

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Friday, August 4, 2000/Sravana 13, 1922 (Saka)

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
61/6	(a) and (d)	(a) to (d)
95/5	(c)	(e)
153 & 154/3 (from below)(Col.9)	—	2
157 & 158/24 (Col.10)	0	1
157 & 158/30 (Col.10)	0	1
231/17	SHRI SHIV RAJ MANE	SHRI SHIVAJI MANE
239/23	(b)	(d)
275/30	(a) to (b)	(a) to (d)
318/11	SHRI RAJIV PRASAD RUDY	SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 4, 2000/Sharada 13, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (AMETHI) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have to make a submission. Yesterday, I visited Pahalgam. I was a part of the delegation led by the Prime Minister. It was obvious that there were very serious Government lapses in security for the pilgrims. There are many questions which need to be answered. What is happening there is inexcusable. The lapses there, are inexcusable. Therefore, we ask the Prime Minister to make a statement and we would like to know from you, Sir, when such a statement is going to be made.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, as desired by the hon. Leader of Opposition, the Prime Minister will make a statement after the Question Hour.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Eco-Tourism in the Country

*181. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any guidelines on eco-tourism;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a Task Force for the effective implementation of programmes under eco-tourism; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

Eco-Tourism in the Country

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Eco-Tourism Policy Guidelines contain :-

(i) The Eco-Tourism definition;

(ii) Eco-Tourism Resources of India;

(iii) Policy objectives;

(iv) Operational guidelines for :-

- the Government;
- Developers, Operators and Suppliers;
- the visitors;
- the Destination population/host community;
- Non-Governmental organisations/scientific and Research institutions.

The policy and guidelines are formulated for creating awareness among all the stakeholders involved in this activity for achieving sustainable tourism development in the country.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to set up a Task Force for implementation of programmes under Eco-Tourism.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the population point of view, our country stands at number two position in the world and tourism industry has a wide scope here. Monuments of Mughal period are situated here.

[English]

This is the land of Buddha.

[Translation]

Old mosques, temples, buildings like Tajmahal, nice beaches etc. Exist in our country to attract the tourists. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Today I am not going to give any chance to the front benchers. I would give chance only to the back benchers. In the debate also, the seniors are participating. In the Question Hour and in Matters under Rule 377 also, they are participating.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Sir, those Members who are representing the tourist centres may be given a chance. It is very essential. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Exceptions are also there.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I am coming to the front bench. But I will not ask you for a chance to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : In that case, the front benches will be found empty....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Approx. 2.5 million foreign travellers visit our country every year. Government may not have the exact figures of domestic tourists but approx. 150 million tourists are domestic tourists. We are at number 2 or number 3 position in the world in terms of earning foreign exchange. We earn Rs. 12 thousand crore from tourism and from travel and taxes we earn approx. Rs. 750 crores. 124 lakh persons are employed in this industry and our country's rank was 19 and China was at number 34 in 1980 in terms of tourism. Latest records are not available with me but in the year 1995 our country's position reduced to number 34 and China occupied the position at number 9. Our share in world tourism is only .4 per cent (Point four per cent) but neither we are encouraging it nor we are properly utilizing the funds earned from tourism. Our beaches are very beautiful but they are very dirty. I would like to ask that what steps are being taken by the Government to clean and beautify the beaches and to stop the dumping of garbage in the sea. Recently hon'ble Speaker visited Mauritius. I was also included in that delegation. The beaches there are very beautiful. The water is so clear that if a coin is thrown in it, it is visible at the bottom. On the other hand, the condition of our beaches is so bad that United State's Naval Department send their ships in Gujarat to be disposed off as scrap which remain strewn over there and make the beaches dirty. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the guidelines of the Govt. regarding protection of environment and cleanliness and eco-tourism because the guidelines which I have read contains only 2-3 sentences which does not have any meaning. Therefore, Govt. should provide full details about them.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the concern expressed by hon'ble member of Parliament but eco-tourism and environmental protection has some difference.

[English]

Environmental clearance comes directly under the

Ministry of Environment and Forests. The entire awareness started only lately regarding eco-tourism and environmental protection. The Government of India has formed many Boards – (1), the HIMTAB, the Himalayan Tourism Advisory Board; (2), the Island Development Authority for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep; and (3), we had set up a Task Force on Product Development and Environment with the help of the tourism industry. The UNDP and the WTO have also made a study about the Andaman and Nicobar Islands regarding the carrying capacity. Now, the awareness is growing. I agree with the hon. Member that it is not up to the mark of various other destinations the world over.

It is true that we are 46th in the ranking in terms of foreign tourist arrivals and 34 in terms of foreign exchange earnings compared to the world figures. It is also true that 25 years back, China and India used to attract five lakh foreign tourists to respective countries. But now India is attracting 2.5 million tourists and China is attracting 25 million tourists only. Therefore, there needs to be a focused attention regarding this.

The hon. Finance Minister is here. I want to draw his attention to one aspect. I want to mention about foreign exchange revenue earning. Despite the meagre allocation which the Tourism Ministry is getting – not only at the Central level but also at all the State Levels – it is doing good work. The other day, the Minister of Tourism of Orissa was telling that his Plan Budget is only Rs. 2.3 crore. If the Plan Budget of Orissa is 2.3 crore or for that matter in respect of any other State it is so meagre, what can we do? Totally, the nation is spending around Rs. 300 crore on tourism per year. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : That is only for the salaries of various staff.

The amount that is being given is for salaries. It is not for the promotion of tourism.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am responding to you. This is not on salaries. You are an hon. Member of Parliament. It is on Plan account and not on Non-Plan account. On the Plan account, the country is spending Rs. 300 crores. Therefore, it is definitely on salaries. It is for promotion and infrastructure building. But the highest ever foreign exchange earner is : (1) Textile at Rs. 44,000 crore; (2) IT at Rs. 22,500 crore; and (3) Tourism at Rs. 12,500 crore. We need support in this regard. Therefore, I need the support of the entire House and we should resolve that tourism gets more allocation. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : We all agree with you. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : You get the resolution passed against me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I have just got the resolution passed in support of, and for strengthening the hands of the hon. Finance Minister to give us more allocation.

I would look into the concern of the hon. Member. Regarding the environmental protection, I would like to say that it does not exactly come under the mandate of the Tourism Ministry. I can only develop infrastructure for eco-tourism. But regarding the upkeep of the beaches, forests, sand-dunes, and all those things, I have to have an active dialogue with the Environment Ministry which I would be doing it.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not given a clear reply because the Govt. is in a habit to shift the responsibility from one Ministry to another and issues remain pending. Recently, Rajasthan Government started tourism guide service. They guide the tourists how to arrange their tour, which historical places and monuments should be visited and how to behave there. Whether the Central Government have any proposal to start such a service? Hon'ble Minister has just now stated that a task force has been set up but in the written reply it has been stated that.

[English]

There is no proposal to set up a task force for the implementation of Programme under eco-tourism.

[Translation]

I want to know that is there any planning to form a Committee of Members of Parliament which should consider this matter or some other committee should be formed. Guidelines should be displayed on the tourists spots so that the tourists behave accordingly. Most of the foreign tourists are accustomed to five star facilities. The Government's policy is that it is increasing the taxes but the income earned through taxes is not being utilized for developing tourism. In Mauritius and other countries like Thailand, United States etc. middle class people are encouraged to visit tourist spots more and more in numbers. In Mauritius, 6% of the total Government revenue is earned by tourism. Is there any policy in our country so that more and more middle class people could participate in tourism industry?

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Basically, tourism is a State subject. Therefore, it is the mandate of the States. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Government is avoiding the reply.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Let me complete my reply, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : You are avoiding your responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)* You are shifting the responsibility to the State Governments.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not shifting the responsibility.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you mean to say that you are serious about it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Therefore, our role is basically advisory in nature. Not only that, we are allocating the funds to various States from our States, from our Plan budget, for the infrastructural development. This is the first point.

Secondly, various State Governments have taken up very welcome steps to promote eco-tourism. Actually, the State of Kerala has created a post Director, Eco-tourism to give special attention to promote eco-tourism.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has reconstituted the 'Wildlife Advisory Board for the development of wildlife in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also recently sanctioned various eco-tourism projects in five protected areas of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of West Bengal has identified Darjeeling hills and Duars in the western forest tracts in Purulia district and other places. Therefore, it is not true that we are not giving adequate attention towards developing eco-tourism.

Sir, about 2.5 million foreign tourists are coming to India every year. When 80 to 85 million people go from here to Spain or France, they go and stay there for one night only, whereas when foreign tourists come to India, they stay for a fortnight. That means, their minimum stay, on an average, is computed to be 15 days.

Secondly, the hon. Member has said that he does not have the figure as to how many domestic tourists go around our country. I would like to inform that 175 million tourists have gone around the country this year. Last year, this figure was 168 million and this year it has gone up to 175 million.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, the Minister is not replying to my second supplementary. He is replying to my first supplementary.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, tourism is growing in our country and we are giving adequate attention to it.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : He has already replied this in the previous question.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : There is already a Consultative Committee on Tourism which is advising me.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : He has replied the something in the answer to a previous question. He is not ready to tell about his future planning.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members who also want to ask supplementaries. They can get your doubts clarified.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Today, in this modern world, tourists from many Western countries want to come to the North-East. The North-East has not yet been explored fully, even though there is a lot of potential for eco-tourism that he has just spelled out.

Sir, eco-tourism is one thing on which we have very little discussion. In this context, I would like to throw some light on this subject that there is a lot of potential for developing eco-tourism in the North-East, particularly, in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and some other hill tracts in that region. The Government of India has put a lot of restrictions on tourists coming from foreign countries for visiting places in Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur. Even though they have opened up few Restricted Area Permits to tourists, yet also restricted to certain places and the tourists have to club themselves and go as a group. If anybody wants to go to the North-East as a tourist, he will have to join with others and go there only in a group. This is a step which is quite unexpected from the Government of India. This might have been done due to the problem of insurgency there. But there are States in India like Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar where naxalites are present, but no restriction has been put for visiting these States. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why this stepmotherly treatment is being meted out only to Nagaland and a few other States in the North-East.

Sir, since the Minister is holding the portfolio of the

Ministry of Culture also, I would like to make another point here,

MR. SPEAKER : You ask your supplementary.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Sir, I am clubbing two questions into one supplementary. Now, I will ask the second part of my supplementary.

Sir, there is a very important War Memorial at Kohima where the Japanese were stopped when they wanted to invade our country. In this regard, a project had already been submitted to the Government of India and I have written several letters to the Government, but it has turned a deaf ear towards it. If this Second World War Memorial is constructed or a Museum is constructed there, many tourists can go and see these places. So, I would like to urge upon the Minister, through you, to sanction money for this project as quickly as possible so that we can attract more tourists to this place.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I humbly submit to you that both the supplementaries do not purport to the main question. Sir, because of the special circumstances in the North-East, there are three kinds of permits that have been introduced both by the Union Government as well as the State Governments. First is inner-line permit; the second is protected area permit, and the third is restricted area permit. These three permits are in operation because of the special conditions prevailing there.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : What about the Naxalite-infested areas in Orissa and Bihar? What about Madhya Pradesh also? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : That is due to the special law and order situation in the North-East.

Secondly, regarding the War Memorial in Kohima, if the hon. Member brings forward the proposal, it will be duly considered.

[Translation]

SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country has the widest scope for tourism but it has not been developed to the desired extent. It is a matter of concern. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether Government has any proposal to privatise the tourism for promoting it. I also want to know whether the funds available under MPLAD scheme can be used for developing smaller areas as tourists spots.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Tourism is basically a private industry.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is strengthening your hands indirectly.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Thank you. I welcome his suggestion.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, it is well and good that the Government is formulating a policy on eco-tourism. Now, what is happening is that prominent functionaries of the Government are themselves damaging important tourist spots. Recently, the top functionaries of the Government of Orissa went to the Chandiga National Life Sanctuary and organised their lunch there violating all norms and rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government. Would the Ministry advise the Government of Orissa not to repeat this kind of things in future?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Basically, it pertains to the State Government because that Sanctuary is under the control of the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

Secondly, we have also issued guidelines for upkeep of sanctuaries throughout the country so that nature, wildlife and optimum carrying capacity of those sanctuaries are maintained.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Sir, the world's famous Buddhist Centre, like the Nagarjuna Konda at Nagarjuna Sagar, and also Kolanu Paka Jain Pilgrimage Centre in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh have not been provided telephone facilities. To reach Nagarjuna Konda from the right bank, we have to go in a launch. Nagarjuna Konda is nearly 12-14 kilometers away. The State Government is putting in their best efforts. In spite of that, because of lack of telephone and facilities for night stay, it is not attracting international tourists.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any special package proposed by the Government of India to see that the international tourists are attracted to such centres.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I would like to draw your kind attention once again to this question, especially on 'eco-tourism'. Eco-tourism is a Concurrent Subject. I would request the indulgence of the hon. Members of this House on the eco-tourism with their well meaning questions.

To answer the hon. Member's query, we provide funds for tourism infrastructure development, provided, the State Governments prioritise those projects. Therefore, he can use his good offices and prioritise the projects to have 'Yatri Niwases' and 'Yatri Niketans' not only in Nalgonda but also in Nagarjuna Konda which will be actively considered.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : It is very unfortunate that we treat the persons coming from other countries as tourists and try to provide facilities to them. In that process, we forget that the people who are travelling from Kerala to Uttar Pradesh or to Orissa or to Tamil Nadu are not treated as tourists. But they are treated as pilgrims. If we try to find out the places where the most beautiful eco-system is available, it is at Vaishno Devi, Kedarnath, Badrinath, Amarnath, Rameshwaram, Somnath, Puri, etc. It is exactly at these places that the eco-system is getting polluted. It is exactly at these places where we shall have to take some steps to protect the eco-system, the forests, the oceans, the deserts also. We are not doing anything.

Now, unfortunately, we think that if we hand it over to the private sector, it would be done. But I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that entire tourist activity in India is in the private sector. It is the responsibility of the Government of India and the State Government to plan and to provide some funds to see that facilities for these purposes are provided. Unfortunately, we find that when such matters are taken up in such important areas, which can earn a lot of revenue for the Government, the responsibility is shifted from the Central Government to the State Government and from the State Government to the Central Government.

I would like to know, whether the Government of India has studied the problem of protecting the eco-system at these important places from the tourists' or pilgrims' point of view and taken effective steps to see that they are not only protected but preserved and encouraged to have something more also over there.

If I am not wrong, the hon. Minister said that plan money worth Rs. 300 crore was available. But about 70 per cent of this plan money is spent on advertisement, giving to the media and not even 20 per cent is spent on developmental activities. If this kind of approach is adopted, with respect to the improving activity of tourism, nothing is going to come out. Has the Government any direction, any approach or any plan, having the totality in view, to develop the tourism and to protect the eco-system from the pilgrims and tourists' point of view?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, already we have four

studies and four agencies are looking after the environmental thing. In the Ninth Plan, the Government of India has cleared 122 projects at a cost of Rs. 31.46 crore. There is no differentiation in the mind of the Government of India with regard to all tourists — foreign tourists and Indian pilgrims. If at all we are taking up infrastructure projects, it is basically to facilitate the tourists at large.

One more thing I would like to clear that there is a plan allocation of approximately Rs. 300 crore. In that, the Central Government component is only Rs. 135 crore and the remaining is of the State Governments. In this Rs. 135 crore, nearly Rs. 70 crore is for the infrastructure development and hardly Rs. 40 crore is for the advertisement. I am giving this answer to this august House, and I know that I am giving this answer to the veteran parliamentarian and former Speaker, therefore, I am telling this with full responsibility. It is not true that we are spending only 25 per cent on the infrastructure development and 75 percent on the promotional activities, but more than 60 per cent is spent on infrastructure development. If at all there are *Yatri Niwases* and various amenities throughout the country, it is mainly because of the initiation of the Union Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that foreign tourists are often asked about their tour programme and their tours are limited to Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and Mumbai. Mahatma Gandhi's birth place Porbandar is situated in Gujarat. Near his Sabarmati Ashram there is a place famous for its 'vividh murthi' mandir and its Swamalmi-maharaj. Most of the temples have been built there. His first temple is situated in Ganga and the Jain's pilgrimage centre Palitana is also situated there. Similarly, 'Janebar ki jhari' famous for its lions is also there. The beach inside the island is also a very good beach like Mumbai beach. Besides, Lord Krishna's famous temple is also situated in Dwarka. Despite all such tourists spots adequate assistance has not been provided to Gujarat by the tourism department for its development. Despite the fact that Gujarat is such an important place from the tourism point of view, funds have not been provided to them. Is the Govt. considering to provide some funds to Gujarat in the coming five years for the development of tourism?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : It is not right that Gujarat has been deprived from tourism development fund.

[English]

Secondly, the hon. Member has traversed from eco-tourism to ethical tourism. Even that will be given adequate priority.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, Darjeeling has been referred to by the hon. Minister in his reply. The tourists visiting Kashmir are now totally disturbed. Darjeeling is known as Queen of Hills and is totally peaceful now.

MR. SPEAKER : This question relates to eco-tourism.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : I know Sir. The hon. Minister has referred to Darjeeling and that he is thinking about this as an eco-tourism place.

So, the name of Darjeeling is not included in the world tourism map. Eco-tourism is stable there. If it is included in that the tourists will come to know that there is a tourist spot, known as Queen of Hills.

There is also Sunderbans, where famous Royal Bengal Tigers are there. In Africa, there is a Lions' Safari. Sir, Sunderbans' Royal Bengal Tigers is world famous. Sir, I would like to know why not a Lions' Safari, in addition to Tigers' Safari, can be set up there in accordance with eco-tourism.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, firstly, Darjeeling is already a world tourist destination. Whoever comes to India, if they want to go to a beautiful hill station, they either goes to Kulu Manali, Darjeeling or Ooty, etc. Secondly, regarding Sunderbans being developed as a Tiger Safari, we will make a study about it.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that we are not differentiating between eco-tourism and ethical tourism. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, there should not be any confusion. Eco-tourism is a tourism for God-made or nature-made destinations and other tourism is for the man-made destinations, which are for the archaeological sciences, etc. This is a clear distinction.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : I was saying that unfortunately we expect the tourism department to develop both eco-tourism and ethical tourism. In reality, tourist department is lacking apparatus. They have to coordinate with the other departments to accelerate the various schemes. A very important component of eco-tourism is wild life conservation. There are so many parks in our country under wild life conservation programme. Unfortunately, we are still following old concepts, we think we conserve wild

life. Now the conservation concept has changed. Now conservation means determining the number of herbivorous or carnivorous species of wild life which should be there in a particular eco-system so that they could sustain each other naturally so that the nature is also able to sustain them. I would like to know whether the tourism department have formulated any policy or programme regarding the modern concept being implemented in Africa and other countries. Forest department is directly handling it. Whether the tourism department has set up any coordination with the forest department and fixed some priorities or formulated some policies in this regard?

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. Regarding eco-tourism, there is an active dialogue between the Tourism Ministry of the Union Government as well as the Tourism Ministry of the respective State Governments and the Environment Ministry. As eco-tourism is not equivalent to other types of tourism, we have to preserve, conserve, and enrich ecological balance and ecological richness. Therefore, in all the national parks and sanctuaries -- from Corbett to Ranthambore to Bharatpur to Sariska to Gir -- the Government of India has made a study with the help of the State Government as well as the Environment Department as to what is the carrying capacity of that sanctuary, what is the carrying capacity of that destination because we cannot open the floodgates so that millions and millions of tourists go there and create imbalance of that destination, imbalance in the ecological system. Therefore, due care is being taken. In the last one decade, actually eco-tourism awareness has been picking up and there have been studies. We are allowing optimum number of tourists only considering the carrying capacity of each destination.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Sir, I will write you a letter in this regard, please get the matter investigated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, since it is an important Question, there is something from the Chair also.

Tourism is one sector which has a great potential in our country. The general perception is that not much has been done to exploit this potential. There is a significant scope for employment generation also in this sector. Though the Central Government and the State Governments have been taking up the Action Plans, the Expected results are yet to be seen. I hope both the Central Government and the State Governments will take this sector seriously. Otherwise, it will become another episode of a missed opportunity.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I agree with you, Sir.

Non Performing Assets

[Translation]

+

* 182. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of non-performing assets of each Public Sector Bank, as on March 31, 2000, bank-wise;

(b) the amount of NPA recovered and written off, separately, by these banks during each of the last three years, bank-wise;

(c) whether any directions have been issued by the Government to all public sector banks to settle the dues with leading defaulters or file cases against them by September, 2000;

(d) whether the Government also, propose to attach the properties of banks loan defaulters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action plan prepared by the Government to recover the bad loans?

[English]

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

Statement

Non-Performing Assets

- (a) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), a statement indicating the gross and net non-performing assets of public sector banks as on 31st March, 2000 bank-wise is given at Annexure 'I'.
- (b) Based on the information furnished by the RBI, a statement indicating the amount recovered and compromise/written off during the last three years from 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (latest available) is given at Annexure 'II'.
- (c) Pursuant to discussions involving the Government, RBI and the Chief Executives of Public Sector Banks earlier and on 13th June, 2000 the RBI have issued guidelines on 27th July,

2000 for recovery of dues relating to Non-Performing Assets of public sector banks. The guidelines inter-alia provide that in cases in which the outstandings exceeds Rs. 5 crore and where restructuring is not feasible or the defaulters have not come up for one time settlement, suits must be filed by 31st October, 2000. The guidelines cover NPAs relating to all sectors but exclude cases of wilful defaults, fraud and malfeasance.

The banks are taking action for recovery of their dues in accordance with their existing policy, and guidelines issued by RBI on 27.7.2000.

(d) and (e) Provisions have been made in the recently amended Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 for attachment of defaulters' property/assets before judgement, appointment of receiver of any property of the defaulters before or after grant of recovery certificate and realisation of bank dues by sale of assets of defaulters to facilitate recovery.

Annexure - I

Public Sector Banks

NPAs and % of Advances as on 31.03.2000 (Provisional)

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Bank	Gross NPAs	% of NPAs to loan Advances	Net NPAs	% of net NPAs of NET Advances
1	2	3	4	5
State Bank of India	15246.29	14.25	6283.99	6.41
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	773.47	16.15	453.33	9.62
State Bank of Hyderabad	935.72	14.18	444.20	7.30
State Bank of Indore	318.01	10.80	214.64	7.55
State Bank of Mysore	549.81	13.69	301.48	8.12
State Bank of Patiala	669.53	10.99	351.80	6.09
State Bank of Saurashtra	469.39	13.71	251.45	7.87
State Bank of Travancore	811.08	14.43	151.66	8.58
Total for State Bank group	19773.30	14.08	8752.55	6.77
Allahabad Bank	1694.16	19.14	1002.78	12.24
Andhra Bank	456.78	7.83	193.60	3.47
Bank of Baroda	3897.22	14.73	1663.00	6.98
Bank of India	3462.88	12.90	2202.49	8.61
Bank of Maharashtra	716.79	12.85	370.48	6.97
Canara Bank (*)	2596.08	10.42	1243.76	5.28
Central Bank of India	2842.67	16.63	1555.45	9.84
Corporation Bank	433.03	5.39	148.80	1.92

1	2	3	4	5
Dena Bank	1399.60	18.15	983.11	13.48
Indian Bank	3355.00	32.77	1327.00	16.18
Indian Overseas Bank	1622.79	13.18	885.37	7.65
Oriental Bank of Commerce	527.51	5.50	336.42	3.61
Punjab & Sind Bank (&)	729.88	14.36	416.17	8.74
Punjab National Bank	3126.77	13.19	1916.95	8.52
Syndicate Bank	992.15	7.74	386.72	3.17
UCO Bank	1651.41	18.79	683.88	8.75
Union Bank of India	1001.20	12.27	1164.28	7.97
United Bank of India	1520.00	27.60	578.00	12.7
Vijaya Bank	567.19	11.52	309.97	6.64
Total for National Banks	33473.11	13.97	17368.23	7.75
Total of PSBs	53246.41	14.01	26120.78	7.39

(*) Canara Bank has reported that the gross NPAs as on 31-03-2000 crore reduced by amount representing technical write off at Head Office
Gross NPAs as on 31-03-99 Rs. 4072.86 crore

(&) Gross NPAs reduced by reversal of nearest Suspense Account amount during the year

(%) Net NPA and advances figures as available and not final

Annexure II

Reduction of NPAs through Compromise / Write Off and Recovery for the years 1997-98 & 1998-99

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Name of the Bank	1996-97		1998-99		1998-99	
	Compro./ Write Off	Recovery	Compro./ Write Off	Recovery	Compro./ Write Off	Recovery
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	246.00	929.00	667.00	1153.00	426.51	902.33
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	26.45	54.98	59.66	62.55	29.06	53.69
State Bank of Hyderabad	170.71	158.44	117.52	155.00	177.59	169.19
State Bank of Indore	26.02	31.64	24.52	42.20	39.12	36.03
State Bank of Mysore	22.80	47.82	26.15	39.63	37.64	42.44
State Bank of Patiala	19.62	39.76	91.78	13.90	10.63	31.31
State Bank of Saurashtra	7.04	31.05	18.69	35.06	20.46	40.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of Travancore	41.61	54.03	39.13	60.28	116.41	49.43
Total for State Bank group	560.25	1346.72	1044.45	1561.62	857.42	1324.90
Allahabad Bank	43.00	69.00	115.78	62.48	129.86	80.68
Andhra Bank	33.46	10.68	81.44	28.20	25.33	21.16
Bank of Baroda	207.51	353.55	419.00	416.00	22.00	456.00
Bank of India	258.00	344.00	310.00	388.00	299.00	261.00
Bank of Maharashtra	48.73	71.99	128.37	68.70	124.45	73.63
Canara Bank (*)	51.18	369.00	156.00	426.00	202.96	383.66
Central Bank of India	157.00	220.00	147.00	162.00	244.80	234.48
Corporation Bank	7.89	21.81	21.56	38.69	3.99	33.63
Dena Bank	59.08	86.49	67.00	85.00	74.41	104.51
Indian Bank	41.00	362.00	23.37	159.04	69.19	62.23
Indian Overseas Bank	416.00	381.00	268.00	160.00	74.00	108.00
Oriental Bank of Commerce	16.29	83.30	61.08	64.90	80.39	71.87
Punjab & Sind Bank (&)	22.91	76.92	97.28	63.90	122.09	64.95
Punjab National Bank	158.82	303.51	386.00	226.00	237.09	245.19
Syndicate Bank	58.79	191.68	102.24	161.44	75.73	135.87
UCO Bank	214.35	123.48	176.33	180.66	163.85	149.44
Union Bank of India	30.01	231.85	16.47	167.49	63.63	204.05
United Bank of India	54.00	76.00	12.00	75.00	7.96	84.17
Vijaya Bank	26.02	80.02	28.17	60.45	65.53	50.60
Total for National Banks	1904.04	3456.28	2617.09	2993.95	2086.26	2825.12
Total for PSBs	2464.29	4803.00	3661.54	4555.57	2943.68	4150.02

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to my question should have been given in the reply laid on the table by hon'ble Minister but I do not find my reply therein. Therefore through you, I would like to know from hon'ble Minister about the value of NPA out of Rs. one crores to 249 crores and what action is being taken by the Government against the defaulters in Public Sector?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tried my best to reply to the question raised by the hon'ble Member. Two annexures have been appended to the reply of the question in which information relating to NPA of each bank has been provided. As you have asked about the NPA of Public Sector and others, I would like to submit two figures in this regard i.e. amount-wise NPA and their percentage to the total. The NPA upto 25 thousand is 9.85% and from 25 thousand to ten lakhs is 20.54%, from 10 lakhs to 50 lakhs

is 10.06%, from 50 lakhs to one crore is 6.84%, from one crore to 10 crores is 27.10%, 10 crores to 50 crores is 19.73%, 50 crores to 100 crores is 3.44% and above 100 crores is 2.71%,

[English]

of the total NPA as on 31st March, 1999, and out of this, the NPA of PSUs will be around 1495 crores constituting 2.89% of total NPAs.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what message do you want to communicate by the policy formulated to waive off the loan on NPA worth Rs. 5 crores. As you have stated that creation of NPA by capitalists and financial institutions after taking loans gives an indication to the public of the country that billions of rupees of the country are being wasted. I would like to know the action being taken by the Government, due to which loss of billions of rupees is being suffered by the banks. Therefore, I would like to submit that what difficulty is being faced by the Government in taking action so as to avoid this loss. Secondly, I would like to know about the amount of NPA involved in the schemes being implemented in rural areas and with the big industrialists of the country.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, my sole aim of presenting the figures before the House was to state about the manner in which the entire NPA has been disbursed. Broadly, I would like to tell this House that NPA worth Rs. 5 crores is about 63% and above Rs. 5 crores constitute about 37%. We want to communicate a clear cut message to the Account holders and to the people of the country that we are ready to settle the cases with sundry debtors barring wilful defaulters and frauds. The Reserve Bank has also issued new guidelines to all banks on 27th July. We will deal with these big peoples sternly who have taken huge amount and are not repaying it and appropriate legal action will be taken against them so that the banks are able to recover the amount. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : What difficulties are you facing in issuing the list of defaulters?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : As I have repeatedly said in the House and last time also when discussion was being held on budget, I said that entire information relating to the amount above Rs. one crore, about which banks have filed a case in DRT, is placed in the library of Parliament on 31st March. We are bound to follow the banking laws of the country. We can not disclose the names of all the persons until a case is filed against them. Now a case will be filed in respect of every account under the orders issued by The

Reserve Bank and the entire information will be brought before the people of the country.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : This is a very important subject concerning the wealth of the country. The NPAs are mounting up year after year and the banks are restoring again for borrowings. The State Bank of India wanted to go to the market with a subordinate debt of Rs. 1,500 crore which is not warranted because as per these guidelines if these NPAs are being recovered, there is no need for the banks again to go for the subordinate debt.

In the pattern of realisation in the past, for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, the recovery comes to approximately Rs. 13,500 crore, and the written off amount is about Rs. 8,000 crore. That means 35 per cent has been written off and nearabout 65 per cent has been recovered.

The new guidelines that have been issued are to recover for the year up to the end of March, 1997 only, not afterwards. That means these guidelines that have been issued for recovery by the Reserve Bank of India are for recovering the debts as on March 31, 1997. That means, these guidelines would not apply for the debts that have fallen due after 1997 to 2000.

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the supplementary.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I am coming to the point. This is a very important subject.

So, that means whatever the NPAs today we are having, come to Rs. 53246 crore, and they are not obviously up to 1997. So, my point here is whether the Government will extend the same guidelines to recover fast all these debts up to Rs. 5 crore as on the 31st March, 2000; if so, what is the expected realisation in the next six months? Maybe, out of this, two-thirds will come to about Rs. 38,000 crore. If that is required the finances of the banks will improve. Is the Ministry taking any steps to do that?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : There is no doubt that the NPAs do impact on the profitability of the banks. We are actually aware of this problem and that is why we have decided to take determined steps to reduce the NPAs. At the same time, I would like to say that for the first time in this country the question of recognising and dealing with the non-performing assets of the banks was started in 1992. And we have figures from 1993 and these figures for the public sector banks would show that while in absolute terms the amount of NPAs has been going up, in percentage terms the amount of growth and net NPAs have both been going down. So, the problem is well under control. The problem is not something which is expanding in its scope. That is one.

So, the impression that the NPAs are increasing is correct only in terms of quantum. And if I could mention another figure here, in the last six years, the bank advances have grown by 92.11 percentage points, whereas the growth in NPAs has been only 31.74 per cent.

The other issue which has been raised by the hon. Member is in regard to the guidelines issued by the RBI on the 27th of July, 2000. As far as those guidelines are concerned, they clearly mention that the NPAs up to 31st March, 1997 will be settled on as is where is basis up to the 31st March, 1997, whatever was due. If somebody is prepared to pay that amount, that will be settled.

But as far as NPAs beyond 31.3.1997 are concerned, the guidelines very clearly say that if the subsequently sub-standard assets have become either doubtful or loss assets, then they will also be settled. The only thing will be that after 31st March, 1997, the banks will charge the rate of interest on PLR between them and now settle those also. But here I would like to emphasise as to why it was necessary for the RBI to issue these guidelines. It was necessary because we noticed that there was a situation of drift because of the fear that the bankers have in approaching the settlement question. It is because if they settle, then there will be questions whether it has been settled properly or not. Therefore, the RBI decided to come out with non-discretionary and non-discriminatory guidelines, which can then be applied across the board and will enable the banks to settle wherever they can settle them.

There was a meeting on the 13th June of the Chairmen of all public sector banks organised by the Indian Bankers' Association, which I also attended. I had mentioned in that meeting that I shall hold the Chairman of each bank personally responsible for supervising the action taken in regard to all loans beyond Rs. 5 crore. We have given them time upto 30th September, 2000 after which I am going to sit down with them again and review what action has been taken. But each case of NPA, each account is going to be pursued vigorously because I want to solve this problem of NPA of the banks once and for all. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : What about the subordinate debt borrowing by the Banks? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Murthi, he has given a very very detailed reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Mr. Speaker Sir, some percentage of NPA was given to banks as per the guidelines

issued by Reserve Bank of India. To my knowledge, it is 15%. Many banks in Goa are having more than 30% of NPA account. What action have you taken against those banks which have crossed 15%?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the reply given by me is related to Public Sector Banks. If you go through the list of banks at Annexure-I, you will find that none of them have 30% of NPA. If hon'ble Member intends to know about the cooperative banks, I would like to tell him that a separate committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank, the report of which is yet to be received. It will be considered separately.

(English)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, this term 'Non-Performing Assets' is, in fact, an euphemism for bad debts which result from a variety of reasons. As we all know, some of them are genuine. But as the hon. Minister himself has mentioned there are others resulting from wilful neglect, fraud and malfeasance. While we would all welcome steps, being taken to settle the accounts in cases of genuine delay in payment of amounts for reasons including failure of business, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken to find out the cases where there has been abetment by the staff of the various banks in cases of fault : useful default and malfeasance, etc., and what action has been taken in those cases?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I accept prevention is better than cure. Therefore, in regard to credit appraisal, in regard to following up, in regard to taking steps in time, a number of instructions have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India so that accounts do not turn bad.

But I would like to say that the matter which the hon. Member has raised is continuously under the closest examination by the bank management. Wherever we come across any complicity of the bank staff in a fraud case or in going beyond their jurisdiction and sanctioning a loan, action is being taken. But as I said a little while ago, we need to have a balance and we must separate the grain from the chaff. We must be able to encourage the banks to perform their functions also and, therefore, one has to proceed carefully and cautiously to find only those who are really guilty and take action against them. This is a continuous effort which is going on in all the banks.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, I have a very specific question with regard to the way the Government has fixed the target of Rs. 10,000 crore through disinvestment. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the target fixed by him for recovery of NPAs in the year 2000-2001? That is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question is, if the dues of the

members of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in various banks are not recovered by 31st October, 2000, will the Government have the courage to file suits against these big business houses? These are two specific parts of my questions.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, no target as such has been fixed because, as I mentioned to the House just now, it is the intention and the effort of the Government to recover and settle the entire NPA problem. As regards the second part of the question, the banks do not maintain accounts separately FICCI-wise, CII-wise or ASSOCHAM-wise. But I would like to say with all the emphasis at my command, which is something which I would like to reiterate in the House, that however high and mighty anyone might be, the Government will pursue this whole question like a fiend. We are going after everyone and let nobody be in any doubt that the high and mighty will escape the action which is permissible under the law. We shall take whatever action has to be taken against all the defaulters and especially against the wilful defaulters, and ensure that we recover our dues from them.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu. You ask a very pointed Supplementary, otherwise you will not get the reply.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Mr. Speaker, Sir NPA in agricultural sector is one issue. Compared to the industrial sector, the NPA in agricultural sector is very minimum. As far as the OTS is concerned, in the agricultural sector, OTS is not being applied properly. Since we are running short of time, my specific question is whether the banks are going to take up the NPA in agricultural sector seriously and whether the banks are coming forward with a formula even to write off the NPAs which have been there consecutively for three years owing to natural calamities. Since those in the agricultural sector are losing their borrowings power for ever, so, in such cases where a non-wilful default is there, will the banks be coming forward to write off the NPAs, just as they are doing in the case of Industrial sector?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, as I have mentioned, the figures of NPAs are maintained priority sector-wise, non-priority sector-wise and public sector-wise. As far as the agricultural sector is concerned, I would like to take this House into confidence and mention that I am separately in touch with the Chief Justice of India in regard to constitution of Lok Adalats to settle loans upto Rs. 10 lakh. Those will generally cover all the agricultural loans and we will try and settle them through the Lok Adalats.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Rapid Action Cell

*183. **DR. ASHOK PATEL :**

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up a 'Rapid Action Cell' in the major metropolitan cities including Delhi to refund the excess payment of income-tax to the tax-payers in time and immediately solve their problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of places where these cells are likely to be set up; 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 V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) It has been decided, as part of a strategy to improve the functioning of the Income Tax Department, to form a special cell to work as the focal point for bringing to the Department's notice urgent and serious problems of individual and corporate tax payers. The scheme has already been introduced in Delhi from 1.8.2000, and will be extended to other stations in due course. The cell has been designated as "HELPLINE - INCOME-TAX" and will be under the supervision of a Commissioner of Income Tax. It is not meant to handle routine cases, including those for refunds, for which redressal mechanisms already exist.

[English]

IDFC Assistance to projects

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

(a) the number of projects approved by the IDFC for financial assistance during the last three years;

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided for these projects during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether these projects are running according to the scheduled programme for completion;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to complete these projects as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) IDFC has so far sanctioned 34 projects upto March 31, 2000 and has approved aggregate financial assistance of Rs. 3843 crores against these projects. The year-wise break up of the projects sanctioned and the financial assistance approved is as follows :

Year	No. of Projects sanctioned	Approvals Approved (Rs. crore)
1997-98	2	295
1998-99	12	1682
1999-2000	20	1866
Total	34	3843

(c) to (e) Out of the 34 projects sanctioned by the IDFC, 24 projects are in operation or are under implementation. Some of the projects are not progressing according to the schedule owing to reasons, which, inter-alia include : (i) financial closure not having been reached due to inability of the companies to tie up the means of financing including arranging equity; (ii) failure to comply with the requisite conditions necessary for documentation and disbursement; (iii) inability to arrange security required for financing of the project in accordance with the requirements of the sector, and (iv) attempts by companies to negotiate finer rates of interest.

IDFC promotes the growth of private capital flows for infrastructure project on a commercially viable basis. These projects are private projects and the decision regarding financing of a particular economic activity or granting of loans to a project is taken by the financial institutions based on their commercial judgement and the lending policy laid down by the respective boards within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by RBI from time to time. The Government acts as a facilitator to create environment conducive to growth of private capital flows into infrastructure. Some of the measures which have been taken to facilitate timely implementation of projects and promote private capital flows into infrastructure sector are : (a) uniform tax holiday of fifteen years for all infrastructure projects, (b) rationalization of import duty structure for project imports, (c) Crisis Resolution Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of Minister of Power to address issues relating to the power sector projects, (d) Draft Electricity Bill has been prepared and circulated to the State Governments, (e) alternative approaches have been

adopted for private sector participation in highway projects, (f) model concession agreement has been adopted for small road projects, (g) independent regulatory framework has been established in most infrastructure sectors and greater operational and commercial autonomy granted to existing public entities in these sectors, and (h) programme for corporatisation of public sector service providers in the areas of telecommunications, ports and airports.

Fiscal Deficit of Centre and States

*185. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fiscal deficit of the Centre and the States together has assumed alarming proportions of over 10% of GDP this year;

(b) If so, how it compares with the corresponding figures for the last two years;

(c) the extent to which it is proposed to be covered by way of withdrawal of subsidies;

(d) the portion of subsidies actually reaches to those for whom it is meant and how much is consumed at intermediary stages like defraying taxes and levies, retention charges, etc., in each case, item-wise;

(e) whether some of the Chief Ministers were called for a meeting with Prime Minister in this regard in June, 2000; and

(f) If so, the ways and means to reduce the deficit were discussed and decided upon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) As per the latest information available with the Reserve Bank of India, the combined gross fiscal deficit of the Centre and States as a per cent of gross domestic product is 7.3 per cent for 1997-98, 9.0 per cent for 1998-99, and 9.1 per cent for 1999-2000(RE).

(c) The subsidies for 2000-01 are budgeted at Rs. 22,800 crore, which is lower by 4.4 per cent as against Rs. 23,838 crore for 1999-2000 (BE). In terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Centre's subsidies are estimated at 1.0 per cent in 2000-01 as against 1.2 per cent of GDP in 1999-2000 (BE).

(d) It is Government's constant endeavour that subsidies reach the targeted population to the maximum

extent. However, the economic cost on the basis of which subsidies are determined includes, inter-alia, the cost of procurement or production, statutory charges (e.g. mandi charges, purchase tax, infrastructure charges, gunny cess and other taxes wherever applicable), non-statutory charges (e.g. labour and transport charges), storage and interest charges, distribution costs etc. The Government has also asked the Expenditure Reforms Commission to suggest further measures for better targeting of subsidies.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. A group of Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers of various States called on the Prime Minister on June 21, 2000 to discuss fiscal problems being faced by their States. The Prime Minister had observed that both the Centre and States would have to jointly evolve a consensus to take bold steps to correct the fiscal situation.

Wage Revision of Employees of Public Sector Undertakings

*186. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

(a) the wage policy of the Government with regard to the employees of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the names of Public Sector Undertakings in which wage revision is due since January, 1997 and before;

(c) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently taken a decision to offer public sector working unions an option with regard to the periodicity of wage revision;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the unions of public sector undertakings in this regard;

(f) whether the Government have also received Justice Mohan Committee Report in this regard;

(g) if so, the details of the recommendations made by Justice Mohan Committee;

(h) the number of recommendations out of these accepted by the Government; and

(i) the further steps taken by the Government to give better scales to PSU employees?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Government have in a memorandum dated 14th January, 1999 stated that Management of Enterprises would be free to negotiate the wage structure with the workers' unions subject to the following conditions :-

- (1) Keeping in view and consistent with the generation of profits and resources by the concerned enterprises.
- (2) No budgetary support for the wage increase shall be provided by the Government.
- (3) For PSEs which are monopolies or near monopolies or operate under an administered price structure, any increase in wages after negotiations should not result in any increase in administered prices of their goods and services.
- (4) There shall be no increase in labour cost per physical unit of output.

The wage revision has been left to the PSEs to be negotiated and is a continuing process. The details of negotiations and revision effected are not centrally monitored.

(c) to (e) Government have decided as a further step, through guidelines issued on 26th July, 2000 to allow the unionised employees of the PSUs governed by Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) pattern to opt for either :-

- (i) a 10 year periodicity of wage revision with 100% neutralisation of DA as set out in the guidelines issued on 14.1.1999 or
- (ii) a 5 year periodicity on the basis of graded neutralisation as did exist previously from 1.1.1992 to 31.12.1996.

The Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions had in a representation dated 5.7.2000 inter-alia sought five year wage settlement with full neutralisation of Dearness Allowance.

(f) to (i) The terms of reference and the recommendations of Justice Mohan Committee relate to public sector executives at Board level, below Board level and non-unionised supervisors, and not to the workers in this regard. The Chief recommendations of the Committee are given in the enclosed statement. Government have in the main, accepted the recommendations of the Justice Mohan Committee and issued orders on 25th June, 1999.

Statement

Wage Revision of Employees of Public Sector Undertakings

Chief recommendations of the Committee are as under :-

- * The proposed pay scale would be effective from 1.1.1997.
- * The recommended scale of pay for Executives in Schedule 'A' posts is Rs. 27,750 - 31,500, Schedule 'B' posts is Rs. 25,750 - 30,950, Schedule 'C' posts is Rs. 22,500 - 27,300 and in Schedule 'D' posts is Rs. 20,500 - 25,000.
- * 100% neutralisation of cost of living for PSE employees covered by the terms of reference of this Committee.
- * The next pay revision for executives in PSEs should be after a period of 10 years or co-terminus with pay revision for Government employees.
- * HRA based on the reclassified list of cities as notified by Government of India based on the recommendations of 5th Central Pay Commission.
- * An increasing proportion of payments to executives, apart from salaries, should be performance related, thus constituting incentive/disincentive payments. Perquisites and allowances may not exceed 50% of basic pay. Payment over and above the ceiling of 50% should be entirely in the nature of performance related payments.
- * In respect of sick enterprises, including those referred to BIFR, revision in pay scale should be allowed only after a strategic plan of restructuring for revival with adequate funds, has been implemented. In respect of enterprises which the Government decides to close down, a generous VRS should be implemented.

Industrial Growth

*187. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Industrial growth slumps

to 5.5% from 12.2%" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated July 13, 2000;

(b) if so, the growth recorded during the current financial year, till date, as compared to the corresponding period of last year, month-wise and sector wise;

(c) whether the industrial growth rate have come down steeply in the country;

(d) if so, the factors responsible for such a sharp decline;

(e) the extent to which the decline in industrial growth rate has affected our economic condition;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the industrial growth rate of the country; and

(g) the growth target fixed for the current year, sector-wise?

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

(b) The latest official data on industrial growth is available up to May, 2000. As per the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (Base : 1993-94=100) released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on July 12, 2000, the overall cumulative growth during April-May 2000-01 was recorded at 5.6% as against 6.2% in April-May, 1999-2000. The Sector wise performance is as under :

Index of Industrial Production

Sectoral Growth Rates

(Percentage change over the corresponding period of the previous year)

Base (1993-94=100)

Period	Mining & Quarrying		Manufacturing		Electricity		Overall	
	1999-2000	2000-01	1999-2000	2000-01	1999-2000	2000-01	1999-2000	2000-01
April	-2.0	5.1	5.3	6.0	6.0	3.7	4.7	5.7
May	0.3	2.3	8.9	5.8	3.3	5.4	7.6	5.5
April-May	-0.9	3.6	7.1	5.9	4.7	4.5	6.2	5.6

(c) to (f) It will be seen from the above table that IIP has declined only marginally from 6.2% in Apr-May, 1999-2000 to 5.6% in the current year. It is too early to estimate the effect of the change in the industrial growth in the first

two months of the current financial year on the overall economic growth. The Government is continuously monitoring the performance of the industrial sector to take necessary measures at the appropriate time.

(g) The target set by Planning Commission for industrial growth in the Ninth Plan is 8% per annum comprising 8.2% in manufacturing, 9.3% in electricity generation and 7.2% in mining.

Loss of Food Grains during Transportation

*188. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether heavy expenditure is incurred on transportation of foodgrains to storage godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the foodgrains are lost during transportation;

(d) if so, the quantity of loss of foodgrains has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check the wasteful expenditure and loss of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The FCI incurs an expense of around Rs. 1100 Crores on an average per year on transportation by rail. Almost 93% of stocks are moved by rail only.

(c) Yes, marginally. Foodgrains are lost in transportation all the way to consuming and storage regions, sometimes involving transshipment and over long haulages.

(d) The quantity of foodgrains lost in transportation by rail during the last three years is given as under :-

Qnty. in lakh tonnes

Year	Quantity Lost	Quantity Moved	%age on Quantity moved
1996-97	3.47	265.03	1.31
1997-98	2.78	234.18	1.18
1998-99	2.66	227.27	1.17

(e) Food Corporation of India has taken the following measures amongst others to check the losses in transportation :-

- (i) Adoption of 50 kg. packing in a phased manner.
- (ii) Installation of weighbridges.
- (iii) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks at the loading/unloading points, ensuring regular stock verification etc.
- (iv) Encouraging machine stitching of bags especially double-line stitching.
- (v) Induction of Central Industrial Security Force at vulnerable depots to curb theft and pilferage.
- (vi) Special squad checking at selected railhead transshipment and destination points.
- (vii) Identification of vulnerable points.
- (viii) Speed up of write off cases and fixation of responsibility wherever called for.
- (ix) Not to place the godowns under the charge of officials whose antecedents are doubtful.
- (x) Inspection of depots and record by Senior Regional Manager/District Managers.
- (xi) Inspection of weighbridges by Joint Manager (Mechanical) and District Manager.
- (xii) Reduction in open wagon movement to the extent possible.
- (xiii) Improvement in the size and quality of gunnies.

Telecasting of Objectionable Episode on V-Channel

*189. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether V-Channel has recently produced and telecast an objectionable episode against which there was popular protests aroused all over the country by the viewers and critics;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action 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) A complaint was received by the Government alleging obscene behaviour in public places shown on a private TV channel namely Channel 'V' on 4th June, 2000. Some newspapers reports to this affect were also brought to the notice of the Government. The matter was referred to the Police Commissioner, Mumbai. The Mumbai Police have informed that they have registered a case against the members of the production

team of V-Channel under the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Indecent Representation of Women Act and Bombay Police Act for vulgarity, obscenity and indecent representation of women. The Mumbai Police has been requested to keep the Government informed about the progress and the result of their investigation. Relevant law of the land will take its own course in such cases and local law enforcing agencies would act accordingly.

It has also been brought to the notice of the Government that Channel 'V', through a public notice, published in newspaper have expressed their apologies to those who have been offended by the programme and have informed that they have suspended the programme and severely reprimanded the employees responsible for the production and airing of the offending episode.

Closure of NFDC

*190 SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any move to close down the National Film Development Corporation and the Directorate of Film Festivals;

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

(c) the details of the alternative plan to continue the promotion of the parallel film movement of the non-commercial nature?

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.

Allocation of Foodgrains under PDS to States

*191. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of States have failed to lift the sizable quantity of foodgrains allotted under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the extent to which the different States, especially Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Assam and Bihar have failed to lift their allotted quota of foodgrains during 1997-98 onwards;

(c) the reasons for not lifting the allotted quantity of foodgrains;

(d) whether in some cases the prices of PDS items are higher than the market price;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore; and

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

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

(b) Statements I to IV showing the quantities of rice and wheat allotted to the States/UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the quantity lifted and the quantities remaining unlifted by them during the financial year 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (April-June, 2000) are enclosed.

(c) The lifting of foodgrains (rice and wheat) allotted under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) depends upon various factors viz, open market availability; parity between TPDS and open market prices; and buying capacity of consumers etc.

(d) and (e) Though the Central Issue Prices (CIP) of foodgrains being distributed under PDS were hiked on 1-4-2000, in the recent past, the prices are still lower than the open market prices especially for the people living below poverty line (BPL). However, the subsidy is now targeted towards the BPL population in the country.

(f) The Government keeps constant watch on the situation. The CIPs of both rice and wheat for BPL and APL categories have been reduced from 25.7.2000.

