4	New York	8.12.1971	460, Park Avenue New York, N.Y. 10022

1	2	3	4	5	6
		5.	Chicago	29.12.1975	10, South La Salle Street Suite 200, Chicago, Illinois 60603
		6.	Los Angeles	4.10.1977	707, Wilshire Boulevard 19th Floor, Suite 1995 Los Angeles, California 90017, USA
		7.	Flushing	16.7.1979	42-08 Main Street Flushing New York 11355 USA
		8	Down Town		39, Broad way, 8th Floor New York 10006 USA
		12	Osaka	5.9.1984	Nomura Fudosan Osaka Building 9th Floor, No. 61 2 Chome, Azuchimachi, Higashiku Osaka 541
	Hongkong	13	Hongkong	6.12.1978	3103-3107 Edinburgh Tower The Landmark 15, Queens Road, Central GPO Box No. 10125, Hongkong
	Singapore	14	Singapore	4.6.1951	01-01 Shing Kwan House 4, Shenton Way Singapore 068807
	Maldives	15	Male	4.2.1974	Zonarai, Marine Drive Male, Republic of Maldives
	Germany	16	Frankfurt	16.12.1974	Mainzerland Strasse 61, 60329 Frankfurt Main Germany
	Bangladesh	17	Dhaka	7.5.1975	24-25, Dilkush Commercial Area, Dacca 1000 P.B. 981, Bangladesh
	Bahama	18	Massau	9.4.1975	Marfolk House, Fredrik Street Post Bok No. N3118 Nassau N P, Bahamas
	Belgium	19	Antwerp	19.7.1983	Korte Herentalsestraat 3, 2018 Antwerpen 1 Belgium

1	2	3	4	5	6
	France	20	Paris	10.4.1981	12-14, Round Pointdes Champs Elysees 75008, Paris, France
	South Africa	21	Johannesburg	7.8.1997	J H I House, 3rd Floor 11, Cradock Avenue Rosebank 2196 Johannesburg, South Africa
	Bahrain	22	Baharain	3.1.1977	9th Floor, Bahrain Tower, Govt. Avenue Post Box No. 5466, Manawa Bahrain
Bank of India	U.K.	23	London	1.7.1946	Park House 16, Finsbury Circus London, BC 2 My DI
		24	Manchester	31.5.1962	Derby House 12-16 Booth Street Manchester M24 AW
		25	Birmingham	31.5.1965	399, Stratford Road Spark Hill, Birmingham B 11432 U.K.
		26	Leicester	19.12.1968	105-107, Belgrave Road Leicester, LE 46 AS U.K.
		27	Wembley	4.7.1972	293 Harrow Road Wembley, Middlesex U.K.
		28	East Ham	1.1.1987	320/322 Banking Road East Ham London E6, 3.38 A U.K.
		29	New York	15.12.1978	277 Park Avenue New York My 10172-0083
		30	San Francisco	6.12.1977	555 California Street Suite 4646 San Francisco California -94104 (USA)
	Japan	31	Osaka	20.10.1950	8-12 Honmachi 1 Chome Chuoku Osaka 541

1	2	3	4	5	6
		32	Tokyo	17.5.1950	Mitsubishi Denki Branch Bldg. 2-2-3, Murunouchi Chiyoda-Ku Tokya 100
	Kenya	33	Mombasa	17.10.1953	Bank of India Bldg. Nikrumah Road, Treasury Square Post Box No. 90684 Mombasa, Kenya
		34	Nairobi	18.3.1954	Kenyatta Avenue Post Box No. 30246 Nairobi Kenya
	Hongkong	35	Hongkong	12.4.1960	Ruttonjee Centre 2nd Floor 11 Doddell Street Hongkong
		36	Kowloon	17.6.1977	Units 407 to 409 4th Floor Hongkong Pacific Centre 28 Hankow Road Kowloon, Hongkong
	Singapore	37	Singapore	4.6.1951	01-01 Shing Kwan House 4 Shenton May Singapore 068807
	France	38	Paris	17.5.1974	No. 3 Rue Scribe 7509 Paris France
	Jersey	39	Jersey	2.10.1978	35-37 New Street St. Heller Jersey JE2 3RA, Channel Islands
	Grand Cayman	40	Cayman Islands	29.5.1980	P.O. Box 694 Grand Cayman Cayman Islands (British West Indies)
UCO Bank	Hongkong	41	Hongkong	18.3.1952	4/F Princes Bldg. Central Hongkong GPOB-196 Hongkong

1	2	3	4	5	6
	-do-	42	Kowloon	2.10.1969	2/F Astoria Building 34 Ashley Road TST, Kowloon Post Box No. 96195 Kowloon
	Singapore	43	Singapore	16.4.1951	No.3 Raffles Place Bharat Bldg., Singapore 0104
	-do-	44	Seranaoon	7.3.1959	26 & 28 Dunlop Street Singapore 0820
Bank of Baroda	U.K.	45	London	25.2.1957	31/32 King Street London EC 2, VBEN UK
		46	Southall	15.5.1967	86, The Broadway Southall Middlesex U.K.
		47	Handsworth	3.7.1970	175, Soho Road Handsworth Birmingham U.K.
		48	Streatham (Tooting)	5.7.1974	145, Upper Tooting Road London SW 17/7/TJ U.K.
		49	Brent (Wembley)	24.5.1976	32 Ealing Road, Wembly Brent Middlesex, HAO-4TL U.I.
		50	Aldgate East Branch	30.12.1976	30. B Commercial Road London EI, Whitechapel U.K.
		51	Manchester	29.12.1977	50, Swan Street Manchester M4, 5 JU U.K.
		52	New York	22.2.1979	One Park Avenue New York NT 10016 USA
		53	George Town	31.3.1966	Post Box No. 10768 10 Regent Street, George Town Guyana (South America)
		54	Suva	5.7.1961	Post Box. No. 57 Bank of Baroda Bldg. Opp. Century Theatre Marks Street, Suva, Fiji Islands
		55	Navsari (Suva based mobile)	22.5.1971	-do-
		56	Ba	16.6.1969	Post Box No. 254, Vasolca Ba Fiji Islands
		57	Tavua (Ba based Mobile)	22.5.1969	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6
		58	Lautaka	14.6.1963	Post Box No. 42 Vintogo Parade & Vidilo Street Lautoka Fiji Islands
		59	Sigatoka	1.8.1976	Post Box No. 3, Queens Road, Sigatoka, Firi Islands
		60	Labasa	27.3.1971	Post Box No. 190, Naseakula Road, Labasa Fiji Islands
		61	Nadi	16.12.1972	Post Box No. 22, Queens Road, Opp. Nadi Post Office Nadi, Fiji Islands
		62	Raki Raki	1.8.1976	Post Box No. 88, Vaileka Town Raki Raki Fiji Islands
	Bhaomas	63	Massau	22.2.1979	C/o New York Branch One Park Avenue New York, NY 10014, USA
	Mauritius	64	Post Louis	19.10.1962	Post Box No. 553, Sir William Newton Street, Por Louis Mauritius
		65	Curepipe	30.5.1970	Post Box No. 28, Royal Road, Curepipe, Mauritius
		66	Vacoas	17.1.1972	St. Paul Road, Vacoas Mauritius
		67	Rose Hill	21.11.1973	Royal Road, Rose Hill Mauritius
		68	Quatre Bornes	26.1.1976	St. Jean Road Opp, Quatre Bornes, Town Hall, Mauritius
		69	Port Louis (Mobile Agency)	2.9.1965	Post Box No. 553, Sir William Newton Street, Post Louis Mauritius
		70	Port Louis OBU	29.5.1990	Nirmal Bldg., 6th Floor 22 Sir William Newton Street Port Louis, Mauritius Centre de Flacq
		71	Flacq	9.3.2000	Royal Road Boulet Blanc, Mauritius
	Belgium	72	Brussels	13.9.1976	10, Rue Montonyer Off Avenue Des Arts 1040 Brussels, Belgium

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Oman	73	Mutrah	30.5.1975	Post Box No. 7231 Cornche Road, Mutrah Sultanate of Oman
		74	Ruwi	16.2.1978	Al-Wahalby Bldg., Post Box No. 4610, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman
		75	Salalah	8.11.1979	Post Box No. 18478, Salalah Sultanate of Oman
	Seychelles	76	Seychelles	8.6.1978	Srinivas Complex Albert Street, Mahe Seychelles
	UAE	77	Abudhabi	23.7.1974	Al Hallami Centre, Hamdam Street, Abudhabi
		78	Dubai	25.6.1974	Sh Rashid-Bldg., 312/47, Ali Bin Ani Taleb Road, Dubai
		79	Deira	15.8.1975	Post Box No. 5107, Deira Murishid Bazar, UAE
		80	Sharjah	22.4.1976	Post Box No. 1671, Al Araba Bldg., Al Araba Road, Sharjah (UAE)
		81	Alain	6.9.1975	Al Darmaki's Bldg., Planning Street, Near Clock Tower, Round About, City Centre, P.O. Box 16123 Alain UAE
		82	Ras Aq-Kaimah	17.11.1977	P.O. Box 5294, Oman Street, Ras-Al-Kaimah UAE
	South Africa	83	Durban	13.8.1997	Cowey Park, 91/121 Cowey Road, Berea Durban 4001, South Africa
Indian Bank	Srilanka	84	Colombo Main	Nov. 1947	48, Mudalige, Mawatha Baillie Street, Post Box No. 624 Colombo 1, Srilanka
		85	FCBU Colombo	6.2.1980	Post Box No. 624, 899193 Main Street, Colombo 11
	Singapore	86	Singapore	Sept., 1945	No. 2D, Almeida Street Bharat Bldg., Singapore 0104 (Opp. Raffles Place MRT Station)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Indian Overseas Bank	Srilanka	87	Colombo	17.12.1945	45, Janadhipathi Mawatha Colombo 1
		88	FCBU Colombo	3.8.1979	-do-
	Hongkong	89	Hongkong	9.6.1955	3 F Ruttonjee House 11, Duddell Street Hongkong
		90	Tsim Sha Tsui (Kawloon)	25.4.1977	42, Gran Ville Road, Box No. 5608 Tsim Sha Tsui P.O. Kowloon Hongkong
	Singapore	91	Singapore	12.2.1941	IOB Bldg., Cecil, Street Singapore 0104
	South Korea	92	Seoul	19.9.1997	IAEYUNGAK Centre 3rd Floor, Chung-Ku 25-5 1-KA, Chunguru R O Chung Ku, Seoul 110011 Republic of Korea
Syndicate Bank	U.K.	93	London	17.8.1976	King William House 2A East Cheep London EC 3 MIAA
Canara Bank	U.K.	94	London	12.12.1983	14 Moor Lane, London EC 2

Investment by Multinationals in Orissa

4078. SHRI JAGANNATH MALLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a trend of decline among the multinationals to invest in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. There has been decline in Foreign Direct Investment approvals granted during the period from 1997 to 1999 for the State of Orissa.

(b) The choice of location depends on the commercial judgement of investors. The location of projects involving Foreign Direct Investment are determined by various factors, which inter-alia include, availability of infrastructure, manpower, domestic market and fiscal and other incentives provided by various State Governments.

Ban on Import of Certain Items

4079. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) whether Indian farmers/manufacturers/traders are facing lot of problems due to increased imports after removal of quantitative restrictions and whether domestic industries including Small Scale Industries are likely to be affected as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to re-impose the ban/restrictions on the import of certain items on the basis of requests of manufacturers/traders/farmers;

(c) if so, the names of such commodities;

(d) the time limit of ban/restrictions;

(e) if not, the alternate measures being taken by the Government to save the domestic industries from the bad effect of such imports;

(f) whether there would be any effect on country's economy as well as on the industrial production by imposing such ban; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (g) Apprehensions have been expressed in certain quarters regarding the likely adverse impact of removal of Quantitative Restrictions on domestic farmers/manufacturers. India has been following a continuous policy of removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. It is seen from the overall import data for the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000, that freeing of imports during this period has not had any significant impact on the average rate of growth of imports.

In view of India's international commitments the quantitative restrictions on imports maintained on account of Balance of Payment reasons may not be re-imposed. However, Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff and other available mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry due to removal of import restrictions. Towards that end, Government has increased duties on a numbers of items where a surge in imports was noticed or apprehended. Government has also constituted an Inter Ministerial Group under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary, to assess the likely impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and to suggest suitable corrective measures. Besides, a Group of Ministers has been entrusted with the task of suggesting ways and means for empowering the SSI sector.

Foreign Investment Institutions

4080. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the net investment made by Foreign Investment Institutions in the capital market during the current year, upto 30th of June, and how does it compare with the relevant period of the previous year;

(b) the total investments made by the foreign investment institutions during the last three years in the

country and what are the unwinded positions in the debt market, yearwise; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to attract more investments by the foreign investments institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per the reports filed with the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) by the Custodians of the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), the net investments during the current year upto June, 30 amounted to US\$ 1465 Million. The net investments by FIIs during the corresponding period in the year 1999 amounted to US \$ 898.7 Million.

(b) The total net investments by the FIIs during the last three years had been as follows :

Year	Amount (US \$ Million)
1997	1746.6
1998	(-) 338.2
1999	1559.9

Details on net investments by FII Debt Funds are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Several policy measures are taken on an ongoing basis to encourage investments by FIIs in the country. The recent initiatives include the following :

- (i) Domestic portfolio managers registered with SEBI and SEBI approved domestic asset management companies have been allowed to seek registration as foreign institutional investors for investing on behalf of sub-accounts.
- (ii) Foreign individuals and overseas corporate bodies are also allowed to invest in Indian capital market as sub accounts of FIIs provided the investment made by these entities does not exceed 5% of the paid capital of the company.
- (iii) Investment by FIIs in a particular company was subjected to a ceiling of 24% of the total paid up capital of the company. The companies have now been permitted to raise the ceiling limit from 24% to 40% of the issued and paid up capital of the company provided it is approved by the Board of Directors and a Special Resolution is

passed in the General Body Meeting of the company.

Royalty to Parent Foreign Company

4081. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to re-examine the issue of allowing payment of royalty of 100 percent Indian subsidiaries to the parent foreign companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has prepared any guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) Government continuously reviews Foreign Direct Investment policy. As per the extant policy, royalty cannot be paid by the 100% Indian subsidiaries to their parent foreign companies.

[Translation]

Empty FCI Godowns

4082. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of godowns of Food Corporation of India in Rajasthan and the number out of these are lying empty;

(b) the rental amount being paid by FCI per annum for the above godowns;

(c) the number of godowns emptied and handed over back to their owners by FCI during the last three years and the reasons therefore; and

(d) the number of FCI godowns, especially in Jodhpur district and the number of those emptied by FCI during the last three years and the number of godowns proposed to be emptied in the near future and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) There are 45 godowns excluding plinths (six). No godown is lying empty.

(b) For the year 1999-2000, the amount of rent paid was Rs. 86,07,000.00.

(c) None of the godowns was handed over to the owners during the last three years.

(d) There are four godowns and two plinths. No godown was vacated during the last three years. There is no proposal to vacate any godown in Jodhpur District in the near future.

[English]

Impact of Liberalisation on SSIs

4083. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand to study the impact of liberalisation/globalisation on the small scale industries and need to hear the grievances of aggrieved entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government are aware that a campaign against the economic reforms has been launched;

(d) if so, the details of post reform performance of SSIs and the implication on the SSIs after the removal of quantitative restrictions from 714 items; and

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government has put in place several measures in order to protect the interests of small scale industries and help them become globally competitive. These include, inter alia, special focus on areas such as infrastructure assistance, technology upgradation, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management and production practices, use of electronic infrastructure and IT applications, marketing assistance, timely dissemination of information, sensitisation of small industries to other emerging challenges of trade liberalisation, etc.

The post reform performance of small scale industries is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Performance of Small Scale Sector*

Year	No. of units (lakh nos.)	Production (Rs. Crore)		Employment (lakh nos.)	Exports (Rs. Crores) (at current prices)
		(at current prices)	(at constant prices) (1990-91)		
1990-91	19.48 (6.86)	1,55,340	1,55,340 (9.46)	125.30 (4.77)	9.664 (26.74)
1991-92	20.82 (6.88)	1,78,699	1,60,156 (3.10)	129.80 (3.59)	13,883 (43.65)
1992-93	22.46 (7.88)	2,09,300	1,69,125 (5.60)	134.06 (3.28)	17,785 (28.11)
1993-94	23.81 (6.01)	2,41,648	1,81,133 (7.10)	139.38 (3.97)	25,307 (42.29)
1994-95	25.71 (7.98)	2,93,990	1,99,427 (10.1)	146.56 (5.15)	29,068 (14.86)
1995-96	27.24 (5.95)	3,56,213	2,22,162 (11.40)	152.61 (4.13)	36,470 (25.50)
1996-97	28.57 (4.88)	4,12,636	2,47,311 (11.3)	160.00 (4.84)	39,249 (7.61)
1997-98	30.14 (5.5)	4,65,171	2,68,159 (8.43)	167.20 (4.5)	43,946 (11.97)
1998-99(P)	31.21 (3.55)	5,27,515	2,88,807 (7.7)®	171.58(Pj) (2.62)	48,979 (11.45)
1999-2000	32.25 (3.33)	5,78,470	3,12,576 (8.23)	177.30 (3.33)	N.A.

(P) - Provisional (Pj) - Projected ® Revised

Figures in the brackets give the percentage increase over the previous year.

*SSI Growth : Target and Achievement (%)**(At 1990-91 prices)*

Year	Target	Achievement
1	2	3
1991-92	3.0	3.1
1992-93	5.0	5.6
1993-94	7.0	7.1
1994-95	9.1	10.1

1	2	3
1995-96	9.1	11.4
1996-97	9.1	11.3
1997-98	9.1	8.43
1998-99	9.1	7.7
1999-2000 (P)	9.1	8.23

P-Provisional

Note : During 1997-98 & 1998-99 achievement was less than the target, due to general slow down in industry. Even then the growth rate of SSI sector was higher than that of large industry.

C&AG'S Observation of the Working of Central Excise Department

4084. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out in its Report No. 11 of 2000 ending March 1999 that the central excise department did not charge the additional duty of excise from 1984 to 1996;

(b) if so, the amount involved in the incorrect availment of exemption of additional duty of excise by the assesseees;

(c) whether the Government have yet to reply to the C&AG observations;

(d) if so, the reasons for inordinate delay in replying to C&AG'S observations; and

(e) the corrective measures to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The availment of exemption from additional duty of excise leviable on 'input fabrics' used captively for further manufacture of processed fabrics by assesseees, has been questioned by Audit and has been pointed out in Audit Para No. 6.2 (i) of the said Report. However, the period involved is from 1994 to 1996 and not from 1984 to 1996. The later appears to be a typographical error in the penultimate para of the aforesaid Audit Para. The correct year (date) has been mentioned in the first sentence of the said Audit Para itself.

(b) The amount of duty involved, covering 7 assesseees, as also indicated in the said Report, is Rs. 7.85 crores. The Ministry does not admit these to be cases of incorrect availment of exemption.

(c) The Government has already replied to the observations to the C&AG.

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

(e) Does not arise as the Ministry has not admitted the objection.

[Translation]

Recommendations of Disinvestment Commission

4085. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has submitted its recommendations to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations accepted by the Government alongwith the follow-up action taken in this regard;

(d) whether the employees association/confederations were consulted before accepting these recommendations; and

(e) if not, the main demands of employees association/confederation in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission has made certain general recommendations applicable to all PSUs and specific recommendations in regard to disinvestment in 58 PSUs. Out of these 58 companies it has recommended strategic sale in 29 companies, 100 per cent trade sale in 8 companies, disinvestment through offer of shares in 5 cases, closure/sale of assets in 4 cases and no disinvestment or deferment of disinvestment in balance 12 companies.

(c) At present, out of the 17 companies in which disinvestment proposals have been cleared and advisors have been appointed to assist the Government in implementing the decisions, 10 companies were those where the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission were obtained. These are Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., HTL Ltd., Engineering Projects India Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Air India, Indian Airlines, Indian Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd. and Hindustan Copper Ltd. In 2 similar cases, disinvestment has been cleared but advisors are yet to be appointed. These are Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. and MSTC Ltd. Recommendations of the Commission in 4 cases have been partially accepted and implemented by the Government. These are in respect of strategic sale in Modern Food Industries Ltd. and offer of shares in cases of Gas Authority of India Ltd., Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Container Corporation of India Ltd.

(d) No Sir, not while accepting specific recommendations regarding individual PSUs. Recently the Prime Minister met leaders of Central Trade Union. Views were exchanged in a constructive atmosphere. The Prime Minister will be meeting them again in November. Other ministers will be interacting with them as and when required.

(e) Some sections of employees have opposed the disinvestment policy/proposals in certain undertakings. As per the announced policy of the Government on disinvestment, the interests of the workers would be protected in all cases.

Bank Loans to Riot Victims

4086. SHRI SUBODH RAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the bank-wise total amount as loan given by the public sector banks to the victims of Bhagalpur riots of 1989;

(b) whether the Government have taken any decision to waive the loan amount given by the banks to the riot victims for rehabilitation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per information furnished by Bank of India, Convenor of State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for the State of Bihar, the details of loans provided by the following Banks to victims of Bhagalpur Riots 1989 are given hereunder :

Banks	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
Bank of India	1.44
UCO Bank	24.05
State Bank of India	101.17
Punjab National Bank	56.00
Total	182.66

(b) and (c) No proposal to grant general waiver of loans outstanding against Bhagalpur Riot Victims 1989 is under consideration of Government at present.

Housing Loan by Banks

4087. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total housing loan provided by various banks

and financial institutions during the last three years, State-wise;

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

(c) the number of defaulters during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by the banks to recover the loan amount from the defaulters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per information provided by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the State-wise outstanding advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks for housing under the priority sector for the last three years 1996, 1997 and 1998 (latest available) are given in the enclosed statement.

The maximum housing loan admissible under priority sector to an individual is restricted to Rs. 5 lakh in rural and semi-urban areas and Rs. 10 lakh in Urban and Metropolitan areas for construction of houses. The rates of interest on housing loans are deregulated and determined by banks themselves. Banks are free to evolve their own guidelines on the stipulations on margin money, security and repayment schedule with their Board of Directors' approval.

(c) and (d) The Information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Statement

Outstanding Balances of Housing Advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks' Under priority Sector

(Figures in Lakhs of Rs.)

Name of State	Outstanding as on 31st March		
	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4
Haryana	1793	5120	3477
Himachal Pradesh	537	600	783
Jammu & Kashmir	277	721	680
Punjab	2737	5258	5346
Rajasthan	6975	2440	23103
Chandigarh	346	445	2095
Delhi	22981	54656	70228

1	2	3	4
Assam	179	338	487
Manipur	16	43	47
Meghalaya	36	47	109
Nagaland	6	9	7
Tripura	29	12	17
Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	1
Mizoram	2	2	27
Sikkim	1	1	56
Bihar	1329	1992	1745
Orissa	6364	11659	5137
West Bengal	2766	8903	13532
Andaman & Nicobar	8	11	19
Madhya Pradesh	3095	3844	6288
Uttar Pradesh	21762	26486	24832
Gujarat	8864	9247	16513
Maharashtra	28129	67783	121992
Daman & Diu	0	2	19
Goa	504	558	863
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	7	13
Andhra Pradesh	23197	31362	32008
Karnataka	24153	33898	53165
Kerala	13819	21780	36285
Tamil Nadu	10291	18648	25528
Pondicherry	85	163	71
Lakshadweep	1	1	1
Total	180283	316037	444474

AIR/DD Centres

4088. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of broadcasting/telecasting centres working in Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to set up some new stations in tribal areas of this 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) The details of broadcasting/telecasting centres of AIR & Doordarshan in U.P. location-wise is given in enclosed statement-I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) Whereas All India Radio signals are available to 90.7% of area and 98.5% of population in U.P. Doordarshan coverage is estimated to be available to 81.8% of area and 93.5% of population.

(d) With a view to further improve AIR and Doordarshan service in the State including the tribal areas, projects for setting up of 2 new Radio Stations, replacement of 2 old Radio transmitters and setting up 23 TV Transmitters including 1 HPT at Lakhimpur in the tribal district of Kheri are under implementation.

Statement-I*Broadcasting Centres of AIR in U.P.*

S.No.	Station	Transmitter
1	2	3
1.	Agra	20 KW MW Tr.
2.	Allahabad	20 KW MW Tr. 10 kW FM Tr. (VB)
3.	Almora	1 KW MW Tr.
4.	Gorakhpur	100 KW MW Tr. 50 KW SW Tr. (External Services)
5.	Kanpur	1 KW MW Tr. (VB)
6.	Lucknow	300 KW MW Tr. 10 KW MW Tr. (VB) 50 KW MW Tr.
7.	Mathura	1 KW MW Tr.
8.	Najibabad	100 KW MW Tr.

	1	2	3	Athdama
9.	Rampur	20 KW MW Tr.		Auraiya
10.	Varanasi	100 KW MW Tr. 1 KW MW Tr. (VB)		Bahraich Ballia
11.	Aligarh	6 KW FM Tr. (Relay) 4 Nos. of 250 KW SW Trs. (External Services)		Balrampur Banda Basti
12.	Bareilly	6 KW FM Tr. (LRS)		Champawat
13.	Faizabad	6 KW FM Tr. (LRS)		Chhibramau
14.	Jhansi	-do-		Dak Pathar
15.	Obra	6 KW FM Tr.		Deoria
16.	Mussorie	10 KW FM Tr. (Relay)		Dudhingar
17.	Pauri (Garhwal)	1 KW MW Tr.		Etah
18.	Pithoragarh	1 KW MW Tr. (Relay)		Etawah
19.	Uttarakashi	-do-		Faizabad

Statement-II

Telecasting Centres of Doordarshan in U.P.

HPTs (10)

Agra
Allahabad
Bareilly
Gorakhpur
Kanpur
Lucknow
Mau
Mussourie
Varanasi
Mussoorie (DD-2)

LPTs (73)

Akbarpur
Aligarh
Amroha

Farrukhabad
Fatehpur
Ganj Dundwara
Gauriganj
Gonda
Haldwani
Hardoi
Haridwar
Jagdishpur
Jhansi
Kalagarh
Karwi
Kasganj
Kashipur
Kotdwar
Lakhimpur
Lalganj (Pratapgarh) (DD-2)

Lalganj (Rae Bareilly)

Lalitpur

Mahoba

Mahroni

Mainpuri

Mathura (DD-2)

Mau Ranipur

Mohammadabad

Moradabad

Naini Danda

Nainital

Nanpara

Naugarh

New Tehri

Obra

Orai

Pauri

Pilibhit

Pithoragarh

Puranpur

Rae Bareli

Rampur

Rasra (DD-2)

Rath

Rudauli

Sambal

Shahjahanpur

Sikanderpur

Sitapur

Sultanpur

Talbehat

Tanakpur

Thirwa

Azamgarh (DD-2)

Kanpur (DD-2)

Lucknow (DD-2)

Mau (DD-2)

Rampur (DD-2)

VLPTs (32)

Almora

Bageshwar

Basot

Bhatlari

Chaukhatia

Devprayag

Dharchula

Didihat

Gajja

Ghandyal

Gopeshwar

Joshimath

Kaljikhali

Karan Prayag

Kausani

Khufia Nangal

Maneshwar

Manikpur

Mankapur

Munsiari

Nandprayag

Naugaonkhal

Okhimath

Pokhri

Pratapnagar

Rajgrahi

Ranikhet

Ruderpryag

Saahiya

Tharali

Uttarakashi

Thakurdwara (DD-2)

Transposers (3)

Churk

Mussoorie

Srinagar

Studios (6)

Lucknow

Gorakhpur

Bareilly

Mau

Allahabad

Varanasi

Essential Commodities Act

4039. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons against whom action has been taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1980 in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the objective of the said Act has not been achieved;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the Essential Commodities Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) As per information received till date from various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, the number of persons

whom action has been taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 during the last three years, year-wise is as under :

Year	Persons arrested	Prosecuted	Convicted
1998	6245	5329	3705
1999	8780	4597	2827
2000	3265	1328	957
Upto 31.7.2000			

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to make the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 more effective and to also eliminate scope for unnecessary harassment, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Doordarshan/AIR Projects

4090. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

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

(a) the name of ongoing/pending Doordarshan and Akashwani projects in the country, State-wise especially in Daltonganj district of Bihar; and

(b) the progress made so far and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed/cleared, project-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) The State-wise details of AIR and DD projects under implementation in the country, are given in statement-I and II respectively. An HPT and a studio of DD and a Radio station of AIR are already functioning at Daltonganj and no scheme of AIR/DD are under implementation in Daltonganj.

(b) These projects are under various stages of implementation and are scheduled to be completed and commissioned in phases by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Statement-I*DD Projects under implementation (as on 16.8.2000)*

S.No.	State/UT	Studios	No. of transmitters projects	
			(DD-1)	(DD-2)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam		1	-
2.	A.P.	1	18	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh		4	-
4.	Bihar	1	6	4
5.	Goa			1
6.	Gujarat	1	2	3
7.	Haryana			1
8.	H.P.		7	1
9.	J & K	1	75	6
10.	Kerala	2	6	2
11.	Karnataka		13	1
12.	M.P.	-	13	1
13.	Meghalaya			
14.	Maharashtra		8	2
15.	Manipur		1	-
16.	Mizoram		2	-
17.	Nagaland		1	-
18.	Orissa	1	4	2
19.	Punjab	1	2	1
20.	Rajasthan	1	10	4
21.	Sikkim	1	1	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	7	2
23.	Tripura		3	1
24.	U.P.	1	14	9
25.	W.B.		5	2
26.	Delhi	1		
27.	A & N Islands			

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Daman & Diu			
29.	Pondicherry		1	-
30.	L'Dweep Islands			
31.	Chandigarh	1		
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli			
Total		15	204	44

Statement-II*AIR Projects under implementation*

S.No.	State/UT	Number of Projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
3.	Assam	1
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Delhi	3
6.	Goa	Nil
7.	Gujarat	6
8.	Haryana	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6
10.	Karnataka	5
11.	Kerala	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5
13.	Maharashtra	5
14.	Manipur	4
15.	Meghalaya	3
16.	Mizoram	4
17.	Nagaland	3
18.	Orissa	3
19.	Punjab	Nil
20.	Rajasthan	3
21.	Sikkim	1

1	2	3
22. Tamil Nadu		5
23. Tripura		5
24. Uttar Pradesh		4
25. West Bengal		3
26. A & N Islands		1

[English]

Performance of Sugar Industry

4091. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government in the recent past have reviewed the performance of sugar industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof with special reference to Maharashtra ;

(c) whether the Government have assured that such review would streamline and strengthen sugar industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (e) The performance of the sugar industry in general and Maharashtra in particular has improved in the last few years as may be observed from the sugar production for the seasons 1997-98 to 1999-2000 :

Season	Production (In lakh tonnes) (All India)	Production of Maharashtra (In lakh tonnes)
1997-98	128.44	38.47
1998-99 (Provisional)	155.20	53.43
1999-2000 (Provisional)	179.20	64.68

(Upto 22nd July)

Due to high level of production during the two consecutive sugar seasons namely, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, the stocks of sugar available with the sugar factories

particularly in the State of Maharashtra have substantially increased. As per the current estimates, the closing stocks of sugar at the end of the current 1999-2000 season would be of the order of 96.39 lakh tonnes.

2. The following steps have been taken to help the sugar mills to overcome these problems :

(i) The Government have reduced the levy obligation of sugar factories from 40% to 30% with effect from 1.1.2000 with a view to improving the financial position of the sugar factory which could enable them to pay the cane price dues promptly.

(ii) To restrict inflow of imported sugar in the country, Government have increased the custom duty to 60% with effect from 9.2.2000, alongwith the existing countervailing duty of Rs. 840 per tonne.

(iii) The Government have been pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious release of freesale sugar quotas to enable the sugar factories to clear the cane price dues of the farmers.

(iv) Government have decided to allow export of 10 lakhs tonnes of sugar, and exempt the sugar to be exported from levy obligation. This exemption is given for a period of six months beginning from 1st June, 2000.

3. The above mentioned measures are aimed at strengthening the domestic sugar industry including the sugar factories located in Maharashtra.

Setting up of Branches of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management

4092. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up branches of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in various parts of the country;

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

(c) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to set up the branch of the said Management in their capital also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One branch has been established in 1996 at Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

(c) and (d) The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat requested the Union Government of set up the branch of IITM at the respective capitals. Because of the resource constraints, the State Governments were advised to set up the chapters under their State Plan.

Meeting of World Economic Forum

4093. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main issues discussed at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum 2000 towards economic globalisation;

(b) the India's stand on these issues and the concern expressed by India against globalisation move made by the developed world and how far it was shared by other developing countries;

(c) whether "child labour" in developing countries was again raised there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith India's response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The main issues discussed at the Meeting were globalisation, redefining the roles of business and government in 21st century, global policy responses to the genetic revolution and digital revolution.

(b) The World Economic Forum annual meeting is not in the nature of an inter-governmental conference, nor is it conducted along the developed and developing country lines. The primary thrust of India's participation was to project its own policies, potential and achievements, especially as an attractive investment destination and an emerging power in information technology. India's stand on these issues was in line with policy stance of Government of India.

(c) The issue "child labour" did not figure in the agenda for Finance Minister.

(d) Does not arise.

Ganja Plantation

4094. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by the Central Narcotics Bureau so far during 1999-2000 in each State to destroy Ganja plantation;

(b) the estimated area covered under Ganja plantation as detected by the Narcotics Bureau in each State and the approximate market price of product to be acquired out of this plantation, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that illicit Ganja cultivation/smuggling is not allowed in any part of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) During the year 1999-2000 (upto June) the Narcotics Control Bureau had conducted following raids in various States to destroy illicit Ganja plantation :

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of raids	Estimated area covered
1.	Kerala	1	4 acres
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	5 acres
3.	Punjab	2	4 sq. kms.

Since the ganja plantation detected by the Narcotics Control Bureau is destroyed, the question of approximate market price of the product does not arise.

(c) Significant steps taken by the Government to ensure that illicit Ganja cultivation/ smuggling is not allowed 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 narcotics 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.

Funds to Panchayats under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

4095. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal relating to disburse the funds under centrally sponsored schemes directly to Gram Panchayats without channelising it through the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

IDF Meeting at Paris

4096. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments presented their case at the recent meeting of India Development Forum held in Paris in May this year;

(b) if so, the precise details thereof; and

(c) the response of different donor countries and the consensus reached in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The theme for discussion at the India Development Forum held in May 2000 was "Poverty-States' Dimension". Presentations were made by representatives of some State Governments on the following topics :

1. Uttar Pradesh : Fiscal Reform and Public Sector Restructuring in Uttar Pradesh
2. Karnataka : Human Development in Karnataka
3. Andhra Pradesh : Approaches to Rural and Urban Poverty Reduction in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The presentations made by the State Governments were well received by the different donors/external agencies. The inclusion of the representatives of the States was viewed as an excellent addition to the forum, which led to a very healthy and constructive debate on the theme topic.

Disinvestment of Money by Financial Institutions

4097. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the investment financial institutions like UTI, GIC and LIC for adopting the mutual fund route for warehousing of shares to be diverted by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal thereof alongwith the names of PSUs which should be diverted;

(c) whether the Government have considered the proposal of financial institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (d) No such proposal has been received by the Department of Disinvestment. However, earlier a number of alternative method of disinvestment were examined by the Government for expediting the process of disinvestment. These included creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle, setting up of National Shareholding Trust and Warehousing of shares with the financial institutions. The proposals were considered at various levels of the Government and no decision was taken to adopt any of these methods for disinvestment.

(e) The decisions of the Government to disinvest in any Public Sector Enterprise are governed by the declared policy of the Government on disinvestment. The specific proposals are based mainly on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, other expert bodies etc. so far as the mode of disinvestment and percentage of disinvestment are concerned.

Ties with Russia

4098. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether talks were held recently between Indo-Russia to improve the cultural ties between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Sixth Meeting of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Culture under the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation was held on 13th January 2000 to review the progress of implementation on the decisions taken in the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group and to identify the areas of co-operation for the year 2000. Both the sides have also signed a Protocol of the Sixth Meeting. The Protocol provides for exchange of artists, exhibitions and cultural personalities to participate in the functions devoted to the 50th Anniversary of Declaration of the Republic of India. It also provides opportunities to experts in music, theatre, fine arts, folk preservation and restoration of monuments, libraries and museums to exchange experience and take part in conferences, symposia and seminars. Both sides have agreed to continue the development of cultural co-operation between the municipalities of the Capitals of both the countries.

Role of Disinvestment Commission

4099. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government feel that the role of Disinvestment Commission is circumscribed because of its being only an 'advisory body' and the final decision on its recommendations ultimately vesting with the Government;

(b) whether the Government propose to consider upgrading the status of the Disinvestment Commission by making its recommendations mandatory; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise

[Translation]

Share Money of NABARD

4100. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced to increase the share money of National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank to Rs. 500 crore;

(b) if so, whether the said amount has been released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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)'s capital had been enhanced from Rs. 100 crore in 1982-83 to Rs. 500 crore in 1995-96 in stages. The capital of NABARD has further been enhanced to Rs. 2000 crore by 1998-99 through contribution of Rs. 100 crore and Rs. 400 crore by Government of India and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) respectively during each of the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99. Pending amendments to NABARD Act the additional capital contribution made during the years 1996-97 to 1998-99 aggregating Rs.1500 has been kept under the head 'Advance towards Capital'.

Low Power Transmitter at Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh

4101. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a low power transmitter of Doordarshan has been installed in the Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the people in the tribal areas around Jhabua are unable to watch Doordarshan owing to low capacity of transmitter;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to install high power transmitter in Jhabua so that more tribal people may be able to watch the Doordarshan Programmes; and

(d) if so, the programme of the Government to install high power transmitter there ?

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)
Two low power transmitters, one each at Jhabua and Alirajpur, are already functioning in Jhabua district. Besides, parts of the district are covered by the High Power Transmitter at Indore. These transmitters cover about 69% of the area and 71% of the population of the district. There is no approved scheme at present, to set up a High Power Transmitter at Jhabua. Further extension of TV service in the area would depend upon availability of resources and inter se priorities.

[English]

Refund Orders Issued by I.T. Department

4102. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a few cases of issuing fraudulent Refund Orders by I.T. authorities have been brought to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which have been investigated and the guilty officials penalised/suspended;

(c) the details of such cases which are still under investigation;

(d) whether the Government will conduct a probe on such fraudulent I.T. Refund cases with retrospective effect i.e., suspected cases for the last five years be brought under probe; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d)
Some cases of fraudulent refund orders brought to the notice of the Government were investigated for appropriate action. As per details available in 30 cases action has been taken against the guilty officials whereas the matter is under investigation in three cases. Similar action would be initiated if and when such cases are reported/ brought to the notice of the Government. (Details of cases are given in the enclosed statement).

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement

1. **Shri M.M. Dubey, Stenographer :**

Shri Dubey was placed under the suspension by the Sr. A.R. IT A T Indore w.e.f. 6.8.98. Case has been registered by the CBI vide RC No. 11(A)/98 in which their report is awaited.

2. **Shri S.R. Naidu, ITO :**

Penalty of reduction in pay by 5 stages for five years imposed w.e.f. 30.3.99.

3. **Shri M.S. Idnani, ITO :**

Disciplinary proceedings are in progress.

4. **Shri G.G.A. Naidu, ITO Gr. 'A' (Retd.)**

In this case file is under submission to UPSC.

5. **Shri G. Venketeswarlu, ITO :**

CBI investigated the case. Lower court sentenced imprisonment. The sentence suspended by High Court till disposal of appeal.

6. **Bogus refund cases in Karnataka :**

Investigation revealed that no I.T. officer is involved.

7. **A. Swamy Naidu, ACIT (Retd.)**

It has started the process of prosecution.

Naramsivam TA	CBI processing case for
Shivraj, ITO	launching prosecution
Jacob, ITO	

8. **Shri N. Rajgopalan, ITO :**

Departmental penalty proceeding initiated against the officer.

9. **Shri G. Selva Kumar, ITO :**

Sanction for prosecution has been accorded to CBI.

10. **Smt. S.G. Bellani, ITO & (U.S.) & Shri S.L. Khanna, UDC :**

Smt. S.G. Bellani, ITO & Shri S.L. Khanna, UDC were arrested and both are suspended w.e.f. 30.4.92. A charge-sheet was filed by the Police in Court on 24.2.92 u/s/120B/420/409/469/ 467 & 471 IPC and at present the case is pending in Court.

11. **Fraudulent encashment of refund of Rs. 12924/- issued by ITO Ward 20(3) Calcutta.**

Department action against the concerned UDE is being taken.

12. **Refund fraud in ITO, Ward 6(6) Calcutta.**

F.I.R. has been filed against the Advocate & other persons. Involvement of the departmental officials is under investigation.

13. A refund fraud of claiming bogus refunds by filing returns in the name of bogus assesseees and enclosing fictitious TDS certificate was detected. Departmental proceedings against four officers of the department were initiated. In one case proceedings come to an end due to the death of the officers. In one case major penalty of 25% cut in pension for three years was imposed. In one case penalty of 'censure' was imposed. In the other case UPSC has advised a penalty of reduction of pay.
14. Shri P.K. Choudhary, ITO :
- Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
15. Shri K.N. Hazarika, ITO :
- Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
16. Shri M.N. Dev, ITO :
- Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
17. Shri K.K. Das, ITO :
- Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
18. Shri S.R. Das, ITO :
- Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
19. Shri S.K. Majumdar, ITO :
- Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 10.3.99.
20. Shri S.K. Majumdar, ITO :
- Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 31.3.99.
21. Shri A.K. Purkayastha, ITI :
- Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
22. Shri T.C. Das, ITI :
- Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
23. Shri Imadul Haque, ITI :
- Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
24. Shri Sapakut-Uli-Alam, UDC :
- Major penalty in the nature of reduction to a lower stage in the time scale of pay has been imposed on 21.12.98.
25. Shri S.K. Majumdar, ITO :
- Major penalty has been initiated.
26. Shri A.K. Purkayastha, ITI :
- Major penalty has been initiated.
27. Shri A.K. Dev, ITO :
- Major penalty has been initiated.
28. Shri J. Chakravarty, T.A :
- Major penalty has been initiated.
29. Shri B.R. Purkayastha, ITO :
- Major penalty has been initiated.
30. Shri N. Lungdhim, DCIT :
- Major penalty has been initiated.
31. S/Shri T.M. Phillipose, P.K. Johar, ITOs & Ors :
- Their report has been examined and the matter has been referred to CVC on 1.6.2000 for their 1st stage advice.
32. Employees of I.T. Department, Banks & Private Practitioners
- In this case, there is an allegation that one I.T. practitioner M/s. Pandaya & Co., in collusion with I.T. officials and one employee of S.B.I. has made bogus claims of refund. The matter is under investigation and as per CCIT's report, the responsibility is being fixed in the matter.
33. A case involving six ITOs of NWR region is under investigation by the CBI.
- 100 Crore Drawback Scam**
4103. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :
- (a) whether the Director General of investigation had unearthed a Rs. 100 crore drawback scam sometime in the past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any action in regard to that scam; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) No single drawback scam involving drawback amount of Rs. 100 crores has been unearthed. However, during December

1998, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had detected a duty drawback fraud involving crores of rupees.

(b) The names of the parties and the amount of drawback involved in each case is as under :

S.No.	Name of the firm	Drawback amount involved (in Rs. lakhs)
1.	M/s Brooks International	31.43
2.	M/s Manitoba	31.43
3.	M/s Overseas Business	29.54
4.	M/s Kanak Exports	145.12
5.	M/s Shellcom Exports	58.58
6.	M/s Romel International	38.41
7.	M/s Lakshmi Exports	24.64
8.	M/s P.K. Exports	23.73
9.	M/s Himgiri Overseas	761.76
10.	M/s Texcomash	600.87

(c) and (d) The Government have taken action as required under law by issue of show cause notices to all the parties after completion of investigations. These show cause notices are pending adjudication before the competent authority.

[Translation]

Fake Ration Cards

4104. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the number of ration cards issued are more than the number

of families as per census;

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

(c) whether the Government have estimated the loss of foodgrains and foodgrain subsidies being incurred because of these fake ration cards/units;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to launch a nation-wide campaign against this;

(f) if so, the time by which such campaign is likely to be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (f) As reported by State Governments/Union Territories, the total number of Ration Cards is 1970.63 lakh. The projected number of households in 1999 is 1777.48 lakhs. Statement indicating statewise breakup is given at enclosed statement.

Subsidy is being incurred only on allocation of foodgrains for families below poverty line (BPL) as allocation of foodgrains for the families above poverty line (APL) is being made at economic cost involving no subsidy. No estimate of subsidy loss on account of fake ration cards has been made by Government of India, as the allotment of subsidized foodgrains for BPL families in the States/UTs is given on the basis of poverty estimates of Government of India. The State Governments are required to identify the BPL families and issue ration cards to them within these poverty estimates.

Issue and cancellation of ration cards is a continuous process being undertaken by the State Governments/UTs. Government of India has advised the State Governments/UTs to eliminate bogus ration cards/units through regular inspection and close monitoring.

Statement

Statewise No. of Households and Ration Cards

State/UT	Population* -1999 (In lakhs)	No. of Households* 1999 (In lakhs)	Ration Cards (in lakhs)			Reported As on
			BPL	APL	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	746.17	156.43	113.25	51.53	164.78	Apr-00
Arunachal Pradesh	11.55	2.34	0.82	2.60	3.42	Mar-00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam	258.78	44.39	18.82	23.70	42.52	Apr-00
Bihar	981.22	159.29	84.26	68.74	173.00	Nov-97
Goa	15.47	3.10	0.07	3.01	3.08	May-00
Gujarat	475.51	86.30	33.90	71.95	105.85	May-00
Haryana	195.46	31.03	5.68	37.74	43.42	Jun-00
Himachal Pradesh	65.45	12.26	2.77	9.27	12.04	Apr-00
Jammu & Kashmir	97.09	18.42	3.36	10.12	13.48	Sep-97
*Karnataka	514.36	93.18	64.56	47.23	111.79	May-00
Kerala	319.82	60.57	20.58	41.48	62.06	May-00
Madhya Pradesh	783.46	138.67	43.65	134.18	177.83	Mar-00
Maharashtra	901.22	175.33	58.13	135.96	194.09	Jan-00
Manipur	24.41	4.70	0.67	1.13	1.80	Jun-97
Meghalaya	23.59	4.35	0.97	0.98	1.95	Mar-97
Mizoram	9.22	1.62	N.A.	1.66	1.66	Apr-00
Nagaland	16.29	2.92	0.96	1.05	2.01	Mar-99
Orissa	355.35	67.30	41.23	39.85	81.08	Dec-99
Punjab	232.76	39.32	4.91	49.12	54.03	May-00
Rajasthan	526.39	87.15	22.87	80.93	103.80	Feb-00
Sikkim	5.41	1.02	N.A.	N.A.	0.66	Oct-97
Tamil Nadu	612.55	137.65	64.88	91.59	156.47	Jun-00
Tripura	36.65	6.99	2.31	4.55	6.86	May-00
Uttar Pradesh	1663.64	267.47	95.48	159.96	255.44	July-98
West Bengal	779.72	143.33	46.11	109.13	155.24	Oct-98
Andaman & Nicobar	3.74	0.79	0.12	0.74	0.86	May-00
Chandigarh	8.6	1.96	0.00	2.12	2.12	Apr-00
D & N Haveli	1.84	0.35	0.16	0.16	0.32	Jun-00
Daman & Diu	1.35	0.25	0.02	0.28	0.30	May-00
Delhi	134.18	26.73	N.A.	36.00	36.00	Mar-00
Lakshadweep	0.69	0.11	N.A.	0.13	0.13	May-00
Pondicherry	10.76	2.16	0.90	1.64	2.54	May-00
Total	9812.70	1777.48	731.44	1238.53	1970.63	

* - As per Census Report. N.A. - Not available.

*[English]***Transaction value norms for Excise Assessments**

4105. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) is in the process of framing rules for enforcement of the 'transaction value' norms for the purpose of excise assessment;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also obtained the views of the assesseees in the matter in order to frame the rules properly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The Central Excise Valuation Rules, 2000 have already been notified and made effective from 1st July, 2000.

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

*[Translation]***Bad Debt of IFCI**

4106. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has failed to recover the principal amount as well as the interest due on it from the industrial houses and has been treating it as the bad debt;

(b) if so, the names of the industrial houses/ companies whose amount has been treated as bad debt during each of the last five years, along with the details of such amount;

(c) the reasons for non-recovery of the amount; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid its recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As reported by Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI Limited) the non-recovery of dues from the assisted concerns has resulted in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) amounting to Rs. 4102.6 crores as on 31st March, 2000. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst public financial institutions and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing

public financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(c) and (d) According to IFCI Limited, slow-down in industrial growth, slack demand conditions, excess capacity in number of industries, technological obsolescence and loss of competitiveness are the major reasons for increase in NPAs. The steps initiated by IFCI Limited for reducing the level of NPAs inter-alia include :

- restructuring, one-time settlement and legal action;
- reduction of maximum permissible exposure under prudential norms in respect of individual and group borrowers;
- limiting fresh financial sanctions to individuals borrowers upto Rs. 100 crore;
- limiting overall guarantee exposure to two times of IFCI's net worth;
- effective monitoring and prevention of deterioration in asset quality.

*[English]***Commissioned of LPT and HPT**

4107. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Low Power Transmitters and High Power Transmitters commissioned during the Eighth Five Year Plan have become fully operational;

(b) if so, the State-wise 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) State-wise details of Doordarshan transmitters commissioned during the 8th Five Year Plan is given in the enclosed statement. All the High Power and Low Power Transmitters commissioned during the Eighth Five Year Plan have become fully operational, with the exception of 11 Low Power Transmitters, which are presently relaying partial transmission due to constraint of staff. State-wise details of these transmitters are as follows :

Rajasthan	-	8
Uttar Pradesh	-	2
Himachal Pradesh	-	1

Statement*Doordarshan Transmitters Commissioned during 8th Five Year Plan*

S.No.	State/UT	HPT	LPT	VLPT	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	33	5	42
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1	3	4
3.	Assam	0	11	1	12
4.	Bihar	0	15	1	16
5.	Goa	0	1	0	1
6.	Gujarat	2	16	1	19
7.	Haryana	0	4	0	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	16	19
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	6	16	23
10.	Karnataka	1	16	2	19
11.	Kerala	1	9	2	12
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2	18	6	26
13.	Maharashtra	1	26	6	33
14.	Meghalaya	0	3	1	4
15.	Mizoram	1	1	1	3
16.	Orissa	1	39	6	46
17.	Manipur	0	1	1	2
18.	Punjab	0	2	0	2
19.	Nagaland	1	1	1	3
20.	Rajasthan	3	27	11	41
21.	Sikkim	1	1	0	2
22.	Tripura	0	1	1	2
23.	Tamil Nadu	2	14	4	20
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2	19	10	31
25.	West Bengal	1	10	2	13

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Chandigarh	0	1	0	1
27.	Delhi	0	2	0	2
28.	Lakshadweep	0	1	1	2
29.	Pondicherry	0	1	0	1
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	1	4	5
31.	Daman & Diu	0	1	0	1
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	1	0	1
Total		25	285	102	412

Foreign Branches of Banks

4108. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several public sector banks have suffered huge loss due to their foreign operations during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to restructure and rationalise the foreign branches of these banks ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The continuation of the existing overseas branches of Indian Public Sector banks is reviewed by the banks from time to time having regard to business prospects and regulatory aspects.

Public Issue of SEBI

4109. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from Investors Organisation regarding change in rules for approval of public issues of SEBI;

(b) if so, the points raised by the Investors Organisation;

(c) the Government response thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make the public issues norms more strict and strong in the interest of small investors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Government has received suggestions from Investor's Association on various issues related to capital markets, which include, inter alia stricter entry norms for companies wishing to raise funds from the capital market; uniform entry norms for listed and unlisted companies; higher disclosure standards monitoring of funds raised; and education of investors.

(c) and (d) The Government and the market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) are committed to promoting better investor awareness of the risk-return trade-offs of capital market instruments and in improving protection of investors. In this context Government constantly reviews relevant Acts, rules and regulations.

SEBI has strengthened entry norms to provide that IPOs of issue size upto 5 times the pre-issue network shall be allowed only if the company has track record of profitability and network as specified in the SEBI Guidelines; others can make IPOs only through the book building route, in which case 60% of the issue size shall be allocated to 'Qualified Institutional Buyers' (QIBs). IPOs and public issues by listed companies of more than 5 times the pre-issue network shall be allowed only through the book building route, with 60% of the issue size allocated to QIBs. The lock in provisions applicable in respect of initial public offers have also been rationalised.

Further, all companies making public or rights issue of debt instruments have to obtain credit rating. The appraising agency has to bring in the required contribution before the opening of the issue.

FDI in Fertilizer Sector

4110. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) that has been committed to the fertilizer sector, particularly in urea sectors during the last three years;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to attract FDI in this sector; and

(c) the progress so far made in the direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) During the period 1.1.97 to 31.12.99 two proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the fertilizer sector amounting to Rs. 1.20 crore have been approved.

Vide Press Note No. 2 (2000 Series) dated 11.2.2000, FDI has been permitted upto 100% on the automatic route in all sectors except a specified negative list. FDI upto 100% is permitted in the fertiliser sector on the automatic route. Actual investment is dependent upon the commercial judgement of the investor which is guided by several factors including commercial viability and investment climate. The Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) has been set up for facilitating speedy implementation of projects and addressing the problems faced by the entrepreneurs.

Visit of Foreign Tourists in Bihar

4111. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of tourist places of Bihar and the number of foreign and domestic tourists visited those places during each of the last three years; and

(b) the foreign exchange and domestic currency earned by the State Government therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) According to the information furnished by Government of Bihar, estimated number of domestic and foreign tourist visits in various tourist places in Bihar including Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Vaishali, Gaya, Patna, Ranchi, Madhubani, Deoghar, Jamshedpur etc., during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Number of Tourist Visits		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total
1997	8369580	130375	8499955
1998	768839	76567	845406
1999	3722736	48261	3770997

(b) State-wise earnings from tourism are not maintained.

*[Translation]***Dispute of Contract Workers in BHEL**

4112. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a dispute is going on since a long time regarding workers on contract basis of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Bhopal;

(b) the point of contention between the workers and the management; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the issues confronting the workers and management ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) BHEL, Bhopal has not employed workers on contract basis. However, certain contract labourers employed by the licensed contractors have filed 2 cases in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur.

(b) The contract labourers have demanded their regularisation in service and other service benefits.

(c) Since the workers are deployed under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, appropriate action is taken by BHEL under the provisions of that Act.

*[English]***Export of Manufactured Goods**

4113. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the share of manufactured goods in aggregate export made during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Government are taking specific steps to increase the exports of manufactured goods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per the DGCI&S data export of manufactured goods and total exports for the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as follows :

(US\$ Million)

Year	Total Exports	Export of manufactured goods
1997-98	35006	26966
1998-99	33219	26201
1999-2000*	37538	31164

* Provisional

(b) and (c) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, setting up SEZs, simplification of procedures, extending the EPCG schemes to all sectors and all capital goods without any threshold limit on payment of 5% of duty and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

*[Translation]***TV Towers in Maharashtra**

4114. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the people of Sahuari, Panhala, Radhanagari and Bhudargarh hill areas in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra have been deprived of Doordarshan telecast despite a TV tower installed there;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government 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) to (c) Sahuari, Panhala, Radhanagari and Bhundargarh are outside the range of the Doordarshan transmitters located at Kolhapur, Ichalkaranji and Malkapur in Kolhapur district. There is no approved scheme to set up new transmitters in the area. Further expansion of terrestrial TV service of Doordarshan in the uncovered areas of Kolhapur district would depend upon future availability of resources and inter-se priorities. However, Doordarshan telecast is available throughout the country, including Kolhapur district, through satellite, which can be received using

appropriate dish antenna system or through Cable Network.

[English]

Foreign Exchange Counter at I.G. Airport

4115. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to close the counters of Public Sector Banks for exchange of foreign currency at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether an international financial agency, the Thomas Cook has been permitted to undertake foreign exchange business at the above airport;

(d) if so, the justification in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to enquire into the matter and ensure that the counters of the public sector banks to the above airport are not disturbed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) The allotment of counters at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi for dealing in foreign exchange is done by the Airports Authority of India, which is within the administrative jurisdiction of Ministry of Civil Aviation. Public Sector Banks have not, on their own, taken any decision to close their existing counters at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

Disinvestment of Pawan Hans Helicopters

4116. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are not in favour of any dilution of Government stake in the Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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) No decision for disinvestment of Government equity in Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. has been taken so far by the Government.

Re-classification of Oil Sector for Disinvestment

4117. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering for re-classification of the oil industry as a core sector before taking any decision for disinvestment of its holdings in public sector oil companies; and

(b) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tour by FICCI

4118. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is going to Britain on a tour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose of the tour of the said delegation; and

(d) the possibilities to be explored by the delegation in Britain ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has informed

the Government that it has no plans to mount a business delegation to U.K. in the near future.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Hiring of Godowns

4119. SHRI BASU DEB ACHAIRA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the godown at Manpada Navi, Mumbai is hired at much higher rate than the rate prescribed by Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the officer concerned ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The questions do not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Pulses

4120. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether pulses are imported in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of pulses imported during the last three years alongwith the value of foreign exchange spent on it; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to reduce the import of pulses ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) There is a shortage of pulses in the country. In order to augment the domestic availability, import of pulses, except toxic pulses is free. The quantity and value of pulses imported during the last three years is as under :

Year	Qty. (Tons)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1997-98	1008161	119464.38
1998-99	563602	70881.36
1999-2000 (Provisional)	203986	27377.15

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

Reservation of Posts for SCs/STs in PSUs

4121. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is provided in Central Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration to continue the reservation even after decrease in Government equity/share capital in Central Government owned Public Sector Undertakings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Reservation is provided to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). In the case of All -India recruitment through open competition, 15% reservation is provided to SCs and 7.5% to STs. Percentage of reservation for recruitment made locally for Group C and D posts will vary from State to State and Union Territory to Union Territory (UT) depending upon the percentage of SC/ST population in the respective State/ UT. Reservation is also provided in promotion to the extent of 15% for SC and 7.5% for ST subject to certain conditions.