Statement-I

Statewise Quantities of Foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) allotted, lifted and Quantities of Rice and Wheat remaining unlifted under Targeted Public Distribution System during April, 1997 to March, 1998 (Provisional)

(In '000 tonnes)

S. No.	States/UTs	Rice			Wheat		
		Allotted	Lifted	Unlifted	Allotted	Lifted	Unlifted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2309.00	2000.07	308.930	183.00	125.29	57.710
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	107.86	89.31	18.550	7.11	5.76	1.350

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	590.85	438.31	152.540	323.08	193.94	129.140
4.	Bihar	489.80	156.31	333.490	788.40	513.74	274.660
5.	Delhi	174.30	100.34	73.960	661.47	532.02	129.450
6.	Goa	76.80	51.95	24.850	32.30	27.10	5.200
7.	Gujarat	308.00	178.75	129.250	741.65	519.31	222.340
8.	Haryana	5.00	4.10	0.900	178.55	98.44	80.110
9.	Himachal Pradesh	134.99	90.07	44.920	131.02	115.66	15.360
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	430.76	296.56	134.200	290.59	167.74	122.850
11.	Karnataka	1024.52	833.94	190.580	260.00	248.84	11.160
12.	Kerala	1827.36	1607.38	219.980	389.04	370.93	18.110
13.	Madhya Pradesh	463.50	297.27	166.230	584.90	308.91	275.990
14.	Maharashtra	678.40	562.37	116.030	1251.80	987.43	264.370
15.	Manipur	101.40	45.19	56.210	25.66	27.61	-1.950
16.	Meghalaya	199.28	152.89	46.390	26.54	28.70	-2.160
17.	Mizoram	106.21	95.05	11.160	16.94	17.70	-0.760
18.	Nagaland	108.97	92.22	16.750	28.73	29.24	-0.510
19.	Orissa	715.40	550.84	164.560	299.00	207.19	91.810
20.	Punjab	12.60	1.82	10.780	91.30	14.18	77.120
21.	Rajasthan	56.86	4.17	52.690	901.30	451.44	449.860
22.	Sikkim	77.38	52.05	25.330	5.68	5.32	0.360
23.	Tamil Nadu	1359.71	1261.92	97.790	244.60	124.48	120.120
24.	Tripura	167.33	153.49	13.840	17.96	14.49	3.470
25.	Uttar Pradesh	521.59	320.98	200.610	1214.82	867.20	347.620
26.	West Bengal	536.90	315.98	220.920	1193.20	927.66	265.540
27.	A & N Islands	30.00	0.20	29.800	9.00	0.10	8.900
28.	Chandigarh	2.94	2.08	0.860	17.58	5.27	12.310
29.	D & N Haveli	4.95	2.78	2.170	1.98	1.32	0.660
30.	Daman & Diu	4.38	3.34	1.040	1.50	0.69	0.810
31.	Lakshadweep	8.70	3.11	5.590	0.50	0.89	-0.390
32.	Pondicherry	20.14	0.00	20.140	4.82	0.00	4.820
Total		12655.88	9764.84	2891.040	9924.02	6938.59	2985.430

Statement-II

Statewise Quantities of Foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) allotted, lifted and Quantities of Rice and Wheat remaining unlifted under Targeted Public Distribution System during April, 1998 to March, 1999 (Provisional)

(In '000 tonnes)

S. No.	States/UTs	Rice			Wheat		
		Allotted	Lifted	Unlifted	Allotted	Lifted	Unlifted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2350.40	2116.28	234.122	137.00	123.83	13.168
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	109.20	94.19	15.007	7.20	5.75	1.450
3.	Assam	620.00	555.05	64.950	363.60	311.87	51.733
4.	Bihar	507.36	235.78	271.582	831.04	714.31	116.727
5.	Delhi	164.68	112.68	52.000	694.80	560.15	134.649
6.	Goa	75.96	59.97	15.993	33.72	31.14	2.584
7.	Gujarat	356.00	251.36	104.638	494.00	403.54	90.457
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.000	156.60	75.37	81.233
9.	Himachal Pradesh	144.87	93.98	50.887	139.70	126.55	13.144
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	386.53	318.27	68.262	364.55	138.20	226.344
11.	Karnataka	940.00	888.06	51.942	300.00	279.76	20.242
12.	Kerala	1788.84	1625.88	162.964	452.64	433.03	19.614
13.	Madhya Pradesh	417.20	305.97	111.226	503.88	319.82	184.065
14.	Maharashtra	722.48	666.08	56.397	1178.16	1093.65	84.514
15.	Manipur	122.52	42.96	79.565	32.60	30.98	1.618
16.	Meghalaya	209.58	182.36	27.212	29.52	29.58	-0.058
17.	Mizoram	125.08	123.15	1.927	24.06	23.73	0.327
18.	Nagaland	125.80	114.79	11.010	38.06	37.65	0.414
19.	Orissa	656.98	575.79	81.187	435.00	401.86	33.137
20.	Punjab	11.52	0.78	10.740	61.56	8.34	53.224
21.	Rajasthan	47.47	5.43	42.039	839.56	449.09	390.468
22.	Sikkim	87.72	63.02	24.705	10.68	8.49	2.195
23.	Tamil Nadu	1310.76	1282.72	28.037	360.00	228.85	131.151

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Tripura	200.00	182.90	17.098	21.60	17.58	4.018
25.	Uttar Pradesh	632.40	462.50	169.904	1319.04	1002.94	316.099
26.	West Bengal	567.25	249.71	317.540	1047.35	959.64	87.714
27.	A & N Islands	30.00	0.00	30.000	7.50	0.02	7.477
28.	Chandigarh	3.60	1.73	1.874	21.60	4.64	16.963
29.	D & N Haveli	6.60	3.76	2.842	3.00	2.01	0.990
30.	Daman & Diu	7.20	1.45	5.747	2.40	0.74	1.657
31.	Lakshadweep	3.15	2.62	0.530	0.25	0.27	-0.019
32.	Pondicherry	26.00	1.65	24.353	9.00	0.15	8.854
Total		12757.14	10620.86	2136.280	9919.67	7823.51	2096.153

(-) Excess Lifting

Statement-III

Statewise Quantities of Foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) allotted, lifted and Quantities of Rice and Wheat remaining unlifted under Targeted Public Distribution System during April, 1999 to March, 2000(Provisional)

(In '000 tonnes)

S. No.	States/UTs	Rice			Wheat		
		Allotted	Lifted	Unlifted	Allotted	Lifted	Unlifted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2300.400	2282.454	17.946	141.000	99.208	41.792
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	109.200	101.442	7.758	7.800	5.331	2.469
3.	Assam	670.000	529.183	140.817	213.900	219.155	-5.255
4.	Bihar	507.360	236.540	270.820	861.040	679.827	181.213
5.	Delhi	154.680	75.462	79.218	724.800	53.849	670.951
6.	Goa	75.960	45.308	30.652	33.720	11.775	21.945
7.	Gujarat	292.500	165.578	126.922	739.500	292.506	446.994
8.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	156.600	53.298	103.302
9.	Himachal Pradesh	146.760	64.694	82.066	142.440	54.949	87.491
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	433.266	332.380	100.886	364.548	45.166	319.382
11.	Karnataka	900.000	793.896	106.104	420.000	229.929	190.071

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Kerala	1743.840	1265.904	477.936	452.640	235.909	216.731
13.	Madhya Pradesh	412.200	315.728	96.472	503.880	70.678	433.202
14.	Maharashtra	762.480	675.568	86.912	1208.160	1074.253	133.907
15.	Manipur	125.000	46.226	78.774	23.220	1.414	21.806
16.	Meghalaya	207.576	192.096	15.480	14.460	15.124	-0.664
17.	Mizoram	125.076	88.511	36.565	14.080	14.797	-0.717
18.	Nagaland	125.100	113.559	11.541	23.490	19.457	4.033
19.	Orissa	1160.855	856.824	313.031	420.000	168.180	251.820
20.	Punjab	11.520	1.981	9.539	61.560	5.644	55.916
21.	Rajasthan	15.860	2.704	13.156	633.220	241.010	392.210
22.	Sikkim	87.720	70.013	17.707	2.090	1.398	0.692
23.	Tamil Nadu	1814.760	1804.269	10.491	360.000	164.387	195.613
24.	Tripura	197.500	150.484	47.016	17.160	7.421	9.739
25.	Uttar Pradesh	739.700	363.715	375.985	1529.440	336.453	1192.987
26.	West Bengal	518.600	199.501	319.099	1061.100	744.277	316.823
27.	A & N Islands	30.000	25.957	4.043	9.000	7.485	1.515
28.	Chandigarh	3.600	0.026	3.574	21.600	0.000	21.600
29.	D & N Haveli	6.600	1.376	5.224	3.000	0.357	2.643
30.	Daman & Diu	7.200	0.790	6.410	2.400	0.029	2.371
31.	Lakshadweep	6.300	7.298	-0.998	0.504	0.202	0.302
32.	Pondicherry	24.000	10.043	13.957	9.000	1.750	7.250
Total		13724.613	10819.510	2905.103	10175.352	4855.218	5320.134

(-) Excess Lifting

Statement-IV

Statewise Quantities of Foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) allotted, lifted and Quantities of Rice and Wheat remaining unlifted under Targeted Public Distribution System during April 2000 to June, 2000(Provisional)

(In '000 tonnes)

S. No.	States/UTs	Rice			Wheat		
		Allotted	Lifted	Unlifted	Allotted	Lifted	Unlifted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1088.040	438.056	649.984	24.000	2.809	21.191
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	21.780	12.096	9.684	2.010	0.259	1.751

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	212.180	96.682	115.498	30.900	0.390	30.510
4.	Bihar	229.920	48.543	181.377	344.880	108.051	236.829
5.	Delhi	40.830	0.926	39.904	127.920	0.083	127.837
6.	Goa	12.270	7.381	4.889	5.790	1.272	4.518
7.	Gujarat	229.682	31.891	197.791	352.023	87.256	264.767
8.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	46.140	11.767	34.373
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15.690	0.238	15.452	35.160	4.173	30.987
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	65.730	12.595	53.135	30.960	10.047	20.913
11.	Karnataka	335.000	231.521	103.479	82.250	58.856	23.394
12.	Kerala	435.960	137.740	298.220	113.160	12.546	100.614
13.	Madhya Pradesh	175.050	109.527	65.523	213.990	27.894	186.096
14.	Maharashtra	194.100	84.966	109.134	359.940	132.740	227.200
15.	Manipur	16.380	6.711	9.669	5.130	0.000	5.130
16.	Meghalaya	56.184	9.015	47.169	3.000	0.094	2.906
17.	Mizoram	23.610	23.244	0.366	3.030	0.896	2.134
18.	Nagaland	30.510	4.331	26.179	5.760	1.121	4.639
19.	Orissa	331.062	180.923	150.139	90.000	22.681	67.319
20.	Punjab	4.920	0.028	4.892	26.250	0.655	25.595
21.	Rajasthan	21.413	0.241	21.172	560.629	77.937	482.692
22.	Sikkim	22.950	2.559	20.391	0.300	0.350	-0.050
23.	Tamil Nadu	390.060	319.999	70.061	0.000	0.759	-0.759
24.	Tripura	41.220	18.147	23.073	3.840	0.000	3.840
25.	Uttar Pradesh	222.60	0.00	222.60	450.510	0.050	450.460
26.	West Bengal	164.610	18.110	146.500	336.000	109.328	226.672
27.	A & N Islands	7.950	0.693	7.257	2.460	1.147	1.313
28.	Chandigarh	0.630	0.000	0.630	3.870	0.000	3.870
29.	D & N Haveli	1.260	0.719	0.541	0.330	0.120	0.210
30.	Daman & Diu	0.450	0.090	0.360	0.180	0.006	0.174
31.	Lakshadweep	1.635	0.000	1.635	0.126	0.006	0.120
32.	Pondicherry	7.770	2.105	5.665	1.560	0.717	0.843
Total		4401.446	1799.077	2602.369	3262.098	674.010	2588.088

(-) Excess Lifting

Restructuring of HMT

*192. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

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

(a) whether the Government have refused to endorse the revival package for sick Hindustan Machine Tools Limited (HMT) and have decided to refer it to a Group of Ministers;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of recommendations made by the Group of Ministers in this regard;

(d) whether the private sector companies and multinational companies have shown interest to have a joint venture with HMT;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) whether the Government have identified five units of HMT for closure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) Government have approved a restructuring plan for HMT with the following components :-

- (i) Conversion of GOI loan of Rs. 39.70 crore into equity and write-off of interest accrued thereon of Rs. 12.74 crore.
- (ii) Infusion of fresh equity of Rs. 250 crore.
- (iii) Five unviable units to be closed down and VRS extended to the 454 employees.
- (iv) Government to guarantee issue of bonds by HMT to raise Rs. 469 crore for funding VRS for retiring 6493 employees within 2 years and provide interest subsidy of 50% along with guarantee fee waiver.
- (v) The Machine Tool and Watch Group would be converted into subsidiaries by 31.12.2000. These subsidiaries would be disinvested in upto 74%. Subsidiarisation of and disinvestment in the Tractor Division would also be undertaken on a time-bound basis.

(vi) Watch Factory, Srinagar would be constituted as a subsidiary and be provided, for a period of three years, annual budgetary support as grant-in-aid to meet actual wages and salary outgo as per audited accounts in respect of employees posted at Srinagar.

(vii) Government will extended guarantee of Rs. 40.43 crore for a period of two years to the Company to avail of working capital loan for the watch subsidiary from banks.

(viii) Rs. 15.10 crore will be given towards equity for incurring capital expenditure during 2000-01.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) and (g) Five perennially loss making and unviable units, namely, Central Metal Forming Institute, Watch Case Unit, Lamp Factory, Food Processing Machinery Plant and Miniature Battery Unit have been identified for closure. These 5 units incurred loss of Rs. 222.15 crore upto 31.3.99.

[Translation]

Restructuring of PDS

*193. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have restructured the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details of consumer items brought under the Public Distribution System after this restructuring;

(c) whether the State Governments have also given suggestions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A series of measures have been taken to restructure the Public Distribution System. Government had initiated discussions with State Governments under the aegis of Advisory Council on Foodgrains Management and Public Distribution wherein issues relating to better targetisation, rationalisation of prices, effective monitoring system as well as other related issues on PDS were deliberated upon at length. Based

on the deliberations in the meetings and inputs received from the State Governments as well as from various quarters a series of measures have been taken.

- (i) In order to better targetise the food subsidy towards enhancing the food security to the people living below poverty line (BPL), the allocation of foodgrains to BPL families has been doubled from 10 Kg. to 20 Kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost and for APL at economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000.
- (ii) The allocation for APL families has been maintained at the same level which was fixed at the time of introduction of TPDS in June, 97.
- (iii) Additional quantities of wheat and rice, over and above the normal monthly allocation, if demanded by the State/UTs will be considered subject to availability and at economic cost.

W.e.f. 1.3.2000, Government is allotting levy sugar to States/UTs on the basis of projected population as on 1.3.1999. Accordingly, the allotment of levy sugar has been enhanced. In case of North East and hilly States entitlement of levy sugar has also been increased from 425 gms. to 700 gms. per head per month. The income tax assesseees and their family members have been excluded from PDS in respect of levy sugar allotments from July, 2000 onwards.

Monthly allocation of imported RBD Palmolein is being made as per the demand intimated by States/UTs w.e.f. February, 2000. The basis of allotment to the beneficiaries through the PDS outlets is fixed by the States/UTs themselves.

Allocations of kerosene is made on historical basis i.e., past years supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level. Possible increase is given out of the additional availability at the country level, in accordance with a formula under which higher allocation out of additional quantity, is given to States with lower per capita availability so as to reduce inter-state disparity over a period of time. The distribution of kerosene and its monitoring within the State is the responsibility of concerned State Government. Government of India has insisted upon the State Governments identifying ration card holders having LPG connections for discontinuance of supply of kerosene to them under PDS.

Government has launched a scheme "Sarvapriya" on no profit no loss basis with the objective of making available quality consumer goods at affordable prices as well as to improve the viability of FPS. Under the scheme National Co-operative Consumer Federation (NCCF) will supply eleven consumer goods viz., Arhar Dal, Gram Dal, Masoor Dal, Urad Whole, Salt, Tea, Toilet Soap, Detergent Cake, Exercise Note

Books, Edible Oil and Tooth paste in commercially viable lots after centralised procurement, grading and packaging to State agencies on demand. These items will be distributed to poor people both in rural and urban areas and for weaker sections of the society through PDS outlets, retail units of Civil Supplies Corporation and Consumer Co-operatives. This is a voluntary scheme optional to the State Governments.

Meeting of Chief Ministers

*194. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the Chief Ministers were told to reduce the deficit, take tough decisions and to resolve gradual reduction of Central Sales Tax during the meeting convened by him;

(b) if so, the number of States which have taken steps as suggested by the Centre;

(c) to what extent they have been able to reduce the deficit and brought the economy back; and

(d) the help and assistance Centre has agreed to provide to these States in implementing the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) A Conference of Chief Ministers/Finance Ministers was convened by the Union Finance Minister on 22.6.2000 to discuss issues related to domestic trade tax reforms and Value Added Tax. In respect of Central Sales Tax, it was decided that a meeting of all the Finance Secretaries of States and Union Territories will be held to discuss the report of NIPF&P on "Reforms of Inter-State Taxation in India". Among other things, reference was also made to the need to reduce the deficit.

(b) to (d) Does not arise as there was no decision regarding reduction in deficit or gradual reduction of Central Sales Tax.

[English]

Restriction on Indian Exports by U.S. and other Developed Countries

*195. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether USA has detained some Indian products using complex technical specifications as a non-tariff barrier to imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the USA and other developed countries have been persisting on imposition of social and technical import constraints in respect of products exported from India through World Trade Organisation despite failure of Seattle talks; and

(e) if so, the steps and strategy has been adopted by the Indian Government to counter such restrictions imposed by developed countries against export from India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Government of India have not come across any case of detention of Indian products in USA on the basis of complex technical specifications.

(d) USA and other developed countries are in favour of linkage between certain non-trade issues such as social and environmental issues with international trade issues.

(e) India (along with other like-minded developing countries) is opposing the linkage of trade with social issues, on the ground that such issues are unrelated to trade. We have also been pressing at the WTO for ensuring our participation in the development of standards by international standard setting bodies, so that standards adopted fully take into account the problems and constraints that developing countries face.

Showing Doordarshan Channels by Cable Operators

*196. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK :

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

(a) whether all cable operators are supposed to show at least three Doordarshan channels to their viewers according to law;

(b) if so, whether it is being followed strictly;

(c) if not, the details of steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether there are any general rules and regulations for cable operators in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) As per the existing Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, it is mandatory for a cable operator to carry on his network any two Doordarshan channels of his choice.

(b) Reports have been received that some of the cable operators are either not carrying two Doordarshan channels on their network or they are carrying them in a manner which does not provide good quality reception to the viewers.

(c) The Government proposes to introduce an amendment Bill during the current session of Parliament, which will, inter-alia, mandate the cable operators to carry two terrestrial and one regional channel of Doordarshan and also the manner of their carriage. The amendment Bill also envisages more effective enforcement mechanism.

(d) and (e) The Operation of Cable Television Network in the country is governed by Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 made thereunder.

Entry of foreign and Indian Private Companies in Insurance Sector

197. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has since been constituted and started functioning?

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of foreign companies and Indian private companies have been given clearance to start functioning; and

(c) if not, the time by which the IRDA is likely to be constituted?

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

(b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has been constituted on 19th April, 2000. No new

insurance company has been given clearance to start business as yet.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given at (a) above.

Insurance Policy

*198. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the people in the country have no knowledge of several hidden clauses of the insurance policies;

(b) if so, whether owing to ignorance of the clients, the insurance companies get away with negligence and deficiency in service;

(c) if so, whether any directions have been issued to the insurance companies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Insurance policy document explains the terms, conditions, exclusions and warranties under which compensation for any loss is payable by the insurer. There are no hidden clauses in any insurance policy of which undue advantage could be taken by insurance companies.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Premium Rates of LIC/GIC

*199. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the premium rates of Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation are amongst the highest rates prevalent worldwide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any country-wise study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons for keeping high rate of premium in the country; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to General Insurance Corporation no specific country-wise comparative study of premium rates has so far been undertaken, as per their information. The Life Insurance Corporation of India have compared their premium rates under "without-profit Endowment Assurance Policy" with those of some foreign insurer and found that LIC's rates are the lowest among them.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Export of Surplus Sugar

*200. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the production of sugar in the country is estimated to be more than its consumption during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantity of sugar estimated to be required for domestic consumption and the estimated quantity of surplus sugar likely to be available during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any concrete policy for export of surplus sugar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have allowed private owned sugar mills to export 10 lakh tonnes of sugar;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the impact on the prices of sugar in the domestic market as a result thereof; and

(h) the strategy chalked out by the Government to check the price rise of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The sugar production during the current 1999-2000 season (October-September) is expected to be of the order of 180 lakh tonnes as against last season's production of 155.20 lakh tonnes. Taking into account the last three year's carry over — stocks of 67.23 lakh tonnes, the total availability of sugar works

out to 247.23 lakh tonnes during the current season against the estimated consumption of 150.84 lakh tonnes. As such, stocks at the end of the season i.e. on 30th September, 2000 are estimated to be 96.39 lakh tonnes.

(c) to (f) Government have decided to allow export of 10 lakh tonnes of domestically produced sugar, which can be carried out by the sugar mills either directly or through the exporters. The export of sugar is not restricted to private owned sugar mills.

In order to make the sugar exports viable, Government have decided to exempt the quantity of sugar exported for purpose of calculating the levy obligation. To begin with, this exemption will be available for a period of six months, w.e.f. 1st June, 2000.

(g) and (h) Due to the comfortable level of domestic sugar stocks and judicious releases of freesale sugar, no adverse impact on the prices of sugar in the domestic market is anticipated.

Procurement of Rice from Andhra Pradesh

1963. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FCI has not been maintaining status quo over the purchase of grade I and grade II rice from Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether FCI's decision has greatly affected the farmers in Krishna, East and West Godavari districts of the State;

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

(e) whether any directions have been given by the Government to FCI in this regard with a view to protect the interest of farmers of the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Both Grade 'A' and common rice are purchased by FCI in Andhra Pradesh as per the laid down specifications of the Government. Procurement of common rice is comparatively higher than the last year, apparently due to reduction of admixture (in Grade 'A' rice) from 13% to 10% w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) FCI has procured levy rice in Andhra Pradesh more than the target fixed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh as a whole, and also some of the districts which include Krishan, East and West Godavari districts. The details of procurement of rice by the FCI in respect of the districts of Krishna, West Godavari and East Godavari are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Quantity of Rice Procured in Krishna, West and East Godavari districts during year 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Procurement (in MTs)

Year	District	Target of Andhra Pradesh Govt.	Grade 'A'	Common	Total
1998-99	Krishna	4,11,115	4,34,122	-	4,34,122
	W. Godavari	5,83,230	6,52,186	166	6,52,352
	E. Godavari	6,95,490	9,16,138	50	9,16,188
1999-2000 (as on 1.6.2000)					
	Krishna	3,82,500	3,51,561	84,517	4,36,168
	W. Godavari	5,41,500	5,59,278	49,539	6,08,817
	E. Godavari	7,10,500	7,48,506	1,60,799	9,09,305

World Bank Loan to Infrastructure Projects

1964. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has resumed the financing of Indian infrastructure projects, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details regarding the financial loan has been provided, alongwith fiscal reforms and power sector restructuring programmes which have been fixed in the 'human needs' category; and

(c) the details of the terms and conditions in this regard have been reached relating to the loan in favour of Uttar Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) After May 1998, as a result of G-7 sanctions, the World Bank initially approved only those projects seen as supporting basic human needs. Four projects relating to Highways & Power, which were negotiated prior to May, 1998, were not presented to the World Bank Board. One of these projects (IREDA - II) has since been approved in June, 2000. The other three have not yet been approved. The AP Power Project was approved by the World Bank Board in February, 1999. The following projects have been approved during the current year 2000-2001 upto June, 2000 :

(Dates Provisional)

Figures in US \$ Mn.

No.	Project Names	FY 2000	
		IBRD	IDA
1	AP Dist. Poverty		111
2	Immunization Strengthening Pro		142.6
3	Rajasthan District Poverty		100
4	TA for Economic Reforms		45
5	UP Fiscal Reforms	126.27	125
6	UP Health Development Project		110
7	UP Power Sector Reforms	150	
8	TA for Telecom Sector	62	
9	National Highway	516	
10	IREDA II	80	50
Total		934.27	683.6
		1617.87	

There is no formal definition of basic human needs, which is applied by the World Bank.

(c) As per the normal terms and conditions applicable to loans of the World Bank, Government of India will be borrower and will on-lend to Government of Uttar Pradesh under standard additional central assistance terms.

[Translation]

Proposal for WTO

1965. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to forward a joint proposal of Group-15 countries in respect of different issues of the agenda of ensuring World Trade Organisation meeting;

(b) if so, the concrete proposal has been forwarded or likely to be forwarded by India in this regard and the main objectives thereof; and

(c) the stand of other Group-15 countries on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) In the fifth Meeting of the Minister of Trade/Economy of the G-15 countries held at Cairo on 15th June, 2000 the Ministers agreed to deepen their cooperation in matters concerning WTO through regular consultations among them. As agreed therein, Malaysia is hosting an informal meeting of the Ministers of Trade/Economy of G-15 countries at Kuala Lumpur on 1-2 September, 2000 to discuss possible common approaches on various WTO issues.

Bank Loan for Famine Relief

1966. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur have provided assistance for famine relief;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of famine affected people and the amount of loan distributed to them by the bank; and

(d) the extent to which famine affected people have got relief from it?

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

(b) In respect of recent drought conditions in the State of Rajasthan, the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur has reported that the details of relief provided by them in the drought affected area is as under :

- (i) Provided fresh loans of Rs. 20122 lakhs.
- (ii) Rescheduling and rephasing of due instalments of existing loan accounts for Rs. 2585 lakhs.
- (iii) Free assistance like supply of water tanks, water through tanks, fodder, food grains, installation of water huts for drinking water facilities, drinking water facility adoption of one village, and donations of Rs. 21 lakhs and Rs. 11 lakhs to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund and Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Rajasthan respectively for welfare of drought affected areas.

(c) and (d) The number of famine affected people in the State of Rajasthan was 261 lakhs. The details of the fresh loan provided by the bank is as under :

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

	No.	Amount
(i) Farm Sector	30,677	15,795
(ii) Non Farm Sector	07130	04,327
Total	37,807	20,122

The total relief provided by bank way of sanctioning fresh loans as well as reschedulement/ rephasing of existing loans in famine affected areas is as under :

No. of beneficiaries	Amount (in lakhs)
99484	22707

[English]

Export of Iron Ore

1967. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given on February 2, 2000 to Unstarred Question No 338 and state :

(a) whether the proposal to export Iron ore during the remaining period of Ninth Plan has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the total tonnes of Iron ore proposed to be exported during that plan period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Export target of Iron ore is fixed on an annual basis after assessment of the domestic demand and export performance of the previous year. The target for export of Iron ore during the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 2230 crore. The export target is generally fixed in value terms only. During the first three years of the Ninth Plan period (1997-98 to 1999-2000), the export of Iron ore has been of the value of around Rs. 4536 crore. (Source : DGCI&S)

Places of Tourist Attractions

1968. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the main tourist attractions/spots in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have made any indepth study to identify more tourist centres in the country during the last three years;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) In order to accelerate the growth of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Department of Tourism has identified 21 Travel Circuits, 12 Destinations, 5 Special Tourism Areas and 33 Pilgrim Centres covering important places of tourist interest. These places are identified in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. During last three years 2 travel circuits and 2 destinations have been identified in Gujarat in consultation with the State Government.

[Translation]

Consumer Protection Act, 1986

1969. SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI :

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

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations of the Expert Group to revise the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the action taken thereon; and
- (d) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. All the recommendations received from various sources including the recommendations of the Expert Group have been examined in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments for amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make it more purposeful and effective and also to smoothen the functioning of the Consumer Courts for quicker disposal of consumer complaints. The draft Amendment Bill is being prepared in consultation with the Ministry of Law. It is the endeavor of the Government to introduce the Amendment Bill in Parliament as soon as possible.

Visit of Foreign Tourists in Haryana

1970. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of tourists including foreign tourists visited Haryana during the last three years;
- (b) the income earned by the Government from these tourists; and
- (c) the details of the financial assistance provided for the development of tourism in Haryana during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) According to the information furnished by State Government, the estimated number of visits of tourists including foreign tourists to the State of Haryana for the year 1997, 1998 and 1999 are 2,58,979; 2,60,596 and 2,44,660 respectively.

(b) The estimates of foreign earnings from tourism are not maintained State-wise.

(c) During the year 1999-2000, a sum of Rs. 238.33 lakhs for seven projects has been sanctioned as Central financial assistance and during the year 2000-2001, 8 projects amounting to Rs. 140.75 lakhs have been identified for the development of tourism in Haryana.

Exploitation of Workers in CWC

1971. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Kendriya Bhandar Nigam Mein Majduron Ka Shoshan" appearing in 'Jansatta', New Delhi dated June 19, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the labourers working in Gajipur Depot of Central Warehousing Corporation are being exploited;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

ADB Loan

1972. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has agreed to the long pending proposal for \$ 180 million loan for part financing the Surat-Manor Highway project on N.H. No. 8 in Gujarat - Maharashtra;

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

(c) the terms and conditions of the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Board of Directors of Asian Development Bank have approved a loan assistance of US \$ 180 million for the Surat Manor Tollway Project on 27th July, 2000;

(b) The loan is to be disbursed by ADB to National Highways Authority of India upto 30.9.2004 against claims submitted by them after the loan agreement is signed and declared effective.

(c) The loan is repayable in 25 years, including a grace period of 5 years. The interest will be determined according to ADB's pool-based variable lending rate system for US dollar loans.

[Translation]

Development of Tourist Spots

1973. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any machinery for the development of tourist spots in the States and to ensure the proper utilisation of the allocated funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the States have fully utilised the allocated funds during the last three years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for ensuring proper utilisation of the allocated funds?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Development of tourist spots is primarily undertaken by the State Government/UT Administrations. However, every year Department of Tourism identifies projects for financial assistance in consultation with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. The first instalment for the identified projects is sanctioned and released on receipt of complete project proposal from the State Govt. Subsequent instalments are released on receipt of Utilisation Certificate and other relevant documents. In order to review the progress of sanctioned projects the Department of Tourism holds periodical meetings with State Govt. officials and also undertakes field visits through its regional offices.

[English]

Manipulation in L&T

1974. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI is examining the case of manipulation in Larsen and Toubro script;

(b) if so, the details of SEBI guidelines overruled by L&T during the past three months; and

(c) the action has been taken against L&T (Larsen & Toubro) for misleading the investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) SEBI has intimated that they have examined the matter relating to violation of any of the guidelines/disclosure requirements specified under the listing agreement with stock exchanges, leading to possibility of any market abuse. A preliminary examination was conducted in connection with the conflicting reports in the media about the proposal of demerger of the L&T's cement division to be considered in the Board Meeting for 4th July, 2000. The company clarified to the stock exchanges that the Board would be updated in the meeting

on 4th July, 2000 regarding the progress on the implementation of a consulting group's recommendations, which inter-alia, included the recommendation on restructuring the cement business. This clarification was immediately disseminated by the stock exchanges. Subsequently, in its Board Meeting on 4th July, 2000 the company, in principle, decided to demerge its cement division. Thus, on preliminary examination, SEBI has concluded that there is no case of misleading investors.

[Translation]

DD/Air Kendras in Madhya Pradesh

1975. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Doordarshan Kendras and All India Radio stations likely to be set up in Madhya Pradesh during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, location-wise;

(b) the names of the places where new Kendras are proposed to be set up during the year 2000-2001.

(c) the names of district headquarters of the State where DD centres and AIR stations have not been set up so far; and

(d) the action taken to set up DD centres and AIR stations in those districts where there is no such kendras/stations?

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) During 1998-99, two AIR FM Tr. at Indore and Bhopal and Six Doordarshan Transmitters at Bada Malhera, Bhanpura, Garot, Piparia, Sitamau and Sarangarh were commissioned. During the year 1999-2000, one AIR FM Transmitter at Jabalpur and two Doordarshan Transmitters at Raipur and Pendra Road were commissioned.

(b) Three new AIR Stations at Saraipalli, Rajgarh and Mandla are proposed to be set up in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-2001. The details of Doordarshan projects commissioned during the current year and those presently under implementation are given in the attached statement-I.

(c) and (d) All the district headquarters of M.P. (as per 1991 census) are covered by AIR and Doordarshan transmission either from a local Radio Station and Doordarshan Transmitter or from a nearby Radio Station/Doordarshan Transmitter. DD transmitters are not located at nine district headquarters of M.P. viz. Dewas, Dhar, Durg, Hoshangabad, Morena, Raisen, Rajnandgaon, Sihore and Vidisha. List of

districts Head Quarter where AIR stations are not located is given in the statement-II attached. Locations of Radio and Doordarshan transmitter are not planned district-wise and hence there is no proposal to set up DD centres and Radio stations in each of the district Headquarters. Further, expansion of Radio/TV coverage in the State is being carried out in a phased manner, depending on the requirement and availability of resources.

Statement-I

DD Projects commissioned during 2000-2001 (so far) in M.P.

1. Studio Indore
2. Studio Gwalior
3. LPT Multai
4. LPT Kukshi
5. LPT Badwani
6. LPT Karaira

DD Projects under implementation in M.P.

- A. Studio Jagdalpur
- B. HPTs :
 1. Ambikapur
 2. Guna
 3. Shahdol
 4. Bhopal (DD2)
 5. Indore (DD2)
 6. Jabalpur (DD2)
- C. LPTs :
 1. Agar
 2. Bareilly
 3. Champa
 4. Kharod
 5. Konta
 6. Lakhnadon
 7. Pandaria

8. Sindhwa
- D. VLPTs :
 1. Pathalgaon
 2. Alot

Statement-II

1. Sheopur Kalan
2. Morena (Chambal)
3. Bhind
4. Datia
5. Tikamgarh
6. Damoh
7. Panna
8. Satna
9. Sidhi
10. Umaria
11. Koria
12. Jashpur
13. Korba
14. Janjgir (Champa)
15. Mahasamund
16. Dhamtari
17. Kanker
18. Dantewara
19. Durg
20. Rajnandgaon
21. Kvardha
22. Mandla
23. Dindori
24. Katni
25. Narsinhpur

26. Seoni
27. Hoshangabad
28. Harda
29. Sehore
30. Raisen
31. Vidisha
32. Shajapur
33. Ujjain
34. Dewas
35. Khargone
36. Badwani
37. Dhar
38. Jhabua
39. Ratlam
40. Mandsaur
41. Neemach

[English]

Export of Fodder by Gujarat

1976. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 1360 tonnes of fodder was exported from Gujarat to UAE, at a time when Gujarat was facing great shortage and State Government was appealing to other States for help as reported in the Indian Express of May 16, 2000;

(b) if so, whether export was made as per export licence granted by Ahmedabad based Joint DGFT;

(c) the reasons for which the export licence was issued thereby accelerating deaths of our own cattle;

(d) whether any inquiry has been made in this regard; and

(e) if so, action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Against the unutilized ceiling of fodder for the licencing year 1999-2000, twenty exporters were issued export licences for the export of fodder in March, 2000 with validity period upto 30.6.2000. Only two out of these licences were issued by Jt. DGFT, Ahmedabad for a total quantity of 1440 tonnes. However, keeping in view the drought conditions, the export licences were suspended in the second week of May, 2000. As per the available information out of the two licences issued by Jt. DGFT, Ahmedabad, only 50 tonnes was exported before the licences were suspended.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of the above

Funds to States for Consumer Movement

1977. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any funds have been made available to State Governments to strengthen the consumer movement;

(b) if so, the details of the release of funds during 1999-2000 for strengthening the consumer movement, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any plan to intensify the consumer movement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to use the media to make people aware of their rights of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No separate funds have been made available to State Governments to strengthen the consumer movement. However, State Governments are eligible to seek financial assistance from the Consumer Welfare Fund for strengthening the consumer movement. During the year 1999-2000 the Government of Mizoram has been provided with financial assistance of Rs. 3,80,700/- from the Consumer Welfare Fund.

(c) and (d) Consumer movement is an ongoing process and continuous efforts are undertaken by the Central and State Governments, voluntary organisations and others to spread the consumer movement in the country. Financial assistance is provided to eligible agencies from the Consumer Welfare Fund for undertaking suitable projects to strengthen the consumer movement.

(e) To make the people aware of their rights and

responsibilities as consumers, Government has been taking up publicity measures through audio, video and print media including outdoor publicity programmes throughout the country.

Reduction in Prices of Foodgrains under PDS

1978. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reduced the prices of foodgrains being issued under the PDS system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the basis on which the prices have been reduced and the reasons for doing so;

(d) whether the economic cost have been reduced;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to reduce the cost further; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice under PDS on 1.4.2000 were as follows :-

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	BPL	APL
1. Wheat	450	900
2. Rice		
(i) Common	590	--
(ii) Grade 'A'	590	1180

The CIPs have been revised with effect from 25.7.2000 as under :-

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	BPL	APL
1. Wheat	415	830
2. Rice		
(i) Common	565	--
(ii) Grade 'A'	565	1130

(c) The CIPs of wheat and rice are fixed at 50% of economic cost for BPL population and at 100% of economic cost for APL population. The CIPs have been revised with effect from 25.7.2000 on approval of the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The economic cost of wheat and rice have been reduced from Rs. 900/- per qtl. to Rs. 830/- per qtl. and Rs. 1180/- per qtl. to Rs. 1130/- per qtl. for wheat and rice respectively with effect from 25.7.2000.

(f) and (g) At present, there is no proposal to reduce the cost further.

Monthly Income Scheme of UTI

1979. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Unit Trust of India has approached his Ministry to transfer the tax burden on investors on their monthly scheme;

(b) if so, whether SEBI has refused to give permission;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether due to the new provision in the budget, UTI will have to sacrifice Rs. 256 crores for taxation for such monthly income scheme;

(e) if so, whether the small investors and investors association have opposed the idea of UTI to pass on this additional 11% tax burden on small investors; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Unit Trust of India (UTI), had requested the Ministry of Finance to consider the following : to apply the new income distribution tax under the Finance Bill 2000 prospectively to schemes to be launched after 30.6.2000; waiver of the income distribution tax clause for its Monthly Income Plans (MIPs) launched before 30th June, 1999; and to reduce the income distribution tax rate from 20% to the previous year's level of 10% for all schemes launched after 30.6.99 and upto 30.6.2000. The Government has not accepted UTI's suggestions.

(d) to (f) The total tax incidence on UTI's assured MIPs, on account of the income distribution tax, is approximately Rs. 370.49 crores during the year 2000-2001. According to UTI, small investors desire to get the returns assured by UTI.

[Translation]

Promotion of Software Industry

1980. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the efforts made/being made by the India Trade Promotion Organisation to promote Indian Software Industry in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : The India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has been undertaking various export promotion programmes to promote Indian Software Industry in the world markets. The details of the programmes organised by ITPO and the events in which ITPO participated in the recent past to promote software exports from India are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Programmes Organised by ITPO

1. Contact Promotion Programme on Computer Software and Services in Australia from March 5-16, 2000;
2. Product Promotion Programme on Computer Software and Services in France and the Netherlands from March 26 to April 5, 2000;

Exhibitions/Events in which ITPO participated

Electronic and Computer Software Export Promotion Council alongwith its constituents participated in 3 fairs/exhibitions viz. Indian Exhibition, Tel Aviv (Israel) from May 3-7, 2000; TIBCO, Bucharest (Romania) from May 31-June 5, 2000 and Expo India, Santiago (Chile) from July 20-26, 2000. In addition, a Seminar entitled "Potential for Cooperation between India and Israel on the High Tech Sectors of Telecommunications and Software" was organised by Israel Export Institute and the Embassy of India during Indian Exhibition, Tel Aviv. The Seminar was attended by 34 leading Israeli companies. The Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, the leader of the Indian delegation briefed the participants about Indian telecom and software sector.

ITPO organised participation of 3 Indian companies in PC Expo, Japan (11-15 September, 1999) and five Indian companies in Communet, Osaka, Japan (14-16 September, 1999).

Two major companies viz. Consultancy Services and Sky Capital International Ltd. participated in the "India into the new Millennium" organised by ITPO in Hong Kong from 23-27 February, 2000.

At the recently concluded, "Memphis in May (MIM) Festival" in which India was the honoured country, a major Seminar was organised on 11.5.2000 by the MIM in conjunction with the Wang Centre, University of Memphis. The Seminar was attended by approx. 100 representatives of leading information technology companies from the State of Tennessee (USA).

In addition to the above, meetings are arranged between foreign delegations visiting India with leading Indian companies in Computer Software.

Reputed information technology events organised/to be organised in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi are as under :-

- (i) India Internet World held in September each year.
- (ii) I.T. World/COMDEX India in December each year.
- (iii) Convergence India in March from the year 2001.
- (iv) IT Asia in March each year till 2000.
- (v) Supercom proposed in September, 2000.

[English]

Ban on Cultivation and Sale of Cultured Salt

1981. SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of cultured salt is the traditional occupation of Agari community of Coastal Zones of the country, especially in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Government have imposed ban on the production and marketing of this salt as it has no approved iodized mark;

(c) if so, whether the Indian Medical Association has certified that use of this salt is not harmful for human beings and recommended for lifting the ban on the production and marketing of this salt;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the time by which the decision to lift ban is likely to be taken?

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

(b) to (f) There is no ban on production of common salt. However, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has imposed restriction on the sale of non-iodized salt for direct human consumption which came into effect on 27.5.1998. That Ministry has issued a fresh notification on 10.5.2000 inviting comments from the public on the proposal to remove the restriction on sale of non-iodized salt for direct human consumption.

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

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

Shortage of Stamp Papers

1982. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of stamp papers in the country and duplicate stamp papers are in circulation;

(b) if so, the reasons for the shortage and the number of cases of fake stamp papers that have come to the notice of the Government; and

(c) the steps taken to tide over the shortages of stamp papers and to make their availability easier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There is no shortage of stamp papers in the country and sufficient stock is available with the Indian Security Press. Artificial shortage because of non-collection of consignment by indenters may exist. During the last one year, 853 stamp papers were found to be forged after examination by the India Security Press.

(c) India Security Press is in a position to meet any demand immediately.

[Translation]

New Policy for Recruitment

1983. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee of Secretaries of the Union Ministries to formulate a new policy for the recruitment;

(b) if so, the details of the work done by the Committee;

(c) whether the Government have studied the problems relating to unemployment prevailing in the country and the increasing number of unemployed persons under the recruitment policy besides problems arising out of unemployment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

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

Laws for Collaboration with Foreign Countries

1984. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the existing laws governing investments in India in collaboration with any foreign company;

(b) whether the government have received any complaints regarding violation of these laws;

(c) if so, the details thereof for the last two years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country is governed by the provisions of Foreign Exchange Maintenance Act (FEMA). To implement the projects for which FDI has been brought into India, usually a company is incorporated in India under the Companies Act, 1956. Once incorporated it has to abide by all the Indian laws as a corporate entity. As and when any Indian law is violated by a company, it is proceeded against as per law of the land. Information regarding violation of laws is not centrally maintained.

[English]

National Monuments

1985. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of terms and conditions to declare any Monument as a National Monument by Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) the details of spots declared as National Monuments in Buldhana District of Maharashtra as per these terms and conditions;

(c) whether these spots are to be declared as Tourist Spots; and

(d) if so, the allocation of funds made to develop these monuments during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Any structure, monument, any cave, monolith, any tumulus or place of interment which is of unique historical, archaeological, or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than 100 years can be considered for declaration as a monument of national importance as per section 4(1) of the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological, Archaeological Sites & Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959 made therein.

(b) There are 17 protected monuments of national importance in Buldhana District, as per List given in the enclosed statement.

(c) These protected monuments attract tourists as such no separate declaration is envisaged.

(d) An amount of Rs. 0.9 lakh for minor repairs and day to day maintenance have been allocated during the current year 2000-2001 for some of these monuments.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Monument	Location
1	2	3
1.	Moti Samadhi	Deulgaon Raja
2.	Three Old Temples	Dhotra (Nandal)
3.	Mosque	Fathekheda (Sakherkheda)
4.	Two Old Temples	Kothali
5.	Dharmasala locally known as Chhatra	Lonar
6.	Fifteen Temples	Lonar
7.	Gaimukh temple and tank	Lonar
8.	Gaimukh No. 1 of Daitya Sudan	Lonar

1	2	3
9.	Square Kunda on the east of town	Lonar
10.	Temple of Daitya Sudan	Lonar
11.	Dharmasala at the north west corner of the town	Mehkar
12.	Mosque	Rohinkhed
13.	Temple of Mahadev	Sakegaon
14.	Temple of Vishnu remains of an old building to the east of that temple and remains of small temple	Satgaon
15.	Tank	Sindhakhed Raja
16.	Temple of Mahadev	Sindhakhed Raja
17.	Lakhuji Jadhavrao's Samadhi	Sindhakhed

Tercentenary Celebrations of Khalsa

1986. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned by the Government for the Tercentenary celebrations of Khalsa;

(b) the total amount disbursed so far and how much amount has been given to the Rashtriya Sikh Sangat for its various activities;

(c) whether the Union Government have also provided the amount to the Govt. of Punjab in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Sanctions were issued for an amount of Rs. 64.86 crores for Ter-Centenary Celebrations of Khalsa. Of this 59.56 crores has been disbursed so far. No amount has been given to Rashtriya Sikh Sangat.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Rs. 50.00 crores has been sanctioned to the State Government of Punjab for undertaking various activities to commemorate the Ter-Centenary of the Birth of Khalsa.

(e) Does not arise.

Excavation Work

1987. SHRI ANIL BASU :

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

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

(a) the number of excavation works in progress under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) the nature, purpose and other details of each of these ongoing excavations including details of places, the date on which the work commenced and the date by which it is expected to be completed;

(c) the details of any find/evidences discovered in each of the excavation and whether they have been documented and evaluated and whether the reports have been published thereon;

(d) the details of archaeological finds and evidences discovered hitherto in respect of which no

evaluation has been made or reports published, given the date of such finds/evidences;

(e) the details of excavations proposed to be undertaken by the ASI during the current and the next few years; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken to avoid false or fake excavations, finds or evidences?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The details of Archaeological Survey of India's ongoing excavations are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) As per available record, all the excavated finds have been evaluated and documented.

(e) The details of ongoing excavations may be seen in the Annexure. No decision has been taken in respect of future excavations.

(f) Does not arise. The Archaeological Survey of India conducts excavations based on scientific principles and according to well established norms.

Statement

Site-wise details of On-Going Excavations being conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India

Name of State, District and Site	Date of Commencement	Date of completion	Nature, Purpose, Status of Documentation and other details	Status of Report
1	2	3	4	5
Assam, Goalpura, Sri Surya Pahar	December 1992	On going work	The nature and purpose of the excavation was to ascertain the sequence of culture of brick temple of early medieval period. The temple was enclosed within an enclosure wall consisting of a sanctum and a porch in front. The squarish sanctum with a platform was discovered without a presiding deity. Some decorative terracotta plaques, found in the course of excavation, were evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Bihar, East Champaran, Kesariya	January 1998	On going work	The nature and purpose of excavation was to ascertain the different phases of construction of a Buddhist stupa. A five terraced circular brick stupa of late Gupta period possibly covering an earlier stupa of Sunga-Kushan period has been unearthed. Each terrace has cells, some housing stucco image of Buddha. The finds evaluated have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.

1	2	3	4	5
Goa, South Goa, Chandor	February, 2000	On going Work	The excavation at Chandor revealed three clear cut phases of cultural activity which includes a cruciform-like brick structure with pillar bases as earliest phase, overlain a brick temple with a large mandap and Garbhagriha. The third phase reveals a squarish brick chamber whose relationship with second phase temple to be established. Excavation to the east of temple complex, also unearthed a broad brick city wall running in north-south and measuring more than 20 meter in length has successive repairs in due course of time. The other find includes coin, copper nails, gold ear ornament, tiles and pottery. All the evidence have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Gujarat Kuchchh, Dholavira	December 1991	Ongoing work	A unique Harappan city (cira 3000-1500 B.C.) is being excavated for the nine field season since January, 1990. The Work has provided the evidence of the rise and fall of the Harappan civilization, besides revealing an excellent example of town planning, monumental as well as aesthetic architecture, water harnessing systems, provision of stadia, stone-dressing technology, funerary architecture. Among other relics are large reservoirs, one having a damaged flight of 30 steps, and the other a rock-cut one of extraordinary significance in the Harappan context. The finds have been evaluated and documented.	On going excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Haryana, Hissar, Rakhigrahi	November, 1997	On going work	This is a Harappan site. The excavation has yielded evidence of public building and drainage, the evidence of activities of specialised crafts and long distance trade. Artifacts recovered from the site include terracotta figurines; pieces of ornaments of gold, silver, copper, shell, semi - precious stones, steatite, faience, clay, bones, etc., stone weights, seals and sealings. In addition lithic and ceramic assemblages has also been found. A Harappan cemetery has also been identified. The finds have been evaluated and documented.	On going excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu, Amabaran	January, 2000	On going work	Earlier the site had reported Akhnoor type of terracotta figuriness belonging to early historical period. The site was taken up for excavation to ascertain the sequence of culture and study the Akhnoor type of terracotta figurines in a stratified context. The artifacts and pottery reported in the course of excavation have been evaluated and documented.	On going excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka, Bellari, Hampi	January, 1978	On going work	The site has been identified as Vijayanagar, the capital city of the Vijayanagar kingdom which flourished from 14th to the 16th century AD. Excavation has revealed ruins of Vijayanagar palace complex, water harvesting system besides antiquities and numismatic data. The finds have been evaluated and documented.	On going excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Karnataka, Gulbarga, Kanganhalli	March, 1995	On going work	Ruins of stupa of the Satvahana period datable to circa 2nd century BC to 2nd 3rd century AD. Limestone sculptures of Buddha, Buddhist deities, carved panels depicting events from the life of Buddha. The finds have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Karnataka, North Kanara, Mirjan Fort	December, 1999	On going work	A number of lateritic structures, water cistern for storing water, and underground chambers plastered with lime for storing ammunition have been brought to light. Important finds like Portuguese gold coin minted at Goa in A.D. 1652; and canon balls and Chinese stamped porcelain with paintings have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Karnataka, Srirangapatna, Lal Mahal	November, 1998	On going work	The excavation was undertaken with a view to examine the structural activities of the Lal Mahal / Ancient Palace a part of the debris of the palace cleared previously. A flight of steps with balustrade was found to the western side of the mound leading to platform to the east. A series of rooms were exposed to the north and south of the platform. A pillared hall was located to the east of audience hall. The finds have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Kerala, Kasargode, Bekal Fort	December, 1997	On going work	There are residue of military and paramilitary settlements inside the fort and the excavation revealed many in residential houses planned grid pattern along the street. A mint of Tipu Sultan was encountered alongwith a series of furnace together with 150 copper ingots mixed with charcoal. The antiquities evaluated and documented were 100 coins, coin-die, pieces of gold ear-rings etc. - all attributed to Tipu Sultan's Period.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh, West Nimar, (Khargaon), Chichali	January, 1999	On going work	The excavation revealed four fold cultural sequence from 4.5 m. thick deposit, ranging from the Chalcolithic to Early Historical period viz. Ahar, Malwa, Jorwe and early historical period. Evidences of house plans of different nature are found in almost all stages together with terracotta, copper, stone, bone, ivory and iron objects. The finds have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Madhya Pradesh, Chattarpur, Bijamandal Mound, Khasuraho	March, 1999	On going work	The excavation revealed the ruins of a large temple complex with sculptures and architectural members belonging to Chandela. Among the important sculptures, reference may be made of Sarswati, Jain tirthankaras, besides unfinished sculptures. The finds have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Madhya Pradesh, Rewa, Barhat (Deorkothar)	December, 1999	On going work	At Barhat (Deorkothar), Stupa No.1 & 2 were subjected to excavation. Both the stupas, circular on plan embellished with toras, were covered by brick bats upto medhi level. The ruins may safely be dated to Maurya - Sunga period as the excavation has revealed six lined inscription in Mauryan Brahmi and a few donatory inscriptions in Sunga Brahmi characters. The finds have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Orissa, Jajpur, Udaigiri	December, 1997	On going work	The excavation has revealed brick built double storyed monastery consisting monastic cells, varandah, courtyard, sanctum sanctorum with an image of Buddha. Important finds reported were sculptures of Buddhist divinities, architectural fragments, fragmentary stone inscriptions, votive stupas, terracotta seals and sealings. Two bronze images of Buddha and Bodhisattava are also recovered. The site is datable to circa 9th century A.D. to 10th century A.D. The antiquities have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Punjab, Mansa, Dhalewan	January, 2000	On going work	The excavation work proposed to study the gradual evaluation from Pre Harappan to Harappan and to study the settlement pattern. The finds have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Rajasthan, Bhilwara, Ojena	January, 2000	On going work	The excavation was carried out to ascertain the sequence of culture and its relation with other contemporary chalcolithic sites. Data from excavation has helped in determining the extension of Ahar culture as well as the interaction the site had with Deccan Chalcolithic cultural. About 800 antiquities were documented and evaluated.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.

1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu, Kanchipuram, Shore Temple complex	December, 1997	On going work	The excavation brought to light structural remains in the form of floor, parallel, brick walls and platform of early medieval period. Further excavation revealed two brick walls built on stone foundation running almost parallel in north - south orientation and a square brick chamber. The finds have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Uttar Pradesh, Agra Fatehpur Sikri	February, 1999	On going work	The excavations at Bir-Chhabli-ka-Tila located in Sikri village revealed 34 Jain sculptures comprising images of Rishabhdev, Kuntunath and Sambhabji together with images of Saraswati and Ambika belonging to 10th, 11th century A.D. The antiquities have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
Uttar Pradesh, Sravasti, Orajhar	February, 2000	On going work	The excavation at Buddhist site laid were three distinct cultures viz. Kushan, Gupta and Medieval. Period-I revealed a monastic complex of Khushan period. Period-II revealed a Gupta temple. In Period-IIIa a square platform like structure and in Period-IIIb a star shaped platform of a temple were exposed. All structures, antiquities have been properly documented and evaluated.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
West Bengal, Cooch Behar, Rajpat at Khalsa	March, 1999	On going work	Excavations at Rajpat mound has revealed the evidences of three successive cultural periods, viz. Pala period, Khen period and the Koch period with atleast seven structural phases. The excavation has exposed brick fortification of Pala period. Besides structural remains of different periods, number of antiquities evaluated and documented are iron hoes, arrow heads, sickle, nails, clamps, chisels etc., copper nails, one Sultanate coin, heavy ribbed terracotta balls and number of stone sculptural fragments.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
West Bengal, North 24 paraganas, Chandraketugarh	April, 2000	On going work	The objectives were to reveal cultural sequence of the site, to establish the relationship between rampart and habitation area and phases of construction. Important antiquities reported were bone points, dyes, terracotta and stone objects. The discovery of terracotta mithuna plaque deserves special mention. Antiquities have been evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.

World Heritage sites

1988. SHRI ANANTH NAYAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of World Heritage sites in the country location-wise and State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Government have identified some heritage sites for providing Central Protection;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds sanctioned for the protection of those heritage sites?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Sixteen centrally protected monuments have been declared as World Heritage Sites as per the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Identification of monuments for central protection is a continuous process. In the current year, the Archaeological Survey of India has issued preliminary notification for the protection of the grave of well known Urdu poet, Sheikh Mohammed Ibrahim Zauq, Delhi; and for Swarneswara, Ramlingeswara, Bhuvamaha and Kamleswara temples in district Belgaum, Karnataka. Allocation of funds is decided as per the requirement of each monuments subject to availability of funds.

Statement*List of World Heritage Monuments in India*

S. No.	Name of Monuments	Location	State
1	2	3	4
01	Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Maharashtra
02	Ellora Caves	Ellora	Maharashtra
03	Elephanta Cave	Elephanta	Maharashtra
04	Agra Fort	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
05	Taj Mahal	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
06	Fatehpur Sikri group of Monuments	Fatehpur Sikri	Uttar Pradesh
07	The Sun Temple	Konark	Orissa
08	Churches and Convents of Goa	Old Goa	Goa

1	2	3	4
09	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	Qutb 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

[Translation]

Visit of Indian Tourists Abroad

1989. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of Indian tourists visiting foreign countries has sharply increased during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the total number of Indian tourists visited foreign countries during the said period, country-wise, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Total number of Indian Nationals who visited other countries during the last two years are as follows :-

Year	Number of Indian Nationals visited other countries
1998	38,10,908
1999	38,82,876

Destination-wise statistics of Indian Nationals visiting other countries is not maintained.

[English]

Construction of Godowns in Bihar

1990. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE :

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Bihar for sanctioning about 40.29 crores for the construction of godowns in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the sanction is likely to be accorded?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Price Stability

1991. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ninth Plan envisaged a reasonable degree of price stability which could not be achieved;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the reasons for the failure of the Government to bring stability in prices; and

(c) the action proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) One of the specific objectives of the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) was accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices. This objective was to be attained by capping the fiscal deficit of the Government and by containing the Government borrowings programme at a moderate level.

The Government has so far succeeded in keeping inflation within reasonable limits as indicated below :

Annual Inflation rate (%)
Base 1993-94=100

	Point to point	52 week average
1997-98	4.5	4.4
1998-99	5.3	4.9
1999-00	6.5	3.3
2000-01	6.1*	4.3*

* up to 15 / 2000

(c) Government has been making concerted efforts to keep inflation under control through effective supply management and also through close monitoring of prices and supply of essential commodities. Corrective action is being taken as and when required so as to maintain the stability in prices.

The objective of containing the fiscal deficit of the Government spelled out in the Ninth Plan Document is being followed resolutely. For medium-term management of the fiscal deficit a strong institutional mechanism embodied in a Fiscal Responsibility Act is on the anvil. A Committee has been set up to examine this issue and make suitable recommendations. The Expenditure Reforms Commission is also scrutinising expenditure issues with a view to streamlining expenditure management. The combined effort is expected to have a salutary effect on the overall public debt position of the Government.

[Translation]

Appraisal of Top Posts in PSUs

1992. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government to keep a watch on the functioning of officers holding high posts in the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) whether any appraisal of the work of the heads of the said PSUs has been done during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Officers of the PSUs are governed by the Conduct, Discipline and Appeal (CDA) Rules of the respective PSUs based on the Model CDA Rules prescribed by the Government. A Model Vigilance Structure has also been suggested which could be adopted by each of the PSU to suit the size, function and operation of the organisation. The CVOs in PSUs are appointed in consultation with Chief Vigilance Commission (CVC).

(b) and (c) Performance appraisal of incumbents to top management posts of PSUs, including Heads of PSUs, is done through Annual Confidential Reports. This assessment covers, inter-alia, targets set for the enterprises in respect of production, sales, profits, maintenance of harmonious industrial relations reflected in man-days lost, if any, etc. and proposed schemes for improving the company's organisational

effectiveness as well as the actual achievements made during the period under report. This apart, periodic performance review meetings are taken by the Administrative Ministries/ Departments to keep a watch on the performance of PSUs. Performance of MOU signing companies is evaluated at the end of every year by the Ad-hoc Task Force with reference to the targets fixed at the beginning of every financial year.

[English]

Memorandum from Kerala Regarding PDS

1993. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from an all-party delegation headed by Chief Minister, Kerala regarding Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum from All Party Delegation headed by Chief Minister, Kerala had emphasized on Kerala being a consumer State, deficit in food production, and the need for maintaining the PDS network in the State. The main issue brought out in the memorandum related to increase in APL & BPL prices of rice, kerosene and cooking gas, removal of restrictions on movement of food grains, and acceptance of the State identified numbers of BPL families for enhanced allotment of rice by the Government of India.

(c) (i) Increase in CIP for APL and BPL population has been made w.e.f. 1.4.2000 in order to link the MSP to CIP and to better targetise the subsidy towards the BPL population in the country. However, the BPL families stand benefited because of the increase in the monthly quota of wheat / rice from 10 kg to 20 kg per family per month. The prices have been further revised w.e.f. 25 July, 2000.

(ii) With regard to restrictions on movement of food grains, Government of India has been advising all States/UTs to remove restrictions on movement and stock limits of food grains.

(iii) The number and percentage of BPL has been fixed as 25.43% for Kerala by the Planning Commission based on the methodology of "Expert Group on Estimation of

Proportion and Number of Poor." This basis has been accepted by the Government of India for identifying the BPL population in order to implement the TPDS and the same basis is applied to all States/UTs with exception.

National Cooperative Bank of India

1994. SHRI RAMANAND DAGGUBATI :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum with regard to providing licence to National Cooperative bank of India so that it may provide funds to the States like NABARD and function under RBI; and

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

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

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Funds to Bihar

1995. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to Bihar Government during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of such schemes for which the said amount has been utilised;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted utility certificate in this regard; and

(d) if not, the details of action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Funds are released to the State Governments as block loans and block grants. Funds released to the Government of Bihar during the last three years are as follows :

	(Rs. in crore)	
	Block Loans	Block Grants
1997-98	959.21	405.12
1998-99	1383.32	569.52
1999-2000	1587.25	629.37

Central assistance released under State Plan is subjects to adjustment on the basis of expenditure figures furnished by the State Government to Government of India. However, State Governments are accountable to the State Legislature, for proper utilisation of funds, through the Audit Reports prepared by Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

[English]

Incentives to Industries Adopting Recycling and Conservation Practices

1996. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to give special incentives to the industries which are adopting recycling and conservation practices;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No, Sir. Incentives for certain industries like paper mills adopting recycling and using non-conventional raw material are already available in the form of concessional excise duty and customs duty. Paper & paperboard using 75% and above non-conventional raw material has been exempted from payment of excise duty upto 1st clearance of 3500 M.T. per annum. Import of Waste paper by paper mills has been allowed at a concessional rate of 5% basic customs duty.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Seizure of Indian Currency

1997. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian currency to the tune of rupees one crore has been seized from a container going to Dubai from Jawaharlal Nehru port, Maharashtra;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) If so, the results thereof; and

(e) the policy adopted by the Government in regard to such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Mumbai have seized Indian currency totally valued at Rs. 66,99,000/- from three export consignments of masterbatches (Plastic Raw Material for colouring) attempted to be exported to Dubai, by M/s Pradeep Masterbatches Pvt. Ltd., Talaja, at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Nhava Shava, in two separate cases, on 12.6.2000 and 29.6.2000. The Indian currency packed in laminated paper bags was concealed in the bags/pallet of export consignments for smuggling out of India. The three export consignments alongwith Indian currency were seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. The Director of the company was also arrested on 13.6.2000 and was remanded to judicial custody uptill 11.7.2000. He has since been released on bail.

(e) Goods attempted to be smuggled into and/or out of India are liable to confiscation and hence are liable to be seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. The persons found involved in the act of smuggling are also liable for penal action including prosecution. Appropriate action is being taken against such persons found involved/goods attempted to be smuggled, as per provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

[English]

Development and Conservation of Temples in Orissa

1998. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has submitted a memorandum to the Union Government for the development and conservation of Sun Temple, Konark, Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri and Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) In consultation with the State Government of Orissa, Ministry of Tourism has prioritised eleven projects for Central financial assistance during 2000-2001 which includes development of area around Puri Temple Complex including Anand Bazar and heritage Gate at Atharnala with Central component of Rs. 60.00 lakhs.

Duty-Paid Retail Chain Outlets

1999. SHRI ANNASABH M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation proposes to diversify and expand its activities from duty-paid retail chain outlets;

- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ITDC has analysed the revenue to be generated from these duty-paid retail outlets;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the business done by ITDC through its duty free outlets each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Initially, ITDC intends to open a duty paid shop at Ashok Hotel, New Delhi for selling Open General Licence items like perfumes, chocolates, toys, electronics, watches and accessories.

(c) and (d) The financial projections worked out for operation of duty paid shop at Ashok Hotel New Delhi are as under :

	Earnings	Profit
	(Rupees in lakhs)	
1st Year	159.00	32.00
2nd Year	217.00	49.50
3rd Year	277.00	76.00

(e) The details of business turnover of duty free shops for the last three years are given as under :

Years	Business Turnover (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	83.71
1998-99	84.04
1999-2000	83.00 (Prov.)

Vacant Posts in Indian Investment Centre

2000. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether various level posts are lying vacant in Indian Investment Centre;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise;
- (c) if so, since when these posts are lying vacant; and
- (d) the efforts being made to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The details of the vacant posts in Indian Investment Centre (IIC) category-wise are as follows :

Category	Vacant Posts
Group 'A'	10
Group 'B'	8
Group 'C'	10
Group 'D'	9

The process of a review of the functioning of the IIC was initiated by the Government in 1992 and the vacancies have risen progressively since then. Government, along with a decision for continuance of IIC are seized with the question of restructuring and strengthening the organisation. Pending the restructuring of the organisation no open recruitment are being made.

Suspension of European Union Subsidies on Basmati Rice

2001. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the French Government regarding suspension of European Union subsidies on basmati rice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the French Government thereon; and
- (c) the other issues discussed and finalised with the Government of France during his visit to that country to boost the export from India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The matter of safeguarding the preferential tariff being enjoyed by the Indian basmati rice in EU market has been taken up from time to time with the European Union and the EU member countries including France. Such interactions have enabled appreciation of the Indian viewpoint in respect of market access issues being faced by our products including the basmati rice in EU market.

(c) During the last meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee held in Paris on 23rd May, 2000, both the sides agreed to explore the possibilities for trade, technical collaboration, strategic alliances JVs. etc. in different areas including agro-products, food industry, medical equipments,

chemicals/pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, energy, auto equipments, electronics, software.

[Translation]

Rotting of Foodgrains

2002. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

SHRIMATI JAYSHREE BANERJEE :

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI TARUN GOGOI :

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

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice rotting in Government godowns at present, State/UT-wise;

(b) the reasons therefore and the action taken against the officers responsible for this and the measures taken to check the recurrence;

(c) whether there is any scheme to utilize it;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the quantity of wheat and rice procured by the Government during this year and the space available to keep it in the godowns;

(f) the details of foodgrains which got wet in the rains because there was no arrangement for keeping it in the godowns; and

(g) the policy of the Government with regard to keeping wet foodgrains in the godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No quantity of wheat and rice is rotting in Government godowns.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) The quantity of wheat and rice procured for the Central Pool during this year is as under :

Wheat 16.24 million tons.
(Rabi Marketing Season 2000-2001)

Rice 16.47 million tons.
(Kharif Marketing Season 1999-2000)

Against the total storage capacity of 27.32 million tons available with FCI, 20.15 million tons of foodgrains is in storage. Besides, the capacity available with the Central Warehousing Corporation and the State agencies are also utilized for the storage of foodgrains.

(f) and (g) No quantity got affected due to rain. All precautions are taken to protect the stocks stored either in covered godowns or in CAP storage.

[English]

Salaries of Employees of CCI

2003. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Cement Corporation of India are not getting their salaries for the last five to six months;

(b) if so, whether the employees and leaders of CCI have met him and Minister of Finance in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Government are likely to pay the salaries of employees of CCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) CCI has been facing liquidity problems which has led to intermittent delays in payment of salary/wages to the employees. Representatives of the employees had brought to the notice of the Govt. their grievances on account of the delay in payment. Government has been providing non-plan support to the Company to the extent possible to make payment of salary/wages. The salary/wages have been paid to the employees upto April, 2000. The primary responsibility of payment of wages rests with the Public Sector Undertakings.

Production of Tea

2004. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

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

- (a) the total hectare of yield areas of tea in Eastern Region, North India and South India, till 1999;
- (b) whether the production of tea has decreased sharply in various regions during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether prices of tea have also fallen during the above period;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the reasons for the decline in the tea production and its prices in various regions; and
- (g) the steps taken to increase the areas under tea plantation, its production to stable its prices and protection of overseas market for Indian tea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The area under tea cultivation in Eastern Region, North India and South India till 1999 was 344608, 3393 and 89856 ha. respectively.

(b) and (c) The production of tea registered an increase of 60.37 M.Kgs. in 1998 over 1997. However, there was a decline of 64.79 M.Kgs. in production of tea in 1999 over 1998. The decline has been mainly in the tea producing states such as Assam, West Bengal, Kerala etc.

(d) to (e) Yes, Sir. The annual average auction price during 1999 also registered a decline. The annual average auction price in 1999 was Rs. 72.79 per kg. as compared to Rs. 76.43 per Kg. in 1998.

(f) Decline in production in 1999 was mainly due to severe drought during the first quarter followed by floods in the later part of the year in some of the tea growing areas. The reasons for decline in prices is attributed mainly to lower off take by CIS countries, lower production of orthodox tea and deterioration of quality of tea, lower demand in the domestic market etc.

(g) Tea Board has introduced a New Area Development Scheme to encourage setting up of new plantations in non-traditional tea growing areas. Tea Board has also implemented various other developmental schemes in order to increase production and productivity of tea under which financial assistance to the industry is provided for encouraging extension planting re-planting, rejuvenation pruning, infilling, creation of irrigation facilities and drainage etc. The Tea Board

has taken up Quality Upgradation Scheme and is also encouraging production of orthodox tea.

In order to promote Indian Teas in the overseas markets, Tea Board has initiated action towards registration of Tea Board Logo and Specially Tea Logo in major tea importing countries. Tea Board also acts to remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets whenever these are noticed. Other steps taken to increase exports of India tea include (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad; (ii) field sampling at speciality stores and in principle markets; (iii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of specially Indian teas and to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol; (iv) exchange of tea delegation etc.

[Translation]

Selling of PSUs

2005. SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have taken a decision for selling the Public Sector Undertakings;
- (b) if so, the number of employees likely to be affected as a result thereof;
- (c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) As stated in the Budget of 2000-2001, the disinvestment policy of the Government applicable to all the PSEs, is to bring down the Government equity to 26% or below in generality of cases. In cases of public sector enterprises involving strategic considerations, Government will continue to retain majority holding. Decisions for disinvestment are taken in accordance with this policy. It has been decided that the Strategic Public Sector Enterprises would be those in the areas of :

- (i) Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships.
- (ii) Atomic energy (except in the areas related to

the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries).

(iii) Railway transport.

(b) When the Government's decision on disinvestment in a company involves transfer of management and ownership of the company, the matter relating to employee's affairs are appropriately addressed, in the terms and conditions of sale. This is examined as and when necessary. It is, therefore, not possible to work out, in advance, the number of employees likely to be affected.

(c) and (d) For the employees of the PSUs subjected to disinvestment, Government is formulating an Employee Stock Option Plan. The issues relating to the protection of interest of workers are appropriately addressed in the Shareholders Agreement in the specific cases of disinvestment. Besides above, a Voluntary Retirement Scheme is already available to the employees of all PSUs. Under the existing scheme :

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

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

(iii) In case of units which are sick and facing closure, a scheme of Voluntary Separation (VSS) has already been introduced as per the announcement made by the Finance Minister in his budget speech for the year 1998-99. The scheme provides a safety-net to the workers offering them higher compensation relief than the statutory retrenchment compensation. Budgetary support is visualised in case bank credit or other means are not available for funding the VRS/ VSS.

[English]

Outstanding Excise Duty

2006. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to

Unstarred Question No. 2933 dated December 17, 1999 and state :

(a) the amount of Central excise outstanding against the said 50 major companies mentioned in Annexure IV and since when;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to recover the due amount from them; and

(c) the steps taken to attach their properties to recover the outstanding dues?

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

[Translation]

Umbrella Insurance Act to Replace Old Ones

2007. SHRI MANBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are working on draft Umbrella Insurance Act without any schedule to replace the existing Insurance Act, 1938, and the General Insurance Business Act, 1972 to encompass life; 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]

Fiscal Reforms

2008. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the objectives of fiscal reforms programmes; and

(b) the progress of implementation of fiscal reforms in the country particularly in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The medium term fiscal reforms programme evolved and

undertaken by the State Governments is aimed at reduction in revenue deficit through increased revenue mobilisation, reduction in non-plan revenue expenditure, correction in pricing and subsidy, and disinvestment. Thirteen States have entered into an agreement with Government of India for initiating monitorable fiscal reforms programme. These States including Assam are implementing their fiscal reform programme in a phased manner with flexibility for mid term corrections.

[Translation]

Purchase of Wheat from Punjab

2009. SHRI J.S. BRAR :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Government have carried out the maximum purchase of wheat this year from Punjab;

(b) If so, the total quantity of wheat purchased from the Punjab during the last three years and the current year, till date;

(c) whether there is no storage facility for such a large quantity of wheat and rice in the State; and

(d) If so, the details regarding capacity of covered and uncovered godowns in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total quantity of wheat purchased from the Punjab during the last three years and the current year, till date is as under :

	Fig. in lakh M.T.s
1997-98	59.61
1998-99	61.47
1999-2000	78.31
2000-2001	93.82
(Current Year as on 31.7.2000)	

(c) FCI have adequate storage capacity (owned and hired/covered and CAP) of 89.85 lakh tonnes against the total stocks of 87.85 lakh tonnes in Punjab region as on 1.7.2000. Storage capacity of FCI increases or decreases

depending upon the trend of procurement and off take/sale of foodgrains in the procuring/consuming states. FCI creates additional storage capacity by hiring storage capacity from the various agencies like CWC/SWC/State Government and private parties.

(d) The details of storage capacity available with FCI in Punjab Region as on 1.7.2000 is as under :-

Fig. in lakh tonnes

Agency	Covered	CAP	Total
FCI Owned	21.17	4.95	26.72
Hired from			
(a) State Govt.	7.32	-	7.32
(b) CWC	4.10	-	4.10
(c) SWC	14.36	-	14.36
(d) Private parties	15.59	21.76	37.35
Total	63.14	26.71	89.85

In addition to this, the State Government and its Agencies also have a storage capacity of 133.43 lakh tonnes against a stock of 99.73 lakh tonnes as on 31.7.2000.

[English]

Kerosene to Sports Authority of India

2010. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sports Authority of India (SAI), Water Sports, Alleppy used to get the supply of kerosene through PDS for imparting training to the National Rowing, Canve/Kayat team etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinue of the supply of kerosene to SAI;

(c) whether the Government are aware that non-supply of kerosene has badly affected the National training in this discipline of sports;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering to resume the supply in the interest of sports; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (e) Government of India has not allocated Kerosene to Sports Authority of India (SAI), Water Sports, Alleppey through the PDS.

[Translation]

DD Transmission Centres/AIR Stations in Bihar

2011. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Doordarshan transmission centres/AIR stations functioning in Bihar, District-wise;

(b) whether the services rendered by AIR and Doordarshan are adequate as per the requirement of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to set up some new DD centres/AIR stations in tribal areas of 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) The district-wise details of 10 Radio Stations and 55 Doordarshan Transmitters presently functioning in Bihar are given in the attached statement.

(b) to (d) Bihar is fully covered by Radio in terms of area as well as population. Doordarshan coverage is presently estimated to be available to 94.2% population of the State. For further expansion of Doordarshan service in the State, 2 HPTs (for DD II Service) in the tribal areas of Bihar at Jamshedpur and Ranchi are presently under implementation. Also, the 1 KW Medium Wave Transmitter of AIR at Jamshedpur is being replaced by 1.6 KW FM Transmitter to provide a better quality transmission.

Statement

S.No.	District	No. of Radio Stations	No. of Doordarshan Transmitters
1	2	3	4
1.	Araria	-	1
2.	Aurangabad	-	2
3.	Begusarai	-	1
4.	Bhagalpur	1	1

1	2	3	4
5.	Bhojpur	-	1
6.	Darbhanga	1	1
7.	Deoghar	-	1
8.	Dhanbad	-	2
9.	Dumka	-	1
10.	Gaya	-	1
11.	Giridih	-	1
12.	Godda	-	1
13.	Gopalganj	-	1
14.	Gumla	-	2
15.	Hazaribagh	1	3
16.	Katihar	-	1
17.	Khagaria	-	1
18.	Lohardaga	-	1
19.	Madhepura	-	1
20.	Madhubani	-	2
21.	Munger	-	5
22.	Muzaffarpur	-	1
23.	Nawada	-	1
24.	Palamu	1	2
25.	Paschim Champaran	-	1
26.	Paschim Singhbhum	1	3
27.	Patna	1	2
28.	Purnea	1	-
29.	Purba Champaran	-	2
30.	Purbi Singh Bhum	1	3
31.	Ranchi	1	1
32.	Rohtas	1	1
33.	Saharsa	-	3
34.	Sitamarhi	-	1

1	2	3	4
35.	Siwan	-	1
36.	Samastipur	-	1
37.	Sahibganj	-	1
Total		10	55

Special Punjab Scheme

2012. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI ZORA SINGI ' MAAN :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether any "Special Punjab Scheme" has been announced to sell the surplus quantity of wheat which is more than the buffer stock required in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to sell this wheat on a lesser price than the economic price of Food Corporation of India under this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the price on which the said wheat is decided to be sold alongwith the losses likely to be suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(f) the reasons to change the policy announced earlier that the wheat would be sold at the economic price only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, FCI has been authorised on 11.07.2000 to dispose off wheat from Punjab at the following rates :-

Month	Rate per qtl.
July, 2000	Rs. 700/-
August, 2000	Rs. 750/-
September, 2000	Rs. 800/-

(c) and (d) The issue prices under this scheme were worked out by deducting the carrying costs of wheat from the economic cost of wheat ex-Punjab.

(e) The losses on account of lowering the issue prices will be offset by the savings in the carrying costs of the said stocks of wheat.

(f) The action taken by the Government was with a view to offload surplus stocks of wheat which is adding to carrying costs.

[English]

Appointment of Top Posts by Public Selection Board

2013. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL :

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

(a) the number of Public Undertakings which are headed by the Chairman/Managing Director, appointed by the Public Sector Enterprises Selection Board; and

(b) the number and details of those which are headed by bureaucrats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) According to information furnished by PESB, as on 1.7.2000 five (5) public sector undertakings (PSUs) were headed on a regular basis by chief executives appointed directly by the Government. In the case of three more PSUs, officials of the Government had been placed in additional charge of these posts.

As on 24.7.2000, 24 posts of Chief Executives in Central PSUs were vacant. Other posts of Chief Executives in the PSUs were held by persons appointed by the PESB.

Loans to People of Manipur

2014. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nationalised banks and NABARD has been giving agricultural and industrial loan to farmers, artisans and the tribal people in the State of Manipur; and

(b) if so, the total amount of loan granted by such financial institutions to the people of the State during the last three years and till-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the public sector banks have been providing loans to farmers, artisans, village

and cottage industries, etc. in the whole of the country, including the State of Manipur. The position of loans outstanding by public sector banks in Manipur during the last three years is given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Agriculture	Artisans, Village & Cottage Industries
March 1996	15.02	8.50
March 1997	17.25	10.97
March 1998	19.92	16.40

The refinance provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to all banks in the State of Manipur during the last three years is given below :

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1996-97	13.51
1997-98	8.72
1998-99	9.39

Integrated Development of Hampi Project

2015. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned any financial assistance to Integrated Development of Hampi Project during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details of the amount sanctioned;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take up above project for development during 2000-2001; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) A project for preparation of socio-economic feasibility study report for external assistance is regard to integrated development of Hampi was prioritised for Rs. 15.00 lakhs during 1999-2000. As the proposal was incomplete, it could not be approved during 1999-2000. However, sanction for preparation of socio-economic feasibility study report for integrated development of Hampi region in Karnataka for Rs. 8.50 lakhs has been issued on 7.6.2000.

(d) and (e) : During the year 2000-2001, Rs. 78.00 lakhs have been prioritised for Development of tourism including improvements to existing facilities and amenities at Hampi.

Protection of Stock

2016. DR. B. B. RAMAIAH :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the naxals looted about 1000 bags of rice, wheat and sugar from Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh on June 17, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the godowns were not guarded;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the policy of the Government to protect the godowns/such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such incident of looting of foodgrains has been reported to the Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Food Corporation of India has its watch and ward staff to protect the foodgrains stocks and its property.

Royalty to be paid by CCI

2017. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cement Corporation of India has not paid the royalty for grant of permission for lime stone mining in the Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken to clear the dues early?

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 could not pay royalty for grant of permission for limestone mining in respect of units located in Andhra Pradesh on account of liquidity problems. The dues of royalty in respect of units located in Andhra Pradesh are proposed to be cleared after revival package from Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

[Translation]

Storage Policy

2018. SHRI MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

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

(a) whether the Government are formulating a new national storage policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the construction work of new godowns is being assigned to the private sector under the new storage policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the interests of consumers are kept in view in doing so; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced a National policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains.

(b) The salient feature of the policy are :

I. (i) Creation of integrated bulk handling facilities with silos of large capacity for wheat along with testing facilities for quality control at about 20 identified central locations in producing, consuming and a few port towns for storage of foodgrains procured by the FCI.

(ii) These facilities including the facilities for bulk transportation to these centres through specially designed top-filling-bottom-discharge wagons to be created and maintained in private sector under the over all coordination of the FCI.

(iii) FCI to guarantee utilisation of these facilities to the extent of 100% for the first ten years and 75% for the next ten years.

(iv) From these points, secondary transportation of foodgrains to be made in bag form to about 500 large godowns in important central locations in different States to be owned and maintained by the FCI.

(v) Further transportation to the consuming centres

for retail distribution by State Government to be carried out by the State Governments.

II. The Government has also announced various fiscal incentives for participation of private sector in creation of bulk handling infrastructure. These include :

(i) Schemes such as Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT), Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO), Lease-Develop-Operate (LDO), Joint Ventures etc.

(ii) Generation of funds through public issues by private enterprises.

(iii) Automatic approval for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100%.

(iv) Loans from financial institutions, NABARD, external commercial borrowings.

(v) 100% deductions in profit for the purpose of Income Tax for first 5 years and 30% for the next five years.

(vi) Custom duty exemption on imported machinery not manufactured in India, on a case to case basis.

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

IV. In order to reduce post harvest losses at farm level, the policy provides for :

(i) Introduction of a scheme to encourage use of metal bins as well as non-metallic storage structures at individual farm level and construction of RCC bins at community level with appropriate financial incentives.

(ii) Strengthening of the existing training and research components of the Save Grain Campaign Scheme for scientific storage and preservation of foodgrains and their propagation among farmers.

(c) and (d) As per the policy, the private sector would 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.

(e) and (f) The foodgrains would be stored in scientific manner and all quality control measures would be adopted during storage and preservation of foodgrains, which would be for the benefit of consumers.

[English]

Merger of ANZ Grindlays with Standard Chartered Bank

2019. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not taken notice of the ANZ Grindlays Bank's merger move with Standard Chartered Bank and asked for details of staff redeployment policy after acquisition as well for honouring the ANZ Grindlays Bank's undertakings to the court on the arbitration award in scam related cases of 1992; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to monitor the action plan of these banks and safeguard the interests of bank employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Standard Chartered Bank, London had informed Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the regulator of the banking system in country, that it proposed to acquire the issued shares of ANZ Grindlays Bank, Australia, a subsidiary of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited under a sale agreement signed by them on 27.4.2000. RBI's permission had been sought for change of name of ANZ Grindlays Bank Limited as Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank Limited. RBI have conveyed their "No objection" in principle to Standard Chartered Bank for the change of name of ANZ Grindlays Bank Limited, India to Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank Limited.

RBI has further reported that :

- (i) Standard Chartered Bank had advised that all staff, whether employees of Grindlays or (to be renamed Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank) or Standard Chartered Bank will be treated fairly and equitably.
- (ii) Standard Chartered Bank has advised that in relation to Grindlay's disputed liability to NHB and other litigation relating to alleged irregularities in security transactions out of the jurisdiction of Special Court, Standard Chartered Bank gives an assurance to the RBI that any unpaid liabilities arising out of final court judgement against Grindlays (to be renamed as Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank Limited) will be met by Standard Chartered Bank, London.

Revival of Sick Industries

2020. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to have BIFR like set up at State levels to reduce pressure of increasing workload;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan prepared by the Government to deal with the problem of growing industrial sickness, particularly in Maharashtra and Kashmir?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of Gujarat has set up Gujarat Board for industrial & Financial Reconstruction (GBIFR) to facilitate revival of viable sick units and winding up of non-viable sick units. Other State Governments may if they consider it necessary, set up bodies on the lines of GBIFR to deal with the problem of industrial sickness in their respective States.

Vacant Key Posts in ITDC Hotels

2021. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :

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

(a) whether the key posts in ITDC hotels have been lying vacant for a long;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to fill such vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 09 posts each of General Manager Grade I and Grade II are lying vacant.

(c) ITDC made attempts for filling up some vacant posts by releasing advertisements for direct recruitment during 1997 and 1998. However, the vacant posts could not be filled

up due to non-availability of suitable candidates from reserved categories and operational requirements.

Toll Tax Collected by State Governments

2022. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments are collecting toll tax within the premises of the centrally protected monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total toll tax collected by the State Governments at these premises during the last three years and during the current year, till date, State-wise, year-wise;

(d) the reasons for giving permission to State authorities to collect toll tax in centrally protected monuments of ASI against the ancient monument and Archaeological Site Remains Act, 1958 and Rules of 1959 made thereunder; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Under the Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973, toll is being collected by the Agra Development Authority from the tourists for the use of approach road and other amenities from their booths at the Taj Mahal, Sikandra, Agra Fort and Itimad-ud-daula Tomb at Agra.

(c) As per the details furnished by the Agra Development Authority Toll tax collected for the last three years and during the current year from their ticketing booths in the above four monuments is as follows :

1997-98	-	315.82 Lakhs
1998-99	-	359.20 Lakhs
1999-2000	-	719.69 Lakhs
2000-2001 upto July, 2000	-	334.94 Lakhs

(d) and (e) Toll for amenities is collected by the Agra Development Authority from the tourists under the Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973. No permission has been accorded for collection of toll in the protected premises, under the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules 1959.

Industrial Package for J and K

2023. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for Industrial Packages for Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken for the release of package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) A proposal from Government of J&K has been received in this Ministry requesting for a package, similar to the North East Industrial Policy for the State of J&K.

(c) The proposal of the State Government will be kept in view as and when any package specifically for the State is prepared.

[Translation]

Malpractices in Approval of Serials.

2024. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

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

(a) whether several malpractices have been detected in the procedure adopted for according approval to the TV serials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to simplify the procedure for according approval; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The areas of activities of Doordarshan prone to corruption have been identified and orders have been issued streamlining the procedures involved in processing proposals for serials, programmes etc. Also all the complaints regarding alleged corruption in Doordarshan are examined thoroughly.

*[English]***Heritage Hotels**

2025. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Heritage Hotels came up in Rajasthan during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the amount given to these heritage Hotels in the form of subsidies/tax exemption/Heritage concession/Loan waivers; and

(c) whether the Government propose to revive some Hotels belonging to Taj/Welcome Group or private brought under "Heritage Category" economically?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The department of Tourism has classified 8, 6 & 4 hotels in Rajasthan under Heritage category during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively. In addition, 2 heritage Hotel projects at Delwara, District Rajsamand & Mount Abu, District Sirohi during 1997, 1 Heritage Hotel project at Paparda, District Dausa during 1998 and 1 Heritage Hotel project at Jodhpur upto July, 2000 have been approved by the Department of Tourism in the last three years.

The Department of Tourism provides Interest Subsidy @ 5% to Heritage Hotels on loans taken from TFCI, IFCI, State Financial Corporations and State Industrial Development Corporations. The Interest Subsidy released to the Heritage Hotels in Rajasthan during the last three years is given below:

1997-98	Rs. 6,63,395/-
1998-99	Rs. 15,69,757/-
1999-2000	Rs. 16,61,902/-

The Government of India extends Fiscal incentives under 80 IA and Section 80 HHD of the Income Tax Act 1961 which are available to approved Heritage category hotels.

(c) No, Sir.

Export of Tea

2026. SHRI A. VENTAKTESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether subsequent fall in the prices, rise in wages and slump in export have worsened the tea industry of the country during the last few years;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to save the Indian tea industry and boost the export of tea;

(d) whether the United Planters Association of South India has requested the Government to exempt the tea from duty;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The wages of tea plantation workers have been increasing over the years. Though there is fall in average auction prices since Nov. 1999, exports have shown remarkable recovery during the first six months of the current year as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Export of tea and average auction price during the last three years and the current year are as follows:-

Year	Export (m. kgs.)	Average Auction Price (Rs./kg.)
1997	203.00	66.89
1998	210.34	76.43
1999	192.92	72.80
2000 (Jan to June)	77.46	59.74

(c) The Government and Tea Board have taken various steps to increase production and export of tea. These steps include implementation of various developmental schemes under which financial assistance is provided by the Tea Board for encouraging extension planting, re-planting, rejuvenation pruning, infilling, creation of irrigation facilities and drainage etc.

With a view to increase export of tea, the Government/ Tea Board have been analysing country-wise exports of tea giving special attention to areas offering potential. Tea Board also acts to remove bottlenecks in export to individual markets whenever these are noticed. Other steps taken to increase exports of India tea include (i) participation in major trade fairs/ exhibitions abroad; (ii) field sampling at speciality stores and in principal markets; (iii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of speciality Indian teas and to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol; (iv) exchange of tea delegation etc.

(d) to (f) United Planters Association of South India (UPASI) made a representation to Government requesting for

among other things exemption of Tea from the levy of excise duty of Rs. 2 per kg. and increase in import duty from 15% to 35% in order to protect the domestic tea industry.

Government has exempted co-operatives and Bought leaf factories from the levy of excise duty and increased basic customs duty on tea from 15% to 35%.

[Translation]

Setting up of New TV Centres

2027. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any special plan to set up certain new TV centres and increase the capacity of the existing TV centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in regard to each of these centres, as on date and the time by which these 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) 16 studio (including 2 projects of augmentation of existing studios) and 302 transmitter projects (including 100 projects of augmentation of existing transmitters) are presently under implementation in different parts of the country.

(c) These projects are at different stages of implementation, and are scheduled to be completed in phases by the end of the 9th Plan.

Revised Rates of Licence Fee by Bureau of Indian Standards

2028. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :

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

(a) whether there has been a revenue loss to the tune of Rupees 2.49 crore owing to the non-implementation of the revised rates of the licence fee by Bureau of Indian Standards and get it notified in the Government of India Gazette; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government so far for its recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Bureau of Indian Standards issued a notification on 27.9.1994 enhancing the application fee, renewal application fee and annual licence fee. These enhanced rates were, however, implemented by the Bureau in September, 1997, leading to the under-recovery of Rs. 2.38 crores from the applicants and licensees.

(b) Out of Rs. 2.38, BIS so far collected Rs. 1.78 crores and collection of remaining recoverable amount is being expedited by all the Branch Offices of the Bureau.

[English]

Storage of Sugar in Maharashtra

2029. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that even after increasing storage capacity for sugar in Maharashtra, the sugar storage is posing great problem in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether sugar mills are keeping sugar filled bags in the open for want of storage capacity;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to apply anti-dumping rule to check import of sugar to meet W.T.O. obligations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) Due to bumper, production of sugar during the current sugar season (October 1999 to September, 2000), a number of sugar factories reported constraints in sugar storage. Some of the Mills reportedly kept sugar-filled bags in the open, after taking due care for such open storage.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The domestic industry has not filed any petition before designated authority in the Anti-Dumping Directorate which is a basic requirement to initiate anti-dumping measures.

Trading Dispute

2030. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has any trade disputes with any of its trading partners;

(b) if so, the names of such trading partners and nature of trade disputes;

(c) whether the World Trade Organisation was approached by India for the settlement of such trade disputes; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the WTO and the progress made in the case of each of such disputes?

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

some trade disputes we have with certain trading partners. India has approached the Dispute Settlement Body of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for settling of some of them. Some of our trading partners have also complained to the WTO against India in certain cases. The present status of all these cases in the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO where India is either the complaining country or the country complained against, is given in a statement enclosed.

There are other cases where India is seeking to resolve the outstanding trade disputes through bilateral consultations, which is a continuous process, failing which the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO may be approached, if necessary.

Statement

Status of Disputes in Dispute Settlement Body of WTO between India and other Countries as on 1st August, 2000, is as follows :

S.No.	Subject of the Dispute	Complaint by	Against	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	India's quantitative restrictions on imports on agricultural, textile and industrial products	EC	India	Amicably Settled.
2.	India's quantitative restrictions on imports on agricultural, textile and industrial products	Australia	India	Amicably Settled.
3.	India's quantitative restrictions on imports on agricultural, textile and industrial products	Canada	India	Amicably Settled.
4.	India's quantitative restrictions on imports on agricultural, textile and industrial products	New Zealand	India	Amicably Settled.
5.	India's quantitative restrictions on imports on agricultural, textile and industrial products	Switzerland	India	Amicably Settled.
6.	India's quantitative restrictions on imports on agricultural, textile and industrial products	USA	India	Lost by India.
7.	Absence in India of patent protection/formal system for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products.	EC	Indian	Lost by India
8.	Restrictions on export of products including raw hides and skins	EC	India	Continuing
9.	Quantitative restrictions on imports of textile and clothing products	India	Turkey	Won by India
10.	Patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products	USA	India	Lost by India
11.	Ban on importation of shrimp and shrimp products imposed by the US	India	USA	Won by India

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Measures affecting imports of Women's and girl's wool coats	India	USA	Settled
13.	Transitional safeguard measures affecting imports of woven wool shirts and blouses	India	USA	Won by India
14.	Import regime on Automobiles	India	Poland	Settled
15.	Application of Cumulative Recovery System (CRS) for India's exports of rice	India	EC	Continuing
16.	Anti-Dumping actions on unbleached cotton fabrics (UCF)	India	EC	Continuing
17.	Anti-Dumping proceedings against import of Cotton type Bed-linen.	India	EC	Continuing
18.	Concerning certain measures affecting the Automotive sector -Auto policy	EC	India	Continuing
19.	Import restrictions maintained by India for reasons other than Article XVIII : B of GATT 1994	EC	India	Continuing
20.	A series of customs duties increases implemented by Indian authorities.	EC	India	Continuing
21.	Anti-dumping duties imposed by South African Authorities on imports of anti-biotics from India.	India	South Africa	Continuing
22.	Concerning certain measures affecting the Automotive sector - Auto policy	USA	India	Continuing

[Translation]

Trade with Korea

2031. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any trade agreement is under consideration between Korea and India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main terms and conditions of the trade agreement between both the countries alongwith the time limit of this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) There already exists a Trade Agreement between India and Republic of Korea (South Korea). This agreement was signed in 1974 providing *inter-*

alia for maximising trade between the two countries, giving full consideration to the suggestions of either sides for promoting trade, according Most Favoured Nation treatment in matters relating to trade, promoting technical cooperation for economic development and payments in US Dollars or Pound Sterling or any other convertible currencies acceptable to both countries. As regards the validity of the Agreement, it continues to be in force from year to year unless either Party gives to the other at least 90 days' written notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

[English]

Markanda Temple, Maharashtra

2032. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to repair and upkeep the Markanda temple;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount sanctioned for the upkeep, repair and maintenance of this temple;
- (d) whether this amount has been fully utilised; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Markanda Dev Temple, Markanda, In Gad - Chiroli District of Maharashtra is a centrally protected temple under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. This temple is maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) to (e) An allocation of Rs. 20,000/- has been made for the maintenance of this temple during the current financial year.

Staff strength in Income tax offices

2033. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

SHRI SUBODH RAY :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the staff strength in Income-Tax Office has decreased considerably while the number of tax payers in Delhi had almost doubled in the past five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps likely to be taken by the Government to fill the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) While it is true that the number of tax payers has increased, it is not correct to say that the staff strength has decreased.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Relevant vacancies are filled up as per the existing system/rules.

Lowering the Retirement Age of Employees in FCI

2034. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to lower the retirement age for employees in the Food Corporation of India to 45 years from 60 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for lowering down the retirement age;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Workers Union of FCI has been consulted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details of views expressed by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) While considering the issue of organisational restructuring of the Food Corporation of India with specific reference to manpower management, Government has directed the Corporation to examine the matter regarding the age of retirement for its workers as per the Standing Orders, issued by the Ministry of Labour in this regard and discuss it with the Workers Unions thereafter. Government is of the view that it would be in the overall interest of the Workers as well as the Corporation if the retirement age of the workers could be brought down to around 45 years keeping in view the hazardous nature of work the workers are to perform.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The FCI is yet to examine the matter. It has been instructed to examine the issue of reduction in age of labour separately and, thereafter, to discuss with the Unions. The FCI Workers Union in its representation of 27.6.2000 has inter-alia, suggested that the FCI management, instead of adopting the measure of reducing the age of retirement to 45 years from 60 years should concentrate in taking corrective steps like semi mechanisation of the work by installing fork-lift etc. and by reducing the work load norms for handling of bags by a worker per day in keeping with the human capacity to reduce the hazards of the work.

Procurement of Rubber by STC

2035. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

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

(a) whether the STC is procuring Natural Rubber from the open market;

(b) if so, the total amount of natural rubber procured during the current year, till date;

(c) the rate for per kilogram Natural Rubber paid by STC and actual price of natural rubber in the open market;

(d) whether there is any surplus natural rubber is available in the open market;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of steps being taken by the Government to procure maximum Natural Rubber and to ensure reasonable prices for the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. STC has procured 11,087 MT of Natural Rubber till date during the current year. The Natural Rubber has been procured at the prevailing market prices.

(d) and (e) The opening stock of Natural Rubber on 1.4.2000 was 1,93,000 tonnes and the production and consumption of Natural Rubber during 2000-01 is estimated at 6,45,000 tonnes and 6,59,000 tonnes respectively.

(f) To ensure a remunerative price to rubber growers, Government of India through STC procured Natural Rubber on Government account. The STC has already procured 40,217 MT of Natural Rubber since August, 1997 to date. To enhance the consumption of indigenous rubber Government has imposed a ban on import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme w.e.f. 20.2.1999. STC continues to procure Natural Rubber for supply of ALHs against indents placed by them with STC.

Coimbatore Muslims Relief Fund

2036. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of the Coimbatore Muslims

Relief Fund, established by the Tamil Nadu Muslim Munnatra Kazhagam, to give relief and rehabilitation to the victims of the riots in Coimbatore in November-December, 1997 and the bomb blasts in early 1998;

(b) whether notices have been issued to the organizers of the Fund to pay taxes on the contributions made to the fund;

(c) if so, whether the Fund is not entitled for tax exemption for the contributions received; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The entitlement of the Fund for tax exemption can be examined only after receipt of the return of income which has not been filed so far.

Conservation of Lakes

2037. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any 'National Policy' for preservation, management and maintenance of lakes;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy;

(c) whether these lakes have improved the environment of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of yearly average of tourists visited these lakes during the last three years;

(f) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to improve these lakes; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (g) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified 10 urban lakes for conservation and management under National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP). The details of the lakes identified are :

1. Dal lake (K&K)

2. Sukhna lake (Chandigarh)

3. Sagar lake (Madhya Pradesh)
4. Nainital lake (Uttar Pradesh)
5. Kodai Kanal lake (Tamil Nadu)
6. Ooty lake (Tamil Nadu)
7. Udaipur lake (Rajasthan)
8. Rabindra Sarovar lake (West Bengal)
9. Powai lake (Maharashtra)
10. Hussain Sagar lake (Andhra Pradesh)

However, the Government due to financial constraints has not approved National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP).

Details of the tourists visiting the lakes are not maintained.

Dubious Housing Finance Companies

2038. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several housing finance companies with dubious credibility are functioning in the country and are cheating the people;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken against such companies; and

(d) the steps taken to put a check on defrauding of customers by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The National Housing Bank (NHB) which regulates and supervises Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) has reported that some cases of dubious housing finance companies have come to notice.

(b) to (d) NHB has issued the Housing Finance Companies (NFB) Directions, 1989 which specify the conditions for accepting deposits, interest rate payable on deposits, maturity period of deposits, credit rating of deposit instruments, quantum of deposits that can be accepted and compliance with Advertisement Rules. As and when non-compliance of any of the provisions of the Directions issued by NHB are observed, NHB initiates action eg. issuing show cause notice prohibiting the errant companies from accepting deposits from the public and publishing particulars of such companies in

various national and regional newspapers in the interest of public awareness. The powers to deal with such cases have recently been strengthened with the passing of the National Housing Bank (Amendment) Act, 2000. Under this Act, NHB can order repayment of deposits in case of default by HFCs. Further, if continuance of a HFC is detrimental to the public interest or to the interests of the depositors, NHB can file an application for winding up of the company. So far, 32 HFCs have been prohibited by the NHB from accepting public deposits.

[Translation]

Programme Advisory Committee for DD

2039. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prasar Bharati Board has constituted any Programme Advisory Committee for Delhi Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, the composition thereof and the number of members nominated from Non-Governmental sectors?

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 Prasar Bharati Board has not constituted any Programme Advisory Committee for Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi

(b) Does not arise.

Benefits of PDS to BPL People

2040. YOGI ADITYA NATH :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

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

(a) the number of beneficiaries of Below Poverty Line people under the Public Distribution System during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the year-wise quantity of food items and the extent of subsidy provided by the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some strict measures ensuring that benefits of PDS are available only for the people living below poverty line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) As per reports received from the State Governments/UT Administrations, the total number of BPL card holders in the country during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were 715.18 lakhs and 719.65 lakhs respectively.

(b) Year-wise Allocation of food items and subsidy provided during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as under :-

Foodgrains

Year	Allocation of foodgrains (in '000 tonnes)		Consumer Subsidy (Rs. in crore)	
	BPL	APL+ Addl.	Total	
1998-99	7116.51	15560.296	22676.806	6024.02
1999-2000	7206.294	16693.671	23899.965	5593.15

Sugar (October to September)

Year	Allocation (in lakh tonnes)	Consumer Subsidy (Rs. in crore)
1998-99	45.30	400.00
1999-2000 (till July, 2000)	39.89	235.00

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A series of measures have been taken by Government of India to ensure that people living below poverty line actually get the benefit of PDS.

State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shop (FPS) and other levels to curb diversion and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in implementation of PDS. They have been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards. The State Governments have also been advised to initiate action against erring FPS owners under Essential Commodities Act, 1955. A model Citizens' Charter for PDS has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption in order that there is transparency and accountability in the system so that PDS commodities reach the targeted beneficiaries efficiently. The Government of India has also appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the functioning of PDS including complaints of diversion.

[English]

Scooters India Limited

2041. SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Scooters India Limited has been discharged from the purview of Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) after eight years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ban was imposed on its production by the Allahabad High Court due to pollution problems; and

(d) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in its hearing held on 10.5.2000 mentioned that all the major stipulations of the sanctioned scheme had been implemented and the Company was making net profits and having positive net worth for the last three years. The Board accordingly, discharged Scooters Indian Ltd. (SIL) from its purview.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Insurance Scheme for Coffee Exporters

2042. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to start any special insurance scheme for the coffee exporters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Genetically Engineered Food

2043. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 'Genetically Engineered' food has sneaked into this country by way of international relief to the super cyclone hit areas of Orissa;

(b) the details of the harms this 'Genetically Engineered Food' can cause to the human body; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to

test those food before entering it into the country and before being consumed by the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) had received a communication from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, together with a copy of a reference from Research Foundation for Science Technology and Ecology enclosing analysis reports about genetically engineered corn-soya being distributed by US Government under Food Aid Programme to the victims of super cyclone in Orissa. Copy of the reference alongwith copy of the analysis reports were sent by the MOA to the Government of Orissa to have the contents of analysis reports examined and to send a detailed report to the MOA. Detailed report from the Government of Orissa is awaited by the MOA.

(b) and (c) All genetically engineered life forms as well as products produced by genetic engineered organisms are controlled commodities under the Indian Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules, 1989. The Government of India have not yet permitted any transgenic crops for commercial cultivation in the country. Scientific evaluation of transgenic crops about their safety to environment and safety to human and animal health are the main issues under study under Environment (Protection) Act before the transgenic crops are put to use for human kind. Like transgenic crops, transgenic food is also subjected to evaluation of safety to human and animal health. Further, as per available information, there has not yet been any reported adverse effect of marketed transgenic crops in any other parts of the world on human health.

Export of Items Manufactured by SSIs.

2044. SHRI KALAYA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any increase in the export during the current year as compared to the previous year by small scale industry sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) As per the information made available by Development Commissioner (SSI), exports from this sector stood at Rs. 48979.23 crores during 1998-99 as compared to previous years exports of Rs. 44442.18 crores registering an increase of 10.20%.

Non-Banking Financial Companies

2045. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a law for regulation of non-banking financial companies;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The bill is expected to be introduced in Parliament during this year.

(c) Does not arise.

Promotion of Magic

2046. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are promoting various cultural activities including showing of magic tricks in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount earmarked for the promotion of magic in the country during 2000-2001;

(c) whether any schemes have been launched or incentives have been given for promotion of this culture;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Government promotes various cultural activities including magic through identified schemes and Zonal Cultural Centres. There is no specific scheme for promotion of magic and hence no separate amount has specifically been earmarked for magic.

Funds for Renovation of Temples

2047. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the funds allocated for renovation of important and popular temples which are in dilapidated condition during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : The Archaeological Survey of India allocates funds for the conservation and preservation of a wide variety of centrally protected monuments including temples according to archaeological norms.

It does not allocate funds for the renovation of temples whether centrally protected or otherwise.

Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta

2048. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons of poor upkeep and bad management of Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta;

(b) whether a proposal exists for its taking-over by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for allowing a national architectural treasure to decay?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The work relating to total repair and renovation of the galleries has been assigned to Archaeological Survey of India. Additional funds have been released for repair work, renovation and for capital expenditure to acquire office accommodation. However, there is no proposal for its taking over by A.S.I. To strengthen the management of Victoria Memorial Hall, a work study has been carried out to assess the staff requirement and the same is under process.

[Translation]

Revival of Sugar Mills and Textile Mills

2049. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases relating to revival of textile mills and sugar mills pending with BIFR;

(b) the present status of the cases;

(c) the time by when these mills are likely to be revived; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for the revival of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that 171 sick textile companies and 12 sick sugar companies cases are pending with the BIFR. The details of cases pending at various stages with BIFR are as under :-

	Textile Cases	Sugar Cases
	1	2
Draft Scheme circulated	13	2
Winding up notice issue	23	1
Under Inquiry	116	8

	1	2
Schemes failed & reopened	9	1
Pending cases remanded by AAIFR	5	-
Stay Ordered by Courts	2	-
Stayed by AAIFR	3	-
Total	171	12

(c) and (d) The sick industrial companies registered with the Board are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The Board sanctions rehabilitation schemes wherever feasible for revival of the sick industrial companies with measures like restructuring of the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with other companies, change of management, reliefs and concessions by Financial Institutions/Banks, relief and concessions by the State and Central Government in the form of re-schedulement for their dues.

[English]

Black Marketing of Foodgrains

2050. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether ceiling of foodgrains stock throughout the country has been removed;

(b) whether restrictions on the movement of foodgrains from one place to another have also been removed;

(c) if so, whether the aim of taking such steps has been defeated and these have encouraged black-marketing and hoarding of foodgrains in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check these malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) As per Central Government's present policy, there exists no stock-limits on rice and coarsegrains. However, 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. 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 September, 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. All the States/UTs., excepting Andhra Pradesh, J&K, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, have taken action to adhere to this national policy. These four States want to keep the movement restrictions on paddy/rice with a view to maximizing procurement.

(c) No such instance has come to our notice.

(d) Does not arise.

Circulation of Soiled Notes

2051. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :

SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that soiled notes of Rupee 1, Rupees 2 and Rupees 5 which are in circulation;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to withdraw the circulation of these soiled notes; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Consequent upon coinisation of Re.1, Rs.2 and Rs.5 denomination notes, the printing of these notes has been discontinued from November, 1994, February 1995 and November, 1995 respectively, but they continue to be legal tender. There are still a few pieces of notes in these denominations in circulation which have not been returned by the public for exchanging these notes for coins or bank notes of higher denomination despite wide publicity given in newspapers in English and vernacular languages and also through electronic media. However, a definite time-frame for the withdrawal of these notes has not been fixed as this would cause inconvenience to the public.

AIR Station at Kanyakumari

2052. DR. A. D. K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a radio station at Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Kanyakumari is fully covered by 10 kw FM Tr. at AIR, Nagercoil, the District headquarter of Kanyakumari.

Earning from Cashew Export

2053. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have noted the increase of export earnings from cashew kernel and other cashew products;

(b) if so, the status of each cash crops and agricultural produce in terms of export earnings; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve export earnings through cashew export?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken for enhancement of exports of cashew and export earnings include :

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how 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, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

Statement

Export Earnings from Cash Crops Agricultural Products

Item	April-March 1999-2000 Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Value (US\$ Mil.)
Cash Crops		
Tobacco	99252.67	233.54
Spices	170192	400.45
Cashew	245361.1	577.32
Sugar	1076.54	2.53
Tea	176577.49	415.48
Coffee	136406.81	320.96
Cotton	8067.09	18.98
Other Agro Products		
Pulses	40492.17	95.28
Rice	310537.04	730.68
Cereals	311352.7	732.59
Sesame & Niger Seeds	37169.6	87.46
HPS Groundnuts	18322.7	43.11
Guargum Meal	81864.34	192.62
Oil Meals	160323.84	377.23
Shellac	8197.08	19.29
Floriculture & Seeds	15793.72	37.16
Fruits & Vegetables	64149.86	150.94

1 US\$ = Rs. 42.50

Source : DGCI&S

Money Generated through Disinvestment

2054. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money generated through disinvestment from the Public Sector Undertaking so far;

(b) the utilisation of the so generated money sector-wise; and

(c) whether expected results accrued from the utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 18,638 crores has been raised through disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings from 1991-92 to 31.7.2000. This amount has been credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, from which all expenditure of the Government including expenditure in social sector, restructuring of public sector undertakings and retiring of public debt etc. are met.

Consignments Seized by US Customs

2055. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether US customs have recently seized several consignments of Indian made CD-ROM pirated and manufactured by certain Indian companies in violation of the US Copyright and Trade Mark Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Government is not aware of any recent seizure effected by US Customs of consignments of Indian made CD-ROM.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Group of Ministers for FDI

2056. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Group of Ministers has been set

up recently to assess the achievements of Foreign Direct Investment in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken so far by the Government to increase the Foreign Direct Investment in the country; and

(d) the sectors in which FDI is largest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Group of Ministers has been constituted to review the sectoral policies, sectoral equity caps and decide necessary changes in the existing foreign direct investment (FDI) regime as also for future. The said review by the above mentioned Group of Ministers is envisaged as a continuous process.

(c) Government has put in place a liberal Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and is constantly reviewing this policy with the objective of attracting more FDI into the country. Government has recently placed all activities except a specified list under the automatic route for FDI and investments by Non-Resident Indians and Overseas Corporate Bodies. Government has also set up the Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) with the objective of providing a single point interface between foreign investors and the Government machinery both at the Centre and the State level. The short term objective of this Authority is to remove procedural delays in the setting up of projects. The longer term objective is to create an atmosphere congenial to Foreign Direct Investment.

(d) Sector like Fuel (including Power & Oil Refinery), Telecommunications and Transportation Industry have attracted the maximum foreign direct investment so far.

Prices of Arecanut

2057. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the decline in price of arecanut; and

(b) if so, the details of measures taken/contemplated by the Government to overcome the price fall?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Based on representations received from growers of arecanut in the country, the Government has increased the basic customs duty on import of arecanut from 35% to 100%, on 7-7-2000. This should help arrest the decline in the prices of arecanut.