(c) and (e) Decrease in Government equity/share capital in Central Govt. owned Public Sector Undertakings per se will not alter the position as long as they retain the character of 'State' as defined in Article 12 of the Constitution. Detailed guidelines have been issued with regard to policy in respect of SC/ST employees in the event of restructuring /streamlining of PSUs vide OM dated 16.3.1994, copy of which is at the enclosed statement.

Statement

No. 18(8) 92-GM
 Government of India
 Ministry of Industry
 Department of Public Enterprises
 Block No. 14, CGO Complex
 Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003
 Dated the 16th March, 1994

Office Memorandum

Subject : Restructuring/Streamlining of PSUs - Policy in respect of SC/ST employees.

1.0 The following broad guidelines in respect of SC/ST employees could be adopted while restructuring/streamlining public sector undertakings :

- (i) Where a PSU is to be restructured through the BIFR or otherwise, recourse to the National Renewal Fund may have to be taken for retraining and re-deployment for all categories of employees likely to be affected as a consequence of such restructuring and SC/ST employees should be the first charge.
- (ii) Where there is a partial restructuring the ratio of representation as was existing in the PSU before the commencement of such partial restructuring should be maintained if it was less than the prescribed minimum ratio of representation.
- (iii) In case of complete restructuring it should be possible to negotiate a suitable package with the new owners so that they may not retrench workers. If, however, rationalisation of work force is an essential part of the restructuring package, the principle of proportional representation spelt out in the preceding paragraph may be the agreed binding guiding principle.
- (iv) Training and upgrading of skills of SC/ST workers is crucial, especially for opening up job opportunities for them. These aspects need special emphasis in the plan programmes but cannot be a substitute for giving real access to available job opportunities where a measure of

reservation may have to be continued for a reasonable period of time.

- (v) While implementing the restructuring and rehabilitation plans there should be adequate leverage to ensure that rationalisation of work force is minimal and in respect of SC/STs already employed by the PSU such rationalisation does not reduce SC/ST employment below the current ratios of representation in the concerned PSU.
- (vi) In case of complete restructuring, an obligation could be placed on the new owners for protection of employment of SC/STs including the acceptance of policy of reservation of jobs for SC/STs as has been done in the case of IISCO.
- (vii) In the private sector, per se, where such reservation policies are not in vogue, it may be desirable to persuade entrepreneurs that it is very much in their interest to follow an enlightened policy of making available adequate job opportunities for SCs/STs.

2.0 This Department may be kept informed of the follow-up action taken in this regard ?

(Sunil Khatri)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

All Admn. Ministries /

Deptts. of Govt. of India

(Secretaries by name)

Copy to

1. Secretary, Deptt. of Economic Affairs
2. Secretary, Ministry of Labour.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Welfare.
4. Special Secretary, Banking Division.
5. Special Secretary, Insurance Division.
6. Joint Secretary, Cabinet Sectt.

(Sunil Khatri)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

*[English]***Training Institutes for Gem and Jewellery Artisans**

4122. SHRI BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to encourage gem exports from different parts of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to use the skills of artisans from Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country;

(d) whether any schools or institutes have been sanctioned to train such artisans;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government for setting up of more institutes to train the artisans to work on gem and jewellery exports;

(f) whether any subsidy has been provided to such institutes; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) As per the export data made available by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), value of exports of gems, including diamonds, during 1999-2000 was US \$ 6987.5 million accounting for about 18.6% of the total Indian exports. A set of export promotion schemes have been prescribed in Chapter 8 of the Export Import Policy (1997-2002) with a view to encourage the gem exports. These schemes can be utilised by any gems and jewellery exporter from any part of the country. However, if any state/area specific suggestion or problem relating to exports is brought to the notice of Commerce Department, necessary action is taken. The southern region of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council at Chennai has informed that it had conducted two Training Programmes at Hyderabad in the year 1999-2000 viz. (i) Diamond Identification and Grading Course; and (ii) Comprehensive Course in Jewellery Designing. These two courses had 46 and 22 participants respectively. Further such requests for training programmes for diamonds from Andhra Chamber of Commerce & Industry, have been referred by

the GJEPC to the Indian Diamond Institute (IDI), Surat. The GJEPC has further informed that council would continue to organise jewellery design courses in Andhra Pradesh and at other places from time to time depending on the demand.

(d) to (g) GJEPC, an autonomous body of the trade, sponsored by Ministry of Commerce and Industry has established the following training institutes :

(i) **Indian Gemmological Institute, New Delhi :** This institute provides training in various facets of gemmology.

(ii) **Gem Training Laboratory, Jaipur :** It conducts diploma courses in Gem identification (regular and correspondence), short courses on identification of Emeralds, Rough Gemstones and Navratna and specialised courses as per requirements of the trade.

(iii) **Jewellery Product Development Centre (JPDCs) at Delhi, Mumbai and Jaipur.** These JPDCs impart training in development of latest designs in Jewellery fabrication as per the requirement of the market/clients.

Besides, the above, GJEPC has proposed to establish a Jewellery Design Development Centre of international standard in Mumbai.

Besides the above, Indian Diamond Institute (IDI), Surat is a complete training institute giving training in all the aspects of gems & jewellery sector. Recently IDI has submitted a proposal for the establishment of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Advanced Jewellery Design and Manufacturing. While 50% of the project cost would be borne by the Govt. of India, the rest of the 50% is proposed to be funded by the State Government of Gujarat. Besides, GJEPC and trade would also contribute to meet the recurring costs of the Centre for managing its day to day affairs.

A lump-sum annual grant is given by Commerce Deptt. to Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council which in turn allocates a portion of the grant to JPDCs and IDI for their activities. Besides, the Deptt. of Commerce gives some direct grant to the IDI. The details of Grants-in-Aid given by Deptt. of Commerce and GJEPC and IDI during the last four years, are as under :

(Amounts in Lakhs of Rupees)

Year	Grant given by Department of Commerce to GJEPC	Portion of Government grant allocated by GJEPC to Training Institutes like JPDCs, IDI etc.	Grant given by Department of Commerce to IDI
1996-97	100.00	28.89	53.12
1997-98	100.00	17.64	50.28
1998-99	100.00	35.09	34.36
1999-2000	120.00	42.80	6.46

Indian Bank

4123. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cleared Rs.1750 crores recapitalisation fund for the Indian Bank;

(b) if so, whether any conditions have been attached to this clearance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) Recapitalisation support is contingent on the finalisation of a viable restructuring programme acceptable to the Government as the owner of the bank and to the Reserve Bank of India as the regulator.

Foreign Tourists

4124. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) the foreign tourists inflow during the last three years and the current year upto July 30, 2000, State-wise;

(b) whether the instances of misbehaviour/cheating and scathing attacks on the foreign tourists have increased during the above period;

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

(d) the concrete steps taken so far or proposed to be taken in the near future to check the above mentioned uncalled activities against the foreign tourists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Total number of foreign tourists who have visited this country during the years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 (January to July) are as follows :

Year	Number of foreign tourists visiting India
1997	2374094
1998	2358629
1999	2481928
2000	1462927 (P)
(From January 2000 to July 2000)	

P : Provisional

State-wise inflow of foreign tourists is not maintained.

(b) to (d) Uncalled for activities including misbehaviour, cheating and attacks on foreign tourists are law and order problems falling within the purview of the States/U.T. Administrations. To check these activities against the tourists, Department of Tourism has written to all States/U.T. Administrations to set up Tourist Police Forces. Complaints from tourists, whenever come to the notice of the Department, are pursued with the concerned authorities. Information on complaints pertaining to crimes against tourists during the last three years is as given below :

Year	Number of Complaints
1997	117
1998	100
1999	103

[Translation]

Circulation of Fake Currency Notes

4125. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Joint Committee of the officers of Ministry of Home and Reserve Bank of India has been constituted to curb the circulation of fake currency notes;

(b) if so, the details regarding terms of reference, composition etc. of the said Committee; and

(c) the present status of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Considering the large number of complaints of fake currency notes in the country, Government has appointed a High Level Committee of Experts in the note printing field for examining the whole gamut of the issues pertaining to the security dimension of Indian currency notes. The Committee consists of representatives from Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Security Council Secretariat, Note-printing Presses and Reserve Bank of India.

The Committee's Report is expected shortly.

[English]

Foreign Investments through Mauritius

4126. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the decision was taken to raise the tax concession on investments routed through Mauritius by Foreign Institutional Investors;

(b) the volume of investments received by India from such Foreign Institutional Investors routed through Mauritius was raised; and

(c) the total revenue loss incurred after the implementation of this decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were allowed to invest in Indian Capital Market following formulation of guidelines by the Government in this regard in September, 1992. Certain tax benefits are available to FIIs resident in Mauritius under the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between India and Mauritius which was notified in 1983.

(b) Till 30th June, 2000, the net investment by Mauritius based FIIs/sub-accounts had been Rs. 14088.9 crores.

(c) Benefits available under DTAC do not amount to non-payment of tax resulting in loss of revenue.

Loans to SC/ST farmers through RRBs

4127. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise loan provided by the Regional Rural Banks through NABARD to small and marginal farmers, particularly in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the State-wise number of SC/ST and OBC farmers benefited therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the hurdles of farmers in getting such loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Total loans disbursed to the States (including Gujarat) by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and loans to small and marginal farmers and to SCs/STs during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed statement. The data regarding OBC farmers is not separately available.

(c) With a view to strengthening the flow of credit of small and marginal farmers certain relaxations in regard to margin money requirements, security norms etc. have been extended to such borrowers under priority sector. The relaxations include :

(i) Banks should not insist on margin money for crop loans/term loans granted to small and marginal farmers upto Rs. 10,000/-

(ii) Banks should not insist upon collateral security/third party guarantee for crop loans

- upto Rs. 10,000/-. Hypothecation of crops can be taken as security.
- (iii) As regards loans above Rs. 10,000/- banks have discretion in the matter relating to margin/security.
- (iv) Payment of interest should be insisted upon only at the time of repayment of loan instalments fixed.
- (v) Banks should not compound interest on current dues in respect of long duration crop loans and instalments not falling due in respect of term loans.
- (vi) Total interest debited to the accounts of small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount in respect of short term advances.

Statement*State-wise loans disbursed by Regional Rural Banks*

S.No.	States	1997-98			1998-99			
		Total loans disbur- sed	Out of total to		Total loans disbursed		Out of total to	
			SF/MF*	SC/ST	No. of A/c	Amt.	SF/MF*	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Haryana	155.72	77.21	3.25	59440	179.99	33022	83.77
2.	Himachal Pradesh	31.53	2.07	2.38	15303	42.83	798	1.90
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	24.83	1.31	0.53	8570	27.98	388	1.28
4.	Punjab	97.31	45.26	11.43	54363	112.73	29726	44.98
5.	Rajasthan	274.61	74.99	29.88	132293	338.80	35639	77.52
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.13	NA	NA	2859	9.00	841	1.63
7.	Assam	40.50	6.73	3.12	29001	48.88	5875	10.68
8.	Manipur	1.58	NA	NA	543	1.01	11	0.06
9.	Meghalaya	8.01	7.91	7.90	4541	8.92	2471	2.21
10.	Mizoram	4.81	0.12	4.81	1506	3.87	304	0.37
11.	Nagaland	0.21	0.21	0.21	114	0.24	114	0.24
12.	Tripura	12.50	1.39	1.16	12593	16.04	2422	1.66
13.	Bihar	193.68	85.40	27.67	129803	228.04	56323	104.62
14.	Orissa	243.51	91.03	40.96	233529	300.42	190321	131.32
15.	West Bengal	157.08	27.16	33.42	172475	212.64	62169	46.59
16.	Madhya Pradesh	273.85	57.59	41.56	126178	336.14	30846	66.64
17.	Uttar Pradesh	629.73	269.77	60.94	467241	813.66	327279	375.82
18.	Gujarat	151.37	35.12	11.95	96496	186.20	48807	56.54
19.	Maharashtra	129.42	14.00	1.57	101431	175.82	17573	17.22
20.	Andhra Pradesh	798.97	388.37	58.66	753164	935.95	334594	411.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
21.	Karnataka	695.63	230.41	41.82	461381	779.72	159389	248.62
22.	Kerala	500.72	184.51	12.27	713162	569.00	275797	215.61
23.	Tamil Nadu	230.93	98.33	42.67	271380	232.92	104022	93.85
	All India	4667.65	1698.90	444.15	3847366	5560.81	1718731	1995.08

(Rs. Crore)

S.No. States		1999-2000 \$							
		1998-99		Total		Out of total to			
		Out of total to		loans disbursed					
		SC/ST				SF/MF*		SC/ST	
		No. of A/c	Amt.	No. of A/c	Amt.	No. of A/c	Amt.	No. of A/c	Amt.
1	2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Haryana	2980	4.23	64417	226.09	35452	98.63	2089	3.55
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1537	3.23	19660	62.09	798	1.90	1338	2.93
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA	NA	9059	91.31	1088	3.63	252	0.25
4.	Punjab	4658	9.51	58670	144.94	33324	62.91	4679	11.65
5.	Rajasthan	16202	32.92	137350	413.23	27277	66.80	15843	34.42
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	2062	5.16	2859	9.00	841	1.63	2062	5.16
7.	Assam	546	0.47	27211	55.49	5692	9.48	1194	1.25
8.	Manipur	6	0.01	595	2.52	34	0.31	2	0.01
9.	Meghalaya	4509	8.87	4541	8.92	2471	2.21	4509	8.87
10.	Mizoram	1506	3.87	1506	3.87	304	0.37	1506	3.87
11.	Nagaland	114	0.24	204	0.50	204	0.50	204	0.50
12.	Tripura	2113	1.73	12593	16.04	2422	1.66	2113	1.73
13.	Bihar	17775	27.54	107598	244.13	44911	87.51	12139	37.07
14.	Orissa	55501	48.62	265969	354.51	118609	133.75	51434	55.23
15.	West Bengal	57373	85.72	200584	252.24	59445	49.28	67679	40.68
16.	Madhya Pradesh	23044	33.49	123932	359.60	25643	51.87	14060	29.64
17.	Uttar Pradesh	91207	109.87	473938	954.57	253405	466.32	56568	78.97
18.	Gujarat	15522	14.80	100433	223.12	53229	73.82	10025	12.83
19.	Maharashtra	3187	2.61	120080	208.35	43017	54.93	12180	10.27
20.	Andhra Pradesh	62676	67.06	829134	1131.72	345145	402.79	65310	78.87
21.	Karnataka	52377	42.15	483973	1016.46	124353	227.20	52355	48.70

1	2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
22.	Kerala	30939	14.38	705542	773.65	292627	275.76	19165	13.64
23.	Tamil Nadu	54782	46.89	315431	297.16	155305	121.18	70231	58.76
	All India	500616	563.35	4065279	6849.51	1625596	2194.16	466937	538.87

NA = Not available

* = Small farmers/Marginal farmers

\$ = Data provisional

= Number of accounts for the year 1997-98 are not available.

Construction of Godown for FCI

4128. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has any proposal to float a fresh scheme to invite small and medium entrepreneurs to construct godowns for the FCI and take hiring charges;

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

(c) whether any representation has been made to the Government to survey the storage availability position in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of godowns to be constructed, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) As per the National policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains, recently announced by the Government, the private sector will be encouraged to build storage capacities in which they will store and maintain foodgrains procured by government agencies, for which they will be entitled to storage charges.

(c) No such representation has been received in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The State-wise details relating to the storage capacity proposed to be constructed by FCI during the

Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) is given in the statement attached.

Statement

Storage capacity proposed to be constructed by FCI during the IXth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02)

(In Thousand MTs)

Name of the State	Name of Centre	Proposed capacity
1	2	3
J & K	Srinagar	3.33
	Baramullah	5.00
	Kuppwara	5.00
	Pulwama	2.50
	Badgam	2.50
H.P.	Kishtwar	2.50
	Kargil	5.00
	Kullu	1.67
	Keylong	2.50
	Chamba	1.67
U.P.	Dhamora	25.00
	Roza	10.00
	Pithoragarh	2.50
	Padrauna	2.50
	Simli	5.00
	Mallupani	2.50

1	2	3
Delhi	Narela	50.00
Punjab	Rajpura	15.00
	Tanda Urmer	18.36
Haryana	Taraori	10.00
Karnataka	Udupi	10.00
	Kushalnagar	2.50
	Tumkar	20.00
	Bijapur	10.00
	Belgaum	20.00
	Raichur	15.00
	Hassan	10.00
Anadaman & Nbr.	Port Blair	2.50
Kerala	Enrakulam	5.00
	Payannur	30.00
	Meenangadi	5.00
	Nellore	30.00
	Amalapuram	10.00
Tamil Nadu	Ramanathapuram	10.00
M.P.	Dhamdari	10.00
Maharashtra/Goa	Sholapur	10.00
Gujarat	Rajkot	20.00
Bihar	Gumla	3.34
Orissa	Jharsaguda	15.00
	Parlekemundi	10.00
Nagaland	Dhimapur	10.00
	Kohima	5.00
Meghalaya	Jowai	3.75
	Shillong	5.00
Mizoram	Lawangtalai	3.34
Manipur	Jiribam	2.50
Tripura	Agarthala	5.00
Total		455.46

Sick and Loss making PSUs

4129. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

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

(a) the number and names of Public Sector Undertakings which are incurring losses/sick and closed during the last three years and till date;

(b) the reasons for incurring losses, sickness and closure;

(c) the number of PSUs referred to Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for revival and the number of PSUs pending with the BIFR, as on date, along with the status of each PSU;

(d) the scheme to rehabilitate workers of closed PSUs;

(e) whether the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted for these PSUs have not been implemented;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to save the PSUs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) The number and names of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) which have incurred losses and which were sick during last three years i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, the period for which information is available, are indicated in Statement No. 7B and Chapter No. 19, Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey Report for the respective years. These Reports have been laid in both the Houses of Parliament

and are published documents. As on 30th June, 2000, the period for which the information is available, 52 sick industrial central CPSUs were effectively registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Of these 52 CPSUs, BIFR have sanctioned revival scheme for 20 CPSUs. Board status of these sick CPSUs is given in the enclosed statement.

The reasons for incurring losses including sickness are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons include obsolete plant & machinery, outdated technology, low capacity utilization, resource crunch, high interest burden, excess manpower, weak marketing strategy etc.

(d) and (f) Government had constituted an Expert Group to examine the possibility of revival of some of the unviable PSUs under the control of Department of Heavy Industry (DHI). The recommendations of the Expert Group were considered by the Government and it was decided

to reintroduce Voluntary Separation Scheme in 6 PSUs viz., Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn., (MAMC), National Bicycle Corpn. of India Ltd. (NBCIL), Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL), Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL), Rehabilitation Industries Corpn. (RIC) and Tannery & Footwear Corpn. (TAFCO) and take action for their closure.

(g) Enterprise specific measures are taken to revive or turn around the PSUs. Sick Industrial PSUs are referred to BIFR for formulating appropriate revival/rehabilitation scheme under the provisions of SICA. For other loss making PSUs administrative Ministry in consultation with management and workers of PSU concerned explore various options and device appropriate measures for restructuring of these PSUs. Some of the common measures taken by the Government are indicated at page 103, Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey 1998-99, which is a published document.

Statement

List of BIFR Central Public Sector Undertakings with their Status as on 30.6.2000.

S.No.	Case No.	Name of the Company
1	2	3
Revival Scheme Sanctioned		
1.	533/92	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
2.	538/92	Bengal Immunity Ltd.
3.	526/92	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.
4.	501/92	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
5.	525/92	Bharat Refractories Ltd.
6.	528/92	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.
7.	508/94	Burn Standard Corpn. Ltd.
8.	511/92	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
9.	509/93	Instrumentation Ltd.
10.	502/95	Jessop & Co. Ltd.
11.	531/92	National Instruments Ltd.
12.	503/97	North Eastern Regional Agri. Marketing Corp. Ltd.
13.	514/92	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.
14.	521/92	Projects & Development India Ltd.

1	2	3
15.	506/94	R B L Ltd.
16.	509/92	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.
17.	504/92	Scooters India Ltd.
18.	529/92	Smith Stainstreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
19.	507/92	Triveni Structurals Ltd.
20.	512/92	Vigyan Industries Ltd.

Draft Scheme Circulated

1. 532/92 Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.
2. 501/96 Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.
3. 534/92 NTC (A. Pradesh, Kamataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd.
4. 501/94 NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd.
5. 536/92 NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.
6. 505/93 NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.
7. 523/92 Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.

Winding up Notice Issued

1. 503/95 Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.
2. 502/96 Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceutical Ltd.
3. 535/92 NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.
4. 501/93 NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.
5. 504/93 NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.
6. 503/93 NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.
7. 530/92 U.P. Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Under Enquiry

1. 503/98 Bharat Immunological & Biologicals Corp. Ltd.
2. 501/99 Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd.
3. 508/92 Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.
4. 501/00 Eastern Coalfields Ltd.
5. 515/92 Fertilizers Corpn. of India Ltd.
6. 501/97 Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.
7. 516/92 Hindustan Fertilizers Corpn. Ltd.
8. 502/00 Hindustan Salts Ltd.

1	2	3
9.	502/99	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.
10.	505/94	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.
11.	506/93	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.
12.	502/98	NEPA Ltd.
13.	504/98	Praga Tools Ltd.
14.	503/99	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.

Failed & Reopen

1. 507/94 Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited
2. 503/92 Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
3. 504/94 Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.

Stay Order by Court

1. 510/92 Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.

Indians Residing in Bangladesh

4130. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of Indian citizens are residing in Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh Territory;

(b) if so, whether the facilities like Akashvani Kendra etc. have been provided in these enclaves;

(c) if so, the details thereof, as on 31.12.99;

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal to extend such facilities in any of these enclaves in the near future;

(e) if so, the details thereof and names of those enclaves and the time by which such facilities are likely to be provided; and

(f) 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) There is no information available about the number of Indian citizens residing in the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) India has no administrative control or access to the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh.

Performance of CCI

4131. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cement Corporation of India Limited (CCI) has fallen sick;

(b) if so, the reasons for the sickness; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the performance of CCI, Unit-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cement Corporation of India Limited became sick due to continuous losses and acute liquidity problems and other related factors.

(c) CCI has been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and the BIFR has been considering the feasibility of revival of the Company.

FDI Inflow

4132. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to constitute a Joint Government Industry Group for the faster inflow of Foreign Direct Investment into the country;

(b) whether 37 high-density corridors have been identified where foreign direct investment was welcome as has been revealed during the Prime Minister's visit to Lisbon recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating such high-density corridors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Hon'ble Prime Minister in his speech at India-EU Business Summit held in Lisbon, Portugal on 27th June, 2000 has indicated that a Joint Government Industry Group would be constituted with the twin objectives of resolving specific project difficulties and ensuring that approvals for FDI are realised in a much shorter gestation period.

(b) and (c) The Prime Minister had also stated that certain high-density corridors for private investment on Build Operate and Own (BOO) and Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis have identified in different states of the country. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of non-NIIDP sections of old National Highways which require four/six laning

S.No.	State	NH No.	km from	km to	from	to	Traffic (PCU)		Length (km)
							Maximum	Minimum	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Madhya Pradesh	3	116.00	324.00	Gwalior	Guna	47590	21440	208.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	3	324.00	570.00	Guna	Dewas	32391	9577	246.00
3.	Madhya Pradesh	3	0.00	168.30	Indore	Julvania	24209	19637	168.30
4.	Maharashtra	3	257.39	539.50	Malegaon	Bhiwandi	47453	26934	282.11
5.	Madhya Pradesh	6	88.00	310.00	Saraipalli	Durg	19049	54827	222.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	6	342.00	405.00	Rajnandgaon	Deori	29529	45567	63.00
7.	Maharashtra	6	405.00	554.00	Deori	Nagpur	68077	33849	149.00
8.	Maharashtra	6	0.00	527.60	Nagpur	Dhulia	55389	21198	527.60
9.	Maharashtra	9	0.00	244.12	Pune	Sholapur	60878	16060	244.12
10.	Karnataka	9	348.72	423.70	Mergu	Zahirabad	24667	19265	74.98
11.	Andhra Pradesh	9	476.00	543.85	Sadaspet	Hyderabad	70342	25404	67.85
12.	Andhra Pradesh	9	0.00	270.30	Hyderabad	Vijaywada	54803	19343	270.30
13.	Haryana	10	29.70	315.55	Bahadurgarh	Malaut	53718	19111	285.85
14.	Punjab	10	375.24	424.56	Abohar	Pak Border	15885	15885	49.32
15.	UP, Rajasthan	11	0.00	118.00	Agra	Mahwa	27233	17806	118.00
16.	Rajasthan	11	158.00	386.00	Dhubi	Harswa	54740	15892	228.00
17.	Madhya Pradesh	12	275.00	311.00	Bhopal	Obaidulahganj	27929	27828	36.00
18.	Rajasthan	12	0.00	73.00	Jaipur	Chaksu	27661	18044	73.00

[illegible]

*[Translation]***Website for Foreign Tourists**

4133. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have created a website to give information to the foreign tourists about the Indian tourists spots and ways and means to reach there;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure easy availability of this website so that the tourists could get the information of the tourist spots; and

(c) if so, the details of this website ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Some of the Govt. of India Tourist Offices in India and abroad have launched their own websites. These can accessed by the tourists all over the world.

Apart from these websites, the Ministry of Tourism had also launched a comprehensive website in January, 1999. However, the web master M/s Inet India who was responsible for the maintenance and updation of the website left the job without informing the Ministry. Consequently, action has been taken to hire another agency for the development and maintenance of a comprehensive "Tourism Portal". The tourism portal will contain all the relevant tourism and travel information and also provide link to other tourism websites both in public and private sector. On commissioning this Portal would then be widely publicized through both domestic & International, Print & Electronic Media.

*[English]***Clearance to FDI Proposals**

4134. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :

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

(a) the number of details of FDI projects received/ approved by the Government /FIPB since January, 2000 to till date, sector-wise and country-wise along with the names of States for which these projects have been approved;

(b) the amount of foreign investment involved in each project, country-wise and State-wise;

(c) the comparative figures of FDI during the corresponding period of last year and also in September-December 1999;

(d) the impact of the clearance on the I.T. sector, Internet service, manufacturing of machinery and equipments and export of garments;

(e) whether the Government propose to approve further some more such cases to cover the other sectors like food processing, textiles and leather goods etc; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) Sir, the Government has approved a total number of 1105 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals, financial and technical, involving an amount of Rs. 14,640.06 crore in various sectors during January, 2000 to June, 2000. The countrywise, sectorwise and statewise lists are given in the enclosed statement-I, II & III.

The comparative figures of FDI approved for all sectors during January 2000- June, 2000 January 1999 - June, 1999 and September, 1999 to December 1999 are as under:

Year	No. of approvals	Amount of FDI approved (Rs. in crores)
2000 (Jan-June)	1105	14640.06
1999 (Jan-June)	967	16238.87
1999 (Sept. Dec)	850	7826.83

(d) Information on the overall impact on specific sectors is not centrally maintained.

(e) and (f) Consideration and approval of proposals for FDI is a continuous process.

Statement-I

Country wise break-up for foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign technology cases (FTCs) approved by during January 2000 to June 2000

(Rs. Crore)

S.No.	Name of Country	No.of Approvals			Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Approved
		Total	Tech.	Fin.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Australia	18	2	16	33.84
2.	Austria	3	1	2	0.10
3.	Bahamas	1	0	1	3.10
4.	Bahrain	2	0	2	16.60
5.	Belgium	12	0	12	22.96
6.	Bermuda	6	0	6	8.35
7.	Bangladesh	1	0	1	0.53
8.	Canada	13	2	11	87.49
9.	Cayman Island	3	0	3	2.15
10.	Channel Island	1	0	1	1.00
11.	China	1	1	0	0.00
12.	Cyprus	3	0	3	1.09
13.	Denmark	14	3	11	10.37
14.	Finland	1	1	0	0.00
15.	France	37	10	27	29.44
16.	Germany	100	31	69	333.76
17.	Hongkong	18	0	18	48.27
18.	Indonesia	1	0	1	0.10
19.	Ireland	4	2	2	1.07
20.	Isle of Man	3	0	3	4.31
21.	Israel	2	1	1	0.99
22.	Italy	31	16	15	13.87
23.	Japan	47	14	33	736.41
24.	Korea (South)	17	3	14	18.00
25.	Kuwait	2	1	1	0.30

1	2	3	4	5	6
26. Latvia	1	0	1	0.10	
27. Luxembourg	1	0	1	0.00	
28. Malaysia	7	0	7	7.83	
29. Mauritius	113	2	111	4209.55	
30. Maldives	2	0	2	0.15	
31. NRI	110	0	110	580.07	
32. Netherlands	42	4	38	170.50	
33. New Zealand	2	1	1	0.05	
34. Norway	5	3	2	2.07	
35. Panama	2	0	2	0.13	
36. Poland	1	1	0	0.00	
37. Romania	1	0	1	0.10	
38. Saudi Arabia	2	0	2	0.20	
39. Singapore	37	5	32	127.10	
40. South Africa	1	0	1	2.50	
41. Spain	8	2	6	4.42	
42. Sri Lanka	3	0	3	6.85	
43. Sweden	7	3	4	96.58	
44. Switzerland	25	5	20	63.35	
45. Taiwan	5	3	2	5.10	
46. Thailand	4	3	1	0.00	
47. Turkey	1	0	1	0.22	
48. U.A.E.	3	0	3	0.54	
49. U.K.	84	21	63	291.50	
50. U.S.A.	262	49	213	2660.63	
51. Euro Issues (GDR)	16	0	16	5011.98	
52. British Virginia	3	0	3	3.90	
53. Unindicated Country	11	0	11	20.15	
54. Iran	4	0	4	0.33	
55. Jordan	1	0	1	0.06	
Total	1105	190	915	14640.06	

Statement-II

Sector wise Break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration approved during the post-policy period (from 1.1.2000 to 30.6.2000)

(Amt. in Crore)

S.No.	Name of Industry	No. of Approval			Amount of FDI Approved	% to Total Amount
		Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES						
	Ferrous	9	7	2	0.03	0.00
	Special Alloys	4	3	1	0.43	0.00
	Mining Service	9	2	7	1751.05	11.96
	Misc. (other items) Metallurgy	3	1	2	0.15	0.00
	Total	25	13	12	1751.66	11.96
2. FUELS						
	Power	17	0	17	1900.81	12.98
	Oil Refinery	17	8	9	182.22	1.24
	Power (Other)	12	0	12	336.69	2.30
	Oil Refinery (Other)	14	7	7	19.79	0.14
	Others (Fuels)	2	1	1	0.00	0.00
	Total	62	16	46	2439.52	16.66
3. ELECTRICALS EQUIPMENT						
	Electrical Equipment	45	19	26	152.46	1.04
	Computer Software Industry	268	2	266	3904.45	26.67
	Electronics	25	3	22	203.37	1.39
	Computer Hardware	1	0	1	0.71	0.00
	Others (S/W)	3	3	0	0.00	0.00
	Total	342	27	315	4261.01	29.11
4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS						
	Telecommunications	26	2	24	149.86	1.02
	Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	17	2	15	1407.08	9.61
	Telecommunication (I & B)	15	1	14	101.19	0.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Others (Telecommunications)	1	0	1	0.00	0.00
	Total	59	5	54	1658.13	11.33
5.	TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY					
	Automobile Industry	29	5	24	302.09	2.06
	Air/Sea Transport	16	3	13	133.62	0.91
	Passenger Cars	3	0	3	100.42	0.69
	Auto Ancillaries/Parts	17	7	10	45.92	0.31
	Ports	2	0	2	0.49	0.00
	Others (Transport)	6	1	5	17.29	0.12
	Total	73	16	57	599.83	4.10
6.	Industrial Machinery	26	13	13	31.90	0.22
7.	Machine Tools	5	0	5	0.13	0.00
8.	Agricultural Machinery	4	0	4	18.00	0.12
9.	Earth-moving machinery	4	2	2	20.56	0.14
10.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	58	22	36	75.67	0.52
11.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	7	1	6	85.15	0.58
12.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	5	0	5	47.49	0.32
13.	Industrial Instruments	4	2	2	1.95	0.01
14.	Scientific Instruments	1	0	1	4.00	0.03
15.	Chemicals (Other than fertilizers)					
	Chemicals	46	16	30	79.08	0.54
	Paints & Varnishes	3	2	1	0.00	0.00
	Industrial Gases	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
	Total	50	19	31	79.08	0.54
16.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	4	1	3	6.90	0.05
17.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	26	8	18	455.75	3.11
18.	Textiles (Include Dyed, Printed)	36	5	31	174.37	1.19
19.	Paper and Pulp including Paper Product	2	0	2	120.25	0.82
20.	Fermentation Industries	2	0	2	0.00	0.00
21.	Food Processing Industries					
	Food Products	23	3	20	199.09	1.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Marine Products	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
	Miscellaneous (Food prod)	2	0	2	1.71	0.01
	Total	26	4	22	200.80	1.37
22.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	3	2	1	0.00	0.00
23.	Rubber Goods	6	2	4	1.34	0.01
24.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	7	1	6	0.39	0.00
25.	Glass	6	0	6	8.60	0.06
26.	Ceramics	12	2	10	16.10	0.11
27.	Cement and Gypsum Products	3	0	3	299.65	2.05
28.	Timber Products	4	0	4	17.14	0.12
29.	Defence Industries	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
30.	CONSULTANCY SERVICES					
	Design & Eng. Services	6	0	6	2.20	0.02
	Management Services	24	3	21	16.73	0.11
	Marketing	1	0	1	0.00	0.00
	Construction	2	0	2	4.28	0.03
	Others (Consultancy Service)	3	0	3	21.50	0.15
	Total	36	3	33	44.70	0.31
31.	SERVICE SECTOR					
	Financial	35	0	35	1066.40	7.28
	Non-Financial Services	6	0	6	41.09	0.28
	Banking Services	3	0	3	-3.51	-0.02
	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres	12	3	9	4.90	0.03
	Other Services	4	0	4	3.34	0.02
	Total	60	3	57	1112.22	7.60
32.	HOTEL & TOURISM					
	Hotel & Restaurants	15	4	11	15.38	0.11
	Tourism	9	2	7	36.76	0.25
	Others (Hotel & Tourism)	3	0	3	20.25	0.14
	Total	27	6	21	72.39	0.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33. TRADING						
	Trading (For Exports)	12	0	12	12.38	0.08
	Trading (Activities)	8	0	8	50.10	0.34
	E-Commerce	15	0	15	468.59	3.20
	Total	35	0	35	531.08	3.63
34. MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES						
	Horticulture	3	0	3	19.55	0.13
	Agriculture	8	0	8	14.69	0.10
	Floriculture	4	1	3	0.10	0.00
	Diamond	2	0	2	1.79	0.01
	Ornament & Gold	1	0	1	1.50	0.01
	Construction Activities	9	1	8	8.47	0.06
	Tea/Coffee	2	0	2	317.25	2.17
	Printing of Books etc.	2	1	1	0.42	0.00
	COIR	4	1	3	2.19	0.01
	Others (Misc. Industries)	49	12	37	138.34	0.94
	Total	84	16	68	504.31	3.44
	Total	1105	199	915	14640.06	

Statement-III

*State-wise Breakup of Foreign Collaboration & Foreign Direct Investment Proposals Approved during
(January, 2000 to June 2000)*

State	No. of Approvals			Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	
	Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	72	8	64	698.29	4.77
Bihar	3	1	2	20.50	0.14
Gujarat	34	21	13	19.40	0.13
Haryana	34	13	21	22.58	0.15
Himachal Pradesh	3	1	2	0.35	0.00
Karnataka	110	18	92	1026.94	7.01
Kerala	12	3	9	12.70	0.09

1	2	3	4	5	6
Madhya Pradesh	8	4	4	60.67	0.41
Maharashtra	298	61	237	5209.93	35.59
Orissa	2	1	1	0.00	0.00
Punjab	9	2	7	9.88	0.07
Rajasthan	8	3	5	49.76	0.34
Tamil Nadu	145	19	126	2770.84	18.93
Uttar Pradesh	41	10	31	298.43	2.04
West Bengal	32	10	22	195.45	1.34
Andaman & Nicobar	1	0	1	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	3	0	3	1.55	0.01
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	2	0	0.00	0.00
Delhi	153	7	146	825.01	5.64
Goa	7	0	7	2.00	0.01
Pondicherry	7	3	4	0.90	0.01
Daman & Diu	3	0	3	2.11	0.01
State Not Indicated	118	3	115	3412.76	23.31
Total	1105	190	915	14640.05	

[Translation]

Decontrol of Sugar Industries

4135. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to decontrol the sugar industry to some extent for providing a level playing field to domestic sugar producers vis-a-vis sugar importers;

(b) if so, the main steps being considered in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to give right to the State Governments for exporting of sugar in order to protect the interest of farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Mahajan Committee in its recommendations has, inter alia, recommended phased decontrol of sugar. This Ministry has since examined the said recommendation of the committee and the decision of the Government shall be announced shortly.

(c) and (d) Government have allowed export of 10 lakh tonnes by sugar factories and exporters during the licensing year 2000-2001, subject to registration with APEDA.

[English]

Masters Programme in International Business

4136. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) organises courses in Masters Programme in International Business every year;

(b) if so, the total number of persons enrolled for the above course during each of the last three years and the persons belonging to SC/ST among them and their percentage as compared to the total number;

(c) whether adequate number of persons belonging to SC/ST have been enrolled for the above course; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) The requisite details on IIFT's Masters Programme in International Business (MPIB) are as under:

Year	Total	SC/ST	
		No.	% age
1998	78	11	14.10
1999	91	14	15.38
2000	92	11	11.95

(c) and (d) The short fall was due to the fact that sufficient number of SC/ST candidates do not apply for admission. Further, most of the candidates who apply are not able to clear the written examination, even after lowering the cut off point by 10%.

Indian Participation in Trade Fairs

4137. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trade fairs and the countries in which the India Trade Promotion Organisation organised Indian participation during 1999-2000;

(b) whether Indian participation has improved their trade position; and

(c) if so, the actual business transacted during the period as compared to the previous years after the merger of former Trade Development Authority with the Trade Fair Authority of India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During 1999-2000, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) organised participation in 49 fairs/ exhibitions abroad. The countries involved are Germany, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe, Switzer-

land, Bulgaria, Australia, Brazil, USA, Turkey, Syria, France, Spain, Russia, Iran, Uganda, Algeria, South Korea, South Africa, UAE, Iraq, Peru, Egypt, Panama, Japan, Philippines and Mauritius.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) After the merger of the former Trade Development Authority with the Trade Fair Authority of India, there has been growth in the number of promotional activities undertaken by ITPO and there has been enhanced participation in these events by the Indian trade and industry. It is difficult to quantify precisely the business generated through participants in trade fairs/exhibition as the impact spills over a period and there is general reluctance on the part of participation to provide such data. However, the increased level of participation in the events organised by ITPO is a clear indication of their usefulness.

[Translation]

Sick Tea Gardens

4138. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some tea gardens being run by the Tea Trading Corporation of India as well as some private companies have become sick;

(b) if so, the details of such tea gardens and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive and restructure these sick tea gardens; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI) is a wholly owned subsidiary of STC, which manages the administration of five tea gardens in the States of West Bengal and Assam. The company is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. The total liability of the Company is estimated around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.1997. TTCI management has filed a petition in Calcutta High Court for liquidation of the company. The case is pending in the Court. TTCI is in the condition of ill economic health and it is not possible for the company to generate funds for revival of its gardens.

According to a survey conducted by Tea Board in late 1998, around 46 tea gardens mainly in the Barak Valley of Assam and West Bengal have been found to be sick/weak. The major reasons for sickness/weakness of the tea estates are ownership disputes, managerial deficiency, financial mismanagement and protracted litigations. With a view to revive and revamp the sick/weak tea estates, Tea Board has extended the following benefits :

- Exemption to the contribution of National Tea Research foundation for a period of 5 years from the date of taking over of sick tea gardens by a new management.
- To consider the applications of such gardens for financial assistance even if the accumulated Provident Fund liability exceed Rs. 10,000 (for regular gardens Board's financial assistance in the normal circumstances is not made available if the outstanding P.F. dues exceed Rs. 10,000/-).
- Concession in membership with the Tea Research Associations so as to enable them avail the technical support for a period of 5 years from the date of assumption of charge by the new management.
- Extension of moratorium period for the repayment of the outstanding dues in respect of all the past loans availed under the Board's ongoing schemes.

[English]

AIR/DD Centres in North-East

4139. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doordarshan Kendras and Radio Stations under construction at present State-wise;

(b) the time by which the Doordarshan Kendras and Radio Stations which are under construction in the North-East would be completed and by when the telecasting is likely to be started; and

(c) the reasons for delay in construction/completion of these Kendras ?

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 State-wise details of AIR and Doordarshan Stations/ Kendras under implementation in the country, are given in enclosed Statements-I & II.

(b) These projects are scheduled to be completed and commissioned in phases by the end of the Ninth-Five Year Plan.

(c) Few projects are lagging behind schedule mainly because of late handing over of sites by the State Government, non availability of infrastructural facilities such as power supply and approach road, local law and order problems. etc.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
3.	Assam	1
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Delhi	3
6.	Goa	Nil
7.	Gujarat	6
8.	Haryana	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6
10.	Karnataka	5
11.	Kerala	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5
13.	Maharashtra	5
14.	Manipur	4
15.	Meghalaya	3
16.	Mizoram	4
17.	Nagaland	3
18.	Orissa	3
19.	Punjab	Nil
20.	Rajasthan	3
21.	Sikkim	1

1	2	3
22.	Tamil Nadu	5
23.	Tripura	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4
25.	West Bengal	3
26.	A & N Islands	1

Statement- II

Sl. No.	State/UT	Studios	No. of Transmitter Projects (DD1)	Projects (DD2)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam		1	—
2.	A.P.	1	18	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh		4	—
4.	Bihar	1	6	4
5.	Goa			1
6.	Gujarat	1	2	3
7.	Haryana			1
8.	H.P.		7	1
9.	J & K	1	75	6
10.	Kerala	2	6	2
11.	Karnataka		13	1
12.	M.P.	—	13	1
13.	Meghalya			
14.	Maharashtra		8	2
15.	Manipur		1	—
16.	Mizoram		2	—
17.	Nagaland		1	—
18.	Orissa	1	4	2
19.	Punjab	1	2	1
20.	Rajasthan	1	10	4
21.	Sikkim	1	1	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	7	2
23.	Tripura		3	1

1	2	3	4	5
24.	U.P.	1	14	9
25.	W.B.		5	2
26.	Delhi	1		
27.	A & N Islands			
28.	Daman & Diu			
29.	Pondicherry		1	—
30.	L'dweep Islands			
31.	Chandigarh	1		
32.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli			
Total		15	204	44

Production of Coffee/Tea/Cardamom/Pepper

4140. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total production of coffee, tea, cardamom and pepper in the country has been increasing since last year;

(b) if so, the contribution in the production of these items from the traditional and non-traditional growing States;

(c) the foreign exchange earned from the trade of these products to the global market; and

(d) the foreign exchange spent on import of the above items after the introduction of free market economy policies ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) While the production of coffee and black pepper has increased, that of tea and cardamom has declined since last year.

(b) Contribution of traditional/non-traditional growing states in the last year towards production of coffee, tea, cardamom and pepper is given below :

Coffee

Traditional States Karnataka (71.6%), Kerala (20.7%), Tamil Nadu (6.6%)

Non-Traditional States Andhra Pradesh, Orissa & North Eastern States (1.1%)

Tea

Traditional States Assam (51.4%), West Bengal (22.38%), Tamil Nadu (15.54%), Kerala (8.42%)

Non-Traditional States Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, North-Eastern States (2.26%)

Cardamom & Pepper No categorisation of States as non-traditional or otherwise has been done.

(c) The rupee equivalent of Foreign exchange earned from the export of these items during the last two years is as under :

(Rs. in crores)		
	1998-99	1999-2000
Coffee	1752	1896
Tea	2191	1796
Cardamom (Small)	25.21	27.60
Pepper	638.11	864.98

(d) The estimated rupee equivalent of foreign exchange spent on import of cardamom, pepper, tea, coffee during the last two years is as under :

(Rs. in crores)		
Item	1998-99	1999-2000
Cardamom (Small)	8.38	4.34 *
Cardamom (Large)	14.32	7.28 *
Pepper	39.56	29.69 *
Tea	64.71	59.00
Coffee	9.00	9.00

* Apr-Sept, 99

Losses to Tourism Industry

4141. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be please to state :

(a) whether the tourism industry has registered heavy losses during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy to promote tourism in the country, especially in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details of tourist spots for which funds have been provided/proposed to be provided to Rajasthan, especially for Jaisalmer district ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The tourist traffic to India is on the increase for the last three years, thus benefiting the tourism Industry in the country. The estimated Foreign Exchange Earnings from tourism for the last three years also show a positive growth of the tourism Industry. The details of the Foreign Exchange Earnings from tourism are given below :

(Rs. in crores)		
1997	1998	1999
10,725.64	11,950.78	13,041.81

(c) and (d) The Draft Tourism Policy envisages promotion of tourism in the country. The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, however, Central Department of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to specific tourism projects in consultation with State/UT governments. 49 tourism project in Rajasthan amounting to Rs. 712.03 lakhs have been sanctioned during the last three years of the 9th Plan (in progress) and out of which 4 tourism projects amounting to Rs. 50.37 Lakhs are located in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan. List is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Projects/schemes sanctioned to the State of Rajasthan under Central Financial Scheme

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
YEAR 1997-98		
1.	Upgradation of Castle Jhoomar Baori, Sawai Madhopur	23.35

1	2	3
2.	Wayside facilities at Mangalwar	21.31
3.	Refurbishment of Deeg Fort, Bharatpur	3.20
4.	Refurbishment of Sunehri Kothi, Tonk	4.00
5.	Refurbishment of Rani Ka Mahal, Jaisalmer Fort	9.20
6.	Conservation and Refurbishment of Palace Complex, Amer	13.30
7.	Refurbishment of Nahargarh Fort, Jaipur	14.00
8.	Fortification Wall of Jaisalmer Fort	12.97
9.	Upgradation of facilities on Palace on Wheels	28.00
10.	Bikaner Festival	1.00
11.	Nagaur Fair	1.00
12.	Desert Festival	2.00
13.	Bundi Festival	1.00
14.	Marwar Festival	1.00
Total for the year 1997-98		135.33
		(A) 135.33

YEAR 1998-99

1.	Integrated development of Place of Pilgrimage-Pushkar Ghats	51.65
2.	Integrated Development of Important Tourist Place in Hadoti Region (Bundi and near Kota)	82.00
3.	Integrated Development of Vishram Sthali on Pushkar Road, Ajmer	46.70
4.	Upgradation of Shikhar Tourist Bungalow, Mt. Abu	25.00
5.	Upgradation of Tourist Bungalow, Sariska	18.00
6.	Upgradation of Tourist Bungalow at Gangaur, Jaipur	15.00
7.	Upgradation of Tourist Bungalow, Khadim, Ajmer	5.00
8.	Upgradation of Tourist Bungalow at Jodhpur	25.00
9.	Upgradation of Lake Palace Hotel at Siserh, Distt. Alwar	17.65
10.	Upgradation of Tourist Bungalow at Kajri, Udaipur	25.00
11.	Upgradation of Midway at Behror, Distt. Alwar	13.55
12.	Upgradation of Moomal Tourist Bungalow, Jaisalmer	25.00
13.	General Toilets and Development of Lawns at Museum, Pali	3.20
14.	Toilet facilities and Landscaping including water supply arrangements at Mughal Gate, Virat Nagar	3.20

1	2	3
15.	Project of General Toilets and development works including water supply arrangements at Chandrawati, Jaipur	3.20
16.	General Toilets facilities including water supply arrangements and development of lawns at Museum, Jaisalmer	3.20
17.	General Toilets and development of lawns at Museum at Kota	3.20
18.	General Toilets and Landscaping Works at Museum, Bharatpur	7.72
19.	Project of General Toilets and development works at Museum, Mandore	3.20
20.	SEL Show at Amer, Jaipur	54.00
21.	Shipgram Utsav	2.50
22.	General Toilets and development of Lawns at Akbar Ka Qila, Ajmer	3.31
23.	Refurbishment of Rani Ka Mahal	9.20
Total for the year 1998-99 :		445.48
		(B) 445.48
YEAR 1999-2000		
1.	Construction and development work at Amar Singh Rathore Ki Chattaries, Nagaur	13.33
2.	Refurbishment of Maharani Ki Chattaries, Jaipur	05.37
3.	Construction of Toilet facilities at Talab Shahi Badi, Dholpur	01.25
4.	Construction of Toilet facilities and water supply at Govt. Museum, Chittorgarh	01.88
5.	Refurbishment of Gator-ki-Chattaries	01.97
6.	Refurbishment of Hawa Mahal, Jaipur	18.00
7.	Conservation of Cenotaphs at Mandore	20.00
8.	Refurbishment of Jantar Mantar, Jaipur	13.30
9.	Development of Mossi Rani Cenotaph and development of facilities at Sagar, Alwar	13.30
10.	Development of Steps at Taragarh, Ajmer	09.33
11.	Development of Pilgrim Centre, Salasar, Dham, Distt. Churu	12.79
12.	Development of Pilgrim Centre, Shri Digambar Jain, Atishaya	20.70
Total for the year 1999-2000 :		131.22
		(C) 131.22
Total of (A) + (B) + (C)		712.03

Non-Banking Financial Institutions

4142. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of non-banking financial institutions in the country whose registration has been cancelled and the number of non-banking financial institutions which have been registered during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware that many non-banking financial institutions have usurped the deposited money of the people and have now closed their institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against such institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Following the amendment of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 in 1997, 9,130 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) have been registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) till June 30, 2000. The number of NBFCs, the registration of which has been cancelled by the RBI is five.

(b) and (c) Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has made available to RBI a list of 80 vanished companies in August, 1999 out of which 27, prima facie, appeared to be NBFCs. Out of the 27 NBFCs, 3 were found to have shifted their office, after intimation to RBI, to different locations and accordingly their registration has been approved. The applications of 11 companies have already been rejected and the names of the remaining 13 companies, which were suspected to be engaged in non-banking financial business without obtaining/applying for registration, have been published in newspapers and have been referred to the Police in the respective States for appropriate action. As per the further information available, 18 more NBFCs were also included in the list of vanishing companies. Out of these 18 NBFCs, there were no complaints against 8 NBFCs and the RBI is reported to have rejected the Certificates of Registration (COR) of 7 NBFCs. Two NBFCs did not apply for COR and one NBFCs is no more an NBFC.

Government Advertisements in Newspapers

4143. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA :

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

(a) the policy and criteria prescribed by the Government for giving advertisements in the newspapers and electronic media;

(b) the proportion of the Government advertisements in English and vernacular magazines and newspapers (Periodicals) during the last two years;

(c) the amount given for advertisements in English and vernacular magazines and newspapers, separately, along with the total number of advertisements;

(d) the reasons for difference in the matters of fixation of advertisements in English and vernacular newspapers by the Government;

(e) the policy of the Government to encourage small, medium size newspapers/magazines in rural areas;

(f) the action plan of the Government to strengthen the press Information Bureau/Public Relations Department;

(g) the details of the advance released to the newspapers/magazines;

(h) whether any discrimination has been found in release of advertisements;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government 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) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) places advertisements in various newspapers/journals on behalf of various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India. Advertisements are not issued to newspapers and journals, which incite or tend to incite communal passions, preach violence, offend the sovereignty and integrity of India or socially accepted norms of public decency and morals.

In selecting newspapers/publications for placing Government advertisements the following consideration may be adopted :-

- (i) Coverage of the readership from different walks of life, particularly in case of national campaigns.
- (ii) Reaching specific sections of people depending upon the message to be conveyed. Small and medium newspapers get major consideration in motivational/educative campaigns.
- (iii) Any other category of newspapers/journals/publications, which Government may consider from time to time, appropriate for bonafide reasons.

The salient features of the Code for Commercial Advertising on AIR and Doordarshan given in the enclosed statement:

(b) The space-wise proportion of the Government advertisements released to English newspapers/magazines during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 23.81% and 25.83% respectively. The share of vernacular magazines and newspapers during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 76.19% and 74.17 respectively.

(c) The amount committed for advertisements in English and vernacular magazines and newspapers during the period 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as under :

	1998-99	1999-2000
English	Rs. 27.34 crore	Rs. 36.50 Crore
Vernacular	Rs. 37.68 Crore	Rs. 44.60 Crore

The number of advertisements released during 1998-99 was 17,443 and during 1999-2000 it was 21,155.

(d) There is no difference in the matters of fixation of advertisements in English and Vernacular newspapers. The Government advertisements are issued to the newspapers/periodicals as per the publicity requirements, target readership, area and budgetary provisions.

(e) For display advertisements relating to motivational and socio-economic themes, small & medium newspapers, especially language newspapers, are extensively used to ensure wider reach in districts and semi urban areas. For the purpose of DAVP empanelment, relaxation is given to newspapers/journals published from backward, border or remote areas, or in tribal languages primarily meant for tribal readers as well as to those published from Jammu and Kashmir, with a minimum paid circulation of 500 copies per issue. Similar relaxation is

also given to Sanskrit newspapers/journals and specialized/scientific technical journals/newspapers.

(f) In the ninth plan the Press Information Bureau has an approved scheme for opening a branch office at Itanagar. In order to strengthen the communication network, a scheme of "Computerisation of the activities of PIB" is also being implemented. Modernization of existing PIB offices is being carried out under the scheme "Modernization of PIB offices by setting up of Mini Media Centers".

(g) No advance is released to the newspapers/magazines for placing advertisements.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) and (j) Do not arise in view of answer to part (h) above.

Statement

The salient features of the code for commercial Advertising on AIR and Doordarshan.

1. Advertising shall be designed as to conform to the laws of the country and should not offend morality, decency and religious susceptibilities of the people.
2. No advertisement shall be permitted which -
 - (i) derides any race, caste, colour, creed and nationality;
 - (ii) is against any of the directive principles, or any other provision of the Constitution of India;
 - (iii) tends to incite people to crime, cause disorder of violence, or breach of law of glorifies violence or obscenity in any way;
 - (iv) presents criminality as desirable;
 - (v) adversely affects friendly relations with foreign States;
 - (vi) exploits the national emblem, or any part of the constitution or the person or personality of a national leader or State Dignitary;
 - (vii) relates to or promotes cigarettes and tobacco products, liquor, wines and other intoxicants;

- (viii) in its depiction of women violates the constitutional guarantees to all citizens such as equality of status and opportunity and dignity of the individual. In particular, no advertisement shall be permitted which projects a derogatory image of women. Women must not be portrayed in a manner that emphasises passive, submissive qualities and encourages them to play a subordinate, secondary role in the family and society. The portrayal of men and women should not encourage mutual disrespect. Advertiser shall ensure that the portrayal of the female form is tasteful and aesthetic, and is within the well-established norms of good taste and decency.
3. No advertisement message shall in any way be presented as news.
 4. No advertisement shall be permitted the objects whereof are wholly or mainly of a religious or political nature; advertisements must not directed towards any religious or political end or have any relation to any industrial dispute.
 5. The goods advertised shall not suffer from any defect or deficiency as mentioned in Consumer Protection Act 1986.
 6. No advertisement, which endangers the safety of children or creates in them any interest in unhealthy practices or shows them begging or in an undignified or indecent manner shall be accepted.
 7. No advertisement shall contain references which are likely to lead the public to infer that the product advertised or any of its ingredients has some special or miraculous or super-natural property or quality, which is difficult of being proved, e.g. cure for boldness, skin whitener, etc.
 8. The picture and the audible matter of the advertisement shall not be excessively 'loud'.
 9. Now advertisement shall be accepted which violates AIR and TV Broadcast code, which is reproduced below:
 - (i) Criticism of friendly countries;
 - (ii) attack on religions or communities;
 - (iii) anything absence or defamatory;
 - (iv) incitement to violence or anything against maintenance of law and order ;
 - (v) anything amounting to contempt of court;
 - (vi) aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;
 - (vii) anything affecting the integrity of the Nation; and
 - (viii) criticism by name of any person.
 10. Indecent, vulgar, suggestive, repulsive or offensive themes or treatment shall be avoided in all advertisements.

Expenditure on Foreign Tours

4144. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on Prime Minister and Ministers every year on their foreign tours during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATEL) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

[Translation]

Revised IIP System

4145. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in 'The Hindu' dated July 24, 2000 captioned "Doubts raised over new industrial index";

(b) if so, whether the Government have changed the base year for the determining the Index of Industrial Production growth rate ;

(c) if so, whether owing to the revised index prepared by the Government after such change contradictory facts are coming to the fore regarding the industrial performance;

(d) if so, whether doubts have been raised against this new system;

(e) if so, the nature of such doubts and the quarters from which such doubts have been raised; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

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

(b) The Government has recently revised the base year of the Wholesale Price Index from 1981-82 to 1993-94. With this revision of base year for Wholesale Price Index new deflators have been used for calculation of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) (Base : 1993-94=100) with effect from April, 1994 onwards.