[Translation]

Setting up of new AIR Stations

2058. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new All Indian Radio stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) As given in Statement attached.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

State	Location	Power of Transmitter
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1. Machhela	3 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
	2. Kakinada	10 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
Arunachal Pradesh	3. Changiang	1 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
	4. Khonsa	1 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
Gujarat	5. Himmatnagar	1 kw MW Tr. (LRS)
	6. Junagarh	5 kw FM Tr. (LRS)

1	2	3
J&K	7. Bhadarwah	6 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
	8. Naushera	20 kw MW Tr. (Relay Centre)
	9. Kupwara	20 kw MW Tr. (Relay Centre)
	10. Rajouri	10 kw FM Tr. (Relay Centre)
	11. Khalsi	1 kw MW Tr. (Relay Centre)
	12. Diskit	-do-
	13. Nyomarap	-do-
	14. Tiesuru	-do-
	15. Padam Valley	-do-
	16. Dras	-do-
Kerala	17. Manjeri	3 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
Madhya Pradesh	18. Saraiipalli	1 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
	19. Rajgarh	3 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
	20. Mandla	1 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
Maharashtra	21. Oras	1 kw MW Tr. (LRS)
	22. Amravati	10 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
Manipur	23. Churachandpur	6 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
Mizoram	24. Champhai	1 kw FM Tr. (CRS)
Nagaland	25. Phek	1 kw FM Tr. (CRS)
Orissa	26. Soro	1 kw MW Tr. (LRS)
	27. Rairangpur	1 kw MW Tr. (LRS)
Tamil Nadu	28. Dharmapuri	10 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
Tripura	29. Dharmanagar	1 kw MW Tr. (LRS)
	30. Nutan Bazar	1 kw FM Tr. (CRS)
	31. Longtherai	6 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
Uttar Pradesh	32. Chamoli	1 kw MW Tr.
West Bengal	33. Shantiniketan	3 kw FM Tr. (LRS)
	34. Darjeeling	10 kw FM Tr. (Relay Centre)

Note : 1. LRS - Local Radio Station

2. CRS - Community Radio Station

*[English]***Progress of FM Radio Stations**

2059. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the slow progress made in the installation of FM Stations in the country particularly in Manjeri (Kerala);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken for early completion of such projects?

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) There are a few FM projects including Manjeri where the progress has been slow. Some of the main reasons for slow progress of projects are :

- (i) Delay in handling over of site.
- (ii) Slow progress of civil work.
- (iii) Delay in supplies of equipment.
- (iv) Local law and order problem.

In the case of Manjeri, the site was handed over by the State Government only in February, 1997. Progress of civil works has also been slow. Technical area of the building is expected to be ready by August, 2000.

(c) The projects are being closely monitored. The matter regarding delay in supply of equipment is being vigorously pursued with the firms concerned. Frequent site visits/inspections are carried out by senior officers to identify the bottleneck at the spot and remedial measures are taken accordingly.

Tea Growers

2060. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether due to the liberalisation policy, the tea growers are facing acute financial problems and are in heavy debts;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to write-off their existing debts; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken by the Government to help the tea growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, the small growers of tea in South India are facing problem of low price realization at auctions for reasons such as lower offtake by CIS countries, deterioration of quality of tea, lower production of orthodox tea etc.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to resolve the problem of low prices at the auctions in South India, Government has taken various measures which include (i) implementation of a Price Subsidy Scheme through Tea Board for the small growers of tea (holding tea gardens upto 10.12 ha.) under which a maximum subsidy of Rs. 5/- per kg of tea was provided and this subsidy amount has been since enhanced to Rs. 8 per kg. w.e.f. 24.7.2000 (ii) launching of a Quality Upgradation Programme by the Tea Board in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers (iii) increasing basic customs duty on import of tea from 15% to 35% (iv) banning of sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs). The Govt. of Tamil Nadu has also reduced State Sales Tax from 8% to 4% and Central Sales Tax from 4% to 2% for a specified period.

Mounments of Tourists Interest in Karnataka

2061. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of monuments in Karnataka which attract foreign and Indians tourists;
- (b) the expenditure incurred on the upkeep and proper maintenance of these monuments during the last three years;
- (c) the income earned from domestic and foreign tourists during the above period; and
- (d) the facilities available to the tourists at such places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There are 10 monuments listed in the enclosed statement-I in Karnataka which attract a significantly higher number of both domestic and foreign tourists.

(b) The expenditure incurred during the last 3 years on upkeep and maintenance of these monuments is as under :-

1997-98 — Rs. 54,42,461.00

1998-99 — Rs. 62,83,164.00

1999-2000 — Rs. 72,75,072.00

(c) The income earned from entry fees at these monuments during the last 3 years is as under :-

1997-98 — Rs. 47,66,081.00

1998-99 — Rs. 48,32,034.00

1999-2000 — Rs. 53,46,403.00

(d) Public amenities such as drinking water, information brochures, cultural notice boards and toilets facilities are available at the above tourist places.

Statement-I

Details of Monuments which attract foreign and Indian tourists in Karnataka

1. Kesava temple, Somanathpur
2. Daria Daulath Bagh, Srirangapatna
3. Tippu Sultan Palace, Bangalore
4. Fort and temples, Chitradurga
5. Group of temples, Hampi
6. Durga temples, Aihole
7. Caves at Badami
8. Group of monuments at Pattadakal
9. Gol-Gumbaz, Bijapur
10. Ibrahim Rouza, Bijapur

Statement-II

Expenditure Incurred during last three years

S.No.	Name of the Monuments	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Kesava temple, Somanathpur	13,440.00	38,974.00	14,642.00
2.	Daria Daulath Bagh, Srirangapatna	70,833.00	2,45,561.00	62,771.00
3.	Tippu Sultan Palace, Bangalore	4,66,945.00	4,88,570.00	3,47,413.00
4.	Fort and temples, Chitradurga	1,45,867.00	1,97,423.00	4,05,684.00
5.	Durga temples, Aihole	4,91,849.00	10,59,900.00	7,43,490.00
6.	Caves at Badami	7,57,782.00	4,07,343.00	5,11,981.00
7.	Group of monuments at Pattadakal	2,05,582.00	96,377.00	2,85,818.00
8.	Monuments at Bijapur	13,45,379.00	18,70,955.00	21,92,936.00
9.	Group of temples, Hampi	19,44,784.00	18,78,056.00	27,10,337.00
Total		54,42,461.00	62,83,164.00	72,75,072.00

Statement-III

Income Earned during last three years

S.No.	Name of the Monuments	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kesava temple, Somanathpur	1,76,072.00	1,91,548.00	1,88,582.00
2.	Daria Daulath Bagh, Srirangapatna	9,49,420.00	9,44,504.00	9,92,582.00
3.	Tippu Sultan Palace, Bangalore	4,75,690.00	3,36,096.00	3,48,884.00

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Fort and temples, Chitradurga	2,32,434.00	2,14,726.00	2,33,256.00
5.	Monuments at Hampi	11,53,355.00	13,61,179.00	15,41,325.00
6.	Durga Temple, Aihole	1,43,888.00	1,41,618.00	1,40,000.00
7.	Caves at Badami	2,34,096.00	1,88,662.00	1,85,902.00
8.	Group of monuments at Pattadakal	3,84,250.00	4,61,315.00	5,44,630.00
9.	Gol-Gumbaz, Bijapur	8,60,018.00	8,78,786.00	10,00,112.00
10.	Ibrahim Rouza, Bijapur	1,56,858.00	1,13,600.00	1,71,130.00
	Total	47,66,081.00	48,32,034.00	53,46,403.00

Involvement of Multinational Banks in Fake Currency

2062. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Calcutta flooded with fake currency" appearing in 'The Indian Express', dated February 5, 2000;

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

(c) whether RBI officials in Calcutta suspect that some multinational banks might have been used as a route to pump forged currency into the market;

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been ordered against the role of multinational banks in the matter;

(e) whether many trading giants in Calcutta have started refusing Rs. 500/- notes outright; and

(f) if so, the action proposed by the Government in the matter?

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

(b) The reporting in the news item is not factual.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Due to distorted reports appearing in some

sections of the Press at Calcutta about circulation of fake notes and/or withdrawal of Rs. 500 notes, some instances of non-acceptance of Rs. 500 notes have been reported. The correct position was, however, immediately clarified by the RBI's Calcutta Office.

[Translation]

Value of Rupee

2063. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the value of Indian rupee against the major foreign currencies had gone down during the month of May and June, 2000;

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

(c) the extent to which it has affected the forex reserves of the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the Indian rupee in the International Market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The average exchange rates of rupee against the major foreign currencies are given below :

Month	Rupees / US Dollar	Rupees / Jap. Yen	Rupees / Pound St.	Rupees / Euro
Apr. 2000	43.639	41.418	69.047	41.303
May 2000	43.983	40.686	66.400	39.871
June 2000	44.689	42.090	67.459	42.414

* Rs. per 100 Yens.

The exchange rate of the rupee in India is largely determined by market forces, and moves in both directions on a day-to-day basis depending upon the demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market, short-term factors and imbalances.

(c) The total foreign exchange reserves comprising foreign currency assets, gold and SDRs declined from US \$ 38036 million at the end of March, 2000 to US \$ 36285 million as on July 21, 2000.

The movements in foreign exchange reserves reflect the net out-come of India's international transactions on the current and capital accounts. The current level of foreign exchange reserves is considered adequate, judged from our need for essential imports and debt service payments liability.

(d) During May to July, 2000, the Reserve Bank of India took the following measures to strengthen the Indian rupee in the foreign exchange market :-

- (i) An interest rate surcharge of 50 per cent of the lending rate on import finance was imposed with effect from May 26, 2000 as a temporary measure except essential categories such as export related imports, bulk imports in respect of crude oil, Petroleum products and edible oil.
- (ii) In order to discourage any delay in realisation export proceeds, it was decided that in respect of over-due export bills, banks will charge interest at 25 per cent per annum (minimum) from the date the bill falls due for payment.
- (iii) The Bank Rate was increased by 1 percentage point from 7 per cent to 8 per cent as at the close of business on July 21, 2000.
- (iv) The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is being

increased 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 respectively.

- (v) The limits available to banks for all refinance facilities including the collateralised lending facility (CLF) are being reduced temporarily to the extent of 50 per cent of the eligible limits. This would be implemented under two stages: reduction by 25 per cent effective from July 29, 2000 and by another 25 per cent effective from August 12, 2000.

[English]

Sun TV Channel

2064. SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the SUN TV actually began telecasting its programme; and

(b) the date on which the SUN TV obtained clearance from the Reserve Bank of India for remitting Foreign Exchange for payment of charges for uplinking of transponder abroad?

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) Since the Sun TV was initially uplinked from outside the country, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not have the information about the date when it actually began its telecast. However, as per the copy of agreements furnished by M/s Sun TV at the time of applying for release of foreign exchange for uplinking and hiring of transponder, these agreements were effective from 29.4.1995 and 1.10.1995 respectively.

(b) The Sun TV obtained permission from Reserve Bank of India for remittance of the foreign exchange towards transponder hire on Gorizont-41 satellite and uplinking services through M/s ST Teleport Pte Ltd., Singapore on 11th December, 1995.

[Translation]

DD Centres/DD Programme Production Centres

2065. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

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

(a) the details of Doordarshan Centre and Doordarshan Programme Production Centres in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of schemes for the expansion of these Centres during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any new media policy;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount of outlay sanctioned for media expansion schemes 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) At present, Doordarshan has 49 programme production centres (Studios)

and 1150 transmission centres in the country. State-wise numbers of these centres are given in the attached statement-I.

(b) 16 studio projects (including 2 projects of augmentation of existing studios) and 302 transmitter projects (including 100 projects of augmentation of existing transmitters) are presently under implementation in different parts of the country. State-wise details are given in the attached statement-II.

(c) and (d) The Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had prepared and submitted a 'Working Paper on National Media Policy' to the Chairman of the Consultative Committee, i.e. Minister of Information and Broadcasting, on 29.03.1996. The Working Paper has been placed before the present Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 5th May, 2000.

(e) The total outlay for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the 9th Five Year Plan is Rs. 2843 crores.

Statement-I

Doordarshan Network (as on 31.07.2000)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Studio	Primary Coverage					Metro Channel			
			(DD1) Trs.					(DD2) Trs.			
			HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Trp	Total	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Assam	3	3	20	1	1	25	1	2	--	3
2.	A.P.	2	8	63	6	1	78	1	3	--	4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	3	39	1	44	--	1	--	1
4.	Bihar	4	5	46	1	1	53	--	1	1	2
5.	Goa	1	1	--	--	--	1	--	1	--	1
6.	Gujarat	2	4	60	3	--	67	1	1	--	2
7.	Haryana	--	--	12	--	--	12	--	3	--	3
8.	H.P.	1	2	8	31	2	43	--	1	--	1
9.	J&K	2	5	7	30	1	43	--	2	--	4
10.	Kerala	1	3	19	2	--	24	--	4	--	4
11.	Karnataka	2	4	45	4	--	53	--	--	--	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12.	M.P.	4	6	74	10	--	90	1	1	--	2
13.	Meghalaya	2	2	2	2	1	7	1	1	--	2
14.	Maharashtra	3	5	76	18	1	100	1	3	--	4
15.	Manipur	1	1	1	5	--	7	--	1	1	2
16.	Mizoram	1	2	--	2	--	4	--	2	--	2
17.	Nagaland	1	2	2	6	1	11	--	2	--	2
18.	Orissa	2	4	60	17	1	82	1	7	2	10
19.	Punjab	1	4	5	--	1	10	--	1	--	1
20.	Rajasthan	1	5	66	17	2	90	--	2	--	2
21.	Sikkim	--	1	--	5	--	6	--	1	--	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	1	3	41	5	2	51	1	--	--	1
23.	Tripura	1	1	2	1	1	5	--	2	--	2
24.	U.P.	6	9	65	31	3	108	1	8	1	10
25.	W.B.	3	4	21	3	--	28	1	2	--	3
26.	Delhi	1	1	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	1
27.	A&N Islands	1	--	2	10	--	12	--	1	--	1
28.	Daman & Diu	--	--	2	--	--	2	--	--	--	0
29.	Pondicherry	1	--	2	2	--	4	--	1	--	1
30.	L' Dweep Islands	--	--	1	8	--	9	--	--	1	1
31.	Chandigarh	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	1	--	1
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	0
Total		49	86	707	259	20	1072	14	55	6	75

Note : 1 In addition to above transmitters, two LPTs at Delhi for relay of LS & RS proceedings and one HPT at Srinagar for relay of Kashmir Channel programme are in operation

Total No. of Transmitters --- 1150

Statement-II

Doordarshan Projects under Implementation (as on 31.7.2000)

Sl. No.	State/UT/s	PPCs	HPTs DD1	HPTs DD2	LPTs DD1	LPTs DD2	VLPTs DD1	T/P DD1 & DD2	Total TR.S.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Assam	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
2.	A.P.	1	2	1	13	0	3	0	19
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Bihar	1	1	3	3	2	1	0	10
5.	Goa	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
6.	Gujarat	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	5
7.	Haryana	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
8.	H.P.	0	0	1	0	1	7	0	9
9.	J&K	1	5	6	13	0	57	0	81
10.	Kerala	2	2	2	2	0	2	0	8
11.	Karnataka	0	4	0	8	1	2	0	15
12.	M.P.	1	3	3	8	0	2	0	16
13.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Maharashtra	0	3	1	4	2	2	0	12
15.	Manipur	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
18.	Orissa	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	6
19.	Punjab	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
20.	Rajasthan	1	2	2	7	2	1	0	14
21.	Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	1	0	6	2	0	0	9
23.	Tripura	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4
24.	U.P.	1	2	5	6	3	6	1 (DD2)	23
25.	W.B.	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	7
26.	Delhi	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Pondicherry	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
30.	L' Dweep Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		16	37	31	77	18	88	4	255

In addition to above, following projects are under implementation

LPTs (upgdn. to 500 W) 31

VLPTs (Upgdn to 2x50 W) 14

Transposer (upgdn. to 2x50w) 2

Total Transmitters under implementation =302

*[English]***MODVAT Scheme**

2066. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of companies have fraudulently claimed MODVAT to the tune of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of those companies during the last three years;

(c) the action taken against those companies;

(d) whether the role of concerned offices have also been investigated to establish any mala fide intention of these officers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action initiated against such offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cases have been registered against some companies who have fraudulently claimed Modvat credit to the tune of crores of rupees during the last three years, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000. Details of such companies are given in the chart enclosed.

(c) Show Cause Notices have been issued for recovery of credit and imposition of penalty which are at various stages of adjudication/apellate proceedings.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In one case two officers of the department have been found involved and after investigations disciplinary action has been initiated and charge sheets have been issued.

Statement

Details of Companies against whom cases registered for fraudulent claim of MODVAT Credit and where Show Cause Notices issued during the last three years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

Sl.No.	Name of the Company (M/s)	Amount involved (In Rs. Crores)
1	2	3
1.	SCJ Plastics Pvt. Ltd.	1.55
2.	Cephram Organics	5.60
3.	Punjab Communications Ltd	1.03

1	2	3
4.	Hetro Drugs Ltd.	2.50
5.	Ashok Leyland	1.44
6.	Indian Rayon and Industries	1.28
7.	J.K. White Cement	1.00
8.	DCM Daewoo Motors (I) Ltd.	3.61
9.	Matsushita T.V. & Audio (I) Ltd.	1.14
10.	Shaper Chemicals	1.26
11.	Shakti Insulated Wire	7.49
12.	Maniyar Plast Ltd.	3.35
13.	Maniyar Plast Ltd.	1.06
14.	Jaisingh Wires Pvt. Ltd.	2.19
15.	Polycab Wires Pvt. Ltd.	2.97
16.	Arvee Denim & Exports Ltd.	1.32
17.	Rama Newsprints & Papers Ltd.	1.28
18.	Milton Plastics India Ltd.	1.67
19.	CEAT Ltd. Nashik	30.52
20.	Shivai Barrel Mfg. Co.	1.33
21.	Indian Seamless Steel and Alloys Ltd.	1.95
Total		75.54

Voice of Tigers

2067. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banned LTTE's clandestine radio station named 'Voice of Tigers' is transmitting continuously in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to jam the illicit transmitting radio stations?

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) As per available information, a clandestine Radio named 'Voice

of Tigers' is reported to be operating off and on in the Northern jungle of Sri Lanka. The location of the station and the frequency are frequently changed to avoid detection by Sri Lankan forces and prevent jamming.

RBI Panel for Screening Investment Proposals

2068. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is constituted a special panel to screen all the proposals for investment by Indian companies in their joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries abroad; and

(b) if so, the details of the composition, tenure, functions, jurisdiction of the panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per the Guidelines for Indian Direct Investment in Joint Ventures and Wholly Owned Subsidiaries Abroad issued by Government of India and regulations framed under FEMA, 1999, overseas investment proposals not falling under the Automatic Route are to be considered by a Special Committee chaired by Deputy Governor, RBI with representatives of Ministries of Commerce, Finance, External Affairs and RBI as its members. The tenure of the Committee is not fixed and its functions and jurisdiction cover all overseas direct investment proposals from Indian companies which are not covered under the automatic route.

Collection of Premium

2069. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total collection of premium in Maharashtra under life and general insurance schemes during the last three years;

(b) the details of total claims made and settled during these years alongwith backlog of unsettled claims and the amount thereof; and

(c) the details of investment made by LIC and GIC in Maharashtra during this period?

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

Loans to Small Scale Industries by Public Sector Banks

2070. SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given directions to the Public Sector Banks to extend highest possible help to tiny and Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other remedial measures have been adopted or proposed to be adopted by the Government to solve the problems of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) RBI has reported that banks have been advised to ensure that 40% of total SSI advances should be available for units with investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. five lakhs and 20% should be made available to units with investment in plant and machinery between Rs. five lakhs and Rs. twenty five lakhs. Thus, 60% of the funds earmarked for SSI sector go to small units in tiny sector.

(c) The following measures have been taken by the Government to solve the problem of tiny and small scale industries :

- The exemption limit for collateral free loans for tiny sector raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh.
- Raising of composite loan limit from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh.
- Lending by banks to NBFCs or other intermediaries for the purpose of on-lending to the tiny sector to be included in priority sector lending.
- Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Industries (CGFSI) operated by SIDBI.
- Technology Upgradation and Modernisation Fund (TDMF) Scheme run by SIDBI extended for a further period of three years.
- National Equity Fund (NEF) Scheme operated by SIDBI. Eligibility raised to include project cost upto Rs. 25 lakhs and extended to all non-metropolitan areas.
- Banks to set up specialised SSI branches in every district or in at least one industrial cluster in every district. Specialised SSI branches to obtain ISO Certificate.

Bankrupt Plantation Companies

2071. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of plantation companies which have become bankrupt and the appropriate amount which is due to the investors; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the interests of the investor and to regulate the plantation companies?

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 received information from 642 entities who had reportedly raised about Rs. 2681 crores. The SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 provide that, no existing Collective Investment Scheme (CIS) is allowed to launch any new scheme or raise money from investors unless a certificate of registration is granted to it. Such schemes were required to file an application for registration with SEBI by March, 31, 2000. Those existing collective investment schemes which have failed/did not wish to apply for registration, were required to wind up their existing schemes and repay their investors by May 28, 2000. So far, SEBI has received applications for grant of registration from 48 existing CIS entities.

SEBI has issued show cause notices to various entities operating such schemes. Further, court proceedings have been initiated against 5 companies namely Libra Plantations Ltd., Arrow Global Agrotech Ltd., SPG Green Gold Plantations Ltd. Okara Agro Industries Ltd., and Golden Forests (India) Ltd.

Advisory Council on Trade and Industry

2072. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the role of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on trade and industry in taking decision on the disinvestment of public sector unit the country;

(b) whether there is no public sector representatives in the said Advisory Council;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the members of the present PM's Advisory Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meeting of the Board of Directors of Asian Currency

2073. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Government had participated in the 29th Meeting of the Board of Directors of Asian Currency Union held in Dhaka recently;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations;

(c) whether the Indian Government agreed to the proposal of floating Euro-style single regional currency for Asian nations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India had participated in the annual board meeting of the Asian Currency Union held at Dhaka on May 20-21, 2000.

(b) The member Central Banks made presentation on the recent trends in monitoring and fiscal policy as well as overall performance of their economies. Suggestions for improving operational efficiency and broadcasting membership of the Union were also discussed.

(c) No proposal of floating Euro-style Single Regional Currency for the Asian Nations is being considered by the Asian Currency Union.

(d) Does not arise.

Subsidy on PDS Food Items

2074. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the State Governments to bear the subsidy allowed for distribution of food items under Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise?

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

(SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Demand of Fruits/Vegetable

2075. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether demand from foreign countries is increasing for export of organically grown fruits/vegetables and importers are ready to pay some premium as in the case of tea;

(b) if so, the supportive programmes being launched or have been planned in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of India has prepared a National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) in order to guide and facilitate organic production and export of organically produced goods. Workshops and seminars are organised by the Commodity Boards under the Department of Commerce involved in accrediting certifying agencies for organic production, to create awareness on organic farming and exploit the export potential of organic products. Further, the Government has been supporting the participation of Commodity Boards in specialised international trade fairs on organic foods to promote exports of Indian organic products.

Foreign Assistance to Indian Projects

2076. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the post Pokharan sanctions against India by the US and other major countries have been completely lifted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the country which have lifted the ban and started financing Indian projects;

(d) whether the World Bank has resumed financing Indian infrastructure-projects; and

(e) if so, the details regarding the loan sanctioned to India project-wise, State-wise?

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

(c) During the post Pokharan period, the following countries partially lifted the ban and approved the projects indicated below :

- Sweden : (i) National Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Programme of Government of India.
- (ii) Lok Jumbish Project in Rajasthan.
- US : (i) AVERT project of NACO to be implemented in Maharashtra
- (ii) Energy Conservation and Commercialisation, Govt. of India.

(d) and (e) After May, 1998, the World Bank has been generally approving projects seen as basic human needs category. However, the following infrastructure projects have also been approved by the World Bank Board :

Project	State	Loan Amount (Million Dollar)
1. AP Power Project	Andhra Pradesh	210.00
2. UP Fiscal Reforms & Power Restructuring	Uttar Pradesh	251.27
3. National Highway	Multi State	516.00

Income Tax Assesseees

2077. SHRI SUBODH RAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of income tax assessee employed people, businessmen, professionals and others, Zone-wise; and

(b) the total amount collected from them, separately, during the last three years, till date, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The number of income tax assesseees as on 31.3.2000 and the total amount of income tax and corporation tax collected from them during Financial Year 1999-2000, Chief commissioner's region-wise are enclosed at statement-I. The total amount of income tax and corporation tax collected during Financial year 1997-98 and 1998-99, State-wise is enclosed at statement-II. For Financial Year 1999-2000 the separate figures for each State has not been compiled as yet in the Income Tax Department. No separate figures of number of income tax assesseees and the total amount collected from them on the basis of their occupation like businessmen, professionals etc. is compiled.

Statement-I

Chief Commissioner Region	Tax Collection (Financial Year 1999-2000) (In Rupees Crore)		Total Number of Assessee#	
	Corporation Tax	Income Tax	Corporate	Non Corporate
Ahmedabad	802.03	1576.11	21487	1738852
Bangalore	1038.64	1793.25	12561	1071399
Bhopal	729.64	557.12	5727	1019905
Mumbai	13373.71	6675.36	70116	1851611
Calcutta	1256.7	1374.99	56363	2155276
Cochin	282.16	505.94	4946	623895
Hyderabad	692.51	1087.8	13273	939741
Jaipur	185.22	526.13	7699	1068879
Chennai	1639.58	2015.15	29217	1671870
New Delhi	5795.46	3334.85	76015	1369615
Chandigarh	109.55	532.74	10824	1426164
Kanpur	2757.82	613.09	6592	786755
Lucknow	89.02	554.07	5272	842265
Pune	825.49	1729.74	11796	1970866
Patna	723.23	814.89	6408	1724765
Panchkula	380.88	766.91	2611	620576
Central TDS (Provisional)	15.23	838.31		
Total	30696.87	25296.45	340907	20882443

Total number of assessee as on 31.3.2000 is 21223350 as against provisional figures of 21429352 supplied earlier.

Statement-II

State/UT	Tax Collection (Financial Year 1997-1998) (In Rupees Crore)		Tax Collection (Financial Year 1998-1999) (In Rupees Crore)	
	Corporation Tax	Income Tax	Corporation Tax	Income Tax
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	515.78	677.99	568.43	783.01
Arunachal Pradesh	0.0	4.08	0.0	3.32

1	2	3	4	5
Assam	111.9	115.71	105.68	148.99
Bihar	26.43	319.3	28.13	330.04
Goa	65.71	84.77	67.39	89.65
Gujarat	672.88	1175.06	632.75	1336.87
Haryana	61.92	242.07	69.99	297.39
Himachal Pradesh	10.99	62.88	13.94	68.83
Jammu & Kashmir	-17.75	36.17	33.32	44.36
Karnataka	675.67	1094.93	637.70	1229.78
Kerala	251.45	400.22	276.58	420.70
Madhya Pradesh	757.22	396.20	815.39	476.02
Maharashtra	8461.84	5262.34	11902.06	6077.27
Manipur	0.08	5.68	0.10	5.63
Meghalaya	4.26	12.47	2.31	12.67
Mizoram	0.00	0.90	0.0	1.33
Nagaland	0.04	4.24	0.03	6.27
New Delhi	4397.1	2454.34	4734.94	3344.57
Orissa	383.94	137.18	332.74	155.59
Punjab	134.75	435.05	186.57	462.57
Rajasthan	152.33	363.21	199.31	444.92
Sikkim	0.04	0.50	0.0	0.09
Tamil Nadu	1106.23	1377.87	1433.81	1618.69
Tripura	0.31	9.22	0.21	8.10
Uttar Pradesh	937.99	751.53	1288.66	872.54
West Bengal	1033.69	892.98	1046.59	1077.11
Andaman Nicobar	2.20	3.03	3.10	1.57
Chandigarh	98.66	119.78	110.01	89.06
Daman	0.03	0.10	0.04	0.01

1	2	3	4	5
Diu	0.00	0.08	0.0	0.05
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pondicherry	4.48	17.41	4.05	22.95
Lakshadweep	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Silvassa	0.01	0.09	0.0	0.01
CTDS (Prov.)	165.79	613.21	35.01	810.19
Total	20016.0	17100.59	24528.87	20240.15

Loss in Cooperative Banks in Andhra Pradesh

2078. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several cooperative banks in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in tribal areas are running in losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of losses suffered by each of these banks during each of the last three years and till date alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the administrative expenditure incurred by these banks during the above period; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to check these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The details of the losses incurred by the District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in Andhra Pradesh, including those in tribal areas, during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, as reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), are furnished in enclosed Statement-I. The reasons for losses could be attributed to high cost of management, poor recoveries and inadequate return on advances.

(c) The details of the administrative expenditure incurred by these banks during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are furnished in enclosed statement-II.

(d) NABARD has reported that the action recommended to reduce the losses included, inter-alia, diversification of advances and investment portfolio to improve financial margin for DCCBs, revision of interest rates on deposits/loans to take advantage of deregulation, recovery drives at the level of DCCB/Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), extension of assistance and necessary support from the State Government, reduction in cost of margin

of DCCBs having high cost of management, implementation of action plans to comply with provisions of Section 11(1) of Banking Regulation Act, proper funds management, improvement in recovery, performance and reduction in Non Performing Assets etc.

Statement-I

The details of losses incurred by the DCCBs in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of DCCB	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Adilabad	115.11	100.52	Nil
2.	Anantapur	263.99	1011.44	Nil
3.	Hyderabad	Nil	6.49	Nil
4.	Karimnagar	407.23	1428.11	624.27
5.	Khammam	259.59	645.09	Nil
6.	Mahbubnagar	231.25	821.15	1122.72
7.	Medak	95.74	734.56	693.87
8.	Nalgonda	Nil	138.59	Nil
9.	Nellore	290.33	372.40	379.14
10.	Kakinada	Nil	Nil	420.94
11.	Prakasam	Nil	Nil	319.28
12.	Srikakulam	360.99	305.30	507.07
13.	Vishakapatnam	Nil	120.49	Nil
14.	Vizianagaram	174.79	449.88	211.05

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Warangal	252.91	NII	NII
16.	Cuddapah	159.66	280.06	419.35
17.	Chittoor	44.77	25.20	Nil

Statement-II

The details of the administrative expenses of Loss making DCCBs in Andhra Pradesh during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	Name of DCCB	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Adilabad	280.53	332.09	338.84
2.	Anantapur	354.18	415.87	361.24
3.	Hyderabad	285.61	382.58	417.76
4.	Karimnagar	473.46	681.37	562.47
5.	Khammam	328.77	419.74	449.18
6.	Mahbubnagar	359.30	537.27	428.98
7.	Medak	310.57	381.47	363.12
8.	Nalgonda	391.88	512.37	516.66
9.	Nellore	300.86	329.05	388.13
10.	Kakinada	667.73	759.38	822.18
11.	Prakasam	398.98	558.79	549.72

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Srikakulam	208.55	274.40	252.78
13.	Vishakapatnam	350.97	339.77	353.72
14.	Vizianagaram	246.53	254.17	415.61
15.	Warangal	283.70	298.52	361.17
16.	Cuddapah	313.28	380.72	368.04
17.	Chittoor	327.34	439.70	380.39

Collaboration in the Field of Heavy Industries

2079. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries with which India has entered into collaboration in the field of heavy and small scale industries; and

(b) the manner by which assistance has been provided to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to technical and financial collaborations entered into by India with various countries. A statement of such cases detailing specific economic sectors and all the countries concerned is attached to the post policy period 1.8.1991 to 31.5.2000. As regards countries to which India has provided assistance, the information is available in the Brochure on GOI Lines of Credit to Foreign Countries brought out by the Ministry of Finance.

Statement-I

Sector wise Break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration approved during the Post - Policy period (from 01/08/1991 to 31/05/2000).

(Amt. in Crore)

Sr. No.	Name of Industry	No. of Approval			
		Total	Tech	Fin	Amount of FDI Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Metallurgical Industries				
	Ferrous	361	214	147	7375.65
	Non-Ferrous	63	30	33	771.86
					% to Total Amount
					7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Special Alloys	81	51	30	828.87	0.38
	Mining Service	43	12	31	2417.37	1.11
	Misc. (Other Items)-Metallurgy	68	26	42	1182.75	0.54
	Total	616	333	283	12576.50	5.77
2.	Fuels					
	Power	208	17	191	32097.47	14.74
	Oil Refinery	236	111	125	19099.86	8.77
	Power (Other)	61	6	55	4953.85	2.27
	Oil Refinery (Other)	90	53	37	4534.65	2.08
	Others (Fuels)	130	44	86	3306.71	1.52
	Total	725	231	494	63992.54	29.38
3.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	75	42	33	146.66	0.07
4.	Prime Movers other than Electrical	61	38	23	91.72	0.04
5.	Electrical Equipment					
	Electrical Equipment	1504	846	658	5202.45	2.39
	Computer Software Industry	1284	72	1212	6805.13	3.12
	Electronics	422	142	280	2789.50	1.28
	Computer Hardware	3	0	3	0.90	0.00
	Others (S/w)	42	15	27	86.35	0.04
	Total	3255	1075	2180	14884.33	6.83
6.	Telecommunications					
	Telecommunications	304	98	206	9116.59	4.19
	Radio Paging	50	4	46	1230.89	0.57
	Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	175	9	166	24887.78	11.43
	Telecommunication (I&B)	84	3	81	1180.04	0.54
	Others (Telecommunications)	23	2	21	750.85	0.34
	Total	636	116	520	37166.15	17.06
7.	Transportation Industry					
	Automobile Industry	695	382	313	4263.31	1.96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Air/Sea Transport	146	16	130	2442.60	1.12
	Passenger Cars	57	5	52	7200.20	3.31
	Auto Ancillaries/Parts	160	78	82	2053.02	0.94
	Ports	14	0	14	1248.96	0.57
	Others (Transport)	105	31	74	810.78	0.37
	Total	1177	512	665	18018.87	8.27
8.	Industrial Machinery	1287	786	501	2259.12	1.04
9.	Machine Tools	188	85	103	375.76	0.17
10	Agricultural Machinery	43	30	13	434.84	0.20
11	Earth-Moving Machinery	61	36	25	105.75	0.05
12	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	741	302	439	1470.96	0.68
13	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	82	30	52	1152.26	0.53
14	Medical and Surgical Appliances	77	24	53	250.15	0.11
15	Industrial Instruments	171	97	74	123.47	0.06
16	Scientific Instruments	41	14	27	61.73	0.03
17	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	6	2	4	38.37	0.02
18	Fertilizers	64	57	7	246.88	0.11
19	Chemical (other than Fertilizers)	1536	755	781	12118.80	5.56
20	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	27	11	16	236.69	0.11
21	Dye-Stuffs	19	3	16	111.22	0.05
22	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	372	200	172	1336.70	0.61
23	Textiles (Includ Dyed, Printed)	657	129	528	3302.81	1.52
24	Paper and Pulp including paper product	170	63	107	3114.79	1.43
25	Sugar	7	1	6	1000.75	0.46
26	Fermentation Industries	63	19	44	1127.73	0.52
27	Food Processing Industries					
	Food products	674	122	552	8577.68	3.94

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Marine products	91	20	71	92.17	0.04
	Miscellaneous (Food prod.)	6	0	6	11.83	0.01
	Total	771	142	629	8681.67	3.99
28	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	40	3	37	242.23	0.11
29	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	54	18	36	337.42	0.15
30	Rubber Goods	198	99	99	1182.63	0.54
31	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	183	36	147	301.18	0.14
32	Glue and Gelatin	2	0	2	1.20	0.00
33	Glass	98	32	66	1775.61	0.82
34	Ceramics	211	59	152	874.56	0.40
35	Cement and Gypsum products	93	37	56	1683.34	0.77
36	Timber Products	16	2	14	33.46	0.02
37	Defence Industries	6	5	1	3.47	0.00
38	Consultancy Services					
	Design & Engg. Services	279	57	222	1031.60	0.47
	Management Services	169	22	147	475.83	0.22
	Marketing	47	7	40	52.33	0.02
	Construction	13	2	11	16.48	0.01
	Others (Consultancy Service)	41	5	36	426.54	0.20
	Total	549	93	456	2002.78	0.92
39	Service Sector					
	Financial	325	8	317	10145.29	4.66
	Non-Financial Services	314	20	294	3115.91	1.43
	Banking Services	23	0	23	178.35	0.08
	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres	84	13	71	651.74	0.30
	Other Services	31	4	27	831.31	0.38
	Total	777	45	732	14922.60	6.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
40	Hotel & Tourism					
	Hotel & Restaurants	339	122	217	3539.34	1.63
	Tourism	68	16	52	736.80	0.34
	Others (Hotel & Tourism)	11	3	8	37.60	0.02
	Total	418	141	277	4313.73	1.98
41	Trading	435	18	417	1872.44	0.86
42	Miscellaneous Industries					
	Horticulture	104	38	66	170.87	0.08
	Agriculture	136	52	84	201.48	0.09
	Floriculture	181	69	112	288.95	0.13
	Diamond	5	0	5	44.46	0.02
	Ornament & Gold	9	0	9	14.84	0.01
	Construction Activities	35	4	31	460.32	0.21
	Tea/Coffee	5	3	2	317.25	0.15
	Cigarettes	2	1	1	7.35	0.00
	Printing of Books etc.	5	1	4	1.17	0.00
	COIR	9	1	8	4.62	0.00
	Others (Misc. Industries)	904	487	417	2318.95	1.06
	Total	1395	656	739	3830.26	1.76
	Total	17403	6377	11026	217803.95	

Statement-II

Country-wise break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Technology Cases (FTCs) approved by Government during August, 1991 to May, 2000.

(Rs. in 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	Afghanistan	3	1	2	76.10
2	Australia	370	132	238	6617.75
3	Armenia	2	0	2	2.03

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Austria	198	118	80	273.78
5	Bahamas	10	0	10	46.17
6	Bahrain	17	0	17	203.36
7	Argentina	3	1	2	18.40
8	Belgium	165	50	115	3993.82
9	Belorussia	1	0	1	0.05
10	Bermuda	32	2	30	785.57
11	Brazil	14	10	4	0.63
12	Bangladesh	6	0	6	51.68
13	Bulgaria	4	3	1	1.91
14	Canada	223	86	137	2466.72
15	Cayman Island	11	0	11	3634.56
16	Channel Island	12	4	8	13.07
17	China	78	50	28	712.18
18	Croatia	1	1	0	0.00
19	Czech Republic	32	22	10	294.96
20	Cyprus	16	2	14	21.47
21	Denmark	185	73	112	528.04
22	Estonia	2	0	2	7.31
23	Finland	91	50	41	260.93
24	Chile	1	1	0	0.00
25	France	613	256	357	5056.97
26	Greece	4	1	3	2.04
27	Germany	1942	918	1024	8252.42
28	Hawai Islands	2	2	0	0.00
29	Hongkong	218	36	182	1715.05
30	Hungary	16	7	9	3.43
31	Indonesia	13	2	11	393.07

1	2	3	4	5	6
32	Ireland	58	16	42	244.25
33	Isle of Man	11	2	9	161.28
34	Israel	152	68	84	4235.73
35	Italy	787	404	383	4466.51
36	Liechtenstein	4	1	3	30.87
37	Japan	1159	654	505	9424.13
38	Kazakhstan	1	0	1	1.50
39	Korea (North)	1	0	1	0.17
40	Lebnon	2	2	0	0.00
41	Korea (South)	466	176	290	9707.88
42	Kuwait	16	1	15	584.66
43	Latvia	4	1	3	0.36
44	Luxembourg	25	2	23	246.28
45	Malaysia	136	16	120	5566.60
46	Mauritius	664	30	634	23461.08
47	Mexico	10	3	7	252.42
48	Maldives	5	0	5	1.43
49	NRI	1128	10	1118	8052.50
50	Nepal	3	0	3	3.03
51	Netherlands	836	271	565	4832.47
52	New Zealand	33	19	14	278.76
53	Nigeria	4	0	4	147.54
54	Norway	67	24	43	97.13
55	Oman	20	1	19	578.73
56	Panama	11	2	9	640.68
57	Papua New Guinea	1	0	1	1.92
58	Phillipines	39	18	21	383.92
59	Poland	22	16	6	15.12
60	Portugal	17	7	10	193.90

1	2	3	4	5	6
61	Qatar	2	0	2	31.53
62	Romania	5	3	2	2.00
63	Russia	99	26	73	164.62
64	Saudi Arabia	33	1	32	812.06
65	Singapore	514	99	415	4258.43
66	Scotland	4	2	2	0.83
67	South Africa	26	10	16	1900.66
68	Slovakia	6	3	3	0.15
69	Spain	101	47	54	353.44
70	Sri Lanka	37	3	34	23.03
71	Sweden	199	102	97	1797.86
72	Slovenia	4	4	0	0.00
73	Switzerland	618	257	361	2790.47
74	Syria	1	0	1	0.12
75	Taiwan	124	66	58	137.86
76	Tatarstan	1	0	1	0.05
77	Thailand	99	30	69	2458.82
78	Turkey	3	2	1	0.22
79	U.A.E.	69	6	63	649.85
80	U.K.	1678	729	949	16211.81
81	U.S.A	3545	1378	2167	47191.86
82	Ukraine	16	5	11	8.98
83	Venezuela	1	1	0	0.00
84	Uruguay	1	0	1	0.00
85	Euro Issues (GDR)	77	0	77	26453.04
86	British Virginia	35	7	28	77.86
87	West Indies	13	2	11	647.43

1	2	3	4	5	6
88	Yugoslavia	3	1	2	2.45
89	Unindicated Country	91	16	75	2605.74
90	Malta	2	2	0	0.00
91	Iran	7	0	7	71.46
92	Gilbraltar	3	0	3	98.91
93	Maldova	1	1	0	0.00
94	Sudan	2	0	2	0.03
95	Jordon	5	0	5	2.32
96	Vietnam	2	0	2	0.89
97	San Salvador	1	1	0	0.00
98	Jamica	1	0	1	1.00
99	Ice Land	2	0	2	1.35
100	Kenya	1	1	0	0.00
101	Egypt	1	0	1	0.32
102	Somalia	1	0	1	1.00
103	Yaman	1	0	1	0.50
104	Monaco	1	0	1	0.67
Total		17403	6377	11026	217803.95

Visit of German Team

2080. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- whether a delegation of Germany visited India;
- whether they agreed to participate in Information Technology and other areas;
- if so, the details of the proposals; and
- the details of the agreements signed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) A proposal to set up an Indo-German bilateral Working Group on knowledge based industries was considered during the meeting of the 14th session of the Indo-German Joint Commission held in April

this year. The matter is under further consideration of the German Government.

ADB Loan to Karnataka State

2081. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- the number of projects under implementation in Karnataka State with the funds of Asian Development Bank (ADB);
- the names of those ADB funded projects; and
- the present status of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) At present two projects are being implemented by Government of Karnataka with ADB assistance. The details are given in attached Statement.

Statement**ADB Loan to Karnataka**

Name of the Project	Amount of Loan	Date of signing	Date of closing	Loan utilised till May, 2000
1. Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Project (LN 1415 IND)	US \$ 85.00 million	10.5.1996	30.6.2002	US \$ 30.021 million
2. Karnataka Urban Development and Coastal Management Project (LN 1704 IND)	US \$ 175 million	19.5.2000	30.6.2005	NII

Revival of Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd.

2082. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of revival of Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government in regard to the welfare of workers of the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Government has taken a decision to take action for closure of Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd. (RIC)

(b) Government have been providing continuous non-plan budgetary support to RIC for meeting the wage liability of its employees. Government have also given grants during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for providing benefits to the employees under the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) in RIC. Compensation under VSS will be available to the employees on closure.

[Translation]

Foreign Banks in India

2083. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Foreign Banks operating in India have requested the Government to grant them permission to send their surplus funds and profits to their countries without approval of Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details of existing procedure and the time since when it is in existence and the ground on which the Foreign Banks have asked for relaxations;

(c) whether the Government have accepted some of their requests/demands;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which India is likely to be benefited by giving relaxation in present procedure;

(e) whether Indian Banks working abroad are also facing some difficulties in sending their surplus funds and profits to India;

(f) If so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to remove the difficulties being faced by the Indian Banks operating abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that till June, 1998 foreign banks operating in India were required to obtain prior approval of RBI for remittance of their net profit/surplus (net of taxes) earned in normal course of business out of their Indian Operations, to their Head Office. The procedure was reviewed and it was decided to allow the foreign banks to remit their net profit/surplus (net of taxes) without approval of Reserve Bank subject to their complying with provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The above decision was taken as a further step towards liberalisation as per the commitment to convertibility on current account transactions. The foreign banks are, however, required to submit full details of remittances to Reserve Bank of India.

(e) to (g) RBI has reported that there are no legal

restrictions for Indian banks to remit profit from these countries banks. However, regulatory authorities of some of the host countries require the banks to maintain minimum capital at certain prescribed ratio to their risk weighted assets. Remittance of profit is permitted only after the minimum level of capital is reached. Sometimes banks also prefer to build up capital over and above the level stipulated by the regulatory authorities, in order to expand their business activities. RBI has also permitted banks to retain profits, abroad on the merits of each case. RBI has further reported that no specific steps are required, as the banks do not face any problems in repatriating profits to India.

Inland Container Depot

2084. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Uttar Pradesh where Inland Container Depots (ICDs) have been set up for industries and the places where DEPB facility is available;

(b) whether industries have not availed these facilities on these places and they are facing closure;

(c) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to withdraw such uneconomical facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The places, where Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Stations ICDs/CFSSs are located in Uttar Pradesh, including where DEPB facility is available, are as under :-

S.No.	Location	Status	DEPB Facility
1	2	3	4
1.	Moradabad	Functioning	Available
2.	Agra	Functioning	Available
3.	Kanpur	Functioning	Available
4.	Varanasi	Functioning	Available
5.	Rudrapur	Functioning	Available
6.	Meerut	Functioning	Available
7.	Saharanpur	Functioning	—
8.	Dadri/Greater Noida	Under Implementation	—

1	2	3	4
9.	Kanpur	Under Implementation	—
10.	Bhadohi	Under Implementation	—
11.	Surajpur	Under implementation	—
12.	Loni	Under implementation	—

(b) It is the endeavour of the Govt. to provide door-step facility to the traders/industry. However, these facilities take time before they are fully patronised. The traders are free to utilise the benefits of ICDs/CFSSs.

(c) and (d) Since no financial support is given by the Govt. for establishment of such facilities, the economics of running the facility is totally determinant on the custodian of the facility. No request for closure of any of the facilities has been received by the Govt.

Setting up of PIB offices/Regional Publicity Directorates in Rajasthan

2085. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the place where the Regional Publicity Directorates and Offices of Press Information Bureau are set-up in Rajasthan;

(b) the details of work done by these Directorates and offices during 1999-2000;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of such offices likely to be set up in the State 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) The list of Regional Publicity Directorates offices and Press Information Bureau's offices is given in the statement-I attached.

(b) A statement-II attached.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to set up Regional Publicity

Directorate or Press Information Bureau offices in other districts of the State during the 9th Five Year Plan Period.

Statement-I

List of Regional Publicity Directorates and offices of Press Information Bureau set up in Rajasthan

Regional Publicity Offices	Press Information Bureau Branch offices
1. Jaipur - Regional Office	1. Jodhpur
2. Jaipur - Field Publicity unit office	2. Jaipur
3. Jodhpur - Field Publicity unit office	3. Kota
4. Sikar - Field Publicity unit office	
5. Udaipur - Field Publicity unit office	
6. Barmer - Field Publicity unit office	
7. Bikaner - Field Publicity unit office	
8. Jaisalmer - Field Publicity unit office	
9. Sriganganagar - Field Publicity unit office	
10. Ajmer - Field Publicity unit office	
11. Alwar - Field Publicity unit office	
12. Dungarpur - Field Publicity unit office	
13. Kota - Field Publicity unit office	
14. Sawai Madhopur - Field Publicity unit office	
15. Sirohi - Field Publicity unit office	

Statement-II

Details of the work done by Field Publicity Directorates' offices and Press Information Bureau's office during 1999-2000 are as under :

Field Publicity Directorate

The offices of Field Publicity Directorate in Rajasthan

conducted publicity campaign on various themes such as AIDS Awareness, Pulse Polio Immunisation, Rural Development Schemes, Anti-Child Labour, Health and Family Welfare programmes etc.

Press Information Bureau

Besides issuing the publicity material in Hindi, English and Urdu alongwith the news photographs received from the Headquarters, following works were done by PIB office, in Rajasthan during the last year.

PIB, Jaipur issued 314 releases locally. In addition it issued 79 releases on AIR/Doordarshan programmes and UPSC/SSC results, 39 features locally and organised 26 press conferences/briefings. The office regularly released a monthly magazine 'Marugandha'.

PIB, Jodhpur issued 242 press releases in Hindi locally, 80 releases on AIR/Doordarshan programmes and UPSC/SSC results, issued 6 local features in Hindi and organised 60 press conferences/briefings.

PIB, Kota issued 262 local releases, issued 41 releases on AIR/Doordarshan programmes and UPSC/SSC results, issued 9 features locally in Hindi and organised 23 press briefings.

[English]

LPT at Jagatsinghpur, Orissa

2086. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposed Low Power Transmitters (LPT) to be installed during 2000-2001, location-wise;

(b) whether any demand has been received by the Government for installation of LPT in Jagatsinghpur city (District Head Quarters) in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND JUSTICE OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) At present, 95 Low Power Transmitter projects are under implementation in various parts of the country. These projects are expected to be completed in phases during the 9th Plan period. Locations of these transmitters are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) A request has been received from the Member of Parliament, in this regard.

Statement

Low Power Transmitters under Implementation

State/Union Territory	Location
1	2
Andhra Pradesh (13)	Kandukur
	Machilipatnam
	Miryalaguda
	Madgula
	Pasra
	Pedapalli
	Pulamaner
	Punganur
	Sirisilla
	Sirpur
	Udaigiri
	Vemaivada
	Zahirabad
Bihar (5)	Chatra
	Ramnagar
	Kishanganj
	Jamshedpur (DD-2)
	Dhanbad (DD-2)
Gujarat (3)	Vadodara (DD-2)
	Surat (DD-2)
	Rajkot (DD-2)
Haryana (1)	Bhiwani (DD-2)
Himachal Pradesh (1)	Mandi (DD-2)
Jammu & Kashmir (13)	Udhampur
	Mobile LPTs - 12 Nos.
Karnataka (9)	Jamkhandi

1	2
	Mudhol
	Talkota
	Indi
	Belthangadi
	Koppa
	Mundargi
	Sindhnur
	Mysore (DD-2)
Kerala (2)	Kottarakkara
	Manjeri
Madhya Pradesh (8)	Agar
	Bareilly
	Champa
	Kharod
	Konta
	Lakhnadon
	Pandagia
	Sindhwa
Maharashtra (6)	Bhamragad
	Daryapur
	Dhadgaon
	Raver
	Nasik (DD-2)
	Sholapur (DD-2)
Mizoram (1)	Lawngtlai
Orissa (3)	Chikiti

1	2	
		Operation of T.V. Transmission Centres by private agencies
	Tushara	
	Baleshwar (DD-2)	2087. SHRIAMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :
Rajasthan (9)	Bhinmal	(a) whether the Government have permitted some private agencies to operate TV Centres with low power transmitters;
	Kishnagarh (Ajmer)	(b) if so, the names of such agencies and places where these have been permitted;
	Nasirabad	(c) the details of income being earned by the Government from such agencies; and
	Vijaynagar	(d) the reasons for such an important job is being got done through private agencies?
	Pirawa	
	Sanchor	
	Sojat	
	Amjer (DD-2)	
	Bikaner (DD-2)	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.
Tamil Nadu (8)	Ambasamdrum	(b) to (d) Does not arise.
	Ambur	
	Erode	
	Kallakurchi	Upgradation of Centrally Protected Monuments
	Palani	2088. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :
	Pollachi	(a) whether the Government have identified certain centrally protected monuments across the country for upgradation;
	Trichy (DD-2)	(b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;
Tripura (3)	Coimbatore (DD-2)	(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to make these monuments permanent tourist attractions for Indian as well as foreign tourists; and
	Amarpur	(d) the details of visitor - friendly facilities proposed to be provided around the Ajanta and Ellora Caves and Elephanta caves in Maharashtra?
	Ambasa	
	Jolaibari	
Uttar Pradesh (9)	Bidhuna	
	Dhunaghat	
	Gopeshwar	
	Khetikhan	
	Kosi	THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.
	Narora	(b) The State-wise list of centrally protected monuments proposed for upgradation is given in the enclosed statement.
	Bareilly (DD-2)	
	Allgarh (DD-2)	
	Jhansi (DD-2)	(c) and (d) The proposals include conservation and preservation of monuments, environmental upgradation,
West Bengal (1)	Jhalda	

providing information centres, souvenir shops, cafeterias, car parking, toilets and improved signage.

The implementation of the proposals will depend upon the availability of funds.

Statement

Monuments Proposed for upgradation (with funding from State Government Tourism)

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Remains of Bhismak Nagar, District Dibang Valley.

Assam

2. Group of Monuments at Sibsagar, District Sibsagar.

Andhra Pradesh

3. Golkunda Fort, Hyderabad.

Bihar

4. Buddhist Site, Nalanda.

Daman

5. Fort and Churches, Daman.

Delhi

6. Red Fort.
7. *Qutab Minar.
8. *Humayun's Tomb.

Gujarat

9. Rani - ki - Vav, District Patan.

Goa

10. *Churches and Convents, Old Goa.

Haryana

11. Sheikh Chilli's Tomb, Thanesar, District Kurukshetra.

Himachal Pradesh

12. Kangra Fort, Kangra.

Jammu & Kashmir

13. Buddhist Monastries at Hemis, District Leh.

Karnataka

14. *Group of Monumenta at Hampi, District Bellary.
15. *Group of Monuments at Pattadakal, District Bijapur.

Kerala

16. Bekal Fort, Pallakere, District Kasargod.

Madhya Pradesh

17. *Group of Monuments at Sanchi, District Raisen.
18. *Group of Monuments at Khajuraho, District Chhattarpur

Maharashtra

19. *Ajanta Caves, Aurangabad.
20. *Ellora Caves, District Aurangabad.
21. *Elephanta Caves, Gharapuri, District Raigad.

Manipur

22. Temples of Vishnu, Bishenpur, District Bishnupur.

Meghalaya

23. Stone Memorial of U. Mawthaw-dur-briew, Nartiang, District Jaintia Hill.

Nagaland

24. Dimapur Fort, Dimapur, District Kohima.

Orissa

25. *Sun Temple, Konark, District Puri.

Punjab

26. Mughal Sarai, Dakhni, District Jalandhar.

Rajasthan

27. Chittaurgarh Fort, District Chittaurgarh.

Tamil Nadu

28. *Group of Monuments Mahabalipuram, Mamallapuram, District Kanchipuram.
29. *Brihdeswara Temple, Thanjavur, District Thanjavur.

Tripura

30. Rock-cut sculptures at Unakoti, District North Tripura.

Uttar Pradesh

31. *Taj Mahal Agra.

32 *Fatehpur Sikri, Agra.

33 *Agra Fort, Agra.

West Bengal

34 Hazarduari Palace, Killa Nizamat, District Murshidabad.

*Monuments inscribed in World Heritage List of UNESCO.

[Translation]

Separation of SIDBI from IDBI

2089. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have granted sanction for separate financial provision for the SIDBI for making it a separate unit from Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely benefit in the development of Small Scale Industries as a result of the above move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Act, 1989 has, however, been amended with effect from March 27, 2000 thereby incorporating necessary provisions in the SIDBI Act for the delinking of SIDBI from IDBI. The amended Act provides for transfer of not less than 51% of the issued capital of SIDBI, which is presently subscribed by IDBI, in favour of the public sector banks, the General Insurance Corporation, the Life Insurance Corporation, and other institutions owned or controlled by the Central Government in such proportion, manner and on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Central Government.

(c) The delinking of SIDBI from IDBI is mainly intended (i) to make SIDBI an independent entity to enable it to play more effective role in overall development of Small Scale Sector, (ii) to enable SIDBI to raise resources both in debt and equity at competitive terms from the domestic as well as international markets; (iii) to enlarge the shareholders base of SIDBI and (iv) to provide SIDBI with greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility.

[English]

Special Economic Zone Area

2090. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the State Government to acquire a stake in the units set up in the special economic zone area with private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of such units situated in our country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) In the Export and Import Policy (1997-2002) incorporating amendments made upto 31st March, 2000, Government has announced a policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country for promotion of exports. SEZs can be set up in the public, private, joint sector or by the State Governments. There is no stipulation in the SEZ scheme for the State Government to acquire a stake in the units in the SEZ area with private sector.

(c) SEZ are yet to become operational.

[Translation]

Allocation of Kerosene Oil

2091. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of kerosene oil allocated to Madhya Pradesh during the last three years under Public Distribution System, year-wise;

(b) whether there is difference between demand and supply of kerosene oil;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action being taken to fulfil the demand of the State for streamlining the public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Kerosene Oil allocated to Madhya Pradesh during the last three years under PDS is as under :

Year	Allocation (in MTs)
1997-98	532741
1998-99	661812
1999-2000	666632

(b) to (d) Allocation of Kerosene is made on historical basis, i.e., past year's supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level. Kerosene is a deficit product. Requests are received from State Governments for increase in their allocation of kerosene from time to time.

However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet fully such demands. Possible increase,

however, is given, out of the additional availability at the country level, in accordance with a formula under which higher allocation out of additional quantity, is given to States with lower per capital-availability, so as to reduce inter-state disparity over a period of time.

Setting up of Science Cities

2092. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have approved to set up some science cities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in Punjab; and
- (c) the time by which these are likely to start functioning, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has approved the setting up of a Science City in West Bengal and Punjab.

(b) In Punjab it is being set up in Jalandhar and is known as Pushpa Gujral Science City. In Calcutta, it was completed and inaugurated in 1997.

(c) As per the present schedule, the first phase is expected to be completed by the year 2001 and the whole project by 2002.

[English]

River Tourism in the Country

2093. SHRI A. BRAHMANIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have any scheme to finance and make popular river tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such schemes; and
- (c) the details of rivers identified in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Development of Tourism including river tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/U.T.s Government concerned. However, Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to specified tourism projects prioritized in consultation with the State/U.T.s Government. For promotion of river tourism financial assistance is given to States for procurement of cruise vessels, boats, catamaran, rice boats, Houseboats, Glass bottom boats, water sports equipment etc.

(c) The river cruising on Mandovi and Zuari in Goa, Back waters of Kerala, Hooghly River and Sunderbans,

Allahabad to Varanasi in Gangers, Godavari and at various points in the Brahmaputra, as well as river rafting in Ganges, Teesta and in Brahmaputra are quite popular among tourists.

Source of Income of SEBI

2094. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the source of income of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI);
- (b) whether SEBI is to recover large sums as registration fees from many merchant bankers; and
- (c) if so, how much amount is due from them and the measures have been taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The sources of income of the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) include inter-alia, listing fee contribution from stock exchanges; fees from market intermediaries, bankers to issues, debenture trustees, foreign institutional investors, mutual funds, collective investment schemes, credit rating agencies, income from sale of publications; and income on SEBI's investments and deposits.

(b) and (c) As on March 31, 1999, an amount of Rs. 267.67 lakhs was due to SEBI as outstanding registration fees from Merchant bankers. SEBI issued notices to defaulting merchant bankers for non payment of fees and simultaneously, initiated inquiries against 230 merchant bankers. Pursuant to inquiries, registrations of 6 merchant bankers were cancelled, 59 were suspended and warning letters were issued to 12. As a result of the action taken by SEBI, an amount of Rs. 37.79 lakhs was received during the year 1999-2000 and Rs. 14.93 lakhs during April 1 -July 31, 2000.

Further, while considering the applications for registration of various intermediaries it is verified that there is no default in payment of registration fees to SEBI by the applicant company, its directors or any of its associates in the past.

EXIM Policy of Chemicals and Fertilizers

2095. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any export and import Policy relating to chemicals and fertilizers; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The annual revised

EXIM Policy incorporating amendments upto 31st March, 2000 has been announced on 31.03.2000. However, the Government has not announced any sector specific EXIM Policy. In the revised EXIM Policy, quantitative restrictions on import of certain chemicals and fertilizers such as Copper oxychloride, Dibutyl orthophthalates, Dibutyl phthalate and Ammonium sulphate etc. have been removed in line with Policy of liberalisation and as a part of our international commitment.

MS Shoes Scandal - CBI Inquiry

2096. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the inquiry conducted by the CBI on MS Shoes has been completed;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) if not, the legal status of the case; and
- (d) the steps taken to expedite the matter in the interests of investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The inquiry conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Anti Corruption Branch, Mumbai, has been completed.

(b) to (d) As the acts of the accused were found to be punishable under the Companies Act, 1956, a complaint was filed in the Court on 10.9.98. The case is presently under trial.

Benchmark Prices of Natural Rubber

2097. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have notified the benchmark price of natural rubber in the official gazette when it was declared last;
- (b) if so, the date on which it was notified;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Hon'ble High Court has directed the Government to make such notification;
- (e) whether the Rubber Act also provide for such a step; and
- (f) if so, the effects of such notification?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of India notified the Bench Mark Price for Natural Rubber on 28.9.1998 through a Press Release.

(d) to (f) The Hon'ble High Court had directed Govern-

ment to issue an order as envisaged by section 13 of the Rubber Act, 1947. Section 13(1) of the Rubber Act indicates that "The Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, fix the maximum price or the minimum price or the maximum and minimum prices to be charged, in the course of a business of any class specified in the order, for rubber of any description so specified." However, the practice of declaring minimum and/or maximum price has been discontinued since 1981 and Government has been declaring only Bench mark Price since then. The revised Bench Mark Price was notified in September 1998.

Bungling in Medical Orders by NCCF

2098. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether CBI has registered a case in 1997 against ACASH, Safdarjung, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya hospitals and AIIMS for bungling in medical order/supplies through National Cooperative Consumers' Federation or open tenders; and
- (b) if so, the progress made in finalisation of the case giving the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) According to the information furnished by the NCCF, the CBI registered a case against some officials of AIIMS and others in the year 1999 for allegations of irregularities in purchase through the NCCF of India Ltd.

- (b) The case is still under investigation by the CBI.

Expansion Network of AIR

2099. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to expand the network of AIR correspondents in different districts of the country;
- (b) whether AIR correspondents are not active in their areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps have been taken to appoint more AIR correspondents all over the country;
- (d) whether any areas have been identified by AIR to appoint more correspondents;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to strengthen the AIR network; and

(f) the number of AIR correspondents at present in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that a proposal for expanding the network of AIR Part time Correspondents is under consideration. The details are yet to be finalised. However, no adverse report on the functioning of existing AIR Correspondents have been received by Prasar Bharati.

(f) The number of AIR Correspondents and Part time Correspondents working at present in the country is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Correspondents	No. of PTCs
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	3	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3	11
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Nil
4.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	Nil
5.	Bihar	4	26
6.	Goa	1	Nil
7.	Gujarat	3	6
8.	Haryana	2	9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	6
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	6
11.	Karnataka	3	6
12.	Kerala	3	8
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2	8
14.	Maharashtra	4	11
15.	Manipur	2	Nil
16.	Meghalaya	1	Nil
17.	Mizoram	1	2
18.	Nagaland	1	Nil
19.	Orissa	3	11

1	2	3	4
20.	Punjab	3	9
21.	Pondicherry	1	1
22.	Rajasthan	3	10
23.	Sikkim	1	Nil
24.	Tamil Nadu	3	9
25.	Tripura	1	2
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5	14
27.	West Bengal	4	19
28.	Delhi	14	Nil

NABARD Loan

2100. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD has sanctioned funds to improve rural infrastructure in the country;

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

(c) the terms and conditions on which the said funds have been provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State-wise and year-wise sanctions and disbursement made by National Bank for agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) since 1995-96 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Loans to State Governments under RIDF are project-specific. The terms and conditions regarding loans provided to State Governments under RIDF-I to VI are as under:

RIDF	Rate of interest on loans (percent per annum)	Period of loan
I	13.0	Upto 5 years
II	12.0	5 years
III	12.0	5 years
IV	12.0	5 years
V	12.0	7 years
VI	11.5	7 years

The State Governments are required to furnish irrevocable letter of authority in favour of Reserve Bank of India authorising it to debit their accounts in the case of default in payment of interest/repayment of principal of loan under RIDF. —

Statement

State-wise Sanction and Disbursements under RIDF (as on End June, 2000)

(Rs. in Crore)

S.N.	Name of State	RIDF-I		RIDF-II		RIDF-III		RIDF-IV		RIDF-V		RIDF-VI		Total	
		1995-96 (Rs. 2000 Cr.)		1996-97 (Rs. 2500 Cr.)		1997-98 (Rs. 2500 Cr.)		1998-99 (Rs. 3000 Cr.)		1999-2000 (Rs. 3500 Cr.)		2000-01 (Rs. 3500 Cr.)			
		Sanction	Disbursement	Sanction	Disbursement	Sanction	Disbursement	Sanction	Disbursement	Sanction	Disbursement	Sanction	Disbursement		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Andhra Pradesh	227.09	207.09	334.00	242.64	275.11	158.50	305.42	86.44	383.09	55.47	2.25	NIL	1526.96	750.14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	25.10	6.02	NIL	NIL	25.10	6.02
3	Assam	NIL	NIL	63.29	57.47	16.07	10.51	64.72	6.47	196.14	41.59	NIL	NIL	340.22	116.04
4	Bihar	22.17	12.63	NIL	NIL	62.31	4.80	118.50	NIL	100.93	NIL	NIL	NIL	303.91	17.43
5	Goa	6.85	6.85	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	8.93	5.49	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	15.78	12.34
6	Gujarat	150.90	143.63	129.63	92.08	160.60	106.02	136.36	41.52	254.24	40.77	146.70	NIL	978.43	424.02
7	Haryana	26.70	19.01	61.06	39.80	74.98	39.46	102.42	14.26	99.07	13.01	NIL	NIL	364.23	125.54
8	Himachal Pradesh	14.23	14.23	49.50	44.68	50.11	35.84	88.58	30.55	112.87	28.77	NIL	NIL	315.29	154.07
9	J & Kashmir	6.14	6.04	8.06	0.57	35.95	11.78	105.87	29.06	110.88	27.84	46.70	NIL	313.60	75.30
10	Karnataka	173.58	133.36	172.46	145.40	171.83	115.68	178.55	35.02	176.10	0.88	NIL	NIL	872.52	515.27
11	Kerala	95.93	85.87	87.60	63.66	90.61	35.35	64.55	12.79	127.58	14.35	50.54	NIL	516.81	212.02
12	Madhya Pr.	220.50	187.09	207.60	112.16	248.70	101.80	242.84	35.28	262.96	12.99	NIL	NIL	1182.60	449.32

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
13 Maharashtra	186.81	169.35	231.66	195.03	254.31	184.12	301.98	65.80	350.28	35.03	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1325.04	649.33
14 Manipur	1.75	0.96	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1.75	0.96
15 Meghalaya	3.39	3.39	NIL	NIL	8.25	3.91	9.33	2.33	35.10	8.77	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	56.07	18.40
16 Mizoram	2.38	2.37	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	0.72	NIL	16.52	5.05	NIL	NIL	NIL	56.55	11.45
17 Nagaland	1.38	1.38	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	0.72	NIL	16.52	5.05	NIL	NIL	NIL	18.62	6.43
18 Orissa	169.66	160.11	125.14	98.74	162.91	86.04	162.56	59.71	134.62	16.12	11.40	NIL	NIL	NIL	766.29	420.72
19 Punjab	60.50	60.50	62.50	62.05	88.85	80.68	109.96	33.13	112.18	45.03	57.96	NIL	NIL	NIL	491.95	281.39
20 Rajasthan	123.51	116.58	151.50	121.04	162.88	104.69	152.95	14.74	199.66	32.99	144.26	43.28	934.76	433.32	433.32	433.32
21 Tamil Nadu	NIL	NIL	266.68	206.49	195.75	118.05	176.56	64.43	255.60	43.63	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	894.59	432.60
22 Tripura	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	21.70	4.31	45.01	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	66.71	4.31
23 Uttar Pradesh	295.72	279.19	491.65	295.75	432.98	197.60	525.77	145.01	365.87	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	2111.99	917.55
24 West Bengal	102.52	81.84	158.70	114.43	176.76	89.67	214.32	28.81	224.08	36.88	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	876.38	361.63
25 Sikkim	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	21.29	11.90	8.72	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	30.01	11.90
Total	1891.71	1691.47	2601.03	1891.99	2668.96	1484.49	3113.88	727.05	3650.82	474.27	459.81	43.28	14386.16	6312.55		

Compound Interest of Bank Loans

2101. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether nationalised banks including rural banks charge interest compounded quarterly from farmers in respect of loans given to them for various agricultural activities and non-payment of some instalment attracts penal rate of interest;

(b) if so, how far such high rates of interest have been responsible for a number of suicides by farmers and their family members; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to review and revise the killer-rates of interest especially in respect of farmers' loans, indicating the extent of loans and credit against the farm sector, corporate sector and other sectors during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued the following guidelines to commercial banks regarding the procedure for compound interest on agricultural advances and charging penal interest :

- i. Payment of interest should be insisted upon only at the time of repayment of loan/instalments so fixed;
- ii. In respect of direct agricultural advances, banks should not compound interest in case of current dues, i.e. crop loans and instalments not fallen due in respect of term loans, as the agriculturists do not have any other regular source of income than sale proceeds of their crops. When crop loans or instalments under term loans become overdue, banks can add interest outstanding to the principal;
- iii. Further, total interest debited to an account should not exceed the principal amount in respect of short-term advances to small and marginal farmers.

RBI has also advised Commercial Banks that in the case of long duration crops like sugar cane etc. banks should charge interest at annual rests and compound the interest only if the loan/instalment becomes overdue.

As regards levying of penal interest rates, RBI has issued the following instructions to commercial banks :

- (a) The policy of levying penal rates should be implemented with discrimination and selectivity. In order to avoid indiscriminate levy of penal rate, the decision on penal rate should be taken at a fairly higher level in each bank;
- (b) No penal interest should be charged for loans upto Rs. 25,000/-;
- (c) For limits over Rs. 25,000/- the aggregate penal/ additional interest should not exceed 2 per cent over and above the rate of interest applicable/ normally charged to the borrowers.

Further, as per the instructions issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on interest rates on lending commercial banks should not charge interest exceeding Prime Lending Rate (PLR) for loans upto Rs. 2 lakh. In respect of loans beyond Rs. 2 lakh, the interest rates have been freed.

It is felt the credit policy as well as interest rates for agriculture are farmer friendly and cannot be the cause of suicides.

The details of outstanding loans to agriculture granted by Public Sector Banks, as reported by RBI, for the last three years are as under :-

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Amount of Outstanding Loans to Agriculture	Total Net Bank Credit
March 1998	34304.50	218218.89
March 1999	40077.64	246203.42
March 2000	46189.55	292942.54

[Translation]

Development of National Monuments

2102. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for the development of national monuments in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount estimated to be spent thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Thirty four centrally protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India have been identified for upgradation.

(b) to (d) The proposal include conservation & preservation of monuments, environmental upgradation, providing information centres, souvenir shops, cafeterias, car parking, toilets and improved signages.

The implementation of the proposals will depend upon the availability of funds.

[English]

Transfer Policy of Class III and IV Employees in PSUs

2103. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are following the ruling of Allahabad High Court in the matter of Masood Ahmad vs Bharat Pumps Ltd. 2000 (85) Factory Law Reporter 579 regarding not to transfer of class III & IV employees of Public Sector Undertakings to a far away place;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd. has contested the ruling of the Allahabad High Court in a Special Writ Petition. All service matters relating to appointments, promotion, transfer, etc., in respect of posts below the Board level come within the purview of respective Public Sector Undertakings concerned.

Levy Tariff on Fertilizer Imports

2104. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the World Trade Organisation agreement, India has to dismantle its import wall within nine months;

(b) If so, whether offset the loss to the domestic industry, India propose to stop quantitative restrictions and has decided to levy tariff on fertilizer imports; and

(c) If so, the extent to which this decision has affected the fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) India is committed to removing all quantitative restrictions on imports being maintained on account of balance of payment reasons by 31.03.2001.

(b) and (c) After removal of quantitative restrictions, protection to domestic industry, including fertilizer industry, will be available through tariff mechanism. Import restrictions on major fertilizers like DAP and MOP were removed in 1992 and 1993 respectively. Since 1997, import restrictions on many other chemical fertilizers except Urea have been removed.

To study the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions on the fertilizer sector and to evolve a strategy for combating its adverse impact, If any, Government has set up a 'Task Force' under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Fertilizers. The Task Force is to study and recommend the appropriate level to tariff to be imposed on fertilizers taking into account the need to provide reasonable protection to the domestic industry.

Pending FERA cases

2105. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are about 3000 cases under FERA, which are pending with the Enforcement Directorate due to contradictory provisions of FEMA that replaced FERA;

(b) if so, the details of the cases which are pending with Enforcement Directorate;

(c) whether the E.D. has sought any clarifications from the Government regarding FEMA provisions to be followed for completing investigations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome the contradictory interpretation of FEMA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) As on 30.6.2000, the Enforcement Directorate had 4522 cases

pending under the repealed Act, viz, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, but none of them is pending because of any contradictory provision in Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

(b) The zone-wise details of pending cases are as under :-

(1)	Ahmedabad	170
(2)	Bangalore	352
(3)	Chennai	197
(4)	Calcutta	329
(5)	Delhi	2036
(6)	Jalandhar	937
(7)	Mumbai	501

(c) and (d) Section 49 of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 provides that all offences committed under the repealed Act, i.e. Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 shall continue to be governed by the provisions of the repealed Act as if that Act had not been repealed, for a period of two years from the date of coming into force of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. The Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, who was consulted by the Directorate, has confirmed this position.

[Translation]

Funds to Bihar

2106. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned for Bihar during 2000-2001;

(b) whether there is difference in amount allocated and sanctioned;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the preventive measures being taken to avoid the recurrence of financial crisis in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Allocation of Central Assistance to Bihar under the State Annual Plan for 2000-01 are yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Government. Funds under State Plan is being released on a tentative basis, as per allocation of the previous year. Details of allocation of

Share in Central Taxes and Grants-in-Aid to Bihar as per the award of the Eleventh Finance Commission are contained in the Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission which was laid on the Table of Parliament on 27th July, 2000.

(d) Funds are released as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission and Planning Commission. States being autonomous under the Constitution, it is for the State Government to manage their finances efficiently within the available resources.

Expenditure Reforms Commission

2107. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI J.S. BRAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Expenditure Reforms Commission was constituted;

(b) the terms and reference of the Commission;

(c) whether the Commission has submitted its first stage report;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Commission in its first stage report and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the time by which the Commission is likely to submit its full report and the number of stages in which this report is likely to be submitted by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Expenditure Reforms Commission was constituted on 28.2.2000.

(b) The terms of reference are as under :

(1) Keeping in view the evolving role of Government, the need to foster convergence and avoiding overlap in the functions of different Central Government Ministries, Departments and attached organisations and the role of the State Governments, suggest a road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Central Government.

(2) Review the frame work of all subsidies, both explicit and implicit, examine the economic rationale for their continuance and make recommendations for making subsidies transparent and suggest measures for maximising their impact on the target population at minimum cost;

(3) Review the framework for determination of user charges of Departmental and commercial entities and suggest an effective strategy for cost recovery through user charges;

(4) Review the adequacy of staffing under Central Government Ministries, attached offices and institutions and suggest measures for rationalising the staff and cadres of different services. In this context also review the existing arrangements for re-deployment and re-training of surplus staff to ensure that any additional manpower for new areas of Government activities are met by re-deployment;

(5) Review the procedure for setting up Government funded autonomous institutions and their pattern of funding and suggest measures for effecting improvement and reducing budgetary support for their activities; and

(6) Consider any other relevant issue concerning expenditure management in Government and make suitable recommendations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Expenditure Reforms Commission has submitted its first report on "food subsidy". The recommendation regarding modification of economic cost of wheat and rice has been implemented;

(e) The Commission is likely to submit its final report within a period of one year and may send recommendations on quarterly basis.

[English]

VRS for Bank Employees

2108. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government in consultation with Indian Bankers' Association (IBA) propose to introduce a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for bank employees with a view to cut the work force of banks by about 50 per cent;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the present strength of employees in the banks and the response of the employees to this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No Voluntary Retirement Scheme has as yet been introduced for Public Sector Banks. However, a Committee comprising of representatives of Indian Banks' Association, Public Sector Banks and Ministry of Finance constituted for making recommendations on Human Resource Management in the Public Sector Banks has in its interim report, submitted to IBA, inter alia, recommended introduction of a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of Public Sector Banks. Indian Banks' Association has sent that report to the Government and has sought no objection from the Government for circulating this scheme to the banks for consideration and adoption by their Boards. The proposal of Indian Banks' Association is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The total strength of Public Sector Banks is about 8.8. lakh. Since the Voluntary Retirement Scheme has not yet been introduced, the reply to the Question with regard to response of employees does not arise.

Second Phase of Liberalisation

2109. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the second phase of liberalisation, some Indian firms have acquired major share in foreign firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the sectors in which investments made;

(c) whether the procedure and rules regulating repatriation of profits and dividends has been reviewed and fine tuned under the new law (FEMA); and

(d) if so, the decisions taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, during the period from 1st January, 2000 till 31st July, 2000, 26 approvals have been issued to Indian companies for overseas acquisitions where the Indian stake in the foreign firm is 50% or more, as per details furnished in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The condition of foreign exchange neutrality of the overseas investment within 5 years was dispensed with in May, 1999. Further, under the FEMA regulations, Indian promoter companies have been required to repatriate to India all dues receivable from the foreign entity like dividend, royalty, technical fees, etc. within 60 days of their falling dues, or such further period as RBI may permit.

Statement

List of approvals for overseas acquisition where Indian stake in the foreign firms is 50% or more (from 01/01/2000 to 31/07/2000)

S.No.	Indian Promoter	Date of approval	Country	Equity	Loan	Guarantee	% Activity	(Amount in US\$ million)
1	Wockhardt Ltd.	8/5/2000	USA	50	20	0	100 Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	
2	Strides Acrolab Ltd.	5/1/2000	USA	8.01	0	4.02	100 Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	
3	Jenson & Nicholson (I) Ltd.	2/5/2000	Nepal	0.3973	0	0	95 Paints, Varnishes, Polishes	
4	Berger Paints Indian Ltd.	2/5/2000	Nepal	0.6879	0.290	0	100 Paints, Varnishes, Polishes	
5	Teamasia Semiconductors Ltd.	8/5/2000	Mauritius	6.4800	0	0	100 Electronic Equipments	
6	Real Time Holdings Ltd.	20/5/2000	USA	0.4950	0	0	51.95 Telecommunication equipments	
7	Goa Carbons Ltd.	31/1/2000	Mauritius	0.0900	0	0	100 Petroleum Products	
8	System America (I) Pvt. Ltd.	4/5/2000	Canada	0.1833	0	0	100 Software development services	
9	Avasan International Pvt. Ltd.	6/5/2000	USA	0.2735	0	0	100 Software development services	
10	BFL Software Ltd.	8/6/2000	USA	168.028	0	0	100 Software development services	
11	Synergy Log-in-Systems Ltd.	20/5/2000	Singapore	0.4370	0	0	100 Software development services	
12	Ind-Telesoft Pvt. Ltd.	18/1/2000	USA	4.01	0	0	100 Software development services	
13	Subex Systems Ltd.	6/1/2000	USA	6.713	0	0	100 Software development services	
14	Ind-Telesoft Pvt. Ltd.	18/1/2000	USA	0.074	0	0	100 Software development services	
15	GE Indian Services Holding Pvt. Ltd.	22/3/2000	Mauritius	0.0001	0	0	100 Software development services	
16	Shriram Global Technologies Ltd.	6/7/2000	BV Island	0.500	0	0	100 Software development services	
17	Boston Management Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	26/7/2000	USA	0.300	0	0	100 Software development services	
18	Leading Edge Systems Ltd.	31/3/2000	Bermuda	139.397	0	0	100 Software development services	
19	Genesys Technology Ltd.	4/1/2000	USA	0.100	0	0	100 Software development services	
20	Rave Technologies (P) Ltd.	14/6/2000	U.K.	1.5897	0	0	100 Software development services	
21	KLK Systems Ltd.	13/5/2000	USA	10.515	0	0	100 Software development services	
22	Zee Telefilms Ltd.	24/2/2000	BV Island	212.180	0	0	50 Broadcasting & telecasting	
23	Modi Entertainment Network Ltd.	10/4/2000	Mauritius	0.102	0	0	100 Broadcasting & telecasting	
24	Maarsk Indian Ltd.	10/4/2000	Nepal	0.0103	0	0	95 Shipping Agents	
25	Dataline Transcription Pvt. Ltd.	26/7/2000	USA	0.105	0	0	100 Medical Transcription Services	
26	Tata Tea Ltd.	6/3/2000	UK	101.6924	0	0	86.11 Tea	

**Enlisting Indian Monuments by UNESCO
under World Heritage Sites**

2110. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of historical monuments in the country which have been enlisted in the UNESCO world heritage sites, location-wise;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that very few monuments of our country have been enlisted as compared to the other small nations of the west; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Sixteen historical monuments in the country have been enlisted as World Heritage sites as per the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) A list of World Heritage Sites in Europe is given in the enclosed statement-II.

While there is no limit to the number of nominations that Member-States may submit to the UNESCO, the final selection of a World Heritage Site rests with the UNESCO.

Statement-I

Monuments Inscribed on World Heritage List

S.No.	Name of Monuments	Location	State
1	2	3	4
1	Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Maharashtra
2	Ellora Caves	Ellora	Maharashtra
3	Elephanta Caves	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

1	2	3	4
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

Statement-II

*Historical Properties in European Countries inscribed on
World Heritage List of UNESCO*

Name of Countries	Total Sites
1	2
Austria	4
Belgium	3
Bulgaria	7
Cyprus	3
Czech Republic	8
Denmark	2
Estonia	1
Finland	4
France	21

1	2
Georgia	3
Germany	19
Greece	12
Hungary	3
Hungary and Slovakia	1
Ireland	2
Italy	29
Latvia	1
Lithuania	2
Luxembourg	1
Macedonia	1
Malta	3
Netherlands	5
Norway	4
Poland	7
Portugal	9
Romania	3
Russian Federation	8
Slovakia	3
Spain	26
Sweden	8
Switzerland	3
Ukraine	2
United Kingdom	13
Yugoslavia	3

Financial Assistance by IDBI/ICICI

2111. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Industrial Development Bank of India and ICICI from the

entrepreneurs of States/Union Territories for financial assistance during each of the last three years and till date;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned and rejected;

(c) the reasons for rejection of applications; and

(d) the financial assistance provided by IDBI and ICICI, separately, State/UT-wise during the above period?

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

Money Transaction Rackets

2112. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has recently unearthed a multi crore money transaction racket in the capital involving some big persons relating to industries and Chartered Accountants;

(b) if so, the modus operandi of such racket;

(c) whether the Chartered Accountants in the country are highly involved with companies in helping to run such rackets; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government against companies and Chartered Accountants involved in such rackets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Searches have been conducted by the Department in the case of a few Chartered Accountants and related persons. The modus operandi was opening of bogus bank accounts through which cash was routed as non-existent loans etc. Hawala entries of long term and short term capital gains and losses were provided by trading in shares of companies which existed on paper only.

(c) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

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

Losses/Profit Incurred by Doordarshan

2113. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) the losses/profits incurred by Doordarshan during each of the last three years, till date;
- (b) the details of major sources of income and expenditure;
- (c) whether the administrative and non-plan expenditure has been increasing over the years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken/being 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) Doordarshan is a Public Service Broadcasting Organisation and does not operate on commercial basis to make profit and therefore, no profit and loss accounts are maintained.

- (b) While commercial revenue from sale of airtime on Doordarshan Channels is the main source of revenue, following are the major expenditure items;
- (a) Salary of the employees and other establishment costs,
- (b) Operation and maintenance of studios and transmitters,
- (c) Programme production and acquisition,
- (d) Setting up of new facilities (Transmitters, uplinking and downlinking, OB Vans, etc.) civil and electrical work etc.,
- (e) Modernisation and replacement of old equipments.

(c) and (d) Administrative and non-plan expenditure has been increasing over the years, especially due to increase in salaries on acceptance of recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission and general increase in prices of stores and equipments.

(e) Prasar Bharati has informed that all the austerity measures as directed by the Government are being followed to contain the expenditure within the sanctioned budget.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism

2114. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

- (a) whether the Government have set up a Task Force/Committee for development of tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the composition thereof;
- (c) the aspects on which the Task Force/Committee is likely to ponder over; and
- (d) the time by which this Task Force/Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism constituted four Task Forces on :-

- (i) Infrastructure for Tourism
- (ii) Product Development and Environment
- (iii) Human Resource Development and
- (iv) Promotion, Marketing and Technology.

The members of the Task Forces were representatives of various sectors of tourism industry who were requested to examine the key requirements of the tourism sector and suggest short term and long term action plan. The Task Force have already submitted their reports.

Hotel Industry

2115. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Hotel Industry have been accorded the status of Industry but facilities have not been given;
- (b) if so, whether the Indian Hotel Industry have demanded from the Government to give them the same facilities as are available to computer and software industries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF

CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has accorded Export House Status to tourism. Hotels, travel agents, tour operators, tourists transport operators shall be entitled for recognition as export house/trading house/star trading house/super star trading house vide Government of India, Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 33 (RE-98) 1997-2002 dated 26.11.98. Consequently, they shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in chapter 12 of the Hand Book of Procedures (Vol.I)

The Department of Tourism has recommended the demands of the Indian Hotels Industry that they may be given facilities at par with the computer/software industries.

[English]

Mahajan Committee on Sugar Industry

2116. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIV RAJ MANE :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 1179 of March 2, 2000 and state :

(a) whether all the recommendations of Mahajan Committee have been examined by the Government;

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

(c) If not, the time by which the recommendations are likely to be examined?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This Ministry has examined all recommendations of the Mahajan Committee. Final decision of Government on all recommendations will be announced shortly.

Inflow and Outflow of Investment

2117. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the quantum of Inflow and outflow of investment, in Dollar, during the last two years including first quarter of the financial year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : Inflow of foreign investment under various schemes in USD million has been as following :

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (Upto June)
2853.30	4883.14	1483.28

The amount remitted by way of dividends/profits was USD 658 million in 1998-99 and USD 72 million in 1999-2000 (Upto June 99). Outflow of all types of Non-Resident deposits in various bank's schemes in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was USD 3558 million and USD 5865 million respectively.

[Translation]

Dilapidated Monuments

2118. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are some monuments in the country which are in dilapidated condition due to absence of proper maintenance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government propose to carry out immediately the repair work of the dilapidated monuments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India maintains and conserves over 3600 centrally protected monuments in the country, which are in a fairly good state of preservation. The Government is not aware about the state of other monuments not under its control.

(c) and (d) The conservation and preservation of the centrally protected monuments is a continuous process. The conservation of these monuments, according to archaeological norms are taken up as per the availability of funds and resources.

[English]

National Tourism Policy

2119. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Tourism Policy formulated in 1997 is under revision;

(b) if so, the salient features of such revision;

(c) the details of schemes launched/drawn up to attract both domestic and foreign tourists;

(d) whether any proposal for the development of tourism in Tamil Nadu is pending with the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Some of the salient features of the revised National Tourism Policy pertain to :-

- (i) India's economic growth and promotion of its image abroad as a country with a glorious past, a vibrant present and bright future. The emphasis is on providing information (Sooc-hna), facilitation (Suvidha) and Safety (Surak-sha) for the tourists.
- (ii) Encouragement of people's participation in tourism development including Panchayati Raj Institutions, local bodies, co-operatives, non-governmental organisations, etc.
- (iii) Encouragement of public and private sector partnership
- (iv) Strive towards excellence by introducing professionalism through training.

(c) Various schemes proposed to attract foreign and domestic tourists include co-ordinating the efforts of different Government Departments and agencies in making India a tourism friendly country and facilitating domestic tourism by promoting amenities and facilities for budget tourists.

(d) and (e) Development of tourism in any State is undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance for the projects/schemes identified every year in consultation with them. During the year 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 493.85 lakhs for 26 projects have been sanctioned for the development of tourism in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Recovery of Loans

2120. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 258 dated March 12, 1999 regarding recovery of loans and state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has since issued any writ, order or directions to the Government to formulate definite policy laying down procedure for the recovery of loans and advances together with interest accrued thereon which

are presently being treated as non-performing assets of banks; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Printing of One Thousand Rupee Note

2121. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stopped printing of one thousand rupee note sometimes back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restart the printing of one thousand rupee note again; and

(d) if so, the time by which this note is likely to be circulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Rupee 1000 denomination note was demonetised in the year 1978 and since then its printing was stopped.

(b) The decision to demonetise high denomination notes including Rs. 1000 note, was taken in 1978, as it was then felt that these notes facilitated illicit transfer of money for financing transactions which were harmful to the national economy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Rupees 1000 note is expected to be put in circulation shortly.

Companies Listed in BSE/NSE

2122. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of companies listed in the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE), separately;

(b) the number of companies out of the total companies listed in both the exchanges are traded regularly;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the companies have been vanished from the market and are not trading regularly in both the exchanges;

(d) whether Bombay Stock Exchange has started 'Z' category for such companies who are not complying the listing bye laws of the said exchanges;

(e) if so, whether SEBI and BSE are aware that most of the companies like Ideal Carpets/Ideal Hotel are not sending their annual report to their shareholders since 1994-95 which is one of the condition of listing of one's company at the BSE; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government against those companies particularly Ideal Carpet, who have vanished from the market and to protect the interest of general investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) According to SEBI, out of 5816 companies listed on BSE, approximately scrips of 1600 companies are traded regularly on BSE and out of 747 companies listed on NSE, approximately scrips of 684 companies are traded regularly on NSE.

(c) Non-trading of a scrip of a company on an exchange cannot be considered as a ground for classifying the company as a company which has vanished.

(d) The listed companies which do not comply with the requirements of some of the clauses of the listing agreement i.e., non-payment of listing fees, non-submission of annual reports, non-submission of quarterly results, non-fixation of book closure/record date, non-resolution of investor complaints, etc. are shifted to the 'Z' group by BSE.

(e) and (f) Both M/s Ideal Carpets/Ideal Hotel have submitted their annual report for the year ending March, 1999. With a view to taking stringent action against vanishing companies, a Central Coordination and Monitoring Committee has been formed to take policy initiatives and monitor the actions initiated against such companies. The Committee consists of representatives of SEBI and the Department of Company Affairs. Also, seven task forces have been established in seven regions to assist the Committee and take joint action against such companies. As on 24.7.2000, SEBI has issued directions under section 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992 against 61 companies and 251 directors of such defaulting companies. The stock exchanges have been advised by SEBI to set up a separate cell for monitoring listing compliance by all listed companies. The cases of such defaulting companies have been referred to State Governments for action to be taken by police.

Benami Cars

2123. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the News item captioned "Customs rattle by car list sent to CVC" appearing in 'The Indian Express' dated May 19, 2000;

(b) if so, the fact in details;

(c) whether the Government have made or propose to make any inquiry in such cases of staff stationed in Delhi, Chennai and Calcutta where it is reported that the staff is using "Benami" cars for their personal use; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the Government propose to take this matter through inquiry or investigation?

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

(b) The news item relates to a letter sent by a resident of Mumbai to the Central Vigilance Commissioner giving, inter-alia, a list containing details of cars for personal use with Customs officials residing in a colony at Mumbai.

(c) and (d) The Complaint was found to be pseudonymous. As per the existing instructions issued by the Central Vigilance Commission, no action should at all be taken on such complaints & they must just be filed. In case complaints duly confirmed by the Complainant are received regarding acquisition of property by other than the known sources of income, action is taken.

[Translation]

Setting up of Cultural Centres

2124. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some cultural centres in the country in the near future;

(b) if so, the State-wise and location-wise details thereof particularly in Jahanabad district of Bihar;

(c) the time by which these centres are likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, under the Scheme of "Setting up of Multi-purpose Cultural Complexes in the State including those for children", financial assistance of Rs. 1 crore (maximum) is given to an autonomous body on the recommendation of the State Govt. for construction of Multi-purpose Cultural Complex.

(b) State-wise and location-wise details of the Multi-purpose Cultural Complexes :

Sikkim - Gangtok,

Nagaland - Mokokchung

Manipur - Imphal,

Mizoram - Aizwal,

Tripura -Agartala,

West Bengal- Calcutta,

Madhya Pradesh - Rewa,

Orissa - Bhubneshwar,

J&K - Jammu

Karnataka - Bellary & Hassan,

Haryana - Kurukshetra,

Kerala-Thiruvananthapuram

Pondicherry,

Punjab - Chandigarh

Bihar - Patna. No proposal has been received from Jahanabad.

(c) and (d) Speed of construction of an MPCC depends upon the timely release of matching share of grants by the State Govt. on the basis of which releases are made by the Govt. of India. Also, often the site selection for the MPCC takes a long time to finalise, as a consequence the State Govts. are unable to take up construction until a decision on this issue is taken.

[English]

Excavation in Haryana

2125. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three year long excavation at Rakhi-

garh in Haryana has unearthed the remains of what could have been the "Provincial capital" of the Harappan civilisation in Hissar District of Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to preserve the area as unique history and continue the excavation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rakhigarhi in Hissar district, Haryana was probably a major urban centre at the eastern edge of the Harappan empire and, could in that sense, be considered a Provincial Capital.

The three consecutive excavations conducted at the site since 1997-98 onwards have yielded remains/evidence of public building and drainage, in addition to the evidence of activities of specialised crafts and long distance trade in material which were not available locally.

A good number of diagnostic artifacts recovered from the site include terracotta figurines; pieces of ornaments of gold, silver, copper, shell, semi - precious stones, steatite, faience, clay, bone, etc., stone weights, seals and sealings. In addition lithic and ceramic assemblages have also been found. A Harappan cemetery has also been identified. The site has also yielded evidence of a pre-Harappan settlements.

(c) The considerable findings unearthed so far need careful analysis before further excavations can be considered.

[Translation]

Export of Wheat and Rice

2126. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to export the excess stock from the foodgrain reserves;

(b) if so, the quantum of wheat and rice fixed for export during the current year alongwith the name of the country;

(c) whether the Government have also ascertained the possibilities of export of wheat and rice from the country; and

(d) if so, the estimated maximum and minimum price of wheat in the international market at present and the price at which wheat and rice can be sold in the country without incurring any loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) To liquidate surplus wheat stocks, it has, *inter-alia*, been decided by the Government to explore possibilities of commodity loan of wheat to SAARC countries, or other countries as also barter trade of wheat with those countries which could supply us other commodities in exchange of wheat at prices at which they are importing wheat from other countries. It has also been decided to allow export of wheat on Government to Government account subject to suitable floor price. Accordingly, possibilities of export of wheat are being explored. However, no concrete response has so far emerged. Ruling prices of Central Pool wheat stocks in India, as compared to the international prices, being high, export of Indian wheat has not been commercially viable. No specific quantity of wheat has been fixed for export. At present, there is no decision to export rice from the Central Pool.

(b) As per the International Grains Council Grain Market Indicators for the week ending 25.7.2000, the international wheat export prices ranged between US\$ 93 PMT to US\$ 184 PMT.

There is an ongoing Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic), under which any buyer can purchase wheat from FCI at the rate of Rs. 900/- per quintal, subject to the condition that the indented quantity is not less than 10 tonnes. Additionally, Government have decided to dispose of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) from Punjab only at the following rates :-

Month	Rate per Quintal
July, 2000	Rs. 700/-
August, 2000	Rs. 750/-
September, 2000	Rs. 800/-

There is, presently, no such scheme in respect of rice.

[English]

HPT Centre in Mysore

2127. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount so far spent for the proposed High Power TV Transmission Centre in Mysore;

(b) the amount earmarked for the above work during 1999-2000;

(c) the amount already spent during the above period; and

(d) the time by which the above mentioned work is likely to be 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) An amount of Rs. 402.97 lakhs has been spent on the HPT project at Mysore till June, 2000.

(b) Rs. 360.00 lakhs had been allocated for the project during 1999-2000.

(c) Rs. 333.21 lakhs was spent on the HPT project at Mysore during 1999-2000.

(d) The HPT project at Mysore is expected to be completed by the end of the 9th Plan period.

Wage Revision of Employees of Regional Rural Banks

2128. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether wage revision in respect of the employees of Regional Rural Banks has not yet been finalized;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Kelkar Committee has recommended extension of Sixth Bipartite Agreement in respect of Regional Rural Bank employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The matter is sub-judice.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-US Commercial Dialogue

2129. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether the Government have signed a document with USD Secretary of Commerce to launch the Indo-US Commercial Dialogue for expanding economic cooperation between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the trade between the two countries is likely to be improved;

(d) whether all the hurdles in respect of trade have been fully settled;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any Indo-US Joint Commission has been set up to facilitate early disposal of the trade agreements;

(g) if so, the time by which the agreements are likely to be implemented; and

(h) the details of action plan for the current year for improving trade and economic cooperation between Indo-US alongwith the projected growth, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The two sides have agreed to set up India-US Commercial Dialogue which was signed on 23.3.2000. The framework aims to (a) facilitate trade (b) maximise investment opportunities across a broad range of economic sectors, including information technology, infrastructure, biotechnology and services.

(c) While no precise figures can be provided, it is anticipated that the Commercial Dialogue will facilitate the further expansion of Indo-US trade to mutual benefit.

(d) and (e) In any bilateral trade relationship, emergence and resolution of disputes is an ongoing process. Several hurdles in respect of Indo-US trade have been satisfactorily overcome and there remain area of dispute that are yet to be resolved.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The Annual Action Plan for the current year seeks to further develop India's exports to the US and exploit their considerable untapped potential. Sectors of special focus for Indian exports include items where our exports have done well in recent years as well as those with high export growth potential.

Switching over the Financial Institutions to Universal Banking

2130. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India has decided to switch over to universal banking;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Committee on Banking Sector Reforms (Narasimham Committee-II) has inter-alia, recommended that with the convergence of activities between banks and Development Financial Institutions (DFIs), the DFIs should, over a period of time, convert themselves into banks. In the Discussion Paper released in January, 1999 containing proposals for bringing about greater clarity in the respective roles of banks and financial institutions for greater harmonization of facilities, Reserve Bank of India has recommended that DFIs can convert themselves into universal banks within a period of five years. In the light of the above developments; Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) is examining the need to become a universal bank.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Performance of Storage and Construction of Godowns

2131. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of providing assistance for storage of food items, construction of warehouses and godowns, retail out-lets in rural areas and purchase of vehicles is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the responsibility has been fixed on any officer for unsatisfactory performance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not fixing any responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (e) Financial assistance is provided to States/UTs under two centrally sponsored schemes, (a) "Construction of Godowns" for creating adequate

storage capacity in the needy areas, and (b) under "Purchase of Vans/Trucks", to strengthen the PDS infrastructure. The vehicles sanctioned under the latter scheme can be operated as mobile fair price shops or can be used as carriers for door delivery of food grains to fair price shops in inaccessible areas.

Financial assistance is sanctioned to the States/UTs based on the proposals received from them provided there is no pendency of the utilisation certificates or any refund of unutilised amount out of the past assistance sanctioned to the State Governments/UTs as per the terms and conditions of the scheme. During 1999-2000 an amount of Rs. 23.35 crores has been sanctioned against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 22.50 crores under these two schemes.

Proper implementation of the scheme depends upon the collective responsibility of the State Governments/UTs. After sanction of financial assistance the State Governments/UTs and their implementing agencies have to ensure completion of construction of godowns, or purchase of vans as well as submission of UCs within the stipulated time period. Defaulting State Governments/UT administrations are regularly reminded regarding non-submission of UCs of the past assistance. No fresh proposal of the State/UT is considered if there are pending Utilisation Certificates or any refund of the unutilised amount from the past assistance is pending.

[English]

Quality of PDS Items Supplied to States

2132. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

DR. BALIRAM :

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

(a) whether the quality of Public Distribution System items supplied by Food Corporation of India to various States have been objected by several State Governments in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States and the reasons for objections;

(c) the quantity of PDS items returned by the States so far, State-wise and item-wise;

(d) whether the Government have also received any complaints from various States regarding poor quality of foodgrains supplied under Mid-Day-Meal operation plan;

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

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to supply better quality of PDS items to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some State Governments viz., Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir & Tripura had shown reluctance in accepting the rice procured under relaxed specification (URS rice), particularly procured in Punjab, during 1997-98 and 1998-99. The URS rice of 1997-98 has been frozen from issue under TPDS. However, the State Governments have been allowed to inspect the quality of foodgrains after joint sampling and satisfy themselves before lifting the same from FCI godowns.

(c) No PDS foodgrains supplied by FCI were returned back by the States.

(d) and (e) FCI had received complaints from Manipur about issue of poor quality of foodgrains under Mid-Day Meal scheme. On investigation, it was found that only good quality of stocks were issued from FCI depots for the same.

(f) The following steps have been taken by the Government to supply better quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS :

i. Only good quality foodgrains, conforming to (Prevention of Food Adulteration Act), PFA standards and free from insects are issued to State Governments by the FCI for distribution under TPDS.

ii. Ample opportunities are provided to the State Governments or their agencies to inspect foodgrains prior to lifting from FCI godowns. Instructions have been issued to all State Governments that officers not below the rank of Inspector be deputed for inspection of the foodgrains before lifting from FCI godowns.

iii. The samples are jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of State Government and FCI for display at the Fair Price Shops.

- iv. The specifications of foodgrains have been tightened and no relaxation has been extended excepting Orissa which was affected by super cyclone.

[Translation]

Export/Import by MMTC

2133. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :

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

(a) whether the Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation has made exports and imports on a large scale;

(b) If so, the details of items exported/imported by MMTC during the last three years;

(c) whether the MMTC has formulated any scheme for export of Basmati rice even without obtaining export orders from any country;

(d) if so, the objective behind formulation of this policy; and

(e) the action taken by Government in view of heavy loss of revenues on account of export policy of the MMTC;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of items exported/imported by MMTC during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement;

(c) to (e) In the liberalised trade regime and in a bid to broaden its trading activities; MMTC has also been dealing in agro commodities both for import and export. Based on the experience gained in the agro commodities and basmati rice being a traditionally potential commodity for export, MMTC made an effort to develop a captive supply source by processing of basmati paddy. However, because of contractual default on the part of the processor, MMTC has initiated legal proceedings to recover its dues.

Statement

MMTC's Exports during the last three years

(Value in Rs. Crore)

Items	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Prov.)
1	2	3	4
Minerals and Ores	981	947	1036
Agro Products	75	55	10

1	2	3	4
Industrial Products/ Engineering Products	46	4	1
Gold/Silver/Gems	42	20	142
Finished Fertilizer/ Fertilizer Raw Materials	33	3	7
Building Materials	6	9	12
Textiles	3	-	-
Others	1	4	-
Total	1187	1042	1208

MMTC's Imports during the last three years

(Value in Rs. Crore)

Items	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Prov.)
Finished Fertilizer and Fertilizer Raw Materials	672	180	305
Non Ferrous Metals and Industrial Raw Materials	274	217	316
Gold/Silver/Gems	2115	2649	2553
Agro Products	--	60	252
Coal and Hydro Carbon	69	35	144
Textiles	--	3	5
Minerals and Ores	--	--	6
Others	2	1	1
Total	3132	3145	3582

(Source : MMTC)

Export Promotion Industrial Parks in Maharashtra

2134. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

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

(a) whether the Government have agreed to help Maharashtra State Government in establishing the Export Promotion Industrial Parks in the State at Nagpur, Pune,

Aurangabad and at Dronagiri and Jawaharal Nehru Prof Trust at Mumbai as a hardware park;

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

(c) the time by which the action is likely to be taken on the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) On the basis of proposal received from Government of Maharashtra, an Expon Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) at Ambarnath, District Thane, has already been sanctioned. As per the scheme, a second EPIP in a State could be considered only after the first one has been established and is found to be operating successfully.

No proposal has been received from the State Government for establishing of EPIPs at Nagpur, Pune, Aurangabad, Dronagiri and Jawaharal Nehru Port Trust at Mumbai.

Permanent Account Nubmer

2135. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether PAN cards issued to Income Tax payee contain false information about tax payers;

(b) If so, the number of cases have come to the notice of the Government during the last two years; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) As per the procedure prescribed, all the information which is printed on the PAN cards, namely, full name, father's name, date of birth/incorporation etc, is checked with reference to the application filed in Form 49A through a process know as PAN Preview. In some cases, however, inadvertant mistakes in the name, father's name, date of birth/incorporation, photograph or signature (in case of individuals) have appeared on the PAN cards due to inadequate PAN Preview by the concerned officials.

(b) No separate record is available in the system regarding the cases where mistakes are pointed out by PAN allottees and corrections made thereon. The system maintains a combined record of all modifications made to the PAN database whether by way of corrections of mistakes or subsequent updations made on the request of the PAN allottees etc.

(c) The mistakes are corrected as soon as the same are detected or brought to the notice of the Department.

Revenue from Taxes on Services Sector

2136. SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of collection of revenue from taxes on service sector during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the collection from service tax has been quite meagre against the potential revenue;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures likely to be taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The revenue collected from service tax during the previous three financial years are given below :

1997-98	Rs. 1586 crore
1998-99	Rs. 1957 crore
1999-2000	Rs. 2125 crore (Provisional)

(b) Service tax has been imposed only on a few services and not on the entire service sector. In the circumstances, the revenue collection is not meagre in itself.

(c) Does not arise, in view of the answer to (b) above.

(d) The Government have set up an Expert Group on Service Tax with a view to examine the various aspects connected with the field of taxing the services and to make recommendations in this regard. On receipt of the recommendations of the Expert Group, the Government will decide on the measures to be taken.

Auction Platforms for Beedi Tobacco

2137. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to encourage better prices of beedi tobacco;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up auction platforms for beedi tobacco in the country;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any socio-economic survey has been made of the beedi-tobacco farmers; and

(f) If so, the details of major findings of this survey?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government does not propose to set up auction platforms for beedi tobacco.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Socio-economic survey of beedi-tobacco farmers has not been commissioned by Government.

(f) Does not arise.

Bank Loan Dues Against Private Companies

2138. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recent study conducted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has revealed that private sector companies owe more than Rs. 28,000 crores to lending banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FICCI has offered to negotiate with the defaulting companies for settlement of their loans dues at 35 per cent;

(d) whether the Government have officially asked the FICCI for initiating the settlement process;

(e) if so, whether a waiver upto 65 per cent of the dues was also proposed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) In a discussion paper "Bank NPAs : Need for a new Perspective", the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has stated that the non-performing assets (NPAs) of

public sector banks, in the non-priority sector was, as of March 1999, Rs. 27,608 Crores.

(c) to (e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Policy Letter

2139. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to prepare policy letter in respect of disinvestment to tackle with the disputed sectors like telecommunications and Oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this policy letter is likely to be prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir. Disinvestment in the PSEs in all the sectors including telecommunication & oil, is being carried out in accordance with the declared disinvestment policy of the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Tourism from Gulf Countries

2140. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are big possibilities to promote India's tourism from the Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the number of tourists from the gulf countries?

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

- (b) One of the highest per capita income in the world is of the Arabs in the Gulf.
2. Western expatriates with high income group are also residing in Gulf countries.
 3. Proximity to India.
 4. India's Commercial links with Gulf countries.
- (c) Aggressive Advertising Campaign are being carried out to attract more tourist to India.
2. Regular participation in Travel Mart/ Exhibition in the Gulf Region.
 3. Organising regular fam trips of Media and Travel Agents to India to acquaint them with the Indian Tourism Product.
 4. Organising seminars & workshops regularly to generate tourist interest in India.

[English]

India among Top Ten Indebted Nations

2141. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "India among top ten indebted nations" appearing in 'The Statesman' dated June 3, 2000;

(b) if so, whether India's total external debt touched to an alarming height and included among the top ten indebted countries of the World;

(c) if so, whether the country's debt position has an adverse impact on the economy of the country; and

(d) if so, 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) In its daily issue dated the 3rd June, 2000, *The Statesman* published a news item titled "India among top ten indebted

nations" based on "India's External Debt : A Status Report-May, 2000" published by the Ministry of Finance. As indicated in the Status Report, India is among the top ten debtor countries of the world in terms of absolute level of debt. However, its position improved from the third largest debtor country after Brazil and Mexico in 1991 to ninth largest in 1998 after Brazil, Russian Federation, Mexico, China, Indonesia, Argentina, Korea and Turkey.

(c) and (d) The outstanding stock of external debt of the country was US\$ 99.0 billion at end-December, 1999, which is the same as the peak level of US \$ 99.0 billion at end-March, 1995. External indebtedness position of the country, however, has considerably improved in recent years, which is reflected in decline in key debt indicators over time. Thus for example, Debt-GDP ratio, which measures the magnitude of debt in relation to domestic output, improved from 41.0 per cent at end March 1992 to 23.5 per cent at end March 1999 and further to 22.3 per cent at end December 1999. The debt-service ratio improved from the peak of 35.3 per cent of current receipts in 1990-91 to 19.0 per cent in 1998-99 and further to 18.2 per cent in the first three-quarters of 1999-2000 (April-December 1999).