(c) No, Sir. As per the quick estimates of Index of Industrial production released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on 12th July, 2000 the overall rate of growth of industry for the month of April 2000 was revised to 5.7% as against 12.2% earlier reported by CSO in the press note of June 12th, 2000. This revision in the growth rate of industry for the month of April, 2000 is attributable to revision of production data furnished by the source agencies based upon increased response from production units. The revision of the Index of the Industrial Production has depicted the correct factual position about the industrial performance in the month of April and May 2000.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) The Government is monitoring the data collection and reporting system of industrial sector for taking necessary remedial measures at the appropriate time.

Role of SIDBI in J & K

4146. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the role played by the 'SIDBI' in promoting small scale industry sector in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of units of small scale industry established/revived with the loans provided by the 'SIDBI' in the State during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the SIDBI propose to expand its activities in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As reported by small Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the bank is extending financial assistance to small scale sector through direct and indirect financing schemes. The bank has extended special concessions to the Jammu & Kashmir State Financial Corporation (JKSFC) and Jammu & Kashmir Small Industries Development Corporation (JKSIDC).

The details of number of SSI units assisted, loan sanctioned and disbursed in Jammu & Kashmir during the last three years as reported by SIDBI are as under :

Year	No. of Units assisted	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Disbursed
1997-98	544	1683	1290
1998-99	567	2020	1684
1999-00	877	1790	1690

(c) and (d) SIDBI is identifying new areas of credit deployment with a view to enhance flow of credit to SSI sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

[English]

World Bank Loan for Infrastructure in Orissa

4147. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently approached the World Bank for more funds for infrastructural development in Orissa, particularly in coastal districts of the State which were severely affected by super cyclone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Government of India has posed the proposal to the World Bank seeking its assistance for Orissa Cyclone Mitigation and Reconstruction Project. The project is proposed to be financed by an amendment to the World Bank assisted Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project for an amount of US\$ 46.00 million. Technical discussions for the proposed amendments were held on June 7, 2000 between the Government of India and the World Bank.

The Orissa State Highway Project is currently under preparation with the World Bank assistance under the Technical Assistance project Loan No. 4114-IN.

However, at present, there is no commitment by the World Bank for funding of the above mentioned projects.

Sick and Closed Sugar Mills

4148. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

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

(a) the names of sugar mills in the country in the private, public and cooperative sectors functioning at present alongwith production capacity, State and Union territory-wise;

(b) the number of sick and closed sugar mills in the country, State/Union territory-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive the sick/closed sugar mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Statement-I showing the State-wise and Sector-wise sugar mills with their production capacity which functioned during 1999-2000 season is enclosed.

(b) The number of sick sugar mills in the country registered with BIFR as on 30.6.2000 State/Union Territory-wise is given at enclosed statement-II. The number of closed sugar mills in the country State/Union Territory-wise is given in the enclosed statement-III.

(c) Government have taken the following steps to improve the viability of sugar industry.

- * The ratio of levy to free sale sugar has been changed from 40:60 to 30:70 with effect from 1.1.2000;
- * Duty on imported sugar has been raised to 60% with effect from 9.2.2000;
- * The imported sugar has been brought under the release mechanism;

- * Levy @ 30% on the stocks of imported sugar held by the importers has been imposed with effect from 17.2.2000;
- * Export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar has been allowed.

Further, the closed sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for revival/rehabilitation/modernization and get them approved by the concerned institution. Financial assistance is available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rate of interest for rehabilitation/modernization schemes subject to their fulfilling the conditions laid down.

Statement-I

*The State-wise, Sector-wise Names and Locations of the installed Sugar Mills in the Country
(as on 30th June 2000)*

S.No.	Name & Location of Sugar Factory	Sector	Sugar Production Capacity (lakh tonnes)
1	2	3	4
HARYANA			
1.	The Saraswati Sugar Mills P.O. Yamunanagar, Distt. Ambala	Pvt.	1.126
2.	Naraingarh Sugar Mills Ltd. Naraingarh, Distt. Ambala	Pvt.	0.352
3.	The Haryana Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., P.O. Rohtak, Distt. Rohtak	Coop.	0.246
4.	The Maham Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Maham, Distt. Rohtak	Coop.	0.352
5.	The Panipat Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Panipat, Distt. Panipat	Coop.	0.253
6.	The Karnal Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Karnal, Distt. Karnal	Coop.	0.176

1	2	3	4
7.	Sonepat Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Sonepat, Distt. Sonepat	Coop.	0.176
8.	Shahbad Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Thaneswar, Distt. Kurukshetra	Coop.	0.176
9.	The Jind Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Teh. & Distt. Jind	Coop.	0.176
10.	The Palwal Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Teh. Palwal, Distt. Faridabad	Coop.	0.176
11.	The Kaithal Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Kaithal, Distt. Kaithal	Coop.	0.352
12.	The Bhuna Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Bhuna, Teh. Fatehbad, Distt. Hissar	Coop.	0.352
13.	M/s Picadily Agro Industries Ltd., Sector-17-A, SCO. 40-41 Chandigarh, Location at Indri, Distt. Karnal	Pvt.	0.352
PUNJAB			
14.	The Morinda Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Morinda, Distt. Ropar	Coop.	0.314
15.	Oswal Agro Mills Ltd., Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala	Pvt.	0.349
16.	Bhagwanpura Sugar Mills Ltd., Dhuri, Distt. Sangrur	Pvt.	0.349
17.	The Bhogpur Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Bhogpur, Distt. Jalandhar	Pvt.	0.142
18.	Nakodar Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd. Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar	Coop.	0.175

1	2	3	4
19.	The Doaba Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Nawanshahr, Distt. Nawanshahr	Coop.	0.349
20.	The Batala Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Batala Distt. Gurdaspur	Coop.	0.209
21.	Gurdaspur Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., (Panjar), Distt. Gurdaspur	Coop.	0.175
22.	Zira Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Zira, Distt. Ferozepur	Coop.	0.349
23.	Fazilka Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Fazilka, Distt. Ferozepur	Coop.	0.175
*24.	Budhewal Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Doraha, Teh. Samrala, Distt. Ludhiana	Coop.	0.175
25.	The Jagraon Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd. Hathoor, Kamalpur Distt. Ludhiana	Coop.	0.349
26.	Taran Taran Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Seron, Teh. Taran Taran, Distt. Amritsar	Coop.	0.175
27.	The Ajnala Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd. Bhalapind, Teh. Ajnala Distt. Amritsar	Coop.	0.349
28.	Rana Sugars Ltd., Butter-Saviyan, Teh. Baba-Bakala, Distt. Amritsar	Pvt.	0.698
29.	The Budhlada Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Budhlada, Teh. Mansa, Distt. Bhatinda	Coop.	0.349
30.	The Faridkot Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Rori, Chatsinghwala, Distt. Faridkot	Coop.	0.349

1	2	3	4
31.	Oswal Sugars Ltd., Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur	Pvt.	0.349
32.	Patiala Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd. Village Rakhra Distt. Patiala	Coop.	0.175
33.	Piccadilly Sugars & Allied Industries Ltd., Patran, Teh. Samana, Distt. Patiala	Pvt.	0.349
34.	Nahar Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Amlah, Teh. Nabha, Distt. Patiala	Pvt.	0.349
35.	The Punjab State Federation of Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., At & Teh. Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur	Coop.	0.349
UTTAR PRADESH			
36.	The Modi Industries Ltd., Modinagar, Distt. Ghaziabad	Pvt.	0.332
37.	The Simbhaoli Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd., Simbhaoli, Distt. Ghaziabad	Pvt.	0.664
38.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit : Mohiuddinpur, Distt. Meerut	P.S.	0.332
*39.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Maliana, Distt. Meerut	P.S.	0.162
40.	Daurala Sugar Works, Daurala, Distt. Meerut	Pvt.	0.598
41.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd Unit : Sakhoti-Tanda, Distt. Meerut	P.S.	0.199
42.	Mawana Sugar Works, Mawana, Distt. Meerut	Pvt.	0.564
43.	The Bagpat Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Bagpat, Distt. Meerut	Coop.	0.332

1	2	3	4
44.	The Ramala Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Ramala, Distt. Meerut	Coop.	0.332
45.	SBEC Sugar Ltd. Malakpur Teh. Baraut Distt. Baghpat.	Pvt.	0.332
46.	The Triveni Engineering Works Ltd., Sugar Unit, The Upper India Sugar Mills, Khatauli, Distt. Muzaffarnagar	Pvt.	1.328
47.	Mansurpur Sugar Mills Ltd., Mansurpur, Distt. Muzaffarnagar	Pvt.	0.332
48.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., P.O. Rohana Kalan Distt. Muzaffarnagar	P.S.	0.223
49.	The Upper Doab Sugar Mills Ltd., Shamli, Distt. Muzaffarnagar	Pvt.	0.664
50.	The Ganga Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Teh. Jansath, Distt. Muzaffarnagar	Coop.	0.332
51.	Monnet Industries Ltd., Un, The. Kairana, Distt. Muzaffarnagar	Pvt.	0.332
52.	Siel Ltd., Titawi, Distt. Muzaffarnagar	Pvt.	0.664
53.	Tikaula Sugar Mills Ltd. Distt. Muzaffarnagar	Pvt.	0.332
54.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Panninagar, Distt. Bulandshahr	P.S.	0.332
55.	Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Anoopshahr, Distt. Bulandshahr	Coop.	0.332
56.	Willard India Ltd., Sugar Division (Agauta Sugar & Chemicals), Agauta, Distt. Bulandshahr	Pvt.	0.332

1	2	3	4
57.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Doiwala, Distt. Dehradun	P.S.	0.332
58.	Gangeshwar Ltd., Deoband, Distt. Saharanpur	Pvt.	1.328
59.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Saharanpur, Distt. Saharanpur	P.S.	0.332
60.	Kisan Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Sarsawa, Distt. Saharanpur	Coop.	0.332
61.	Shakumbari Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., At Todarpur (Raghar), Distt. Saharanpur	Pvt.	0.332
62.	The Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd. Nanauta, Distt. Saharanpur	Coop.	0.332
63.	Rai Bhadur Narain Singh Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd., Lhaksar, Distt. Haridwar	Pvt.	0.465
64.	The Mahalakshmi Sugar Mills Co. Ltd., Iqbalpur, Distt. Haridwar	Pvt.	0.398
65.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit Bijnor, Distt. Bijnor	P.S.	0.332
66.	Upper Ganges Sugar & Industries Ltd., Seohara, Distt. Bijnor	Pvt.	0.484
67.	The Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd., Dhampur, Distt. Bijnor	Pvt.	1.195
68.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Chandpur, Distt. Bijnor	P.S.	0.266
69.	Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Sneh Road, Najibabad, Distt. Bijnor	Coop.	0.332

1	2	3	4
70.	Dwarikesh Sugar Ind. Ltd., Bundki, Distt. Bijnor	Pvt.	0.664
71.	The Ajudia Sugar Mills, Raja-Ka-Sahaspur, Distt. Moradabad	Pvt.	0.332
72.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit Amroha, Distt. Moradabad	P.S.	0.332
73.	The Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Gajraula, Distt. Moradabad	Coop.	0.332
74.	Chadha Sugars Pvt. Ltd., Dhanaura, Distt. Muradabad	Pvt.	0.332
75.	Venus Sugar Ltd., Mazhawali (Bhartra) Teh. Sambhal, Distt. Moradabad	Pvt.	0.332
76.	Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd., Asmoli, Teh. Sambhal, Distt. Moradabad	Pvt.	0.332
*77.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit Rampur, Distt. Rampur	P.S.	0.404
78.	Rudra Bilas Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Bilaspur Distt. Rampur	Coop.	0.266
*79.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Bareilly, Distt. Bareilly	P.S.	0.135
80.	The Kesar Enterprises Ltd., Baheri, Distt. Bareilly	Pvt.	0.465
81.	Kisan sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Semi-Khera, Teh. & Distt. Bareilly	Coop.	0.332
82.	J.K. Industries Ltd., Mirganj, Distt. Bareilly	Pvt.	0.332
83.	Oswal Overseas Ltd., Nawabganj, Distt. Bareilly	Pvt.	0.332

1	2	3	4
84.	Rosa Sugar Works Ltd., (Prop. Oudh Sugar Mills Ltd.) Rosa, Distt. Shahjahanpur	Pvt.	0.332
85.	Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Tilhar, Distt. Shahjahanpur	Coop.	0.332
86.	The Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Powayan, Distt. Pilibhit	Coop.	0.166
87.	L.H. Sugar Factories Ltd., Pilibhit, Distt. Pilibhit	Pvt.	0.332
88.	The Kisan Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Majhola, Distt. Pilibhit	Coop.	0.266
89.	Bisalpur Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Bisalpur Distt. Pilibhit	Coop.	0.332
90.	Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Teh. Pooranpur, Distt. Pilibhit	Coop.	0.332
91.	DSM Agro Products Ltd., Unit DSM Sugar (Kashipur), Kashipur, Distt. Nainital	Pvt.	0.664
92.	The Bazpur Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Bazpur Distt. Nainital	Coop.	0.398
93.	Kichha Sugar Co. Ltd., Kichha, Distt. Nainital	P.S.	0.398
94.	Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Rajapur-Pooranpur, Nadehi, P.O. Jaspur, Distt. Nainital	Coop.	0.266
95.	Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Teh. Sitarganj, Distt. Nainital	Coop.	0.332
96.	The Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Gadarpur, Distt. Nainital	Coop.	0.332

1	2	3	4
97.	The Neoli Sugar Factory, Manpumagaria, Neoli, Distt. Etah	Pvt.	0.664
98.	The Oudh Sugar Mills Ltd., Hargaon, Distt. Sitapur	Pvt.	0.664
*99.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Maholi, Distt. Sitapur	P.S.	0.202
100.	The Seksaria Biswan Sugar Factory Ltd., Biswan, Distt. Sitapur	Pvt.	0.664
101.	Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Mahmoodabad, Distt. Sitapur	Coop.	0.332
102.	Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd., (Unit Ramgarh Chini Mills), Ramgarh, Teh. Misrikh, Distt. Sitapur	Pvt.	0.332
103.	Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Golagokarannath, Distt. Kheri	Pvt.	0.637
104.	The Gobind Sugar Mills Ltd., P.O. Aira Estate, Distt. Kheri	Pvt.	0.664
105.	The Sarjoo Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Belrayan, Distt. Kheri	Coop.	0.332
106.	Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Paliakalan, Distt. Kheri	Pvt.	0.332
107.	Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Sampurnanagar, Teh. Nigashan, Distt. Lakhimpur Kheri	Coop.	0.332
108.	Ghaghara Sugar Ltd. Ajabapur, Block Pargaon Distt. Lakhimpur Kheri	Pvt.	0.332
*109.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Hardoi, Distt. Hardoi	P.S.	0.243

1	2	3	4
110.	Kitply Industries Ltd., Rupapur, Distt. Hardoi	Pvt.	0.332
111.	The United Provinces Sugar Co. Ltd., Serohi , Distt. Padrauna	Pvt.	0.332
112.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit Baitalpur, Distt. Deoria	P.S.	0.121
*113.	Cawnpore Sugar works Ltd., P.O. Gauribazar, Distt. Deoria	Pvt.	0.098
114.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit, Deoria, Distt. Deoria	P.S.	0.128
115.	The Kanoria Sugar & General Mfg. Co. Ltd., Captainganj, Distt. Padrauna	Pvt.	0.664
116.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., P.O. Rajabazar, Unit Khadda, Distt. Padrauna	P.S.	0.166
*117.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Chhitauni, Distt. Padrauna	P.S.	0.108
118.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Lakshmiganj, Distt. Padrauna	P.S.	0.119
119.	Gangeshwar Ltd., Unit. Ramkola, Dist. Padrauna.	Pvt.	0.332
120.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Ramkola, Distt. Padrauna	P.S.	0.119
*121.	Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd., Padrauna, Distt. Padrauna	Pvt.	0.239
*122.	Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd., Kathkuiyan, Dist. Deoria	Pvt.	0.133

1	2	3	4
123.	The Pratappur Sugar & Ind. Ltd., Pratappur, Distt. Deoria	Pvt.	0.332
124.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Bhatni, Distt. Deoria	P.S.	0.135
*125.	Saraya Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd., Sardamagar, Distt. Gorakhpur	Pvt.	0.425
126.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Pipraich, Distt. Gorakhpur	P.S.	0.108
*127.	U.P. Coop. Sugar Factories Federation Ltd., Dhuriapar, Block-Urwa, Teh. Golabazar Distt. Gorakhpur	Coop.	0.332
*128.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Ghughli, Distt. Maharajganj	P.S.	0.135
129.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Siswabazar, Distt. Maharajganj	P.S.	0.332
*130.	Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Anandnagar, Distt. Maharajganj	Pvt.	0.162
131.	J.H.V. Sugar Corporation Ltd., Gadaura Teh. Nichlaul Distt. Maharajganj	Pvt.	0.332
*132.	U.P. State Sugar Coprn. Ltd., Munderwa, Distt. Basti	P.S.	0.094
133.	The Basti Sugar Mills Co. Ltd., P.O. & Distt. Basti	Pvt.	0.332
134.	Govindnagar Sugar Ltd., P.O. Walterganj, Distt. Basti	Pvt.	0.108

1	2	3	4
135.	Khalilabad Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd., Khalilabad, Distt. Basti	Pvt.	0.093
136.	The Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd., Babhnan, Distt. Gonda	Pvt.	0.7304
*137.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Nawabganj, Distt. Gonda	P.S.	0.202
138.	Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd., Balrampur, Distt. Gonda	Pvt.	1.328
139.	Tulsipur Sugar Co. Ltd., Tulsipur, Distt. Gonda	Pvt.	0.664
140.	Indo Gulf Industries Ltd., Maizapur, Distt. Gonda	Pvt.	0.332
141.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Jarwal Road, Distt. Bahraich	P.S.	0.332
142.	Sravasthi Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Nanpara, Distt. Bahraich	Coop.	0.332
*143.	Chilwaria Sugar & Chemicals Ltd., Chilwaria, Distt. Bahraich	Pvt.	0.332
*144.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Barabanki Distt. Barabanki	P.S.	0.133
145.	The U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Burthwal, Distt. Barabanki	P.S.	0.108
146.	Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd., Rouzagaon, Teh. Ram Sneh Ghat, Distt. Barabanki	Pvt.	0.332
147.	U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Shahganj, Distt. Jaunpur	P.S.	0.135

1	2	3	4
148.	Kamalapat Motilal Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd., P.O. Motinagar, Distt. Faizabad	Pvt.	0.332
149.	Kashi Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Aurai, Distt. Varanasi	Coop.	0.166
150.	The Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Rasra, Distt. Ballia	Coop.	0.166
151.	The Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Karimganj, Distt. Farukhabad	Coop.	0.166
152.	The Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Sathiaon, Distt. Azamgarh	Coop.	0.166
153.	The Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Ghosi, Distt. Mau	Coop.	0.332
154.	The Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., P.O. Satha, Hardeoganj, Distt. Aligarh	Coop.	0.166
155.	The Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Badaun, Distt. Badaun	Coop.	0.166
156.	Chhata Sugar Co. Ltd., P.O. Chhata, Distt. Mathura	P.S.	0.332
157.	Nandganj Sihori Sugar Co. Ltd., Daryapur, Distt. Rai Bareilly	P.S.	0.166
*158.	Nandganj Sihori Sugar Co. Ltd., P.O. Nandganj, Distt. Ghazipur	P.S.	0.166
159.	The Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Sultanpur, Avadh	Coop.	0.166
160.	Ghatampur Sugar Co. Ltd., Teh. Ghatampur, Distt. Kanpur	P.S.	0.166

1	2	3	4
161.	Daya Sugar Naya Bas, Tel. Gagalheri Distt. Saharanpur	Pvt.	0.332
162.	Dewan Sugar Ltd. Agwanpur, Distt. Moradabad	Pvt.	0.332
163.	Kamlapur Sugar & Industries Pvt. Ltd., Kamlapur, Distt. Sitapur		0.332
BIHAR			
*164.	Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Lohat, Distt. Madhubani	P.S.	0.125
*165.	Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Sakari, Distt. Madhubani	P.S.	0.077
*166.	The Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Ryam, Distt. Darbhanga	P.S.	0.087
167.	The New India Sugar Mills Ltd., Hassanpur Road, P.O. Hassanpur Sugar Mills, Distt. Samastipur	Pvt.	0.125
*168.	Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Samastipur Unit, Distt. Samastipur	P.S.	0.076
*169.	Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd. Motipur, Distt. Muzaffarpur	P.S.	0.115
170.	Righa Sugar Co. Ltd., Righa, Distt. Sitamarhi	Pvt.	0.236
*171.	Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Garaul, Distt. Vaishali	P.S.	0.077
172.	Motihari Chini Udyog Ltd., Leasee of M/s Eastern Sugars Industries Ltd., Motihari, Distt. East Champaran	Pvt.	0.165
173.	Motilal Padampat Udyog Ltd., Majhulia, Distt. West Champaran	Pvt.	0.236

1	2	3	4
*174.	Champaran Sugar Co. Ltd., Chanpatia, Distt. West Champaran	Pvt.	0.151
*175.	Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Lauriya, Distt. West Champaran	P.S.	0.153
176.	Bagaha Chini Mills Ltd., P.O. Naraipur, Distt. West Champaran	Pvt.	0.236
177.	The Oudh Sugar Mills Ltd., Narkatiaganj, Distt. West Champaran	Pvt.	0.472
178.	Harinagar Sugar Mills Ltd., Harinagar, Distt. West Champaran	Pvt.	0.667
*179.	The Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Sugauli, Distt. East Champaran	P.S.	0.086
*180.	Champaran Sugar Co. Ltd., Barachakia, Distt. East Champaran	Pvt.	0.088
*181.	The Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., P.O. New Savan, Distt. Siwan	P.S.	0.086
*182.	The Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., P.O. Siwan, Distt. Siwan	P.S.	0.067
*183.	The Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., P.O. Mirganj Distt. Gopalganj	P.S.	0.168
184.	Bharat Sugar Mills Ltd., Sidhwalia, Distt. Gopalganj	Pvt.	0.165
185.	Sasa Musa Sugar Works Pvt. Ltd., Sasa Musa, Distt. Gopalganj	Pvt.	0.165

1	2	3	4
186.	The Vishnu Sugar Mills Ltd., P.O. Vishnu Sugar Mills, Gopalganj, Distt. Gopalganj	Pvt.	0.236
*187.	Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd., Pvt. Marhowrah, Distt. Saran		0.089
*188.	Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Gararu, Distt. Gaya	P.S.	0.082
*189.	The Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit Warisaliganj, Distt. Nawadah	P.S.	0.067
*190.	The Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Banmankhi, Distt. Purnea	P.S.	0.096
*191.	The Bihar State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Unit. Bihta, Distt. Patna	P.S.	0.162
MAHARASHTRA			
192.	Shree Pandurang SSK Ltd., P.O. Shreepur, Distt. Solapur	Coop.	0.4348
193.	The Saswadmali Sugar Factory Ltd., P.O. Malinagar, Distt. Sholapur	Pvt.	0.3043
194.	Sahakar Maharishi Shankarao Mohite Patil SSK Ltd., Akuj, Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	0.7826
195.	Shri Shankar SSK Ltd., Sadashivnagar, Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	0.4348
196.	Shree Sidheshwar SSK Ltd., Kumathe, P.O. Tikekarwadi, Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	0.3478

1	2	3	4
197.	Vithal SSK Ltd., Taluk Pandharpur, Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	0.6086
198.	Bhima SSK Ltd., Takli, Teh. Mahol, Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	0.4348
199.	Bhgawati SSK Ltd., Irle Vairag, Taluka Barsi, Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	0.2174
200.	Shri Sant Damaji SSK Ltd., Shiranadagi, TK. Karmala, Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	0.4348
201.	Indra SSK Ltd. Mirajagim, TK. Akalkot Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	0.4348
202.	Adinath SSK Ltd., Lave Bhalwani, Teh. Karmala Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	0.4348
203.	Chandrabhaga SSK Ltd. Bhalwani, TK. Pandharpur Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	0.4348
204.	The Ravalgaon Sugar Farm Ltd., Ravalgaon, Distt. Nasik	Pvt.	0.3478
*205.	Girna SSK Ltd., P.O. Bhausaheb Nagar, Distt. Nasik	Coop.	0.2608
206.	Karamveer Kakasaheb Wagh SSK Ltd., Ranwad, Taluk Niphad, Distt. Nasik	Coop.	0.2174
207.	Kadwa SSK Ltd., Materewadi Taluka Dindori, Distt. Nasik	Coop.	0.2174
208.	Niphad SSK Ltd., P.O. Bhausaheb Nagar, Distt. Nasik	Coop.	0.6086

1	2	3	4
209.	Nasik SSK Ltd., Palse, Distt. Nasik	Coop.	0.2174 (d)
210.	Vasantrao Dada Patil SSK Ltd., Vitthewadi (Lohaner), Distt. Nasik	Coop.	0.4348
*211.	Shri Changdeo Sugar Mills Ltd., Changdeonagar, Distt. Ahmednagar	Pvt.	0.1414
212.	The Kopargaon SSK Ltd., Kolpewadi, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.3826
213.	The Pravara SSK Ltd., Pravaranagar, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.6956
214.	Ashok SSK Ltd., Ashoknagar P.O. Shirampur, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.4521 (d)
215.	Shri Ganesh SSK Ltd., Ganeshnagar, P.O. Ranjangaon Khurd, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.3043
216.	The Sanjivani (Takli) SSK Ltd., Tal. Kopargaon, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.3652 (d)
217.	Teh Rahuri SSK Ltd., P.O. Rahuri Factory, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.5652 (d)
218.	The Shrigonda SSK Ltd., P.O. Shrigonda, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.3478
219.	Sangamner Bhag SSK Ltd., Amritnagar, Tal. Sangamner Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.6086 (d)
220.	Dnyaneshwar SSK Ltd., Taluka Newasa, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.5217

1	2	3	4
221.	Shri Jagdamba SSK Ltd., Rashin, Teh. Karjat, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.1397
222.	Shri Vrideshwar SSK Ltd., P.O. Vridheshwar Sakhar Karkhana, Taluka Pathardi, Distt. Ahmednagar (Pimpalgaon)	Coop.	0.4348
223.	The Mula SSK Ltd., Sonai, Taluka Newasa, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.4348
224.	Parner Taluka SSK Ltd., Parner, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.2174
225.	Bhausahab Mahadeo Hande Agasti SSK Ltd., Jamgaon, Teh. Akola, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.4348
226.	Kedareswar SSK Ltd. Bodhegaon Teh. Shegaon Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	0.4348
227.	Bhogawati SSK Ltd., Shahunagar, Post Parite, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.3478
228.	The Kolhapur Cane Sugar Works Ltd., Kasaba Bhavada, Distt. Kolhapur	Pvt.	0.3826
229.	Shree Panchganga SSK Ltd., Ganganagar, Ichalkaranji, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.8696
230.	Shree Warna SSK Ltd., P.O. Wamanagar, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.6956
231.	Kumbhi Keshri SSK Ltd., Kuditre, Tal. Karvir, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.5217

1	2	3	4
232.	Shree Dudhganga VedgangaCoop. SSK Ltd., Bidri, P.O. Mouninagar, Tal. Kagal, Distt. Kolhapur		0.6086
233.	Shri Datta SSK Ltd., Asrule, Tal. Panhala, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.4348
234.	Shri Datta SSK Ltd., Shirol, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.8696
235.	Daulat Shetakari SSK Ltd., P.O. Halkarni, Tal. Chandgad, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.3478
236.	Gadhinglaj Taluka SSK Ltd., Gadhinglaj, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.2174
237.	Chhatrapatti Shahu SSK Ltd., Kagal, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.4348
238.	Jawahar Shetkari SSK Ltd., Hupari, Tal. Hatkangale, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.4348
239.	Ajara Shetakari SSK Ltd., Gavse TK, Ajara Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	0.4348
240.	Indapur SSK Ltd., Bijawadi, Taluka Indapur, Distt. Pune	Coop.	0.309
241.	Shri Chhatrapatti SSK Ltd., Bhavaninagar, Tal. Indapur Distt. Pune	Coop.	0.4348
242.	The Malegaon SSK Ltd., Malegaon, B.K. Distt. Pune	Coop.	0.3478
243.	Shree Someshwar SSK Ltd., P.O. Someshwarnagar, Distt. Pune	Coop.	0.4348
244.	Yeshwant SSK Ltd., Chintamaninagar, P.O. Theur, Distt. Pune	Coop.	0.6087

1	2	3	4
245.	Bhima SSK Ltd., Patas, Taluka Daund, Distt. Pune	Coop.	0.4348
246.	Vighnanes SSK Ltd., Junnar Distt. Pune	Coop.	0.4348
247.	Rajgad SSK Ltd., Nigade, Tal. Bhor, Distt. Pune	Coop.	0.1767
248.	Ghodganga SSK Ltd., Nhavare Teh. Shirur, Distt. Pune	Coop.	0.4348
249.	Shri Sant Tukaram SSK Ltd. Kasarsai TK. Mulshi Distt. Pune	Coop.	0.4348
250.	Gangapur SSK Ltd., P.O. Rahunathnagar, Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	0.3478
251.	Sidheshwar SSK Ltd., Sillod Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	0.3478
252.	The Kannad SSK Ltd., Kannad, Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	0.4348
253.	The Vinayak SSK Ltd., Parsoda, Taluka Vaijapur, Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	0.2174
254.	Shri Santh Ek-Nath SSK Ltd. Paithan, Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	0.4348
255.	Shri Namdev Rao B. Gakekar Deogiri SSK Ltd., Phulambri Tal. & Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	0.4348
256.	Krishna SSK Ltd., Rethare Budruk, P.O. Shivanagar, Distt. Satara	Coop.	0.8696
257.	Shriram SSK Ltd., Phaltan, Distt. Satara	Coop.	0.2261
258.	New Phaltan Sugar Works Ltd., Taluka Phaltan, P.O. Shakharwadi, Distt. Satara	Pvt.	0.2608

1	2	3	4
259.	Kisanveer Satara SSK Ltd., Bhuinj, Taluka Wai, Distt. Satara	Coop.	0.3478
260.	Balasaheb Desai SSK Ltd., Daulatnagar, Marali, Taluka Petan, Distt. Satara	Coop.	0.2178
261.	Sahyadri SSK Ltd., Yeshwantnagar, Taluka Karad, Distt. Satara	Coop.	0.8696
262.	Ajinkyatra SSK Ltd., Shendre, Distt. Satara	Coop.	0.4348
263.	Jarandeshwar SSK Ltd. Chimangaon TK. Koregaon Distt. Santara	Coop.	0.4348
264.	Godavari Manar SSK Ltd., Shankarnagar, P.O. Ramtirth, Distt. Nanded	Coop.	0.4348
265.	Kalambar Vibhag SSK Ltd., Kalambar, Post Gandhinagar, Distt. Nanded	Coop.	0.2174
266.	Shri Bhaurao Chavan SSK Ltd., At Degaon, Teh. & Distt. Nanded	Coop.	0.4348
267.	Shankar SSK Ltd., Phulenagar, Teh. Bhokar, Distt. Nanded	Coop.	0.2174
268.	Jai Ambika SSK. Ltd. Mohan Nagar Kuntur T.K. Biloli Distt. Nanded	Coop.	0.4348
*269.	Shree Panzarakan SSK Ltd., Bhadne, Tal. Sakri, Distt. Dhulia	Coop.	0.2174
*270.	Sindkheda SSK Ltd., At Degaon, Teh. Sindkheda, Distt. Dhulia	Coop.	0.4348

1	2	3	4
271.	Shree Satpuda Tapi Parisar SSK Ltd., Sahada, P.O. Purshottamnagar, Distt. Dhulia	Coop.	0.6086
272.	Pushpandanteshwar SSK Ltd. Samsherpur TK. Nadurbar Distt. Dhulia	Coop.	0.4348
*273.	Sanjay SSK, Dhule, Sindkheda, Amalner Ltd., Vijay Nagar, Tah. & Distt. Dhule	Coop.	0.2174
274.	Shirpur Shetkari SSK Ltd., Dahiwad, Tal. Shirpur, Distt. Dhule	Coop.	0.4348
275.	Jijamata SSK Ltd., Dusarbid, Tal. Mahkar, Distt. Buldana	Coop.	0.2174
276.	Vasant SSK Ltd., Pusad, Distt. Yavatmal	Coop.	0.4348
*277.	Jai Kisan SSK Ltd., Bodegaon, Teh. Darwha, Distt. Yavatmal	Coop.	0.4348
278.	Shri Shankar Shetkari SSK Ltd., Village Mangrul, Distt. Yavatmal	Coop.	0.2174
279.	Pushpwati SSK Ltd., At Chikhali, Tal. Pusad, Distt. Yavatmal	Coop.	0.4348
280.	Rajaram Bapu Patil SSK Ltd., Rajaramnagar post Sakharale, Taluka, Walwa, Distt. Sangli	Coop.	0.6956
281.	Vasantdada Shetkari SSK Ltd., P.O. & Distt. Sangli	Coop.	0.8696
282.	Jath Taluka Shetkari SSK Ltd., At Tippehalli Jath, Taluka Jath, Distt. Sangli	Coop.	0.4348

1	2	3	4
283.	Vishwas SSK Ltd., Yeshwatnagar, Post Chikhali, Taluka Shirala, Distt. Sangli	Coop.	0.2174
284.	Hutatma Kisan Ahir SSK Ltd., Walve, Distt. Sangli	Coop.	0.2174
285.	Yeshwant SSK Ltd., Nagewadi, Taluka Khanapur, Distt. Sangli	Coop.	0.2174
286.	Mahankali SSK Ltd., Kavathe Mahankal, Distt. Sangli	Coop.	0.2174
287.	Tasgaon Taluka SSK Ltd., Tasgaon, (Turchi Phata), Post Turchi, Tal. Tasgaon, Distt. Sangli	Coop.	0.4782
288.	Mannganga SSK Ltd., Sonarsidhnagar, Distt. Sangli	Coop.	0.2174
289.	Terna shetkari SSK Ltd., Ternanagar, Taluka Dhoki, Distt. Osmanabad	Coop.	0.3826
290.	Tulja Bhawani Shetkari SSK Ltd., Naldurg, Tal. Tuljapur, Distt. Osmanabad	Coop.	0.2174
291.	The Ambajogai SSK Ltd., P.O. Ambasakhar, Tal. Ambajogai, Distt. Beed	Coop.	0.2174
292.	Jai Bhavani SSK Ltd., Georai, Distt. Beed	Coop.	0.4348
293.	Kada SSK Ltd., Tak. Ashti, Distt. Beed	Coop.	0.2174
294.	Gajanan Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., At Taluka & Distt. Beed	Coop.	0.2174
295.	Majalgaon SSK Ltd., Nithrud, Teh. Majalgaon, Distt. Beed	Coop.	0.4348

1	2	3	4
296.	Madhukar SSK Ltd., P.O. Faizpur, Distt. Jalgaon	Coop.	0.2174
*297.	Vasant SSK Ltd., Kasoda, Distt. Jalgaon	Coop.	0.2174
298.	Belganga SSK Ltd., Taluka Chalisgaon, Distt. Jalgaon (Bhoras)	Coop.	0.4348
299.	Shri Chopada SSK Ltd., Machale, Teh. Chopada, Distt. Jalgaon	Coop.	0.4348
300.	Shri Sant Mukatabai SSK, Ltd. Ghadganj Teh. Edlabad Distt. Jalgaon.	Coop.	0.4348
*301.	Marathwada SSK Ltd., P.O. Dongarkheda, Taluka Pathari, Distt. Parbhani	Coop.	0.2174
302.	The Godavari Dudhana SSK Coop. Ltd., Deonandra, Taluka Pathari, Distt. Parbhani	Coop.	0.2174
303.	Purna SSK Ltd., Basmathnagar, Distt. Parbhani	Coop.	0.4348
304.	Nirsinha SSK Ltd., At Lohgaon, Distt. Parbhani	Coop.	0.4348
305.	Barashiv Hanuman SSK Ltd. Coop. Jawala Bajar TK. Basmathnagar Distt. Parbhani.	Coop.	0.4348
306.	Samarth SSK Ltd., Mahalala Tal. Ambad, Distt. Jalna	Coop.	0.4348
307.	Jalna SSK Ltd., Village Ramnagar, Teh. & Distt. Jalna	Coop.	0.2174
308.	Shri Bahgeshwari SSK Ltd., Warphal, Tal. Partur, Distt. Jalna	Coop.	0.4348

1	2	3	4
309.	Jai Jawan Jai Kisan SSK Ltd., Nalegaon, Tal. Ahmedpur, Distt. Latur	Coop.	0.2174
310.	Shetkari SSK Ltd., Killari Distt. Latur	Coop.	0.2174
311.	Manjara Shetkari SSK Ltd., Tal. Chincholirao, Distt. Latur	Coop.	0.2174
312.	Shivajirao Patil Nilangakar SSK Ltd. Amulga (B.K.) TK. Nilanga, Distt. Latur	Coop.	0.4348
*313.	Shetkari SSK Ltd., Dhamangaon, Tal. Chandur Rly Stn., Distt. Amravati	Coop.	0.2174
314.	Shri Kondeshwar SSK Ltd. Ramnagar TK. Phubgaon Distt. Amravati	Coop.	0.4348
*315.	Shriram SSK Ltd., Babdeo, Teh. Mauda, Distt. nagapur	Coop.	0.2174
316.	Mahatma SSK Ltd., Jamani, Tah. Salo, Distt. Wardha	Coop.	0.2174
317.	The Wainganga SSK Ltd., Teh. Maholi Road, Distt. Bhandara	Coop.	0.2174
318.	Balaji SSK Ltd., Masalapen, Tal. Risod, Distt. Akola	Coop.	0.2174
319.	Akola Zilla SSK Ltd., Vizore, Distt. Akola	Coop.	0.4348
320.	Jaiwant Patil SSK Ltd. Mohan Nagar, Kuntur T.K. Biloli, Distt. Nanded	Coop.	0.4348
321.	Sonhira SSK Ltd., Wangi, Tk. Kanapur Distt. Sangali	Coop.	0.4348

1	2	3	4
322.	M/s Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Kallambi, Distt. Osmanabad	Pvt.	0.2609
323.	Vaidyanath SSK Ltd. Pangari, TK. Ambajogai Distt. Beed	Coop.	0.4348
324.	Ram Ganesh Gadkari SSK Ltd. Saoner, Distt. Nagpur	Coop.	0.4348
325.	Sahkari Mahrashi Ltd. Sri Bapuji Desmukh SSK Ltd. Vela, Teh. Higanghat Distt. Wardha,	Coop.	0.4348
WEST BENGAL			
326.	Khaithan Agro Industries Ltd., Plassey, Distt. Nadia	Pvt.	0.046
327.	West Bengal Sugar Industries Development Corpn. Ltd., Ahmedpur, Distt. Birbhum	P.S.	0.022
ASSAM			
*328.	The Assam Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., P.O. Baruabamungaon, Distt. Sibsagar	Coop.	0.045
*329.	Arihant Sugar Ltd., P.O. Ratabari, Chargola, Distt. Karimganj	Pvt.	0.069
330.	Nowgong Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Kampur, Distt. Nowgong	Coop.	0.069
RAJASTHAN			
*331.	The Mewar Sugar Mills Ltd., Bhupalsagar, Distt. Chittorgarh	Pvt.	0.093
332.	The Ganganagar Sugar Mills Ltd., Sriganganagar, Distt. Sriganganagar	P.S.	0.063

1	2	3	4
333.	Shri Keshoraipatan Sahakari Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Keshporaipatan, Distt. Bundi		0.077
ORISSA			
*334.	Jeypore Sugar Co. Ltd., Rayagada, Distt. Koraput	Pvt.	0.035
335.	The Aska Coop. Sugar Industries Ltd., Aska, Distt. Ganjam	Coop.	0.096
336.	The Baragarh Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., (Under the Managment of Ponni Sugars & Chemicals Ltd.) P.O. Tora Baragarh, Distt. Sambalpur	Coop.	0.098
337.	The Coop. Sugar Industries Ltd., (Under the Management of Dharni Sugar & Chemicals Ltd.) Teh. Nayagarh, Distt. Puri	Coop.	0.098
338.	Badamba Coop. Sugar Industries Ltd., (Under the Management of Sakti Sugars Ltd.) Teh. Banki, Distt. Cuttack	Coop.	0.098
339.	Western India Sugar & Chemicals Industries Ltd., Dharamgarh, Teh. Dharamgarh, Distt. Kalahandi	Pvt.	0.197
340.	Ponni Sugars & Chemicals Ltd., At Bolangir, Distt. Bolangir	Pvt.	0.197
341.	Sakthi Sugar Ltd., Haripur, Village Teh. Dhankanal Sadar, Distt. Dhankanal	Pvt.	0.197

1	2	3	4
GUJARAT			
342.	Shri Khedut Sahakari Khand Coop. Udyog Mandi Ltd., Sardar Bag, Bardoli, Distt. Surat		1.704
343.	Shree Madhi Vibhag S. Khand Coop. Udyog Mandli Ltd., P.O. Madhi, Distt. Surat		0.852
344.	Shree Chalthan Vibhag Khand Coop. Udyog Sahakari Mandli Ltd., Chalathan, Distt. Surat		0.854
345.	Shree Sayan Vibhag Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Sayan, Distt. Surat		0.596
346.	Shree Mahuva Pradesh Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Zarvavra, Distt. Surat	Coop.	0.596
*347.	Shri Ukai Pradesh Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., At P.O. Paniari, Distt. Surat	Coop.	0.426
348.	Shree Khedut Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., At. Kosamba, Teh. Mangrul, Distt. Surat	Coop.	0.426
349.	Shri Kamrej Vibhag Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Kamrej Distt. Surat.	Coop.	0.426
*350.	Shree Valod Pradesh Khand Udyog Sahakari Mandli Ltd. Virpur Tal. Valod Distt. Surat		0.426
351.	The Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Gandeivi, Via Bilimora, Distt. Valsad	Coop.	0.596
352.	Shri Maroli Vibhag Khand Udyog Sahakari Mandli Ltd., Kalyannagar, P.O. Maroli, Distt. Valsad	Coop.	0.426

1	2	3	4
353.	Shree Valsad Sahakari Khand Coop. Udyog Mandli Ltd., Parnerapardi Distt. Valsad		0.426
354.	Shri Bileshwar Khand Udyog Coop. Khedut Sahakari Mandli Ltd., Kodinar, Distt. Amreli		0.443
355.	Shri Una Taluka Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Una (Sorath), Distt. Junagarh	Coop.	0.213
356.	Shree Talala Taluka Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., P.O. Talala, Distt. Junagarh (Gir)	Coop.	0.213
357.	Charotar Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Village Palaj, Taluka Petlad, Distt. Kaira	Coop.	0.213
358.	Shree ganesh Khand Udyog Sahakari Mandli Ltd., Desad, Taluka Valia, Distt. Bharuch (Vataria)	Coop.	0.426
*359.	Shri Revakhand Udyog Sahakari Mandli Ltd., At & Post Amod, Taluka Amod, Distt. Bharuch	Coop.	0.426
360.	Shri Narmadakhand Udyog Sahakari Mandli Ltd., Dharikheda, Taluka Nandod, Distt. Bharuch	Coop.	0.426
361.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Khand Udyog Coop. Societies Ltd., P.O. Dhoraji, Distt. Rajkot	Coop.	0.213
362.	Vadodara Distt. Sugarcane Growers Union Ltd. At & P.O. Gandhara Karjan Distt. Vadodara	Coop.	0.426

1	2	3	4
363.	Sardar Coop. Sugar Industries Ltd. Lathod Tehsil. Sankhed Distt. Vadodara		0.426
ANDHRA PRADESH			
364.	The Kirlampudi Sugar Mills Ltd., P.O. Pithapuram, Distt. East Godavari	Pvt.	0.099
365.	Shri Sarvaraya Sugar Ltd., P.O. Chelluru, Tal. Ramchandrapuram, Distt. East Godavari	Pvt.	0.245
366.	Nava Bharat Ferro Alloys Ltd., Samalkot, Distt. East Godavari	Pvt.	0.147
367.	Andhra Sugars Ltd., Tanuku, Distt. East Godavari	Pvt.	0.490
*368.	The Palakol Coop. Sugars Ltd., Pooarelli, Palakol, Distt. West Godavari	Coop.	0.099
369.	VVS Sugars (The Jeypore Sugar Co. Ltd.,) P.O. Chagallu, Distt. West Godavari	Pvt.	0.49
370.	West Godavari Coop. Sugars Ltd., Bhimadole, Taluka Eluru, Distt. West Godavari	Coop.	0.123
371.	The Andhra Sugars Ltd., Tuduvai, Distt. West Godavari	Pvt.	0.245
372.	The Chodavaram Coop. Sugars Ltd., Govada, Distt. Vishakhapatnam	Coop.	0.245
373.	Anakapalle Coop. Agricultural & Industrial Society Ltd., Anakapalle, Distt. Visakhapatnam	Coop.	0.098

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
374.	Etikoppaka Coop. Agril & Indl. Society Ltd., Etikoppaka, Distt. Visakhapatnam	Coop.	0.147	384.	NCS Gayatri Sugar Pvt. Ltd. Adluryellareddy, Teh. Sadashivnagar Distt. Nizamabad	Pvt.	0.245
375.	The Thandava Coop. Sugars Ltd., Payakarapopeta, Distt. Visakhapatnam	Coop.	0.123	385.	The Chittoor Coop. Sugar Ltd., Chittoor, P.O. Tsavatepalli, Distt. Chittoor	Coop.	0.157
376.	Shri Vijayarama Gajapati Coop. Sugars Ltd., Kumaram, Tal. Srungavarapukota, Bhimasinghi, Distt. Visakhapatnam	Coop.	0.123	386.	Shri Venketashwara Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Gazulamandayam (Tirupati), Renugunta, Distt. Chittoor	Coop.	0.123
377.	Amadavalasa Coop. Agricultural & Industrial Society Ltd., Amadalvalasa, Distt. Srikakulam	Coop.	0.098	387.	Shree Vaani Sugars & Industries Ltd., Kummaramanatham, Distt. Chittoor	Pvt.	0.245
378.	Varalakshmi Sugars Ltd., Sankil in Rigidi Amadalavalasa Mandal Distt. Srikakulam	Pvt.	0.245	388.	Prudential Mouli Sugars Ltd., At Nindra Village Teh. Nindra Mandal, Distt. Chittoor	Pvt.	0.245
379.	The KCP Sugar & Industries Corpn. Ltd., Vuyyuru Distt. Krishna		0.588	389.	Sudalagunta Sugar Ltd., Butchinaidu Kandriga Distt. Chittoor	Pvt.	0.245
380.	The KCP Sugar & Industries Corpn. Ltd., Lakshmipuram, Distt. Krishna		0.245	390.	The Nizam Sugar Factory Ltd., P.O. Didgi, Tal., Zaheerabad, Distt. Medak	P.S.	0.245
381.	Shree Hanuman Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Hanuman Junction, Distt. Krishna		0.123	391.	The Nizam Sugar Factory Ltd., Taluka & Distt. Medak	P.S.	0.123
382.	The Nizam Sugar Factory Ltd., Shakamagar, Distt. Nizamabad	P.S.	0.457	392.	Ganapati Sugar Industries Ltd., Kulubgur, Sangareddy Mandal, Distt. Medak	Pvt.	0.245
383.	The Nizamabad Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Nizamabad Distt. Nizamabad	Coop.	0.099	*393.	The Nizam Sugar Factory Ltd., Miryalguda, Distt. Nalgonda	P.S.	0.123
				*394.	The Cuddapah Coop. Sugar Ltd., Tal. Daulatapuram Distt. Cuddapah	Coop.	0.123

1	2	3	4
395.	The Kovur Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Kovur, Distt. Nellore	Coop.	0.123
396.	Gayatri Sugar Complex Ltd. Prabhagiri Patnam Podalakur Mandal Distt. Nellore	Pvt.	0.245
397.	Empee Sugars & Chemicals Ltd., Ayyappareddy Palam, Naidupet Mandalam, Distt. Nellore	Pvt.	0.245
398.	Nizam Sugar Factory Ltd., P.O. Metapalli, Distt. Karimnagar	P.S.	0.245
*399.	Nandyal Coop. Sugar Ltd., P.O. Ponnapuram, Nandyal, Dist. Kurnool	Coop.	0.123
400.	The Nannapanni Vankatrao Coop. Sugars Ltd. Tenali, Distt. Guntur	Coop.	0.123
*401.	The Nagarjuna Coop. Sugars Ltd. Guruzala, Distt. Guntur	Coop.	0.123
402.	The Palair Coop. Sugars Ltd., Rajeshwarapuram Distt. Khammam	Coop.	0.123
403.	Shri Kailash Sugars & Chemicals Ltd. Peruvuncha, Teh. Kallur Mandal, Distt. Khammam	Pvt.	0.245
404.	Nizam Sugar Factory Ltd., P.B. No. 1 Khairatabad Hyderabad At Lakshyyapeta Distt. Vizianagaram	P.S.	0.245

KARNATAKA

405.	Pandavapura SSK Ltd. Pandavapura, Distt. Mandya	Coop.	0.2019
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1	2	3	4
406.	Mysore Sugar Co. Ltd, Mandya, Distt. Mandya	P.S.	0.6732
407.	Chamudeshwari Sugars Ltd., Pvt. K.M. Doddi, Tal. Madur Distt. Mandya		0.3230
408.	The India Sugar & Refineries Ltd., P.O. Chitwadgi, Hospet, Distt. Bellary	Pvt.	0.2692
*409.	The Kampli Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., P.O. Kampli Sugar Factory, Distt. Bellary	Coop.	0.1641
410.	Siruguppa Sugars & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. Siruguppa Taluk, Distt. Bellary	Pvt.	0.168
*411.	Salarjung Sugar Mills Ltd. Munirabad, Distt. Raichur	Pvt.	0.136
412.	Gangavati Sugars Ltd, Pragatinagar, Tal. Gangawati, Distt. Raichur	P.S.	0.3366
413.	The Ugar Sugar Works Ltd. Ugarkhurd, Distt. Belgaum	Pvt.	0.6732
414.	Shri Malaprabha Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Muguthan Hubli, Distt. Belgaum	Coop.	0.4711
415.	Shree Doodhaganga Krishna SSK Niyamit, Chikodi, Distt. Belgaum	Coop.	0.4711
416.	Raibag SSK Niyamit Taluk Raibag, Distt. Belgaum	Coop.	0.3366
417.	The Ghataprabha SSK Niyamit Gokak, Distt. Belgaum	Coop.	0.1683

1	2	3	4
418.	Shri Halasidhanath SSK Ltd. Nipani, Teh. Chikodi, Distt. Belgaum	Coop.	0.1683
419.	Shri Hiranyakeshi SSK Niyamit, Sankeshwar, Distt. Belgaum	Coop.	0.4711
420.	Shri Bhagyalaxmi SSK Ltd., Mansapur, Taluk, Khanapur Distt. Belgaum	Coop.	0.3366
*421.	Tungbhadra Sugar Works Pvt. Ltd. Shimoga Distt. Shimoga	Pvt.	0.3366
422.	Mysore Paper Mills Ltd., Bhadravati Distt, Shimoga	P.S.	0.3366
423.	Gauribidanaur SSK Ltd. Gauribidanaur, Distt. Kolar	Coop.	0.1709
424.	Bidar SSK Ltd., Hallikhed, Distt. Bidar	Coop.	0.2692
425.	Vanivilasa Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Hiriyr Distt. Chitradurga	Coop.	0.168
426.	Bhadra SSK Niyamit Doddabathi, Taluk Davangere, Distt. Chitradurga	Coop.	0.168
427.	Davangere Sugar Co. Ltd. Davangere, Kukkavada Distt. Chitradurga	Pvt.	0.3366
428.	The Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd. Sameerwadi, Mudhol Distt. Bijapur	Pvt.	0.6732
429.	Nandi SSK Ltd. Near Chikka Galagali Distt. Bijapur	Coop.	0.3366
430.	Rayatara SSK Niyamit Rannanagar TK Mudhol Distt. Bijapur	Coop.	0.3366

1	2	3	4
431.	Khodey Distilleries Ltd., Kollegal, Distt. Mysore	Pvt.	0.1683
432.	Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd., Pvt. Alaganchi Village Tal. Nanjangud, Distt. Mysore		0.3366
433.	Shreerama SSK Ltd., Chunchanakatte, K.R. Nagar, Distt. Mysore	Coop.	0.1683
434.	Karnataka SSK Ltd. Haveri Distt. Dharwad	Coop.	0.1683
435.	The Hemavathy SSK Ltd., Hassan, Distt. Hassan	Coop.	0.1683
436.	Dakshina Kannada Sahakari Coop. S. Karkhana Ltd., Mangalore Tal. & Distt. South Kanara		0.1683
437.	SSK Niyamit Teh. Aland, Distt. Gulburga	Coop.	0.1683
438.	Renuka Sugars Ltd. Manoli, Tal. Sawadathi Distt. Belgaum (Shifted from A.P. Unit Hindupur implementation)	Pvt.	0.1683
439.	ICL Sugar Ltd. Makavalli Tal. Krishna Rajpat Distt. Mandya	Pvt.	0.3366
440.	Shamnur Sugars Ltd. Duggawati, Tal. Harapanahalli Distt. Bellary	Pvt.	0.3366
441.	Prabhulingeshwar Sugar Works Ltd. Siddapur Tal. Jamkhandi Distt. Bagalkot	Pvt.	0.3366

1	2	3	4
TAMIL NADU			
442.	EID Parry (India) Ltd. P.O. Pugalur Sugar Factory, Distt. Tiruchirapalli	Pvt.	0.472
443.	Cauvery Sugars & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. Pettaivayasalai, Distt. Tiruchirappali		0.393
444.	Kothari Sugars & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Kattur, Lalgudi Distt. Tiruchirappali		0.236
445.	Perambalur Sugar Mills Ltd., Eraiyur, Taluka Perambalur, Distt. Tiruchirapalli	P.S.	0.4716
446.	EID Parry (India) Ltd. Nellikuppam, Distt. South Arcot	Pvt.	0.786
447.	The South India Sugars Mundiappakkam, Distt. South Arcot	Pvt.	0.786
448.	Shree Ambika Sugars Ltd. Pennadam, Distt. South Arcot	Pvt.	0.786
449.	Kallakurichi Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., P.O. Moongilthripattu, Tal. Kallakurichi Distt. South Arcot	Coop.	0.196
450.	The Kallakurichi-II Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd. Kachirayapalayam Taluka Kallakurichi Distt. Villupuram R.P.	Coop.	0.393
451.	Chengalrayan Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Periyasevalai Ulundarpet Taluk Distt. South Arcot	Coop.	0.472

1	2	3	4
452.	M.R. Krishnamurthy Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Sethiathope, Teh. Chidambaram, Distt. South Arcot	Coop.	0.393
453.	Tamil Nadu Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Pandiarajapuram, Distt. Madurai	P.S.	0.196
454.	The National Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Metupatti Alanganallur, Distt. Madurai	Coop.	0.393
455.	Rajshree Sugars & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Periyakulam, Distt. Madurai		0.393
456.	Amarvathi Coop. Sugar Mills Coop. Ltd. Krishnapuram, Distt. Coimbatore		0.314
457.	The Thiru Arooran Sugars Ltd., Kollumangudi Village in Peralam/Agarathirumalam Firka in Nannilam Taluk Nagai Quid-e-Milleth Distt	Pvt.	0.393
458.	Arignar Anna Sugar Mills Ltd., Kurungulam, Distt. Thanjavur	P.S.	0.393
459.	Nadippisai Pulavar K.R. Ramasamy Sugar Mills Ltd., Mayiladuthurai, Distt. Thanjavur	Coop.	0.197
460.	Thiru Arooran Sugars Ltd. Papanasam, Distt. Thanjavur	Pvt.	0.786
461.	Shree Ambika Sugars Ltd. Kottur T.K. Thiruvidaimaruthur Distt. Thanjavur	Pvt.	0.393
462.	The Ambur Coop. Sugar Mills Coop. Ltd., Vadapudupet, Ambur Distt. North Arcot		0.346

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
463.	Tirupattur Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Kothandapatti Village Vaniambadi Taluk Distt. North Arcot	Coop.	0.196	473.	Ponni Sugars & Chemicals Ltd., Pallipalayam, Tal. Tiruchengode, Distt. Salem	Pvt.	0.393
464.	The Vellore Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Ammundi P.O. Vellore Sugar Mills Distt. North Arcot	Coop.	0.393	474.	Dharmapuri Distt. Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Thimmanahalli Palacode Distt. Dharmapuri	Coop.	0.393
465.	Tamil Nadu Coop. Sugar Federation Ltd., Cheyyar/Wandewash Distt. North Arcot	Coop.	0.393	475.	Subramania Shiva Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Teh. Harur Distt. Dharmapuri	Coop.	0.393
466.	Dharani Sugars & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Karaipoondi, Tak. Polur, Distt. Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar		0.393	476.	Dharani Sugars & Chemicals Ltd., Tal. Sivagiri Distt. Tirunelveli	Pvt.	0.393
467.	The Madurantakam Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Padalam Distt. Chengalpattu	Coop.	0.275	477.	Sakhti Sugars Ltd., Tal. Sivaganga, Distt. Pasumpan Muthuraalingam	Pvt.	0.629
468.	S.V. Sugar Mills Ltd. Waljabad Firka Distt. Chegalpattu MGR	Pvt.	0.393	478.	EID Parry (India) Ltd. Arantangi, Distt. Pudukottai	Pvt.	0.393
469.	Tiruttani Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Tiruttani Distt. Chengalpattu	Coop.	0.196	MADHYA PRADESH			
470.	The Sakhti Sugars Ltd., Shaktinagar, P.O. Erode Distt. Periyar	Pvt.	0.393	479.	The Gwalior Sugar Co. Ltd. Dabra, Distt. Gwalior	Pvt.	0.134
471.	Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd. Village Alathukombai Sathyamangalam Distt. Periyar	Pvt.	0.393	480.	Jaora Sugar Mills Jaora, Distt. Ratlam	P.S.	0.091
472.	The Salem Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Mohanur, Distt. Salem	Coop.	0.393	481.	The Bhopal Sugar Industries Ltd., P.O. & Distt. Sehore		0.223
				*482.	The Jiwaji Rao Sugar Co. Ltd., Dalauda, Distt. Mandsour	Pvt.	0.049
				*483.	M.P. State Industries Corpn. Ltd., P.O. Mohidpur Road, Distt. Ujjain	P.S.	0.045
				484.	Morena Mandal SSK Ltd., Kailaras, Distt. Morena	Coop.	0.112
				485.	Malwa SSK Ltd., Barlai (Kashipara) Distt. Indore	Coop.	0.112

1	2	3	4
486.	Navalsingh SSK Maryadit Naval Nagar, Durhanpur Distt. Khandwa	Coop.	0.112
487.	Girdhari Lal Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Teh. Thikri, Distt. Khargone	Pvt.	0.223
KERALA			
*488.	The Travancore Sugar & Chemicals Ltd., Valanjavattam, P.O. Tiruvalla, Distt. Quilon	Pvt.	0.034
489.	The Coop. Sugars Ltd., Chittur, Menonpara, P.O. Distt. Palghat	Coop.	0.068
PONDICHERRY			
490.	New Horizon Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd. Sagrur (Aniyur) P.O. Kandamangalam Distt. Pondicherry	Pvt.	0.209
491.	The Pondicherry Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., At Lingareddipalayam Manndipat Commune	Coop.	0.174
NAGALAND			
*492.	Nagaland Sugar Mills Co. Ltd., Dimapur, Distt. Kohima	P.S.	0.064
GOA			
493.	Sanjivani SSK Ltd., Dayanandnagar, Post Tiska, Distt. Goa	Coop.	0.093

Note : Out of 493 sugar factories listed above a total of 69 sugar factories marked * had not functioned during season 1999-2000.

Statement-II

State/Union Territory-wise number of sick sugar mills registered with BIFR as on 30.06.2000.

S.No.	State	No. of Mills
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Bihar	3
3.	Kerala	1
4.	Karnataka	5
5.	Madhya Pradesh	3
6.	Maharashtra	3
7.	Orissa	1
8.	Punjab	1
9.	Rajasthan	1
10.	Tamil Nadu	3
11.	Uttar Pradesh	14
12.	West Bangal	1
		39

Statement-III

State/Union Territory-wise number of Sugar Mills in the country which were closed during 1999-2000.

Sl. No.	States	No. of Closed Sugar mills
1.	Punjab	1
2.	Rajasthan	1
3.	Uttar Pradesh	19
4.	Madhya Pradesh	2
5.	Gujarat	4
6.	Maharashtra	10
7.	Bihar	18
8.	Assam	2
9.	Orissa	1
10.	Nagaland	1
11.	Andhra Pradesh	6
12.	Karnataka	3
13.	Kerala	1
Total		69

[Translation]

Agent Act, 1972

4149. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Agent Act, 1972 has been replaced and implemented new Agent Act, 2000;

(b) if so, the date from which the Agent Act, 1972 has been repealed and the date from which the new Agent Act, 2000 implemented/proposed to be implemented;

(c) whether there will be a decline in the number of agents due to implementation of new Agent Act and the income of insurance companies will be affected as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of countries in which Life Insurance Corporation of India is operating its business; and

(f) the details of the profit/loss incurred by Life Insurance Corporation of India, as on date, subsidiary-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Agents) Rules, 1972 have not been repealed. The Insurance Regulatory and Development authority (IRDA) has notified the Insurance Regulatory and Development authority (Licensing of Insurance Agents) Regulations, 2000 which would be the model regulations for all insurers. These regulations have come into force from 19th July, 2000. The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) would be modifying the LIC (Agents) Rules, 1972, issued under LIC Act, 1956 accordingly.

(c) and (d) According to LIC the decline in the number of agents due to implementation of the Regulations issued by IRDA cannot be assessed at present. No reduction in the premium income of Corporation is Foreseen at this stage.

(e) The Life Insurance Corporation of India is doing business in United Kingdom, Fiji, Mauritius and Bahrain.

(f) There is no subsidiary of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The profit/loss in life insurance business is not synonymous/similar to that in other classes of business and hence it cannot be known/ascertained from the audited accounts of a life insurance company. In

case of life insurance business the surplus. Deficit can be ascertained only through conducting an actuarial valuation. The valuation of life insurance business transacted by LIC as on 31st March, 1999 disclosed a surplus of Rs. 5300.49 Crores out of which Rs. 5035.47 crores was allocated to the policy holders owning/having with-profit policies and Rs. 265.02 Crores was paid the Central Government as per Section 28 of LIC Act, 1956.

[English]

US offer to look into India's Complaints

4150. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have raised points with the US Government on the issue of imbalances and inequities that have surfaced in the WTO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US administration has agreed to look into India's points to specify the imbalances; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and upto what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) India and other developing countries have been raising the issue of up-front redressal of imbalances and inequities in the existing WTO Agreements in the WTO. India alongwith 11 other like minded countries, inter alia, had also submitted written proposals for the redressal of implementation issues. India has also been raising these issues in bilateral meetings with the US.

(c) and (d) After breakdown of the Seattle Ministerial Conference of the WTO held during 30.11.99 to 3.12.99, it was decided that developed countries would initiate Confidence Building Measures which would include the redressal of Implementation Issues in a time bound manner so as to encourage developing countries to come on board for the resumption of the suspended Ministerial Conference. In the meeting of the General Council of WTO held on 22nd June 2000, a work programme was adopted to address implementation concerns of the developing countries through the Special Sessions of the General Council so as to complete the said process not later than the Fourth Session of the Ministerial conference of WTO, as already decided in the meeting of the General Council held on 3rd May, 2000.

Actual work on consideration of Implementation Issue has commenced through the Special Session of the General Council held on 22nd June, 2000, and will continue in the Special Sessions of General Council, scheduled for 18-19th October 2000 and 7-8th December 2000.

IRDA Act, 1999

4151. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposal from the Government of Kerala requesting to amend the new I.R.D.A. Act, 1999 in such a way to incorporate co-operative sector also for conducting insurance business in the country and also take favourable and early decision to issue licences to Co-operative Insurance Societies for conducting insurance business; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Winding up of DGFT

4152. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to wind up the DGFT;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Carry Safe Deposit Scheme

4153. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to launch "Carry Safe Deposit Scheme" by banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be started; and

(d) the extent to which the customers are likely to be benefited therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Banks have freedom to launch new deposit mobilization schemes with the approval of their Boards. Deposit Mobilization schemes are launched by banks having regard to the commercial considerations of the banks and the possibility of increasing the banks deposits while conferring benefit on that segment of the banks customers for whom such schemes are envisaged.

[Translation]

Edible Oil Industry

4154. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the edible oil industry has been badly affected due to import policy of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are formulating any scheme for the revival of the edible oil industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) There have been representations from the edible oil industry about the problems being faced by them because of the large import of edible oils.

Government has reviewed the edible oil situation in depth and has taken a number of measures to improve the situation. In order to support the domestic processing industry in terms of better capacity utilization and value addition within the country, processors of edible oils and vanaspati have been allowed to import crude edible oils at concessional rate of duty. With effect from 12.06.2000, the duty on crude edible oils has been raised from 15% (basic) to 25% (basic). The duty on refined oils has been raised from 25% (basic) to 35% (basic). Duty on other oils has been raised to 45% (basic). Further, in order to improve the marketability of indigenous edible oils and ensure better return to the farmers for their produce, the use of indigenous oils upto a minimum of 25% of the oil mix in the manufacture

of vanaspati has been made mandatory. Use of expeller mustard oil upto 30% in vanaspati has also been allowed.

Education Channel

4155. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to commence education channel for making primary and higher education available on T.V. for the rural children;

(b) if so, the details of scheme prepared by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the similar scheme launched by private channels in all the States with the cooperation of non-Governmental organizations and industries; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government 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) to (d) Prasar Bharati, in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and IGNOU has launched an educational channel namely 'Gyandarshan' from 26th January, 2000. The channel is designed to be a blend of core-curriculum based programme in the areas of primary, secondary, higher, open and distance education inclusive of technical and vocational education. Different segments of population, including those residing in far flung remote areas, the physically challenged and socio-economically disadvantaged are intended to be benefited by the programmes telecast on this channel. At present progra-

mmes are being telecast on this channel for approximately 17 hours daily.

[English]

Assets of Film Related Personalities

4156. SHRI PABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether the film related personalities are possessing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income;

(b) if so, the number of such film related personalities have come to notice of the Government during each of the last three years;

(c) the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(d) the number of cases have been assessed during each of the last three years and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the time by which the remaining cases are to be assessed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Search actions were conducted in the cases of film personalities during Financial Years 97-98, 98-99 and 99-2000 and the number of such persons covered under search and the details of assets seized mentioned in enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) The Block assessments in consequence of search have been completed in 11 cases determining undisclosed income of Rs. 613.19 lakhs during last three years.

The assessments of the remaining cases are to be completed within the time limits as prescribed in the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Statement

Financial Year	No. of Film Personalities covered under search	Details of Seizure (Rs. in Lakhs)			
		Cash	Jewellery	Others	Total
1997-98	15	22.00	29.74	Nil	51.74
1998-99	08	25.42	10.32	2224.74	2260.48
				+	+
				US\$ 11,60,000	US\$ 11,60,000
1999-2000	18	80.50	22.17	116.53	219.20

Incentives to Sugar Industry

4157. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be please to state :

- (a) whether the present incentives and discounts are not sufficient for the domestic sugar industry to flight with its bad condition;
- (b) if so, the details of incentives/discount being given to sugar industry at present;
- (c) whether the Planning Commission has recommended and urged the Government to provide some special assistance/incentives to domestic sugar industry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) In order to make the new/expansion projects viable, Government have been granting incentives in the form of extra free sale quota over and above the normal free sale quota to New and Expansion projects licensed before 11.9.98.

Further Government have taken the following steps to improve the viability of the sugar industry :

- (i) The ratio of levy to free sugar has been changed from 40:60 to 30:70 with effect from 1.1.2000.
- (ii) Duty on imported sugar has been raised to 60% with effect from 9.2.2000 so that domestic prices remain stable;
- (iii) The imported sugar has been brought under the release mechanism;
- (iv) Levy @30% on the stocks of imported sugar held by the importer has been imposed with effect from 1.2.2000.
- (v) 10 Lakhs tonnes of sugar has been allowed for export.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Foreign Visit

4158. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be please to state :

- (a) the details of the foreign visits made by the officials and experts of the Department of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India during the last three years;
- (b) the purpose of each visit by the official or group, country-wise;
- (c) whether a delegation comprising a group of archaeological experts and administrators have recently visited Cambodia, China, France, Japan and Vietnam to study the monuments and inscriptions in these countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have any plan to introduce latest technological developments for restoration and preservation of archaeological monuments in the country with financial and technological assistance from foreign countries and international agencies like UNESCO;
- (f) if so, the details of progress of such projects currently and planned to be undertaken in the near future; and
- (g) the total funds allocated for carrying out such projects in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Details of visits in respect of the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India are given in the enclosed Statements-I and II respectively.

(e) Government have no proposal under consideration in this regard.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Statement-I

S.No.	Name of officer & Designation	Country visited	Period of visit	Purpose of visit
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Shri S.K. Kapoor, Desk Officer	Kazakhstan	3-9, Sept. 1997	As a member of the Technical Teams to oversee the Organization of the Days of Indian Culture in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
2.	Kalpna Das Gupta, Director	Belgium	30.8.1997 to 6.9.1997	To attend th 63rd IFLA conference.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Shri B.P. Singh, Secretary & Shri Ravi Kant Chopra, Director	Bulgaria & Italy	6-9.9.1997 10-14.9.1997	Indo-Bulgarian CEP had been signed & for organizing the Festival of India at Italy.
4.	Anjali Sen, Director	Moscow	7-12.10.997	To attend Inaugural ceremony of the Greater Museum of Nicholas K. Roerich.
5.	Shri S.K. Kapur, Desk Officer	Kyrgyzstan	20-26.10.1997	As member of the technical Teams to oversee the Organization of the Days of Indian Culture in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
6.	B.P. Singh, Secretary	Uganda	4-11.10.1997	Member of PM's delegation.
7.	S. Sathamoorthy, Joint Secretary	Singapore	12-15.1.1997	To sign the executive programme between India & Singapore for the period 1997-99.
8.	Kasturi Gupta Menon, Joint Secretary	Kyrgyzstan	17-24.10.1997	To attend inaugural function of "Days of Indian Culture."
9.	S.K. Kapoor, Desk Officer	Kyrgyzstan	17-24.10.1997	To attend inaugural function of "Days of Indian Culture."
10.	Kasturi Gupta Menon, Joint Secy.	Paris	2-6.11.1997	To attend UNESCO Congress.
11.	S. Sathyamoorthy, Jt. Secy.	Germany	15-18.11.1997	Indo-Germany CEP had been signed.
12.	S. Sathyamoorthy, Jt. Secy.	Portugal	9-12.3.1998	Indo-Portugal CEP had been signed for 1998-2000.
13.	Dr. R.V.V. Ayyar, Secretary	Stockholm	20.3.98 to 2.4.98	To attend intergovernmental conferece on Cultural Policies for Development.
14.	L.M. Singhvi, Expert	Stockholm	20.3.98 to 2.4.98	To attend intergovernmental conferece on Cultural Policies for Development.
15.	Anjali Sen, Director	Stockholm	20.3.98 to 2.4.98	To attend intergovernmental conferece on Cultural Policies for Development.
16.	Humera Ahmed, Director	Bhutan	24-25.5.1998	To attend the Technical Committee meeting of SAARC.
17.	Humera Ahmed, Director	Malaysia	25-27.6.1998	To attend the Seminar on Archives organized by Record Management Trust London.
18.	Kasturi Gupta Menon, Jt. Secy.	Berlin/Bonn	5-9.4.1998	To finalize the agreement with the Berlin Museum.
19.	R.K. Bhatt, AEA	London	17-21.7.1998	To attend the meeting on Analysis of South Asian Languages.
20.	Vishwas Mehta, Dy. Secy.	U.K.	19-26.8.1998	To attend Seminar.
21.	Shri S. Satyamoorthy, Jt. Secy.	Hungry	22-26.9.1998	Indo-Hungary CEP had been signed for 1998-2001.

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Kasturi Gupta Menon, Jt. Secy.	Melbourne (Australia)	October 1998 (8 days)	To attend the ICOM Confernece as Delegate.
23.	Ravi Kapoor, PS to HRM	Hungry	25-27.1.1998	To finalize Indo-Hungarian Cultural exchange programme.
24.	Ravi Kapoor, PS to HRM	Mauritius	2-3.10.98	To attend Interntional conference on Ramayana.
25.	V.K. Lakhanpal, Director	Hague	14-26. 3.99	To attend meeting on UNESCO convention for the protection of Cultural property.
26.	Humera Ahmed, Director	Paris	19-24.4.99	To attend UNESCO meeting.
27.	Kasturi Gupta Menon, Jt. Secy.	Japan	June 1999 (6 days)	To represent Department of Culture in the Inauguration of the Exhibition - "Silk Road and the world of Xuan Zang"
28.	Umang Narula, Dy. Secy.	Thailand	23-26.2.99	To attend Seminar.
29.	Kalpna Das Gupta, Director	Thailand	19.8.99 to 29.8.99	To attend 65th meeting of IFLAI at Bagkok.
30.	R.V.V. Ayyar, Secretary	Italy	3.10.99	ICCROM
31.	V.K. Lakhanpal, Director	Italy	3.10.99	ICCROM
32.	Navneet Soni, Dy. Secy.	Seoul (South Korea)	13-18.10.99	To attend UNESCO International Training workshop on living Human Treasures System
33.	S. Satyamoorthy, Jt. Secy.	Turkmenistan	11-15.5.99	Preparation for celebration of 500th Birth Anniversary of Bairam Khan
34.	Umang Narula, Deputy Secretary	Bangkok	22-27.2.1999	To attend the seminar held by ACCU on Preservation & Promotion of Traditional/ Folk Performing Arts
35.	M.M.K. Sardana, Addl. Secy.	Paris	26-31.10.99	UNESCO
36.	Smt. Kalpana Das Gupta, Director	Colombo	17-23.10.1999	To attend a workshop of Networking organized by IFLA
37.	R.V.V. Ayyar, Secy.	Paris	7-13.11.99	UNESCO
38.	V.S. Ramachandran, Addl. PS to Minister for Tourism & Culture	Paris	31.10.99	UNESCO
39.	Shri S. Sathyamoorthy, Jt. Secy.	Greece	25-28.10.1999	Indo-Greece CEP had been signed.
40.	Smt. Kalpana Das Gupta, Director	Jerusalem (Isreal)	12-19.8.2000	To attend 66th IFLA General Conference.
41.	Smt. Kasturi Gupta, Jt. Secy.	Tunisia and Sudan	3-10.4.2000	As a member of the Joint Commission led by MOS (MEA) to discuss matters relating to cultural and technical cooperation, and to sign the Cultural Exchange Programme with Tunisia and Sudan.

1	2	3	4	5
42.	Shri Umang Narula, Dy. Secy.	Singapore	5-14.2.2000	To attend the seminar held by ACCU.
43.	Smt. Kasturi Gupta Menon, Jt. Secy.	Tunisia & Sudan	3-10.4.2000	To sign the CEP with Tunisia and Sudan.

Statement-II

Details of Foreign Visits made by the Officials and Experts of the Archaeological Survey of India during the last three years

S.No.	Name of the official and expert	Country visited	Period	Purpose
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Shri Ajai Shankar Director General (ASI)	Pakistan	13-17.9.1997	To attend the 13th Session of the Executive Committee for the International Safeguarding of Mohanjodaro held in Islamabad (Pakistan)
2.	Shri S.B. Mathur Additional Director General (ASI)	Thailand (Bangkok)	19-23.11.1997	To participate in Asia/Pacific Heritage Site management workshop organised by UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
3.	Shri Ajai Shankar Director General (ASI)	U.K.	22-25.1.1998	To discuss mutual issues relating to prevention of illegal export of antiquities, with concerned British authorities.
4.	S/Shri Ajai Shankar Director General (ASI) & Hari Manjhi Director	Italy	26-29.1.1998	To discuss mutual issues relating to prevention of illegal export of antiquities, with concerned Italian authorities.
5.	Dr. R.C. Agarwal, Director and Shri R.K. Verma, Asstt.Archaeologist	Tashkent Uzbekistan and Biskek, Kyrgyzstan	1-11.4.1998 11-18.4.1998	Uzbekistan - To explore the possibilities of a joint excavation project on a pre Islamic site. Kyrgyzstan to explore works to be undertaken in that country in the field of Archaeology.
6.	Shri S.B. Mathur, Additional Director General (ASI)	France	29.6.98 to 2.7.98	To attend UNESCO meeting to discuss a draft convention for protection of under-water cultural heritage.
7.	Shri R.S. Bisht,	United States of America	13-27.10.1998	To deliver lectures on the Indus Valley Civilization at : 1. University of Wisconsin, Madison. 2. University of Pennsylvania 3. Harvard University 4. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
8.	Capt. P.R. Prasad, Security Officer	Nepal	6-9.10.1998	To attend International Security Conference organised by the International Institute of Security & Safety Management.

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Shri Alok Tripathi, Depty Superintending Archaeologist	France	29-31.10. 1998	To attend a Symposium on Underwater Archaeology in France, organised by Museum de L'Ephebe Capt D' Agde, France.
10.	Shri A.C. Grover, Director (Conservation)	Cambodia and Laos	12-22.12.1998	To participate in the International Technical Committee for Safeguarding & Development of the historical site of Angkorvat and to explore the possibility of Indo-Laos cooperation on the preservation of Archaeological surveys in South Champassak Province in Laos.
11.	Shri S.B. Mathur, Additional Director General (ASI)	Switzerland	31.1.to 9.2.1999	In connection with matters relating to antiquities.
12.	Km. Arundhati Banerji, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist	Bangladesh	15-21.2.1999	To attend the Third International Congress on Bengal Art organised by the International Centre for Study of Bengal Art.
13.	Shri S.B. Mathur, Additional Director General (ASI)	Switzerland	28.3. to 1.4.1999	In connection with matters relating to antiquities.
14.	Shri R.K. Verma, Assistant Archaeologist	Japan	9-19.3.1999	In connection with Global Youth Exchange Programme organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, Japan.
15.	Shri Hari Manjhi, Director (Ant.)	U.S.A.	20-24.3.1999	In connection with matter relating to antiquities.
16.	Shri J. Varaprasada Roa, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist Shri Mangi Raj, A Assistant Superintending Archaeological Chemist and Shri G.V. Pillai, Foreman	Portugal	17.5 to 15.7.99	For getting training in conversation/preservation and landscaping at Fundacad Oriente Lisbon (Portugal) for a period of two months.
17.	Shri Ajay Shankar, Director General (ASI)	Spain	17-22.5.1999	To participate in an International Congress on World - Wide Culture Routes devoted to a specific topic "Spanish - Portuguese bastion fortifications as a world route amongst the fifth Continents" Organized by International Council of Monuments and Sites, Spain and the International Committee of Cultural Routes.
18.	Shri C.B. Mishra Deputy Superintending Archaeologist Shri C.B. Patil Assistant Superintending Archaeologist	Singapore	21.5 to 2.6.1999	To escort the relics of Lord Buddha for exposition in Singapore and back.
19.	Shri S.B. Mathur, Additional Director General (ASI)	Singapore	23-31.5.1999	To attend an exposition of sacred relic of Lord Buddha.

1	2	3	4	5
20.	S/Shri A.C. Grover Director Planning and R.K. Sharma Director (Science)	France	31.5 to 10.6.1999	Meetings with UNESCO experts for preservation of world heritage sites in India.
21.	Shri S.K. Tiwari Assistant Archaeologist Chemist and Shri B.P. Nauri Assistant Archaeologist Chemist	France	31.5 to 25.6.1999	In connection with scientific training in Paris for handling sophisticated equipments for ASI's Air Pollution Laboratory at Agra.
22.	Shri Ajai Shankar Director General (ASI)	Netherlands	5-9.7.1999	To participate in the 15th Conference on South Asian Archaeology held in Leiden University organised by the International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden.
23.	Shri R.S. Bisht, Director (EE)	South Korea	29.7 to 2.8.1999	To participate in the Second International Symposium on World Megalithic Culture organized by the World Megalithic Association, Seoul, South Korea.
24.	Dr. S.V.P. Halakatti, Superintending Archaeologist and Shri A.Z. Arshad, Deputy Superintending Archaeological Engineer.	Myanmar	31.8 to 15.9.1999	To assess conservation requirements of temples under the provision of the Indo-Myanmar Cultural Exchange Programme.
25.	Shri Dhanpat Rai, Director (CEP)	Turkey	27.9 to 8.10.1999	Under the provision of the Indo-Turkey Cultural Exchange Programme.
26.	Dr. Amarendra Nath, Director	Italy	4-7.10.1999	To participate in the International Conference on "Culture Counts" organised by the Govt. of Italy at Florence.
27.	Shri Ajai Shankar, Director General (ASI)	Italy	13-15.10.1999	To participate in a seminar on restoration of Goa's mausoleums organized by the Italian Ministry of External Affairs, and the Piaggio Foundation of Florence.
28.	Shri Ajai Shankar, Director General (ASI)	Sri Lanka	13-19.12.1999	To attend the concluding session of the International Working Group of the UNESCO - Sri Lanka Culture Triangle Programme.
29.	Shri S.B. Mathur, Addl. Director General	China	8-15.4.2000	As part of the Government of India delegation to sign the India - China Cultural Exchange Programme.
30.	Shri D.N. Dimri, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist	France	18-24.5.2000	In connection with exhibition entitled "La Beaute" organized by the Association pour la Mission 2000, Avignon, France.
31.	Shri S.B. Mathur, Addl. Director General	France	3-7.7.2000	To attend the UNESCO meeting to discuss a draft Convention for the protection of underwater cultural heritage.

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Shri K.T. Narasimhan, Superintending Archaeologist and Shri M.M. Kanade, Deputy Superintending Archaeological Engineer	Vietnam	25.4. to 5.5.2000	To explore the possibility of conservation of temples of Cham Province, under the provision of the Indo-Vietnam Cultural Exchange Programme.
33.	Shri Kishan Chand Nauriyal, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist	Japan	23.7 to 6.8.2000	In connection with the exhibition entitled "The Four Great Civilizations of the World: Indus Civilization Exhibition" organised by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK), at Tokyo.
34.	Shri Ashok Kumar Patel, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist	Japan,	16-26.7.2000	-do-
35.	Dr. B.R. Mani Superintending Archaeologist	U.K.	26.7. 2000 to 26.10.2000	Under U.K. visiting fellowship for study, research and professional training, organized by the Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.
36.	Komal Anand, Director General (ASI) Shri R.S. Bisht, Director (EE)	Japan	30.7. to 6.8.2000	To attending the opening ceremony of "The Four Great Civilizations of the World: Indus Civilization Exhibition" by NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) at Tokyo.
37.	Dr. K.P. Poonacha Director (Monuments) and Shri D.V. Sharma, Superintending Archaeologist	China	12-16.8.2000	To attend the First International Culture Show organized by the International Department of the "People's Daily" and the Special Zone of the Badaling Great Wall of China.

Additional Sugar Quota of PDS to States

4159. SHRI R. S. PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government to allocate additional quota of sugar for PDS ;

(b) if so, the details of requests received during the last three years, State-wise ;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the reasons for not allocating the additional

quota to Maharashtra and Karnataka despite surplus stock with the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Yes Sir. Requests have been received from some of the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Details of the state-wise requests received by the Government during the last three years and the action taken thereon is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Considering the accrual of sugar to the levy account, it is not possible to allocate additional levy sugar to the states just on the basis of surplus stock of free sale sugar available with the factories.

Statement

Statewise details of the requests received from the state govts. for enhancement of the levy sugar quota, during the last three years & the reaction thereon.

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Admn. received	Date when received	Reason for the request	Action taken by the Government
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	18.11.98	Enhancement of levy quota due to increase in population	The request of the State Government could not be acceded to then due to inadequate accrual of levy sugar, but one time advance allocation to the tune of 1800 MTs. was released subject to adjustment. This was conveyed to the State Govt. However, the monthly levy sugar quota has since been revised w.e.f. 1.3.2000 based on the projected population as on 1.3.99 in place of population as per 1991 census.
2.	Tripura	20.7.98	-do-	The request of the State Govt. could not be acceded to then due to inadequate accrual of levy sugar and the same was conveyed to the State Govt. However, the monthly levy sugar quota has since been revised w.e.f. 1.3.2000 based on the projected population as on 1.3.99 in place of population as per 1991 census.
3.	Assam	21.10.99	-do-	-do-
4.	Mizoram	27.11.98	-do-	-do-
5.	H. Pradesh	23.3.98	-do-	-do-
6.	Rajasthan	5.6.99	-do-	-do-
7.	Maharashtra	4.4.98 & 13.11.98	-do-	-do-
8.	Haryana	25.6.99	Enhancement of monthly levy quota due to increase in population.	-do-
9.	Orissa	24.8.98	Additional Festival Quota	<p>The request of the State Govt. could not be acceded to due to inadequate accrual of levy sugar and the same was conveyed to the State Govt.</p> <p>The alleviate the sufferings of the people of Orissa caused due to cyclone, as a special case, the Govt. of India on 2.11.99 released an additional quota of 1000 MTs. of levy sugar over and above the normal levy sugar quota of the State for distribution as relief measure.</p>

1	2	3	4	5
10. Jammu & Kashmir	16.11.98	-do-		As 500 MTs. of additional Festival Quota had already been released to the State during the calendar year 1998, request for further addl. festival quota could not be acceded to and the decision was conveyed to the State Govt.
11. Nagaland	15.9.98	-do-		As 250 MTs. of additional Festival Quota had already been released to the State during the calendar year 1998, request for further addl. festival quota could not be acceded to and the decision was conveyed to the State Govt.
12. Uttar Pradesh	9.5.2000	Enhancement of monthly levy quota due to increase in population.		Since the quota has already been revised w.e.f. March 2000 based on the projected population as on 1.3.99 no further upward revision at this stage is possible and the same stands conveyed to the State Govt.
13. Tamil Nadu	2.10.99	Advance levy for to the tune of 8610 MTs for meeting requirements of festivals.		A Qty. of 8610 MTs was released as advance levy quota subject to adjustment in subsequent monthly quotas.
	7.12.99 & 19.1.2000	Enhancement of monthly levy quota due to increase in population		The request of the State Govt. could not be acceded to then due to inadequate accrual of levy sugar and the same was conveyed to the State Govt. However, the monthly levy sugar quota has since been revised w.e.f. 1.3.2000 based on the projected population as on 1.3.99 in place of population as per 1991 census.
14. Karnataka	31.10.98, 18.12.98 & 25.1.99	-do-		-do-
15. Kerala	29.7.98, 4.1.99	Addl. Festival quota for X-Mas		The request of the State Govt. could not be acceded to due to inadequate accrual of levy sugar and this was conveyed to the State Govt.
	10.3.99	Enhancement of monthly levy quota due to increase in population.		The request of the State Govt. could not be acceded to then due to inadequate accrual of levy sugar and the same was conveyed to the State Govt. However the monthly levy sugar quota has since been revised w.e.f. 1.3.2000 based on the projected population as on 1.3.99 in place of population as per 1991 census.

1	2	3	4	5
	20.7.2000	Advance levy quota of 8000 MTs. for meeting their requirement during Onam Festival.	A qty. of 8000 MTs. of levy sugar has been released in advance subject to adjustment in subsequent monthly quota.	
16. Andhra Pradesh	24.3.98	Addl. Festival quota for Bakrid.	While the request of the State Govt. could not be acceded to due to inadequate accrual of levy sugar, the State's Annual Festival Quota for the calendar year 1998 was released on 30.3.98 enabling the State Govt. to meet their requirements.	

[Translation]

Funds to U.P. and Delhi

4160. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi for various schemes during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of schemes for which this amount has been utilised;

(c) whether these State Governments have submitted the utility certificate; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Central Assistance is released to all the States and Union Territories under Annual Plan in the shape of Block Grants and Block Loans and is not tied to specific schemes or projects.

The funds allocated to Government of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi during the last three years are as follows :

(Rs. in Crore)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Uttar Pradesh			
Block Grants :	1037.15	1140.55	1356.49
Block Loans :	2035.08	2050.57	2451.78
Delhi			
Block Grants :	79.78	79.78	87.78
Block Loans :	186.15	186.15	204.81

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

PDS for Illegal Migrants

4161. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether foreign nationals and illegal migrants in the country are also beneficiaries of the Public Distribution system;

(b) if so, the estimated number of such beneficiaries of PDS;

(c) whether the Government have laid down any policy or guidelines in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) The operational responsibility for implementing the public distribution system (PDS) rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Decisions regarding issue of ration cards, eligibility criteria, renewal of ration cards, etc. are matters which fall within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments/UTs. Ration Cards are issued by States/UTs to bonafide residents of the State/UT. Issue of Ration Card is not meant to confer any benefit other than access to the PDS. Illegal aliens residing in the country are not issued ration cards. It is possible that some illegal immigrants might have managed to get ration cards on the basis of false declaration in some of States. The State Governments have been advised to issue ration cards after detailed verifications of the antecedents of the individuals so that

the benefit under PDS are not diverted into ineligible hands. Central Government has also been advising the State Governments/UT Administrations to weed out bogus ration cards.

Loss of Foodgrains

4162. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether heavy quantum of foodgrains is lost every year due to attacks by insects, rodents, moisture, birds, micro-organisms etc;

(b) if so, the details of such loss during the last three years alongwith value involved during each year, State/Union Territory-wise; thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some steps to reduce such loss in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Exact quantum of foodgrain losses during post harvest period at farm level due to insects, rodents, moisture, birds, micro-organism etc. is not known. However, a Committee headed by Dr. V.G. Panse, in its report submitted in 1968, had estimated annual post harvest losses in the foodgrains in various stages at 9.33%. These included losses during threshing (1.68%), transportation (0.15%), processing (0.92%), rodents (2.50%), birds (0.85%), insects (2.55%) and moisture (0.68%). A survey conducted by Directorate of marketing and Inspection, Government of India, during 1973-74, had estimated post harvest losses in foodgrains to be about 5% out of which the storage losses were estimated at about 2.7%. A joint survey conducted by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research institute during 1985-88 in Bulandshahr district of UP had estimated total foodgrain losses at about 4.12% due to different factors at various post harvest stages.

(c) and (d) In order to reduce losses to foodgrains during the post harvest period, the Government of India had launched the Save Grain Campaign in 1969-70. The main thrust of activities of this Scheme is training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at farm level. Improvement of grain storage structures and popularisation of scientific storage structures

like Metal bins, pucca kothis and RCC ring bins and other activities are carried out by the Save Grain Campaign for the benefit of farmers.

ADB Funded Projects

4163. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has expressed resentment at inordinate delay in implementation of various projects financed by the Bank;

(b) The total number of projects progressing as per schedule and the number of projects lagging behind schedule; and

(c) The steps taken by the Government to ensure time bound completion of different projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Asian Bank has expressed concern at the delay in project implementation of some ADB assisted Projects. To ensure time bound completion of different projects, some of the steps taken by Government of India are ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, release of additional central assistance (ACA) as 100% additionality, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining of procurement procedures, setting up of project monitoring unit in the Department of Economic Affairs, disintermediation on flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings, besides holding review meetings with executing agencies and ADB New Delhi Office from time to time.

Of the 26 ongoing projects as of June 2000, 12 projects are progressing as per schedule while eight Projects are lagging behind schedule. Six projects are in the preliminary stages of implementation.

[Translation]

Uncovered Areas by Doordarshan/AIR

4164. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of the country which are still not covered under All India Radio broadcasting and Doordarshan telecast network, State-wise;

(b) the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up AIR/Doordarshan stations in all parts of the country, particularly in Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Begusarai, Munger and Jamui districts of Bihar; 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) to (d) The state-wise details of percentage of area not covered by AIR and Doordarshan's terrestrial network are given in enclosed statement. The expansion of AIR/DD network in the country is a continuous process, being carried out in a phased manner, based on available resources. Presently, 40 AIR transmitter projects and 255 Doordarshan transmitter projects including those under the J&K special package, are under various stages of implementation in different parts of the country for expansion of AIR and Doordarshan services. Two Low Power TV Transmitters (LPT), one each at Munger and Sikandara in Munger District and one LPT each at Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, and Begusarai are already functioning. There is, at present, no approved scheme to setup Radio Stations and new TV transmitters at these places.

Statement

S.No.	State/UT	Uncovered Area (%)	
		AIR *	Doordarshan **
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.0	20.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	43.0	83.5
3.	Assam	5.1	25.4
4.	Bihar	1.0	5.6
5.	Goa	1.0	0.1
6.	Gujarat	1.0	15.7
7.	Haryana	1.0	3.2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50.0	57.1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	69.0	66.3
10.	Karnataka	3.8	31.0

1	2	3	4
11.	Kerala	0.4	13.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4.0	31.9
13.	Maharashtra	2.0	20.8
14.	Manipur	31.0	67.9
15.	Meghalaya	2.5	5.4
16.	Mizoram	12.0	32.4
17.	Nagaland	23.0	31.5
18.	Orissa	2.0	15.9
19.	Punjab	1.0	0.1
20.	Rajasthan	8.5	29.9
21.	Sikkim	28.0	22.6
22.	Tamil Nadu	1.0	8.8
23.	Tripura	1.0	6.5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9.3	18.2
25.	West Bengal	1.0	4.1
26.	A & N Islands	20.0	73.8
27.	Chandigarh	1.0	0.1
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.0	34.8
29.	Delhi	1.0	0.1
30.	Daman and Diu	1.0	0.1
31.	L & M Islands	1.0	1.0
32.	Pondicherry	1.0	0.1

* Figures relate to Medium wave and FM coverage only. The Radio Service on short wave is available to almost entire area of the country.

** Figures relate to DD-I terrestrial coverage. Doordarshan Satellite Channels are available, through dish antenna, throughout the country.

Monuments of Haryana

4165. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of historical monuments under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India in Haryana, location-wise;

(b) the funds provided by the Government for the maintenance of these monuments; and

(c) the names of the places in Haryana where the Department of Archaeology is engaged in the excavation work to locate the archaeological sites and articles ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There are 88 historical monuments and sites in Haryana under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India. A list

thereof is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) During 2000-2001, the Archaeological Survey of India has made a provision of Rs. 37 lakhs for the maintenance of protected monuments in Haryana.

(c) As per information furnished by the Government of Haryana, the State Department of archaeology and Museum is engaged in excavations at Kunal in Fatehabad District and at Sugh in Yamunanagar District.

Statement

List of Historical Monuments/Sites in Haryana under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India

S.No.	Name of Monument/ Site	Location	District
1	2	3	4
1.	Kos Minar	Ambala	Ambala
2.	Ancient site	Naurangabad	Bhiwani
3.	Kos Minar No. 18	Alapur	Faridabad
4.	Bund or Dam	Anangpur	Faridabad
5.	Kos Minar No. 22	Aurangabad	Faridabad
6.	Kos Minar No. 24	Banchari	Faridabad
7.	Kos Minar No. 25	Banchari	Faridabad
8.	Kos Minar No. 27	Phulwana	Faridabad
9.	Kos Minar No. 16	Gadhपुरi	Faridabad
10.	Kos Minar No. 17	Gadhपुरi	Faridabad
11.	Kos Minar No. 26	Hodal	Faridabad
12.	Kos Minar No. 23	Khatiala	Faridabad
13.	Kos Minar No. 21	Khera Sarai (Bamani Khera)	Faridabad
14.	Kos Minar No. 20	Khusropur (Kusali Pur)	Faridabad
15.	Kos Minar No. 10	Khawaza Sarai (Ghosi Pur Sarai)	Faridabad
16.	Mughal bridge over Buriya Nala	Khawaza Sarai (Atamadpur)	Faridabad
17.	Suraj Kund Masonary	Lakar pur	Faridabad
18.	Kos Minar No. 11	Mawal (Faridabad Sector-29)	Faridabad
19.	Kos Minar No. 13	Mazzessar	Faridabad
20.	Kos Minar No. 19	Palwal	Faridabad
21.	Kos Minar No. 15	Sikri	Faridabad

1	2	3	4
22.	Ancient site	Banawali (Sjotar)	Fatehabad
23.	Humaun's Mosque	Fatehabad	Fatehabad
24.	Lat of Feroz Shah	Fatehabad	Fatehabad
25.	Baoli Ghas Ali Shah	Farruknagar	Gurgaon
26.	Mosque of Ali Vardi Khan	Sarai Alai Vardi Khan	Gurgaon
27.	Mound	Agroha	Hissar
28.	Barsi gate	Hansi	Hissar
29.	Ruined Quila (Prithivi Raj Chouhan's Fort)	Hansi	Hissar
30.	Ferozshah Palace & Tehkhana	Hissar	Hissar
31.	Gujri Mahal	Hissar	Hissar
32.	Lat Ki Masjid	Hissar	Hissar
33.	Ancient Site	Rakhigarhi	Hissar
34.	Kos Minar	Bhaini Kalan	Karnal
35.	Kos Minar	Daha	Karnal
36.	Gateway of Old Mughal Sarai	Gharaunda	Karnal
37.	Kos Minar	Gharaunda (North)	Karnal
38.	Kos Minar	Gharaunda (South)	Karnal
39.	Cantonment Church Tower	Karnal	Karnal
40.	European Soldiers's Grave	Karnal	Karnal
41.	Kos Minar	Karnal (Namaste Chowk)	Karnal
42.	Kos Minar	Karnal (City Area)	Karnal
43.	Kos Minar	Kohande	Karnal
44.	Kos Minar	Kutail	Karnal
45.	Kos Minar	Tirawari (North)	Karnal
46.	Kos Minar	Tirawari (South)	Karnal
47.	Kushan Stupa	Asand	Karnal
48.	Theh Polar	Siwan (Pollar)	Kaithal
49.	Brick Shiva temple	Kalayati	Kaithal
50.	Kos Minar	Amin	Kurukshetra
51.	Ancient Mound	Amin	Kurukshetra
52.	Kos Minar	Adhaun	Kurukshetra

1	2	3	4
53.	Kos Minar	Bhawani Khera	Kurukshetra
54.	Kos Minar	Fatupur	Kurukshetra
55.	Kos Minar	Mohari	Kurukshetra
56.	Ancient Mound known as Raja Karan ka Quila	Thanesar (Mirzapur)	Kurukshetra
57.	Kos Minar	Thanesar (Darakalan)	Kurukshetra
58.	Pathar Masjid	Thanesar	Kurukshetra
59.	Sheikh Chilli's Tomb	Thanesar	Kurukshetra
60.	Raja Harsh Ka Tila	Thanesar	Kurukshetra
61.	Kos Minar	Sarai Sukhi	Kurukshetra
62.	Kos Minar	Shahbad	Kurukshetra
63.	Kos Minar	Zainpura	Kurukshetra
64.	Jal Mahal and adjacent land	Naranul	Mahendragarh
65.	Shah Ibrahim's Tomb	Naranul	Mahendragarh
66.	Shah Quli Khan's Tomb	Naranul	Mahendragarh
67.	Kos Minar	Jaitpur	Panipat
68.	Obelisk, Commemorating Third battle of Panipat	Kala Amb	Panipat
69.	Kos Minar	Kiwana	Panipat
70.	Kos Minar	Mawana	Panipat
71.	Bab-e-Faiz Gate	Panipat	Panipat
72.	Kabuli Bagh Mosque with enclosure wall	Panipat	Panipat
73.	Ebrahim Lodi's Tomb	Panipat	Panipat
74.	Kos Minar	Panipat City	Panipat
75.	Kos Minar	Panipat (South)	Panipat
76.	Kos Minar	Sewah	Panipat
77.	Ancient site	Khokra Kot	Rohtak
78.	Shah Jahan-ki-Baoli	Mahem	Rohtak
79.	Ther Mound	Sirsa	Sirsa
80.	Mughal Kos Minar	Akbar pur Barota	Sonepat
81.	Mughal Kos Minar	Gannaur	Sonepat

1	2	3	4
82.	Mughal Kos Minar	Jagdish Pur	Sonepat
83.	Mughal Kos Minar	Jawa Hari	Sonepat
84.	Mughal Kos Minar	Panchi Gujran	Sonepat
85.	Mughal Kos Minar	Rajpur	Sonepat
86.	Tomb of Khawaja Khizer	Sonepat	Sonepat
87.	Mughal Kos Minar	Sonepat	Sonepat
88.	Kos Minar	Bayanpur	Sonepat

[English]

Patent Cases Against US

4166. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have won a patent case against a US firm "Leo One" for the concept of using equatorial and polar orbiting satellites as relay for a satellite based communication system;

(b) if so, the details of the claims of the US firm and the Indian case against it; and

(c) the progress made so far in the case of "Neem" patent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) In view of the objections filed by the Department of Spaces, "Leo One", a US firm which had filed for an Indian patent on the concept of using equatorial and polar orbiting satellites as relays for a satellite based communication system abandoned its application. The claim of the US firm was based on the concept of a constellation of satellites for transmission and relay of data.

Department of Space had objected that (a) the claim for patent has not brought out any novelty, that is, the concept is already contained in published information; and (b) the system suggested in the patent application did not give full details of satellite constellation definition for the claimed coverage possibilities.

(c) A patent number EP 0436257 titled "Method for controlling fungi on plants by the aid of a hydrophobic extracted neem oil" granted by the European Patent Office

(EPO) to M/s W.R. Grace and Company, a US firm and the US Department of Agriculture is reported to have been revoked by the EPO since the claims were not novel in view of public prior use, which had taken place in India.

Relocation of the Bridges in Hampi in Karnataka

4167. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have directed the Karnataka Government to relocate the bridges adjacent to the historical site in Hampi;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has complied with the direction;

(c) whether the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO has agreed to provide assistance to Karnataka in its efforts relating to Hampi, and

(d) if so, the details of assistance, if any, given or proposed to be given ?

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

(b) The Government of Karnataka has taken a decision to dismantle and relocate the bridges.

(c) and (d) As per available information, no financial assistance has been agreed to by the UNESCO in this regard.

Threat to Globalisation Trade

4168. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Globalisation of trade is under threat as the rich countries are protesting it vehemently;

(b) if so, whether they also managed to wreck the World Trade Organisation Ministerial meeting in Seattle;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to put the economy of the country on the rails if such countries do not participate in the process of development and to keep pace with world economy ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The failure of the Seattle Ministerial Conference of WTO was mainly due to wide differences on major issues between member countries. The globalization of trade was perceived as a threat mainly by some of the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), who had also staged several demonstrations against the WTO regime in the streets of Seattle on the occasion of WTO's 3rd Ministerial Conference at Seattle, which had even delayed the inaugural session of the Third Ministerial Conference of WTO at Seattle on 30th November, 1999.

(d) Indian Government is autonomously continuing with its economic reforms, including reforms in trade policy. On the other hand in the WTO, India and the developing countries are vigorously articulating that the WTO, to progress with its work, should not have any non-trade issues in its agenda and must take on board the concerns of developing countries with regard to implementation of existing WTO agreements. India has also been effectively participating in the mandated negotiations and mandated reviews as have been built into various agreements of WTO.

[Translation]

Installation of Relay Centres in Bihar

4169. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the location wise number of Doordarshan relay centres in Bihar;

(b) the names of the places where such centres are proposed to be set up during the Ninth Plan;

(c) the details of such centres where the construction work has been going on for the last three years; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set up completed ?

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) Location-wise details of the existing 56 transmitters in Bihar, including those commissioned during the 9th Plan, are given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) Location-wise details of TV transmitters already commissioned during the 9th plan and those under implementation and expected to be completed during the Ninth Plan are given in enclosed statement-II.

(c) and (d) The construction work of LPT at Ramnagar has been going on for the last three years and it is expected to be completed during 2000-2001.

Statement-I

Existing Doordarshan Relay Centres in Bihar

High Power Transmitters

1. Daltongang
2. Katihar
3. Muzaffarpur
4. Patna
5. Ranchi
6. Ranchi (DD-2)

Lower Power Transmitters

1. Aurangabad
2. Barhawa
3. Begusarai
4. Bettiah
5. Bhagalpur
6. Bokaro
7. Buxar
8. Chaibasa
9. Darbhanga
10. Daudnagar
11. Deoghar
12. Dhanbad

13. Dumka
14. Forbesganj
15. Gaya
16. Ghatshila
17. Giridih
18. Godda
19. Gopalganj
20. Gumla
21. Hazaribag
22. Jamshedpur
23. Jamui
24. Khagaria
25. Kodarma
26. Lakshisarai
27. Lohardaga
28. Madhepura
29. Madhubani
30. Motihari
31. Munger
32. Mushabani
33. Nawada
34. Noamundy
35. Phoolparas
36. Raxaul
37. Rosera
38. Saharasa
39. Saraikele
40. Sasaram
41. Sheikhpura
42. Sikandra
43. Simri Bakhtiarpur
44. Sitamarhi

45. Siwan
46. Supaul
47. Patna (DD-II)

Very Low Power Transmitters

1. Garhwa (DD-II)
2. Simdega

*Transposer - Ramgarh Hill***Statement-II**

*Transmitters commissioned in Bihar during IX Plan
(1.4.97 to 15.8.2000)*

HPT	Ranchi (DD 2)
LPTs	Barharwa
	Daudnagar
	Kodarma
	Mushabani
	Rosera
	Simri Bakhtiarpur
VLPT	Garhwa (DD-II)

Transmitters under implementation in Bihar

HPTs	Jamshedpur
	Muzaffarpur (DD-II)
	Patna (DD -II)
LPTs	Ramnagar
	Chatra
	Kishanganj
	Banka
	Jamshedpur (DD II)
	Dhanbad (DD II)
VLPT	Ramgarh Hill

*[English]***Entry of Banks in Insurance Sector**

4170. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised the ground rules for banks seeking entry into the insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of nationalised and other banks which have submitted proposals for entry into the insurance sector; and

(d) the decisions taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) A copy of the guidelines, issued on 9.8.2000 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regarding entry of banks into insurance business is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) As reported by the RBI, a few nationalised banks and other banks have prior to the notification of the guidelines applied to the RBI for permission to enter insurance business or to function as agents of insurance companies. The granting of permission by RBI will arise in the event of compliance of the application with the guidelines.

Statement

Reserve Bank of India

Central Office

Department of Banking Operations and Development

Centre -1 World Trade Centre

Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai- 400005

DBOD. NO. FSC. BC/16/24.01.018/2000-2001.

August 9, 20000

All Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs)

Dear Sir,

Entry of banks into Insurance business

Please refer to paragraph 58 of the Governor's statement on the "Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2000-2001" forwarded with Circular MPD No. BC. 196/07.01.279/99-2000 dated 27th April 2000 on the captioned subject.

2. The Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) has recently issued Regulations on registration of Indian insurance companies. Government of India has also

since issued a Notification specifying 'Insurance' as a permissible form of business that could be undertaken by banks under Section 6(1)(o) of the banking Regulation Act, 1949.

3. Insurance business will not be permitted to be undertaken departmentally by the bank. Any bank intending to undertake insurance business as per the guidelines set out in the Annexure should obtain prior approval of Reserve Bank of India before engaging in such business. Banks may, therefore, submit the necessary applications to us furnishing full details in respect of the parameters as specified in the above guidelines, details of equity contribution proposed in the joint venture/strategic investment, the name of the company with whom the bank would have tie-up arrangements in any manner in insurance business, etc. The relative Board note and Resolution passed thereon, approving the bank's proposal together with viability report prepared in this regard may also be forwarded to us.

4. Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

(A.Ghosh)

Chief General Manager-in-Charge.

Encl : As above

1. Any scheduled commercial bank would be permitted to undertake insurance business as agent of insurance companies on fee basis, without any risk participation. The subsidiaries of banks will also be allowed to undertake distribution of insurance product on agency basis.

2. Banks which satisfy the eligibility criteria given below will be permitted to set up a joint venture company for undertaking insurance business with risk participation, subject to safeguards. The maximum equity contribution such a bank can hold in the joint venture company will normally be 50 per cent of the paid-up capital of the insurance company. On a selective basis the Reserve Bank of India may permit a higher equity contribution by a promoter bank initially, pending divestment of equity within the prescribed period (see Note 1 below).

The eligibility criteria for joint venture participant will be as under as on March 31, 2000:

(i) The net worth of the bank should not be less than Rs. 500 crore;

- (ii) The CRAR of the bank should not be less than 10 per cent;
- (iii) The level of non-performing assets should be reasonable;
- (iv) The bank should have net profit for the last three continuous years;
- (v) The track record of the performance of the subsidiaries, if any, of the concerned bank should be satisfactory.

3. In cases where a foreign partner contributes 26 per cent of the equity with the approval of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority/Foreign Investment Promotion Board, more than one public sector bank or private sector bank any be allowed to participate in the equity of the insurance joint venture. As such participants will also assume insurance risk, only those banks which satisfy the criteria given in paragraph 2 above, would be eligible.

4. A subsidiary of a bank or of another bank will not normally be allowed to join the insurance company on risk participation basis. Subsidiaries would include bank subsidiaries undertaking merchant banking, securities, mutual fund, leasing finance, housing finance business etc.

5. Banks which are not eligible as joint venture participant, as above, can make investments up to 10% of the networth of the bank or Rs. 50 crore, whichever is lower, in the insurance company for providing infrastructure and services support. Such participation shall be treated as an investment and should be without any contingent liability for the bank.

The eligibility criteria criteria for these banks will be as under :

- (i) The CRAR of the bank should not be less than 10%;
- (ii) The level of NPAs should be reasonable;
- (iii) The bank should have net profit for the last three continuous years.

6. All banks entering into insurance business will be required to obtain prior approval of the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank will give permission to banks on case to case basis keeping in view all relevant factors including the position in regard to the level of non-performing assets of the applicant bank so as to ensure that non-performing assets do no pose any future threat to the bank in its

present or the proposed line of activity, viz., insurance business. It should be ensured that risks involved in insurance business do not get transferred to the bank and that the banking business does not get contaminated by any risks which may arise from insurance business. There should be 'arms length' relationship between the bank and the insurance outfit.

Notes:-

1. Holding of equity by a promoter bank in an insurance company or participation in any form in insurance business will be subject to compliance with any rules and regulations laid down by the IRDA/Central Government. This will include compliance with Section 6AA of the Insurance Act as amended by IRDA Act, 1999, for divestment of equity in excess of 26 per cent of the paid up capital within a prescribed period of time.
2. Audited balance sheet for the year ended March 31, 2000 will be considered for reckoning the eligibility criteria. For subsequent years, the eligibility criteria would be reckoned with reference to the latest available audited balance sheet for the previous year.
3. Banks which make investment under paragraph 5 of the above guidelines, and later qualify for risk participation in insurance business (as per paragraph 2 of the guidelines) will be eligible to apply to the Reserve Bank for permission to undertake insurance business on risk participation basis.

Performance of MMTC and STC

4171. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether of Government have reviewed the working of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and State Trading Corporation (STC);
- (b) if so, the performance of these Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years year-wise; and
- (c) the areas in which these PSUs are operating ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and State Trading Corporation (STC) which are MOU signing Companies is broadly reviewed on half-yearly basis in terms of the MOU. The performance of these corporations for the last three years is as under:-

Rs. in Crores

	MMTC			STC		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 Provisional	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Turnover	4473.00	4253.00	4805.00	2867.00	1894.00	1163.00
PAT (Profit After Tax)	17.00	18.00	25.00	3.00	12.50	23.00
Net Worth	646.00	653.00	667.00	439.52	445.44	467.48

(b) MMTC is presently operating in export and import of various commodities viz. Export : minerals (managanese & chrome ore), agro products, mica scrap, gems and jewellery, building materials and industrial products. Import : non-ferrous metals such as zinc, lead, tin, nickel; industrial raw materials like asbestos and antimony; finished fertilisers, raw materials such as urea, DAP, MOP, sulphur and rock phosphate; precious metals comprising of gold and silver; agro items such as wheat and edible oils as well as coal and superior kerosene oil.

STC is operating in the area of Export : extractions, rice, tea, jute goods, pulses/coarse grains, castor oil/seed, coffee, cashew, tobacco, sugar, chemicals drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Engineering & construction materials, consumer/sports goods, food products, meat & marine products, spices, textiles & garments, jewellery, natural rubber, brassware and leatherware; Imports : edible oil, sugar, gold/silver, fertilizers, hydra-carbons, chemicals, wool, raw cashew, fatty acids, wheat, pulses, scientific instruments, hospital equipments, etc.

Both the corporations are also operating in domestic trading in various commodities.

[Translation]

Investment in Infrastructure Sector

4172. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export group on commercialisation has put emphasis on huge investment in infrastructure sectors;

(b) if so, the total domestic and foreign investment made in the country from June, 1996, till date; and

(c) the details of investment made during each of the last two years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Expert Group on commercialization of Infrastructure projects has estimated that the total infrastructure investment requirements would be about Rs. 4,300 billion between 1996-97 to 2000-2001 and about Rs. 7,500 billion during 2001-02 to 2005-06.

(b) Details of domestic and foreign investment are given below :

Year	Domestic Investment (Rs. Crores)	Foreign Investment (US\$ Million)
1996-97	248054	6133
1997-98	240959	5385
1998-99	259935	2401
1999-2000	NA	5181

(c) Details of State-wise investment estimates is provided in enclosed statement.