The improvement in India's external debt position since early 1990's is due to a conscious debt management policy that focus on high growth rate of exports, keeping the maturity structure as well as the total amount of commercial debt under manageable limits, limiting short-term debt and encouraging non-debt creating flows.

[Translation]

Import on Non-Oil Products

2142. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

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

(a) whether the import figure of non-oil products in the current year has increased upto \$ 6379.28 million as compared to \$ 5338.61 million of the corresponding period;

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

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to minimise the imports of non-oil products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) As per the latest provisional data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, import of non-oil products are estimated at US \$ 9242 million during April-June 2000-2001 as compared with US\$ 8330 Million of the

corresponding period last year. The imports of non-oil products are essential to meet our requirements of raw materials and capital goods for export industries.

[English]

Central Sales Tax

2143. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to cut Central Sales Tax by one per cent;

(b) If so, whether the Union Government has consulted the State Government in this regard; and

(c) If so, the reaction of State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) An Empowered Committee of Finance Ministers of 9 States has been constituted by the Union Government to study reforms in the Central Sales-tax system as existing in the country.

Loans to Super Cyclone Affected Area

2144. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the roles scheduled Banks including State Bank of India have so far played in the restoration, reconstruction and recovery of economy of the Super Cyclone affected area and people of Orissa;

(b) whether the Government propose to waive last year's Kharif and Rabi loans outstanding against all the farmers of super cyclone affected areas of Orissa;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to help them during the ongoing Kharif season through providing adequate loan/assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (d) As per extant guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks have taken action to reschedule/repay the dues both in respect of short term and long term loan instalments and grant fresh loans to non-willful defaulters, granted moratorium of two years on agriculture loans etc. During the meeting of the SLBC convened by UCO Bank at Bhubneshwar recently, it has been decided that for the current Kharif season, Co-operative banks

and Commercial banks (including RRBs) would disburse crop loan of Rs. 350 crores and Rs. 130 crores respectively.

As per the information provided by the UCO Bank, convener bank for the State-Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) for the State of Orissa, the details of loan disbursed by banks including State Bank of India, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) & Co-operative banks for various activities of the cyclone affected areas of Orissa are as under :

Name of the sub sector	Loan disbursed	
	No. of Account	Amount (Rs in lakhs)
Consumption loan	6928	130.91
Crop loan	237693	13648.16
Agricultural Term loan	6082	2248.55
Allied Agriculture	5893	1005.34
Small Scale Industry loan	8038	3258.20
Other priority sectors	41767	8658.23
Housing loan	1079	1594.08
Education loan	35	44.73
Total	307515	30588.20

(b) and (c) No proposal to grant general waiver of loans outstanding against Government at present.

Visit of D.G., WTO

2145. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General of World Trade Organisation visited India during January, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details of discussions held between the Government and the visiting Director General regarding anti-dumping measures, import curbs imposed by the developed countries and social clause in the World Trade Accord; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Mr. Mike Moore, Director General, WTO, visited New Delhi during January, 2000 to attend the "Partnership Summit-2000" organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. He took the opportunity

to make a courtesy call on the Prime Minister and had discussions with the Commerce & Industry Minister with a view to understand India's point of view on the possibility of creating a consensus between WTO Members for the resumption of the work of the 3rd Ministerial Conference of WTO, which had been suspended on 3rd December, 2000 due to wide divergence of views among the WTO Membership. It was conveyed to the DG, WTO that there was no point in rushing into another Ministerial Meeting of WTO unless there is a broad consensus among the Members. Such a consensus, it was highlighted, could prima facie be achieved only if non-trade related issues like social clauses are removed from the WTO agenda and the confidence of the developing country members in the WTO is restored by the developed countries by committing themselves to the expeditious redressal of the implementation concerns of developing countries, which include the frequent misuse of the Anti-Dumping Agreement, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement and Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement by the developed countries for denying market access to the developing countries.

Credit to Non-Banking Financial Corporations by Banks

2146. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total credit extended to the non-banking financial corporations by the banking sector during 1999-2000, corporation-wise;

(b) whether the banking sector extending credit to the non-banking financial corporations in accordance with the norms of Reserve Bank of India;

(c) if not, whether the non-banking financial corporations are facing resources crunch as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the gross bank credit extended to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) by fifty major banks stood at Rs. 7178 crore as on 24th March, 2000.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been receiving representations from associations of NBFCs regarding non-availability of sufficient bank credit. They have been seeking RBI's help in impressing upon banks to (a) increase the flow of resources to NBFCs particularly to lease and hire purchase companies, (b) not to nurse a negative attitude to domestic NBFCs, (c) to treat the NBFCs as retailers as is the case in

other countries and (d) to lend at fair rate of interest to NBFCs. Banks have been advised by RBI to assess and provide need-based finance to NBFCs, as per the loan policy laid down by them with the approval of their Boards.

Structural Reforms

2147. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the major policy decisions taken by the Government since the inception of the structural reforms;

(b) what are the objectives of these policy decisions; and

(c) how these policies have so far benefited the industrial sector, especially medium and Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The economic reforms are initiatives focused primarily at improving the policy environment. The Government have initiated major economic reforms since 1991 in industrial policy, exchange rate policies, foreign investment policy, taxation, infrastructure and the financial sector. The reforms are a continuing process aimed at faster growth with employment and equity.

(c) The liberalised policies did not have any adverse effect on small and medium size industries. Reforms in the Small Scale Industry (SSI) sector led to high growth in number of SSI units, output, employment and exports. The total number of SSI units have increased from 20.82 lakh in 1991-92 to 31.21 lakh in 1998-99. Over the period, output produced by the SSI sector increased to Rs. 5,27,515 crore from Rs. 1,78,699 crore, total employment to Rs. 171.6 lakh from Rs. 129.8 lakh and exports to Rs. 49,481 crore from Rs. 13,883 crore.

Production Facility Centres

2148. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up production facility centres for Doordarshan programmes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in Salem (Tamil Nadu); 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no scheme at present to set up a programme production facility at Salem. The details of studios/ programme generation facilities (PGF) being set up in various States/UTs are as under :

State/UTs	Location of studios/PGF
Andhra Pradesh	Warangal
Haryana	Hissar
Jammu & Kashmir	Leh
Kerala	Trichur, Calicut
Madhya Pradesh	Jagdalpur
Orissa	Bhawanipatna
Punjab	Patiala
Rajasthan	Udaipur
Sikkim	Gangtok
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Madurai
Uttar Pradesh	Mathura
Chandigarh	Chandigarh

Prices of Essential Commodities for BPL People

2149. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to provide relief to the people living below the poverty line (BPL) as well as in drought affected areas of country, the Government have been requested to refix/revise the prices of essential commodities under PDS to reasonable level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice distributed under PDS have been revised with effect from 25.7.2000 as under :-

(Rs. per quintal)		
Commodity	BPL	APL
Wheat	415	830
Rice		
(i) Common	565	--
(ii) Grade 'A'	565	1130

The CIPs have been revised on the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) and in the light of reduction in economic cost of wheat and rice.

In order to reduce the burden of subsidy on exchequer, Central Government revised the Retail Issue Price (RIP) of sugar to Rs. 13.00 per kg. with effect from 1.3.2000. Some State Governments requested to roll back the RIP of sugar, but the request was not found feasible.

The ex-storage point price, retail selling price and the price under parallel marketing scheme (PMS) of kerosene oil in four metropolitan cities viz. Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

The Ex-storage point price, retail selling price and the price under parallel marketing scheme of kerosene oil in four metropolitan cities.

	Rs./litre			
	Delhi	Calcutta	Mumbai	Chennai
Ex-Storage Point Price	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Retail Selling Price	5.55	5.87	5.57	5.64
Price under PMS*	14.00— 16.00	13.00— 14.00	11.00— 13.00	13.00— 14.00

* The PMS selling price of Kerosene fluctuates depending on the market economies.

Import of Rubber

2150. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of artificial rubber polymers or polymethane imported during each of the last three years, item-wise, country-wise and quantity-wise;

(b) the extent to which the use of natural rubber has been replaced after the import of these items;

(c) whether these imports have also affected the domestic price of natural rubber;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps envisaged to save the farmers of natural rubber in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) It is presumed that the term artificial rubber polymers or polymethane appearing in the

question is used to mean polyurethane. This material is imported under two different Exim Codes. Details of imports are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) It is not possible to say whether and to what extent natural rubber is being substituted by polyurethane. However, the consumption ratio of Natural Rubber and

Synthetic Rubber seems to have remained more or less unchanged during the last three years.

(e) To enable the rubber growers to get a remunerative price for their produce, the Government through State Trading Corporation of India has so far procured 38,390 MT of natural rubber. Import of natural rubber under duty exemption scheme has been restricted since February '99.

Statement

Import of Polyurethane (Exim Code 390950 00) during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 (upto June '99)

Countries	Qty. in Tons					
	Value in Rs. lakhs					
	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (till June '99)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Australia	21	50.10	38	104.26	5	15.89
German F. Rep.	542	798.15	481	933.25	107	200.39
Italy	199	296.23	283	379.60	90	110.57
Japan	48	122.80	34	115.80	4	16.05
Korea RP	06	7.70	28	20.69	25	18.47
Spain	47	74.08	73	125.25	20	30.73
Singapore	20	34.30	22	34.15	2	3.52
U.K.	83	148.35	105	214.86	30	56.29
USA	205	330.66	174	483.33	45	155.09
Others	133	178.42	138	225.92	11	18.42

Import of Polyurethane (Exim Code 391690 05) during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 (till June '99)

Countries	Qty. in Tons					
	Value in Rs. lakhs					
	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (till June '99)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
German F. Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Japan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chinese Taipei	-	-	0.48	1.20	-	-
Singapore	0.271	0.58	-	-	-	-
USA	-	-	-	-	2	5.02
Others	-	-	-	-	2	5.47

Source : DGC&S, Calcutta

Infrastructure Sector

2151. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee on Infrastructure;

(b) the steps Government propose to take on the recommendations, particularly in respect of demand and actual supply of funds;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow participation of foreign sector in the Infrastructure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Rakesh Mohan Committee has provided directions for policy reforms, which can help in greater commercialisation of infrastructure, alongwith the promotion of public-private partnerships. Its major recommendations are as following :

- Group has estimated that the total Infrastructure investment requirements would be about Rs. 4,300 billion between the Export 1996-97 to 2000-2001 and about Rs. 7,500 billion during 2001-2005-06.
- For meaningful commercialisation of infrastructure projects, the Government must ensure that project risks are clearly demarcated and allocated to different stakeholders.
- If infrastructure is to be financed through the capital markets, it is necessary to initiate major reforms in the area of contractual savings institutions.
- India needs an institution to specifically provide credit enhancements to projects and activate the debt market.

• The existing sector-specific enactments should be unified into a single statute and an autonomous regulatory body should be set up for each infrastructure sector.

• Sector specific reforms have also been suggested for urban infrastructure, ports, roads, power, telecom and industrial parks.

Most of the major recommendations have been accepted by the Government and appropriate policy directions have been announced.

Introduction of New 500 Notes and Shortage of Coins

2152. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of coins of different denominations on large scale in the country giving scope for the minting of fake coins and their circulation;

(b) if so, reasons therefor and the steps have been taken to overcome that;

(c) whether the Government have decided to introduce the new 500 note in a bigger size easily differentiable with 100 rupee note; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) There is no large scale shortage of coins of different denominations in the country giving scope for minting and circulation of fake coins. However, Consequent to Government decision to coinise Re. 1, Rs. 2, & Rs. 5 denomination notes, a temporary mismatch of supply and demand of coins in these denominations is felt for which besides modernisation of existing Government Mint, the Government have already imported/are importing coins of these denominations.

(c) and (d) The 500 rupee note is already bigger in size

than 100 rupee note. However, the Government has decided to bring out new note of Rs. 500 denomination with revised colour scheme so as to easily distinguish it from other denominations. This note is expected to be put into circulation shortly.

Monuments of Maharashtra Under ASI

2153. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are spending crores of rupees on the security monuments which are under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) whether a large number of monuments in the country, especially in Maharashtra are in very bad condition and tourists are not allowed to visit there;

(c) if so 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India are in a fairly good state of preservation. Government is not aware of any restriction in the entry of visitors to these monuments, subject to payment of entry fees, where applicable, and security requirements.

[Translation]

Production and Export of Cars

2154. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the cars manufactured in the country and being exported alongwith the names of the countries thereof;

(b) the number of cars exported during the last three years as on date; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATIHIRIA) : (a) to (c) According to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Cars have been exported during 2000-01 by the following major car manufacturers :-

Name of the manufacturer

1. Daewoo Motors India Limited
2. Genral Motors India Limited
3. Honda Siel Cars India Limited
4. Hyundai Motor India Limited
5. Maruti Udyog Limited
6. Tata Engineering (TELCO)

Cars are exported from India to a number of countries in the world. The main countries are Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Greece, Denmark, UK, Spain, Uruguay, Paraguay, Egypt, Chile, Belgium.

Number and value of exports during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Quantity (in Nos.)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1997-98	23,497	532.25
1998-99	22,742	456.28
1999-2000 (April '99 to Sept. '99)*	8,570	157.00

* Figures are provisional

(Source : Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta)

[English]

Vacant Posts of Top Executives in LIC

2155. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the top executive post of Life Insurance Corporation is lying vacant for long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the post is likely to be filled keeping in view the intense competition LIC may face after foreign companies starts their business in India.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The post of Chairman, Life Insurance Corporation of India has fallen vacant w.e.f. 1.7.2000 consequent to the superannuation of the existing incumbent.

(c) Action is underway to fill up this post.

Development of Tourism

2156. SHRI ANANTH NAYAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for development of domestic tourism from various States;

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

(c) the details of programmes for the development of domestic tourism in the State of Orissa during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) As part of development of domestic tourism in the country the Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to State/ U.Ts Government's for the creation of Tourist facilities such as construction of tourist complexes, budget accommodations like Yatri Niwas, Yatrikas, Tourist Lodges, way-side amenities, cafeterias; floodlighting / Sound and Light Shows, refurbishment of monuments etc. The central financial assistance extended to the State/U.Ts Governments during the Ninth Plan in progress for these schemes were :

Year	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
1997-98	256	4722.88
1998-99	346	8520.36
1999-2000	414	9445.78

(c) The Central Department of Tourism sanctioned tourism projects in 53 places of tourist importance including Konark, Pariakhemundi, Rourkela, Dhenkanal, Puri, Chandikhola, Belar, Kendrapara etc. for the development of domestic tourism in the State of Orissa during 1997-2000.

Year	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
1997-98	28	552.05
1998-99	6	178.60
1999-2000	19	301.90

Losses in GIC

2157. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some subsidiaries of the GIC have incurred losses worth crores of rupees during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of such subsidiaries and the amount involved;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the factors responsible for such losses in GIC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to bring down its losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The four subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation of India have produced overall profits every year during the past three years.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Construction of Hotel Ashok in Kanyakumari

2158. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct 'Hotel Ashok' at Kanyakumari in view of its tourist importance;

(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) No, Sir. ITDC's Annual Plan 2000-01 does not envisage any scheme for construction of Hotel Ashok at Kanyakumari.

Income Tax Exemption to Voluntary Organisations

2159. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of voluntary organisations in Gujarat which got the income tax exemption through the National Committee for Promotion of Social and Economic Welfare during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(b) the agency who monitors their working and utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The names, addresses of the Institutions alongwith approved projects and cost for which donations can be raised are published in

Gazette of India, Part II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii), from time to time. During the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, forty six projects were approved.

(b) National Committee for promotion of Social and Economic Welfare.

[Translation]

Construction of Tourist Homes in Bihar

2160. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of projects approved for construction of Tourist Homes (Tourist Premises) in Bihar during 1999-2000;
- (b) project-wise present status of these projects;
- (c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Development of tourist infrastructure is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments.

A project for construction of a Yatrik at Madhuban in Bihar with Central Component of Rs. 41.65 lakhs was sanctioned during 1999-2000. First instalment of Rs. 4.50 lakhs was also released. Second and third instalments will be released on receipt of Utilisation Certificates and other relevant documents from the State Government of Bihar.

[English]

Withdrawal of Subsidy

2161. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the people are not lifting the rice and wheat from the ration shops as a result of withdrawal of subsidy on rice and wheat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the total loss of money to the Government therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) As per the reports received from the State Governments, offtake of foodgrains

from Fair Price Shops in respect of BPL families, has not been effected. However, the offtake of APL foodgrains has been reduced in some States after increase in Central Issue Price (CIP) w.e.f. 1.4.2000. The subsidy has been withdrawn from APL foodgrains and the allocation of foodgrains for APL population and additional allocations, if any are being made at economic cost. Hence, there is no loss of money to the Government of India on this account. The price have been further revised w.e.f. 25 July, 2000.

Financial Crunch in Super Bazar

2162. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Super Bazar Officer's Association have sought help of the Government in bailing out Super Bazar from financial crunch by giving a time bound long term repayable loan of Rs. 20 crores;
- (b) if so, the decision of the Government thereon; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revitalize the Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Super Bazar, Officer's Association has submitted certain proposals to Managing Director, Super Bazar, a copy of which has been received by Additional Secretary/Chairman Super Bazar, in which, inter-alia suggestions like renting of space to bank, sale of liquor and other commodities such as masala (wholesale), cleaning powder, phenyl, typing papers etc. have been made. It is for the management of Super Bazar to take a view on these suggestions and to decide on the steps for its profitable functioning.

(c) Among the commercial measures taken by Super Bazar to improve its performance, mark up has been increased from 8% to 15% in some cases, to increase turnover by dealing more in fast moving items like atta, sugar, salt etc. Suppliers have agreed to supply stocks against only 80% payment for next six months resulting an additional mobilisation of funds of about 20%, and, to avoid any blockage of funds in Government Institutional sales, a policy of payment after realisation has been adopted. Also, the expenditure on newspapers, entertainment, use of taxies etc. have been stopped and other expenditures like overtime allowances, hard duty allowances and other fixed allowances have been totally stopped by Super Bazar w.e.f. 11/5/2000; purchase of vehicles/furniture and other equipments have been stopped; total ban has been put on the fresh recruitment of staff; and, pilferage

to stock by staff has been viewed very seriously and hence a decision has been taken to recover up to 1/3rd of the salary of the concerned staff, which is the maximum limit permitted by law, resulting in reduction in outflow of Rs. 12 lakhs per month approximately.

[Translation]

Licences to Breweries

2163. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of breweries to whom licences have been awarded during the last three years in Bihar;

(b) the number of beneficiaries therein alongwith the details of production of brewery-wise; and

(c) the criteria laid down for issue of licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) No Letter of Intent for creation of fresh capacity of potable alcohol including Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) has been issued since September 1994. Also, no Letter of Intent has been converted into Industrial Licence in the State of Bihar during the last three years.

(c) Does not arise in view of the above.

[English]

Restructuring of State Finance Corporations

2164. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the State Governments to restructure the State Finance Corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether financial provisions are being made for restructuring process;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any Committee has been set up for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) Government of India had constituted a Committee under Chairmanship of Shri S.H. Khan the then Chairman & Managing Director of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). The committee has since submitted its report.

(f) The Committee inter-alia suggested wide ranging amendments in the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951 in areas such as size of share capital, shareholding pattern, borrowings, acceptance of deposits, investments, limit of accommodation, financing of additional/new activities, composition of Board of Directors and appointment of Chief Executives of SFCs. The State Financial Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been introduced on 31.7.2000 in the Lok Sabha to give effect to the above amendments.

Industrial Projects

2165. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any new Industrial Projects from the Government of Tamil Nadu, both for Public and Private Sectors in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve the export oriented industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Planning Commission and the Department of Public Enterprises no proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu has been received to set up industrial projects in the public sector. However during the last three years in the delicensed sector, 920 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda have been filed and in the licensed sector 172 Letters of Intent have been granted.

(c) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps have been taken to achieve the target through suitable changes in the EXIM Policy, bilateral initiatives and identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

Committee on Taxation of LIC

2166. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted an Expert Committee on taxation of Life Insurance sector;

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

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of recommendation made by the Committee;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) If not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) The Expert Committee is required to examine various aspects relating to taxation of life insurance sector including, inter-alia, the international practices in this regard, and to recommend the taxation structure in respect of profits of the life insurance business under the Income-Tax Act, 1961, keeping in view the fact that life insurance sector has now been opened up for private companies also and it is no more the exclusive privilege of the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

(c) No, Sir.

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

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

(f) The Committee was constituted on 20th April, 2000 and is required to submit its report within four months.

Licence to Operate FM Radio

2167. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received applications seeking grant of licence to operate FM broadcasting at various metropolis and major cities in the country;

(b) If so, the status of applications received by the Government, State-wise particularly from Maharashtra; and

(c) the progress made in regard to clearance of such applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Applications were received in response to the Govt.'s notice inviting tenders.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Centres	No. of Channels	No. of valid applications received	No. of applicants selected	States
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	10	18	6	Letters of Intent have been issued in respect of all applications in Col. 5, except for 8 applications relating to three companies wherein security clearance from the Min. of Home Affairs is awaited.
2.	Assam	1	2	5	2	
3.	Bihar	1	2	7	2	
4.	Chandigarh	1	1	12	1	
5.	Delhi	1	11	25	11	
6.	Goa	1	2	6	2	
7.	Gujarat	3	5	24	4	
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	2	2	1	
9.	Karnataka	2	6	22	6	
10.	Kerala	2	2	10	2	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	4	8	19	8	
12.	Maharashtra	4	18	48	18	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Meghalaya	1	1	2	1	
14.	Orissa	2	2	5	2	
15.	Punjab	2	2	13	2	
16.	Rajasthan	1	1	7	1	
17.	Tamil Nadu	5	15	37	15	
18.	Uttar Pradesh	5	7	30	7	
19.	West Bengal	1	11	12	10	
Total		40	108	304	101	

Removal of Quantitative Restrictions

2168. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) whether the Government have further taken a decision to remove quantitative restrictions on 715 items by March 31, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have constituted a Inter-Ministerial Group to assess the likely impact of such decision on domestic industries, small scale industries and farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the report is likely to be submitted by the Group in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) India is committed to removing all quantitative restrictions on imports being maintained on account of balance of payment reasons by 31.3.2001. In view of this, import restrictions on 714 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were removed on 31.3.2000 and the import restrictions on balance 715 tariff lines are to be removed by 31.3.2001. The list of 1429 tariff lines, on which restrictions are being removed, is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) to (e) Government has constituted an Inter - Ministerial Group under the chairmanship of Commerce

Secretary to assess the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and to suggest suitable corrective measures on 28.7.2000. Ministries/Departments of Agriculture and Cooperation, Consumer Affairs, Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Information Technology, Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Fertilizers, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Animal Husbandry and Dairying have been represented in the Group. The Group is yet to make its recommendations. The Group will closely examine the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and will suggest corrective measures and is expected to submit its recommendations before the end of the year.

[Translation]

Fixation of Prices of Levy Sugar

2169. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government does not add harvesting and transport cost while fixing prices of levy sugar;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to add harvesting and transport cost while fixing prices of levy sugar during the 2000-01 and 2002-2003 as per the directions of the Ministry of Finance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, the levy

sugar price is fixed inter alia, taking into account the cane cost. The cane cost is determined on the basis of the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane fixed by the Government on the basis of recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The CACP while recommending SMP takes into account the element of both harvesting and cane transportation cost. The CACP updates the harvesting and cane transportation cost every year while recommending the SMP. While fixing the levy sugar price Government also takes into account escalation on cane transportation cost based on the wholesale price indices of diesel, tyres & tubes and motor vehicle parts as recommended in the pricing formula by the expert body.

(c) There are no such directions of the Ministry of Finance.

(d) Do not arise.

[English]

ADB Loan for Infrastructure Development

2170. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recommended the proposal of some State Government for Asian Development Bank assistance for infrastructure development;

(b) if so, the names of States which are presently getting assistance;

(c) whether Karnataka State has received any ADB assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (b) ADB is assisting Karnataka and Rajasthan States for infrastructure development. Details are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Details of the State Governments presently receiving ADB assistance for infrastructure projects

Name of the Project	Amount of Loan	Date of signing	Date of closing	Loan utilised till May 2000
1	2	3	4	5
1. Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Project (LN 1415 IND)	US\$ 85.00 million	10.5.1996	30.6.2002	US \$ 30.021 million

1	2	3	4	5
2. Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project	US\$ 250 million	2.12.1999	30.6.2005	--
3. Karnataka Urban Development and Coastal Management Project (LN 1704 IND)	US\$ 175 million	19.5.2000	30.6.2005	--

Export Processing Zones

2171. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of main functions of the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in the country;

(b) whether this organisation has made considerable contribution to exporting entrepreneurs; and

(c) if so, the level upto which the services of EPZs availed by the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Export Processing Zones (EPZs), set up as enclaves separated from the Domestic Tariff Area by fiscal barriers, are intended to provide an internationally competitive duty free environment for export production at low costs. There are seven EPZs in the country set up by the Government in Kandla (Gujarat), Santa Cruz, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). The main function of the Zone is to provide single window clearance for exports. In each EPZ, basic infrastructure is provided such as developed land for construction of factory shed, standard design factory (SDF) buildings with ready built industrial sheds, roads, power, water supply and drainage are provided. Custom clearance is arranged within the Zone at no extra cost. Provision is also made for locating banking and post office and other services like clearing agents. Exports from the Zones in 1999-2000 were Rs. 6673.97 Crores.

(c) As on 31.3.2000, 716 units were in operation in seven EPZs.

[Translation]

Furnishing of Storage Status by Importers

2172. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had directed the Importers to give details of status of food storage every fortnight after 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the Importers who gave information regarding storage status, State-wise and particularly in Bihar; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the Importers for not furnishing the details?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Licences for Import of Chicks

2173. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether two licences have been issued for Ostrich birds for their meat and feathers and 100 Chicks have been imported from South Africa;

(b) whether a few years ago, a similar project was cancelled;

(c) if so, the new factors for sanctioning two projects and what are conditions, specially in view of total boycott of exotic meat in UK by all departmental stores;

(d) whether Memorandums have been submitted by Animal Rights International, Ahimsa Research Foundation (ARF) and others; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The representation made by Ahimsa Research Foundation has been examined and a suitable reply has been sent to them separately.

CRB Scam

2174. SHRI KIRTI SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation inquiry of CRB Scam is over;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of officials of SEBI and Reserve Bank of India found guilty in this regard; and

(d) the further action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per information provided by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), 2 cases were registered against Shri C.R. Bansali & others for cheating the State Bank of India (SBI) and the Bank of Baroda respectively. In the former case, charge sheets have been filed before the Special Judge for CBI cases, Mumbai. The second case is under investigation.

(c) and (d) CBI has informed that an inquiry against an officer of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is over and the matter is under legal scrutiny.

[Translation]

Value Added Tax

2175. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the States which have implemented in principle the Value Added Tax (VAT) System and informed the Union Government in this regard;

(b) whether any consultations were held in this regard in the meeting of the Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers held in June, 2000 alongwith the views expressed by various States thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to change the last date i.e. 1 April, 2001 fixed for implementation of VAT System in view of the stand taken by the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No State Government has so far implemented in principle the VAT. In the Conference of Chief Ministers held on 22nd June, 2000, the issue regarding Milestones and Methodology for introduction of VAT has been discussed. There was consensus that States which can implement VAT by 1.4.2001 may go ahead. For others, Standing Committee of Finance Ministers will prepare milestones and road maps.

(c) and (d) In the meeting of Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers subsequently held on 21.7.2000, there was general consensus among the State that VAT should be introduced from 1st April, 2002 as preparation for computerisation and training to officials requires additional time.

Sarvapriya Scheme

2176. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

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

(a) whether the Government have launched a scheme named "Sarvapriya" for providing items of basic needs at cheaper rates to the common public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the items covered under the Scheme;

(d) whether the said scheme proposed to be extended to all the sections of people of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure good quality of the items provided under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of India have launched a scheme in July, 2000 which envisages distribution of eleven selected commodities of daily use namely Arhar Dal, Gram Dal, Malka Red, Urad Whole, Salt, Tea, Toilet Soaps, Detergent Cake, Exercise Notebooks, Edible Oil and Tooth Paste. The State Governments, however, have the option to choose the items as per their requirements/preferences.

(d) and (e) These goods will be made available to the consumers in suitable consumer packs through the existing public distribution system, the Consumer Cooperatives and the State Civil Supplies Corporations or other agencies as may be decided by the respective State Governments. There is however, no dependence on subsidy from the Government.

(f) The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF), which is the apex body of consumer cooperatives in the country, has been nominated as the nodal agency to implement the scheme which will supply quality goods..The State Food & Civil Supplies Departments would monitor the distribution arrangements in their States.

Schemes for Selling of Additional Wheat

2177. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

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

(a) whether various schemes have been announced by the Government for selling the wheat in addition to that required for buffer stock;

(b) if so, the names of the schemes alongwith the dates on which these were announced during the current financial year; and

(c) the total quantity of wheat sold under these schemes upto June, 2000 alongwith the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) In addition to the open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) of wheat, which is in vogue, under which wheat is sold at a fixed rate of Rs. 900/- per qtl. throughout the country, FCI has been authorised on 11.7.2000 to dispose of upto 50 lakh tonnes of wheat in Punjab at the rate of Rs. 700/-, Rs. 750/- and Rs. 800/- per qtl. during the months of July, August and September, 2000 respectively.

(c) Under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic), FCI has sold a qty. of 4698 M.Ts of wheat during the period from April to June, 2000 @ Rs. 900/- per qtl. valued at Rs. 422.82 lakh.

Projection of India's Cultural Image Abroad

2178. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian culture has been attracting the people of many countries including America and England;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps taken to project India's cultural image abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Promotion of various facets of cultural tourism viz. pilgrim tourism, handicrafts, heritage sites and monuments, Ayurveda Yoga, Arts and Crafts, Fairs & Festivals, different music & dance forms, cuisine etc. is an ongoing activity of the Ministry of Tourism. During the year 1999 a total of 334869 tourists from North America, 37988 from Central and South America and 345085 from U.K., besides tourists from many other countries visited India.

(c) The Department of Culture has been pursuing an active policy of bilateral cultural cooperation with other countries with the objective of renewing and strengthening cultural links and with a view to projecting India's cultural image abroad. These objectives are achieved through bilateral Cultural Agreements and Cultural Exchange Programmes. At present India has entered into Cultural Agreements with 109 countries and Cultural Exchange Programmes with 74 countries.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations attain these objectives through its major activities of Scholarship Scheme, Visitors Programmes, visit of Performing Cultural Groups, organising exhibitions of contemporary paintings and photographs, teaching Indian languages and other subjects and setting up of Cultural Centres to promote greater awareness of India's composite cultural image abroad.

[English]

Employees Stock Option Plan

2179. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been considering seriously for introduction of Employees Stock Option Plan in Public Sector Undertakings in which disinvestment is done in future;

(b) if so, the merits and advantages of adopting this plan;

(c) the decision taken in the matter; and

(d) the PSUs in which the Stock option plan has already been introduced and how the plan is working in favour of employees interests there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This plan would be one of the steps of the Government towards fulfilling its commitment to protect the interests of workers in PSUs subjected to disinvestment.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Information is being collected.

Loan to Small and Marginal Farmers

2180. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed by each Public Sector Bank for providing loans to the small and marginal farmers and the agricultural sector during the last three years alongwith achievements made in this regard;

(b) the percentage of credit to agricultural sector of the total credit given by the Public and Private Sector Banks during the last three years, bank-wise;

(c) whether the small farmers are facing difficulty in getting loans from the banks; and

(d) if so, the fresh policy decisions taken in this regard and the details of other steps taken by the Government to provide easy adequate loans to the farmers in the States for the development of agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India, all scheduled commercial banks in the country are required to lend 18% of their net bank credit for agriculture, 10% to weaker sections under the priority sector. Though no specific targets have been fixed for providing loan to small and marginal farmers, they are included under the targets fixed for agriculture and weaker sections. The performance of public sector banks in lending to agriculture as on the last reporting Friday of March 1998, 1999 and 2000 are furnished in enclosed statement-I. The performance of private sector banks in lending to agriculture as on the last reporting Friday of March, 1997, 1998 and 1999 are furnished in enclosed statement-II.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that no specific complaints have been received about the difficulties faced by small farmers in getting loans from the banks. However, RBI and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) have taken several measures to further strengthen the flow of credit to farmers. Some of these are :

- i. Introduction of cash credit facility for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having good track record;
- ii. Introduction of the Kisan Credit Card Scheme for agricultural borrowers;
- iii. Banks have been advised to open specialised agricultural branches to take care of financing of high-tech agricultural projects;

- iv. RBI has introduced simplification of loan applications, delegation of powers to branch managers, introduction of composite cash credit limit to farmers, introduction of new loan products, cash disbursement of loans, discretion to banks on matters relating to margin/security requirements for loans above Rs. 10,000/- and dispensing with 'No Dues Certificates' as a compulsory requirement;
- v. Any shortfall in the target of lending to agriculture has to be contributed to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) which has been established with NABARD for assisting State Governments and State-owned Corporations in quick completion of on-going projects relating to rural infrastructure.

Statement-I

The performance of Public Sector banks in lending to agriculture as on March, 1998, 1999 and March, 2000

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Name of Bank	% of Agriculture lending to NBC		
		March, 1998	March, 1999	March, 2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	State Bank of India	14.63	16.17	16.43
2.	S.B. Bikaner & Jaipur	12.66	13.86	16.20
3.	S.B. Hyderabad	15.65	16.95	17.10
4.	S.B. Indore	17.58	18.77	17.17
5.	S.B. Mysore	16.86	18.24	17.47
6.	S.B. Patiala	17.03	18.60	18.84
7.	S.B. Saurashtra	14.50	16.28	15.99
8.	S.B. Travancore	21.40	22.44	20.62
9.	Allahabad Bank	13.25	15.45	13.96
10.	Andhra Bank	18.28	18.38	17.54
11.	Bank of Baroda	17.99	18.73	17.46
12.	Bank of India	18.46	18.75	16.27
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	16.50	18.66	15.62
14.	Canara Bank	20.25	18.72	16.92
15.	Central Bank of India	10.99	11.27	12.57
16.	Corporation Bank	11.56	9.19	9.82
17.	Dena Bank	14.00	16.08	12.10

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Indian Bank	19.21	18.20	18.02
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	19.12	18.68	18.66
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	20.02	18.75	12.95
21.	Punjab National Bank	13.08	13.35	13.07
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	14.93	15.23	14.45
23.	Syndicate Bank	15.87	16.01	17.64
24.	Union Bank of India	15.53	15.79	12.62
25.	United Bank of India	15.35	15.52	13.54
26.	UCO Bank	13.35	14.15	11.60
27.	Vijaya Bank	15.12	15.57	18.02
Total		15.72	16.28	15.77

Statement-II

The performance of Private Sector Banks in lending to agriculture as on March, 1997, 1998 and March 1999

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of Bank	% of Agriculture lending to NBC		
		March, 1997	March, 1998	March, 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bari Doab Bank Ltd.	13.83	--	--
2.	Punjab Coop. Bank Ltd.	0.26	--	--
3.	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	8.23	7.37	6.37
4.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	12.38	14.16	16.25
5.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	13.68	13.34	13.85
6.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	13.08	15.72	16.81
7.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	3.46	6.26	3.39
8.	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	5.92	8.82	5.44

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Federal Bank Ltd.	15.38	12.88	13.15
10.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	6.91	13.71	11.07
11.	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	6.88	7.73	8.43
12.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	6.93	5.36	7.01
13.	Ratnakar Bak Ltd.	8.07	6.43	7.12
14.	United Western Bank Ltd.	9.63	13.47	1.31
15.	Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.	27.19	8.72	7.02
16.	Bank of Madura Ltd.	9.46	26.37	27.31
17.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	7.72	8.86	6.93
18.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	11.16	8.14	9.47
19.	Sangli Bank Ltd.	14.12	10.40	9.01
20.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	14.78	16.74	15.46
21.	City Union Bank Ltd.	5.78	7.74	7.32
22.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	8.45	8.98	9.29
23.	Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd.	9.91	4.97	6.44
24.	Benaras State Bank Ltd.	1.36	1.82	5.57
25.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	9.58	10.01	11.24
26.	Sikkim Bank Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	SBI Commercial & Intl Bank Ltd.	0.00	0.00	1.26
28.	UTI Bank Ltd.	2.42	3.14	8.15
29.	Indusland Bank Ltd.	8.19	8.78	7.06
30.	ICICI Banking Corp.Ltd.	11.41	4.95	5.47
31.	Global Trust Bank Ltd.	2.21	3.74	8.24
32.	HDFC Bank Ltd.	19.29	18.67	19.39

1	2	3	4	5
33.	Centurion Bank Ltd.	5.54	5.31	8.26
34.	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	12.20	12.05	9.88
35.	Times Bank Ltd.	2.67	4.62	3.53
36.	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	2.85	9.01	2.08
37.	IDBI Bank Ltd.	4.66	11.34	8.52
Total		9.33	9.67	9.50

[Translation]

Impact of Economic Reforms

2181. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey or review to assess the impact of the economic reforms initiated in a decade on various sections of the society;

(b) whether these reforms are encouraging poverty and jobless growth in the country;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve the situation in this regard; and

(d) the impact on the employment as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has just completed data collection in July, 2000, involving a very large and huge quinquennial survey on Household Consumer Expenditure based on which the Government will have an official report available with regard to extent of impact of economic growth on various segments of society. This report should be available early next year and is expected to provide vital policy feed back after the last such survey conducted in 1993-94 on the basis of which the incidence of poverty and employment in India were estimated in 1993-94.

[English]

Inflation Rate

2182. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the inflation rate has gone unpredictably high in recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three months, indicating week to week figures during the aforesaid period;

(c) the factors responsible and the price trends in respect of different sectors to which this rise is attributable; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curb the inflation to meet the budget deficit and to check the rising burden of debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The buoyancy in the overall price behaviour recorded after the announcement of the administered price hike in March, 2000 is now beginning to stabilise and inflation has declined from 6.8% in the beginning of the current fiscal year to 6.1% (provisional) as on July 15, 2000. Price rise (based on wholesale prices) during the first quarter of the current financial year was only 1% which signals absence of inflationary pressure.

Weekly Movement of Inflation rate
(base 1993-94 = 100)

Week Ending Date	% change in Wholesale Price Index	
	Since March End	Point to Point
1	2	3
01 Apr-00	0.6	6.8
08 Apr-00	0.7	6.8
15 Apr-00	0.5	6.5
22 Apr-00	0.5	6.3
29 Apr-00	0.5	6.0
06 May-00	0.5	6.2
13 May-00	0.5	6.4
20 May-00	0.7	6.3
27 May-00	0.8	6.6
03 June-00	0.9	6.4
10 June-00	0.9	6.2

1	2	3
17 June-00	1.0	6.3
24 June-00	1.0	6.2
01 July-00	0.9	5.9
08 July-00	0.9	5.9
15 July-00	1.0	6.1

(c) The increase in the administered prices of fuel products like LPG and kerosene in March, 2000 together with 40% increase in Diesel prices earlier in October, 1999 resulted in pushing up the annual rate of inflation by over 2 percentage points. However, this adjustment in the administered prices of energy products was absolutely necessary in view of the sharp rise in import prices of crude oil.

Price rise in the different subgroups of the fuel group for the week ending July 15, 2000 over corresponding period last year is as follows :

	% change in prices (Point to point)
Fuel Group	26.8
Coal Mining	8.8
Minerals Oils	41.8
Electricity	15.1

(d) Government has been making concerted efforts to keep inflation under control through effective supply management and also through close monitoring of prices and supply of essential commodities. Corrective action is being taken as and when required so as to maintain the stability in prices.

The objective of containing the fiscal deficit of the Government spelled out in this year's Budget. Speech is being followed resolutely. For medium-term management of the fiscal deficit a strong institutional mechanism embodied in a Fiscal Responsibility Act is on the anvil. A Committee has been set up to examine this issue and make suitable recommendations. The Expenditure Reforms Commission is also scrutinising expenditure issues with a view to streamlining expenditure management. The combined effort is expected to have a salutary effect on the overall public debt position of the Government.

Vacancies of Director Generals in AIR/Doordarshan

2183. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the post of Director Generals in AIR and Doordarshan are lying vacant;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the reasons for not filling these posts; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill these posts?

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

(b) The posts of Director General, AIR and Director General, Doordarshan are lying vacant since 11.06.99 and 01.09.91 respectively. However during the period from 01.09.91 to 31.01.98 additional charge/current duty charge of the post of DG : Doordarshan was held by various officers.

(c) and (d) Consequent upon formation of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) in 1997, the appointments to these posts are to be made by the Prasar Bharati as provided under section 9 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. In this regard the Government have written to Prasar Bharati to fill up these posts. In response Prasar Bharati has submitted the draft recruitment rules for these posts which is under examination. As soon as the Recruitment rules are finalised, action to fill up of these posts will be taken by Prasar Bharati.

Foreign Assistance for the Development Projects

2184. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval to some development projects for foreign assistance;

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

(c) the amount proposed to be spent on those projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposals for development projects are posed for external assistance to External Agencies by the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India on the recommendations of the State Governments/ Central Line Ministries after ensuring Plan priorities, Administrative clearances, including clearances from the Planning Commission.

The State-wise details of development projects which were approved by various external agencies for external assistance since 1997-98 and the amount of external assistance proposed to be spent on these projects is as per the statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project	Date of Approval/ Signing	Donor	Currency	Loan/Grant Amount (in Million)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh					
1	AP-District Poverty Initiatives	12.5.2000	IDA	US \$	111.000
2	AP Urban Services for the Poor	3.6.1999	UK	UK Pd.	66.086
3	AP Rural Livelihoods	23.7.1999	UK	UK Pd.	40.176
4	AP Emergency Cyclone	3.6.1997	IDA, IBRD	US \$	150.300
5	AP Irrigation-III	3.6.1997	IDA, IBRD	US \$	325.400
6	AP State Highways	30.7.1997	IBRD	US \$	350.000
7	AP Economic Restructuring	4.2.1999	IDA, IBRD	US \$	543.200
8	AP Power APL I	5.3.1999	IBRD	US \$	210.000
9	Simhadri & Vizag Transmission System	12.12.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	10629.000

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Srisailem Left Bank Power Station Pjt-III (IDP-128)	12.12.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	14499.000
	Bihar				
1.	DPEP-III	23.2.1998	IDA	US\$	182.400
	Gujarat				
1	Gogha RWS	4.8.1997	Netherlands	D. Guilder	19.369
2	Gujarat Health Care Project - ORET	27.11.1997	Netherlands	D. Guilder	59.739
3	Training of farm women in Agriculture - Ph-II	9.12.1997	Netherlands	D. Guilder	6.611
	Haryana				
1.	Haryana Power APL 1	16.1.1998	IBRD	US \$	60.000
	Himachal Pradesh				
1	Indo Norwegian Env. Prog.	13.11.1997	Norway	Nor. Kroner	10.000
2	Shimla Sewerage	21.8.1997	OPEC	US \$	10.000
3	Himachal Pradesh Forestry Project (Consolidation & Design Phase)	19.12.1997	UK	UK Pd.	3.225
	Karnataka				
1	Karnataka Urban Dev & Coastal Env. Management	19.5.2000	ADB	US \$	175.000
2	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation	29.5.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	15968.000
3	Centre for Laser Application in Mysore	23.11.1998	France	FF	13.800
4	Soil & Water Conservation - Ph-II	2.6.1997	Denmark	D. Kronor	46.700
	Kerala				
1	Kerala Forestry	13.8.1998	IDA	US\$	39.000
2	Kerala Water Supply Project	3.6.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	11997.000
3	Cochin Urban Poverty Reduction	1.5.1997	UK	UK Pd.	11.469
	Madhya Pradesh				
1	MP Public Resource Management Program	14.12.1999	ADB	US \$	250.000
2	Rajghat Canal Irrigation	29.5.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	13222.000
3	Madhya Pradesh Sericulture	12.12.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	1212.000

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Basic Health Service	15.11.1999	Denmark	D. Kronor	79.300
	Maharashtra				
1	Minor Irrigation	31.12.1998	Germany	DM	45.000
2	Maharashtra Health Systems	14.1.1999	IDA	US \$	134.000
	Manipur				
1	Manipur Sericulture	12.12.1997	Japan	Japan	3962.000
2	Detailed Study for Rehabilitation of UKHRUL ROADS	25.1.1998	France	FF	7.500
3	Upgradation & Augmentation of KANGCHUP Water Supply Scheme	25.1.1998	France	FF	31.700
4	Ground Water Exploration at Imphal	25.1.1998	France	FF	4.500
	Meghalaya				
1	Umiam Hydro Power Station	10.6.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	1700.000
	Orissa				
1	Orissa Capacity Building	1.12.1997	Sweden	SEK	13.500
2	Rengali Irrigation	12.12.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	7760.000
3	Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods	23.7.1999	UK	UK Pd.	23.000
4	Orissa Health & Family Welfare Ph-III	21.8.1997	UK	UK Pd.	1.748
5	Orissa Health Systems	17.8.1998	IDA	US \$	76.400
	Punjab				
1	Punjab Afforestation	12.12.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	6193.00
	Rajasthan				
1	Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Dev	2.12.1999	ADB	US \$	250.000
2	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives	19.5.2000	IDA	US \$	100.500
3	Residential Schools for Disadvantaged Groups	5.6.1997	Germany	DM	18.000
4	Rajasthan DPEP- I	6.7.1999	IDA	US \$	81.900
	Tamil Nadu				
1	Tamil Nadu Afforestation	29.5.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	13324.000
2	Seabass breeding culture (Subject to evaluation)	25.1.1998	France	FF	3.900

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Tamil Nadu Urban Development	14.6.1999	IDA, IBRD	US \$	105.000
Uttar Pradesh					
1	Uttar Pradesh Diversified Agricultural Support	30.7.1998	IDA, IBRD	US \$	129.900
2	Uttar Pradesh Sodic Land Reclamation Project-II	4.2.1999	IDA	US \$	194.100
3	Ravine Stabilization	17.4.1997	EC	Euro	7.900
4	Pilor Project for Usariand Reclamation in UP	7.7.1998	Netherlands	D. Guilder	5.639
5	Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute : Supply and Implementation of Medical Equipment (subject to evaluation)	25.1.1998	France	FF	30.000
6	UP Basic Education	3.3.1998	IDA	US \$	59.400
7	UP Forestry	30.12.1997	IDA	US \$	52.900
8	UP DPEP-III	23.2.2000	IDA	US \$	182.400
9	UP Power Sector Reform	19.5.2000	IBRD	US \$	150.000
10	UP Fiscal Reforms	16.5.2000	IDA, IBRD	US \$	251.270
11	UP Health Development	19.5.2000	IDA	US \$	110.000
West Bengal					
1	West Bengal Transmission System	29.5.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	11087.000
2	Calcutta Transport System	29.5.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	10679.000
3	Bakreshwar Thermal Power III (IDP-129)	12.12.1997	Japan	Jap. Yen	34151.000
4	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Unit-3 Extn. Pjt-II (IDP-137)	24.3.1999	Japan	Jap. Yen	11537.00
5	West Bengal District Primary Education	16.5.1997	UK	UK Pd.	37.706
6	Implementation in the Management of Water Supply	23.11.1998	France	FF	36.000
7	Basic Health Project	22.6.1999	Germany	DM	60.000
Multi-State Projects (Participating States)					
1	Rural Women Development and Empowerment (Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, MP, UP)	14.9.1998 27.3.1999	IDA IFAD	US \$	19.500 19.200
2	Integrated Watershed Development Pjt (Hills)-II (Haryana, HP, J&K, Punjab, UP)	14.7.1999	IDAI, IBRD	US\$	135.000

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Bihar-MP Tribal Development (Bihar, MP)	25.6.1999	IFAD	US \$	22.800
4	National Prog. For Control of Blindness (Karnataka, Maharashtra)	7.11.1997	Denmark	D. Kronor	55.000
5	National Highway - III	8.6.2000	IBRD	US \$	516.000

[Translation]

Imposition of Ban on feature film "Joru Ka Gulam"

2185. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether various organisations associated with Valmiki Community have given memorandum to the Union Government for imposing ban on Hindi movie 'Joru Ka Gulam' in which the actor has insulted the Valmiki community by addressing Lord Valmiki as a dacoit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations, objecting to a reference made to Maharishi Valmiki in the film 'Joru Ka Gulam', were received from a number of organisations associated with the Valmiki community.

(c) and (d) The Central Government had referred the film to the Central Board of Film Certification for re-examination and based on the Board's recommendations, the Government has already ordered deletion of the objectionable reference from the film vide order dated 5.7.2000.

Export of Indian Goods to European Countries

2186. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of Indian goods to European countries is facing problems due to non-coastal tariff and anti-dumping hurdles;

(b) if so, the details of Indian products affected by these hurdles;

(c) whether overall export of Indian goods to the European market has declined;

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the said hurdles and to strengthen the export position of Indian goods in the European market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The competitiveness of our exportable products are affected by the anti-dumping / anti-subsidy duties. 14 products in the sectors of chemicals/ pharmaceuticals, steel and textile being exported from India face definitive anti-dumping/anti-subsidy duties in the European Union market. In addition, provisional anti-dumping/anti-subsidy duties are in force on 5 products.

(c) and (d) Indian exports to the European Union Market during the year 1999-2000 shows an increase of 8.82% over the 1998-99 figures. The overall Indo-EU export data for the last three years is given below :

Year	India's exports to EU countries (in US\$ Million)
1997-98	9,145.90
1998-99	8,948.69
1999-2000	9,735.76

(e) The market access issues being faced by Indian goods in EU market are highlighted during interaction with the European Union and with EU member countries in order to sensitise them about India's perception on such issues. The Joint Declaration issued at the end of the Indo-EU Summit makes specific reference to the need to consult each other on anticipated regulatory and other measures affecting the flow of trade with a view to resolving problems at an early stage.

*[English]***Loan Rules for People**

2187. SHRI A. NARENDRA :

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise credit-deposit ratio of each public sector Bank during the last three years;

(b) the per capita amount as loan given by public sector banks in each State during the above period;

(c) whether some States, particularly Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have been provided less amount of especially agricultural loan by the banks as compared to other States;

(d) if so, the reasons for such disparity; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the credit deposit ratio of 60 per cent in the States as per rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) State-wise Credit Deposit (CD) ratio of Public Sector Banks for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-I. Bank-wise CD ratio of Public Sector banks for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-II. Furnishing information as asked for in the Question would require collection and compilation of voluminous data and the effort involved therein would not be commensurate with the result to be achieved.

(b) State-wise per capita credit of public sector banks for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-III.

(c) to (e) The CD ratio of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh is given in reply to Part (a) of the Question. The CD ratio of banks vary from State to State because the credit flow in a State/Region depends upon various factors like availability of adequate infrastructural facilities, credit absorption capacity of the region, development of medium and large industries, properly developed marketing facilities, conducive atmosphere for investment, entrepreneurial initiatives, law and order situation in the region, satisfactory recovery position of the bank dues etc. Banks have been taking steps for improving

the flow of credit in the States where CD ratio is low and the position in this regard is monitored in the State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) meetings of the respective States from time to time.

Statement-I*Credit Deposit Ratio of Public Sector Banks for the last three years*

S.No.	Name of States	Credit Deposit Ratio (per cent)		
		March, 1997	March, 1998	March, 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	80.19	75.27	71.58
2	Arunachal Pradesh	9.69	10.72	11.00
3	Assam	34.57	32.75	32.00
4	Bihar	29.93	27.14	25.01
5	Goa	25.20	24.38	23.43
6	Gujarat	47.90	45.70	45.43
7	Haryana	42.88	43.20	42.78
8	Himachal Pradesh	23.65	21.74	22.18
9	Jammu & Kashmir	20.78	20.79	21.65
10	Karnataka	71.23	68.80	67.19
11	Kerala	43.06	42.94	39.51
12	Madhya Pradesh	52.85	52.37	48.89
13	Maharashtra	70.46	76.34	76.26
14	Manipur	57.67	58.89	41.61
15	Meghalaya	13.72	14.50	16.02
16	Mizoram	11.67	20.63	18.85
17	Nagaland	24.80	18.95	16.33
18	NCT of Delhi	63.40	58.58	76.27
19	Orissa	47.95	44.15	41.55
20	Punjab	39.54	39.35	39.32
21	Rajasthan	45.46	48.47	45.40
22	Sikkim	17.68	20.68	20.03

1	2	3	4	5
23	Tamil Nadu	93.03	89.48	85.43
24	Tripura	31.81	29.13	26.69
25	Uttar Pradesh	31.23	28.45	27.14
26	West Bengal	47.21	45.76	43.61
27	Andaman & Nicobar	16.03	15.10	16.60
28	Chandigarh	95.70	64.22	92.76
29	Dadra & NH	18.55	21.38	22.55
30	Daman & Diu	21.94	20.60	17.64
31	Lakshadweep	8.76	9.89	7.75
32	Pondicherry	39.65	36.38	33.92
All India		55.25	54.03	54.52

Statement-II*Credit Deposit Ratio of Public Sector Banks*

(In percentage)

S.No	Name of Bank	March, 1997	March, 1998	March, 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	State Bank of India	59.65	57.22	49.33
2.	S.B. of Bikaner & Jaipur	60.50	58.97	54.58
3.	S.B. of Hyderabad	68.45	62.48	57.07
4.	S.B. of Indore	63.37	61.93	57.53
5.	S.B. of Mysore	66.76	64.21	65.21
6.	S.B. of Patiala	56.16	62.04	59.75
7.	S.B. of Saurashtra	58.94	63.23	63.04
8.	S.B. of Travancore	64.35	60.37	53.73
9.	Allahabad Bank	47.62	46.90	47.71
10.	Andhra Bank	44.26	43.54	45.54
11.	Bank of Baroda	56.73	56.57	51.44
12.	Bank of India	57.80	56.15	55.92
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	48.64	46.25	44.81

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Canara Bank	50.38	50.87	48.95
15.	Central Bank of India	44.26	45.83	46.18
16.	Corporation Bank	46.94	45.31	45.11
17.	Dena Bank	57.13	58.19	58.15
18.	Indian Bank	54.09	51.60	49.95
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	42.82	42.24	44.34
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	49.82	48.45	48.78
21.	Punjab National Bank	47.62	47.69	48.75
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	50.58	46.64	49.83
23.	Syndicate Bank	42.61	43.67	50.65
24.	Union Bank of India	47.11	46.92	41.98
25.	United Bank of India	38.72	36.67	35.55
26.	UCO Bank	44.68	43.93	41.46
27.	Vijaya Bank	41.29	43.22	44.59

Statement-III*State-wise per Capita Credit* of Public Sector Banks for the last three years*

(Amount in Rs.)