Statement

Industrial Investment Proposals (State-wise)

August, 1991 - March, 2000

State/UTs	Total Proposals (IEM+LOI) % age		Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs)						Letters of Intent (LOIs)					
	Numbers	% age	Numbers	% age	Proposed Investment (Rs. Cr)	% age	Proposed Employment (Numbers)	% age	Numbers Issued	% age	Proposed Investment (Rs. Cr)	% age	Proposed Employment (Numbers)	% age
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Maharashtra	8299	19.59	7802	20.02	184988	23.01	1376921	12.51	497	14.58	12215	11.54	121291	15.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Gujarat	5688	13.38	5264	13.51	137320	17.08	856226	7.78	404	11.85	20099	19.16	60305	7.72
Uttar Pradesh	4144	9.78	3789	9.72	67163	8.35	617409	5.61	355	10.41	9908	9.14	102448	13.12
Tamil Nadu	4059	9.58	3448	8.85	51164	6.36	551093	5.01	611	17.92	10801	10.11	117579	15.06
Andhra Pradesh	2909	6.87	2537	6.51	57792	7.19	421496	3.83	372	10.91	10151	9.68	73696	9.44
Haryana	2578	6.08	2384	6.12	26606	3.31	365566	3.32	194	5.69	4153	3.96	55452	7.10
Madhya Pradesh	2344	5.53	2195	5.63	61778	7.68	462449	4.20	149	4.37	3638	3.47	33251	4.25
Rajasthan	2046	4.83	1956	5.02	32596	4.05	379113	3.45	90	2.54	1608	1.53	14953	1.92
Punjab	1994	4.71	1849	4.75	35072	4.36	4446616	40.41	145	4.25	4567	4.35	47301	6.06
West Bengal	1792	4.23	1710	4.39	28112	3.50	276439	2.51	82	2.41	3956	3.77	18652	2.39
Karnataka	1623	3.83	1422	3.65	37246	4.63	236288	2.15	201	5.90	9266	8.83	65904	8.44
Dadra & N.Haveli	1233	2.91	1211	3.11	16757	2.08	137016	1.25	22	0.65	148	0.14	2576	0.33
Daman & Diu	585	1.38	568	1.46	3626	0.45	43326	0.39	17	0.50	66	0.06	3307	0.42
Delhi	476	1.12	457	1.17	6450	0.80	46711	0.42	19	0.56	30	0.03	1622	0.21
Kerala	466	1.10	411	1.05	7231	0.90	66632	0.61	55	1.61	2513	2.40	13447	1.72
Pondicherry	413	0.97	396	1.02	4394	0.55	379996	3.45	17	0.50	1254	1.20	2666	0.37
Himachal Pradesh	399	0.94	367	0.94	8367	1.04	85046	0.77	32	0.94	476	0.45	6140	0.79
Bihar	384	0.91	342	0.88	7805	0.97	55222	0.50	42	1.23	1806	1.72	15704	2.01
Goa	367	0.87	334	0.86	4773	0.59	34191	0.31	33	0.97	151	0.14	3287	0.42
Orissa	304	0.72	267	0.69	18263	2.27	100563	0.91	37	1.09	5444	5.19	11882	1.52
Assam	107	0.25	96	0.25	3554	0.44	15019	0.14	11	0.32	2430	2.32	4278	0.55
Jammu & Kashmir	78	0.18	74	0.19	589	0.07	35122	0.32	4	0.12	66	0.06	1705	0.22
Chandigarh	29	0.07	28	0.07	422	0.05	5151	0.05	1	0.03	0	0.00	9	0.00
Meghalaya	23	0.05	23	0.06	309	0.04	2644	0.02	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Sikkim	11	0.03	10	0.03	28	0.00	780	0.01	1	0.03	5	0.00	204	0.03
A & N Island	9	0.02	9	0.02	332	0.04	2610	0.02	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	7	0.02	3	0.01	40	0.00	172	0.00	4	0.12	1	0.00	522	0.07
Nagaland	6	0.01	5	0.01	156	0.02	972	0.01	1	0.03	0	0.00	0	0.00
Tripura	5	0.01	5	0.01	1041	0.13	1372	0.01	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lakshadweep	1	0.00	1	0.00	4	0.00	278	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Mizoram	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Manipur	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
More than one state	13	0.03	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	13	0.38	356	0.34	2293	0.29
Total	42372	100.00	38963	100.00	803980	100.00	6660441	100.00	3409	100.00	104908	100.00	780678	100.00

*[English]***Anti-Dumping Duty on Import of Bicycles**

4173. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have further liberalized import the fully assembled bicycles under OGL from April 01, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Chinese bicycles are being imported in a large number and are sold at cheaper rate;

(c) whether the indigenous cycle industry has taken up the matter with the Government to impose additional Counter-vailing duty on imported bicycles to secure a level playing field;

(d) whether the liberalized import of consumer goods under OGL on low tariff is threatening the survival of indigenous small scale industry units; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Import restrictions on Bi-cycles (Exim code no. 871200 01) were removed with effect from 31.03.2000. Representations have been received, apprehending the likely import of Chinese Bi-Cycles into the county and its adverse impact on the domestic manufacturers.

Import of Bi-cycles attracts a total customs duty of 44.04%. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic producers. However, the Government is continuously monitoring the imports and is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff and other WTO compatible mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry due to removal of import restrictions. Towards that end, Government has increased duties on a number of items where a surge in imports was noticed or apprehended. Government has also constituted an Inter Ministerial Group under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary, to assess the likely impact of removal of quantitative restriction and to suggest suitable corrective measures. Besides, a Group of Ministers has been entrusted with the task of suggesting ways and means for empowering the SSI sector.

Programme for Consumer Affairs

4174. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government would arrange to transmit programmes on the cases handled by MRTP and Consumer Protection Councils and their significant judgments on consumer right violations by advertiser;

(b) whether the Government would bring in a suitable legislation to levy a cess on all commercial advertising, both in print and electronic media, which will form a Consumer Media Fund to refute fraudulent and unethical claims made by advertisers in the same media where these advertisements appear;

(c) whether the Government would attempt to beam a regular weekly TV programme wherein all consumer complaints can be heard live;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the programmes which are regularly featured in media highlighting the right of consumers ?

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 a Public Service Broadcaster, Prasar Bharati mounts programmes on all social sector issues including consumer affairs on National as well as Regional networks. As and when a judgment on any significant case is pronounced which concerns the public, such items are covered by AIR and Doordarshan in the news based programmes.

(b) No, Sir. Presently, there is no such proposal.

(c) to (e) Though programmes on consumer affairs are not telecast/broadcast on a committed time slot regularly, both AIR & Doordarshan endeavour to develop consumer awareness and also educate and inform the consumers of their rights through various programmes.

*[Translation]***Merger of Nainital Bank Limited with Bank of Baroda**

4175. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government regarding merger of Nainital Bank Limited with Bank of Baroda;

(b) if so, the reasons for proposed merger; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Engineers Projects India Ltd.

4176. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government are considering a comprehensive proposal for capital and financial restructuring of Engineers Projects India Ltd. (EPI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal likely to get clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal includes, conversion of Plan/Non Plan loan and a portion to interest thereon into equity, partial repayment of outstanding loan and interest holiday on outstanding loan. The present financial structure of EPI is given in the enclosed statement. Inter-Ministerial Consultations are in process for obtaining Government's decision.

Statement

Capital Structure on EPI (as on 31.03.2000)

	(Rupees in Crore)
Authorised Capital	10.00
Paid up Capital	8.00
Plan Loan	6.00
Non Plan Loan	219.49
Outstanding interest on Govt. loan	801.91
Accumulated losses as on 31.03.2000 (unaudited)	887.17
Networth :	(-) 818.66

[Translation]

Banking System Reforms

4177. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Banking Reforms Commission to improve the banking system;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the reforms are likely to be carried out in banking sector ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reforms in the Indian banking sector were initiated based on the recommendations of the Committee on Financial Systems which submitted its report in 1991. In April, 1998 the Committee on Banking Sector Reforms under the Chairmanship of shri M. Narasimham made a number of recommendations covering institutional, supervisory, legislative and banking policies aspect. These recommendations relate to capital adequacy, asset quality, non-performing assets, directed credit, prudential norms, disclosure requirement, systems and methods in banks, structural issues, rural and small industrial credit, regulation & supervision, legal and legislative framework. These recommendations, some of which have been implemented, constitute a valuable input into the ongoing process of reforms of the banking sector.

[English]

DICGC

4178. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the State Financial Corporations in the country have ceased their operation with Deposit Insurance Credit Guarantee Corporation on account of high premium, low coverage and unsatisfactory services;

(b) if so, whether the expert committee set up by the Union Government/IDBI has recommended abolition of the present scheme of DICGC and making it user friendly through SIDBI ; and

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken by the Government to overcome the problem and operate the scheme through SIDBI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) has reported that there were 22 State Financial Corporations (SFCs) which participated in their schemes and all of them have since withdrawn from the schemes. While a few SFCs did not pay premium and therefore ceased to be participants without giving any reasons, a few others opted out of the schemes citing reasons such as setting up of their own reserves, in place of credit guarantee support, relieving the borrowing concerns of extra financial burden arising from passing on the guarantee fee, hiking of guarantee fee from April, 1989 by DICGC for all advances uniformly etc.

(b) and (c) On examination of existing DICGC scheme and problems faced by SSI entrepreneurs in availing bank credit, a high level committee was set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Committee in its report submitted in June, 1998 had, inter-alia, recommended that the existing DICGC scheme be replaced by more objective and suitable scheme to be operated by a new corporation and RBI should take initiative for setting it up in SIDBI. Government of India in the Ministry of SSI & ARI have taken initiatives to operationalise a new credit Guarantee Fund (scheme) for Small Industries (CGFSI). The CGFSI is being operationalised through a Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for small Industries jointly set up by Government and SIDBI, which has already been registered at Mumbai on July 27, 2000.

Net Asset Value of UTI

4179. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Net Asset Value of Unit Trust of India Unit 64 have gone down during the last few years;

(b) if so, the NAV thereof, as on 30th June 2000 from 1996;

(c) the reasons for decline in the NAV; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to raise the NAV of Unit 64 of UTI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Unit Scheme 1964 (US-64) of the Unit Trust of India

(UTI) is not an NAV driven scheme. Sale and repurchase prices of US-64 are announced generally once at the beginning of each month. The sale and repurchase price as on August 2000, is Rs. 13.65 and Rs. 13.35 respectively. UTI has now started publishing equity portfolio details of US-64 on a quarterly basis.

The Deepak Parekh Committee, appointed by UTI in October 1998 to undertake a comprehensive review of the functioning of US-64, recommended inter alia, that US-64 should become NAV driven within three years. UTI is working in this direction. Further, the portfolio of the scheme has been restructured to increase the weights of growth equity stocks.

Economic Relation with Sweden

4180. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be please to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand economic relation with Sweden;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-Swedish trade/economic relation have been established;

(c) whether any treaty has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Trade and economic relations between India and Sweden cover a wide range of sectors which include telecommunication, paper, plastics, machinery, iron and steel, pharmaceuticals, textiles, leather goods etc. A bilateral Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments has been signed between India and Sweden on 4th July, 2000. This is expected to promote investment by Swedish companies in India.

[Translation]

Revenue earned through Advertisements in Maharashtra

4181. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the revenue earned by various Doordarshan/Akashvani kendras of Maharashtra through advertisements during the last three years, year-wise and Kendra-wise;

(b) the total amount spent for the maintenance and renovation of these kendras during the said period, separately;

(c) whether the work has started to set up any new kendras of Doordarshan/Akashvani in Maharashtra during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said new kendras are likely to be set up ?

, 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 revenue earned by each revenue earning stations/Kendras in Maharashtra & the amount spent for the maintenance & renovation of these Stations/Kendras are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Whereas no new Radio Stations have been set up in Maharashtra during the last three years, 3 Studio Projects at Mumbai, Nagpur & Pune and 31 Transmitter Projects (HPTs-2, LPTS-17, VLPTs-12) have been commissioned by Doordarshan during the said period. Details of projects presently under implementation by AIR & DOORDARSHAN in Maharashtra are given below :-

AIR :- Local Radio Stations at Oros (IKW MW transmitter) and Amaravati (10KW FM transmitter)

DOORDARSHAN :- HPTs Chandrapur, Jalgaon and Ratnagiri;

LPTs : Raver, Dhadgeon, Bhamragad, Nashik (DD II) and Solapur (DD II);

VLPTs : Ambet and Sakoli.

All the above transmitter projects are targetted to be completed in phases by the end of the IX Plan Period.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Station/Kendra	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Amount earned	Total Amount spent on renovation/maintenance	Amount earned	Total Amount spent on renovation/maintenance	Amount earned	Total Amount spent on renovation/maintenance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All India Radio						
Mumbai	132.69	47.21	212.32	58.82	345.65	67.48
Pune	125.50	7.59	81.74	10.34	87.29	14.26
Nagpur	73.77	15.50	26.79	19.17	15.03	27.73
Sangli	94.15	4.52	63.21	6.42	50.14	9.86
Jalgaon	49.36	4.67	20.59	7.89	9.48	7.83
Aurangabad	44.85	3.90	22.50	4.95	12.62	8.83
Prabhani	31.05	3.44	15.57	3.28	8.95	4.20
Ratnagari	25.60	3.81	12.77	5.00	5.79	5.82
Akola	1.30	2.45	3.46	2.59	2.19	2.99
Ahmednagar	2.56	1.78	4.82	2.68	2.87	3.34
Beed	0.49	1.39	2.22	0.99	1.38	1.78
Chandrapur	1.10	0.60	2.20	3.36	1.69	3.70
Dhule	0.70	0.38	3.32	1.44	1.87	2.70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kolhapur	1.56	2.84	9.95	4.38	2.70	5.32
Nasik	2.42	0.86	7.28	2.34	2.66	4.62
Nanded	0.77	1.21	2.37	2.05	1.15	2.36
Osmanabad	0.98	-	1.17	3.21	1.09	2.90
Solapur	4.99	1.97	6.48	4.65	5.46	7.31
Satara	2.20	0.54	3.17	1.30	1.63	2.25
Yavatmal	0.76	-	2.24	3.46	1.05	3.63
Doordarshan						
Mumbai	1449.00	47.19	1425.00	51.06	1476.00	46.74

*[English]***Nomination Facilities on Bank Accounts**

4182. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether banks are not following the instructions of RBI regarding recording of nomination facility on the face of bank account passbook/term deposit receipt;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure implementation of RBI decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Instructions have been issued from time to time by the Reserve Bank of India regarding nomination facilities to be extended to bank depositors. In May, 1999 banks were advised to introduce the practice of recording on the face of the Pass Books and on Term Deposit Receipts the position regarding availment of nomination facility. There is no information to the effect that the banks are not following the advice of the RBI in this regard.

Recognition of CWC Employees Union

4183. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Central Warehousing Corporation Employees' Union, Mumbai is recognized body at apex level;

(b) if so, whether any other Federation is recognized by the management of CWC at national level;

(c) whether the management is following the code of discipline 1958 while dealing with issues of all India nature; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Prior to the 2nd Wage Revision, there was only one apex level trade union, namely, the Federation of CWC Employees' Union, Mumbai recognized by the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC). After the 2nd Wage Revision, due to intra-union rivalry, the Federation split into two factions (Federation of CWC Employees' Union, Mumbai and Federation of CWC Employees' Union, Delhi), each claiming to be the real Federation with majority status. In the mean time, the third apex body, namely, All India CWC Employees' Union Front, Lucknow also emerged and one of the regional trade unions affiliated to it was conferred recognition by the CWC after membership verification. The CWC has taken up the issue of membership verification with the Ministry of Labour on January 2, 1997 to decide their majority status. The Ministry of Labour has not yet conducted the verification.

(c) and (d) The CWC management is following the Code of Discipline while dealing with the issues of all-India nature.

Economists Panel on Liberalisation Process

4184. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to entrust the task of formulating a document on "how to proceed" in the liberalisation process to a group of independent economists and former RBI chief;

(b) if so, whether the main purpose was to "insulate" economic decisions from ideological compulsions of political parties and also to give a signal to the opponents of the reforms process;

(c) if so, the time by which this group is likely to give its recommendations to the Government;

(d) whether this decision has helped the Government to go in for economic reforms without any political consideration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) In the last meeting of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council held on 17th July, 2000, it was decided that a Common Approach Paper be prepared to spell out the contours of the Reform Agenda.

[Translation]

Tourist Districts

4185. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to declare districts in various States of the country as tourist districts;

(b) if so, whether the Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan is proposed to be declared as a 'Tourist District' keeping in view the famous historical Ran Thambhour Tiger

Project there;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Department of Tourism does not declare districts of various States of the country as Tourist Districts. However, the Deptt. of Tourism provides central financial assistance for tourism projects every year in consultation with State Govts./UTs for development of infrastructure in the country. During 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 23.35 lakhs was sanctioned for upgradation of Castle Jhoomer Baori, Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan.

[English]

Export of Cash Crops

4186. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum and value of export of different cash crops during each of the last three years;

(b) the share of major cash crop growing States in the above exports, State-wise :

(c) the present status of India in regard to exports of cash crops in the world; and

(d) the concrete efforts made by the Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan and projected to be made during the Ninth Plan to boost the export of cash crops ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) the export of different cash crops during each of the last three years in terms of quantity and value is as below :

Period : April-March

Quantity : Tonnes

Value : Rs. Lakhs

Item	1999-2000		1998-99		1997-98	
	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tobacco	99253	138022	76178	88964	107024	144697
Spices	170192	195793	163252	209828	140966	230531

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cashew	245361	93215	163160	79169	140708	81348
Sugar	1076.5	7043	1735.9	12735	24445	173282
Tea	176577	183807	226489	210395	187629	193700
Coffee	136407	165309	172792	193610	169614	160272
Cotton	8067.1	16750	20292	41960	82189	157534
Rubber	N.A.	5989	559.18	1840	512.28	1415

(b) The Central Government maintains the export data for the country as a whole and not State-wise.

(c) India's share in the export of agro products in the world market is approx. 1%. Some of the cash crops which have significant share in the world market include cashew kernel about 66%, spices about 50%, tea about 15.74%, coffee about 4.13% and tobacco about 4.7%.

(d) Some of the steps taken proposed to be taken during VIII and IX Five Year Plan to boost the exports of agro products including cash crops include :

1. 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 cashew plantations, area expansion, improving productivity and training of farmers.
2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.
3. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
4. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.
5. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination & ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.

Import of Printing Presses

4187. SHRIMATI JAYABEN. B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has uncovered a fraud in which hundreds of printing presses were imported and resold in violation of the actual user clause of the EXIM policy;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid such a frauds in future ?

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

(b) and (c) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has conducted investigations in the matter, under the Customs Act, 1962 and show-cause-notices have been issued to the importers concerned.

(d) The field formations under the Customs Department & Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have been alerted to be vigilant & collect more intelligence to detect such frauds and take appropriate action to ensure that such frauds do not take place in future.

Purchase of Cement Plants by Foreign Companies

4188. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the liberalisation policy of the Government, it has become easier for foreign companies to purchase Indian cement plants;

(b) if so, whether as a result of this policy, Indian cement industry is going to be out of control of the Indian business houses; and

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

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

according to the liberalisation policy, foreign companies can purchase an existing Indian company only if the proposal is supported by a Board Resolution of the Company and in accordance with the relevant guidelines of SEBI/RBI.

(b) and (c) The policy initiatives of the Government are intended to promote modernisation, technological upgradation, productivity, efficiency with a view to boost industrial production and increase in foreign exchange earnings. Consequently, the competitiveness of Indian Cement Industry is likely to improve, thereby benefitting the consumers.

Development of Buddhist Historical Sites

4189. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial assistance has been promised or secured from any foreign country or from any financial institution for the development of Buddhist historical sites;

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

(c) whether the Government have asked the State Governments to submit the plans for the development of such sites of historical interest; and

(d) if so, the details of States which have submitted the plans for use of such foreign funds of developing Buddhist sites?

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 roads, augmentation of water supply and sewage, improvement of electricity supply conservation of monuments and visitors management facilities. The project is expected to be completed by March, 2002.

The Government had also entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1998 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 Nation Highways, State Highways, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply, provision of wayside amenities etc. The places covered under this project are Samath, Kushinagar Piprawaha, Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar. The projects have been completed at the cost of Rs. 251.050 crore in December, 1998.

(c) and (d) Overseas Economic cooperation Fund (OECF) is not taking up any new projects in India at present because the Japanese Government have frozen Yen loans for all new projects at per economic measures following conduct of nuclear tests in May 1998.

New Method for Funding Infrastructure

4190. COL. (RETD) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI has decided to provide new methods for funding infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposal in this regard have been worked out by the RBI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Bank has not formulated any new method for financing infrastructure projects. However, the RBI has issued operational guidelines in April, 1999 addressing important aspects involved in the financing of infrastructure projects and advising banks and financial institutions to sanction term loans for technically feasible, financially viable and bankable projects subject to prescribed criteria.

To accelerate flow of institutional credit to infrastructure projects, the RBI has dispensed with the stipulation regarding ceiling on the quantum of term loan which can be granted by banks for a single project (Rs. 1000 crore for power projects and Rs. 500 crore for other projects). The banks are permitted to exceed the group exposure norms of 50%, to the extent of 10%, provided the additional exposure is for the purpose of financing infrastructure projects.

Loans to Foreign Countries

4191. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some countries including Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Sudan have not repaid their loans provided to them by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the details of efforts made by the Government for the realisation of these loans;

(c) the details regarding outstanding amount of loans with interest due against each of these countries alongwith the dates since when these are outstanding;

(d) whether the Government propose to invest bad debts in private enterprises working in these countries keeping in view the adoption of economic liberalisation policy by them;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of measures being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) The Government of India has extended lines of credit to various countries. However, no lines of credit has been extended to the Government of Sudan by the Government of India. Some countries like Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, which are Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) are having problems in repaying their dues. We are trying to resolve this problem of outstanding debt through bilateral discussions. Some of the options being considered are local investment by Indian companies, repayment in kind and equity participation in Government-owned companies being privatized. We have already approved one proposal in respect of Tanzania for setting up a medical college.

The details of outstanding Government of India dues in respect of these countries are as under :

Country	Principal	Interest
Uganda	US \$ 3.207 million (as on 31.12.1999)	US \$ 1.189 million (as on 31.12.1999)
Tanzania	Rs. 9.17 crores (as on 30.6.2000)	Rs. 7.61 crores (as on 30.6.2000)
Kenya	Rs. 2.72 crores (as on 30.6.2000)	Rs. 1.62 crores (as on 30.6.2000)

[Translation]

Unused Salt Land

4192. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge area of salt land near Mumbai is lying un-used due to non manufacturing of salt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any commission has been set up to find out the possibilities of optimum use of this land;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are taking any steps to dispose of this land; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No, Sir. Huge area of Central Government salt land near Mumbai (in Thane District) is not lying unused due to non-manufacturing of salt. However, out of a total area of 6359 acres of salt pan lands there, only 51 acres in Rai Salt Factory is lying unused.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Monitoring the Functions of Financial Institutions and Banks

4193. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any integrated machinery for monitoring the functioning of banks, financial institutions and insurance companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Revival Cases Pending with BIFR****4194. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :****SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :****SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :****SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Private Sector Industries and Public Sector Undertakings which have been referred to BIFR, State-wise;

(b) the names of the industries out of these for which rehabilitation scheme has been sanctioned;

(c) the reasons for delay in disposing of the pending cases;

(d) the names of the industrial units for which revival cases has been rejected; and

(e) the units which have been declared close by the cabinet and which are already in the list of closure subject to the consideration of the Cabinet ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a), (b), (d) and (e) As reported by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) 2894 references from private sector companies and 174 from public sector companies (74 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and 100 State Public Sector Undertakings (SPSUs) have been received and registered with the Board under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Out of these, rehabilitation schemes were sanctioned for the revival of 551 private sector sick companies and 52 public sector sick companies (24 CPSUs and 28 SPSUs).

The BIFR has dismissed cases of 626 companies as non-maintainable [including 595 private sector sick companies and 31 public sector companies (5 CPSUs and SPSUs)].

The BIFR has recommended 708 private sector companies and 33 public sector companies (11 CPSUs and 22 SPSUs) for winding up to the concerned High Courts u/s 20(1) of the Act.

In accordance with the practices and usages

customary amongst public financial institutions and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

A State-wise break-up of these 3068 sick companies registered with the Board is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) BIFR has reported that following factors caused delay in disposal of cases by the Board.

- need to give an opportunity to all interested parties.
- hesitation on the part of banks and financial institutions to increase their exposures in the sick company.
- requirement of obtaining of consent of all the agencies involved in the rehabilitation.
- non-compliance or delayed compliance with the direction of the Board by the sick companies, operating agencies and financial institutions/banks.

Statement

State and Union Territory-wise Break-up of Private Sector Industries and Public Sector Undertakings Referred to BIFR

States/UTs	No. of Projects
1	2
Assam	14
Andhra Pradesh	337
Bihar	66
Chandigarh	8
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5
Goa	13
Gujarat	269
Haryana	110
Himachal Pradesh	41
Jammu & Kashmir	6
Kerala	77

1	2
Karnataka	186
Madhya Pradesh	163
Maharashtra	545
Manipur	3
Meghalaya	4
NCT of Delhi	99
Nagaland	3
Orissa	53
Pondicherry	12
Punjab	122
Tamil Nadu	267
Tripura	2
Uttar Pradesh	277
West Bengal	257
Rajasthan	129

[Translation]

Obsolete Equipments in DD

4195. SHRI ABDUL RASHEED SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan cameras and other equipments in the Doordarshan Kendras have become obsolete;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to change the obsolete equipments and cameras and install State-of-the-art equipments and apparatus;

(d) the achievements made by the Government in this regard so far; and

(e) the funds allocated/spent 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Modernisation and upgradation of facilities at Doordarshan stations is a continuous process, and schemes in this regard are formulated and implemented from time to time, depending on the availability of resources. Some of the projects completed by Doordarshan to modernise its facilities during the 9th Five year Plan are as follows:

(i) New modern studios at Mumbai, Nagpur and Rajkot;

(ii) Digital satellite uplink facilities for DD-1, DD-2, DD News, DD Sports and DD International;

(iii) Simulcast uplinking facilities both in digital and analog at Doordarshan Kendras at Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore, Guwahati and Trivandrum;

(iv) New automation facility at Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi.

In addition, State-of-the-art equipment have been provided to a number of Kendras, and some old transmitters have been replaced by new ones.

(e) An amount of Rs. 123.44 crores has been spent on modernization and replacement schemes of Doordarshan during the first three years of the 9th Plan.

[English]

Indo-Nepal Agreements

4196. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nepalese companies have entered into a number of agreements covering diverse areas like medical transcription, tourism and chemicals to widen bilateral trade ties between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether Indian companies have also recently signed a memorandum of understanding for setting up joint ventures or sourcing goods from India with Nepalese companies;

(c) if so, the main agreements reached; and

(d) the extent to which the Indo-Nepal trade likely to get a boost ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Such agreements have

been entered into at the time of Export Promotion Meeting of Nepal in the first week of April 2000 for which the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) had taken a delegation to Nepal.

(b) and (c) During the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal to India in the first week of August 2000, he was accompanied by a large delegation of Nepalese businessmen. During this visit, Memorandum of Understanding was signed between FICCI and the Federation of Nepal Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) to promote commercial interaction and joint ventures partnerships between the Indian and the Nepalese businessmen in areas related to Information Technology and Agri-business. An agreement was also signed between FNCCI and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 2nd August 2000 to intensify their efforts to further promote Indian Joint Ventures in Nepal and to work together in different areas including Information Technology and other services, Productivity and Quality.

(d) Such proactive role by the private sector does assist in boosting the bilateral trade between the two countries.

World Bank Loan to Port Trusts

4197. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan provided to port trusts by the World Bank during each of last three years;

(b) the criteria adopted for repayment of loan;

(c) whether the repayment of loan by port trusts has been satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHR. BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The World Bank has not provided any loan assistance to port trusts in India during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Deficiencies in ICICI

4198. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI has found some deficiencies in the loan assets, investments, fund management and earnings of Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the specific period for which RBI has identified such deficiencies in ICICI ;

(c) whether it has been noticed that ICICI has shown favouritism in granting of some loans;

(d) if so, whether RBI propose to scrutinise all the financial dealings of ICICI from the years 1994 to 1997; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the financial inspection of ICICI Limited, with reference to the position as on 31st March, 1999 was conducted during the period May to August, 1999. RBI have further reported that as is the case in most of the inspections of banks or financial institutions conducted by the RBI, the inspection revealed certain deficiencies in the working of the institution including some divergence in the assessment of impairment in the value of assets done by ICICI Limited as compared with the assessment of RBI's inspecting officers.

(c) No such instances have come to the notice of RBI.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tourist Infrastructure Development Scheme

4199. MOHD. SHAHBUDDIN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects cleared by the Government under the Tourism Infrastructure Development Scheme to promote Tourism in the country during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the central assistance provided by the Union Government to enable the concerned State Governments to complete their projects and the terms and conditions on the basis of which the central assistance was provided;

(c) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the misutilization of the funds and irregularities in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of projects completed in each State so far and the reasons for delay in the completion of the remaining projects;

(e) the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to realise the prescribed target and to promote tourism in the country ?

20% is released on receipt of completion and commissioning certificates of the project.

(c) to (f) The completion of projects and utilisation of funds is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories. Projects are in various stages of implementation. The project should be completed within a maximum period of 30 months from the date of sanction. State Governments/ Union Territory Administration however, sometimes encounter problems of transfer of land, timely release of State share funds, etc. which often delay the completion of the projects. In order to monitor the progress of the projects, a monitoring committee has been set up. Regional Committees consisting of Regional Directors/Directors of Govt. of India Tourist Offices and State Govts. have been formed to oversee the implementation of the projects. Senior officers of the Deptt. of Tourism also review projects under construction during their visits to various states to monitor their implementation. In various other forums also the State Govts. are advised to complete the projects expeditiously.

In addition to strengthening tourist infrastructure in the country, Govt. of India Tourist Offices located in various countries promote tourism through publicity campaigns, tourism Expos etc. Use of Information Technology and setting up Kiosks are also steps in this direction.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Central Department of Tourism provides funds to State Govts./Union Territories for projects identified in consultation with them every year for development of infrastructure. During 1997-2000, 1016 projects amounting to Rs. 226.89 crores were sanctioned to various States/UTs. The Statement is enclosed. The terms and conditions of the sanction of projects are :

- (i) the project should be submitted in the prescribed format along with the blue print for the project duly prepared/vetted by CPWD/PWD;
- (ii) the first instalment of 30% of the total cost of the project is released at the time of sanction;
- (iii) the second instalment of 50% on receipt of completion certificates and third instalment of

Statement

Project Sanctioned and Amount Sanctioned during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(all the projects including fairs and festivals)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	206.70	10	244.08	14	222.22
2.	Assam	14	288.88	15	457.95	17	357.35
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	271.00	6	216.32	11	239.28
4.	Bihar	11	233.07	11	237.29	5	89.71
5.	Goa	8	144.62	14	319.98	11	279.82
6.	Gujarat	7	111.84	15	449.57	19	327.64
7.	Haryana	6	98.62	12	333.93	9	238.33
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	119.00	10	318.00	17	691.29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	J & K	10	293.35	6	192.85	16	334.58
10.	Karnataka	10	130.78	12	399.82	38	856.40
11.	Kerala	11	287.00	13	653.05	19	699.28
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10	141.85	18	441.39	16	431.06
13.	Maharashtra	12	169.84	18	496.27	30	1003.69
14.	Manipur	5	186.11	8	140.49	10	229.00
15.	Meghalaya	5	97.70	5	120.48	5	30.72
16.	Mizoram	6	142.45	8	203.34	13	292.17
17.	Nagaland	3	113.90	11	230.54	16	291.80
18.	Orissa	28	552.05	6	178.60	19	301.90
19.	Punjab	6	52.87	7	242.14	8	175.00
20.	Rajasthan	14	135.33	22	436.28	12	131.12
21.	Sikkim	11	73.20	15	136.03	13	118.98
22.	Tamil Nadu	7	59.74	17	316.20	26	493.85
23.	Tripura	8	126.68	9	169.21	7	340.76
24.	Uttar Pradesh	13	221.10	41	869.85	36	755.45
25.	West Bengal	7	125.76	12	211.13	6	184.01
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	4	162.50	1	32.37
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	3	55.18	4	69.59
28.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	1	5.20	2	20.00	1	30.00
29.	Delhi	8	233.43	13	223.89	5	24.50
30.	Daman & Diu	4	60.17	-	-	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	1	5.00	1	29.00	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	4	35.64	2	15.00	10	163.89
Total		256	4722.88	346	8520.36	414	9445.78

[English]

ASI Protected Monuments of Tamil Nadu

4200. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the inventory of protected monuments by the Archaeological Survey of India in Tamil Nadu and the expenditure incurred on protecting and preserving each of the monuments during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Sankagiri Fort at Sankari in Salem District is a ASI protected monument;

(c) if so, the funds allocated for the preservation, protection of the Fort during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) whether recently, quarrying/blasting has taken place at Sankagiri Fort;

(e) if so, whether any action has been taken against the culprit; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There are 403 monuments and sites protected by the Archaeological Survey of India in Tamil Nadu. The expenditure incurred on protected monuments in Tamil Nadu in the last three years is as under :

1997-98	Rs. 1,00,76,240.00
1998-99	Rs. 88,10,025.00
1999-2000	Rs. 1,10,57,449.00

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Allocation of funds for preservation, protection of the Sankagiri Fort during last five years is as under :

1995-96	Rs. 504.00
1996-97	Rs. 8,937.00
1997-98	Rs. 2,594.00
1998-99	Rs. 3,959.00
1999-2000	Rs. 2,67,894.00

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

Mini Tool Rooms

4201. SHRI R. S. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued guidelines in respect of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Mini Tool Rooms" projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the proposal for setting up two Mini Tool Rooms at Harihar and Hubli in Karnataka were sent to his Ministry in 1986;

(d) if so, whether these proposals have been cleared;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(f) the time by which the above projects are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a model scheme formulated by the Central Government has been sent to the State Governments for framing detailed proposals. The Scheme envisages one-time grant equal to 90% of the cost of machinery. The balance cost of machinery, the cost of land and building and the recurring costs are to be borne by the respective State Governments.

(c) to (f) Proposal for setting up Mini Tool Rooms at Harihar and Hubli in Karnataka had been received by the Central Government in the year 1998. This proposal will be considered after the details of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for extending financial assistance to State are finalised.

Fiscal Deficit

4202. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fiscal deficit of the Government has come down significantly at the end of first quarter i.e. April-June, 2000; and

(b) if so, the causes for the same and the manner in which the Government propose to maintain those causes apart from tapping other wasteful sources that drain the money unabated and unchecked use of the government transport, telephone, entertainment, overtime, travelling, furniture, paper and paper products etc ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The fiscal deficit to the Central Government for the period April-June 2000 was Rs. 25073 crore compared with Rs. 33512 crore during April-June 1999. The reduction in fiscal deficit during the current financial year reflects higher receipts as well as lesser non-plan expenditure. The fiscal situation is under constant review and appropriate measures, both on revenue and expenditure side are undertaken as and when necessary in the light of emerging fiscal situation. In order to effect economy in non-plan expenditure instructions are issued from time to time to all the Ministries/Departments, which include restrictions on the creation of new posts, review of vacant posts before they are filled up, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses etc.

Agreements with Foreign Countries on Tourism

4203. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any agreements have been made with foreign countries in the field of tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof country-wise;
- (c) whether tourism in Maharashtra is likely to be benefited by such agreements; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Bilateral Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings/Protocol Agreements have been signed with the following countries :

Iraq, Portugal, Syria, Hungary, Belarus, Israel, Uzbekistan, Republic of Korea (South) Singapore, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Iran, Kryghstan, Mexico, Scycheles, Cyprus, Peru, South Africa, Egypt, Greece, Mongolia, Morocco, Indonesia, Cambodia and Italy.

These Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation commits on the two countries to widen the existing links of friendship and fostering a deep understanding in the establishment of a wider cooperation in tourism. It envisages cooperation with regard to tourism promotion and publicity. These Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding can help directly or indirectly in promotion of tourism between the two countries.

(c) and (d) Such Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings on cooperation in the field of tourism are helpful in promoting tourism to India as a whole including Maharashtra.

Authenticity of Rs. 500/- Notes

4204. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a confusion among the general public over the authenticity of Rs. 500/- notes ;

(b) if so, whether cases of refusal to accept Rs.500- notes by the traders/shopkeepers/banks have been brought to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, whether there is no mechanism to know the genuineness of such notes among the general public as well as among the businessmen; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the RBI to make awareness of genuine notes among the general public ?

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

(c) and (d) Certain security features incorporated in the genuine notes of Rs. 500 denomination are not found in the forged notes. The Reserve Bank of India has widely publicised these security features through the print media and through Doordarshan. The details of these security features have been supplied to all the public sector banks, Government departments dealing with cash and to the associations of traders, shopkeepers, etc. to help them to verify the genuineness of the notes.

Complaints Received by SEBI

4205. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by the Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) from small investors/shareholders of companies during the year 1999;

(b) the number of cases in which the shareholders were satisfied with the action taken by SEBI; and

(c) the steps being taken to streamline the working of grievances resolving machinery of SEBI, so that the problems of small shareholders are resolved expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that during 1999-2000, it has received a total of 98,605 complaints from investors, including small investors, against companies. During the same period, a total of 1,46,553 complaints were redressed by companies pursuant to efforts made by SEBI. The resolved grievances include those brought forward from the previous year.

(c) SEBI has intimated that at present under the investors' grievances redressal mechanism established by it, complaints received by SEBI from investors are acknowledged and a reference number is sent to the complainant. These complaints are taken up with the companies concerned for appropriate redressal.

[Translation]

IDBI Loans for Environment Conservation

4206. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATRIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether IDBI provides loans for the projects being run for pollution control and pollution prevention, separately, under environment conservation ; and

(b) if so, the number of such projects for which the loan was provided during the last three years along with the amount of loans provided to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. IDBI has reported that it provides loans for the projects

being run for Pollution Control and Pollution Prevention under environment conservation under the following two lines of credit :

- (i) Industrial Pollution Control Project (IPCP) IBRD- 3334-IN operated with IBRD;
- (ii) Industrial Pollution Prevention Project (IPPP) IBRD- 3779-IN Operated with IBRD

IDBI also provides assistance to industrial projects for prevention/control of pollution under its direct finance scheme.

(b) The number of sub-projects and amount provided to them by IDBI during the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) are as under :

		(Rs. million)	
S.No.	Line of Credit	No. of Sub Projects	Amount provided (disbursed)
1.	Industrial Pollution Control Project (IPCP) IBRD- 3334-IN	21	700.3
2.	Industrial Pollution Prevention Project (IPPP) IBRD- 3779-IN Grant for IPPP	8	427.8
3.	Grant for IPPP	2	8.4
4.	Pollution Control/prevention projects assisted under direct finance scheme	4	27.2
Total		35	1163.7

Consumer Awareness Programme

4207. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched Consumer Awareness Programmes on the occasion of World Consumer Day;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of which these programmes are likely to help the people to make aware of the consumer rights ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) On the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day on 15th March, 2000 the Government took the following measures in order to spread consumer awareness in the country :-

- (i) An outdoor publicity campaign was undertaken through the Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity;

(ii) All India Radio and Doordarshan were asked to broadcast and telecast programmes on Consumer protection.

(iii) To spread consumer awareness, State Governments/UTs, Central Ministries, Trade and Industry Associations and voluntary consumer organizations were requested to observe the World Consumer Rights Day in a befitting manner.

(iv) A seminar on consumer protection was organized at New Delhi.

(v) Newspaper advertisement was brought out in all the leading newspapers, both in the regional and national languages, highlighting the rights of the Consumer.

Such programmes are expected to contribute significantly in building up consumer awareness in the country.

*[English]***Loss of Jobs due to Disinvestment**

4208. SHRI MATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment about the extent of loss of jobs that follows privatisation of PSUs as per Disinvestment Plan by the end of the current year and by the time the planned disinvestment is completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour likely to be rendered jobless; and

(c) the plan of action to provide those so affected with proper employment ?

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) All the decisions of the Government relating to disinvestment do not have a bearing on the jobs of the workers of the concerned Public Sector Company. When the Government's decision on disinvestment in a company involves transfer of management and ownership of the company, the issues relating to employees arise. In such cases, the relevant issues are appropriately addressed in the terms and conditions of sale. Further, even in the cases of disinvestment involving transfer of ownership and management, the job of each and every employee is not affected. In view of the above, it is not possible to work out, in advance, the number of employees likely to be affected.

(c) Government is committed to protect to interests of the workers.

Economy Package Tours

4209. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced various Economy Package Tours connecting important tourist centres in the country in the Millennium year through ITDC; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) India Tourism Development Corporation has introduced comprehensive tour packages for NRIs and Youths in collaboration with Air-India and Indian Airlines, in the Millennium Year. Packages cover national and international ticketing, hotel bookings, ground handling, tour packages, as well as special arrangements for domestic and foreign tourists visiting important tourist destinations of the country.

Indian Industries

4210. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to make the Indian Industries competitive in the World stage following liberalisation, economic reforms and structural adjustments;

(b) if so, whether incapability, inefficiency, low output and low profitability have to be removed from the public sector units; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) One of the main aims and objectives of the New Industrial Policy, 1991 (NIP) is to make the Indian Industry internationally competitive. With this end in view, reforms have been introduced in the public sector units for removal of incapability, inefficiency, low output and low profitability and for making them viable on a sustained basis and also competitive.

Government have identified Navratna Enterprises, which have the potential to become major players in the world market and have granted them managerial, financial and operational autonomy to enable them to take commercial decisions and become competitive in the domestic and international markets. Similarly, a few other profit-making enterprises have been categorised as 'Miniratnas' to enable them to exercise autonomy subject to fulfilling certain stipulated conditions. In addition to this, on a general basis, the public sector units have been granted higher delegation of financial powers.

The main elements of Government's policy towards the public sector are - restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs, close down PSUs which cannot be revived, bringing down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to

26% or lower if necessary, and fully protect the interests of workers.

Payment of Tax by Foreign TV Channels

4211. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the instructions issued by the CBDT in 1996 regarding payment of tax by foreign TV Companies on presumptive profit rate; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that foreign TV firms pay tax on actual revenue earnings and not evade tax on the basis of 1996 circular ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) According to the guidelines issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes in 1996, taxable income of the foreign telecasting companies in India is determined at 10% of their gross receipts in India excluding the amount retained by the advertising agents and the Indian agents. The guidelines provided for the presumptive profit rate in the absence of country wise accounts maintained by the foreign telecasting companies.

(b) The aforesaid guidelines are being reviewed in the normal course and such a review is in no way based on any question of tax evasion per se.

[Translation]

Profit By FCI

4212. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the profit earned by the Food Corporation of India during the last three years;

(b) whether all the recruitments have been made in the above Corporation;

(c) if not, the number of posts are lying vacant along with the period from which these posts are lying vacant;

(d) the reasons for not filling the said posts; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The FCI does not undertake its operations with a profit motive, as it is

functioning as an implementing arm of the Central Government's Food policy, by procuring foodgrains at rates fixed by the Central Government and distributing the same below the cost price through Targetted Public Distribution System.

(b) to (e) Posts lying vacant in various Categories are as under :

Category-I :	72
Category-II :	100
Category-III :	3454
Category-IV :	7196

These posts could not be filled up on account of a ban imposed by Government of India for filling up posts, and due to stay orders from different High Courts.

State Finance Commission

4213. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representations from the various State Government regarding its constitution of the State Finance Commission even before its expiry period of five years;

(b) if so, the State-wise representations received by the Government; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on the request of the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Government of Uttar Pradesh had made a reference in the context of synchronisation of the period covered by the Union Finance Commission (Eleventh Finance Commission) and State Finance Commission. The Eleventh Finance Commission while referring to this issue in its Report has stated that the synchronisation of availability of reports may be ensured through either a Central legislation or an appropriate provision in the Constitution.

[English]

World Bank Loan

4214. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank had announced a loan of \$ 2 billion at the conclusion of the meeting of India Development Forum (IDF) in Paris in May this year;

(b) if so, what demand was made by the Government;

(c) the terms of the loan; and

(d) the details of the schemes likely to be financed by this money, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No formal commitment of US \$ 2 billion was made by the World Bank at the India Development Forum meeting held in Paris in May 2000. The agenda of the meeting focussed on issues relating to effectiveness and relevance of external assistance in the framework of development planning in India and the need for structuring external aid to be consistent with the economic priorities of the country. The theme for discussion this year at the IDF was "Poverty-States' Dimension".

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sugar Development Fund

4215. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received seeking financial assistance from the Sugar Development Fund for expansion and modernisation of sugar mills during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the sugar-mills which have been provided assistance from the Sugar Development Fund during the last three years, year-wise and till date;

(c) the terms and conditions thereof;

(d) whether these sugar-mills have utilised the funds provided to them;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The number of applications received from Sugar Units for grant of loan for modernisation expansion from SDF during the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000, State-wise is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The Sugar Units to whom loan for modernisation/ expansion has been provided during the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and during the current financial year 2000-2001 till date are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) Loan sanctioned for modernisation/expansion is disbursed to sugar units subject to the following terms and conditions :

(i) Execution of tripartite agreement between Central Government, Sugar Unit and Financial Institution.

(ii) Creation of second charge on the fixed and movable assets of the Sugar Unit in favour of the Central Government.

(iii) The Sugar Unit shall fully repay all sums due to the Sugar Development Fund and Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund.

(iv) The sugar unit shall avail the first instalment of the sanctioned amount within a period of 2 years from the date of issue of sanction.

(v) The Sugar Unit shall maintain the accounts separately.

(d) to (f) The details of amount sanctioned, amount disbursed and position of utilisation of loan are given in Statement-II.

Details of the Sugar Mills in which cases the disbursed amount is less than the sanctioned amount and the position of utilization of the disbursed amount are also shown in statement-II.

Statement-I

S.No.	State	No. of application received
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Karnataka	4
3.	Bihar	5
4.	Maharashtra	8
5.	Gujarat	3
6.	Punjab	1
7.	Haryana	1
8.	Tamil Nadu	1
9.	Uttar Pradesh	18

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Sugar Unit	Amount Sanctioned	Amount disbursed	Status of utilisation
1	2	3	4	5
1997-98				
1.	Yashwant SSK Ltd. Mah.	403.90	403.90	Fully Utilised
2.	Ajinkyatara SSK Ltd., Mah.	884.00	884.00	-do-
3.	Gobind Sugar Mills Ltd. UP	900.00	900.00	-do-
4.	Vighnahar SSK Ltd. Mah.	960.00	960.00	-do-
5.	Saraswati Industries Syndicate Ltd. Haryana	368.67	368.67	-do-
6.	Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd. UP	474.00	474.00	-do-
7.	Basti Sugar Mills Ltd. UP.	1196.60	1196.60	-do-
8.	Gandevi Kusum Guj.	620.16	620.16	-do-
9.	Sekseria Biswan Sugar Factory Ltd.	880.00	880.00	-do-
10.	Rana Sugars Ltd. Punjab	1010.40	1010.40	-do-
11.	KSCM Belrayan, UP	1950.00	1950.00	-do-
12.	KSCM Nanauta, UP	1950.00	1950.00	-do-
13.	KSCM Sampumanagar, UP	1721.25	1721.25	-do-
14.	Indapur SSK, Mah.	398.00	398.00	-do-
15.	Chandrabhaga SSK, Mah.	840.00	840.00	-do-
16.	Ugar Sugar Works Ltd., Karnataka	570.88	0	Project cost revised by mill.
17.	Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Palia Kalan UP	174.48	0	Not released due to non-completion of required formalities.
18.	Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Gola Gokarnath, UP	300.00	0	-do-
19.	Khalilabad Sugar Mills Pvt.Ltd.	160.00	0	-do-
1998-1999				
1.	Motilal Padampat Udyog Ltd. Bihar	762.00	762.00	Fully Utilised
2.	Bannari Amman Sugar Ltd. TN.	420.00	420.00	-do-
3.	Kanoria Sugars & General Mfg. Ltd. UP	630.00	583.00	The amount disbursed has been fully utilised. The shortfall in disbursement as compared to the amount sanctioned is due to adjustment made on account of Levy Sugar Price Equilisation Fund dues.

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd. Karnataka	1580.48	1580.48	Fully Utilised
5.	Manjara Shetkar SSK Ltd. Mah.	608.49	304.245	The first instalment released has been fully utilised.
6.	Harinagar Sugar Mills Ltd. Bihar	620.00	620.00	Fully Utilised
7.	Tulsipur Sugar Co. Ltd. UP	2210.60	2210.60	-do-
8.	Govind Nagar Sugars Ltd. UP	222.80	222.80	-do-
9.	RBNS Sugar Mills Ltd. UP	1235.19	617.595	The first instalment released has been fully utilised.
10.	KM Sugar Mills Ltd. UP	584.34	292.17	The first instalment released has been fully utilised.
11.	Shri Valsad SKUM Ltd., Gujarat	1522.00	1522.00	Fully Utilised
12.	The Oudh Sugar Mills Ltd., Bihar	1800.00	1800.00	-do-
13.	RIGA Sugar Co. Ltd. Bihar	1605.00	1605.00	-do-
14.	Vishnu Sugar Mills Ltd. Bihar	1069.79	1069.70	-do-
15.	Basti Sugar Mills Ltd. UP	137.90	137.90	-do-
16.	Sir Shadilal Enterprises Ltd., UP	409.96	409.96	-do-
17.	Shri Dutta SSK, Asurle-Porte, Mah.	484.17	484.17	-do-
18.	Shri Maroli Vibhag SKUM, Gujarat	831.26	0	Not released due to non-completion of required formalities.
1999-2000				
1.	Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd., Karnataka	1800.00	1800.00	Fully Utilised
2.	Shrigonda SSK Ltd., Mah.	813.20	406.60	The first instalment released has been fully utilised.
3.	Davangere Sugar Co. Ltd. Karnataka	788.86	788.86	Fully Utilised
4.	Ganpati Sugar Ind., Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	1375.90	1350.90	The amount disbursed has been fully utilised. The shortfall in disbursement as compared to the amount sanctioned is due to adjustment made on account of refund of outstanding amount of short term loan from SDF.
5.	L.H. Sugar Factory Ltd., UP	633.70	0	Not released due to non-completion of required formalities.

1	2	3	4	5
2000-01				
1.	Eastern Sugar & Ind. Ltd., Bihar	1337.00	0	Not released due to non-completion of required formalities.
2.	Piccadilly Agro Ind. Ltd. Haryana	711.22	0	Not released due to non-completion of required formalities.

Production of Salt in Rajasthan

4216. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the famine has effected the salt industry adversely in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of salt produced in the country, particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the revival of famine affected salt industries and to provide employment to the labourers of this industry ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State-wise details of common salt production in the country since 1997 are as under :

Common Salt Production

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

S.No.	State	Salt Production			
		1997	1998	1999	2000 (upto May)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Gujarat	10096.2	8716.8	10048.3	7110.6
2.	Tamil Nadu	2532.9	1565.6	2159.9	353.0
3.	Rajasthan	1031.6	1120.5	1711.1	621.3
4.	Andhra Pradesh	273.4	238.2	278.1	66.7
5.	Maharashtra	200.6	218.7	157.6	150.1
6.	Orissa	63.8	38.4	29.2	7.9
7.	West Bengal	5.6	6.8	13.2	0.9
8.	Diu & Daman	27.3	42.7	38.3	48.7
9.	Karnataka	14.0	14.1	12.0	14.1
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3.1	2.4	3.0	1.0
11.	Goa	2.6	0.2	2.0	2.2
Total		14251.1	11964.4	14452.7	8376.5

(d) Does not arise, in view of answer at (a) above.

*[English]***Vacant posts in Customs Department**

4217. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI R.S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacancies of key posts in Customs and Excise Department are lying vacant for the last two years;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) No key post (of and above the level of Commissioner) in Customs and Excise Department is lying vacant for the last two years.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Smuggling of Duplicate C.D. Cassettes of Indian Films**

4218. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

Year	No. of Seizure cases	Quantity of goods seized	Value of goods seized (Rs. in lakhs)
1999-2000	1	4212 Nos. of Video CDs	12.28
2000-2001	2	(a) 35490 Nos. of Video/Audio CDs	27.57
(upto 30.7.2000)		(b) Medicines	39.55

(d) All the field formations of the Customs Department and Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence are ever vigilant and alert to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods. Further, the officers posted at I.G.I. Airport, New Delhi, have been alerted to keep a constant watch to check the smuggling of duplicate C.D. Cassettes of Indian Films.

*[English]***Shifting of IFFI**

4219. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual International Film Festival

(a) whether the Government are aware that some Dubai based companies, are smuggling duplicate C.D. cassettes of Indian Films via Karachi;

(b) if so, whether the customs officers had seized such cassettes and medicines at the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to prevent such activities in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The reports/intelligence available do indicate that attempts are being made to smuggle duplicate C.D. cassettes of Indian Films via Karachi. However, involvement of Dubai based companies is not yet confirmed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Customs officers at I.G.I. Airport have effected three seizure cases of C.D. (Video/Audio) cassettes and medicines at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, recently. The details of these seizures are as under :

of India has been shifted from January to October from this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the film industry are protecting against shifting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the place where the next IFFI will be held alongwith the dates ?

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 dates of the International Film Festival of India have been changed from 10-20 January to 10-20 October from the IFFI 2001 as the international participation in terms of films and film personalities was not very satisfactory because the dates coincided with Christmas and new year celebrations.

(c) and (d) Initially some newspaper reports appeared in this regard and the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce also sent a letter to the Government. However, the Film Federation of India, which is the apex body of the film industry, have now endorsed the decision of the Government.

(e) The next IFFI is proposed to be held at Bangalore from 10th to 20th October, 2001.

[Translation]

Losses in STC

4220. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation is running into losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the efforts being made for its revival;

(c) the duties assigned to the State Trading Corporation and the authorities responsible for fixing these duties as well as imports and exports;

(d) the present number of officers and employees in the State Trading Corporation and the number of posts are lying vacant, category-wise;

(e) whether the State Trading Corporation is involved in several litigation cases;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the amount involved in such litigation cases;

(g) the reasons therefor and the quantum of Palmoline Oil imported by STC recently in spite of sufficient quantity of oilseeds and edible oils available in the country; and

(h) the action taken against the persons responsible for the loss suffered by the country on this account ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) STC is an MOU signing company and an MOU is signed annually between STC & the Department of Commerce. In terms of STC's MOU for 2000-2001, the Corporation is to strive to emerge as a leading international trading house by diversifying and expanding non-canalised imports, non-canalised exports and domestic trading.

(d) There are 1574 employees (768 officers and 806 staff) in STC and six vacancies [2 Assistant Managers (Finance), 3 Junior Stenographers & 1 Grade-I (Peon)].

(e) and (f) Number of cases filed against STC are 48 involving Rs. 20471 lakhs whereas cases filed by STC are 40 involving Rs. 5031 lakhs.

(g) and (h) While STC has not imported Palmoline Oil for Public Distribution System (PDS) during the current financial year, it imported 0.82 lakhs MTs Palmoline oil on its commercial account. STC has not incurred any loss on the above imports.

[English]

Permission for Agriculture Subsidy

4221. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation has been requested by the Government to allow developing countries to continue agriculture subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether W.T.O. has responded to the requests; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Under the Agreement on Agriculture in WTO, developing countries are permitted to provide product specific domestic support and non-product specific domestic support subject to the Aggregate Measurement of Support of these supports not exceeding 10% of the total value of production of basic agricultural products and 10% of the total value of total agricultural production respectively.

Though India is opposed to the use of trade distorting subsidies by the developed countries, which have a negative effect on trade, particularly for agricultural exports from developing countries, India has also been emphasising the need to provide a certain degree of flexibility to

developing countries especially to large agrarian economies like India, in providing subsidies or domestic support to take care of their food security, poverty alleviation and rural employment concerns.

During, the on-going mandated negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture, it is proposed to press for this demand.

Dumping of Ferro Silicon

4222. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the dumping of ferro silicon by Russia, China and Iran;

(b) if so, whether the Government have investigated into the matter;

(c) if so, the facts revealed from the investigation; and

(d) the details of plan formulated to resolve the problem being faced by the domestic industry due to dumping of ferro silicon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Anti-dumping investigations have been initiated by the Designated Authority vide Public Notice dated 5th June, 2000, on the basis of a petition filed by the Indian domestic industry in this regard against Russia, China and Iran.

(c) and (d) Investigations are in progress to determine the existence, degree & effect of the alleged dumping of Ferro Silicon from the said countries and findings will be notified in accordance with the Rules.

Trade with Saudi Arabia

4223. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total trade between India and Saudi Arabia at present;

(b) whether a high level delegation of Saudi Arabia had an interaction with Indian exporters in the month of March, 2000;

(c) if so, the details of the interaction;

(d) whether Saudi delegation has opined that India can export tyres, machinery, Basmati rice to them as

markets of these things are being dominated by Japan, Pakistan and USA; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to boost export of these items to Saudi Arabia ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total trade between India and Saudi Arabia during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 has been of the order of US \$ 3198 mn, US\$ 2648 mn. and US\$ 3020 mn. respectively.

(b) to (d) In March, 2000, no official trade delegation from Saudi Arabia visited India.

(e) Steps to boost exports to Saudi Arabia include exchange of trade delegations, regular meetings of Joint Commission, participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, market surveys organisation of buyer-seller meets etc.

Strategy on Public Services

4224. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Economic Advisory Council has decided to formulate a common strategy, especially in areas like services, education, health, agriculture and small scale industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received the recommendations made by the prominent economists in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government have approved the recommendations and if not, the time by which they are likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) In the last meeting of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council held on 17th July, 2000, it was decided that a Common Approach Paper be prepared to spell out the contours of the Reform Agenda.

Public Sector Undertakings with Foreign Collaboration

4225. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the heavy industries and Public Sector Enterprises which were set up with foreign

collaborations having Government's equity of more than 50 per cent and are running into losses for the last three years;

(b) the details thereof alongwith the amount of loss of each PSE;

(c) the reasons for loss to such PSEs; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The information is maintained in respect of Central Public Sector Undertakings only. The number and names of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) which have incurred losses and which were sick during the last three years i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, the period for which information is available, are indicated in Statement No. 7B and Chapter No. 19, Volume I of Public Enterprises Survey Report for the respective years. These reports have been laid in both the houses of Parliament and are published documents. This statement includes the heavy industries under the Department of Heavy Industry. Foreign collaboration may be either financial, or technical, or both. It may relate to the entire enterprise or to a specific process/activity or a product. Further such collaborations may be continuing or could have been availed of at any specific point of time and concluded.

(c) The reasons for incurring losses and for sickness are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons include obsolete plant & machinery, outdated technology, low capacity utilization, resource crunch, high interest burden, excess manpower, weak marketing strategy etc.

(d) Enterprise specific measures are taken to revive

or turn around the PSUs. Sick industrial PSUs are referred to BIFR for formulating appropriate revival/rehabilitation scheme under the provisions of SICA. For other loss making PSUs administrative Ministry in consultation with management and workers of PSUs concerned explore various options and devise appropriate measures for restructuring of these PSUs. Some of the common measures taken by the Government are indicated at page 103, Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey 1998-99, which is a published document.

Outstanding I.T. against Five Star Hotels

4226. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of 5 Star Hotels in Metropolitan Cities which owe Income Tax, indicating amount of I.T. to Government during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to recover the arrears of income tax from them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Ten Five Star Hotels in four metropolitan cities owed Income Tax to the Government as on 31.3.2000.

The details of outstanding arrears of Income Tax in these cases are given in the enclosed statement.