S.No.	Name of States	Credit Deposit Ratio (per cent)		
		March 1997	March 1998	March 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	4330	4876	5504
2	Arunachal Pradesh	804	1009	1249
3	Assam	1028	1154	1278
4	Bihar	1018	1122	1217
5	Goa	10272	11818	14093
6	Gujarat	4699	5423	6430
7	Haryana	3569	4219	4829
8	Himachal Pradesh	2345	2557	3076

1	2	3	4	5
9	Jammu & Kashmir	2619	3079	3897
10	Karnataka	5528	6298	7002
11	Kerala	4952	5524	6243
12	Madhya Pradesh	2084	2638	2872
13	Maharashtra	10467	13207	15074
14	Manipur	1016	1142	1160
15	Meghalaya	1030	1254	1543
16	Mizoram	914	1145	1524
17	Nagaland	1482	1291	1470
18	NCT of Delhi	46367	50191	79977
19	Orissa	1581	1804	1874
20	Punjab	5926	6888	8184
21	Rajasthan	1987	2531	2877
22	Sikkim	1722	2165	2545
23	Tamil Nadu	7279	8322	9374
24	Tripura	1166	1271	1396
25	Uttar Pradesh	1424	1539	1759
26	West Bengal	3453	3916	4334
27	Andaman & Nicobar	1552	1892	2394
28	Chandigarh	90508	65286	102581
29	Dadra & NH	1402	1945	2442
30	Daman & Diu	7951	8772	8433
31	Lakshadweep	524	617	787
32	Pondicherry	4848	5303	6017

* Based on the Census, 1991 figures.

Growth Rate

2188. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have resolved to provide an economic environment which would make it possible for the country to achieve growth rate of 7 to 8 per cent annually; and

(b) If so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Budget for 2000-2001 has proposed to put the economy on a sustained equitable and job creating path of 7 to 8 per cent per year in order to banish poverty within a decade and has accorded the highest priority to the strengthening of the rural economy and to human resource development to achieve this objective.

[Translation]

I.T. Outstanding Against Banks

2189. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Income-Tax outstanding towards each of the nationalised Banks and Financial Institutions in the country, as on 31st March, 2000;

(b) the reasons for accumulation of such a huge amount of Income tax; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the outstanding amount of Income-Tax, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The Banks and Financial Institutions against whom taxes of Rupees one crore or more were outstanding as on 31.3.2000 are shown in the enclosed statement.

(b) The outstanding taxes have accumulated because of several reasons such as litigation in appeals, stay granted by appellate authorities, pendency in Settlement Commission and BIFR, demands having not fallen due, instalments and stay granted by departmental authorities and demands pending verification of payments etc.

(c) Appropriate action, as provided for under the Income-tax Act, is taken for collection of arrears. Such action includes charging of interest and levy of penalty for non-payment and attachment of movable and immovable assets etc.

Statement

Outstanding arrear amount of Rs. One crore and above Banks/Financial Institutions as on 31.3.2000

S.No.	Name of the Banks/ Financial Institutions	Outstanding demand as on 31.3.2000 (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3
1.	A.P. State Finance Corporation Ltd.	1291
2.	Andhra Bank Financial Services Ltd.	1169
3.	Andhra Bank (Intt. Tax)	2872

1	2	3
4.	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	711
5.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	127
6.	Bombay Mercantiles Co-op Bank Ltd.	119
7.	Canara Bank	19235
8.	Canbank Financial Services Ltd.	3033
9.	Centurian Bank Ltd.	811
10.	City Union Bank Ltd.	249
11.	Enfield Business Finance and Leasing Ltd.	168
12.	Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd.	21845
13.	Global Trust Bank Ltd.	377
14.	Global Trust Bank Ltd.-II	2808
15.	H.D.F.C. Bank Ltd.	718
16.	H.D.F.C. Ltd.	2620
17.	Haritha Finance Ltd.	362
18.	I.D.B.I.	31026
19.	I.F.C.I. Ltd.	31438
20.	I.F.C.I. Ltd (Intt. Tax)	911
21.	ICICI Banking Corpn.	436
22.	Indian Bank Ltd.	3275
23.	Indian Overseas Bank Ltd.	8200
24.	Indusind Bank Ltd.	1995
25.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1015
26.	Kerala Financial Corporation	530
27.	Kerala State Industrial Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	223
28.	Metropolitan Co-op Bank Ltd.	9464
29.	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	268
30.	Orissa State Co-operative Bank	121
31.	P.L. Finance & Inv't. Lts.	433
32.	Rajkot Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	683

1	2	3
33.	S.B.I. Capital Markets Ltd.	2524
34.	S.B.I. Fund Management Ltd.	1996
35.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	503
36.	State Bank of Hyderabad	464
37.	State Bank of Mauritius Ltd.	122
38.	State Bank of Mysore	4471
39.	Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corp. Ltd.	1211
40.	The Ahmedabad Dist. Co-op Bank Ltd.	289
41.	The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	252
42.	The Kalupur Commercial Bank Ltd.	153
43.	The Karun Vysya Bank Ltd.	1351
44.	The Peerless General Finance & Inv. Co. Ltd.	21855
45.	The Thane District Central Co-op Bank Ltd.	588
46.	Visya Bank Leasing Ltd.	133
47.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	3727
48.	XEDD Finance & Investment (P) Ltd.	120
Total (Rs. in lacs)		188292

*[English]***Procurement of Foodgrains at Higher Rate**

2190. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the manner by which the Government ensure that the price at which the foodgrains are procured from the open market are the minimum and quality-wise good/best;

(b) the procedure followed by the Government to ensure that the farmers get fair price of their produce;

(c) whether any irregularities have come to light in regard to the purchase of foodgrains at higher rates of poor quality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) FCI alongwith other State Government agencies procure foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications under price support operations. Those quantities of foodgrains offered for sale by the farmers at specified centres/mandis and rail heads are purchased by FCI/State Agencies at Minimum Support Prices to maintain food security and to ensure remunerative price to the farmers. Sufficient number of procurement centres are opened for procurement of foodgrains by the FCI and the State Governments with mutual consultation well in advance before commencement of each marketing season.

In order to monitor the Minimum Support Price Scheme, Special Control Rooms are set up in FCI at their Headquarters as well as its Regional Offices to collect and compile daily procurement figures from the State Governments and other procuring agencies. All complaints relating to distress sale are taken up immediately with FCI/State Governments. However, the farmers/producers of foodgrains (wheat, paddy & coarsegrains) are free to sell their produce to FCI and public procurement agencies at MSP, or to the millers/traders at the rates as are advantageous to them.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indo-Indonesia Agreement on Tourism

2191. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached this year between India and Indonesia regarding tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the number of Indonesian tourists visited India after this agreement and the amount earned therefrom?

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

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on cooperation in the field of tourism was signed on 8.2.2000 in New Delhi. The Memorandum of Understanding aims at :

(i) Increasing tourist arrivals to both countries.

(ii) Encouraging a wider distribution of visitors to the various tourist destinations.

(iii) Encouraging visits of both nationals and residents to each country.

(iv) Encouraging growth of the tourism industry in both countries.

This Memorandum of Understanding has come into force on the date of its signing.

(c) Total number of foreign tourists who visited India from Indonesia during February, 2000 were 975. Similar information for the month of March, 2000 onwards is not available.

Department of Tourism does not make separate estimates of foreign exchange earnings from various countries. However, estimated foreign exchange earnings from all tourists for the month of February, 2000 onwards is as follows:-

Month/Year	Estimated Foreign Exchange Earnings (Rs. in crores)
February, 2000	1417.56
March, 2000	1233.66
April, 2000	1003.35
May, 2000	768.11
June, 2000	861.72

[English]

National Renewal Fund

2192. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make the payment of statutory dues of workers from NRF, particularly in case of textile workers of Gujarat; and

(b) the time by which the payment is likely to be made available to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF) had been provided for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and the scheme of counselling, retraining etc. of workers rationalised from the organised sector. The NRF has since been abolished vide a gazette notification on 12.07.2000. However, financial assistance for VRS in Central PSUs will be made available to administrative Ministries/Department directly in the beginning

of the year in accordance with a new procedure for VRS announced by Department of Public Enterprises on May 5, 2000.

12.01 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 Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2152/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2153/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2154/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Nepa Limited, Nepalagar, for the year 1998-99.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Nepa Limited, Nepalagar for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2155/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (i) G. S. R. 612 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt specified goods required for import for display or sale in the "INDEPEX-ASIANA-2000".

- (ii) G.S.R. 620 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of the exemption available to the import of machinery, instruments, tools and their accessories required for setting up of ammunition in the Ordnance Factory, Badmal.
- (iii) S.O. 286 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (iv) S.O. 287 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding

revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.

- (v) S.O. 460 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (vi) S.O. 407 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (vii) S.O. 518(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (viii) S.O. 519 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (ix) S.O. 601 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (x) S.O. 602 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (xi) G.S.R. 628 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2156/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 :-

- (i) G.S.R. 567 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on optical fibre, originating in or exported from Korea RP at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (ii) G.S.R. 568 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 136/99-Cus., dated the 29th December, 1999.
- (iii) G.S.R. 598 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on pure Terephthalic acid (PTA), originating in or exported from Korea RP.
- (iv) G.S.R. 599 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 13/98 Cus., dated the 28th April, 1998.
- (v) G.S.R. 616 (E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose a final anti-dumping duty on Acrylic Fibre originating in or exported from Taiwan, in US Dollar terms.
- (vi) G.S.R. 626 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose a final anti-dumping duty on Vitamin C, originating in or exported from China PR and Japan.
- (vii) G.S.R. 627 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 53/98 Cus, dated the 24th July, 1998.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2157/2000]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 :-

- (i) G.S.R. 549 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 9/2000-CE, dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (ii) The Central Excise Valuation (Determination of Price of Excisable Goods) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 575 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) G.S.R. 629 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 32/99-CE dated the 8th July, 1999.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2158/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Public Debt (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 604 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2000 under sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Public Debt Act, 1944.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2159/2000]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 588 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the taxable services in relation to the general insurance business from the whole of service tax leviable thereon.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2160/2000]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873 :-

- (i) The National Savings Scheme (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 541 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2000.
- (ii) The Post Office (Monthly Income Account) Third Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 613 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2000.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2161/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control (Amendment) Order, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 526 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2000 issued under section 30 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2162/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Tea Board (Write Off Losses) (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 606 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2000 under sub-section 3 of section 49 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Place in the Library. See No. LT-2163/2000]

12.00 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday the 7th August, 2000 will consist of :

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the Rehabilitation Council of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
3. Consideration and adoption of Statutory Resolution seeking approval for the Notification No. 96/2000-Customs dated 7th July, 2000 which seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to enhance the rate of customs duty applicable to goods falling under sub-heading No. 0802.90 from "35%" to "100%".
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills :-
 - (a) The Freedom of Information Bill, 2000.
 - (b) The Cable Television Network (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2000.
5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha :-
 - (a) The Army & Air Force (Disposal of Private Property) Amendment Bill, 2000.

- (b) The Indian Power Alcohol (Repeal) Bill, 2000.
 - (c) The Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 2000.
 - (d) The AIIMS (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
6. Consideration and passing of the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2000, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Fresh provision of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population in the country by taking year 2000 as a base year.
2. Need to formulate an effective scheme to provide accommodation to all the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes during the coming five years.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Unemployment allowance to the youth.
2. Discussion on Women's Reservation Bill.

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Early approval of the Cabinet Committee Economic Approval for Salem - Cuddalore into broad gauge conversion project.
2. Clearance of Union Government for construction of a bridge at Naripadi Gangavalli Panchayat Union Assembly constituency of Rasipuram Parliamentary Constituency.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

There was a bus accident on Vazirabad bridge under

my constituency on 18th November, 1997 which took the toll of 28 children's lives while almost 62 other children were injured. In order to avoid such accidents in future, there was a suggestion to construct a new bridge along the old one. However, three years have elapsed since then, but the construction work of the said bridge has not been taken up as yet. That bridge may please be constructed soon.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITMARHI) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. The situation arising out of adverse impact on Indian economy due to devaluation of Indian rupees in comparison to American dollar in spite of Government's concerted efforts in this regard.
2. The situation arising out of excess stock of foodgrains despite Government's announcement to sell the quantity of foodgrains additional to the required buffer stock under the various schemes formulated by the Government for this purpose.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. People are facing a lot of difficulties due to cancellation of the train which used to run between Agra Fort and Ahmadabad via Jaipur, Ajmer and which was a popular train connecting Gujarat, Rajasthan and Western Uttar Pradesh before gauge conversion. Hence, it is necessary to start the Ahmadabad Agra Fort local passenger train via Jaipur after immediately converting the Bandikui-Agra Fort metre gauge line into broad gauge.
2. At present, no train is available from Ajmer to Delhi in the morning. It is necessary to restart the popular 3 UP/4 down Delhi-Ahmedabad trains which earlier used to run between Ahmedabad-Delhi via Jaipur, Ajmer before the gauge conversion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : What is the problem of Madam? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You need not yield.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM) : Let you come outside then I will tell you what is the problem.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, this is highly objectionable. Why is she agitating? ...(Interruptions) I am simply doing my duty according to your order. She is creating disturbance. ...(Interruptions) It is very unfortunate. She has used unparliamentary language. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What will you do to the hon. Member after going outside.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : That I will tell him only...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Regarding setting up a computerised reservation centre at Gomo junction under Eastern Railway and modernisation of Fusro and Bermo railway stations under Eastern Railway.
2. Regarding adequate generation of electricity in the captive Power Plant established with Rs. 86 crore in Kathara area Bokaro under the Central coalfield limited and need to conduct a high level enquiry to find out the reason of loss in revenue due to less than capacity generation.

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Serious situation arising out of the scarcity of ground water, particularly in agriculturally important States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, which are facing a steady fall in their ground water level from 6,008 cubic metres (in 1947) to 500 cubic metres at present.
2. Alleged misuse of taxation treaty with Mauritius which has resulted in a loss of Rs. 30,000 crore to

India. Therefore, Government should review taxation treaty with Mauritius and other countries immediately.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Functioning of MRVC and resettlement of slums near railway lines in Mumbai.
2. Starting of MTNL cellular services.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRASAD RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am scared while reading it. We get scared when an hon. Member talks to another in this manner...(Interruptions)

[English]

Mr. Speaker Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

To discuss the details of a special package perceived after the division of State of Bihar and fulfil the aspiration of the people of the region.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : But you have voted against the amendment relating to the package; all of you voted against it. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Bounded labourers were there during those days.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Now, we are going for that package. Since the Bill has been passed, we are very democratic, our Government is going to assist us and henceforth we are going to discuss it in great detail.

The second point of my submission is as follows :

* To discuss the issue of a feature called the road rage related to traffic disorder, accidents and erratic behaviour of drivers on the roads of Delhi and elsewhere in the country.

Sir, this road rage concept is creating a lot of problems in the country. This must be included in the Business for the next week.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should also be a discussion on Education Policy, Population Policy, Foreign Policy and on Kargil Report.

12.10 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Re : Situation Arising out of recent massacre in various places in Jammu & Kashmir and of pilgrims at Pahalgam

MR. SPEAKER : Now, statement by the hon. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Sir, I visited Pahalgam and Srinagar on Thursday to study the situation arising out of recent massacre in various places in Jammu and Kashmir and of pilgrims at Pahalgam.

I am thankful to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Yerrannaidu and Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad for agreeing to join me at such a short notice. My colleagues, Shri George Fernandes, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta also joined me, along with the Chief of Army Staff. From Srinagar, the Governor, and the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir accompanied us.

Our visit was also intended to assure the people of the State that the entire nation stood by them at this hour, and to share their grief over the inhuman behaviour of the terrorists against innocent people belonging to the State as well as many from other parts of the country on pilgrimage to Amarnath.

The briefing which we were given by the Chief of United Command and Security Forces made it clear that perpetrators of these heinous crimes were foreigners. Arms and ammunitions recovered from them clearly established their links with Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba.

Delegation of local population as well as pilgrims met me and spoke to me about the difficulties they were facing in the wake of the killings.

The House, I am sure, is one with me in assuring the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the nation that we will not yield before terrorism. I may add that while the fight against terrorism will be continued, India will not give up its efforts for restoration of peace in Kashmir.

I made it clear at Srinagar that the dialogue with Hizbul Mujahideen is a part of this effort. Other groups which have

chosen the path of violence should also realise that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want peace in the State. It is futile for them to continue on the path of violence. They should come forward for talks with the Government for redressal of their grievances.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Sir, we would like to have some clarification on this. The Leader of the Opposition would like to say something.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (AMETHI) : Can I say something, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : There is no practice in the Lok Sabha.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : The situations that have been created should not be correlated with any practice...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : But there has never been such a massacre; it is a tragedy of immense proportion. (Interruptions) It is a massacre of unprecedented proportion. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You know very well that in the House, in the Lok Sabha, there is no such procedure.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Normally, we do not allow any clarifications on a statement in the Lok Sabha.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This is a tragedy of an immense proportion. It is unprecedented (Interruptions).

[Translation]

Since this is unprecedented so it is natural to question it. (Interruptions) History bears no testimonial of such brutal killings which took the toll of more than hundred lives. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : As a special case, I am allowing the Leader of Opposition.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : They are responsible for their killings since there was slackness. ...*(Interruptions)* due to which vigilance ascended. I want to ask a question about the situation that has developed there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : As a special case, I am allowing the Leader of Opposition.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Is it not justified?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no such practice in the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL : If there has been no such practice, there has never been such a carnage either. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, from the Government side, I would like to appeal to the hon. Members that let us not break the rules of the House. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to have a discussion on the subject. ...*(Interruptions)* then can discuss it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There is no question of breaking the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : You have heard the views of the Prime Minister, what more you want? Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We are not interrupting. We welcome all the three wings of our defence, but we want to ask a question about the short comings lapses of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL : The Government have not performed any of its responsibilities and we are made to learn rules.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You give notice for a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)* We will discuss it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : 100 persons have been killed there, what are you talking.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that it is a serious matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The way Parliamentary Affairs Minister is talking. ...*(Interruptions)* innocent people have been killed there, and the Government is displaying firmness there. This conspiracy. I am surprised. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You should also respect the rules of the House. You must understand that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : As a special case I am allowing the Leader of the Opposition.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You should also respect the rules of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Sir, it was never allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that this time, as a special case I am allowing the Leader of Opposition and not anybody else.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : There is no such convention. ...*(Interruptions)*

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

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Since the Leader of the Opposition wants to seek a clarification, I have allowed her. Please take your seats now. I am only allowing the Leader of the Opposition and not anybody else.

MR. SPEAKER : This shows how serious the Members are over these incidents. This is unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Normally, there is a tradition in the House that whenever the Leader of the Opposition stands up to speak, the Chair also gives him the permission to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, today is the last day of the week. I am appealing to you all to sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I am not objecting to the Leader of the Opposition. Let her speak on any subject. But seeking clarification, after the Statement, cannot be made a rule in this House. We never allowed it. We cannot, everyday, take it as an exception. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are more than 40 notices for the 'Zero Hour' today.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody to make any submission.

...(Interruptions)

We have to conduct zero hour after this. Please allow me to do that. Many Members want to raise important matters during zero hour. You should respect the rules of the House. I say this to both sides of the House. It is a very serious matter. You are always violating the procedure in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper.

(Interruptions)*

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand the situation. I am allowing the Leader of the Opposition as a special case. I am allowing her this time only. Nobody else will be allowed. Please understand.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing you all to please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When we are dealing with such an important matter, it is unfortunate on the part of Members on both sides of the House to behave like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, please go to your seat. Why are you coming like this? Why are you coming to the Well? I will take action against you. What is this? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. The hon. Prime Minister has to make a statement in the other House also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am not allowing you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair. Please take your seats.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing a very important and serious matter. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of the hon. Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : There is a convention in the House that no clarification is asked after the statement which has no relevance today and with this issue. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon. Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seats. I have not allowed you to speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, if you behave like this, it will be very difficult for me to run the House. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is very unfair on the part of both sides.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There is also a convention whatever is decided by Mr. Speaker is conducted in the House. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

* Not recorded

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody talks about the rules and procedure. But no body is following them. What is this?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : My submission is that existing convention should be maintained. Today Mr. Speaker is making it an exception and we have no objection to it. The leader of opposition who had also accompanied us, should say something. She should exercise her rights and I request everybody to listen her attentively.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would thank the Prime Minister for giving me this opportunity. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : He has not. It is the Speaker who is giving you the opportunity. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : Sir, yesterday, in response to a question at the Press Conference in Srinagar after the Pahalgam visit, the Prime Minister said that there were no serious security lapses. In other words, the Prime Minister admits that indeed there were security lapses.

Therefore, we would like to know what steps does the Government intend to take to prevent such incidents taking place again.

We very strongly feel that responsibility must be fixed. It seems to us that the Government has taken leave of its conscience. But we have not taken leave of our conscience. Therefore, we demand a judicial inquiry into this tragic incident so that accountability is fixed, Government's lapses are brought to light and very strong measures are taken to ensure that such insensitive slackness does not occur again.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, such a big incident has taken place, and so many people have been killed. Therefore, it is natural to raise a question as to whether the full proof arrangement had been made. Had there been any full proof arrangement but I know that it is very difficult to make fullproof arrangement in such cases as a fair was in swing there. ... (Interruptions) Mr.

* Not recorded

Speaker that is why I did not admit in my statement that there was no lapse. I only stated that no incident of any serious lapse has been brought into notice. I have found that the State Government has already ordered an enquiry. All the facts are being ascertained. First executive enquiry will be conducted, there after if necessary another enquiry can be conducted. There should be no difference among members over it. What objection do we have? *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : What about the judicial inquiry? The Government has to respond to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Radha Mohan Singh says.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, it is a serious matter and so many lives have been lost. And Government is not ready to had judicial inquiry. In protest of this we walk out from the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.33 hrs.

At this stage Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Shri Madhavrao Scindia and some other hon. Members left the House.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Sir, Government has not announced the ex-gratia payment to be made to the dead and those seriously injured. In protest of this, we walk out from the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.33 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (MOTIHARI) : Sir, after the re-organisation of Bihar State, it is foremost duty of the Government of India to be concerned about the sugarcane growers in the British period, there were 29 sugar mills in the north Bihar and there is lock out in 19 and five are on the verge of closure and the condition of remaining five is also very poor. 16 out of 29 sugar mills are owned by State Corporation and all of these are lying closed. Two sugar mills are owned by BIC, which are located in Chakia and Chanpatia under my constituency. Even the oldest sugar mills are lying closed. The crores of rupees of farmers are outstanding against these mills. The farmers are on the verge of starvation.

*Not Recorded.

After the reorganisation of Bihar, half of the Bihar population constitutes sugarcane growers and this is only source of their livelihood. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to direct the Bihar Government to re-start these 16 closed sugar mills. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, such an arrangement should be made in regard to the package that Government of Bihar is going to get for rest of the sugar mills that first of all the sugar mills, which are lying closed, be made to run and pace of development of rest of Bihar be accelerated. The outstanding amount should also be paid from the package. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohale, you have raised matters during 'Zero Hour' on the 1st and on the 3rd of this month. Again, you want to raise some matter.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (PADRAUNA) : Sir, the condition of the farmers is very bad. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. I will call you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Sir, it is a problem being faced by the sugarcane grower's. Please listen. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mishra, you want to associate with him, is not it? Okay, you can associate with him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If you raise matter like this, it is not going to help. You please sit down, I will call you.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is an agro dominated country. Poultry farming is a part of the agriculture but at present, it stands nowhere. Our Finance Department has neither placed it under the Agriculture nor industry and at the same time have imposed higher rates of taxes on the income earned from this farming. With the result, this profession has become unprofitable. As many as two and a half crore people belonging to tribal communities, backward, small and poor people of the rural areas are engaged in this profession for their livelihood. This profession is going to be eroded. Therefore, I, through you, urge upon the Government to reduce the taxes on poultry farming and save this profession.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Sir, Prithvi Raj Chauhan has been a Hindu King of this country. His mortal remains were buried in Kandahar city of Afghanistan. It is the wish and feeling of the people of this country that his mortal remains should be brought to India from Kandahar. A Committee has also been constituted in this regard which has invited attention of this Government on a number of occasions through correspondence and delegations. A news item to this effect was also published in the newspaper 'Hindustan' dated 23rd July, 2000. Shri Pramod Mahajan is sitting here. I would request him that the Government should take action at their own level to bring his mortal remains from Kandahar to India in view of the wish and feeling of the people of this country.

We feel that whatever we submit to the Government, they will take it seriously and take action at their own level. Mr. Minister is sitting here. ...*(Interruptions)* We want that he should tell us that they will take action at their own level. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, we will communicate his feelings to the concerned Ministry and see what we can do in this matter.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (PEDDAPALLI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to raise an important matter in Zero hour. In Peddapally parliamentary constituency, there are 35 Singareni coal mines. Nearly 80,000 coal miners are working there. The Coal Mines Provident Fund Office is at Hyderabad, which is about 250 kms. away from the coal mines area, namely, Godavarikhani, Mancherla, R.K. Puram and Mandamarry.

During the 12th Lok Sabha, I raised this issue many times in the House. I met the hon. Minister for Coal at that time and the Minister, Shri Dilip Ray had directed the officials. The Board of Trustees gave their decision to shift this office from Hyderabad to Godavarikhani.

In the meantime, midterm elections have come; and in the 13th Lok Sabha, because of frequent changes in the portfolios of Ministers, I have given representations to hon. Ministers Shri Naveen Patnaik, Shri Kumaramangalam and now Shri Shanmugam. So far, no action has been taken.

I request the hon. Minister for Coal to direct the officials concerned to shift this Office from Hyderabad to Godavarikhani immediately.

[Translation]

KUNWARAKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, UTTAR PRADESH): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like

to draw your kind attention towards the killings of 36 pilgrims by militants in Kashmir Valley. These pilgrims had gone to the holy shrine of Aṁamath. Several persons namely Late Shri Shankar Jaiswal of Sanoli Bazar and Shri Rituraj Varma of Notnava Bazar in my parliamentary constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR SPEAKER : Yesterday, the hon. Home Minister has made a statement in the House on this issue.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party I pay my tributes to those thirty six persons including Shri Ramesh Madhesiya, resident of Maharajganj and pray to the Almighty for speedy recovery of dozens of other people including Shri Trikoti Nath Gupta and Shri Chunnai Lal who have been hit by the bullets fired by militants in Srinagar and are struggling between life and death. Sir, the way the new dispute about autonomy was raised in Jammu and Kashmir and thereafter, carelessness shown by the State Government and the Union Government towards the security of life of the general public of Jammu and Kashmir, this is the outcome of that carelessness that more than one hundred and five people have been killed in the Kashmir valley. The Prime Minister had made a statement in the House and he has shown his insensitivity on the matter by not announcing ex-gratia of even in rupees to the families of those killed or injured. Through this House I demand that an amount of ex-gratia of rupees 10 lakh to the families of those killed and rupees two lakh for medical treatment to the families of those seriously injured in the firings by militants in Kashmir valley might be provided in each case.

SHRI BRAJMOHAN RAM (PALAMU) : Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. There is one joint venture of Bihar Government and Aditya Birla Group by the names of Caustic Chemicals Ltd. in Rehla of our district Palamu in Bihar. It has installed one power plant of 30 Megawatt at the cost of 150 crore rupees. The plant is ready now. Permission for generating power is not being given to this plant due to political supremacy and Apathetic attitude of Bihar Government. The Forest Department of the State has also not given their approval to the said plant. The targeted power generation of the plant is 30 megawatt out of which the company's requirement is only of 23 megawatt and the remaining 7 megawatt is to be provided to the State Electricity Board. Moreover, Bihar State Electricity Board is giving 5 megawatt power to caustic soda plant. That load would also be reduced. As a result the supply of electricity would improve and small scale industries would get more power. Caustic plant has been suffering loss worth 5 lakh rupees per day for not making any production.

I request the Government of India through this House that appropriate action should be taken to start the said plant and State Government should also be requested to start the plant as early as possible in the interest of the public and the factory.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT) : Sir, I would like to bring a very serious matter to the notice of this august House. The process for the local body elections in Kerala is going on smoothly. The proposed time for the election is third week of September. But yesterday the hon. High Court of Kerala has given a judgement. * The judgement was that State Election Commission has no power in. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I do not know whether the criticism of the High Court's judgement as * is allowed or not under the rules. I do not have any objection if it is allowed. I am not opposing what you say. ...*(Interruptions)* I am neither supporting it nor opposing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, I do not want to create any controversy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Normally, there is no practice in the House to criticise judgement of the Court.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, let me elaborate it. According to article 243 of the Constitution,

"(a) the validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies made or purporting to be made...." ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I have a very serious objection. If the High Court has given any decision which is not proper, then you can go to the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)* The House cannot do anything in this.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : This House is the Supreme law-making body of the country.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Is is a law making body but not the law interpreting body. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : This law was passed by the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You cannot use this House to pressurise the courts. It is almost like pressurising the courts. It is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)* This should be taken out of the records. ...*(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas, first of all you hear me. The normal practice in the judiciary is, if you are not satisfied with a judgement in the lower court or the High Court, you file an appeal in the Supreme Court. You are not to criticise the judgement of the High Court.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : The Advocate-General of Kerala has pointed out this article before the High Court but the hon. Justice has mentioned. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : There is no other way. They should go to the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Yes, they are going. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : We are a law-making body. We make laws. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is a certain procedure. You cannot discuss everything in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 105 people have been killed in Kashmir. These include Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. On the eve of the visit of Bill Clinton, Sikhs were massacred. I have gone through the statement made by Shri Bill Clinton, he has condemned this massacre. The hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. Why don't we declare Pakistan a terrorist state? When we have been able to bring the countries all over the world on a single forum and can express our feelings in such a forum why we can not take such a step? Terrorism didn't start today. It has been going on for the last several years. Bombs were also being exploded during the congress regime in which people were being killed. They are making hue and cry over this issue how. ...*(Interruptions)* All should talk sensibly in this regard. Rupees two lakhs were given to the family members of the persons killed in Mumbai riots. Innocent people have been killed there. Those killed include the poor people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. I request that rupees two lakhs should be given to the family members of the persons killed there and President's rule should be imposed there.

12.49 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the population of my Parliamentary Constituency

east Delhi is about 36 lakhs but there is no adequate bus facility for people to go to their places of work. The bus facility is inadequate. I have demanded to provide railway halt at Mandawall-Chander Nagar. It was inaugurated in June, 1999 but work has not started there as yet. I was told that it will cost about rupees eighty lakhs. In the first phase construction of railway halt was to be started with a cost of Rs. 16 lakhs but I regret to say that construction work has not been started on this halt even after a lapse of one year. I demand from the hon'ble Minister of Railways that the work on it should be started and completed early so that the commuters could avail of its benefits.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had implemented National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, for the Kharif crop, from 2000 onwards. As per the guideline, the cut-off date for payment of premium and enrolment of non-loanee farmers had been given as one month after sowing and planting or 31st July, whichever was earlier. Since there was no rain, how was it be possible for the farmers to complete the sowing or planting before 31st July? It was not practicable. So, this stipulation had caused inconvenience to the small and marginal farmers. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh then convened a SMFC meeting. In that meeting, a decision was taken to fix the cut-off date for the farmers as the end of September to December.

They have taken the decision for loanee. But they have not taken any decision regarding non-loanee. So, I request the Government to keep the non-loanees at par with loanees so that they could get such facilities which loanees get. Rains will not come in every region. So, how can a non-loanee do sowing and planting within the month of July. This scheme is at present not applicable to the non-loanees. It should be applicable to the non-loanees also. If this anomaly is rectified, it will help all the farmers of this country. For, tomorrow, the other Chief Ministers may also send their requests in this regard to the Union Government. Shri Pramod Mahajan, who is from the farming community, is here. He should taken lead to rectify this anomaly. This is my humble request.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, he should take lead.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say that the losses of several ancillary companies of Coal India Limited are increasing and this is mainly due to the inefficiency of the management. There exists a practice of unjustified expenditure and wrong data in these companies. The top officers of the ancillaries are so smart that they influence any sort of investigation in their favour.

The Lok Sabha is a supreme body but I feel that it is also of no use to make submissions here. The corrupt and inefficient people are not scared of what transpires here in the Lok Sabha. That is why when we make a point in the public interest through a special mention or raise matter of public interest through the question, only the stand of the concerned department prevails. It does not augur well for the future.

I request the Government to kindly merge the ancillaries of the CIL with the CIL. This will result in reduction of administrative expenditure and pruning of the strength of the officers. At the same time I request the Government to get this matter investigated through an independent agency.

[English]

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (TRIPURA WEST) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Central Government to the North-Eastern region of the country. With a population of about 3.5 crore, it has vast market potential. Through the population of this region consists of different ethnic groups, and many religious divisions which has divergent views, yet the common issues like mainstream of economic activity, concern all the sections of people.

Sir, border trade has already commenced of Mizoram and Manipur with Myanmar. Initiatives may be taken by the Central Government to begin border trade between Tripura and Bangladesh as well. Tripura has the advantage of being close to Bangladesh. The South East Asia is not very far away from the North-East. Initiatives may be taken by the Central Government to begin border trade in this region.

Sir, the Central Government may try to get access to Chittagong Port of Bangladesh which is located barely 75 kilometre from the Southern most tip of Tripura. This arrangement will benefit the entire North-East. The possibility of movement of passengers and goods, especially of essential commodities from Calcutta through Bangladesh to Tripura and then to North-Eastern region to be explored by the Central Government expeditiously. The problem of landlocked Tripura, Mizoram, and major part of the North-East should be taken up by the Central Government with this pragmatic approach.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (KATIHAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the devastating situation which has arisen in my Parliamentary constituency Katihar due to deposit of sand, water logging and soil erosion from the Farrakha Barrage. This has resulted in damage to crops. The lives of people have been seriously affected and they are facing a grave, crisis. Therefore, I request the Government to

take immediate steps to provide relief to the people there who are facing utmost difficulties and arrangements should be made for their rehabilitation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Farrakha Barrage meets the water requirements of Hoogly port to facilitate the movement of ships. But sand is deposited at the Hoogly port as a result of this water supply and crores of rupees are spent thereon every year. Due to accumulation of sand rivers are becoming shallow which results in occurrence of floods and resultant damage. It also causes soil erosion. There has been a technical error in the construction of this Barrage. At the instance of the then Chief Minister Shri B.C. Rai the site of the Barrage was shifted by twenty kilometers from the original site. This Barrage should have been constructed near Sahebganj on the upstream. But unfortunately this was not done and as a result of that my constituency is facing a lot of problems. I demand from the Government to kindly take into consideration difficulties and problems prevalent in my constituency. Shri Pramod Mahajanji had been there and he is aware of the situation prevailing there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothign will go on record except Shri Ram Nagina Mishra's submission.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, one of the Members who spoke before me draw the attention of the Government towards the problems of the sugarcane farmers of Bihar. The condition of the sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh is even worse. There are 15 sugar mills in Gorakhpur and Deoria districts alone. Out of these five mills have already been closed down. Rupees eighteen crores are outstanding against the Padrauna and Kathkuinyan sugarmills for the last four years. Rupees fourteen crores are outstanding against the Kapjanganj Sugar mill. Similary rupees twenty two crores are outstanding against Sarker Nagar Sugar Mill. Rupees five crores are outstanding against the Mills of the corporation. Thus Rs. 35 crores are outstanding against the sugar mills in my constituency alone. Five mills have already been closed down. Out of the 38 mills of the corporation barring ten mills rest have been declared as sick by the BIFR and they are going to be auctioned. All the mills are on the verge of closure. They are in dire straits. The sugarcane farmers are having a bad time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want to say to the Government of India?

* Not recorded.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Sir, through you, I request the Government of India to kindly run the sugar mills there to save the lives of the farmers of that area and the arrears of the farmers should be paid. The B.I.F.R. has handed over the sugar mills at Kathkuniyan and Padrauna to the Gangotri mill which is lying closed for the last three years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not make the speech in 'Zero Hour'. Put your demand to the Government of India.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : I demand from the Government that the outstanding dues of the farmers should be paid and sugar mills should be run. The hon'ble Minister is present. Sir, through you I would like to request that the condition of those mills should be improved. Hon'ble Minister please listen to me. Farmers are clamouring for their dues. They are finding it difficult to sustain. I demand from the Government of India to save them and make arrangements for the payment of their outstanding dues. I want assurance from the hon'ble Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* ...Sir, I want your protection. The Hon'ble Minister is going to say something. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shrimati Renu Kumari.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Hon'ble Minister Sir, you are the patron of the farmers. Where should the sugarcane farmers go? Lakhs of farmers are in deplorable condition and the hon'ble Minister is not saying anything in this regard. As such who is there to listen to us? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is 'Zero Hour'! It is not necessary for the Minister to respond to everything.

13.00 hrs.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I will be very brief. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The lady member is waiting for her turn for half an hour.

...*(Interruptions)*...

* Not recorded.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the news report published in a newspaper. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am raising an issue concerning lakhs of sugarcane farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*... But the concerned Minister is not present in the House to reply to the points raised by me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I will convey the grievance of the hon'ble Member to the Minister concerned.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Government have withheld the amount of central assistance for the rural development schemes of different districts of Bihar due to non-furnishing of the utilisation certificate in respect of the amount provided earlier. According to sources, the amount withheld by the Union Government due to non-furnishing of the utilisation certificate by the State Government is over Rs. 100 crores. I would like to say that the pace of development in Bihar is otherwise slow. The development in Bihar will come to a standstill if central assistance for the State is withheld. So far as utilisation certificate is concerned, the District Magistrate and Deputy Development Commissioner do not take care as to when the utilisation certificate should be furnished so that the Union Government could release the assistance amount.

Sir, through you I would like to urge the Union Government to kindly fix a time limit for submitting the utilisation certificate so that the same could be obtained from the districts within the stipulated time. If the utilisation certificate is not received from the States within the stipulated time then the Union Government can take action against the concerned District Magistrate and the Deputy Development Commissioner. Sir, through you I would also like to request that my submission should not end up only as a press material, I want that the concerned Minister should take action on it and inform me about the action taken by him in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Sir, if I am raising a matter in the 'Zero Hour', it does not mean that I had not walked out earlier in support of the demand for a judicial inquiry into the massacre of Amarnath pilgrims. Earlier, I had walked out in support of the demand for a judicial inquiry that was made by the Leader of Opposition. Apart from that, I have to say that in the wake of the most deplorable and the highly

condemnable massacre of the Amarnath *yatis*, it is unfortunate that there are reports of violence from some places like Surat, Ahmedabad and others. It is most unfortunate that these cases of violence are simply playing directly into the hands of the anti-national elements. I appeal for peace and I also appeal to the Government to see to it that all security measures are there and every protection is there for everyone throughout the country.

13.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.31 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at 'thirty-one
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL - CONTD.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up item No. 7- State Financial Corporations (Amendment) Bill. Shri A.C. Jose. Since he is not there, Shri Anadi Sahu will speak.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the State Financial Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000. The State Financial Corporations Act was enacted in 1951. Over the years, there have been a lot of amendments. At present, a large number of amendments have become necessary because of the changed financial environment. The Minister of Finance has introduced the Amending Bill. In the post-liberalisation era, it has witnessed a significant improvement.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, this is a small Bill. We have to conclude this Bill before the Private Members's Business starts.

* At 1400 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 1404 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 1408 hours again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Secretary-General informed the Members present as follows :

"There is no quorum. So, the House cannot meet. We cannot start the House till there is a quorum. The hon. Speaker has directed that the House will re-assemble at thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock."

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : Be condescending enough to the backbenchers, Sir, to speak a few words. Otherwise, we do not get any chance to speak. When we think of the State Financial Corporations (Amendment) Bill, we have to think of other institutions which have been helping the State Financial Corporations. It was the IDBI. Now, after the amendment, it will be SIDBI. Yesterday, my friend, Shri Jose, was referring to the SIDBI as to why the long term has not been indicated in the Bill itself. Had he been here, I would have requested him to go through clause 29(ff) where it has been indicated that all along it would be termed as Development Bank. That is besides the point. So, when we are thinking of State Financial Corporation (Amendment) Act, we have to think of the WTO regime and the changing scenario in corporate fields. Keeping that in view, the hon. Minister of Finance, who is present here, had indicated during the Budget speech of 1998-99 that the SIDBI would be delinked from the IDBI and that funds should be provided adequately so that SIDBI would be able to fund the State Financial Corporations.

As you are aware, the SIDBI mostly looks after the small scale industries and the State Financial Corporation is assisted by the IDBI and SIDBI. You may kindly see from the reports that are available from time to time that SIDBI has been financing lots of ventures in getting people engagement in getting some sorts of finished products. You will kindly appreciate that because of State Financial Corporation funding about 40 per cent of our manufactured goods come from the small scale industries and about 30 percent of our exports are through small scale industries.

Over the years, it has been seen that the small scale industries go into food products, textiles, chemicals and chemical products, basic metals, machineries, services and many other field, although they might not be getting loans from the State Financial Corporations. It was thought proper that the fields of activity of the small scale industries should be enhanced or increased and once the field of activities are enhanced, the SSI units can get loan from the State Financial Corporations.

It is a fact that there is recession in small scale industries and it is a fact that there are certain provinces where the small scale industries have done very well. It may be seen that because of goods type of activities in Karnataka, U.P., Tamil Nadu, Kerala, etc. the small scale industries have got a boost in those provinces and about Rs. 1865 crore of money was financed by the SFC. If the field of activity is increased, naturally a large number of people can go into this type of activities. So these things have been kept in mind in bringing up this amendment. It has been decided very correctly and wisely for the matter that new types of business activities under floriculture, tissue culture, poultry farming, commercial complex, SRTO and even service rendering are to be included in the services that are to be taken up.

These amending provisions have kept in mind the basic principle that is, State Financial Corporation is *sine quo non* to any type of industrial development. When we think of industrial development, we have to think of financial restructuring, flexibility, a little bit of autonomy to the small scale industries and to the State Financial Corporations and most importantly professionalism.

Keeping that in mind, the first idea was that the authorised capital should be increased from Rs. 100 crore, it has been increased to Rs. 500 crore and in special circumstances, it can be increased to Rs. 1000 crore. That is absolutely necessary. Now, when we think of increasing the share capital, the authorised capital and all those things, the question is how does the money come? We have the qualified institutional buyers. The clarified institutional buyers are the LIC, GIC, UTI, and some such institutions.

So, we have to take into account that once they have invested their money, they should not take it out from the SFCs. There has to be a certain provision that they should not take it out just like that and that others should be given preferences for buying shares.

But here, I would invite the attention of the hon. Finance Minister, through you, Sir, that so far as the redeemable preference shares are concerned, which have been indicated at page 4, Clause 4D (2), the redeemable preference shares could be given to the employees of the SFCs, they could be allowed to buy shares at a future date as it has been provided in the Companies Act, Section 2. They would get redeemable preference shares. There is a provision in the amending Act itself that others can also buy shares but it would have been beneficial for the employees of the SFCs to buy the shares at a future date. Whenever they earn money, they can buy the shares. It could have been a boost to them. It could have given them some scope to feel that they are taking part in the SFC activities.

Some friends might have argued that the SFCs are not working properly. Out of 18, five are working very well but others are not able to work because of very many reasons. Take the case of the Orissa State Financial Corporation. The super cyclone has created a problem for it. It is not able to get back about Rs. 500 crore of money which has been given as loan and the interest also is quite a burden. We have made a request to the Finance Minister earlier also to consider waiving the interest of the Orissa State Financial Corporation.

Now, whatever you have given, Sir, kindly keep in mind that the balance-sheet has to be clean. Unless the balance-sheet of the State Financial Corporations are clean, it would be very difficult to stand on their own legs even though the authorised capital could be Rs. 1,000 crore. Sir, you have already indicated earlier that autonomy would be given. For

that matter, the Finance Minister has indicated in Clause 7, that section five to ten of the Original Act are intended to be amended. These are very important. The most important being, '...the Financial Corporation if such transfer will result in reducing the aggregate value of shares held by them to less than fifty-one per cent ...' It has been given.

I am not going into the details because the hon. Speaker has issued a stern warning to me that I should limit myself to the time-frame itself.

So, what I would like to say here is that in this amending Act, the most important provisions are given in Section 6, which deals with shares. Now, so far as the shares are concerned, in the previous Act it was the RBI and other State and Central Government institution who are holding the shares and then controlling it from different sides.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Kindly give me some more time. If you give me time, I will speak. Otherwise, I will sit down.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, you can continue.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Section 7 itself is about shares. In Section 7, a very good idea has been put in that the share can be transferred or brought without the State Government's guarantee. This is a very good provision which instils confidence in the minds of the general public that they can buy shares. Previously it was the State Government which was giving the guarantee. Now, it is not necessary. Each SFC has to stand on its own leg and has to give an idea that it is professional, it is bound to help the small scale industries and that the large number of industries which are coming up will be benefited by that.

You may kindly see as to what type of new industries have been indicated in the Bill itself - 'Development, maintenance, and construction of roads which others might not have thought of'. The infotech, which has come up now, is providing software and hardware, and providing medical, health and other allied services. In Andhra Pradesh, Shri Naidu the C.M. has brought up a new idea that the district headquarters hospitals can be managed by private persons.

I think I am correct about it. How do the persons manage these things unless they get funds from the State Financial Corporations. This is the idea which the amending provision has kept. You must have seen floriculture here near about of Delhi or Calcutta. You must have seen lots of flowerbeds, hundreds and thousands acres of flowerbeds both for internal consumption and outside consumption. Export variety flowers are being brought up. Unless the SFC finance those kinds of things, it would not be possible for any institution to grow up.

Keeping all these things, the new areas, the new features have been kept in mind.

Those persons who are trained in the ITI, and the young boys and girls, who have taken some trade training after matriculation, are unemployed. How do they get employment? For that also, the MV servicing facilities have been kept. That is in clause 20. Service industries such as altering, ornamenting, polishing, financing, oiling, washing, etc. have been kept. So, the Government has kept in mind that in the future what type of activities could be productive, could be profitable, and people can take loans from the SFCs so as to be on their own legs.

So, what I wanted to tell, Sir, is that about financing itself, as I have said, there is no guarantee. Preferential shares are there. I have already said that preferential shares should be given to SFC employees also, Section 7 is being amended so that the SFC can issue and sell bonds and debentures for the purpose of increasing the working capital. You have given increased authorised capital. Now, you have to increase the working capital. So, if you are given Rs. 100 crore towards authorised capital you must give some money also for working capital. So, for that purpose, they can issue and sell bonds. But it had been indicated that the bonds should not go beyond 10 times the amount of paid-up of share capital. That is the restriction which is necessary. Otherwise, the Board may go haywire and create problems.

Section 10 is being amended. Regarding the Board of Directors also, many other things could have been done. More flexibility could have been introduced. Even now the State Government and the SIDBI have the power. I may say here that the practice now-a-days is that young IAS officers who do not have much of experience in the field are being inducted into the SFCs and even into the PSUs. Take the case of Indian Airlines where a 1980 batch IAS officer is the Managing Director. How does he know what is the difference between an Air Bus and a Dakota and a two seater? Just like any one officer, he would be there in the SFC. So, when you are thinking of the Board of Directors, the Government control has to be minimum. Now, appointment of the Managing Director is the domain of the State Government. In my humble view, the SIDBI should be given the power to appoint the Managing Director so that some part of professionalism can come into picture.

Section 25 is being amended, and this Section is a very important provision also. May I say something about Section 25 itself? As I had said, the areas of activity which has been indicated in Clause 2 have been elaborated in Section 25. In Section 25, planning, assistance in promotion and development of industries, providing consultancy and merchant banking services have also been included. Others might not have thought of it. We are thankful to the Finance Minister and to our Government that they have thought of all these

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

things 10 or 15 years ahead so that the SFC can loan money, can plan things and put our industries in a proper footing so that export can be organised and internal revenues can be increased.

Last but not least is Section 48 which is very important also. Each one of these clauses which are being amended are important. Section 48 indicates the manner in which work is to be done, the development bank's role and SIDBI's role.

The SIDBI had financed about Rs. 200 crore to the SFCs last year. The main aim is to put India on a sound economic fundamental, and control mechanism so that the recessions and uncertainties will go. That is the motto of the SIDBI and keeping that in view, the SIDBI would be able to go into the picture in a more vigorous manner after these amendments have been taken into account.

As I have said, the areas are increasing and capital flow will be there. A last year SIDBI had given loan, most importantly to iron and iron products about 12.59 per cent and textiles about 11.35 per cent, cement related industries 6.9 per cent — I am only giving three or four important things - and to paper and paper industries about 5.48 per cent.

I would suggest now, while thinking of amending the provisions, may I request the Finance Minister to increase the capital of SIDBI so that it can give the money to the SFCs in a more effective and better manner and the SFCs throughout the country, 19 of them — one of them is in Tamil Nadu which does not come under the purview of the SFC Act itself, as it has its own Act - all of them can prosper, and the country can prosper and the provisions that are being incorporated are quite good and have far-reaching consequences.

With these words I conclude and I support the Bill.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA) : I thank you for giving me this opportunity. This Bill has come late. We have started liberalisation in the nineties and now we are thinking of re-moulding the State Financial Corporations.

It is a good attempt. I will not go into the details. But these State Financial Corporations are on the decline. The decline is up to 22.9 per cent from 1995 to 1998. The reasons for this decline are two. One basically relates to Section 29 which I will come to later. And the other decline is that the funds that are provided by these SFCs are now becoming, as I may call it, very dear to the borrower. Due to liberalisation and the stock market boom, the borrower is downshifting to market borrowing. Even though market borrowing is costly, even then he prefers to go to that route rather than go to the SFCs. He goes to the market borrowings only because he has autonomy as far as decisions are concerned and with regard to the investments that are to be made and as far as

how to utilise those funds. When he goes to the SFC, at every moment of time he has to submit himself to the Financial Corporations and, therefore, he has to take a proper decision at that time.

I would like the Minister to look into this aspect and whether he would make the borrowers come back from the market borrowings to the State FCs. That is one issue.

The second decline relates to Section 29. It is a diagonal section wherein with one default the State Financial Corporations have been given powers where they can just confiscate the units.

They can dispose it of in any manner in which they like.

In one of the matters, in *Mahesh Chandra vs Regional Manager, UPFC*, the Supreme Court has prescribed as many as seven guidelines. I will not go into all those guidelines, but I will just go into the main guidelines, which have been given. It says :

"Every endeavour should be made to make the unit viable and put it in working condition before it is auctioned or before a decision is taken to sell the unit."

The second suggestion is : the sale of the unit should always be made by public auction. It is not done by the SFCs. The other is if the tenders are invited, then the highest bidder should be given the work. These are some of the guidelines which have been laid down by the Supreme Court. Even after they have been laid down, they are not being followed. I am saying that there is a decline of 28 per cent in the lending rate. If you want to rebuild the State Financial Corporations, then we will have to think of diluting this section and making a provision as we have made our provisions for the bigger units at BIFR wherein there is a restructuring Board. A similar process has to be made in the case of those industries, which are financed by the State Financial Corporations.

I will come to the last aspect of this issue. The hon. Minister has said that he wants to make these units competitive. Now, if you want to make these units competitive, I think, we will have to differentiate between two things. One is about the Administrator and the Manager because unless we make a distinction between an Administrator and a Manager, I do not think that we will be in a position to make these State Financial Corporations or any public sector units as viable units. So, to make these units as viable units, one of my suggestions is that as we have an IAS cadre, IFS cadre, similarly, we should have a cadre which can run these public sector units. It is because managing these public institutions relate to design and marketing of it which essentially is missing from whom we put as IAS persons. Since they do not have the knowledge of designs on marketing, we find that they get

attacked or they get involved into the bureaucratic approach. Therefore, there is a loss.

The other issue which I would like to say is that if you were to make these units as viable units, then we have to give the Boards more autonomy of functioning and fixing of the responsibility. Instead of making these financial institutions responsible to the Secretariat, my suggestion is that they are made responsible directly to the Minister and not to the Secretariat because by making them responsible to the Secretariat, their first boss becomes the Secretariat and then the Minister. Therefore, it affects the whole functioning of it. I think, if these two changes are brought about, then it will be good.

The last issue is about finances which are given by these State Financial Corporations. They are basically set up for the artisans and for some sections of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If you see the working of the State Financial Corporations, the loans that have been advanced by these Corporations to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community do not amount to even two per cent. There is no dearth of talent among this community. There is a talent in this community. What is needed is a support from the Government and to provide a support, what is known in this scheme, as even providing the necessary five per cent initial capital which is required. But under this Head how much money has been kept even for the general class? I am not saying only for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There are talents even under the general class, but they do not have the necessary finances to give to those people as loan.

15.00 hours

These financial institutions are supposed to support these candidates. And how much money have we kept for that! We have just kept Rs. 0.02 crore to uplift these candidates who have talent but who do not have the initial funds for setting up the establishment or even for the project report.

It is a noble idea that they have now taken note to make these Corporations financially viable to give them autonomy. But I would like the hon. Minister to look into these aspects also.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir the amendments brought to the State Financial Corporations (Amendment) Bill No. 123 of 2000 is a welcome step and I support this Amendment Bill. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to some aspects of the Bill.

I do not feel there is a need for substitution of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) with Small Industries Development Bank of India. IDBI also could be retained as they have the shareholding and SIDBI also could be incorporated. Both IDBI and SIDBI can be there so that there is a greater base for share capital of the State Finance Corporations.

The other point on which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is amendment to Clause 4. It says that the authorised capital of the financial corporation shall not be less than Rs. 50 lakhs - that is okay - or exceed Rs. 500 crore. It is again provided with a rider that it could be increased to Rs. 1,000 crore. My suggestion is that straightway it should be made Rs. 1,000 crore because you are going to raise it from the public. Now-a-days, anybody, an Tom, Dick and Harry can muster so much of funds and when you are going in for public equity, you can have a better say in mopping up the funds from the public because in the market as well as in the States, there is a feeling that the State Financial Corporations are really doing good work, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and in some other States. There is a feeling in the public that State Financial Corporations give soft loans and they understand the small industries in a better way. So, when they are serving the small industries, this rider could be straightway changed to Rs. 1,000 crore. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this aspect also.

My next point is that the State Financial Corporations should be cost-efficient so that they can give loans at a lower rate of interest and can also be more friendly to small industries. There is also a feeling in the public that they do not charge the aspirant fee, as is done by other major lending institutions. So, that also is a welcome sign.