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

Statement

S.No.	Name of Business entity/ Hotel	Arrear demand as on 31.3.98 (Rs. in lakhs)	Arrear demand as on 31.3.99 (Rs. in lakhs)	Arrear demand as on 31.3.2000 (Rs. in lakhs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Indian Hotels Ltd. Mumbai	1512.00	7564.00	10053.00	Demand is being adjusted against refunds arising for A.Y. 93-94 & 1999-2000 which will bring the demand to nil.
2.	Sun-N-Sand Hotel, Mumbai	49.06	138.25	181.64	Demand reduced to nil after giving effect to appellate order.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Piem Hotels Ltd. (Hotel President Mumbai)	Nil	Nil	188.47	Refund of Rs. 188 lakhs is being adjusted against this demand.
4.	Ellel Hotels & Investments Ltd. Mumbai	Nil	384.09	403.09	Recovery in progress. Hotel is non functional as the Building was damaged in 1992 Bomb blast.
5.	M/s. Asian Hotels, New Delhi	Nil	278.00	303.00	Refund of Rs. 212 lakhs has already adjusted. Balance demand is being pursued.
6.	M/s. CHL Ltd. (Hotel Surya Western, New Delhi)	Nil	Nil	119.00	Cheque of Rs. 35 lakhs has been received on 2.8.2000. The balance demand stayed till 31.12.2000.
7.	M/s ITC Ltd., (Hotel Maurya Sheraton, New Delhi)	521.63	Nil	7592.78	This is the demand of group as a whole and all the arrears may not be attributable to Hotel Business. Recovery proceedings are in progress.
8.	Park Hotel Ltd. Calcutta	Nil	Nil	35.80	The demand is being adjusted against the refund due.
9.	Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Ltd. New Delhi	Nil	34.79	51.72	The demand is being adjusted against the refund due.
10.	M/s. Oriental Hotels (P) Ltd. (Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai)	Nil	172.84	38.05	The total demand has been adjusted against the refund due.

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 Allahabad Museum, Allahabad, 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 Allahabad Museum, Allahabad, for the year 1998-99.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2227/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, 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 Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, 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 2228/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad, 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 Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad, 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 2229/2000]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2230/2000]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Museum, 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 Indian Museum, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2231/2000]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna, 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 Kudha Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna, 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 2232/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporation Act 1964 :-

- (i) The Food Corporation of India (Contributory Provident Fund) Amendment Regulations, 2000 Published in Notification No. EP 41(1)/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2000.
- (ii) The Food Corporation of India (Authorization of Officers for verification of pleadings and other documents to be filed before various Courts, Tribunals, authorities and arbitrators) Regulations, 2000 Published in Notification No. F. No. 32/1/(98)-Legal in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2233/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income tax Act, 1961 :-

- (i) The Income Tax (33rd Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 1239 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th December 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) The Income Tax (34th Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 1292 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th December 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) S.O. No. 289 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the issue of Foreign Currency convertible Bonds and Ordinary Shares (Through Depository Receipt Mechanism) Scheme, 1993 for the purpose for the assessment year 2000-2001.
- (iv) The Income Tax (1st Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 352 (E) in

Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (v) The Income Tax (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 353 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vi) S.O. 372 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying 79 areas for the purposes of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- (vii) S.O. 373 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the immovable properties referred to in the Notification as immovable properties for the purposes of clause (i) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- (viii) The Income Tax (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 403 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ix) The Income Tax (4th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 404 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (x) The Income Tax (10th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 453 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xi) The Income Tax (6th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 456 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xii) The Income Tax (9th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 455 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiii) The Income Tax (7th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 459 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiv) The Income Tax (8th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 460 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(xv) The Income Tax (5th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 457 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(xvi) The Income Tax (11th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 639 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(xvii) The Income Tax (12th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 640 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(xviii) S.O. 586 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the Cost Inflation Index for the financial year, 2000-2001 and make certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 709 (E) dated the 20th August 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2234/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Wealth Tax (1st Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 458 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2000 under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2235/2000]

- (3) A copy of the Expenditure Tax (1st Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 454 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2000 under sub-section (4) of section 31 of the Expenditure Tax Act, 1987

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2236/2000]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 :-

(i) G.S.R. 648(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Disodium Carbonate, originating in or exports from China PR at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(ii) G.S.R. 649(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2000 together with an

explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 132/99-Cus. dated the 24th December, 1999 and Orders finalisation of all provisional assessments of Bisphonel-A exported by M/s First Intercontinental Corporation, USA and imported into India recommended by the designated authority.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2237/2000]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :-
- (i) The Central Bank of India (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. CO: PRS: IRP: 2000-2001/384 in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2000.
 - (ii) The Indian Overseas Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 Published in Notification No. pad/pen/226/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2000.
 - (iii) The Vijaya Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PERE/EST/4127/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2000.
 - (iv) The Allahabad Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000, published in Notification No. HO/LEGAL/0561 in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2000.
 - (v) The Indian Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. SL. No. PEN/1/99 in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2000.
 - (vi) The Punjab and Sind Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PSB/OSR/STAFF/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2000.
 - (vii) The Bank of Maharashtra (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. AXI/STAFF/OSR/7608/99 in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 1999.
 - (viii) The United Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in

Notification No. 1/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2000.

- (xi) The Indian Overseas Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PAD/SUP/177 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2238/2000]

- (x) The Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. P:IR:SAH:1890 in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2000.
- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956:-
- (i) The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2000 Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 654(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2000.
 - (ii) The Securities Contracts (Regulation) (Appeal to Securities Appellate Tribunal) Rules, 2000 Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 655(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2239/2000]

- (7) A copy of the Sikkim Bank Limited (Amalgamation with Union Bank of India) Scheme, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1256(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 1999, Under sub-section (11) of section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 together with a corrigendum thereto (in Hindi version only) published in Notification No. S.O. 1284 dated the 23rd December, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2240/2000]

- (8) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1257(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) specifying the 22nd December, 1999 as the prescribed date in relation to the Scheme for amalgamation of the Sikkim Bank Limited, Gangtok with Union Bank of India issued under sub-section (7) of section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2241/2000]

(9) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:-

- (i) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Baroda for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- (ii) Report on the working and activities of the Dena Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- (iii) Report on the working and activities of the Syndicate Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- (iv) Report on the working and activities of the Andhra Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- (v) Report on the working and activities of the Corporation Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- (vi) Report on the working and activities of the Oriental Bank of Commerce for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2242/2000]

(10) A copy each of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Indore, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Saurashtra for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon, under sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2243/2000]

(11) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation for the year ended the 31st March, 2000, under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2244/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2245/2000]

(3) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) of the General Fund Accounts of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99 along with Pool Fund Accounts for the year 1997-98.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2246/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of section 18 of the Explosive Act, 1884 :-

(i) The Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels (Unfired) (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 141 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 2000.

(ii) The Explosive (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 197(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2000.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2247/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy of the standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2000

(Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 631(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2000 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the standards of weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2248/2000]

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA-LAID

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

"(i) In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Constitution (Eighty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1999 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India, at its sitting held on the 17th August, 2000."

"(ii) In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a Copy of the Constitution (Eighty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 1999 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India, at its sitting held on the 17th August, 2000."

Sir, I also lay on the Table the Constitution (Eighty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1999 and the Constitution (Eighty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 1999, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 17th August, 2000.

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Statement

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English

versions) showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the First Action Taken report of committee on Public Undertakings (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Sickness in Public undertakings.

12.02½ hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Pratap Chandra Behera and others of Angul (Orissa) regarding giving employment to the displaced families whose land has been acquired for Talcher-Sambalpur Railway Link Project of South-Eastern Railway.

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PARMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the remaining part of the Monsoon Session, 2000 will consist of :-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order paper.
2. Discussion and voting and consideration and passing of the Appropriation Bills relating to the following :-
 - (a) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1997-98.
 - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2000-2001.
3. 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.
 - (c) The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha :-

- (a) The Constitution (88th Amendment) Bill, 2000
 - (b) The Constitution (86th Amendment) Bill, 2000.
5. 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 passport (Entry into India) Amendment Bill, 2000.
 - (c) The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 1994.
 - (d) The Multimodal Transportation of Goods (Amendment) Bill.
 - (e) The Forfeiture (Repeal) Bill, 2000.
6. Consideration and adoption of the Resolution seeking approval of the House to the proposal of the Government to reject the Award given by the Board of Arbitration in C.A. Reference No. 6 of 1981 relating to revision of rates of Overtime Allowance.
7. Consideration and adoption of the Resolution seeking approval of the House to the proposal of the Government to reject the Award given by the Board of arbitration in C.A. Reference No. 11 of the 1992 relating to upward revision of pay scales of Stenographers Grade 'D' of Central Secretariat Stenographers Service.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The population of Ranchi city is around 15 lakhs but so far no bye-pass road has been constructed there due to which the road of city remains blocked and accidents also frequently take place. Hence, I request that under a special package the bye-pass road in Ranchi city should be constructed without further delay.
2. The loans of poor Adivasis of Jharkhand area and small farmers of dalit backward class have not been waived off inspite of announcement made by the Government in this regard due to which the interests have increased 10-20 times which the poor farmers are not in a position to pay.

Hence, I urge the Union Government that the loans of small farmers of Jharkhand and Vananchal area should be waived off.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

The foundation stone, for starting construction work on Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur railway line, was laid with great fanfare but even after about half a decade not much headway has been made in construction work. In Annual railway budget, sufficient amount is not allocated for construction of this project. Hence any progress in construction work is not possible. Therefore, I request the Government that this issue may be discussed next week.

Like previous years this year also North Bihar is facing the fury of additional river water flowing from Nepal. There is a need to hold talks with the Government of Nepal on the issue of proper management of additional water.

Therefore, I request that the local representatives of people of flood affected regions should also be included in the talks regarding formulation of project for proper management of additional water.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) : Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda :

Under discipline and appeal rule Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees of the Railways have been charge sheeted and punished under some rules. Punishments imposed are in excess of the punishments prescribed under rules.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (TIRUCHENDUR) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to expedite setting up of an energy plant based on tidal waves at Kulasekarapatnam, the first of its kind in the world in Tiruchendur constituency.
2. Need to modernise and expand Kanyakumari railway station by allocating adequate funds and starting several trains from there to various parts of the country.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The Government's decision to close down six Central Public Sector Undertakings namely MAMC, BPMEL, NBCIL, WIL, RIC and TAFCO.
2. The hutments of the poor and downtrodden people living in slums in Delhi are being demolished. Thousands of poor people are being evicted and thrown to the street without making alternative

arrangement. Demolition should be stopped forthwith. There should not be any demolition without making alternative arrangement.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (TENALI): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Recommendations of 11th Finance Commission and their ill effects on the developing States.
2. Discussion on National Agriculture Policy document tabled by the Minister of Agriculture in Parliament.

[Translation]

DR. BALIRAM (LALGANJ) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

The Azamgarh and Muhammadabad railway stations of Uttar Pradesh are hundred year old but there are no passenger amenities like 1st and 2nd class waiting room, drinking water, toilet-bathroom, railway canteen etc. There is no train available for other places like Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras. There is no platform at Muhammadabad station. Therefore, passenger amenities should be provided there.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Creating health awareness about Hepatitis 'B' virus.
2. Development of Information Technology/Internet programmes, software programmes in all Indian languages to take Information Technology to masses.

[Translation]

SHRI JAS KAUR MEENA (SAWAI MADHOPUR) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Increasing concern of farmers of Rajasthan due to drought and need to make immediate arrangements for solving drinking water problem.
2. Need to prevent atrocities and crimes against women so as to improve their status in society.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up zero hour.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, the notice given by you in regard to a case of breach of privilege is under my consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the cooperation which you extended to me yesterday. That's why I could make it to the meeting held in Etah to protest against the District Administration. I would like to mention a few things in brief.

The Smajwadi party had organised a rally in Etah against the oppressive activities of District Magistrate, Etah, Shri Ajit Kumar Tandon and the S.S.P. of Etah, Shri Sheetala Prasad Mishra. I don't want to go into details as to what happened with legislators? They were summoned to district headquarters, chargesheeted under NSA and their houses had been destroyed. Harassment of legislators of Samajwadi Party continuing for the last six months. I would like to bring this to your notice because a rally was organised on 17th August to protest against it. Because of this rally only, I had requested you and other leaders to hold discussion on 21st regarding killing of Amarnath pilgrims in Kashmir. On reaching Etah, I had to go to Inspection House for toilet but it was encircled by barricades. Hundreds of PAC personnel were deployed there in order to prevent people from reaching Inspection House. There the police force of around 20-25 districts was deployed. It is on the record too. Around 1000 Barricades were put up, throughout the district to prevent the rally. I reached there at 10.45 a.m. the pamphlets were printed. The meeting was scheduled for 11'O clock. After my friends removed the Barricades, I reached P.W.D. Inspection House but there was no employees present. Only one peon was there but on seeing me he too ran away. He said that he is waiting for the Collector and it is the order of S.S.P. that no one should stay there. We found one door unlocked and we went inside. I was accompanied by three M.Ps. - Shri Balram Singh Yadav, Shri Raghunath Shakya, Shri Akhilesh Yadav. The opposition leader of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, a dozen Legislators, large number of workers and local MIC were also present there. The bathroom, was not cleaned for the last three days and their was neither towel nor soap. Somehow three press people managed to reach there. The pathway also dirty and emanating foul smell. Somehow we foot soap from one security person. I washed my face with that and made a move. The road from where we had entered by removing barricades was now blocked by PAC buses. There was a route via Agra road. There also the barricades

were put up and police personnels were deployed. I come to know that there is route through Collector's place towards the collectorate. There also the barricades were put up and road was blocked by PAC buses. Third route was leading to G.T. Road. There also we found that barricades were erected and all PAC police were deployed and road was blocked by Trucks. All means were being resorted to stop us from reaching the venue. The people who were going for the meeting were beaten with lathis. Several people were being heavily slapped. Two vehicles fitted with loudspeakers were following us. The vehicles were stopped there only. The meeting was scheduled to be held at 11'O clock but with the help of people I could reach there at 2.30 p.m.

Even the officials there said on the condition of anonymity that the S.P. and the D.M. are creating problems by preventing public and leaders. The local officials were also not happy over this. We were held up for three hours and a half. After the news reached here on the insistence of some of our leaders the Hon'ble Speaker spoke to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Minister of Home Affairs. On their intervention only I could reach the venue. The meeting which was scheduled to be over by 1'O clock finally ended at 4.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after that mention was made about Sakshiji Maharaj. I don't want to mention this things as this is not related to that matter. I would only like to say that I have got the letter of Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. I and Shri Amar Singhji met the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister three months ago and again two months ago. We have written a letter also. Alongwith that we had given one chargesheet in which we had mentioned about two D.I.Gs. and I.G. Both Election Commissioners have also reported D.M. and S.S.P. We had handed over all these documents. After that, the leader of Samajwadi Party in Rajya Sabha Shri Ram Gopal Yadav, raised this issue on 25th July and gave a memorandum to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs too. After that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs replied on 28th July.

"Dear Shri Yadav ji,

I got your letter dated 25th July, 2000 regarding conducting the investigation against the District Collector and Senior Superintendent of Police, Etah district of Uttar Pradesh for alleged irregularities and immoral acts committed by them. I am getting the matter examined."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble leaders of the House that the matter of Sakshi ji is of 31st July.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, now you have given the privilege notice. I am calling for facts in this regard. It is under my consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : That is why, unless the entire facts come before the House, how we will cooperate. We were insulted, we were prevented from attending the public meeting. There was no drinking water. From the picture it will be evident that Shri Dhani Ram Verma, the leader of opposition and me drink water from a hand pump. Protocol was not provided to our colleagues and the leader of the opposition party, U.P. Legislative Assembly. I was not provided security of the category of which I am entitled to. I was insulted and my privilege was violated. The D.M. and the SSP of Etah district have behaved in a quite undemocratic way. That is why I demand that the matter should be referred to the Committee of Privilege. Besides this, our demand is that an All Party Committee of Lok Sabha should be sent to Etah to investigate the case of harassment done by the DM and SSP of Etah. It is not only me but four of our colleague Members and Legislators and the leader of Opposition (U.P.) have been insulted. This is breach of privilege.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter of Sakshi ji is of 31st July, while the leaders of S.P. of Etah is being harassed for last six months. The oppression in that matter was three month old and the question in this regard was raised in UP Legislative Assembly. These days the DM and SSP is threatening that they have two ladies and whosoever will oppose them will be implicated in false cases. It is not only the question of my dignity, rather the ladies and sisters are being insulted and they are being misused by way of enticing them. My submission is that a committee of the House Should be constituted who will enquire the matter related to the breach of privilege of my and my friends. The Government should accept our demand.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a senior Member of the House and the leader of a party feels that when he went along with other Members of Parliament they have been deliberately insulted in the course of discharge of their functions as Members of Parliament. It is also our duty to relate to the people. There have been instances when Members of Parliament have been insulted by police authorities and

others. Their cases have been referred to the Privileges Committee. I would request you to consider favourably the suggestion and the prayer made by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Sir, I am also associating myself with what Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has said.....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. speaker, Sir, whatever has been said by the hon'ble leader Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav indicates that the democracy is in danger. In democracy, everybody has right to organise rally or public meetings but hon'ble leader and his legislators were detained and they were misbehaved. It is matter of breach of the privilege. The Collector, SP or any officer responsible for this act must be suspended and action should be taken against him so that democracy may be protected.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record now.

(*Interruptions*) *

MR. SPEAKER : The matter raised by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is under my consideration.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Mr. Speaker, I think, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has raised a subject that affects the rights of all elected Members of Parliament—not just on the Opposition benches but also in the Treasury benches. All of us, including those from the Treasury benches, involve ourselves in rallies and demonstrations in our States and in our constituencies. I think, if there is any truth in this, which there must be because Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has said it, this should be looked into. What is the harm in referring it to the Privileges Committee ? Let the Privileges Committee look into it and let them come to some conclusions. I think, it is a matter affecting everyone sitting here.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI SADAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Power, Shri Kumaramangalam's condition is presently very serious... (*Interruptions*)
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that as per my information,

Indraprasth Apollo Hospital is mainly responsible for the present critical condition of our Minister of Power. Shri Kumaramangalam. We fifteen Members have informed you in writing. We would like to draw your attention towards the hospital responsible for the critical condition of our colleague Kumaramangalam ji. The Information I have got from his family members, friends and others clearly indicates that if his disease would have been correctly diagnosed in at the initial stage and proper treatment would have been provided, his condition would not have deteriorated to this extent. Kumaramangalam ji remained admitted in Apollo hospital for 20 days. I have been told that initially he was diagnosed as suffering from common Malaria. Thereafter, it was told that it is T.B. in the lungs. After paying nearly 1.5 lakh rupees, he was discharged from the hospital after 20 days. Recently the doctors of AIIMS have diagnosed blood cancer (leuceamea) and said that it is at the last stage. I mean to say that if his disease would have been diagnosed in the beginning and proper treatment would have been provided to him, his situation would not have been so critical as it is today.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I live in Delhi and every week I encounter three four such cases where this hospital gives wrong medical treatment. Recently 15-20 days back first cousin of the Minister of Health of Punjab, Shri Kalia had come here for treatment. He was told that he will have to pay ten lakh rupees for the treatment in this hospital. He was ready to pay 10 lakh rupees. His dead body was handed over to the family handing over a bill of Rs. 26 lakh. After my intervention, only Rs. 6 lakh were waved off and after taking Rs. 20 lakh, the dead body of the brother of a Minister was handed over. I mean to say that if the diagnosis of cabinet Minister is done this way then what will be the condition of a common man.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell one more thing that when the hospital was opened up, the objective of the Appollo hospital was to provide better medical facilities to the people of Delhi and the country. The land was provided to this hospital at a very concessional rate. Being the Chief Minister I had provided them crores of rupees as assistance. But even MOU signed for providing free beds in the hospital was not implemented. Today this hospital has become a commercial shop. I have been told that at least maximum price of the medicine are mentioned but the medicines provided in this hospital are very costly. It seems as the tea of a five star hotel that charge Rs. 100 for a cup of tea. My submission is that an investigation committee should be constituted particularly to investigate

the case of Kumaramangalam ji or a Parliamentary Committee should be constituted so that such thing may not occur again. Today the people of Delhi and the country are suffering. My submission is that this hospital should fulfil the objective for which the hospital was established....(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want an enquiry into the matter....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : I am not running the Apollo Hospital.....(interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Though you are not running is but.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am not addressing you Khuranaji. I have stood up at your request and you are quarrelling with me.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not be going into the Apollo matter now; that is something which, of course, all of us have to make up our minds about.

But this is an appropriate moment to express our very grave concern about the condition of one of our colleagues and a Member of the Cabinet. I would like to say, from our side, that we would like to wish him a very speedy recovery and we would like the family to get all strength to go through this crisis. All our good wishes are there for a very speedy recovery of our colleague and a Member of the Union Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. The entire House is joining him in wishing our colleague a speedy recovery.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM) : Sir, we should know about his wellbeing everyday. I think, the parliament must take cognisance of it and we should be informed about how he is keeping.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is but natural for all of us to be concerned about the health of Shri Kumaramanglam and I think sentiments which were just expressed by Shri Madhavrao will be shared by every Member of the House. And we wish him to recover early and be amidst us soon.

Shri Khurana ji has also raised a very important issue. Today's newspapers have also reported that son of Shri

Kumaramanglam had publicly said that proper treatment was not given by Apollo hospital. It has just now been said, when Appollo or any big hospital is built obviously many facilities are given by the Government because we expect that there would be some place reserved for poor and due to this reason Government facilities are provided. Besides this also to get good medical facilities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the day condition of Shri Kumaramanglam worsened I was there in the morning for two to two hours and a half. Since he was ill from the beginning of this session, therefore he asked in writing not to put him on roster duty. He complained of running mild fever for the last two months. But since then he is struggling for life.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is not getting treatment in any rural hospital, but in big hospital of the capital of the country and undergoing treatment as a Minister of the Union Government. Even then it seems the way he was treated and the way his disease was diagnosed he was not given proper treatment.

Sir, it is a general complaint against many hospitals to which Shri Khurana ji had correctly said that now-a-days there is no difference between running five star hotels and hospitals. Such type of complaints are being made. I agree with Shri Khurana ji. Therefore I do not want to comment by name any hospital about what happened there and whether proper treatment was given or not.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record. Only the Minister's reply will go on record.

.....(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Please take the issue seriously.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions) *

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I am replying to a specific issue. I am not referring to the general deterioration in the health services in the country. He has raised an issue which is related to the health condition of Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam. At this juncture I want to limit myself to that issue. I am not taking side on the issue of Government hospital versus private hospital or hospital 'A' versus hospital 'B'. I am just reacting to a very serious issue concerning one of our colleagues.

* Not Recorded

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at this juncture I want to say this much only if there is any slackness had taken place in the treatment of Shri Kumaramangalam's then definitely I would like to request the Health Minister to hold an inquiry by the Health Ministry. But right now I think our priority should be that his health improves fast and from this point of view I pray to God for his speedy recovery. I will definitely apprise the Health Minister of the views of the hon. Members.

12.35 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY (KURNOOL) : Sir, there is only one Unani Clinical Research Unit working in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh which falls in my constituency. I understand that this unit is proposed to be shifted from there. I may bring it to your notice that it is one of the biggest units in India which is functioning there for the last 21 years. The unit has an OPD, five-bedded hospital, an x-ray and Pathology Unit and 16 Biochem laboratories. There is no need to shift this Unani unit from Kurnool district.

I would request and appeal to the Government not to shift this unit in public interest. The Government, however, may take action to upgrade this as a regional research institute and provide adequate grants for its proper functioning. This unit serves the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes population of both Kurnool and Mahboobnagar districts. So, through you, I would request the Government not to shift this unit and also upgrade this unit as a research unit.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, today being the last Friday of the Session, I would like to bring to the notice of the House an important matter. I will not take much time as it is a very small matter on which the Government also will agree with me.

The staff of the Parliamentary Party office of the BJP, the Congress as well as other Parties, who are working continuously for the democratic functioning of their respective Parties, have been served notices to vacate their residential quarters by October. When I raised this issue in the Parliament, the hon. Minister, Shri Jag Mohan, assured that nothing of this sort will happen. The Minister assured us that he would look into the matter. However, a further notice has now come saying that they have to vacate

the quarters by 22nd August. I again wrote a letter to Shri Jag Mohan reminding him of the assurance given by him on the floor of the House. I also personally sought appointment with him about sixteen times and every time I reminded him about it but there is not even an acknowledgement form the Minister. I understand that the staff working in the BJP office is also part of it but they are seeking relief from Shri Advani. They are thinking that the staff who have worked for more than 18 or 20 years will go back once the Parliament Session is over. So, they will be on the streets.

I demand that Shri Jag Mohan must fulfil the assurance given by him on the floor of the House and do not ask these persons to vacate, otherwise, how will we function?(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, kindly bear with me. How will we function in the Parliament if our staff is on the streets ? This is not correct.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, an assurance has been given on the floor of the House. Since there is a deadline, the Minister will have to respond.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Kindly ask the Government to respond. This is a very serious matter. I had also brought it to the notice of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs a number of times. This is what is happening.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL) : Shri Madhavrao ji, it is very serious matter.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the hon. Minister is not above Parliament.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Nobody is above Parliament.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Shri Jag Mohan ji is a Minister.....(Interruptions) workers of all the party are being thrown out. We had already been thrown out.....(Interruptions) Huts of poor have been demolished and now the party offices are being targetted.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh ji you are interrupting at the time when the Minister is ready to respond.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : You people were also targetted.....(Interruptions) During Rajiv Gandhi's regime your party was also defeated. Similarly this Government will also face defeat because of his style of functioning.....(Interruptions) I am correct. His strong arm tactics created upheaval during the regime of Rajiv Gandhi in the country. I am saying clearly that he will earn a bad name for the NDA Government....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I will check up with the Urban Development Minister, Shri Jag Mohan. If he has given some assurance on the floor of the house, it has to be implemented. I will check up today only.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my name was called in Zero-Hour. However Shri Pramod Mahajan rose to respond to the issue of Shri Kumaramanglam therefore I took my seat. My name has already been called.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will call you afterwards.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious issue. 'The Economic Times' day before yesterday has reported.

[English]

Oil rampages to 10 year peak of 32.75 dollars on supply fears'

[Translation]

Meeting of OPEC countries was held in Geneva on August 7. Eleven countries took the decision to raise prices by 1.27 dollars. OPEC is a voluntary organisation. This decision was taken by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries for Oil....(Interruptions) Now the prices of petrol, diesel, gas and kerosene oil can increase.....(Interruptions) Iraq is not in OPEC....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Tell, what the Government of India should do.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I am coming to that. Give me the opportunity to speak. In that meeting Iraq said,

OPEC says they will produce less. If the production is less so there will be less supply and prices will increase. Iraq is not ready for reducing production and is ready to give oil at less prices than the prices in international market. I request the Government of India to contact Iraq and try to withhold the increase in prices.....(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : Sir, the Government of Kerala has forwarded two projects to the Inland water Transport Authority of India, under the Ministry of Surface Transport, namely, Badagara-Mahe and Mahe-Vallipallam navigational canal project.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Prof. Premajam says.

.....(Interruptions) *

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, the canal, when executed, will cover a distance of approximately 130 kms. The estimated cost of the project which is under 50 per cent Centrally sponsored scheme, is Rs. 167 crore. Be it in the field of Transport, railways or any other field, the Kerala State is being treated in a step-motherly manner by the Government of India. This project is lying with the Government for quite some time and the Government of India, especially the Minister of Surface Transport has not done anything in this regard. When executed, this will generate employment and also encourage backwater tourism in a big way. So, I appeal to the Government of India, especially to the hon. Minister of Surface Transport, to execute this project at the earliest.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI) : Sir, I had raised the matter of alleged corruption and irregularities in Kumbakonam based City Union Bank, Tamil Nadu, in the House on 10th May, 2000 under Special Mention and had demanded a CBI investigation into the matter. I had also written a letter to the hon. Finance Minister in this connection. I regret to say that no reply has been received from the Government on the action taken in the matter. This raises serious doubts about Government's so called crusade against corruption.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : First take the commitment, if prices of oil would increase then they will withdraw support by calling Shri Thackeray ji.....(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this, Shri Dasmunsi? I have called Shri Chakravarty.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am surprised by the way of functioning of this Government.....(Interruptions) Khajuraho is one of the main tourist centres of India. Lakhs of tourists from abroad travel these between August and September..... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. MOHAN : Sir, it gives rise to suspicion that perpetrators of corruption involving public funds might be receiving support from the powers that be.

Besides the alleged writing off of Rs. 15 crore, there are serious complaints of corruption against the Chief General Manager of City Union Bank.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All 'Mohans' are like this. Why are you reading from the paper? During 'Zero Hour', Members are not allowed to read.

[Translation]

You are reading continuously.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Chaturvedi says.

.....(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, nothing is going on record.

.....(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, to connect the most important tourist places of India and the world with this place(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Chaturvedi's submission.

.....(Interruptions) *

* Not Recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Khajuraho is one of the most important tourist places of the country. An Indian Airlines flight used to operate everyday from Delhi to Khajuraho to carry the passengers from abroad. Time and again it has been demanded that more than one flight should operate between Delhi and Khajuraho. Khajuraho should also be connected by air to Jaipur and Mumbai. Far from meeting these demands, Indian Airlines has decided to completely stop the flight between Khajuraho and Delhi from August till 28th October just when the new tourist season is about to start from September to March. It has also decided to withdraw its entire staff working there. It will lead to a major blow to the tourism potential of the entire spot and once the credibility of the tourist spot is lost then it will be very hard to restore it. It is a very important issue.....(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA) : The Government is having biased approach in this regard. Whatever facilities were being given have been withdrawn. This is no way?.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : The Government is deliberately trying to harm the tourist place.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Sir, you yourself come from an area which is premier tourist area. If they have stopped this flight up to 28th October, it will completely finish all the tourist facilities and tourist services and it will deprive Khajurao of an international connection through Delhi. I think it is something very important. It is because the whole season is beginning now. I think the Minister should respond and try to get some response to the hon. Member by Monday so that you can at least assure that you will re-start this flight. Otherwise, the whole season will go away.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : The Government is deliberately adopting biased attitude. It is trying to do away the already existing facilities.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Bhurijaji, the hon. Minister is on his feet.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : I talked on phone to Sharad Yadavji the other day. Since then I am waiting to get a reply from his side.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this ? You have started speaking even when the hon. Minister is on his feet.

MR. PRAMOD MAHAJAN : There are no two opinions that Khajuraho is a very important tourist centre. Even otherwise the number of foreign tourists in our country is not very large and it has not increased during the last 10-12 years. In this scenario it is really unfortunate and I am not aware about it that India Airlines has stopped operating its flight to such a place which is a major attraction for the tourists from abroad. I can not say offhand with certainty that the flight has stopped operating. As Questions without notice are asked during 'Zero Hour'. When you are saying so then certainly it will be very much correct. I would hold talks with the Minister of Civil Aviation and submit to him to find a way out for this problem.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK) : Sir, the Government of West Bengal has made a proposal to re-name West Bengal as 'Bangla' and Calcutta as 'Kolkatta'. But it is a matter of astonishment that already a few months have elapsed but the Government of India is not approving this proposal. Already Madras has been re-named as Chennai and Bombay as Mumbai. But the proposal of the Government of West Bengal is not receiving approval of Government of India.

So, I urge upon the Prime Minister and also the Minister of Home affairs to give approval to the proposal of Government of West Bengal with regard to re-naming of Calcutta and West Bengal as Kolkatta and Bangla respectively.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the plight of the teachers working in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited. Under this head, 28 crore rupees are allocated annually and out of it only 4 crore are being spent to pay the salaries of teachers. Very few persons might be aware of the fact.

The condition of the teacher working there is like bonded labour. They get approximately Rs. 800 per month as salary. Very big and good schools are functioning for the wards of officers but the teachers working in those school where the wards of workers get education are being paid meagre sum as salary. These teachers have been sitting on Dharna since 1993. When Shri Sangamji was

the Coal Minister allotment was made. I urge you to make arrangements for initiating necessary and proper action in this regard.

* **SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (GOPICHETTIPALAYAM) :** Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, in our country we get power alcohol that can be a fuel in a good measure. But we import such fuel and other petroleum based fuel, spending thousands of crores of rupees. This lavish heavy spending is resorted to by this Government. When our country imports vehicle fuel from foreign countries draining our foreign exchange reserves, countries like America, France, Brazil, Philippines, Kenya, Mexico are going in for rectifying power alcohol to make motor spirit. Such rectified alcohol obtain from the sugar cane waste 'bagasse' serve as a substitute for petrol used as a fuel. This will help avoiding environment pollution also. Non-conventional Energy Resources Department has also several researches to find out the viability of such alternative fuel from industrial alcohol. The tests have also been successful. This calls for a coordination between the Ministries of Chemicals, Petroleum, Power, Environment, Food & Food Processing, Agriculture and several State Government and oil corporations. A concerted effort in this direction must go on. About 400 metric tonnes of alcohol are available as excess from all the sugar plants in our country. These molasses-based-alcohol when converted as motor spirit would not require any converter in the vehicle engines. Cattle feed could also be manufactured from those waste and hence a thorough study must be conducted to identify their applications in various fields. Though we have abundant sugar cane productivity, sugar mills are meeting with several problems leading to the verge of being closed. At a time when our sugar production is more, we needlessly entered into an agreement with Pakistan to import sugar from there. About 170 metric tonnes of sugar produced in India is still lying there. This has resulted in the non-payment of their dues to the sugarcane growers and farmers.

The founder leader our AIADMK party Dr. MGR had recited that. Is it not that the rich natural resources of our great land are of vast extent? Then why should we go to foreign countries with a begging bowl extended?

I would like to point out to this Government and urge upon this Government to go in for conducting more research to make use of our own resources available in the form of bagasse and molasses from sugarcane.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY) : Punjab Wireless Systems Ltd., Punwire, is a reputed public undertaking under the Government of Punjab. It had been manufacturing rapid radio trunking system, radio link system and hand-held radios for the defence and Paramilitary Forces and Police. The radios supplied to the Defence and Paramilitary forces are also fitted with secrecy gadgets which cannot be manufactured by any other organisation.

Very recently, because of mismanagement, these units have fallen into serious difficulties and a section of the top management has left this unit and absconded. In such a Situation the Government of Punjab as also the existing management have approached the IDBI and the IFCI who are equity holders of this Punwire unit. I urge upon the Union Government, particularly the Finance Minister to prevail upon IDBI and IFCI to extend their helping hand when these units are in difficulties, so that their revival is made possible and such prestigious units can again start operation and continue their supply to the Defence and Paramilitary Forces.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI) : The houses of the people of Indian origin are being attacked in Fizi.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will get an opportunity.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter. It is good that the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is also present here. I had raised the same issue in the last session.

There is no Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Other Backward Classes. There is a Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for Women. The Government of India is giving them 27 per cent reservations in the Government services. But, to monitor that there is no Parliamentary Standing Committee. That is my first demand.

Secondly, there is no census in respect of OBCs in this country. People are just saying that they are 70 per cent, 50 per cent, 30 per cent and so on. Anyhow, we are going in for census in the year 2001. So, like SC, ST and women, the Government of India has already approved so

many communities as OBCs. Basing on that, in the coming census you can put one more column as OBCs, so that we get an idea of how much population of OBCs is there in the country.

Thirdly, there is no reservation for OBCs in the educational institutions. If we give them 27 per cent reservation in employment without education, how can they occupy those positions? Without education, this 27 per cent reservation in employment loses its meaning. Therefore, on par with employment, the same kind of reservation should be extended to the educational institutions also, so that the reservation as a whole will benefit the OBCs.

My humble submission through you to the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is to give this message to the Minister concerned.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : We associate ourselves with the issue raised by Shri Yerrannaidu in so far as OBCs are concerned.

[Translation]

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE ROY (SITAMARHI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with what all hon. Naiduji has said.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, he is associating.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a sea change in the attitude of students and youth has set in since the announcement of release of the five dreaded militants by the government in exchange for the release of the renowned Kannada Actor Rajkumar from the captivity of notorious sandalwood smuggler Veerappan. Students in the entire country are agitating at several places to press for their demands. The Vice-Chancellor of Gorakhpur university has decided to reduce the number of seats in Maharajganj college and other colleges affiliated to Gorakhpur university by more than half and a halfy increase in their tuition and admission fees. To protect against it the students have been agitating for the last 15 days and have set a record by carrying the movement in a non-violent and peaceful manner. Students are also pressing this point quite emphatically that if their reasonable demands are not met through their non-violent agitation and the Government do not respond by waking up from slumber, they could start emulating the ways and means of Veerappan by indulging in abduction and kidnapping. Through you, I demand that the Union

Government should direct the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to increase the number of seats in graduate and postgraduate courses in comparison to previous year, which have been reduced by half and also withdraw the fee hike.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the freedom fighters in India have been demanding for a long time to declare their families as National families. Their families may not get special amenities and privileges by this but it will definitely add to their family prestige for the service rendered and sacrifices made by their ancestors. Through you, I request the Government to declare the families and dependents of the freedom fighters as national families so that the coming generations of freedom fighters may keep on enjoying the love and honour which their ancestors had got.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (TENALI): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that it is a national honour that birth centenary year of our departed leader, late Prof. N.G. Ranga will be celebrated between 7th November, 2000 and 7th November, 2001. Prof. Ranga was a great *Kisan* leader, an able parliamentarian and a veteran freedom fighter. As we are all aware, he has got very long innings in this Parliament spanning over six decades. In view of the yeoman services rendered by this veteran leader over six decades, it would be in the fitness of things that a national level committee for Prof. Ranga's centenary celebrations is constituted under the Chairmanship of our hon. Prime Minister.

It would also be appropriate to release a postal stamp in commemoration of the centenary celebrations of Acharya Rangaji. In addition, it would also be appropriate to confer the highest civilian award of this country, *Bharat Ratna* to late Prof. Ranga. I urge upon the Government to look into this matter on priority basis.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, we do not get telephone connections in a proper way and sometimes, they are not working at all or we are getting wrong bill also. But bills are being served correctly in time.

The problem is regarding the payment of telephone bills, as the number of customers has increased in many places. In my area itself, where the number of subscribers was 400, the number has increased to 2000. so, there is a progress in the number. But the difficulty is that the facility

as regards payment of bills has not improved. Post office is the place where the bills have to be paid. As the cooperative bank system is going on every well in Kerala, the cooperative banks should be allowed to accept the telephone bills so that the subscribers need not face difficulty standing in long queues. Almost in several places, there is inconvenience faced by the subscribers due to these long queues. I suggest and appeal to the Government for taking necessary steps in this regards.

SHRI Y.V. RAO (GUNTUR) : Sir, there is an acute drinking water shortage in my constituency, Guntur district, primarily on account of more fluoride content in ground water of areas like Prattipadu, Chilakaluripet, Sattenapalli, etc. In view of fluorosis, these areas are required to be supplied with tank water. The Central Government should assist in ensuring that fluoride free water is supplied to the villagers. Meanwhile, bigger tanks are necessary for supply of water to these rural areas.

I also request for central assistance for laying new pipelines from Krishna River to Guntur and also clear the drinking water project worth Rs. 20 crore meant for Guntur which was submitted under Rajiv Gandhi Pilot Scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 17,000 teachers of all the Universities and affiliated colleges of Bihar are on indefinite strike since 9th August to press for their 29 demands. Most important point is that the UGC pay scales have not been implemented for teachers of Bihar due to which the entire education fraternity there is a disgruntled lot. The entire teaching community is unhappy at the non-implementation of Central pay scales and UGC pay scales and so the teachers are on strike. Teaching activity has come to standstill in Bihar. On this issue, I want to draw the attention of the House, so that the Bihar Government takes some decision in this regard.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, in Jammu and Kashmir, on the last Monday night, there has been a fight between the Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Toiba. One of the militants of the Lashkar-e-Toiba has been killed and one has been wounded. It has happened only because the Lashkar-e-Toiba has been committing atrocities and harassing the villagers of Niki Mori Dhok in Surankat. One Haji Lal Hussain has been assassinated by the Lashkar-e-Toiba. I would just like to know from the

hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs if he has got any information with regard to this. If the fact is true, will the Government take any advantage of the situation?.....
(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : I think that he must ask the Government as to what is the factual position regarding what is going on.....
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Kirit Somaiya is also associating with it .

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : We are going to discuss this issue on the 21st under Rule 184 and I think the Home Minister would come out if there is any information regarding this aspect.

SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI (VISHNUPUR) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, everyday, we see in the newspapers regarding upgradation of telephone exchanges improving the services in the telecommunication sector. The telecommunication Department is also focussing on better services to consumers as announcements are made regularly by the Government. But practically they are doing nothing, especially in rural areas.

I am sorry to inform you that the telephone services at Indpur—which is my constituency a block headquarters—has totally collapsed for the last two months. The residents of Indpur, District Bankura, made representations in July regarding complete breakdown of telephone services. But no action has been taken till date and they have been suffering for the disruption of telephone services. So, I urge upon the Government to take steps immediately to restore the telephone facilities at Indpur.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I represent the Gopalganj constituency of Bihar. During the last two years, 48 political activists have been murdered there. Out of these 12 were active workers of Samata Party. Shri Girish Singh, Shri Ashok Singh and two others of village Kathwalia were murdered with sophisticated weapons on 8th August at 6:30 in the evening. They were murdered in the Gopalganj town hardly 100 metres from the police station. One or two innocents are murdered everyday in that town.

Sir, on 16.8.2000, Shri Anand Pandey of village Janta Bazaar lothi of block Kateya was picked up from his house by the police and later shot dead. Hon'ble Shri Mulayam

Singh Yadav was saying.....(Interruptions) The Uttar Pradesh police entered dozens of villages in Bihar and beat the people mercilessly. Women were also assaulted (Interruptions) The police has detained the women for two days and they are not being released..... (Interruptions)

Sir, I request the hon'ble Minister to order an enquiry in this regard and then apprise the House of the same.....
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jha, what is this? You are interrupting the House even after getting the chance to speak.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I hail from Bihar. The condition of Bihar has become very bad since its reorganisation. The condition of railway tracks is especially bad. In the last five years, especially in the financial year, 1997-98, decisions to construct several new rail lines were taken. Their foundation stone was laid and decisions were also taken for doubling the tracks and for gauge conversion. The foundation stone of the new railway line between Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur was laid in 1997. Rupees one lakh was given for it and every year same amount is provided. Even the land acquisition has not been completed uptill now.

Sir, through you, I want to attract the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to this matter. Even since, Ms. Mamata Banerjee has come to the Rail Ministry, funds have not been given for the scheme of Bihar. Bihar is being ignored.....(Interruptions) Through you, I would request the Government that funds for Bihar be released so that the schemes are completed.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI (KALIABOR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India about the distress sale of rice in Assam. It is a good sign that Assam has attained self-sufficiency in rice. But it is not good sign for the farmers. Due to bumper crop, farmers have to sell their rice at a throwaway price. Though the Assam Government has promised to procure rice through the Assam Agriculture Marketing Board, they have not been able to procure rice. The State Government has also assured a price of Rs. 600 per quintal but it is only on paper. The FCI has also not intervened in this regard. It is the duty of the FCI also to see that farmers are not forced to sell rice at a distress price.

I, therefore, request the Food Minister, through you, to intervene in the matter and take appropriate measures so that the farmers are not forced to sell rice at a distress price.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the industrial environment in Madhya Pradesh is not good and gradually the industrial units are facing closure. Mills under the NTC have been closed down and now sugar mills are also facing the crisis. Other industries are also being closed. Due to the apathy of the State Government and also because of the shortage of power and other resources, common man and labourers are facing the threat of livelihood. Sugar mills are also facing the grave crisis and the sugarcane growers are in dire straits because the next sugar cane season has almost come. Therefore, I request the Central Government to help these sugar mills and sugarcane growing farmers to save the sugar mills and the sugarcane farmers. The State Government is not interested in solving the problem. Therefore, I request the Central Government to help these sugar mills so that the sugarcane growers get benefited and sugar mills can be saved.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY) : At what time, would the Home Minister reply?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : At 2.30 p.m.

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA (BARASAT) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are a lot of arguments on the 16th August regarding unfurling of the National Flag on the 15th August. I shall be talking today about the flag itself and as to what the condition of the flag is. I have seen throughout the country that the colours of the flags are fading; even the white portion is off-white. But I am going to concentrate on the *Chakra*.

In the Constituent Assembly, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in a memorable speech, explained why the *Chakra* was chosen instead of the *Charkha*, the flag of the Congress. The *Chakra*, if it were depicted from the reverse side, would look odd. So, only the wheel portion was taken and the best wheel available in the country was the Ashoka wheel the Ashoka being the greatest of all kings of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, you come to the point. What do you immediately want to bring to the notice of the Government?

.....(Interruptions)

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA : I want to convey that the Ashoka *Chakra* should have been depicted in *toto*, in its true form. The Ashoka *Chakra* has 32 spokes but in our National Flag it has only 24 spokes. Was it an error by the artist or was it overlooked for the last 54 years? Would the Government desire to form a Committee to review this because the National Flag is an emblem and a symbol of the country?

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : I am very happy to raise this matter because our hon. Parliamentary Minister is looking like a real Kerala man and a real Malayalee. He is wearing a *dhoti* and a shirt today !

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Come to the subject.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : The Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra— this subject is also related to your constituency, Sir— has cut short the duration of regional programmes in Malayalam language by one and half hours about two years ago. At the same time, during the evening hour, the regional news in Malayalam used to be telecast at 7.00 p.m. and after that for one and a half hours Doordarshan used to telecast Malayalam programme.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you want the Government to do? I have no time.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : I am coming to a very important point.

Only after that at 8.30 p.m. Hindi and English news used to be telecast in the national network.

But now, after the Malayalam News which ends at 7.15 p.m., Doordarshan Kendra of Thiruvananthapuram starts showing the National Network programme in Hindi and English, in place of the Malayalam programme. It is a very serious matter. In the rural areas where cable network is not available we do not get DD4 programmes. Most of the people watch television only in the evening which is the prime time and when Malayalam programme is not shown during that time, the people of Kerala are feeling very much neglected. The same practice was followed in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh also. When they have protested against it, the regional language programmes of the respective languages are being shown now. But the State of Kerala has been neglected. So, I would request the Government of India to, once again, start showing Malayalam programmes between 7.15 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on your behalf also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I can speak myself.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, as far as showing of Malayalam programme is concerned, situation is the same in Lakshadweep also. Now, Malayalam News is shown from 7.00 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. and after that we do not have any Malayalam programme which we used to have till recently.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : What is shown during this time ?

SHRI A.C. JOS : Hindi and English programmes are shown during this time.

Sir, we have enough television sets in every village of Kerala, but without cable network, we can only watch Doordarshan programmes. Since Malayalam programmes are not shown between 7.15 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. now, the people of Kerala feel neglected. So, Malayalam programmes should, once again, be shown during this time.
..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you please take note of it.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, when you have ordered, I will take note of it and I will bring it to the notice of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.....
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him speak. Do not interrupt now.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a film was produced in 1998 on the maker of our constitution and the Messiah of the dalits and the poor, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. The Government of India provided Rs. five crore and the Government of Maharashtra provided Rs. 1.75 crore for the movie, but it

* Not Recorded.

has not been released yet. I request that the film be released in our country. The film is in English. I request that the film be released internationally.

13.18 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at five minutes
past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair)

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported decline in the Value of rupee in Foreign Exchange Market

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up item No. 12.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :-

"The situation arising out of reported decline in the value of rupee in Foreign Exchange market and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto ."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the exchange rate of the rupee against the US dollar in India is market determined. The nominal exchange rate of the rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar moves in both directions on a day-to-day basis, depending on the demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market in India, and strength of the US dollar against other major currencies in the international markets.

The exchange rate developments are closely monitored both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank of India intervenes in the foreign exchange markets, as and when necessary, and deploys suitable monetary and other measures to effectively counter speculative pressures on the rupee to even out lumpy demand and supply and to ensure orderly foreign exchange market conditions. The long-term measures undertaken by the authorities include fostering macro-economic stability, pursuit of rapid growth of output and

productivity, regular monitoring of developments in the balance of payments and institution of appropriate policy measures so as to keep the level of current account deficit within sustainable levels and to manage capital flows consistent with the country's requirements of external financing and build up of foreign exchange reserves. These measures have helped to maintain reasonable stability in the external value of the rupee during periods of external pressures and to maintain the level of exchange rate consistent with the preservation and improvement of India's external competitiveness.

More recently, the exchange rate of the rupee against the US dollar had been under downward pressure from mid-May 2000 to mid-June 2000 and again since the third week of July 2000. The exchange rate depreciated from Rs. 43.655 per US dollar at the end of April 2000 to Rs. 45.785 on August 17, 2000, a depreciation of about 4.7 per cent. I may mention here that the US dollar has also appreciated in value in relation to other major currencies during the same period. For example, between 1st July 2000 and 2nd August dollar appreciated by nearly 4.0 per cent against Euro, by 3.2 per cent against Japanese Yen, and about 1.5 per cent against Pound Sterling. As a result of the movement of US dollar against these currencies, rupee strengthened against Euro by as much as 2.5 per cent, and by 1.5 per cent against Yen, and remained stable against Pound Sterling. These currencies (Euro, Pound and Yen) are currencies of India's other major trading and investment partners.

Thus, while it is true that the rupee has depreciated against the dollar during the last nine weeks or so, it is equally true that rupee has sharply appreciated or remained stable against currencies of its other major trading partners in Europe, the U.K. and Japan. The market correction in the exchange rate will also offset some of the competitive disadvantages arising from the sharp depreciation of currencies of our competitors in South Asia and neighbouring countries. This is expected to help our exports, the growth of which had faltered in recent years. Rupee depreciation is also expected to restrain imports and will help strengthen our efforts at cost effective import substitution.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the hon. Finance Minister for responding in positive manner, but I would like to draw his attention that yesterday only once again the rupee lost 20 paise against the dollar. The whole country, the industry and the economy is paying attention to it. Is it the crisis of confidence.

[Translation]

Where the devaluation of the Rupee is going to stop. This fall, devaluation, depreciation has started from the month of May.

During April, 2000 the value of rupee against dollar was Rs. 43.56 which since May has crossed Rs. 46. Where this devaluation is going to stop ? During May and June, the Reserve Bank and the hon'ble Finance Minister had reacted in the following manner.

[English]

It is a temporary phase. I would like to know, whether it is a temporary phase.

[Translation]

If it is a temporary phase, then what will be its duration, because

[English]

The Senior Economic Advisor to the Planning Commission and the ex-officials of the Reserve Bank of India, including the ex-Governor of RBI have given their opinion that it can cross Rs. 47.

[Translation]

The industries and the economic experts of the country want to know where the devaluation of the rupee is going to stop, what actions have been taken by the Reserve Bank of India and the Government and what actions are proposed. The biggest issue is that of crisis of confidence. How the shaken confidence in the rupee is going to be restored? In March, 1998, the value of rupee was Rs. 39.45. The devaluation continued for about a year. But between 1999 and March 2000 for about 8-10 months, the rupee was very strong. What were the reasons and circumstances under which the devaluation started in March and could not be controlled.

Reserve Bank has taken a number of steps. Some of them have been mentioned by the hon'ble Minister while some have been not. In spite of all that the devaluation could not be arrested. One of the reasons given was that our Rupee is strong in comparison to Euro, yen and pound sterling but,

[English]

If we compare it to the previous year, I think, there is a devaluation, there is a depreciation.

[Translation]

The concern is also being raised that the Oil Pool Account is the reason. Is it true that during the previous year we had to import oil amounting to Rs. 75,000 crore which caused a severe strain on our foreign exchange reserves? I also want to know whether the oil prices are going to increase? Only yesterday, hon'ble Minister for Petroleum had told the House that it is the highest rate in the decade. How are we going to cope up with that? It is going to increase in the next year also. I would like to quote a figure.

[English]

In 1997-98, oil import was Rs. 15,883 crore. In 1998-99 it was Rs. 14,290 crore. In 1999-2000, it was Rs. 30,582 crore. So it is almost double.

[Translation]

Because of it, the exchange rate of rupee which was Rs. 39.45 in March, 1998, has become Rs. 46 in comparison to dollar at present. In two years the exchange rate of Rupee has declined by 7 rupees against dollar. I think that it is the most important issue before the country. I would like the hon'ble Minister to tell us whether the import of the country has increased enormously over the last few years?

[English]

In 1994-95, trade deficit was Rs. 9,045 crore. In 2000-2001, we are expecting almost double, that is Rs. 18,500 crore.

[Translation]

One of the reasons is that the imports have increased from Rs. 35,904 crore to Rs. 62,000 crore.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the need for greater coordination between the Industrial Policy Department and Finance Ministry because we all know that the imports are increasing. One of the reasons, is that the Finance Ministry has reduced the custom duty on finished goods of a number of Indian industries. Import duty on many goods is 20 per cent and the maximum duty on their raw material, which is processed here, is 42.5 per cent. Imports have increased as a result of this. About the consumable products,

[English]

I can understand the Finance Minister's concern that we must go for core industries, basic development and import the technology.

[Translation]

But the manner in which the imports of consumer goods has increased is a matter of concern and I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards evolving way to contain it.

Finally, I would conclude by saying that the devaluation of the Rupee has had a negative impact on our foreign exchange reserve. It is true that in the last 5-6 years our foreign exchange reserve is showing a fluctuations trend but would you please tell us about the net decrease in the reserves this year.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) : Sir, I was surprised on the statement of hon'ble Finance Minister given today. I was surprised because the way the foreign exchange is fluctuating in the last few months, its sensitivity, its volatility and the way value of the currency is going down and the Rupee is depreciating, it clearly shows the contradiction in the policy declared by the Reserve Bank today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to say that the statement of hon'ble Minister supports the devaluation of Rupee. The language and the thrust of his statement, the essence of his statement is that Rupee devaluation is a good thing. He has said that it will reduce our imports, increase our exports, our marketing will improve and we will be more competitive in comparison to other south Asian countries.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has also said that it does not matter if our Rupee is falling against the dollar because its value is increasing against Yen and Euro and its value is static against pound sterling. Sir, we should keep in mind that our trade currency is dollar and not Yen, Euro or Pound Sterling. Hon'ble Member Shri Kirit Somaiya ji has said just now that we pay for our oil imports not in Yen or Euro but in Dollars and on the basis of my information I can say that it is one of the most important causes of increasing prices.

[English]

"The net oil import bill could jump to dollar 16 billion from dollar 12.3 billion of the previous year if the current firm trend in global crude price is continued."

14.19 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Petroleum Minister

said yesterday that oil prices could be increased because our oil price pool is declining. If the price of oil is increased in Rupees, the prices of kerosene, diesel and petrol will also increase and it will cause a general increase in prices. Therefore, we should not compare dollar with yen and Pound sterling.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had asked for the present price position of the Rupee and according to the information received the price of Rupee by this afternoon had reached Rs. 46.95 per dollar. The price of dollar will increase, though, I don't want to say and create scare in the House neither do I want to create the environment of threat in the market by saying that the downfall of the Rupee will continue but I must ask what is happening. It is being repeatedly said in the media and also by the state Manhattan bank that the price of the Rupee will slide down to Rs. 50 per dollar by the end of the year. Why it was not refuted by the Reserve Bank and the Finance Ministry.

[English]

The hon. Finance Minister and the Governor of Reserve Bank of India, both of them claim, that they very closely monitor whatever is happening in the foreign exchange market.

[Translation]

On the other hand many newspapers are claiming that the downslide of the Rupee will continue. What are the Reason behind the downslide of the Rupee in the foreign exchange market ? The report of the Reserve Bank, currency finance and comments on the basis of these, tells us—

[English]

"a massive outflow by the FIIs, Foreign Institutional Investors from the Indian stock markets, coupled with a sudden surge in corporate demand leading to supply demand mismatching."

[Translation]

Why the trust of foreign Institutional investors in the stock market is weakening ? The principal reason is that the foreign institutional investors have withdrawn about 700 million dollars recently from our stock market. I am afraid that due to the policy announced by the hon'ble Minister today, the foreign institutional investors may withdraw more money from the market. I want clarification about today's statement of the Reserve Bank. The first sentence of the statement of hon'ble Finance Minister says that

[English]

"The exchange rate of the rupee against the US dollar in India is market determined."

[Translation]

Finance Minister is telling it today. On the other hand, today's newspapers tell us about the statement of Reserve Bank that

[English]

The Reserve Bank reiterates the resolve to defend the rupee.

[Translation]

If rupee is market-oriented, market determined, fixed by market forces then what is the need to defend it?

[English]

The Reserve Bank on Friday maintained.....
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : I am doing just that. I just want clarification about what is written in the rules. In its statement of today, published in today's newspapers, the Reserve Bank of India, says that

[English]

It was not in favour of allowing the rupee to find its own level against the dollar. The RBI will not allow the rupee to fall freely. Then how is the rupee rate market determined.

[Translation]

Now, the hon'ble Minister please tell us whether the statement of Reserve Bank of India is true or the support showed by the hon'ble Minister for the depreciation of the rupee is true. I regret to say that the people who have advised the hon'ble Minister to give the statement today, have not helped in improving the situation. Our dollar reserves are declining. In March, 2000 the country had reserves of 35 billion dollars and on 28th July, 2000 it was reduced to 33.2 billion dollars. During this period, the total outflow was to the tune of two billion dollars. The economists attribute the reason to the volatility of the market. After March, the April, 2000 saw the decline of 65 million dollars, in May the decline was 601 million dollars

in July the decline was 534 million dollars while the total decline between March and 28th July was roughly 1.8 billion dollars. Foreign exchange reserves is under great threat. Oil prices are increasing. On the other hand, we also have the expenditure on defence. Therefore the Government of India ought to collaborate with the Reserve Bank to instill confidence in the market because there is apprehension of increase in prices. I know that the hon'ble Minister does not want prices to rise but how can we control it if there is contradiction in our policies. How do we escape the threat of devaluation? I am putting my policy related question, with your permission, to the hon'ble Minister.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I am afraid, the matter has become much more serious than the casual manner in which the Ministry of Finance has tried to view this.

From the month of May the rupee has been on a downward trend and all efforts to arrest this trend have failed. There is no sign of any effort to arrest this fall. The point is if it goes on like this, if the falling trend is not arrested, it may become difficult.

If this falling trend is not arrested, I am afraid, with the rising oil price – according to the report, it is likely to be 16.5 million dollars in the next year – it will be an unbridgeable gap. There will be no escape from, once again, having to approach the IMF with the begging bowl, a contingency which we should try our best to avoid.

Sir, to my mind the RBI has not acquitted itself particularly well in exercising the kind of monitoring and supervision which should be done over the foreign exchange dealers, especially the foreign bankers and others, who seem to have a complete sway in exchanging rupee into dollar and all that. So, there is time for much greater vigilance by the RBI over dealers in foreign exchange, particularly the foreign banks.

Secondly, many exporters, who have been given a free run, are reported to be keeping large volumes of their export earnings abroad especially software people and many other exporters also. So, I think, a time has come when the RBI, once again, should pursue a vigorous policy in telling them to bring back their proceeds to India so that part of the visible gap can be released.

Thirdly, the fiscal concessions to the exporters which were introduced, I think, when Shri N.D. Tiwari was the

Minister of Finance about Ten years ago and then subsequently I also handled the Budget for some time, specially concessions like 88 (h) (d), to my mind, have done a lot of help to the exporters to export because basically the Indian industry seldom wants to export unless there is an artificial sop. The fiscal concessions are much better than giving them subsidy. The hon. Minister of Finance might consider—it is my suggestion—whether some of these concessions which were withdrawn abruptly in the last Budget, can be restored again so that exporters can go on planning on a long-term basis, instead of being suddenly having to stop their process of exports because the basis on which they plan their exports has suddenly been withdrawn.

Sir, a lot of projects have been approved by the international agencies like the World Bank. I do not know the present figure. I am sure it will be in the region of 50-60 billion dollars. They cannot be implemented because of our own procedural hurdles and bureaucratic problems, etc.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please come to the question.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Sir, that is the question. I would like to know whether there can be any way to ensure that these projects are implemented very quickly so that the committed foreign flow can be realised in actual practice.

Lastly, I would like to know whether the Government would like to raise the interest rate. I am saying it as a temporary measure. I follow the general principle of falling interest, which is good for the economy in the long run. But, at present, we are facing a near emergency situation.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have raised this issue.

I would like to hasten to add that it is not my intention to sound either casual or complacent. The situation which has arisen is certainly not one of the best that any Minister of Finance or the Central Bank Governor would like to handle. It is a difficult situation, but there is no reason to panic. This is what I wanted to say. In that context, I would like to point out that this is not the first time, after March, 1993, when the exchange rate of rupee was made to be market determined and was subsequently made fully convertible on the current account. This is not the first time that there has been some volatility in the market and depreciation of the rupee. History shows that in October,

1995, there was considerable volatility in the market and the value of the rupee declined. It touched Rs. 36 to a dollar. In Jan, 1996, again there was volatility in the market. In August, 1997, again there was volatility in the market and the value of the rupee against the dollar had declined. Similarly, in November, 1997, we faced a major problem in the exchange market.

In 1998 summer, when sanctions had been imposed, we faced volatility in the foreign exchange market and after that we are facing the current situation in 2000. So, the volatility in the foreign exchange market, temporary mismatch between supply and demand and some depreciation of the rupee is something which has happened over a period of time and the rupee has actually depreciated.

The second issue which I would like to point out before the hon. Members is that the Reserve Bank of India has not kept quiet, as has been pointed out. In fact, whatever the newspapers might say or some forecasters might say, the Reserve Bank of India, on this particular occasion, has come out with four or five very important policy statements from time to time. Starting from May till August, they have explained in great detail what the situation is and how they look at the situation. Any student who has been following this, would be aware of what the Reserve Bank's point of view is. There is absolutely no contradiction between the point of view of the RBI and the point of view of the Government.

I would also like to say that the RBI has said – and that is also the Government's point of view – that when the rupee is being traded in the foreign exchange market, it is market-determiner I would like to emphasise, despite what Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari has said, that the RBI has said clearly that we are not targeting a particular exchange rate. We are not saying that the rupee should be at this level vis-a-vis the dollar, or at any other level. We are not targeting that. The RBI's and the Government's policy is that we will prevent undue volatility in the market. We will not let the speculators take over the market. That is what we want. We want orderly conditions to prevail in the foreign exchange market and that is why the RBI has taken a number of steps.

Shri Kirit Somaiya was asking me where would the rupee stop. In the same vein, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari said that some people are forecasting that the rupee will touch Rs. 50 to a dollar. I am not surprised at all. I have lived with the situation for almost 28-29 months. I remember, in 1998, there were people who were

forecasting that the rupee is going to touch Rs. 50 to a dollar at the end of 1998. That has not come to happen. So, let us not be given to the doomsday soothsayers. There is no reason what soever to panic.

As far as foreign exchange reserves are concerned, let me say that we have, since March, 1998
(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : My question was, why did anybody not controvert that statement by the State Manhattan Bank. It should have been nipped in the bud at that point of time. Somebody should have contradicted that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the RBI has repeatedly explained its policy and its position. There are a whole lot of people who are making predictions in India and outside. You do not go round challenging everyone and joining into it. It becomes self-defeating at times.

I would also like to add that during the last two years, that is 1998-99 and 1999-2000, after we assumed office in March, 1998, we have added nine billion dollars to our reserves. In the last four years, we have added sixteen billion dollars to our reserves. Therefore, at the end of March, 2000, when the foreign exchange reserves of the country were over 38 billion dollars, that was a tribute to the strength of the Indian economy and the policies which have been followed consistently. Since the time of the Narasimha Rao Government, we have been adding to our reserves. Let me point out that this is again not the first time that there has been some drawing down of reserves. In March, 1994, our reserves were 25 billion dollars and in March 1996, that is, one year later, they came down to 21.6 billion dollars. There was a draw down of over 3.5 billion dollars. Now if there has been a draw down of something like two billion dollars in this year, it is not a matter of concern at all.

I say this because reserves are after all to meet a situation of this kind. Therefore, I would like to say that the economic fundamentals of our country are strong.

Shri Kirit Somaiya was asking why it is happening and what is so special this year, and if economic fundamentals are strong, why there is a pressure on the rupee vis-a-vis the dollar. The reasons for this have to be found outside in the external situation and not here. The external situation is that there was a fear that the US economy was going to get into some kind of a trouble. That has not come to pass. The US Federal Reserve has increased the rates in order to slow down the US economy.

The difference between our interest rates and their interest rates has narrowed down. From world over, money has flown back to the US and that is the reason of why there has been pressure on all the major currencies of the world, including the rupee. Therefore, this is a temporary phenomenon.

The question of oil imports has been raised. Let me assure this House that we have, even at our current foreign exchange holdings, over seven months worth of imports in terms of foreign exchange reserves. So, what is the reason to worry? I would like to say that our economic fundamentals are strong, industrial production is almost at the same level as last year, agriculture promises to be good, the *kharif* rains have been good and therefore, agriculture should be normal. There are people who are forecasting. It is not the Government which is saying; everyone is forecasting 6.5 per cent growth rate. There are others who are saying that we will have.....
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at present the question is not of the rise or fall during the reign of Shri Narsimha Rao ji. You have brought it to this level and now say there is nothing to worry. The reality is that the concerns have been raised by Shri Tiwari ji and other Members of that side that the economy of the country is in a bad shape and price rise will continue. Hon'ble Finance Minister need not worry as not he will have to face it. Even today, the entire situation is before you. What is the condition of farmers today? Price rise is continuing and the value of their product is continuing to fall. You are continuing to buy flour. It is the real situation and try to initiate measures to contain it then I will accept your contention that the situation will improve..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is a Calling Attention Motion. I am calling only those members whose names are with me.

MR. MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Please accept the reality and take the House in confidence. Only then we will extend our cooperation.....(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I regret that I do not agree with what Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji has said
(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is the matter of the nation(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : This is question of rupee and the dollar.

[English]

We take, for instance, the value of the rupee vis-a-vis the dollar and other currencies. Let me put it in perspective. From January this year to till date, what has been the depreciation of the rupee? It is 5.13%. The depreciation of the British Pound against the dollar is 9.16%. The depreciation of the Euro is 10.97%. The depreciation of the Yen is 3.88%. Yen is the only currency which has depreciated a little less than the rupee. So, let us not worry about it too much. I am not saying that we will not worry about it at all. We are worrying about it, but things are improving.

The exports of this country, in the first quarter, have risen by 27 per cent. A reference was made to outflow by the foreign institutional investors. My information is that in the month of August, again, they have turned positive. Therefore, the only thin line of worry in the whole situation is the question of the rise in oil prices because if they have touched almost 33 dollars to a barrel, then naturally, our import bill of oil is going to go up in terms of value. But Sir, as I have said earlier, let me assure this House and assure the nation that we have enough resources to be able to take care of the situation. Why is it temporary? It is because our experience shows that this kind of a situation has never lasted for a long time. We have been able to get the better of it. We will certainly get the better of it on this occasion also.

Finally, Sir, let me say that as far as our policy is concerned— the Government's policy, the RBI's policy—it is a two-pronged policy.

The first part of that policy is that we will continue to take steps to curb speculation, to curb volatility in the market. The second part of the strategy is that we have adequate reserves to meet genuine demand of importers and others in this country. A suggestion has been made by Dr. Nitish that we should raise the interest rates. The RBI has already raised the interest rates once by 100 basis points. Sir, the hon. Member would be aware that in my regime I brought down the interest rates by 200 basis points. We have gone back half way now. I do not think, the situation has come as yet when we have to raise the interest rates again. But let me say that this is a situation which has to be handled with a great deal of care because if we overstep, on the one side, we will harm the growth of the economy. If we do not take adequate steps, then there

might be undue volatility in the market. Given these constraints, we have to choose the best policy option. I am confident that the RBI, so far, has done extremely well in controlling the volatility in the forex market, and they have explained their policy and the Government's policy very clearly in this regard. Thank you.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Sir, I would like to seek only one clarification regarding the export earners' foreign currency account.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, all I wanted to say is that more than the falling value of the rupee, what is the matter of great worry is the supreme confidence of the Finance Minister as he stands amongst the ruins.

14.41 hrs.

**MOTION RE : THIRTEENTH REPORT OF THE
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Madhavrao Scindia to move the Motion.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Sir, I think, I am probably the new Parliamentary Affairs Minister or something like that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is not there and, that is why, you are moving it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the thirteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th August, 2000."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House do agree with the thirteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th August, 2000."

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA) : Sir, the Women's Reservation Bill has not been included in this Report. So, we do not accept this Report.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, after having formally moved it, I want to say that the Women's Reservation Bill must find a place in this...(*Interruptions*) Sir, we are going to take up this matter because we do

want the Women's Reservation Bill to be included in this. In the BAC, we had expressed our views on this, and we will be taking up this matter again....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, we want a vote on it. You put it to the House.....(*Interruptions*) Sir, we said 'no'.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the thirteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th August, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

14.42 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Notification No. 43/2000-CE (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt and steel supplied for use in the construction of houses under the Indira Awas Yojana and HUDCO Refinance Housing Scheme in the cyclone affected areas of Orissa from the whole of the duty of excise, under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are grateful that these concessions have been given to the State of Orissa, and we thank the hon. Minister for the same.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2248A/2000]

14.44 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Atrocities on Linguistic and Religious Minorities in
the country - Contd.**

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : At the outset, let me appeal to you that since we do not have much time, there should not be any interruptions. If you want to seek any clarification, I will allow you later.

Now, is it the sense of the House to take ten to fifteen minutes minimum from the Private Members' time to accommodate the reply to the hon. Minister ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : Sir, please extend the time till the hon. Minister completes his speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Private Members' time will be accordingly further extended after 5.30 p.m.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much obliged to Shri Moinul Hasan ji for initiating the discussion in the House. I agree that the discussion was very constructive. Many important Members from both the sides presented their views in a very effective manner. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev ji is sitting here, perhaps he is out of those few members who talked about the linguistic Minorities. Most of the part of discussion was based on the religious minorities. But Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, Smt. Margaret Alva and Shri Purno A. Sangma are amongst those few Members, who tried to put their views regarding linguistic Minorities in a very effective manner. They expressed the feeling of insecurity of the Christians in the country in a very dynamic way. Similarly Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji, Km. Uma Bharati ji and Shri Denzil B. Alkinson, a nominated Anglo-Indian Member of Parliament whom I have heard for the first time have given a very effective reply to all the blames made by others. An ideally healthy discussion with full-fledged debates, logics etc. took place yesterday. I myself feel that I have nothing to speak now. I have always replied to the criticism of people. And instead of that I would try to learn something from the discussion that took place yesterday. I have special regard for Shri Purno Sangma ji who is not present today in the House. When he was hon. Speaker I respected him and even today I have a feeling of reverence for him, rather my feeling of honour and respect for him has increased all the more now. I observed that he segregated from the party with which he had long affiliations, not because of the reason that he was not getting any post there but due to the fact that he was not getting desired respect within that party, in fact he had a principle and when the party did not agree to this principle, he said I cannot live in this party. So I feel that yesterday's discussion was not regarding Christians and was predominantly based on the atrocities on religious minorities, the main point of this discussion was the

treatment given to Christians in this country and the Government's attitude towards them. Purno Sangma ji says, whether it is right or wrong, one thing should be accepted that

[English]

Justice must not only be done, but seem to be done.

[Translation]

And that is why all Christians here have developed a feeling of insecurity, they feel that they are insecure in this country. And so I feel this a task for my Government to remove this feeling of insecurity from their hearts. I am not trying to give any reply of this allegation it has already been given by a number of my friends during the debate.

Sir, I would start my speech with the fact that around two and a half years back when our Government was formed it was an altogether new experience for people like us who were in Jansangh for many years and later on formed Bharatiya Janata Party. We remained in the opposition for fifty years. For a shorter period, when Janata party Government came into Power during Morarji Bhai's tenure, then we were a part of the Government. But that Government was not like the present one. For us, coming in the Government

[English]

It was a great handicap. We started with a handicap.

[Translation]

I am not only discussing about the fact that we did not have a clear majority. Perhaps two Governments before us had more numerical handicap than us. But such a handicap has not been experienced by any of the previous governments as has been experienced by our Government. So, from this point of view, it is the biggest handicap.

[English]

You start with a certain image.

[Translation]

There is a lot of difference between image and reality. I can say this.

[English]

It is a distorted image.

[Translation]

People of the opposition would not agree to it, but I can prove it.

[English]

It is a distorted image, a totally distorted image.

[Translation]

Our party and Government have an image that this Government is anti-secular. It is a communal Government. It is a Government under the reign of which, Muslims would be insecure. It takes time to make an image. A few days back I was going through a book of Rafiq Zakaria, who belongs to Mumbai and is a prominent leader of congress. This book is regarding Sardar Patel in which he has described as follows :

[English]

"On the Sardar's passing away on December 15, 1950, All India Radio which was then the only mass media of its type, Doordarshan took two decades more to make its appearance, decided to institute the Sardar Patel Memorial Lectures in memory of the first Minister of Information and Broadcasting. This memorial lecture was inaugurated by Rajagopalachari better known as Rajaji. In 1996, when All India Radio approached me (meaning Rafiq Zakaria) to deliver these memorial lectures. I chose the subject "Sardar Patel and Indian Muslims."

He goes on to say :

"The subject I chose was rather controversial. At first I was somewhat apprehensive about it. I had, both as a student of and as participant in Indian politics, enough knowledge about the life and times of Sardar Patel and his monumental achievements in different spheres. But like many of my co-religionists, I too was under the impression that he (meaning Sardar) did not like Muslims. In fact I thought he was unabashedly anti-Muslim. But the more I researched, the more I was convinced that the Iron Man had been misunderstood in many respects and there were cobwebs about his attitude towards Indian Muslims which needed to be removed. I am glad I was able to do so to my satisfaction."

This is the result. He comprised the series of lectures that he had delivered plus something more into a book with the title "Sardar Patel and Indian Muslims."

The introduction has been written by Nani Palkhivala. It says :

"The Sardar's fanatical devotion to the unity and integrity of India and to Hindu-Muslim brotherhood was exemplary. His patriotism was beyond doubt and his nationalism was equally beyond dispute. Yet, the pseudo-secularists openly accused this person of communalism and pro-Hindu bias. Even some of his own colleagues like Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Jayaprakash Narayan did so. Nonetheless, they both had the large-heartedness later to confess to their wrong judgement."

Rajaji also has been quoted in this book saying :

"A myth had grown about Patel that he would be harsh towards Muslims. This was wrong but it was a prevailing prejudice."

I am saying that this is the kind of handicap with which this Government started.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL) : Are you equating yourself with Sardar Patel ?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : No, I am talking of this Government. I am not talking of any individual. I have all along been very particular about it.

[Translation]

When I am compared with Sardar Patel, I really feel disturbed because he was a great personality.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : You have also made us anti-Hindu. Now this feeling is vanishing slowly and steadily. You may please act like us only.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : If you get a chance to make a complaint then please do it, there is problem in it. On 16th December, 1998 also the same discussion took place in the House and mention was made of the Christians but the main point was the same that atrocities are committed on the Muslims. Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was one of the colleagues of our Cabinet. He said that I have been participating in such kinds of debates earlier also. I came to Rajya Sabha in 1970. And since then discussions have taken place on communal riots and tensions. He said that in the previous discussions people from the opposition or third party used to mention as to how many Hindus and Muslims have been killed. But this is for the first time that no one has discussed about the riots i.e. how many people have been killed in the riots. Discussion took place only

on the fact that such and such person made such and such statement. For example, yesterday, Margaret Alva ji named me and said that I also get involved in the hate campaign remember this very well, you had taken my name in that context when you were talking about the hate-campaign.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA) : I spoke about a pamphlet on the Constitution. I never said that you were part of the high hate campaign. But if that is the impression you have got, I am sorry. But I did not mean that. I apologise.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I accept what you say, because I have never written any pamphlet after the formation of the Commission. But earlier, I had delivered so many speeches on the Constitution and what should be done about it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : I would like to ask you one simple question. I would not like to interrupt otherwise.

Is it a fact or is it not a fact that you, Mr. Home Minister, were present at the site when the criminal destruction of the Babri Masjid was taking place ? If this is true, your statement is lacking credibility.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Hon. Madhav Rao ji is my friend and colleague. I was there, I don't deny it. But I have mentioned my condition at that time in an article written after ten days when I was in imprisonment and have mentioned that was the sadest day of my life. It is alright, it is his own views. He knows that due to absence of information a number of conclusions are drawn. I am not saying this today only. If anyone would browse through the Indian Express of 20th-25th of that month, he would definitely find my article in that. I do not want to go into that matter as the case Sub-judiced and decision of the court would be acceptable to me. I wanted to say that misgiving creates wrong impression about any person and such an impression has also been created about the person who has unified the nation. Dr. Rajendra Prasad in May 1959 had said –

[English]

"that there is today's India to think and talk about."

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

The same is the impression about that person also that he was anti-Muslim. He did not believe in secularism..... (Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, I am not yielding.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Brar, he is not yielding. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have referred to the discussion of 1998. I have referred to the statement of Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi simply because if I go into the data I would like to say that I have a complete chart of figures from 1990 to 2000 about the number of people killed and wounded. 1998-99 and 2000 are the years during which minimum incidents of riots have taken place and minimum number people have been killed. Though, I do not deny the fact and Sangma ji has mentioned that riots against Christians have increased. I would also not like to tell that it has increased a little or very few but it has increased. It is wrong. It should not happen. Whatever was told by Sangamaji, I had said almost the same thing on 28 June. I had gone to Hyderabad for some programme on 25 May. Just four day before there was a gathering of Christians at Machhalipatnam in Krishna district. Whether it was a Chappel, or cathedral or a Church, but there was bomb explosion. Some people were wounded but nobody had died, in that incident. I was amaged to find as to what is happening and why is it happening. I talked to the police officers and asked about the background of the incident. They informed that there has never been any tension between Christians and Hindus. I asked them about the possibility and whether any body had been arrested in this regard. They said they would not make any arrest but they informed me that they have some idea but they can not disclose it today. But after few days we find the incidents occurred one after another.

* Not Recorded.

[English]

Between the 21st of May and the beginning of July, perhaps there had been 12 bomb blasts, spread over Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Goa.

[Translation]

There were 12 bomb explosion and some people were wounded. On 28th June a conference of Director General of Police was held to discuss the issue of internal security and the Chief Secretaries had also attended that meeting. There the issue was discussed.

[English]

After all, we have huge machinery, and here is a situation in which one after the other, bomb blasts are taking place. I said "If you are able to trace the people who belong to any organisation which is supposed to be associated with mine do not worry about it."

[Translation]

We should arrest them.

[English]

Let us take these people.

[Translation]

Find them out. Whosoever are doing such thing must be arrested irrespective of their political or religious affiliation. I am seeing their design. One day in the morning I received a telephone call of the Chief Minister of Karnataka that such incidence has taken place in a Church. On the basis of the information available, they followed up the case and Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the Central agencies altogether have upfolded such a big Ministry and have exposed the conspiracy. If such things would have been exposed in any other country. Situation would have been different. Moinul Hassan Saheb has rightly, said that the situation has become such that the Prime Minister of the country had to meet the Pope of Vatican in Rome and tell him about the recent development.

[English]

"They are sporadic things, they are not in any way should be regarded as organised, but they are wrong. The Government is keen to see that they are stopped."

[Translation]

Within a fortnight the country came to know that there is a full fledged institution whose name is 'Deendar

Anjuman'. I had not heard about Deendar Anjuman in the past. Last week I saw one book by Dr. K.M. Munshi.

[English]

It is about Hyderabad's integration with the rest of the country. Even in that Deendar Anjuman attracted one and half pages.

[Translation]

Probably it was an institution at that time. 35 persons of that Deendar Anjuman Institution have been arrested till now and probably 60 persons have been identified so far. What kind of activities are being carried out by those people are discussed here but Margaret ji does not refer to the incidents of Christians.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL) : Shame, shame.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Rawale ji, there is nothing shameful about it. No one should think about scoring points out of this as it will not solve the problem. No Government can solve that problem. We can not encounter the entire conspiracy of Pakistan unless the Government have the support of the Opposition and the country and that is why we will discuss this issue.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : We have given total support to the Government on the question of conspiracy of Pakistan through the ISI. Do not say that as long as you are getting our cooperation. We stand committed to cooperate with the Government to maintain the unity and integrity of the country and to maintain the communal harmony of the nation.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : They are ISI people who have attacked and they have been exposed.

[English]

MR. DPEUTY-SPEAKER : He is acknowledging it.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Rawale ji, I have requested him, why are you speaking. Our party has always worked in the interest of the country but the Government did not cooperate in normalising the situation.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Outside, people use to call me Maulana Mulayam Singh. Home Minister, Sir, it is true.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : I have told you that you take full action against I.S.I people. As far the Deendar Anjuman is concerned, even Muslim people do not consider them Muslim, rather they belong to distinct sect and set of belief. They should not be unnecessarily associated with Muslims.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have taken note of whatever you have said. I would like to inform you that Shri Banatwallaji is also a member of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs. He has said that action should be taken against that organisation and I have made it clear to the nation that the matter is under investigation. After the investigation is completed, the Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh Governments will be asked to take action against the organisation for its activities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not like to refer to the incidents of Uttar Pradesh. But I have already replied to the issues which have been referred in the context of Christians. I am certainly sorry for these incidents. The Minority Commission has visited all those five places. Where these incidents had occurred in Uttar Pradesh. It is quite unfortunate that if dacoity is committed in any college and dacoits murder the principal of that college, then it becomes headlines of the newspapers.

[English]

The headline given is 'Christian College Principal murdered'. If it were some other college Principal, it is all right. If it is murder of a Christian College Principal, then it is projected in a different way.

[Translation]

But atrocities are being committed on the Christians and when Minorities Commission goes to investigate and it gives categorical report in five cases then it is called a handmade institution.

[English]

There were criticisms yesterday even of the Minorities Commission. I was surprised. It is a statutory body created by the Parliament. It is not a body created by the Executive. At one stage it was an Executive body. But subsequently, a law was enacted by the Parliament and this Minorities Commission has been set up under that law.

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : There is no credibility. It might have been formed by the Parliament but its Members do not have any credibility.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am sorry, this is not the way. That way, no Commission would have any credibility. We had set up Wadhwa Commission which came to the conclusion that Dara Singh has nothing to do with any Hindu organisation. Even Wadhwa Commission was criticised.....(Interruptions) Shrimati Alva, you are not right. I have found out from the Report and that Report has been placed on the Table of the House along with the Action Taken Report.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If time permits, after the Minister's reply I will allow Members to seek clarifications.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The earlier Minority Commissions had pointed out clearly that there was an anti-Christian wave. They are also the Reports of the Commission. It is only the Commission that has been reconstituted now, that has come forward with certain Report flying against the face of accepted facts, but earlier Reports of the Commissions are there. Why the Government does not refer to those earlier Reports of the Commission ?

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : Dara Singh may or may not have to do anything with them.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please hear him completely. Let the Home Minister complete his reply. Why do you not allow the Minister to complete his reply ?

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Shri Banatwalla ji said in his earlier statement that there is anti-Christian wave in the country which you reputed. Although this Commission has not said anything like that. Only on the advice of Sangmaji I accepted that it is the responsibility of Government to remove feeling of insecurity from the minds of Christians living in the country. It would be the duty of Government. If the Government can't do it we cannot satisfy anyone by providing figure only.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already told that after the Minister's reply, if there is time, I will allow Members to seek clarifications.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not quoting manifesto of N.D.A. Government but it has been said clearly in it, that we are committed to secularism and it is our duty to look for economic, educational and cultural development of the minorities who are living in the country. But I would like to advice you to see debates of Constituent Assembly. What was the view of Constitution makers in providing safeguards to minorities. At the time of presenting draft Constitution Dr. Ambedkar had said on 23rd November, 1948 in a speech.

[English]

"In this country, both the minorities and the majority have followed a wrong path. It is wrong for the majority to deny the existence minorities. It is equally wrong for the minorities to perpetuate themselves. A solution must be found which will serve a double purpose. It must recognise the existence of minorities to start with. It must also be such that it will enable majority and minorities to merge some day into one."

[Translation]

Sardar Vallabha Bhai Patel who was the Chairman of minorities subcommittee had the same view. There was a proposal in the draft presented by him that there should be reservation for all sections and after discussion it was concluded that we will provide reservation to only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and provision of reservation to all the minorities was struck off.

[English]

They came with this Report to the Constituent Assembly

[Translation]

and presenting the report Sardar Patel reiterated.

[English]

"In the long run it would be in the interest of all to forget that there is anything like the majority or the minority in this country and that in India there is only one community."

[Translation]

Not only this on this proposal of Sardar Patel, Pt. Nehru said :-

[English]

"He described this proposal as a historic turn in our destiny. He said a safeguard of this kind would have some point where there was an autocratic foreign rule. It would enable the monarch to play one community up against the other. But where you are up against the full-blooded democracy, if you seek to give safeguards to a minority, you isolate it. Maybe, you protect it to a slight extent. But at what cost? At the cost of isolating it and keeping it away from the main current in which the majority is going. I am talking on the political plane, of course, at the cost of forfeiting that inner sympathy and fellow feeling with the majority."

[Translation]

I am mentioning this fact because I think we must take care of minorities and it is the responsibility of this Government also. We must take care of minorities. But it would not be good for the unity of the country, if promoting minoritism vested interest is developed among them. I would like to emphasis the viewpoint which was expressed by Dr. Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, Pt. Nehru in Constitutional Assembly to which I consider very important.

In the end I will say that this is the question of providing security to every individual of the country either he is from minority or majority. Community or caste may be in minority in one State while some in another State. Just as Kashmiri Pandits are minority in Kashmir today and the issues concerning them are rarely raised. So many people have been displaced from there.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) :
For that also you are responsible.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am responsible. I say we should take care of all individual. It is not that we should concerned only about the person who have feeling of insecurity in them and the feeling of insecurity is not developed in them by any Government or any party. The question is why did we accept secularism in 1947 only and it was accepted at that time when the country was divided and the division took place on the basis of Hindu and Muslims. Pakistan declared itself a religious country but India did not. Reason being that if India would have done so then it would have gone against its culture and history. India accepted secularism because it is the tradition, history and culture of India.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am glad that you are admitting this fact today after 50 years.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Shri Dasmunsi, I have been in Parliament for nearly 30 years now. If you were to go through my speeches 10 years' ago or 15 years' ago, you will find the same thing. I have written so much on this that in India anything apart from secularism not in the Western sense which has gradually become identified..... (Interruptions). Over a period of time

[Translation]

meaning of secularism has become irreligious.

[English]

Nothing to do with religion. That is not the concept. The concept from the very beginning has been that all religions are equal, all religions are to be respected, and the State shall not discriminate between one citizen and another on grounds of his religion.

[Translation]

The tradition which is prevalent here, he is not of 1947, but has been here since centuries and this has always been the tradition here. Therefore, when the Constituent Assembly declared the country a secular Nation they respected our history, traditions and culture. What more Nation can do. Thank you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : If Nathu Ram Godse would have listened your request 50 years ago Mahatma Gandhi would have not been assassinated.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I participated in the debate. I am glad we have seen changed-Advani and a changed pattern in this House. It is good. If you and your Government follow in reality whatever you have said just now, there will be some respite for the religious and linguistic minorities.

Mr. Home Minister, I raised certain points giving facts and figures, authenticated the notice of Quit India given to the citizens of India. I also drew your attention to the so called indigenous issue on which your Government had gone and discussed with an organisation called AASU without taking into confidence a party which has got 14 MPs from Assam.

May I get some reply from you ?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I wish the law that presently governs Assam were the same as that governs the whole country. If it were the same that governs the whole country, I would be in a position to do something. As it is, it is principally the State Government which applies that law and not the Central Government. However, because you mentioned certain facts, I have already asked my Ministry to look into them.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I would like to again go on record that the verdict on Mahatma Gandhi's assassination case came today after fifty years. But you had praised Nathuram Ghodse at that time.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Please read some good books and some good speeches.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is all lot of noise in the House. Those Members who would like to go out may please do so quietly.

The House shall now take up the Private Members' Business. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya to continue his speech.

15.22 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : PARTICIPATION OF GRAM SABHA IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while participating in the discussion on the resolution of Dr. Raghuvansh Prashad Singh, I was submitting that the Gram Sabha have not been strengthened as it should have been done. We have certainly discussed the setting up of Gram Sabha which is in accordance with the objective of the Constitution.

15.23 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair)

Madam Chairman, few days back when 'Political Empowerment Day' was celebrated at Vigyan Bhawan, after two-three days discussions, few conclusions were arrived at and in that it was clearly stated that the works related to the poverty alleviation should be clearly defined in Panchayati Raj Act, poverty alleviation schemes implemented by various departments should be brought under the control of Panchayats, separate cadre of Panchayats should be constituted by the centre and State

Governments, workings of Panchayat should be transparent and thus there should be the provision of asking questions like in the Legislative Assemblies and Parliament. Besides this, Assurance Committee should be constituted. In those recommendations, there was recommendation which supports the resolution of hon'ble Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh that there is need to strengthen the Gram Sabha. For this the institution should retain that much of power as has been given to the notified areas under the 1996 Act. I am laying stress on it simply because when we visualise Panchayati Raj and talk about strengthening, Panchayats, we can not ignore Gram Sabhas. However, the present form of Gram Sabha is not that good, as we desire it to be. I had also referred last time that rural secretariats were established in Madhya Pradesh and once a week all the officers of the area used to assemble there and listen to the problems of the people. But this system could not continue for a long time and such a system could not emerge. I think that till there is participation of the rural people in these schemes implemented by the Centre and State Governments, we will continue to raise the question about the utility of these schemes.

Two days back during the discussion on Indira Awas Yojana, question mark was put on the utility of spending money, sanctioned by the Central Government, through the State Governments and also emphasis was laid upon the need to streamline the system. It was also emphasised that there should be participation of the people's representative in it which is presently lacking. There are so many other schemes about which I would not like to go in detail. Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, which was earlier known as Jawahar Yojana; Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarajgar yojana; Rojgar Ashwasan Yojana, Kishor Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana, Swarn Jayanti Sahakari Yojana, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Indira Mahila Yojana etc., are some such schemes which can be useful for the progress and prosperity of the rural areas. But the fundamental issue is of the implementing agency and the system which needs to be evolved as is mentioned through this resolution.

It is fine that, women participation has been ensured in Panchayati Raj. Under the Panchayati Raj System reservation for women has been ensured. Now-a-days a large number of women are Sarpanch, the head of Janpad and are also in district council or Zila Panchayats but the overall situation is that they are being controlled by the higher administrative officers. Neither our Sarpanch nor the head of Janpad is free from that control. Under the Act, there should be no control of the administrative officers

but their intervention in administrative system is still there as it was in the past. That is why in order to improve the system it is essential that Gram Sabha may be called in time and it should be well arranged, and it should not happen that Sarpanch calls some people of his hue and get their signatures in the register to show that the sittings of Gram Sabha has been called and certain proposals have passed. For that there should be some sort of monitoring system in place right from inception.

Without going into much detail, I would like to submit that all the schemes are very useful. A lots of funds are given for Employment Assurance Scheme and Employment Guarantee Scheme. The Central Government gives much money for this but the State Governments are not able to spend them. They fail to make such provision. Several times, these schemes are not implemented in the way these should have been implemented. That is why, as has been suggested by the hon'ble Members here that the some provision for the participation of the people's representative who can be legislators or M.P.s should be ensured in such schemes which are related to the employment, rural development or those schemes which may be helpful for the overall development of the villages to reap maximum benefits. I support this proposal and in the beginning I had pointed out the utility of the alleviation of poverty in rural areas. Just now many thing has been said about the public distribution system. I conclude my speech by pointing out that. That Gram Panchayat System is essential for identifying the beneficiaries of public distribution system.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Madame Chairperson, I support the resolution that has been brought by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, who has thorough knowledge of rural department. When late Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the head of the Government, the centre at that time had 17 per cent share in rural department.

When hon'ble Rajiv Gandhi came into power, at that time 22 per cent share was given by the centre. When Shri V.P. Singh came into power and Shri Dandawate became the Minister of Finance, at that time 50 per cent share was given to the rural departments. At that time, the rural departments could build schools. The Minister of Rural Development is aware of everything. You have done a commendable act by providing money to the rural department. But the programmes are not being properly implemented by the rural department. In the meeting only 2-4 persons participate and the entire work is done by the

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

secretaries. There, Panchayat is the biggest institution providing amenities to the people. It is the cooperative organisation that receives economic facilities. Everything will be O.K. if both the institution functions well.

15.31 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

Once I had attended a Gram Sabha. There I found that only five persons were present. The Sabha was over, even then people did not turn up and entire things were done by Gram Sewak. It is not good. More importance should be given to Gram Sabha for its proper functioning. There should be strictness in it. It is very important institution for the rural department.

You dwelt about the distribution. The Gram Panchayat do arrange for the distribution. It also identifies the people who are below the poverty line. Sometimes it so happens that a person who possesses a tractor or truck is registered as a person below the poverty line. It should not happen. The rural departments should be streamlined. The Finance Minister is sitting here. I request that more and more funds should be given to the rural department.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (MANDI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member of this august House Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has introduced a proposal to ensure the election of beneficiaries by the primary Unit of democracy i.e. the village Panchayat or the Gram Sabha. So as to make the Government of India's Poverty Alleviation Programme more significant one. I rise to participate in this discussion. I would first of all extend my thanks to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji who has introduced this proposal for the benefit of the poor and would also like to congratulate him. While introducing the proposal, he has put his viewpoints very elaboratively. I, agree with most part of the proposal and would limit my discussion to some points only.

Sir, so far as Gram Sabha is concerned, not once but so many times it has been said that Gram Sabha is a non-political Institution. So irrespective of the conferences of Chief Ministers or pressure of the State Governments it would be appropriate if beneficiaries are selected by Gram Sabha itself. Discussion on this subject have been made so many items and statements have been given on this subject repeatedly, but the presence of common people in Gram Sabha is decreasing day by day which is really a matter of concern. It has become pertinent to know as to what is the reason behind this decrease. Whether people

have lost interest in it or do not get proper information ? What are the reasons? This is very important to know. Two days back Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan had raised a half an hour discussion on Indira Awas Yojana in this august House and from the reply of the hon'ble Minister it was evident that today his Ministry or the Government of India is totally helpless in doing anything. If the money given by the centre, is not properly utilized by State Government it appears as if the Government is unable to do anything. It will not be proper if the Government sits like silent spectator because I feel that when funds are released by the Centre, the Government should take steps so that the money is utilised properly.

It is right that the State Governments have issued direction that selection of beneficiary may be done by the Gram Sabha but who will ensure that the meeting of Gram Sabha are held regularly. In fact it has been said that every Gram Sabha may hold its meetings atleast twice a year, although it should meet four times a year. I, therefore, would like to say through you that when this august House has given a constitutional status to the Panchayats then why don't you bring amendment here today ? Why don't you bring an amendment to the effect that meeting of Gram Sabha must be held atleast twice a year. And that Gram Panchayat would be dissolved which fails to abide by this provision of law. First of all we should try to find out the reasons as to why people have lost interest in this or are not given information in time by some selfish people ?

Quorum for Gram Sabha as per the present provision, has been fixed at twenty per cent of the total voters and it is only ten per cent in the case of a postponed meeting and there after if quorum is not complete, then the selection will be done by the persons present in the meeting. Therefore, some selfish people, Panchayat or Sarpanch deliberately create a situation where meeting of Gram Sabha is not held and they may be able to select their own people. Calling the meeting of Gram Sabha is a mere formality. Even you would agree to the fact that if the elected Members wish, would they not be able to gather even atleast 25 per cent of the voters ? Can't they collect these voters just by informing them ? I, therefore, repeat that an amendment in the constitution, is required to the effect that such Gram Sabha may be dissolved which is not able to call a meeting. Due to such an action, the Panch or Sarpanch would definitely make efforts that people may be present in the Gram Sabha, and it should also be ensured that selection of beneficiaries would not be confirmed if this is done by a Gram Sabha where the

presence of voters is less than 25 per cent. One more thing to consider is that how Gram Sabha should be made attractive. Today selection of schemes and developmental work, all the poverty alleviation programme of the Government of India should be done by Gram Sabha. In the same manner what was the objectives of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. Its objective was to provide employment to the people living in the villages, but whenever this money is directly given to the Panchayats, maximum works are given on contract and local people do not get any employment. Maximum part of fund is given through the district council (Zila Parishad) but some amount directly goes to the Gram Sabha. Whether Gram Sabha is ever advised as to which developmental work should be done by this fund? Similarly the objective of money which goes to E.A.S. was that the agricultural labourers.....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this resolution is being over. Still some more hon. Members wish to participate in this discussion. If the House agrees, time may be increased by one more hour.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : May I submit that the next resolution is to be moved?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That motion is yours.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I hope that is the last day of this session.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have extended the time by one more hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : I was saying that what was the objective of Employment Generation Scheme? Agricultural labourers living in that Panchayat should get employment even after harvest season is over. But through you, I would like to ask as to whether any cognizance of this fact is taken that agricultural labourers of the Panchayat are actually provided jobs there. This work is also being done on contractual basis because Gram Sabha does not bother to participate or is not concerned as to which work has been selected. Through you, I would request the Government that if the E and S programme has to be continued then more and more money shall have to be given. We can find in the record that Himachal Pradesh, which is a small State, was given rupees twenty five crores last year only because of the fact that population was made

the basis of release of such funds. And this year the allocation has been released to rupees five crore. See the difference! On the one hand it was twenty five crore rupees and today it is only five crore rupees. Can a poor living in a village get employment? These programmes should be made more attractive. So it is also necessary to ensure that at least the B.D.O. is present in the meeting of the Gram Sabha. It is also not necessary to convene the meetings of all Gram Sabhas of the Panchayat together. We can work in phases also and Patwari should also essentially go there. A doctor of the Gram Sabha should also be present in that area to facilitate the people rambling here and there for medical certificate in order to get widow pension, or pension for the disabled, or old age pension, so that their medical examination could also be conducted. Patwari can give a certificate of their income, only then such works would be successful. Otherwise it can be said that Gram Sabha selects its own people only and the proverb that charity begins at home will be proved right and later on people will just keep on saying that the selection of such and such person was wrong.

We have discussed Indira Awas Yojana. How much amount is given for the Indira Awas Yojana? How many poor would be benefited by it? Rs. 22000 are given in the hilly regions and Rs. 20000 are given in the plain areas. I wish to know from hon. Minister that while giving reply it is said that this amount cannot be increased. If material cost is not even met, then how will the poor man buy material? At least one and a half truck load of bricks is required to construct a house and at least Rs. 16000 would be spent on these bricks. And iron rods (Saria) worth Rs. 5000 would be required on this construction. So, Rs. 20,000 is spent, now how will a poor person manage the cost of cement, sand and concrete etc. It is right that appropriate persons are not selected because even the Panchayat knows it very well that a poor person cannot make a house. When he would not be able to meet the cost of material component then how would he construct the house? He will manage the labour component but at least provide him the material component, so kindly increase this amount. At the end, I would like to say that people would not be benefited by merely increasing the number of schemes. So many schemes have been introduced while one scheme is still on the way, another Scheme by the name of Gram Uday Yojana was introduced, which also provided for the residential facility. Some State Governments have started Gandhi Kutir Yojana. What is the propriety behind starting so many schemes. Please start one concrete scheme so that houses for the poor could be made and benefit to the

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

poor as also their presence in the Gram Sabha could be ensured.

Sir, I extend my thanks to you for having given me opportunity to speak and to hon. Members who listened to me carefully. I also thank hon. Member Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji as whenever he speaks in the House, he expresses his pain towards the condition of villages. I support his feelings. Of Course sometimes emotionally he utters certain things which I really do not feel like supporting. With these words, I once again thank you.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also rise to support the proposal introduced by hon. Member Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji in the House.

Sir, Gram Sabha is the root of village development. I feel that if Gram Sabha is developed properly then the entire country would be developed. Whenever I visit the villages of my constituency, I do not find any traces of development even after 50 years. Roads are broken and there is no arrangement of electricity. There are a number of villages which have not been electrified till today. In my Jaipur constituency, there are a number of villages, where there are no roads, no electricity etc. I do not understand how the country is developing. We speak and applaud a lot on this issue in Legislative Assembly or Lok Sabha but actually find no trace of development in villages. The entire amount meant for rural development is put into the hands of the M.Ps. or M.L.As. I beg your pardon, Sir, if no election is held in the country for the next five years and there is no Legislative Assembly or Lok Sabha and only Governor or President work and the money meant for them is spent on the development of villages, only then I can say that some development can take place, otherwise no development can take place. I know people would not like my comments, but it is true.

Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat and District Council (Zilla Parishad) are also constituted in the same manner. The Rajasthan Government and Government of India have started a lot of schemes, but the poor do not get benefit of these schemes. You had said that it was decided in the conference of Chief Ministers that the Gram Sabhas should be given more rights, but those promises have not been fulfilled till today. Whether it is a problem of house, or education, or medicine, or any other problem, I am happy to say that Gram Sabha is really a legislative Assembly because it is a Gram Sabha where proposals are passed and problems are solved as also fund is approved. In such

a situation, I feel that the Legislative Assemblies have no significance and even the Parliament has no significance. Gram Sabha is in a way Legislative Assembly or Parliament. There has been 73rd and 74th amendment in the constitution. And after this the Government made a lot of schemes viz, Indira Awas yojana, Jawahar Yojana etc. and spent a lot of money through such schemes you have yourself said that the money is spent through the Sarpanch. It should also be checked as to whether the Sarpanch is working properly or not. You have given example of a pond. When you yourself went there, you found that there was a ditch instead of a pond. So this matter should also be considered.

Sir, B.D.O. ignores representatives of the people. He does not give importance to the people's representatives. He simply says, please give proposal as to which scheme Gram Sabha want and which it doesn't want, he will look into it. I, therefore, request that the work of Sarpanch should also be audited. And this should also be considered that funds from the Government of India may be released to the State Government in time and this should also be monitored that this amount is utilised properly. Expense incurred by the State Government should also be audited from time to time. So far as the meeting of Gram Sabha is concerned, it should also be convened four times in a year. Many problems arise in the absence of such meetings. Neither the M.L.A. is informed of that, nor the M.P. knows anything sitting in Delhi, he is not even able to know the scheme on which Sarpanch has worked properly. Therefore, M.L.As and M.Ps should be given the information of village schemes. They should also be involved in it.

We have talked about pension also. The process of giving pension is the same even today. A lady is 80 years old and despite the fact that her photograph is there and she herself is present, they need a certificate to this effect that she is alive or not. It is asked whether she has remarried. Will a lady of 80 years marry again? A lady of 80 years old has to give a certificate that she has not remarried and she is alive. I feel that this is really an irrelevant law. This law should be abolished wherever applicable.

Sir, Red Card would be provided to poor people 70 per cent people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are still illiterate. The Government may make scheme, initiate a drive of 'Gaanv Chalo' or 'School Chalo', but I feel that these schemes are not being properly implemented. Rajasthan Government has utilised the money given by the Government of India on schemes in

the name of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Schools by the name of Rajiv Gandhi were opened, many buildings were constructed and they appointed matric pass person as head master of this Rajiv Gandhi Pathshala. What education would a matric pass person impart if he is made head master of Rajiv Gandhi Pathshala. I, therefore, request that this country would develop only when we strengthen the Gram Sabha otherwise nothing would be done irrespective of the kind of scheme implemented. And the country would never develop if villages do not develop. My colleague Raghuvansh ji sometimes say very good things in enthusiasm. I, once against thank him. He has introduced a good proposal and I support it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, not only I welcome this resolution but also thank Dr. Raghuvansh ji who brought this resolution in the House. If we want to strengthen Democracy in true sense in the country then it is necessary to strengthen principles of democracy at the grass root level in villages and cities. Keeping this in view 73rd and 74th amendment which were passed so as to include in 11th schedule 29 issues and in Article 243-G it is enshrined that right to formulate and implement schemes should be given to the panchayats. For the last many years we had been trying to go hand in hand with the spirit of the constitution. However, it is quite unfortunate that till date our attitude has not got changed. On the one hand we are talking of giving rights to the panchayats, viz power should be in the hands of people. There could be many such issues. May be people sitting in 'Yojana Bhawan's air conditioned room might be not aware of the needs of people in the villages. Therefore they should be given these rights. But it seems all this has not happened. The resolution brought to reflect people's sentiments and their difficulties is really commendable.

Sir, a trivial issue was raised here. It is a known fact that who want to get PDS ration cards can not get so easily. For that they have to approach not one officer but many, but even then they do not get ration cards. It is different thing how much, how much it is useful and how much not. But it is a matter of regret that for these things views of the elected representatives of Panchayat-Samiti, Gram-Sabha or Zila Parishad are not given due weightage. Many issues were mentioned here for which they should have the rights. I think to make the system simple decentralisation is very necessary.

I hail from predominantly an urban area but even there no work gets easily done. They do not get funds easily.

The work of cleaning the villages was entrusted to the village panchayats. They can appoint the workers also fix their salary. But from the side of the Government and administration their projects are not cleared and they do not get money for paying salary.

In schedule 11 there are 29 issues. If we really want Gram-swarajya then we should give these rights to them and have confidence in them that they will definitely be partners in economic development and social justice.

Besides Gram Sabha should have right and role in schemes like old age pension, widow pension and for the benefit of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

There are English words 'House training' and 'Go-Native'. These words are taken from British system. Though we make schemes yet mind of officers is set in such a way that his right should not get snatched. When an officer makes the Minister understand and the Minister agrees with what the officer says is called House training. But when the hon'ble Minister starts thinking according to the officer it is called Go-Native. Many of our Ministers are Go-Native. What all officers want they do that. They do not care about law. But petty issues of poor people are not solved. If time is fixed for three 'o' clock then officer is not found in his seat. The amendment of constitution will not achieve anything if the poor man continues to face difficulties. But if we want to strengthen democracy in true sense then I want to say, it is not possible without the role of Gram Sabha. With these words I conclude my speech. I thank you for the time you have given me to speak.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for the opportunity you have given me to speak on serious and important issue of conferring more rights to rural people.

I express my gratitude to our colleague Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh for the opportunity he gave by raising this issue for discussion

16.00 hrs.

I have been elected M.P. from Bodoland in North Eastern part of India. I want to put before you the thinking of the people about panchayati raj system. North-East India is predominantly a tribal area. There traditional village administration system is functioning from ancient times. But it is sad that till now traditional village Administrative Institutions have not been recognised by the Government of India. The constitutional powers which ought to have

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]
been given had not been given. The word ' Panchayat ' is not popular in North India. All the existing village Councils and Area Councils of North Eastern India should be recognised and should be conferred status according to the constitution. It means that.

[English]

In place of the Panchayati System all the existing traditional village administrative units and institutions should be given adequate power. And according to their needs, powers and functions have already been given to them as per the Constitution or as per the bye-laws, rules and regulations. But what quantum of powers and functions should have been given to the Panchayati System, that much quantum of Panchayat funds have not been created.

And because of the same reason millions and millions of downtrodden villagers could not come up, up to the mark though the Government of India has been undertaking a lot of various types of schemes or projects or ideas to empower the villages.

[Translation]

From my side I want to give a suggestion that all the existing Village Councils of tribal area should be given status of Panchayati Raj System according to the Constitution.

[English]

They will be the lowest unit at the bottom level.

[Translation]

They should be given second category status. At block level are Regional Councils and above there should be District Councils. In Bodoland a problem which is arising is that autonomy which has been given to the Bodoland Autonomous Council if at the District Council, Panchayati Raj system is implemented then

[English]

there will be lot of conflict.

[Translation]

I request that in Bodoland Autonomous Council, Panchayati Raj System should not be implemented. In lieu of it as per our Constitution traditional institutions should be given more and more powers. The money given by the Union Government for Panchayati Raj System is not utilised there properly.

Therefore, through you, I request the Government of India to make more provision of money at village and District level otherwise nothing is going to be achieved.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA (JHUNJHUNU) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on Panchayati Raj institutions.

Panchayati Raj came into force in our country on 2nd October, 1959. I hail from Rajasthan where Panchayati Raj was inaugurated by our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. I was the head of District council at that time. A message was conveyed to every village that Panchayati Raj will usher in the development of villages. Officials of Tehsildar rank used to attend each and every meeting of Panchayats and sometimes the meetings were attended by S.D.M. also. Officials of Panchayat Samities used to come to the meetings. Districts level officials used to attend the meetings of District Council to solve the various problems. Officials of State and division level also used to attend the meetings. State level officials used to attend the District Council's meeting to pass the Budget. All these things made a good impression about the Panchayati Raj institutions and various developmental activities were also witnessed. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has done a commendable job by moving this resolution for the welfare of the 75% people and to facilitate the developmental works. He has emphasised upon the need to strengthen the Gram Sabhas in his resolution. I support this resolution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the powers and the rights which were earlier delegated to the Gram Sabha, Panchayat Samiti and District council are no more vested in them. At that time district councils alongwith District establishment committee had the right to appoint the school teachers. State level commissioner used to be the Chairman of that committee which used to select the teachers, clerks and Gram Sevaks. Today the situation has been completely changed. These days we talk more about rights. At that time if an official of district, State or division level did not attend the meeting of District council, action used to be taken against him. But today nobody bothers. Today no official turns upto attend the meetings of Panchayat Samiti and District Council not to talk about the meeting of Gram sabha which go unattended. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government to ensure that state level or division level officials attend the meetings of district

Council and Panchayat Samities as was the practise in the past.

Official supposed to attend the meetings of Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats respectively should attend the meetings so that the problems could be solved then and there. My second submission is

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up. Discussion has to be completed by 16.40 hrs.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me two more minutes. I wanted to speak much on this issue but as per your order I will conclude soon. I was submitting that issue of Public Distribution System and ration cards had been raised here. Earlier Gram Sewak used to make ration cards. At present, District Supply Officer is doing this job. The work which was used to be done easily at village level has now been entrusted to the Government functionaries. Powers which were decentralised earlier have now been again centralised. This matter pertains to the 75% population of our country. Therefore, a serious note must be taken and the Government should ponder over granting more rights to Panchayati Raj Institutions. Panchayat Samiti and District Council should be strengthened.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite an example, Gram Pradhan of a village requested the Extension Officer to provide information regarding a document. The Extension Officer told him to order in writing. Then Pradhan made a written request to the Extension Officer who stated that the information can be provided to the department only and not to him. Pradhan is the Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti. If the Extension Officer replies in such a manner then how can the Panchayati Raj function. Due to paucity of time, I am not able to dwell at length. I am following your direction to conclude. Through you, I would like to request that Panchayati Raj should be strengthened to accelerate the pace of rural development.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (DAMOH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Shri Raghuvansh ji for the resolution he has moved in the House and I also thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Sir, Gram Sabha is a village level non-political body.....
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very important issue. I should also be given the opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no time at all. The hon. Minister has to reply and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh also has to say something.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : It is essential to strengthen the Gram Sabha because the elected Sarpanchs and other persons try to arbitrarily extend benefits of the administrative schemes to their own people. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the Gram Sabhas.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Gram Sabha and Panchayat Raj Act is being flouted in Madhya Pradesh. District Government has been formed there. The officials of Gram Sabha used to submit proposals and formulate the action plan of Gram Sabha. Then Gram Sabha used to forward it to District Panchayat. However, with the appointment of a Minister in charge all the rights to perform the work has been centralised. All the rights of Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat, District Panchayat had been infringed upon. Shri Digvijay Singh has made a mockery of Panchayati Raj in Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to redelegate the powers to Gram Sabhas so that the benefits of centrally administered schemes reach the poor villagers and grass root sections of the society. For this purpose Gram Sabha is the only body at grass root level and it should be strengthened. With this request, I conclude.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I on my own behalf and on behalf of my party Shiv Sena thank Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh who brought before the House this resolution – Participation of Gram Sabha in poverty alleviation.

Our country is a land of small villages. Once Mahatma Gandhi had commented that if the country is to progress, we have to develop the villages. 53 years have passed since independence but we have still not able to improve the lot of 80% people living in rural areas. The prime reason is that till now neither the Gram Sabhas have been provided rights nor we have included the concept of development of villages in any of the schemes formulated at central level, state level, District council or tehsil level. 80-90% people of our country live in the rural areas in Jhuggi jhonparies. How can these people progress if funds allocated for these schemes do not reach them and in that case how the country will progress ? This is the biggest question confronting us. There is the need to delegate

[Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav]

some concrete powers to Gram Sabha. Some executive powers should be conferred to them. It is also to be taken note of that if a motion is passed in Gram Sabha it is sent to Block level and tehsil level also by the Gram Sabha. Then it is forwarded back to the collector by the District council but there is no binding on the members of Gram Sabha to accept it. Through you, I would like to request the Government to take some concrete steps to put some binding at district level or tehsil level so that it is given due weightage.

In poverty alleviation, PDS and all other rural development schemes, it is essential to involve the rural people and Gram Sabhas. There are various other schemes of PWD irrigation, forests and PDS also and I would like to give an example of a scheme under Indira Awas Yojana. Gram Sabha do not know as to who in the village has been allotted the house under this Scheme. This means bureaucrats are running our country and 80-90% people who are farmers and labourers and live in villages remain unaware of the schemes. Ignorance among the people regarding the schemes also breeds corruption. In the interest of poor and to lessen the corruption Gram Sabha should be strengthened. I will conclude by citing an example. Rural people remain unaware of the schemes. Ignorance among the people regarding the scheme regarding soil conservation and even at the time of plantation they do not know which plants are going to be planted and later on they discuss about it. It is same with all the schemes. All the schemes are implemented without the participation of Gram Sabha which increases corruption. My submission is that Gram Sabhas should be strengthened to reduce corruption.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we really want our country to progress we will have to decentralize the powers, will have to develop our villages and strengthen Gram Sabhas.

With these words, I conclude my speech. I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has moved a very important resolution in the House. I rise to support it. If the Union Government really intends to remove the poverty from villages then the condition of the rural people should be improved. Prosperity of the villagers will lead to the prosperity of the village and thereby the country will also prosper. Funds which are being allocated by the Government for the rural development schemes should reach the villages but the same is not happening. That's why rural people are not progressing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per an estimate, out of the total funds released, only 30-35% is reaches the villages while the rest 65-70% funds do not reach there but are being embezzled by the middlemen and officials. Therefore, this system is required to be changed. We claim that we are progressing but it is not true. The more we talk about the progress the more we are lagging behind. Hunger can still be seen in the villages. They are still not having the money to buy food. School children there are still not having clothes to wear. They are not getting enough food to satiate their hunger. We should not let them starve if we really want our country to progress. The Government should formulate a scheme in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister that a system should be evolved in the country so that the funds allocated by the centre or the State Governments should actually reach the villages. Such measures are required to be taken so that the officials should not grab the money in between. Officials are getting galleries. They should not misutilize the funds allocated by the Central Government for the development of rural people. In all the circumstances we have to strengthen the Gram Sabha.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will resume my seat after making one more submission. A survey which was conducted for the people living below the poverty line should be conducted again. Names of many people who are actually poor have not been included in that survey. Similarly, Public Distribution System should be strengthened. Our country has remained on top in the matter of foodgrain production. I am speaking in brief for paucity of time. Poverty is rising in our country.

We will have to make efforts to end this. Time is less. That is why poverty is increasing. Therefore, time should be extended only then poverty could be alleviated.

Mr. Speakers, Sir, I support the Resolution presented in the House by respected Raghuvansh Babu to empower Gram Sabhas and as the Government that it should make every possible effort to empower Gram Sabhas. I appeal to the Government to accept the bill. If the poverty is not eradicated from the country, we will have to remove the Government. We will not rest till we remove the Government. Therefore, it is my request that poverty should be alleviated from the country as early as possible.

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH (KODARMA) : Mr. Speaker, I support the bill whole heartedly which has been presented in the House by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad

Singh. I have worked as village Chief as well as Chairman of district council. I am saying from my experience that our bureaucrats do not want to empower our Panchayati Raj institutions such as district councils, panchayat committees, gram sabhas etc. Bureaucrats always try to create hindrance in the work of empowering district councils, gram panchayats and gram sabhas. You can see the papers. These institutions might be empowered only on papers but in reality, the village Chiefs and Sarpanches are unable to work because bureaucrats do not work according to the wishes of village heads. That is why empowering panchayati Raj system is need of the hour.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, bureaucrats do not want the development of rural areas. A little while ago, an hon'ble member throwing light on the position of primary education in the villages, said that there is nobody to look after the primary schools being run in villages.

The institution of panchayati raj has been under bureaucrats and they all want to weaken it and it has been weakened too. Hon'ble Minister should make some efforts in this regard because it has been discussed for so many years and many amendments have been made. Hon'ble Member has said a short while ago that the funds do not reach the villages and it is true. You have given me time to speak. I thank you for this. I had asked for two minutes and accordingly, I am concluding.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a strong debate has taken place in the House today. Earlier also, while discussing the increased participation of almost two and half lakh gram sabhas throughout the country for poverty alleviation programmes, many suggestions were given by several members, out of which some will no doubt, help to improve the condition of the whole country, our gram panchayats, gram sabhas and common man. These will prove very important in the direction of development.

Hon'ble Member, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has proposed that to identify the beneficiaries of various rural alleviation programmes, public distribution system and other programmes sponsored by the Central Government, the participation of gram sabhas should be increased. S/ Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Prabhunath Singh, Prof. Raza Singh Rawat, Ramji Lal Suman, Kharabela Swain, Paswan ji, Dr. V. Saroja, Shri Anadi Sahu, Nawal Kishore Rai and Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya have given their

suggestions in this regard, during the discussion held on last Friday. We will consider the suggestions given by the honorable Members today and will definitely utilize them to ensure proper participation in implementation of the entire programmes of the House.

Sir, Central Government wants that gram sabhas should have the maximum participation in the matter of bringing transparency in the working of gram panchayats, for the even distribution of profits, to establish harmony in creating community feelings. An important role has been entrusted to Gram Sabhas in the matter of poverty eradication programmes. These schemes are specially included in guidelines. I would like to mention in brief, various schemes for the information of the hon. Members of the House. For Swarnjayanti Swarojgar Yojana, the list of families which come under poverty line are chosen on the basis of census and are approved by gram sabhas. They have the right to identify the families to be given aid under SJY Scheme Self employed persons are chosen in villages. In S.J.Y., schemes are implemented on the basis of self aid groups. Under self aid groups only those people are chosen whose names appear in the list of families living under poverty line and are approved by gram sabhas, under this scheme, a three member committee is formed on the basis of their domicile. In this committee sarpanch alongwith block officers and bank officers are also included. The other is Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana - this scheme prepares and implements actual work plan and it is gram panchayat only that has been authorised for this purpose. Similarly, implementation of these schemes should necessarily be approved from gram sabha.

We have been continuously discussing Indira Awas Yojana in the House and have received many suggestions during the course of discussion. Under Indira Awas Yojana, gram sabhas have been fully authorised by the Central Ministry of Rural Development. Gram Sabhas are the only authority to select for Indira Awas and their selection is treated final. These directions were issued a year ago. Despite this, still various complaints are received at block level offices, central government gets the complaints of irregularities in Indira Awas Yojana in various states.....(Interruptions) Central Government has made a provision under Indira Awas Yojana that through district councils and DRDA every gram panchayat will take the decision as to how many houses will be built by which panchayat under this scheme. The information is communicated through every gram panchayat and all gram panchayats select the beneficiaries on priority basis

[Shri Subhash Maharia]

according to the instructions by the gram sabha concerned. Any Indira Aawas Yojana which is approved by other than gram sabha.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI) : What the hon'ble Minister is saying is not correct. The district council and DRDO at block level never accept the proposal sent by gram sabha.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete first then you may ask whatever you want.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (MANDI) : If the hon'ble Minister is yielding, I have a question. The basic proposal is as to how to ensure that gram sabhas are in a position to select. Otherwise everybody knows the procedure regarding schemes. The basic concern of the House is that the meeting of the gram sabha concerned should be convened and should select the names. On paper, it has been provided that this will be done by gram sabha concerned but in reality it is not so. That is why this Resolution has come before the House.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : It is a fact that the attendance in the Gram Sabhas is very thin. Whenever we go to any State and ask about the position of attendance in the meeting of Gram Sabha we find that attendance is always very less. In every State the State Government have made their own provisions. In Assam, Goa, Gujarat, haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Andaman-Nicobar and in Daman and Diu the percentage of members of Gram Sabha has been prescribed as 10%. Similarly 1/5th participation has been ensured in case of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. In Maharashtra it is 15% from the point of view of electorate.

In West Bengal the attendance of 20% Members is essential. Similarly, in Kerala participation of less than 50 members in the meeting of Gram Sabha has not been approved. At present in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tripura, the State Governments have not made any provisions regarding quorum. The participation of Gram Sabhas.....(Interruptions) Ramdasji, I am giving reply to your question only. The quorum should be fixed for the meeting of Gram Sabhas. Even today, there is lack of awareness in the villages. The State Governments have been issued directives from time to time to ensure participation of Gram Sabhas in the rural development schemes and for holding Gram Sabha meetings regularly. In spite of all this I admit that only formalities are done in Gram Sabhas. The role of State Government is very

important in this since the meeting of Gram Sabha is organised by State Government only. The Central Government can give directions to State Governments for holding meeting of Gram Sabha and can ask them to submit their report. From time to time, the Union Government sought information from State Governments regarding meetings of Gram Sabhas. While considering all these things, the Union Government have issued directions in writing to various State Governments for compliance regarding holding Gram Sabha meeting on Republic Day i.e. on 26th January, Labour Day i.e. on 1st May, Independence Day i.e. on 15th August and Gandhi Jayanti i.e. on 2nd October to discuss matter relating to various rural development schemes. In this way, participation of Gram Sabha can be ensured. But it is found that many State Governments are not following this direction. As hon. Members have suggested, we will definitely issue guidelines to State Governments to see that the Gram Sabha have a time bound programme and implement the same according to the decision taken in the Gram Sabhas. Today three kinds of Gram Sabha's are recognised as Panchayat Sabha. Many hon. Members have said that today Gram Sabha has merely reduced to Sabha of Gram Panchayat. It is a fact that in a village having population of 2000 and having 500 families, even 100 people do not take part in Gram Sabha whereas 1600 people participate in Panchayat election then this does not mean that there is some shortcoming in Gram Sabha instead it means that it is due to the negligence of Sarpanch of Gram Panchayats. It will be our effort to see that necessary improvement is made in the functioning of the Gram Sabhas. The State Government should ensure that Gram Sabhas are held in a time bound manner. In the absence of holding Gram Sabha meetings regularly, the Central Government has made a provision to stop the payment under EAS.

SHRI SHANKAR JAISWAL (VARANASI) : Please tell us as to how the election of Gram Sabhas will be conducted in Bihar ?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, hon. Member has asked about Bihar. Hon. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji has moved this proposal that Gram Sabhas should have participation in various rural development programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. Since you have particularly mentioned about Bihar, I would like to tell you that Panchayat elections have not been held in Bihar for the last 20-22 years and everybody know about it. Hon. Prabhunath Singhji has mentioned a lot about this in the House.

The State Government is neglecting the Panchayat elections and without elections the existence of Gram Sabha is not only difficult but also impossible.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Shri Raghuvanshji has moved this proposal. He should give an assurance that the election of Gram Sabha will be held and it will become powerful and strong.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, please address the Chair.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jaiswal, he is not yielding. Please do not disturb.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : We will tell everything.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : The Central Government have filed a petition in the Supreme Court regarding Panchayat elections in Bihar and for that it has taken action also so that panchayat elections could be held in Bihar. Everybody wants this only and I also want that after Panchayat elections, Gram Sabha should be formed there and its participation is ensured.....(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Government of India should tell that it should be according to the provisions of Constitution.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : The Members say something in their constituency whereas here they give speeches for the upliftment of people of Bihar.....(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Constitution and the High Court both have different views. So how election is to be conducted ?.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Hon. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawatji has thrown light on the three tier system in order to strengthen Gram Sabha. These three tiers are Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat. Though the State Governments have drawn line with regard to Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti but in the name of powers, they have been given very limited powers.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request the hon. Member that the time of the House may be extended because the hon. Minister is giving his reply and besides this Shri Raghuvanshji also wants to speak on this subject. Time may be extended by ten minutes so that this discussion may be completed and then we can also take up the proposal of Shri Ahmadji.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't interrupt in between.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Our Ministry will consider the suggestions made by Prof. Rasa Singhji and other hon. Members and issue directive to the State Governments definitely and would make every effort that these are implemented. Shri Kharabela Swain has informed that in Orissa the Block office and Gram Sabha are not coordinating with each other and it is a matter of concern. We, all MLAs and MPs, should consider unanimously the resolution moved by the hon. Member. This kind of suggestion has also been given by hon. Member. The proposals of Gram Sabha are given to Panchayat, the suggestions of Panchayat are sent to Panchayat Samiti and the suggestions of Panchayat Samiti are sent to Zilla Parishad. Though the hon. Member and MLA are its Member but their participation should be ensured. That participation is not ensured. There is no doubt that these suggestions are considered on priority basis. The State Governments should organise meetings during inter-session period so that atleast Members can participate in that meeting. We have received such type of complaints from various States that the State Governments conduct meetings during Parliamentary session. In this connection our Ministry has informed all State Governments in writing that they should not hold any meeting during parliamentary session and should ensure hon. Members participation and take action only after considering their suggestions

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI) : It is not being implemented.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : The direction is being issued for its implementation.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, the decision regarding Indira Aawas Yojana or Pension related matters are taken neither in the meeting of Zilla Parishad or Panchayat nor in DRDO. They themselves take decisions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, Sir, we have limited time.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, this is a serious matter. Some decision should be taken in this regard.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Sir, Pandeyji has said that the benefits of these schemes should also reach the poor people. I would like to tell that year 1999-2000 was declared as Gram Sabha year and we have decided to carry on the schemes relating to Gram Sabha in the year 2000-2001 also and we would endeavour to implement them as we did in 1999-2000. As an hon. Member of Madhya Pradesh has said the Rural Secretariat Scheme has not been successful. I agree with you that in fact this scheme is not successful and due to this, the scheme has become ineffective.

Our Ministry will consider the suggestions given by hon. Hari Shankar ji, hon. Maheshwar Singhji, hon. Girdhari Lal Bhargavaji and other hon. Members and try to find out various solutions (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Hon. Minister. Sir, please tell us about BPL families.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : As far as the question of BPL families is concerned, as has been asked by Athawaleji, it does not seem possible to conduct census or survey. Often such complaints are received that the people who have been included in BPL category, in fact belong to APL families. We would certainly discuss the suggestions made in this regard with the State Governments and sort out the problems. There is no doubt about it.

Through 73rd Amendment, an effort was made to give constitutional status to Gram Sabhas in true sense so that rural poor, women and marginal farmers may get an opportunity to participate in the decision making process of Gram Sabhas which are related with their day-to-day life. The hon. Members have given suggestion that the Gram Sabhas should function actively, there should be transparency at lower level and it should be achievement based. The Ministry of Rural Development will consider these suggestions with its departments existing in various States at block level, district level and at panchayat level and will make effort to ensure that Gram Sabha is fully aware of these programmes. The criteria fixed for Gram Sabha will be sent to 2.5 lac Gram Panchayats and where there is no Gram Panchayat and 75% population depends upon it. They will also be included in it. There is no doubt in this respect.....(Interruptions)

In order to ensure adequate representation to women,

participation of women Sarpanch has been ensured. Participation of women in Panchayat Samitis has been ensured. The main problem in some States is that in Gram Sabhas the number of women members is more as compared to men. If hon. Member give any suggestion then we will certainly consider it. We have already taken an initiative to find out the people who have been benefited through these programmes and to ensure their participation.

We are already working in this direction and are making effort to implement the suggestions of hon. Members. Hence the Government does not support the resolution moved by hon. Member. Thank you.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Sir, I had said a very important thing that the meeting of Gram Sabha should be conducted.....(Interruptions) When you have given constitutional status to Panchayat then why don't you make any provision in the Constitution that if a Gram Panchayat does not hold meeting of Gram Sabha....(Interruptions) its quorum should be fixed. You have yourself said that quorum differs in different States in some State it is 10% and in some State it is 25%.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Hon'ble Member has said that it is applicable in Kerala even today. In Kerala there are wards of Gram Panchayat where the meeting of Gram Sabha is held separately. If the Gram Panchayat does not hold two consecutive meeting in prescribed time period then the panch of the ward is suspended. It is a state subject. The Union Government can give only suggestion. I support the suggestion given by hon. Member and I will try to take action on it.

In the end, I would request Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji that since we respect this resolution for providing adequate powers to Gram Sabhas, he should withdraw his resolution. Our Ministry will consider the suggestions made by the Hon. Members and issue directive to the State Governments definitely and would make every efforts for their implementation.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, are you withdrawing this?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, the Members of all parties have unanimously supported this resolution. I accept the suggestion of hon. Minister and

withdraw this resolution. Entire House has supported this..... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : We have accepted the suggestion regarding Bihar.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, hon'ble Member is aware of the ground realities of the country. When the hon'ble Minister was giving his speech. I felt :-

"Tu kahat kagaz ke lekhi, Main kahta Aankhan ki dekhi."

The hon'ble Minister has stated that Gram Sabha is performing all its functions but it is on papers only. Several hon'ble Members have said in their speech that it is not so. Funds are not flowing to the rural areas awarding to the needs. At least 15 hon'ble Members took part in the debate. I would like to congratulate and thank S/Shri Rasa Singhji, Prabhunath Singh ji, V. Sarojaji, Ramji Lal Suman ji, Swami ji, Sahu ji, Pandey ji, Mohaleji, Maheshwar Singh ji, Bhargav ji, Bansal ji, Bwiswmuthiary ji, Sisram Ola ji, Jadhav ji, Tilak Dhari Singh ji, Athawale ji for appreciating the agony of the poor, and giving suggestions for resolving this problem. I think the Government will pay attention to these suggestions. Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal was very much concerned. The people form opinion without knowing the facts. In 1978, we were in power. Late Karpoori Thakur ji was Chief Minister. In 1978, Panchayat elections were held there after a gap of 17-18 years. After that the Congress Party was in power from 1980 to 1990 and elections did not take place.

In 1990, we again came into power. Mr. Chairman, you have been the Member of this House since beginning and you might be remembering that Shri Rajiv Gandhi had moved 73rd and 74th amendment in this regard. The Bihar Government waited and declared that it will hold elections in Bihar according to the constitutional amendment. The constitutional amendment took place in 1993, and in that process three years elapsed. You might be remembering that the process of making constitutional amendment began in 1990, and in article 243 of Constitution, Gram Sabha was bestowed with rights.

It is enshrined in the Constitution of India that reservation will be done for all the panchayat seats. One third seats will be reserved for women and Adivasis and people belonging to schedule castes and scheduled tribes will also get reservation facility. If the State Government want to make reservation for backward classes it can do so as there is no hindrance. This provision has been made in the Constitution. The Bihar Government made

reservation for Adivasis, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women according to the Constitution. Alongwith it, according to the provisions it also made reservation for the backward classes. The reservation facility was extended for the post of Pramukh, Zila Pramukh, Mukhiya etc. and election process began after enacting the law. The Bihar Government sought from the Election Commission boxes for holding elections, but the Commission refused. Then Bihar Government spend 38 crore rupees on boxes. However, if the provision which allows reservation was challenged in the High Court. The High Court said that the post of Pramukh, Zila Pramukh and Mukhiya are the same as per the constitution. Therefore, the reservation cannot be made for the post of Mukhiya, Pramukh and Zila Pramukh. The Bihar Government faced the problem of conducting elections according to the provisions of the constitution or directions of the High Court. Implementation of the High Court's judgement is in contravention of the Constitution and if provision of the Constitution are implemented, then it will tantamount to contempt of the High Court. Now, the Constitution experts, sociologists should tell, how could the Bihar Government be blamed ?

Then we filed petition in the Supreme Court that whehter elections should be held according to the directions issued by the High Court or according to the Constitution. The Supreme Court prima facie referred it to the full Constitution bench. Their solicitor appeared in the case. The Supreme Court stayed the High Court's decision. Now the Government of India should clarify whether elections should be conducted according to the Constitution or as per the decision of the High Court. The State Government has no objection in conducting the elections..... (Interruptions). We shall have to remind Shri Jaiswal.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. I am not giving you permission.

17.00 hrs.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Government of India did not clarify whehter elections should be conducted according to the constitution or High Court's decision but on this pretext stopped Rs. 625 crore for the poor state. We said - Lok Sabha could be dissolved, Vidhan Sabha could be dissolved, but according to the Article 243 there is no provision for dissolving Gram Sabha. Therefore Gram Sabha should be strengthened. It will be all right if

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

there are Panchayats but funds should be allocated for the Gram Sabhas. The hon'ble Minister has not clarified. I would like to know whether Government has declared this year as Gram Sabha year or not ?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : The Union Government has declared year 1999-2000 as Gram Sabha year. In the year 2000 all programmes would be continued in the same way.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It is true that this is the Gram Sabha year, but how many hon'ble Members are aware that this is the Gram Sabha year ? Further, whether illiterate people of villages are aware that this is the Gram Sabha year ? You have not publicised it.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : I heard what all Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said. There are 2.5 lakh Gram Sabha Panchayats. The Union Ministry of Rural Development had issued notice in this regard there should be awareness over there, they should have knowledge of Gram Sabha year. There is no need for any doubt in this regard.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Rajasthan the meetings of Gram Sabhas are held from time to time.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : They are held every where.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It could not be publicised only by writing a letter. There are two mediums for mass publicity, Print media and visual media. The Government controlled visual media does not telecast good things. Crores of rupees are spent for publicising the fake foundation stone laying by the Minister. Why cannot you publish advertisements in newspapers for Gram Sabhas ? It should be publicised through Television and print media. A booklet about the rights of Gram Sabhas should be published. You should frame guidelines in this regard. I have seen the leaflet of rural development. A leaflet was published regarding Indira Awas Yojana. It is regarding the guidelines. The Gram Sabha should decide the names of beneficiaries. I would like to know whether the Gram Sabha decides the name of beneficiaries of Indira Awas Yojana or not ?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh should not worry much about it. I am a grass root leader. We will not leave any lacuna.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You should

publicise it through TV and print media because 15-20 thousand crore rupees have been allocated, but it never reaches the villages. I favour granting the money to Gram Sabhas. You should give village assembly status to Gram Sabhas. They do not have any information about it. They do not widely propagate it on public address system. 5-10 persons attend the meetings over there. Everybody has admitted that the meetings of Gram Sabha are not held. It is mentioned in clause 243(A) that there will be Gram Sabha and it will be given rights. And States will enact laws for it. The Government should monitor whether states have enacted laws or not and also take necessary action against the States who have not enacted the laws and should see whether rights have been given to Gram Sabha or not. The information about granting rights to Gram Sabha should be given on mike, or by taking signature of the people. It should be ensured that meeting of Gram Sabha should be held regularly. It has been observed in many states, that even quorum is not there. Who will oversee whether motions which are being passed, are being jotted noted in the registers or not and are being followed or not? The decision has been executed or not ?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana funds are allocated to villages according to their population, but whether, it reaches over there, people are not even aware of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Raghuvansh Prasad ji, please come to the point, it has been discussed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am coming to that point. You should ensure the participation of Gram Sabha. At present, according to the Public Distribution System figures, 8 crore people are living below the poverty line.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The discussion on this subject will not be held again.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am submitting that PDS should be executed through Gram Sabha. Six crore families have been issued Red Card, and 2 crore families have been left out. Therefore, I submitted that Gram Sabha should decide whether the person in lying below the poverty line or not persons whose names have not been included in the list earlier should be registered afresh. Otherwise the genuine poor will not be able to reap the benefits. The hon'ble Members must have heard the complaints of the villagers that the red card has not been issued to them. IRDP was formulated in 1993 and a fake list of people was prepared. And this list was considered

as the basis of issuing red cards. Therefore I submit that red card should be issued to those 2 crore families, whose names had not even included earlier. As the hon'ble Minister has not stated anything in this regard, therefore, I would like to request that he should write to the food Department about issuing red cards to people living below the poverty line. He should write to the food Department taking into account the recommendations made by the Planning Commission or Lakdawala committee, that list of people living below the poverty line should be prepared again if that list does not contain the names of people living below poverty line. The Gram Sabha should see whether the person has got it or not. The officers should hold the meeting of Gram Sabha and should see whether during the last two months the people have got good quality wheat, rice and other food items or not. The Government supplies kerosene for villages but kerosene Depot owner misappropriates it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you should conclude. Next resolution has to be taken. Your time is over. You are also included in panel of Chairman. Please cooperate.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The hon'ble Minister should write to the Food Department that red card should be issued to those who have not got it. Sitting in plush offices and giving fancy name to schemes will not work. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been rechristened as Jawahar Smridhi Swarozgar yojana. Gram Sabha should decide where schools are to be set up, where road is to be constructed. It should also decide priority should be given to which project. Funds are allocated from here, but Gram Sabha should monitor how they are being spent. It will be good, if Gram Sabha gets all the sanctioned funds. Now I am coming to Indira Awas Yojana.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude. It has been extensively discussed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We spend a lot of money on Indira Awas Yojana. But the names of the poor are not included in the list without giving bribe. This is the ground reality. Shri Swain was stating that it is decided at the block level and Gram Sabha does not get information about it. The person who grease the palm may have got the house.....(Interruptions).

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, such statement cannot be given in the House. My constituency covers 2.5 assembly constituencies of Bihar and you cannot present the case of Bihar in this manner. You cannot humiliate any Member in the House. I would

like to know from the hon'ble Minister, the States where elections of Gram Panchayat have not been held...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interrupting. Please do not give a new twist to the discussion.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have not insulted anybody. How have you misinterpreted. I mentioned that the hon'ble Minister submitted that discrepancies creep during the preparation of the list of Indira Awas Yojana.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Raghuvansh Babu, now you should conclude. Do not give a new colour to the discussion.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Anomalies creep in at block level, but the hon'ble Member is thinking that I am insulting him. He should learn how to respect any hon. Member and the august House. People of villages run from pillar to post to get pension under social security scheme and old age pension scheme and even pay bribe of Rs 10, sometimes of Rs. 50. But nobody takes notice of them at block level. Inquiry has not been conducted in this regard. The Government of India also allocates funds for it(Interruptions). Therefore people of villages do not reap benefits of social security scheme, Family Planning scheme.

MR CHAIRMAN : It is in violation of rules. You cannot start fresh discussion.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Gram Sabha should be given more powers. The hon'ble Minister should be informed about it in writing. It should be publicised through visual and print media. The population of India is 100 crore. First of all they should be informed about it. If people of villages are not aware of their rights, how will it work. Therefore, they should be given rights and all the hon'ble Members should also be informed. I am of the firm opinion that -'Lakh dukho ki ek dawa, sabse upar Gram Sabha'.

'Ek sadhe sab sadhe, sab sadhe sab jai'. Therefore Gram Sabha should be given all the rights and Members of Gram Sabha and villages should be informed about it. Transparency is the biggest solution of corruption. People should be aware of the reality. When people will come to know that Rs. 50,000 have been allocated for their village, they will become alert. When 50,000 rupees will be spent on villages, then there will be no corruption. The solution to all problem is Gram Sabha. The Government should ensure that money allocated for villages reaches there, and make the system transparent. The hon'ble Minister

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

claims that he hails from village. Rural people consider officers as educated. But you should speak about the ground realities in villages, sarvshree Mahatma Gandhi, Lohia, Jaiprakash Narayan, Choudhary Charan Singh, Late Karpoori Thakur, Vivekanand, Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had worked towards conferring constitutional status to Gram Sabha. All these great men were of the opinion, that by this villages will become powerful, the system will become decentralised, then only villages will be benefited. The subsidy of eight thousand crore rupees....(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are again staring a fresh discussion. Please speak about the resolution. No new discussion could be held on it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have got support of all the sections on this resolution. You may go in for division. Whether we are having support or not. It is a fact that we have got support of the entire House. Then why the Government is hesitant on it. The Government will accept everything to get the Amendment passed. But will not agree for Division. Sir, many hon'ble Members have expressed their views that Gram Sabha should be given rights.

Funds for rural development should be put into the hands of villagers. Various organisations engaged in sociological studies have commented that only 15 paise out of total 1 rupee reach up to the lowest i.e. villagers for the development work. The rest of the amount, vanishes in between. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji was referring to the figures and was saying that the poverty is increasing. The number of families living below poverty line is also increasing. One hand the Government is spending crores of rupees while on the other hand the poverty is increasing. It means that some bungling is taking place. The remedy for all these ills is Gram Sabha. Hence I tried to bring in this resolution and I thank all the Hon. Members for supporting the resolution and welcoming it wholeheartedly and I urge the Government to honestly implement the issues raised by me and other hon. Members.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to assure Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and other hon. Members who have submitted their suggestions that our Ministry is committed to strengthen the institution of Gram Sabha and it would be our wholehearted efforts to strengthen the Gram Sabhas to the extent of making sound true the old maxim 'Aik Sadhe Sab Sadhe'. There is no need to doubt our intention in this regard. All the hon. Members will be provided the literature as many of them have complained of not receiving enough information.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : I am on a Point of Order.

I am referring to Rule 183. It says :

"A copy of every resolution which has been passed by the House shall be forwarded to the Minister concerned."

So, it is entirely in order for this Resolution to be passed rather than withdrawn. What is the problem for the Minister in accepting a Resolution whose every word he agrees with ? All we want to do is that if the House passes this Resolution, and then it is conveyed to the Minister concerned, then, we believe that action on that will be taken more seriously.....(Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has also submitted that you should withdraw your proposal as the Government are going to take the action and agree with your views in this regard.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am of the view that you can make submission but it is upto you to decide as whether to conduct the proceedings of the House on the basis of the assurance of the Government or on the basis of the proposal submitted by you which the House supports unanimously and the Government accepts without any amendment. When such is the case we should pass it under the rule 183 and conduct the proceedings in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mani Shankerji, you were not present in the House when the hon. Minister has said that all kinds of efforts will be made by the Government but the Government is not in a position to accept the proposal. I have also said it earlier also and hence I have given the suggestion of withdrawing the resolution.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am of the view that even Shri Raghuvanshji wants to withdraw it, the mood of the House should be first gauged. It will be better if you get it passed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I will act as per the mood of the House.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, before Shri Mani Shankarji come to the House, I on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government has submitted to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to withdraw the resolution at the end of the discussion regarding Gram Sabha and the

suggestions of all the hon. Members will certainly be implemented.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : When the hon. Minister has accepted, what objections can we have over the issue of passing the resolution in the House. If you could not express yourself clearly or you are in disagreement with the resolution then as per my view, it tantamounts to your submission not to pass the resolution. However, when the Government is in agreement and there is a provision for it is the rules then why should not the House pass the resolution.....(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Keeping in view the submission made by the Government I would like to ask the hon'ble Member who have moved the resolution as to whether he would like to withdraw the resolution ?.....(*Interruptions*).

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD : Mr. chairman, Sir, the Government has appreciated my resolution in toto and accepted all the points put forward and here also expressed its willingness to implement the same alongwith the suggestions given by the hon. Members in the House in regard to the resolution. Keeping in view this assurance by the Government. I withdraw my resolution.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh be withdrawn ?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17.24 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: RESERVATION FOR SOCIALLY AND EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD CLASSES

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House will take up the Resolution regarding Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes to be moved by Shri E. Ahamed. Before we take up the Resolution for discussion, we have to fix the time for discussion. Shall we fix two hours ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have fixed two hours for the discussion on this Resolution. Now, Shri E. Ahamed.

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :

"This House urges upon the Government to bring forward a suitable legislation to make provision for reservation in appointments and posts in services and for admission into educational institutions in favour of socially and educationally Backward Classes including Muslims in accordance with proportion of their population notwithstanding anything contained in any judgment of any Court of law to the contrary including ceiling on percentage of reservation."

The reservation policy has a history of its own in our country. This is a sensitive issue and this is an issue concerning the majority of the people of our country. When we envisage plans and programmes for the total development of the country, it is imperative to consider those who have been deprived of their legitimate share in the affairs of the country.

17.25 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

An all-out progress that we have in view cannot be achieved unless we bring those under-privileged and under-developed people along with others.

The neglect of a certain section of the people is due to historical reasons. Unjust and unfair treatment of the under-privileged by those in power and also due to indiscriminately treatment resulted in unequal and imbalance in the development sector and a substantial section of our population has been grossly neglected. Those people, who are backward socially and educationally, have been denied their legitimate due. They have always been backward while those who have reaped the fruits of development are perpetuating what they achieved. Ultimately, this cry for justice and also for an equal share in the administration of this country has become a fight for social justice by the weaker sections and the backward classes of our population. The question of reservation in services is a very sensitive issue. The reservation in services and educational institutions for the backward sections of the society, as I said, has a history of its own. How the legitimate rights of these backward sections of the people have been protected and safeguarded will be seen in the historical background.

The history of pre-Independent India will give a graphic account of the fight between those who have been denied their share of power and those who have already secured

their share more than what is due to them. In an ordinary sense, it was a fight between the forward sections of the people and the backward classes of the people. The fight has also created an invisible behaviour between different sections of the people. In Southern India, the erstwhile Madras Presidency, which included the present Tamil Nadu, the Malabar area of present Kerala State and Andhra Pradesh, excluding Hyderabad and South Canara of Karnataka that has a problem of bringing social justice, has a history and also made an equilibrium in the matter of representation of different sections of the people in the administration.

With the advent of Justice Party, which came to power in the erstwhile Madras Presidency in 1920, the reservation in Government services started. Though it was not a well-balanced one, the reservation to some backward sections of the people in Tamil Nadu had given an impetus to the movement or the agitation by the backward classes. The role played by the great Tamil leader including Thiru Annadurai, cannot be forgotten.

In Mysore State, the fight continued among the various sections of backward classes which ultimately reached the granting of reservation in Government services and educational institutions. On representation by the 'Prajati Mandal' in 1921, the Maharaja of Mysore had given the eligibility to the people of the backward sections to be represented in the services. In Travancore State, the reservation system came in 1935 after a decade of a few non-Brahmins and backward classes having been given the reservation. In 1935, the Maharaja of Travancore State issued a Proclamation and thereby his subjects – those who belonged to the backward classes – became eligible for appointment in the Government services.

Later on, the backward classes in Southern India tried to stabilise the system of reservation and put up a fight to expand this benefit of reservation in other parts of the country. In Tamil Nadu, the role they had played in this matter with the cooperation of other States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala had made an impact in the movement.

In North India, the situation was quite different. Though the leaders of backward communities tried to assert their rights for the share in power, it was negated and resisted by the strong and powerful section of people who have monopolised administration and perpetuated this.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, now it is time to start Half-an-Hour Discussion'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Private Members Business had started twenty minutes late. Hence it will go on for further twenty minutes.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : The leaders like Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia woke up the backward classes people, but their efforts did not bring any tangible result. A relevant mention has also been made in the Mandal Commission. This is how the South has asserted and achieved reservation whereas the North had been very much neglected in this matter.

The efforts of these leaders ultimately helped the different sections of the backward classes to realise what they had lost and also to raise from slumber and to organise for such legitimate rights in the Government services. It was only after two decades of Independence that people of North India could realise the backward power and power of the deprived people of the North. Even though in 1977, I may just mention what happened in UP and Bihar, the Government of Ram Naresh Yadav in UP made a reservation of 15 per cent to the backward classes and the Government of Karpoori Thakur in Bihar in the year 1978 made a 20 per cent reservation to the backward classes. This could not be implemented or materialised due to the stiff opposition from the forward section of the people.

As a matter of fact, only with the adoption of the Constitution it became a reality, when the people of the forward as well as the backward sections have come to the discussion. Once Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar made the following observation, which I feel is relevant to quote here. He said :

"Every system treats reasonably well those at top of the social order. The critical test is as to how he treats those in the bottom."

This is the test so far as the people of India are concerned with respect to their share in power, their role in the public affairs and the position they could achieve.

It is true that the question of denial of social justice took 30 years till the Mandal Commission has been appointed and submitted its Report to the Government. Before the constitution of the Mandal Commission, the first Backward Class Commission, as the House is aware, was set up on 29th January 1953 under article 340 of the Constitution with Kaka Kalelkar as the Chairman of the Commission.

Though it recommended various welfare measures including the reservation for the backward classes in the Government and educational institutions. The Government at that time did not accept the recommendation of that Commission on the ground that it had not applied any objective test for identifying the backward classes. Further, five out of 11 members of Kalelkar Commission had given notes of dissent. Then, the Government also felt that the First Backward Classes Commission had classified a very large section of population as backward and the reason for the rejection of the Government, it was reported, that if special assistance had to be extended to all the people, the really needy would be swamped by the multitude. The Government also, at that time, did not agree because the adoption of the caste as one of the criteria for backwardness and preferred the application of economic criteria. In this background we will have to examine what the Constitution has provided to safeguard reservation for backward classes.

Sir, article 15(4) and article 16(4) of the Constitution provide the reservation for the backward classes. If we take article 15(4), we will be able to see what provision has been made for protection of the privileges of the backward class. The first amendment of the Constitution was made to article 15, and it says :

"Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of the article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

After the Constitution came into being, the first case was against the provision contained under article 15. The Madras High Court had ruled that it shall not be made applicable to some section of people and it would be against the provision of the Constitution. In this context, the first amendment had been brought in to override the effect of the Madras High Court Judgement.

Article 16(4) provides : as follows :

"Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation in matters of promotion to any classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State."

Therefore, it had been abundantly made clear that the reservation to the backward classes should be provided

on the one ground of socially and educationally backward and on the second ground if they are not adequately represented. When there was a clash between article 14, equality before law, and article 15(4) and article 16(4), there were a number of observations made by legal luminaries. Equality before law is a basic fundamental right guaranteed under article 14 of the Constitution but the principle of equality is a double-edged weapon, even according to Mandal Commission's observation. It places the strong and the handicapped on the same footing in the race of life. It is a dictum of social justice that there is equality only among the equals. To treat an unequal as equal is to perpetuate inequality.

The humanness of a society is determined by the degrees of protection it provides to the weaker, handicapped and less gifted members.

Under this context, I may just go through what Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has observed about the applicability of article 15(4) and article 16(4). There are a number of decisions of the Supreme Court also. In the Indra Sawhney case, the Supreme court has dealt at length the effect of article 15(4) and 16(4); and the hon. Judges have also quoted Dr. Ambedkar's observation on these provisions. May I read, Mr. Chairman, paragraph 26, from the judgement of Indra Sawhney versus Union of India case as reported in AIR 1993 on page 520 ? Their Lordships have quoted the deliberation of the Constituent Assembly. I think, Mr. Chairman, this will be very much interesting for this House if I just read a portion. It says :

"After the discussion proceeded for some more time, Shri K.M. Munshi who was the Member of the Drafting Committee rose to explain the content of the word "backward". He said, "what we want to secure by this clause are two things. In the fundamental rights, in the first clause we want to achieve the highest efficiency the services of the State-highest efficiency which would enable the services to function effectively and promptly. At the same time, in view of the conditions in our country prevailing in the several provinces, we want to see that the backward classes, classes who are really backward, should be given scope in the State services, for it is realised that the State services give a status and an opportunity to serve the country and this opportunity should be extended to every community even among the backward people. That being so, we have to find out some generic term and the word "backward class" was the best possible term".

To which, participating in the debate, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar also made his observation which the hon. Judges who were deciding that very important case of Indra Sawhney on the reservation issue, have also observed. Mr. Chairman, this is what they said :

"Ultimately Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee got up to clarify the matter. His speech, which put an end to all discussion and led to the adopting of draft article 10(3), is worth quoting in extenso since it throws light on several questions relevant herein; Dr. Ambedkar says, "here are three points of view which it is necessary for us to reconcile if we are to produce a workable proposition which will be accepted by all. Of the three points of view, the first is that there shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens. It is the desire of many Members of this House that every individual who is qualified for the particular post should be free to apply for that post, to sit for examinations and to have his qualifications tested so as to determine whether he is fit for the post or not and that there ought to be no limitations; there ought to be no hindrance in the operation of this principle of equality or equality of opportunity."

"Another view, mostly shared by a section of the House, is that if this principle is to be operative and it ought to be operative in their judgement to its fullest extent there ought to be no reservations of any sort for any class or community at all that all citizens, if they are qualified, should be placed on the same footing of equality so far as the public services are concerned. That is the second point of view we have. Then we have a massive opinion which insists that although theoretically it is good to have the principle that there shall be equality of opportunity, there must at the same time be a provision made for the entry of certain communities which have so far been outside the administration. As I said, the Drafting Committee had to produce a formula which would reconcile these three points of view, firstly, that there shall be equality of opportunity, secondly that there shall be reservation in favour of certain communities which have not so far had a proper 'look in' so to say into the administration."

Therefore, Dr. Ambedkar, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee as well as the Constituent Assembly had given a legal sanction for the reservation whatever the philosophical interpretation about it may be brought in. This we cannot deny because a large section of people in this country— they are educationally backward, they are

socially backward, they have been deprived in reaping the fruits of power— have to be given due consideration. This is one thing I would like to say.

Another point I would like to bring is what the Mandal Commission also had said. They made recommendation on certain issues of reservation. Even in the Mandal Commission the question of social justice was the central theme. Whenever we see the privileges given, or the reservation given to the backward sections of the people it is bringing to a point of clash with the theme of equality of opportunity for every citizen of this country.

It is in this context I would also quote the observations made by Mr. Justice K. Subba Rao in his speech on Social Justice and Law. I think this will also be relevant when we deliberate or discuss the Resolution that I have moved. What Mr. Justice Subba Rao observed is :

"In a limited sense, the right to social justice may be defined as the right of the weak, aged, destitute, poor women, children and other underprivileged persons to the protection, of state, sought against ruthless competition of life. It seeks to give the necessary advantageous aids to the underprivileged so that they may have the equal opportunity with the more advanced in the race of life. It is a bundle of rights, in another sense it is a preserver of other rights. It is a balancing wheel between the haves and the have nots."

Therefore, despite all these things, and even after this reservation policy has been adopted, and there are inequalities and there are also the people who have been put behind the back and also neglected in the social and educational life.

Even in the history of the reservation policy after Independence, it is to be noticed that it was only in 1980 that the Mandal Commission had come and for ten years its recommendations were in the cold storage. It was only in 1991 after Shri Narasimha Rao's Government came into power that they issued the first order as recommended by Mandal Commission.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : How many more minutes will you speak ?

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : I will take another half-an-hour.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your speech will continue. Now you conclude, it is time for 'Half an hour' now.

17.50 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

INDIA-ISRAEL TIES

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up item number 22, Half-an-Hour Discussion. Shrimati Shyama Singh.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are talking on the Indo-Israel talks, talks which were held between our hon. Minister of External Affairs and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, a month or two back.

Sir, during a Starred Question a few weeks ago, I had asked the hon. Minister of External Affairs certain questions pertaining to the purchase of our defence equipment which could be used in war times and which has been our requirement for quite some time now. David Bin Gurion, Father and Founder of Israel, was an admirer of Gandhiji's policies of non-violence and truth and attributed India's success in winning Independence to that line of philosophy.

Another thing he admired about India was its treatment of the small indigenous Jewish community that has settled down in our country. And to that level, I must compliment the hon. Minister of External Affairs for having taken a major step in the direction for making the relations between India and Israel more cordial than ever.

Sir, in the same context, I would like to inform the hon. Minister of External Affairs that he must be aware that India has recognised the State of Israel in September, 1950. Ever since that time, India has maintained a Trade and Consular office in Mumbai. Full bilateral relations at the Embassy level were, therefore, established in 1992 during the Congress regime. It is not a question as to who went first and how good was our relationship with Israel a couple of years back. But one thing is quite clear that during the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and our Independence, it was a very deliberate decision that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had taken that he was taking a neutral position or a posture not to alienate any of the two countries, the Arab world or the Israel. Therefore, the first recognition at the level of Israel came to us only in 1992 also during the Congress regime.

The question I had asked the hon. Minister of External Affairs in my Starred Question, which was unfinished, was that we are told that Israel is to supply an unmanned aircraft which will be used in combating leftwing extremism. It is a good thing that a modern and scientific method is being thought of to deal with challenges to our internal security. But I do wish to caution the Government that modernisation for the sake of modernisation may not be a very good thing. Before going in for such an aircraft, has the Government assured itself of its effectiveness, specially since it is likely to be an extremely expensive proposition? Will it not be easy for the extremists to conceal themselves so as to evade the aircraft's surveillance and even to down the aircraft? That was question number one.

The second question I had asked the hon. Minister of External Affairs was that we are happy that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the hon. Minister of External Affairs had visited Israel. Like us, Israel had to face great terrorist threat and which it has successfully countered. It has foreign terrorists back into their countries and made them realise the futility of resorting to this highly expensive tactics. Since our hon. Minister of Home Affairs has just returned from Israel, we would like to know if there were any discussions or stock taking about the success of the policy of hot pursuit. I recall that our hon. Minister of Home Affairs had some time back declared that the Government would follow a proactive policy in Jammu and Kashmir. Will, therefore, the Government adopt the policy of hot pursuit in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in dealing with cross-border terrorism which, we see, has been advocated by the RSS also?

Sir, the other question, which I had asked the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, was about the sophisticated defence technology including our surveillance technology. Israel is selling India its version of the Airborne Warning and Controlling System, which is known as 'AWACS'.

This was in the Paper, so I just wanted to have a clarification. I want to know whether it is equipped with the total intelligence equipment, code named PHALCON. It is committed to selling the same system, I am told, to China, and Washington has objected to the sale of this advanced Israel equipment to both China and India. I want to know whether it is a fact.

I was going through a small article in the *Jerusalem Times* which said that Israel is trying to use India as a base for trying out its advanced equipment because of lack of space which they feel they have in Israel and

[Shrimati Shyama Singh]

because of the fact that the apartheid regime has ended in south Africa. I want to know whether it is a fact that because South Africa is not giving them that kind of importance that they want to now use India as a base or use the space for trying out their latest technology in defence and other surveillance.

Right in the Fifties or Sixties, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, during his regime, had sent Shri A.P. Jain, the then food Minister, and Shri S.N. De, the then Community Development Minister, to study the drip irrigation system in Israel. We have come a long way now. I would just like to know from the Government whether the specialised and very minute details of the technologies pertaining to hybrid seeds, agricultural farming and all that are being taken care of and, if so, what is the progress we are making in these various sectors ?

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as was told right now that the question No. 44 relates to Indo-Israel relations. Smt. Shyama Singh had asked this question in context of the Israel visit of the hon. Home Minister and the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs. In his reply the hon. Minister of External Affairs has stated that discussions were held to promote the Indo-Israeli ties in the field of trade, economy, investment, agriculture, tourism, culture and science and Technology. It was also informed that the problem of terrorism was also taken up in context of bilateral relations. Through you, I would like to congratulate the NDA Government for making efforts to strengthen the ties with Israel which for long were neglected by the previous Government.

Sir, there are many similarities between India and Israel. Both the countries are facing the problem of terrorism. Both the countries have the desert area and receive scanty rainfall. Both the countries have ancient culture and religion. Both the countries have passed through the phase of struggle and crisis. Every now and then in the name of crusade viz holywar, they are still facing the threat from the fundamentalists. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any talks related to defence matters was also held with the officers, Ministers or Government of Israel during his visit to that country. As was published in the newspapers yesterday that a large delegation comprising the senior officers from the Home Ministry, Senior Police officers and the Intelligence officers also went along with him. The 'Mossad' intelligence agency of Israel is well known throughout the world for its efficiency and the issue of hot pursuit.....(Interruptions). The officials

of 'Mossad' even went to the farthest lands like Uganda and on all those other countries where the terrorists pursuing anti Israel agenda had taken refuge.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government as to whether any discussion was held with the Government of Israel to develop the technique for surveillance and radar and pursuing warfare technique to combat the problem of terrorism in Kashmir which is an integral part of India. Alongwith it, whether any discussion was also held for modernisation of police forces and combating terrorism. If so the details thereof ?

Secondly, I hail from Rajasthan. Desert is found in Rajasthan as well as in Israel where scanty rainfall is experienced. Israel has turned the desert into a fertile area. With less irrigation and at less cost they have increased the production. I would like to know whether some agreement has been signed about this with the Government of Israel. If so please give the details.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, like Israel, India is facing a growing threat of the ballistic missiles from across the border and needs powerful radars to locate them early and at comfortable distance. In 1998, the Indian Military decided to buy the Israeli radar, *Green Pine*. My question to the Minister of External Affairs is whether the United States of America is going to prevent Israel from selling that *Green Pine* radar, detection system to India. I would ask a similar question with regard to another system, that is, accurate air-to-ground missile *Papeye* and also the searcher reconnaissance UAV with which India wants to improve its border patrolling in Kashmir. All these three equipments are to be sold to India, but the sale has not been done. I want to know if the US is preventing Israel.

Even though for the last so many years, both the countries are having similar types of problems, as has been enumerated by Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Why is that the relationship between India and Israel was not good earlier? What was the reason ? If we are having a new relationship with Israel now, is it going to harm our relationship with the Middle-East Islamic countries ? This is my second question.

My last question is this. Will Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency help India in training the Indian personnel with regard to fighting cross-border terrorism ?

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Israel survived out of great struggles and the example of development in Israel is worth emulating by all the developing countries. Today, in most of the villages, we talk about development of agriculture through Israeli technology, producing more by using less water.

Also, they have great weaponry with which they have fought against so many struggles emanating out of other countries. There is a cluster of countries, arsenal all are Arab countries. It could come out successfully over the years. Is it a fact that though we recognised Israel far back in 1950, we could not establish full diplomatic ties with it up to 1992, that is, for 42 years because of several strategic reasons ? We do not want to displease our neighbours or our Arab friends, Middle-East friends and West-Asia friends.

But how, all of a sudden, is Israel supplying arms to us? Is it because of the tacit approval of the 'Superpower' America ? I do not think that we would have got these arms without a nod from the 'Superpower'.

The other thing is, how will our External Affairs Minister do a balancing act between Israel and the West Asian countries because tomorrow we have to buy oil and so many other things from them? Just to combat terrorism, are we going to leave the Muslim countries behind, and have friendship only with Israel or will we go for a balancing act? This is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the long litany of subjects on which the Foreign Minister held conversations with his Israeli counterparts, as reported in his answer to Shrimati Shyama Singh's Starred Question, I find that the subject of Israel-Palestine ties does not figure. There is no reference to our External Affairs Minister having explained our approach to Palestine to his Israeli counterpart. There is no reference to the External Affairs Minister having reiterated our principled stand of over 50 years for an independent State of Palestine in the homeland of the Palestinians. This, Sir, disturb me, distresses me, and dismays me.

My first question, therefore, to the Minister of External Affairs is, did he or did he not discuss with the Israelis their relationship with the Palestine National Authority, the peace process, particularly the final status of negotiations and, in particular, the question of the establishment of an independent Palestinian State ? Did he or did he not do so? If he did, did he or did he not reiterate the traditional Indian position held not only since Independence but since

long before, since Mahatma Gandhi's immortal words that Palestine belongs to the Palestinians as much as England to the English or France to the French ? Did he reiterate that position or did he change India's policy on the question of the Statehood of Palestine ?

My next question pertains to a report that has appeared in the newspapers that the Minister of External Affairs, on foreign soil, held that it was in order to appease the Muslim vote-bank that full diplomatic recognition of Israel had been deployed by close on half-a-Century. The enquiries that I have made with my former colleagues in the Ministry of External Affairs indicate that this was not made by the External Affairs Minister in any formal statement. But in the course of a Seminar which he attended in Jerusalem, where there was a Question-Answer Session, when such a question was put to him, he spontaneously answered that the delay in full recognition to Israel was on account of the Government of India, at that time, wishing to cultivate the Muslim vote-bank. The fact that this remark was spontaneous rather than prepared makes it more, not less, disturbing for it reveals the basic mindset of the Minister of External Affairs on an extremely sensitive matter, and for him to have made such a remark and then for there not to have been any kind of clarification or denial of it deeply concerns us.

Sir, the question of Palestine has been on which, as I indicated, has engaged us since our Freedom Movement because the Zionists were clear in their minds that they wished to act as an agent of imperialism in securing imperialistic support for the establishment of the State of Israel. They made no bones about it. From the time of the World Zionist Congress in 1896, this has been the stated position of the World Zionist Organisation.

Therefore, when we came to 1947 and was suffering in India the consequences of a 'two nation theory' that was going to rend our country apart on religious lines, it was India, even before it became Independent, in the United Nations took a principled stand that to divide a land and its people on the grounds of religion is, in principle, wrong. If the 'two nation theory' should not apply to India, then it should not apply to Palestine either. Therefore, in the Committee, that was established by the United Nations in 1947, India took the stand that there should be only one country. It may have federated hearts, in one of which the Jews would be dominant; in the other, the Arabs would be dominant, and the federal Government would be run on democratic lines by both the peoples together.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

It was a failure of the United Nations not to have accepted that principle. That has given us 50 years of conflict in Palestine, even as the 'two nation theory' has given us 50 years of conflict on our own sub-continent. This is when there are terrorist groups called the 'stern gangs' and the 'Hagana' and when these gangs unleashed terrorism in Palestine – and the origins of terrorism as a political weapon lie with the Jews in Israel – under these circumstances India took a principled position. The position was that unless and until the Jews are granted Palestine, there could be no question of a full diplomatic recognition of Israel by India. But since the United Nations had recognised the existence of Israel in 1949, we too extended de-facto recognition to Israel and established Consular relations with them.

Sir, to forget all this, to forget the role that Israel played in 1956 in invading Egypt along with Britain and France at the time of nationalisation of the Suez Canal; to forget that India took a stand that Zionism is a form of racism in the United Nations; to forget the insult and injury that had been heaped upon the Israeli Arabs by the Israeli Government continuously through a form of institutionalised discrimination over the last several decades; to forget that nearly a million – now their numbers are running to several millions – Palestinians who were driven out of Israel had to find homes everywhere as refugees; to forget the restrictions to which the Palestinian National Authority has been subjected to and to say that in order to appease the Muslim vote bank India did not give full recognition to Palestine is an insult to the Father of the Nation. It is an insult to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and the Foreign Policy that India followed strongly under several different Governments until this Government came into existence. It is a revelation of the kind of communalism that is now being brought by this Foreign Minister into the Foreign Policy. I wish to know, therefore, whether the External Affairs Minister will apologise to this House for having defamed Indian foreign Policy on foreign soil and for having brought in domestic partisan politics into what should be a Foreign Policy conducted on the basis of a national consensus.

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Sir, I want to ask a very simple question.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rule do not permit that more than four hon'ble Members can speak at one time. I would have allowed one hon'ble Member but many hon'ble Members

have risen. I will give chance to Shri Bandyopadhyay. You ask one question.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : Sir, I had given notice. My name should be there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is as a special case.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, it seems that Indian leaders are now-a-days delighted to visit Tel Aviv. Shri L.K. Advani visited Tel Aviv, the hon. Minister of External Affairs visited Tel Aviv and most surprisingly, the first Marxist leader for India, Shri Jyoti Basu visited Tel Aviv from the 29th of June to 6th of July, 2000.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : What is surprising in it ? The Soviet Union supported their cause.....
(Interruptions).

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : I know you are a very good orator. But please allow me to have my say.

Sir, the first Marxist leader of India visited Tel Aviv from the 29th of June to the 6th of July, 2000.

Is the Government of India now trying to build a national consensus on the issue of Israel ? Has the Government of India requested Shri Jyoti Basu to pay a visit to Tel Aviv on its behalf ? Has Shri Basu reported the outcome of his visit to the Ministry of External Affairs ? These are questions to which I want to have answers.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. I am grateful to hon. Members for providing me an opportunity to clarify issues.

Hon. Shrimati Shyama Singh had four-five questions. The question of UAVs – if they have caused any vulnerability, whether there are any talks with Israel in this matter – is not really an aspect that was covered by my visit. It is not really an aspect which falls within the purview of the Ministry of External Affairs. It is really a Ministry of Defence matter. In addition acquisition of weapons, either from one country or another, is really not an issue that I can be discussing in the House.

The other clarification that she sought was about the suggestion of hot pursuit. No, Sir, there is no such policy. The line of control was not crossed by Indian troops even during the Kargil Operation. So, the question of hot pursuit,

and the suggestion that Indian forces will, therefore, pursue terrorists in Pak-occupied Kashmir or elsewhere does not arise. As for UAVs, so also for the query relating to acquisition of AWACS.

The suggestion that India is a base for experimentation by Israel or Israeli military establishment for testing either their weapon systems or anything else is completely fallacious. India is a base for nobody and there is nothing of that sort that will be provided by India whether to Israel or to any other country.

So far as agriculture is concerned, we have a bilateral agreement on cooperation in the field of agriculture signed in December, 1993, during a visit to India by the Agriculture Minister of Israel. Since then a large number of experts from both sides have visited each other's institutions to exchange ideas and take specific projects. We have near about 170 memorandums of understanding with Israel and at least more than half of them relate to agriculture. There are about 65 joint ventures in areas such as tissue culture, hybrid seeds, sprinkler and drip irrigation, and dry land farming. As the hon. Member knows, there is a demonstration farm that has been set up by the Israeli Agricultural Research Organisation in IARI Delhi and there are, of course, exchange of technical visits.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat wanted to know about terrorism. Discussion about terrorism did take place with the hon'ble Home Minister as well as with me. As is happening with many other countries it has also happened with Israel. The hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs also issued a statement after his return. If you permit I can read excerpts from that statement not in full. I will only read out the relevant points. As it is in English so if Prof. Rasa Singh ji permit me, I will read it in English.

[English]

This is the Home Minister's Statement. It says :

"This tour was undertaken with the main focus on problems of trans-border terrorism. Israel and India have both grappled with it during the last two decades. Terrorist organisations are now known to establish and have international linkage. This makes it necessary for the countries, which are victims of such terrorism, to learn from the experience of each other. In the interest of promotion of peace and progress and suppression of terrorism, such nations need to work in close co-operation with each other against this menace."

[Translation]

The agreement does not involve joint operation with Israel against terrorism. Other details of the agreement will be finalised in the Home Ministry. A decision was taken that there would be a Joint Working Group on terrorism. And this was entered into with many other countries and similarly this decision was arrived at with Israel also.

[English]

There was a question whether it was an unmanned UAV. I cannot really be shedding any light on the question of radars. Then, there was another question. Is there any joint training programme with Mossad ? For this, the answer is - No, Sir.

It was also asked whether our relation with Israel is at the cost of any other Governments ? The answer is "No, Sir."

An hon. Member wanted to know whether this requires any kind of US approval for India to improve its relations with Israel. For that, the answer is "No, Sir". We do not act either with the US approval or even with their inclination in this regard in mind.

Then, there was another question. Is it at the cost of any other country ?

The answer is "No, it is not, Sir."

Sir, there was a suggestion about balancing act as if bitaterral relations between one country and the other are necessarily at cost of any other country. That is unacceptable, Sir. It is because developments of bilateral relations are not at anyone's cost.

Hon. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar wanted to know whether India's position on Palestine was discussed. He also wanted to know whether any discussion took place about the impending Camp David Peace Talks. The answer to both is "Yes, Sir." In my meetings with President Yasser Arafat as also the leadership of Israel, the forthcoming Camp David Peace Talks featured. President Arafat was good enough to share his views with me, so also the Israeli leadership. Up till that stage, it was not yet certain whether the summit will take place or not but the respective position of the President of Palestine and also the aspects that Palestine leadership was consistently advocating, was certainly shared with me, so also by the Israeli leadership.

So far as India's position is concerned, it was made clear. It is not necessary to make it clear again to President

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

Arafat. But certainly, with the political leadership in my meeting with the Prime Minister and also their Foreign Minister, there was also discussion on the regional situation. India's position on Palestinian cause is explicit. It was repeated that India stands for the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine and for the establishment of Palestinian State with the internationally recognised boundaries. He was good enough to discuss this with me at some length.

Hon. Mani Shankar Aiyar suggested that this was missed out in the answer.

Perhaps, the questioner did not ask this. Otherwise, it would have been answered in this House. After a lengthy, historical exposition on the evolution of India's policy in regard to Israel and Palestine, he enquired whether I would apologise. No, I will not apologise.

I was asked a third question about the visit of the hon. the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The visit was undertaken by the hon. the Chief Minister on his own. That there should be a national consensus in this regard is a very desirable objective and we will certainly work on it. The hon. the

Chief Minister of West Bengal was very kind ' extended to me the courtesy, as our visits coincided in time and he very kindly enquired of me. He called me on the telephone and enquired whether there was anything that I wished he should do in Israel. I wished him well.

As far as the outcome is concerned, he went there as the Chief Minister of West Bengal. I am sure, he went to see the areas to development of Israel that could possibly be of interest of West Bengal, including the area of agriculture. I am still awaiting the report of the Government of West Bengal. I hope, the Government of West Bengal chooses to share with me what discussions took place. I am awaiting that report yet.

I do believe that I have answered all the questions as explicitly as I can.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned to meet on Monday at 11.00 a.m.

18.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till 11 of the clock on Monday 21st August, 2000/ 30 Sravana 1922 (Saka)