15.04 hrs.

(DR. LAXINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

Then, Sir, this loan raising could be increased to Rs. five crore instead of Rs. one and a half crore so that the small industries can really be financed by the State Financial Corporations. So, this also is to be considered seriously so that they need not go to several institutions. Once the evaluation is done and the feasibility report is submitted, it should be possible to give Rs. 5 crore to small industries because, as you know, the cost of raising funds by going to various institutions will be very high.

State Financial Corporations are also helping the entrepreneurs by giving some of the equity to them. Those promoters who have the real expertise but who cannot bring their own share of capital, the Financial Corporations are giving them equity up to Rs. 4 lakh. But now-a-days, Rs. 4 lakh is nothing. So, the Promoter's equity given by the SFCs should be increased to Rs. 10 lakh.

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi]

It will really help. This is being given only when there is a feasibility.

Sir, these are some of the things that I hope the hon. Minister of Finance will take into consideration. This broad-basing of the business activity to include floriculture, tissue culture, poultry farming, commercial complexes, roads etc. is also a welcome step. You can now bring them on par with other commercial institutions except in giving the soft loans in the broad-based spectrum so that small industry could be encouraged. This is the main source of employment in India today after agriculture. Small industry alone is giving employment other than agriculture. It should be encouraged. Ultimately, any Government will think of employment generation. Small industry alone is providing employment generation in this country. It is because we have not developed commercially or industrially like other advanced countries. So, naturally, there will be troubles in the small scale sector also.

In spite of these troubles, for the past 48 years — from 1951 onwards — these SFCs have done yeomen service. They have done very good service. They are expanding. When they are helping in the matter of employment generation, they should be treated differently instead of treating like other institutions.

In the year 1998-99, unfortunately, the resource support from IDBI and SIDBI has declined from Rs. 970 crore to Rs. 939 crore. A decline means that they have not given sanctions and disbursements to the small industry. This should not happen. They should be always on an ascending situation. Then only the small industries will really develop in this country and will provide what is needed today, that is employment.

I would also suggest that concessional rate of interest is the key factor in these SFCs. In the case of State Finance Corporations it should always be kept in mind that the interest rates should always be lower by at least two to three per cent when compared to the other lending institutions. I think it is not strictly being followed. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly see that it is being followed.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. I will conclude with a couple of points more.

The other thing is that the loan recovery in SFCs is far better than in other cases because the loans that have been given could be recovered under the Revenue Recovery Act. We are not telling that it is wrong. But, there should at least be a rider that if somebody is defaulting, it could be recovered. But promotion is more important. At the same time, there should be a deterrent punishment also if they are really avoiding the payment. The payments should also be collected. This is one important thing.

The other thing is about the social aspect as mentioned by some of the hon. Members. While disbursing the loans and while giving the equity, you should consider it. Some of the social backward people may be able to bring the idea but they may not be able to bring the share capital. So, you must also fix that some of the share capital like Rs. 4 lakh that I was mentioning should be given. I requested that it should be increased from Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh. There should be a percentage increase every year and it should be given like that. Unfortunately, last year we have not given the equity disbursement to anybody. This aspect is also to be looked into. They should give it progressively and if somebody brings a new idea and if there is feasibility, we should be able to give them the equity also.

Lastly, the financial corporations are not being manned by the real experts in other sectors like banking or IDBI or SIDBI. The money is put in SIDBI and IDBI by Government. The real financial managers should be taken as Managing Directors because the Government of India is putting up the money. You need not totally leave the selection of persons to man them or non-financial executives to the State Governments.

The financial management should be very strict and it should be done by specialists in fields like recovery. That rider should also be put up in this. I am sure the hon. Minister will look into all these aspects and take suitable action. I am hoping that these issues will be taken into consideration while the Government ultimately moves the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the State Financial Corporation Bill was formulated in 1951 and after liberalization, the Government claims, the competition has increased, therefore, they need to be given more powers. On giving autonomy to the State Government, they say that the financial corporation would be given autonomy it should be. More decentralization the better it is. We are not aware of the difficulties of the State Financial Corporation's functioning in the country and which S.F.C. is doing what? Some people have motivated or this liberalization is on its own. They claim that they have endeavoured to bring about comprehensive changes in the law and to provide financial support to small scale and medium industries. First, you should provide financial support to small scale and medium industries. Every industry has to own priorities but it needs marketing as well. Some toy manufacture was stating his difficulties that the Indian market is being dumped with very cheap stuff as a result of which nobody is purchasing the toys manufactured here and the Indian toy market is on the verge of closure. Besides finances, some measure needs to be taken in this regard. They have a bank and today itself a question was raised. In reply, the amount was stated to be

Rs. 53,000 crore. However, we already knew that the N.P.A. was Rs. 58,000 crores. In fact, there is some lexicity somewhere, some lacune in the law owing to which this amount has risen to this level and no action is being taken thereon. Likewise, this is also a State Financial Corporation. They stated that there should be four directors from the Government's side. It could be observed that the Minister concerned continues to be the Chairman. When a political person does not get a place, he is accommodated there. Whether or not he has some knowledge of that he is accommodated so as to satisfy him.

Sub-clause (xix) on page 2 of this Bill states, "tissue culture, fishery, poultry farming, reproduction and egg production. Why goat rearing has not been included therein. Goat rearing will benefit a large number of poor. It has been stated in this Bill, you go through it, I am not saying it on my own. I feel, tissue has been mentioned in lieu of duck. It is alright that goat is the subject pertaining to the poor but why goat rearing has been left out. The poor rear the goats in the village. Girls look after the goats and it is the source of income for women. If a person rears 50 goats then, he can earn equal to 5000 rupees earned by a person in Delhi in one month. It does not need marketing also, his marketing is O.K. However, this Bill does not include goat rearing perhaps because this subject pertains to the poor. Buffalo-rearing is there but all other forms of rearing have been left out. Had even 'etc.' been there, it would have done the needful, people over there would have done something. All kinds of jobs can be undertaken in all States.

For instance, piggery could be carried out in a big way in seven sisters of the North East comprising of 45,000 villages. ...*(Interruptions)* I am speaking on your subject that pertains to Bodoland. Pig farming could be undertaken like small scale industries. Its breed should be improved in India. In China, a pig gives birth to as many as 18 piglets. If their breed is improved, it could benefit a large number of poor people. A poor villager could purchase pigs and the State Finance Corporation could provide financial support for this purpose. They have extended the limit from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 500 crore. This is again very good that a provision has been made to increase this limit upto Rs. 1000 crores on the recommendation of Small Industries Development Bank of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

Now I shall come to the subject of dairy. I shall proceed ahead gradually.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please do not divert to that side.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You are rightly saying. Both cow and buffalo rearing is there in dairy. If a person purchases two cows with financial support from the State Finance Corporation feeding arrangement is also made and marketing is provided from the cooperative then, it could

provide good self employment at home. The unemployment is the real problem and small scale and medium industry can play a big role in addressing this problem. The medium industry would also provide job opportunities. Unemployment is the real problem in the country. All of us face it. Several poor villagers come to me and ask me to get them a job of two three thousand salary in some factory. Several such people must also be approaching you people every month for help. Therefore, small scale and medium industries need to be developed. There goes a saying in village that capital provides opportunity for trade and plough for employment. But how will a poor villager start the small scale industry on his own. He does not have necessary resources. This is quite heartening that you are increasing the limit of State Finance Corporations. However, people face a lot of difficulties in obtaining loans and ultimately people get sick of the long drawn loan sanctioning procedure. There is large scale corruption and a certain percentage is fixed at each stage. I find no provision to make the relevant rules stringent. In any case, loan should be available without any hassels to the genuine candidates. In most cases, genuine persons do not get loans and this benefit is concerned by other unscrupulous persons. The State Finance Corporations have not been able to recover the loan amount of Rs. 58,000 crores. Shri Prakash Ambedkar was alleging that the SFC's has draconian laws. However, I feel that the stringent laws pertaining to recover loan should be maintained. Otherwise, the unscrupulous persons would manage to obtain the loan and the genuine persons would not be able to obtain loans. Therefore, such provisions should be made in the law that only genuine persons get financial support for self-employment from the SFCs and the small scale industries got the necessary capital. The money should not go in the bad debt account. A very huge sum of Rs. 58000 crores has already gone into the bad debt account of the bank. I do not have the figures. Hon'ble Finance Minister would tell as to how much money is in the bad debt account and the secured loan account separately. He should give the data of all the States. What are the difficulties which the States are facing and difficulties being faced by the State Finance Corporations in various States which need to be looked into. If the Union Government enacts the legislation and govern from here and the consumers face the difficulty then the proposed law needs to be made more comprehensive. They have brought quite a comprehensive Bill but it needs to be improved upon and made a poor-oriented. The procedure also need to be simplified. If a person wants to set up a small scale industry however the item reserved for it has not been included in it. The Hon'ble Finance Minister should include it in the Bill and bring a comprehensive Bill then we shall certainly support it. At this stage, we have some difficulties, many things have been left out. He should take care of these aspects. ...*(Interruptions)*

Today's speech has not served the purpose, we have supported the Bill to this extent. This is not an easy thing. It is

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always our endeavour to safeguard the interests of the poor. Had it incorporated the goat rearing, it would have served the purpose. Therefore it, needs to be made comprehensive. This Bill is being brought in 2000 after 1951 and now its turn will come in 2025. First, you take the necessary changes in it, then we shall support it.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I support the State Finance Corporation Amendment Bill, 2000. This Act was enacted in 1951. I welcome the Bill and would like to give certain suggestions in respect of this comprehensive Amendment Bill brought out by the Government after reviewing its implementation in various States during the 50 years of its enactment.

Hon'ble Raghuvansh Prasad Ji has raised poverty oriented issues like rearing of buffaloes, goats, pigs and issues relating to the dairy industry and has suggested to make this Act more comprehensive. I support his point, as this is a very important issue. It has been mentioned in the Bill that there would be four directors from the State. It has also been said that at several places the State's Minister himself is made the Chairman, which should be clarified. There are 25 States in our country. We hail from the State of Bihar where the Minister himself is the Chairman of the State Finance Corporation and at present he is Chairman. The Corporation is in dwindling state and it ranks first from the bottom. The condition of this Corporation in other States is also more or less same. It is shameful for us. We are from Bihar and the hon'ble Minister represents the State and has also been a senior officer there. I would like to request him that measures should be taken to check corruption in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Prakash Ambedkar has rightly said that the board should be given more autonomy so that it can function properly without any political interference while sanctioning and recovering the loans, avoiding irregularities. We have seen this in Uttar Pradesh also when we got an opportunity to visit the State with a Committee of the Department of Industry. Also, we had an opportunity of visiting various places in the country under your Chairmanship of the Committee on Government Assurances. The Finance Corporations of Uttar Pradesh and other States are also in a dwindling State. The Chairman and the members of the Board recruit more than the required number of officers and staff owing to political pressure. People are given more loans than required without any purpose and rebate is also given in its recovery due to pressures. Incompetent people are recruited against important posts thereby creating this difficult situation. My request is that such things should be checked. The hon'ble Minister should also suggest a solution to this problem while giving a reply.

The condition of Bihar State Finance Corporation should be improved by advancing money to it from the National

Renewal Fund as a special case. The purpose for which the Corporation was set up in the State has been defeated by giving the Chairmanship to the Minister himself. Hence things should be improved.

After saying all this I would like to conclude my speech and support this bill.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for bringing this detailed amendment to the States Financial Corporation Act which was enacted in the year 1951 by an Act of Parliament. It was once amended in the year 1988.

Sir, over a period of time a lot of changes, within the country and outside, have taken place especially in the context of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation.

In the context of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation, a new situation has arisen. In this context the amendments become necessary. The objective of this Bill as mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is to provide need-based financial help to small and medium industrial enterprises. At the same time, as demanded by my colleagues, rural and agro-based industries like dairy industry are also included. This is the purpose of this Bill.

The small and medium scale industries in the country are facing a serious financial trouble now. They have been suffering from the problems of marketing and availability of raw materials. They now have a new problem, the problem of steep competition, in the wake of withdrawal of restrictions on imports. In such circumstances we have to take steps to ensure that our State Finance Corporations become more effective, more competitive and more efficient. When we look at the performance of our State Finance Corporations we find that they are facing severe problems like the problem of management, problem of resource mobilisation, problem of repayment, etc. Many of the State Finance Corporations are not in a position to serve the purpose with which they have been formed.

Thousands of small and medium scale industries are being registered in the country every year. However, a large number of them are closing down too. This is another problem. People are taking loans but they are not in a position to repay them. Small and medium scale industrial sector in the largest provider of employment in the country. Big industry does not provide as much employment as the small industry and medium industry do in the country. In the export earnings also this sector plays a big role. The policies of the Government are not positive towards this sector. The small and medium scale industries are being neglected year after year as a result

of which they are losing ground for the big industry and the multinational companies. This is a very serious problem.

There is a big gap between the loans sanctioned by the State Finance Corporations and the actual disbursements. First of all, all the industries that apply for loans do not get them. Secondly, those who do get some loans sanctioned do not get the full amount. This is another problem being faced by the small and medium scale industrial sector.

There is the problem of recovery too and everybody knows about it. This is a big problem faced by the State Finance Corporations. Per capita assistance of the disbursement ranges from Rs. 20 to Rs. 320.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Hannan Mollah, we have to take up the Private Members' Resolutions at 3.30 p.m.

[Translation]

If the House agrees we can extend the time of the House so that the remaining two speakers Mohol ji and Bwisw-muthiary ji may get some time to speak and finish the discussion. The hon'ble Minister would give his reply on Monday. Let us extend the time of the House for ten minutes.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : How will it be over in ten minutes?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will sit after six and finish it. This bill may be passed if the House agrees.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI) : Mr. Chairman, you may allow some more participants also in this Bill, when it is taken up after 6 o'clock....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees, we may take up the Private Members' Business after passing of this Bill.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : No, Sir, (Interruptions).

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : No one should encroach after 15.30 hrs. we will sit after six and if you agree take up the bill.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House agrees that we will sit after 6 o'clock and get this Bill passed.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Nobody will stay after 6 o'clock. Let it be done on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : One of the two things should be agreed.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : If it is possible in ten-fifteen minutes, let it be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has happened number of times in respect of private members resolutions also that whenever there has been paucity of time the time has been extended further.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : Sir, kindly take up the Private Members Bills.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I take it that this Bill will be taken up on Monday.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Right hon'ble Minister of Finance wants it on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will do it on Monday.

[English]

Shall we take it up after 6 o'clock and pass it?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : No, Sir. Let it be taken up on Monday.(Interruptions)... So, we assume that it will be taken up on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, now, we shall take up the Private Member's Business.

15.32 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : PARTICIPATION OF GRAM SABHA
IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME - CONTD.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, article 243 of the Constitution of India defines Gram Sabha that all the persons whose name appear in the voters list shall be the Members of Gram Sabha. Thereafter further Article 343 defines the powers of the Gram Sabha and now it is being stated that the State should frame laws so as to empower Gram Sabha. All the great men of the country like Mahatma Gandhi, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Late Karpuri Thakur, Swami Vivekanand have said that the road to progress of the country passes via city. Villages cannot prosper till they are empowered and till that time even the country cannot prosper. Everybody has said this and even late Shri Rajiv Gandhi got an inquiry conducted and found out that funds are flown via Delhi and by the time rupee reaches villages it is left

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only 10-12 paise. The root cause of the whole problem is that Gram Sabhas are being ignored and there is no decentralisation of power. Gram Sabha has not been given any power thus Gram Sabhas should be fully empowered. A conference of Chief Ministers was held in 1997. At that time Shri Deve Gowda was the Prime Minister. At that time also all the Chief Ministers had decided with consensus that Gram Sabhas should be given adequate powers. A number of things have been said about Gram Sabhas:

[English]

Leave selection of beneficiaries to the Gram Sabha.

[Translation]

Who will select the beneficiaries of all the schemes being implemented in the villages?

At the moment the situation is bit different. Recommendations from the MLA or MP for Indira Awas Yojana have no value. People can get the benefits under the Indira Awas Yojana by paying a bribe of Rs. one thousand to three thousand. The people who are really poor do not get anything. The people who have pucca houses already and do not require any further construction have their verandahs constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana. All these irregularities can be noticed. In my opinion the Government does not have any report regarding this and in newspapers too the situation is not different. It reminds me of a couplet of Kabir - "Tu Kahta Kaga Ki Lekhi, Mein Kahta Ankhan Ki Dekhi." When we go to villages the poor man tell all these things. Recently a rural woman complained of not having the Red Card which is issued to the people living below poverty line. Through this card 20 kg. of grains can be obtained at half the price. Name of that woman does not appear among the people living below the poverty line. One comes to know about everything after visiting villages.

Contractors are working as middlemen in Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. They get approvals from MLAs, MPs and get sanction from BDO who has the authority. This is the way things are working. I mean to say that Gram Sabha is not aware of the share to be given to the villages under this scheme. It seems that contractor oriented schemes are being run in village. As far as the question of Government expenditure for this scheme is concerned. I want to draw your kind attention towards this. Rs. 7859 crore were spent during the year 1998-99, this amount was reduced in 1999-2000 when BJP came to power. We say it time and again that this Government is anti-village, anti-poor. If I mention this people from that side get angry and they accuse us that we use hard language. Why should we use soft language. You are reducing the expenditure for villages. Hon'ble Finance Minister Jaswant

Singhji has left the house. His Bill is not being discussed so he has left the House. He should have been in the House as we are discussing about villages. Therefore, I mention that the amount has been reduced to Rs. 6760 crore during the year 2000-01. Previously it was reduced to Rs. 7800 crore and then Rs. 1000 crore more was reduced and only Rs. 6760 crore was left. You had been giving a subsidy of Rs. 8000 crore for PDS and claiming that this subsidy is going to the poor. 35 crore people are living below the poverty line and the subsidy being given to them is not being tolerated by you. On the other hand loans given to rich persons worth Rs. 58 thousand crore is not being recovered and Income Tax to the tune of Rs. 52 thousand crore has not been collected. You are not bothered but Rs. 8000 crore which is being given as subsidy is not being tolerated by you. This is the height of discrimination and atrocities being committed on the poor people. You will not find such a thing anywhere else. The number of people living below the poverty line must be above 35 crore. The Lakrawala committee has been set up in this regard. It for this committee to see as to who is to be treated above or below the poverty line. We regard a man to be poor who does not have food to eat, cloths to put on wearing only a lungi living in the villages having no house of his own to live in, having a hut only being shared by his children and goat. There is no arrangement for their medical and educational facilities as it they don't require and education. We consider such people as the one living below the poverty line. The Government and its economists consider the income of Rs. 12000 per annum of a person as the basis though he has no house or land. Somehow or the other he has built a hut from his hard earnings and you regard that some income is being earned by him.

Similarly, the Government have given Rs. 1600 crore this year for the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana whereas last year Rs. 2095 crore was given. Infact the Government have changed the name of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and now it is called Jawahar Gram Samridhhi Yojana that means 'Rojgar' has been replaced by 'Samridhhi' but the money has been reduced.

Therefore what has been decided during the conference of Chief Ministers in regard to 'Gram Sabha.'

[English]

"..leave the selection of beneficiaries to Gram Sabha."

[Translation]

It means 'Gram Sabha' should be given the power to select beneficiaries. They should be given the power.

[English]

"Gram Panchayats President is to be accountable solely to the Gram Sabha."

[Translation]

This has also been said :-

[English]

"In order to ensure that the Panchayati Raj Institutions function as instruments of local Governments, it is important that their functional and financial autonomy is guaranteed; and transparency and their functioning is ensured. This has to be accomplished in most of the States. The role of the Gram Sabha perhaps is most important in ensuring the success of the Panchayati Raj Institutions at the village level."

[Translation]

It was said that the main role of the Gram Sabha is to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system and to conduct its functioning. Again it was said -

[English]

"The role of local people in conducting social audit and fixing responsibility on the Panchayat functionaries will be effectively ensured with the Gram Sabha becoming active. It is essential that the village community perceives meetings of the Gram Sabha as useful. The most important factor for them is the empowerment of the Gram Sabha."

[Translation]

The Union Government should tell as to whether the Gram Sabhas have been given all the authority and powers as decided in the meeting of Chief Ministers headed by the Prime Minister, it was decided during the meeting that all the powers would be given to the Gram Sabhas to decide all the beneficiaries not only this but it was also said that Gram Sabha would be like the assembly of that State. Assembly could be dissolved, Lok Sabha could also be dissolved but the Gram Sabha would never be dissolved.

The concept of Gram Sabha is enshrined in the Article 343 of the Indian Constitution by having 73rd amendment to the Constitution so it has been mentioned in the Constitution of India as to what duties have been entrusted to the Gram Sabha and what powers have been given to it by the State Government. All this has been discussed in the meeting of Chief Ministers. Which State Governments have followed it and which have not this must be told by you to us. Chief

Ministers conference was held regarding Gram Sabha on 17th March, 1999. It was stated there that -

[English]

The relationship between the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat may be the same as between the legislature and the Government.

[Translation]

As there is legislature and Government at the State level and Parliament and cabinet at the centre in the same way there is Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat at the village level. That means the place Parliament has got at the national level, assembly at the State level the Gram Sabha has got the same place at the village level. There is Panchayati Raj System. Therefore this was decided unanimously in the conference of Chief Ministers.

[English]

"The Panchayat should be accountable to the Gram Sabha. In unequivocal terms, the members of the Panchayat should hold office only so long as they enjoy the confidence of the Gram Sabha."

[Translation]

It means Gram Sabha has been given full powers and authority.

[English]

"The Gram Sabha should have full powers."

[Translation]

It has got full rights.

[English]

"...for determining the priorities for various programmes in the village and approval of Budget."

[Translation]

The Gram Sabhas have the power to decide as to what programmes are to be chalked out and what activities to be conducted. Approval and sanction will also be given by the Gram Sabha. Apart from Panchayat the Mukhiya is playing his role and we do not even have a Mukhiya in our area and in his absence the BDO is all in all. Everybody knows how works are being done there.

[English]

"Gram Sabha should be made mandatory. Prior approval of the Gram Sabha should be made mandatory."

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[Translation]

It should be made mandatory that no work should be undertaken without the approval of the Gram Sabha.

[English]

"For taking up any programme in the village, certification of expenditure and also propriety in financial dealings should be made mandatory and the *Gram Sabha* is responsible for that."

[Translation]

All these powers have been given to Gram Sabha and the Gram Sabha would also take care of the expenditure involved.

[English]

"*Gram Sabha* should be vested with full authority. Participation of Women, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe members in the *Gram Sabha* should be made mandatory with suitable provisions for their presence in the quorum of the *Gram Sabha* meeting."

[Translation]

It has been mentioned that as long as there are no representatives of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, women and weaker sections no Gram Sabha would be regarded as complete. Therefore I would like to ask as to what the position of various decisions taken in the conference of Chief Ministers.

I would like to ask the Government whether the year 2000 will be year of the Gram Sabha as was decided or it will be on the papers only or it was simply to emphasis over the importance of the gram sabhas. Hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Ministers know about it. But no publicity is done anywhere for it. The Government have Doordarshan. and All India Radio at its disposal but they keep on showing useless things through advertisements on Doordarshan. Not a single programme on gram sabha is being telecast. This is my allegation against the Government. If the year 2000 is a Gram Sabha year than the Prime Minister, the Ministers and the Chief Ministers should have visited Gram Sabhas so that people of this country could have been made aware that this year is a Gram Sabhah year. They should have told to the people about its significance and powers. But useless advertisements, obscene things are being shown on T.V. Nothing is shown about the real power of India that resides in six lakh villages i.e. six lakh Gram Sabhas which constitutes 80 per cent population of the country. I want to ask whether there is any publicity made about the gram sabhas. Crores of rupees are spent on corrupt deals and advertisements. If something is done for the right cause we are here to welcome

that. Foundation stones should be laid for some good cause but what we see that foundation stones are being laid only to please the public and after that it is said that there is no money to complete this. Therefore I urge upon the Government that it should stop publicity of fake deals and work for the real cause and work for strengthening the Gram Sabhas. What is happening today is that MLAs of all the party get united so that they could be popular. If funds are provided by the Government of India the M.P. is also of the Government of India. If any officer has taken bribe in any scheme, the Indira Awas or any other scheme, it will bring a bad name to you also. So, that situation should be avoided and the power of Gram Sabha has to be increased and this is your responsibility. Earlier, the election of MPs and MLAs used to be held at one time but now it is held at different times. Due to this reason people are approaching MPs for getting their petty works done.

They write to us and tell us that roads have not been constructed, nullahs and houses have not been constructed. All such types of work has to be got done by a M.P. All members are facing similar difficulties and we all have to suffer. If a Gram Sabha is given more powers, all such types of work could be done by them.

A Gram Sabha has full powers under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. Each Panchayat gets its share in proportion to its population. At times there are 10-15 villages. What I want to say that they should get their share in proportion to their population. Influential villages get more funds but the weaker villages do not get their share. Nobody is taking care of them. I request that a circular should be issued from the centre wherein it should be mentioned that this much is their share. Hon. Members should also be informed about it. Each village should get its share in proportionate to its population. It was decided that meeting of a Gram Sabha should be held on 26 January, 1 May, 15 August and 2 October. The Hon. Minister should clarify the position about it. Whether the meetings on the above dates were held in any village? It remains only on paper and no ground work is done for the purpose. Actually this was not publicised and no information was given in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your resolve is very good. You have taken half an hour's time, and other members also want to support your views.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am talking about 80 crore people. A circular should be issued about the Employment Assurance Scheme. A Gram Sabha has to see how work is carried out there. Work is being awarded on contract basis. Funds are being diverted. Mediators are usurping money. Gross irregularities are being committed under the Employment Assurance Scheme, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana and Indira Awas Yojana. Correct information is not given to Gram Sabha. You had told that Rs. fourteen

thousand and five hundred are to be given to a poorman for the Indra Awas Yojana. Correct information is not given to Gram Sabha. You had told that Rs. fourteen thousand and five hundred are to be given to a poorman for the Indra Awas. But he has to give two thousand as bribe to receive the said amount. Thus he is left with Rs. 12 thousand only. Does this amount is enough for constructing a house? I want to know about the number of houses which are incomplete under the above scheme. The houses which are yet roofless causing damage to the houses. There is bungling in the selection process. Clear-cut instructions should be issued in this connection and all the hon. Members should also have information about that. There should be transparency in order to remove corruption. When all the concerned people will know about everything, there will be lesser chances of bungs. Gross irregularities have been committed in the selection process under the Indra Awas Yojana. Influential people have no difficulty in getting things done but it is very difficult for a poor person to get things done. Virtually, no work is undertaken under the Employment Assurance Scheme. A substandard bricks are used in place of quality bricks. If three feet soil is to be filled anywhere only one and half soil is filled. Only looting of public money is taking place under the said scheme. But if the Gram Sabha comes forward in this case, it would become earlier. If there will be transparency, proper maintaining of accounts then there will be no bungling. The rural people should know about the scheme which needs to be formulated first and which needs to be formulated later. In this way, proper schemes will be formulated. And if the contractors wish, the work will be done. If we recommend something to be done, it will be not done. "If you stick to something, then only you can achieve something. Thus the only panacea lies with the Gram Sabha."

A Red Card Scheme has been launched for villages. Two types of difficulties crop up there. The name of the poor person of village is not there in the red card. Why is it not there? It was supposed that the name should be first registered in the IRDP. Since a poor person does not want to take loan, so his name is not there. On the basis of that more people were included in it. They say that there are six crore people living below the poverty line but actually there are 8 crore people living below the poverty line, this means that two crore people have been left out from the purview of the poverty line whose names could not be registered. Suppose in a village 50 or 100 or 150 people are left out and as a result of which they could not get the red card issued to those living below the poverty line. If they have got the card they belong to well off section of society. People whose names are there, they do not get foodgrains for months together. The Government is spending Rs. 8 crore on subsidy, even then the poor do not get foodgrains. They get foodgrains sometimes once or twice in a year when they raise a hue and cry. The Rotten foodgrains are given to people. The Gram Sabha should see to it who

should get red card. Then they should see if the quota of foodgrains arrived or not. The officer should conduct the meeting of the Gram Sabha. Therefore, it is my request that the Gram Sabha should be given more powers and circular should be issued in this connection. A proper auditing of expenses should be done, which of the officer came, how much expenditure was incurred and if work has been done properly or not. And when the Gram Sabha endorses the work, then sanction should be accorded. The Gram Sabha should be given powers to decide about all the schemes and special programmes relating to poverty alleviation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Now I will speak on Bihar. Panchayat elections have not been held there. If Panchayat elections are held, the mukhiya of the village or sarpanch or members look after the work. Panchayat elections have been held in many States of the country but bungling has also taken place there. Panchayat elections were held in Bihar in 1978 during the regime of late Karpuri Thakur and since then these have not been held. The Congress party was in power there for ten years let somebody ask them why panchayat elections were not held there. Today, people are making statements that Panchayat elections should be held. The 73rd amendment was made in the Indian constitution under the Article 243 and it was provided thereby that there will be reservation for all major posts like Mukhiya, Sarpanch, Block Pramukh and Zila Pramukh. A provision of one third reservation for women, scheduled castes, STs and backward classes has been made and if the State Government wishes it could provide reservation to backward class by enacting a law in the State. The Laloo Yadav Government enacted a law in Bihar thereby providing reservation for tribes, harijan, scheduled caste, backward classes and women. The said law was challenged in the High court. The High court gave ruling that the post of Mukhiya is a single post, therefore, there should be no reservation for this post. The post of Mukhiya, Block Pramukh and Zila Pramukh are single post and therefore there should be no reservation for those posts. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the ruling of the High court went against the provision made in the constitution. A crisis cropped up before the State Government. If it acts according to the Constitution, it violates the order of the High Court and if it acts according to the order of the High Court, it violates the Constitution. If it conducts election as per the High court's ruling, people will call it anti-harijan government, anti-reservation and anti-women. This means that non-compliance of the order of the High Court will invite unnecessary trouble. This crisis could be solved there by the Supreme Court and accordingly a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court. The Solicitor General of the Government of India is a party in this case and he presented himself in the

16.00 hrs.

court. But the matter is still subjudice and till then the Supreme Court has stayed the order of the High Court. No ruling has been given by the Supreme Court. So, no way out is left. And it is due to this very reason, Panchayat elections

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have not been held in Bihar. The tenth Finance Commission had proposed Rs. 6.25 crore for the Panchayat Raj but the Panchayat elections have not been held in Bihar, therefore the said amount could not be released and the poor State like Bihar could not get the said amount in the last five years. Panchayat elections cannot be held in the scheduled tribes Area as no law exist in this regard. At least the amount provided by the Tenth Finance Commission should be released as the gram sabhas still exists there. They are not dissolved nor elections are to be held for them. And the said amount would have been spent in their supervision. Thus the buck of not holding the Panchayat elections was passed on to the Bihar government as a result of which the amount provided by the Finance Commission could not be released to Bihar having a population of ten crore.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rural development departments has to carry out a work allotted to them. The hon. Minister should tell us about it when he replies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am just concluding. If you see in the context of Bihar, all powers of the Panchayat have been transferred to the B.D.Os. Now the B.D.O. has to perform all the functions instead of Panchayat. In such situation, the Gram Sabha will have no powers and the B.D.O. has become all powerful there. He has rather become a main functionary and he can indulge in manipulation. MLAs and MPs cannot do anything. Today every scheme is being misused whether it is the Employment Assurance Scheme, the Indira Awas Yojana, the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and the Red Card Scheme. Rather everything is going wrong with these schemes. Similarly all is wrong with the Swarn Jayanti Rojgar Yojana. Since there is no panchayat, the B.D.O is the main functionary, he is all in all in a sense. The Gram Sabha has no powers or does not have any information or does not have much information as it should have and that too is not very clear. The Union Government has not given any publicity to it. The Chief Minister's decision has not been implemented. Rs. 6,700 crore and Rs. 8 thousand crore which works out around Rs. 15 thousand crore of the poor country is being provided for villages but in reality this money is not reaching those who are deprived, exploited and scared. In other terms this money is not reaching the Hindustan, the real India which lives in villages. A panacea for all diseases lies in Gram Sabha. The remedy for all these evils lie in the Gram Sabha. Therefore, the Gram Sabha should be strengthened. So that the real Mukhiya of the village could monitor the spending of the funds provided to the Gram Sabha for development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have made the Gram Sabha as a main functionary under the MPLADS and that has yielded good results. Now the village people are saying that good

quality of bricks are being used in the construction work. Work on contract basis is not there now and there is no bungling as well so on and so forth. Therefore the objective of this resolution is to make the Gram Sabha powerful. Therefore when the hon. Minister gives a reply to it, whatever I have said, if all that is implemented in the Gram Sabhas, the country will march forward towards progress and strength, the villages will become powerful in the real sense and thus the dreams of Gandhi ji and Lohia ji will come true.

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHERIA) : The Gram Sabha and Gram Samiti in Gujarat are doing excellent job.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Its a matter of pleasure if something good is being done in any state or any district. And the same thing we want to happen everywhere.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate Raghuvansh Babu since he has raised a very pertinent question about the problems of the people of villages. Everybody wants empowerment of the villages. And this desire had also been expressed by our leaders, particularly Gandhi ji had stressed over this. If villages become powerful, it will lead to their prosperity and ultimately it will lead to the country's prosperity. There are more than five lakh villages in our country and this is their desire too that villages should get powers. The Union Government provide funds to the States, formulates guidelines and the development work takes place under the supervision of the State Governments.

The State Governments also formulate guidelines on their own. Both strive for the development of villages as laid down in law in this regard. The Gram Panchayats are doing excellent job in many parts of the country. Just now one of our colleagues was giving the example of Gujarat. I have least doubt about it that if the people of any area are really interested in development and they have got will power, development will certainly take place there. What Raghuvansh Babu has said just now, there cannot be two opinions about it that he is 50 per cent right in his views. And in the remaining he has got his own compulsions not to speak the truth....(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We wrote to the Bihar Government if proper inquiry was conducted not even a single B.D.O. or Collector would be spared. If there had been no Gram Sabha, it would not have been implemented. We wrote letters and got them published in newspapers also. But you people live in Delhi, how can you read news papers of Bihar?....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He has his own compulsions is not speaking the truth. If I speak more about that, he will make hue and cry. Therefore I will not speak more

because I am afraid.....(Interruptions) He kept on speaking and we kept on listening and he did not let us speak, what to do. It is his compulsion if he speaks the truth, he will be blacklisted. He speaks the truth when he is alone. When we sit together in the central Hall we see that he has anguish in his heart for the poor of the villages. This we feel. The debate which was just going on, particularly the question he raised in the last of elections to panchayats, on the one hand he says that villages should get powers and Gram Sabhas should get powers, the Government is yours in Bihar. It is all right that the congress did not hold panchayat elections in the last ten years. You are also ruling in Bihar for the last 11 years, why are elections not held there in 11 years?

You have said that if the guidelines laid down in the Constitution are not complied with, then it would amount to contempt of the High Court and if orders of the High Court are not complied with, then it would be contempt of the Constitution. As many as 17,000 orders and directives of the High Court are pending with Bihar Government on which no action has been taken till now. You have not complied with the orders of the High Court and here you are recollecting High Court orders and contempt thereof. High could have issued orders to you that reservation cannot be made applicable when there is a single post. Then you went to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court had nowhere issued orders that elections should not be held till they give their decision but you are not in favour of going for elections. The matter is still under consideration of the Legislative Assembly and is pending in the High Court. The Bihar Government has also made a statement twice that they are going to conduct the elections in February. We have been listening such statements of the Bihar Government ever since I was a member of the Legislative Assembly. They have been saying right from that time that they are going to conduct elections in November and then again changing their statement that they are going to conduct the elections in January and now we have read the fourth statement of the State Government in the newspapers. Raghuvanshi might be knowing whether there is any truth, any fact in the statement appearing in the newspapers. If you have got some agony in your heart towards the villages especially with reference to Bihar and you want the villages to be strengthened then we would request Raghuvanshi that he should request the State Government that first of all they should conduct Panchayat elections. Until Panchayat elections are conducted in Bihar, our talks about strengthening the villages are meaningless. The money goes from the centre. There are also instructions that how this money is to be spent. You have said certain right things. Actually speaking earlier there was Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, now its name has been changed. It is beyond words how money is being spent in Bihar. It is beyond comprehension.

Whatever money was released by the centre, BDO is incharge thereof because Gram Panchayats have not been

elected there. Every panchayat has got two-three agents of BDO. Agreement is prepared in the name of the poor people of the villages through these agents. Agreements are signed by the people belonging to weaker sections of the society. The middleman of the Panchayat takes money and gets the work done. Whenever there is any problem, then the poor man of the village cries, weeps but there is none to listen to him. The hungry man helplessly thinks that he would be able to get something out of that and therefore he puts his signature, thumb impression. He is illiterate and as such he affixes his thumb impression.

I would like to relate an incident. An inquiry was conducted in Garkha block of Chhapra district. The inquiry was conducted by the Collector in regard to Indira Awas Yojana. The people of the village had complained that the people deserving a house under Indira Awas Yojana are not getting that benefit and rather affluent people are getting the houses. It was brought out that MLA of that area, I do not know whether he is Minister, at present but earlier he was a minister, had constructed a courtyard out of that public money. Apart from it his bodyguard has got four brothers and all of them got one house each. The Collector had ordered to lodge FIR against them. The same was done but the minister and the BDO were spared. We asked the Collector on telephone as to why FIR has not been lodged against the Minister and the BDO. Thereupon he replied that FIR could not be lodged against BDO without orders from the State Government. He further said that he had written for permission from the State Government. The laws have been enacted by the Union Government for this purpose that you should distribute the money amongst four persons after making them your agents and you get all this work done through middlemen. It is the responsibility of the State Government to comply with the laws. Now it is upto the officers of the State Government as to how they manage the things and the Union Government should see that their officers do not indulge in corrupt practices and they should ensure that the money given for the villages is spent on the village development. Review of such works is never done in Bihar. Bihar Government consider review as a crime. They would not review any scheme. The guidelines in regard to assured employment for which money is released to the villages for their development, are also laid down by the Union Government. The Union Government have also laid down such rules that the persons benefited from this would do all the work. The names of the beneficiaries are shown on record but no work is visible. Any work anywhere in Bihar, which is to be done through money, that is all lying incomplete, it has not been completed at any place.

You will be surprised to know that the officers in Bihar do not hesitate to take percentage money even out of MPLADS funds. They take 25 per cent money in regard to take the works and jobs done on the recommendations of Members of

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

Parliament. If that is the situation then you can imagine what would be the position in regard to the funds under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana? Cent per cent money under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana goes to the pockets of B.D.O. and the middlemen. Now a days officers do so, earlier it was done by the Mukhiyas. Mukhiyas were there since the time the money under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana was being released by the center. They are keeping their agent each and every village. Earlier, the money was usurped by five-six people jointly but now the share of the Mukhiya is no more there. The entire money is usurped by the BDO and his middlemen jointly. Money is never utilized on works in Bihar. We have got this apprehension that money is not released by the Union Government. The Union Government is doing so because Panchayat Elections have not been held there. But if the money is released, where will that money be spent, under which scheme it will be spent and who will use it. These are the points which we must ponder over. The people, Members of Parliament and the Government of Bihar should think over it also how the funds released by the Union Government would be utilized. Nobody thinks over it. There is no use in levelling charges against the union government that the money is not released because Panchayat elections have not been held. But give us an account of whatever amount has been released by the center. Had that money been utilized judiciously, then the graduates of Bihar would not have moved out of Bihar to Delhi, Assam, Gujarat etc, and worked for a paltry remuneration of Rupees 1000, 1500 or 2000 a month.

But now we see Bihar in a dire straits. Whatever amount of money is released to Bihar, that is looted there. Therefore we would request the Union Government to have their full control on the money released to Bihar. We often talk of providing more autonomy to States. Nobody oppose this idea. But the autonomy to States should not be provided to such an extent that the State Governments may become unrestrained. The controlling powers should vest in the Union Government. If you do not keep the controlling powers with you then the situation may go out of hands. Today you have not provided full autonomy to the States. Even then what we see is that sometimes the Chief Minister of Bengal and some other time the Chief Minister of Bihar are going abroad and saying that they are going to attract the foreign capitalists to make their States prosperous. The people of the villages say that they do not go to invite anyone. ...*Such are the feelings of the villagers, it is their worry that ...*

If these people have to be kept under control, then you will have to enact strong laws so that they may not become unrestrained. Otherwise they have made it into a Pasture and whatever money is released by the centre all that is being pocketed.

Raghuvanshji had raised the issue of red card. He is right in his statement. I do not talk of the entire country but I

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

know the position in my State. The people who deserve to get the red card have not got it. Whenever we go to our constituency we find the poor man along with his wife standing before us and saying, "Netaji, we have not got the red card." They weep and cry. Only the God knows whether the red card is issued or not despite our recommendations on the application.

Commodities are not distributed to them under the public distribution system. I do not know whether the so called champions of the poor and downtrodden who are in power in Bihar ever think about the poor of the State. The commodities meant for the poor are not distributed to them through the Public Distribution System. The fair price shop dealers there in connivance with the marketing officers are swindling the commodities meant for distribution through the fair price shops and selling them elsewhere. The villagers are helpless. They do not get the commodities meant for them. The procedure of investigation is tedious. If somebody lodges a complaint against this the investigation is conducted by the people who are involved in the connivance. I do not know what sort of investigation is this. In this way the people who are involved in high-handedness get double benefit as they have already been taken their share in swindling of commodities earlier and later on they take their share in conducting the investigation. This is the plight of the poor in Bihar.

The hon'ble Minister is sitting here. We will have to understand the situation prevailing in Bihar. Even today the roads in rural areas of Bihar are in very bad condition, there are no pucca buildings for schools and there are no health care facilities. Bihar is criticised a lot at places like Delhi and Gujarat. The local people of these areas say that the people of Bihar are penniless and come to these places in search of livelihood. The centre has meted out injustice to Bihar from the very beginning, it is not a new phenomenon and I think even today justice is not being done to Bihar. Recently, division of Bihar has taken place but a clear announcement of a package has not been made. I think it is injustice to rest of Bihar. Unless a package is announced for rest of Bihar people like me will deem it injustice to rest of Bihar. I would like to say that the Union Government should cooperate in shaping the rest of Bihar. The people of Bihar are poor from every point of view and the Union Government are responsible for this sorry state of affairs in Bihar. The Union Government have set up the Jawahar Lal Nehru University in Delhi. Had this university been set up in Patna, nobody from Bihar would have come to Delhi for higher studies. You have not set up university like J.N.U. in Patna and Bihar rather such universities have been set up in other States. You have set up industries in cities like Delhi and states like Gujarat and Maharashtra and it is obvious that the people from Bihar will certainly go to these cities and states in search of employment. So, the Union Government have meted injustice to Bihar from the very beginning. Today,

the Union Government should adopt a sympathetic attitude towards Bihar and it should try to understand the plight of the people living in villages of Bihar so that more and more facilities could be provided there.

I would also urge upon the Union Government to monitor the utilisation of the funds provided by it to the states otherwise, you will never come to know as to where this money has gone. No single person can be pinpointed for usurping the Government funds. There is a chain from top to bottom which is involved in it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : There is the Gramsabha for this purpose.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Entire funds are pocketed by that chain. He is referring to the Gramsabha repeatedly. In this connection, I would like to say that most of the people are illiterate in Bihar. As the law and order situation in Bihar is not good so the people in villages who want to raise the legitimate points don't muster enough courage to do that because of the fear of antisocial elements. If anybody dares to pin point these things he is subjected to lots of harassment and is often murdered. So in Bihar, nobody whether he is rich, poor or influential dares to raise his voice against all these things. The Union Government provides funds to Bihar. Therefore, they should also monitor the utilisation of these funds.

With these few words I conclude my speech. I have to take the train. I have lot of points to make but due to paucity of time I could not make them as only twenty minutes are left in departure of the train which I have to catch. I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. Thank you very much.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is there in the rules that no member can leave the House immediately after making his speech.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I whole heartedly support the resolution introduced by the hon'ble Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. If we really want to make the poverty alleviation programmes meaningful we will have to strengthen Gramsabha, the smallest unit of the Gram Panchayat. We will not succeed in achieving our objectives till the poverty alleviation programmes are discussed there. Without co-operation of the Gramsabha we cannot achieve the desired success in respect of the poverty alleviation programmes. In your resolution you have said :

[English]

"This House urges upon the Government to ensure the participation of Gram Sabha in identifying beneficiaries under Central Government's various rural poverty alleviation programmes such as Public Distribution System and others."

[Translation]

You have made a special mention of the Public Distribution System and have referred to 'others' for various other programmes be it Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, or Gramodaya Yojana, Swarn Jayanti Swarajgar Yojana or other land reforms programmes. The people living below the poverty line get their monthly ration through the Public Distribution System but if the selection of the people for below the poverty line category is not done properly they will have to sleep empty stomach and will have to return empty handed from the fair price shops and Ration Cards will also not be issued to them. Therefore, participation of the Gram Sabha in selection of the beneficiaries under the centrally sponsored poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas should be ensured. This is the content of your resolution and I think your resolution is very important.

India is the country of villages and there are more than six lakh villages all over the country. Most of our population live in villages Mahatma Gandhi had said that our country can progress only when our villages are prosperous and neglect of villages will amount to neglect of the country. A poet had aptly said that India lives in its villages. Therefore, apt attention should be given towards the development of villages of the country.

The Panchayat System is not new to our country. In ancient times also, a group of five persons was treated as equal to God in the country and they were supposed to do justice. They also were selected by the Gram Sabha. There have been many ups and downs in the Panchayat System since Independence. The Gram Panchayats were given prominence even in the process of democratic decentralization. But they were not given constitutional powers for the development programmes relating to the villages such as Land Reforms programme. The constitutional powers were given to the Gram Panchayats in real terms only by making 73rd amendment in the Constitution. However, it is unfortunate that the Panchayat elections were not held and Panchayat were not elected in the second largest State from the population point of view in the country. The reasons stated by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh in this regard might have some weightage. Although, we are conscious about the Gram Swaraj and village development even then if Gram Panchayat elections are not held despite the statutory powers conferred by the Constitution, I consider it unfortunate for the rural masses of that area. I would like to request the people who are in the Government in the concerned State to implement constitutional provisions as early as possible and not to blame the Central Government in this regard. The Central Government are ready to provide funds liberally for the development of villages in the whole country. Many States have been given funds in advance under the Gram Swarozgar Yojana and Gramodaya Yojana launched by the Prime Minister. But I do not understand if there are no Panchayats, about which

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panchayats we are talking. The Gram Sabha should be strengthened in the States where panchayats are in existence and where panchayats are not in existence, elections should be held there. Thereafter, the Gram Sabha will convene a meeting of Gram Panchayats.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to submit with great sorrow that though there is a provision under article 243 of the Constitution and 73rd Constitution amendment has been implemented the elections for three-tier system, i.e. Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads have been held but excepting a few States nothing in the name of powers has been given to them in the States. It is stated that some powers were given to Zila Parishads, Panchayats and Panchayats Samities but factual position is different. After their election to the Panchayat Samities, the members have nothing to do except to elect 'Pradhan' and to take part in the meeting of Panchayat Samities. Similarly, members are elected to the Zila Parishad and the Zila Pramukh is elected as Chairman but the powers rest with the Collector. The BDO has become more powerful in Panchayat Samiti System. The Secretary or Gram Sewak in the Gram Sabha is in collusion with the Sarpanch enabling him to manipulate the records. I myself have witnessed it. When we visited some Gram Sabhas, naturally there was a good presence but what happened is that the Sarpanch asked his supporters in the ward Panchayat to come with two or four persons. They all gathered there and told that they are to open a school. They renamed the school as Rajiv Gandhi School. Crores of rupees were given by the Government of India under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee under 'Education for all campaign' launched to eradicate illiteracy and to achieve the target of cent percent literacy in Rajasthan. But we went there and saw that the schools has been renamed as Rajiv Gandhi School whereas the Golden Jubilee of Rajasthan State was being celebrated. Through there is a Government of a particular party in the State and Shri Rajiv Gandhi was former Prime Minister, yet it is not appropriate to name the school as Rajiv Gandhi School. It would have been better had it been named as Sawaran Jayanti School. These are Sawaran Jayanti Schools. The Gram Sabha has been empowered to appoint teacher irrespective of the fact whether the appointee is a matriculate or not. Opportunity was not given to those living in rural areas who have qualified the STC and B.Ed. examination and are unemployed for several years. Instead, the opportunity was given to those who were relatives of Sarpanch and belonged to his party. The people living below poverty line were identified in 1993. But when I asked the Government about the figures in this regard, I was told that survey was being conducted and thereafter the number of poors would be intimated. The people who were in the Government at that time declared their own persons as poor irrespective of the fact whether they were poor or not and the persons who were really poor, have been deprived of finding a place in the list of those living below poverty line. They do not get employment and are

ignored. I recall a proverb "Mithi-Mithi Hawa Aur Kadavi-Kadavi Thu".

Ideally speaking the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats are very good but when we look at them practically, I recall a couplet by Kabir;

"Kathni Thothi Jagat Mein, Karani Uttam Saar,

Kahe Kabir Kanni Sabal, Utre Bhavjal Paar."

The people from village to city should be developed properly. If the spirit of patriotism, firmness, good conduct, credibility and dedication towards the nation had been included among the entire citizens of the country after independence, the dream of development of my country would have been realized. The service to the village would have been recognised as service to the nation. I would like to recite these often repeated lines :

"Jaisa Hoga Sang, Vaisa Chadega Rang,
Jaisa Khaoge Ann, Vaisa Hoga Mann,
Jaisa Peogey Pani, Vaisi Hogi Vani,
Jaisi Hogi Dristi, Vaisi Hogi Saristi,
Jaisi Hogi Siksha, Vaisi Milegi Deeksha,
Jaisi Karani, Vaisi Paar Utarani,
Jaisa Hoga Vichar, Vaisa Banega Aachaar,
Jaisi Hogi Mati, Vaisi Hogi Jeewan Ki Gati,
Jaisi Jeewan Ki Neeti, Vaisi Jeewan Ki Riti,
Jaisi Shresth Dharam, Vaisa Sharesth Karam,
Jitni Karoge Bhakti, Utani Badhegi Shakti,
Jitna Janoge Yog, Utna Door Hoga Rog,
Aur Kabhi Nahin Bhogogey Bhog."

If the spirit of personality development had been included among the rural panchayats, a person belonging to them would have thought that God lives in villages. The service of village means service of God. The Genuine poor should be identified impartially. If the Sarpanch of village is honest, that village would be developed. School would be opened there and roads and drains would be constructed and light would be provided but such facilities would not be provided in those villages whose Sarpanches are dishonest. Then next election comes and they ask to elect their candidate as Sarpanch. Thereafter, election is contested in the name of caste and religion. I support this motion. It is a very good motion. Importance should be given to Gram Sabha under the poverty alleviation programmes.

There was a severe famine in Rajasthan. Though, the Central Government provided funds to face the drought situation, the concerned State Government continued to say that there was no money. The persons living below the poverty line in villages should be identified properly so that they can get some employment.

Those who are living below the poverty line should all get jobs. If the population of a Panchayat is 3000, the number of those living below the poverty line is 600 and only 60 to 70 persons out of them are getting jobs. Even this small number of persons are provided jobs in alternate week in selective manner. The 'Gram Sabha' and the 'Gram Panchayat' have no role to play in this matter. Nepotism is in open practice which is not good. The meetings of 'Gram Sabha' are convened wherein decisions are also taken but the implementation of those decisions depends on the sarpanch. If the sarpanch is biased, if he is devoid of the will power and commitment, if he does not wish to make progress ..* or he has been elected somehow, how will the development of the village be ensured.

[English]

Man is the major factor.

[Translation]

It is therefore, necessary that good 'Panch' and good persons are elected for 'gram sabhas'. Only good persons will ensure justice and development in 'Gram Sabhas'.

I support this Bill and conclude and extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to present my views.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The unparliamentary words uttered by the hon. Member will not go on record.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Resolution moved by hon. Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Ji. The Resolution moved by him is a very important. Through his resolution he has expressed his desire that Gram Panchayats should be strengthened. The work of identifying the beneficiaries rests with Panchayats.

There are different poverty alleviation schemes run by the Central Government and gram panchayats have an important role to play in this regard. The present Resolution is a very timely one to deliberate upon all things. Be it the concept of 'gram swaraj' of Mahatma Gandhi or 'Chaukhambha Raj' of Dr. Lohia or it is decentralisation of power — the basic idea behind all these concepts is giving more and more powers to 'Gram Sabha' and 'Gram Panchayats' it is alright that Gram Panchayats have got powers, but the fact remains that the bureaucratic set up of the country and the way things operate here do not allow due justice to be done to gram panchayats. We can quote for example the state of gram panchayats of Uttar Pradesh. The 'Gram Pradhan' is the Chairman of education committee in villages whereas headmaster is the 'Mantri' of that committee. However, the fact of the matter is that we have one teacher for 250-300 students. The ratio between teacher and student is fixed by the Government, but appointment of teachers is

not made in schools despite proportionate allotment of teachers made by the 'Pradhan'. Moreover, teachers do not come to schools in time. The 'Gram Pradhan' is not serious about the complaints received in this regard.

Sir, it was decided in 1972 that 'Gram Pradhan' would be chairman in matters of land management. In order to allot the lands of Panchayat, the 'Pradhan' used to give lands on lease which was valid. After 1972, there was a change in it under the new provision the 'Gram Pradhan' could only make proposal in this regard whereas it was finally given on lease by the district collector. Now I shall tell you how the process goes. The proposal of the 'Gram Pradhan' is dealt by 'Lekhpal', then by 'Kanoongo', then by Nayab Tahsildar; again by 'Tehsildar' and then only it reaches the district Collector. Here I may be excused to mention that in this process the likely beneficiaries do have to spend more money on bribe than what actually they are likely to get. Consequently, they are fed up and forego their claim. The situation is no better, under 'Indira Awas Yojana'. There are categories like the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, landless persons artisans or those from among the upper castes who are landless or homeless, they are on priority list under Indira Awas Yojana.

The 'Gram Pradhan' clears the proposal. But I do not know if any Indira Awas is built on his proposal or his proposal holds any meaning whatsoever. When he visits the block office he is handed over a list that certain houses under Indira Awas Yojna have to be built up in his village and then he is asked to simply sign the paper. The most significant thing is that he is not utilising the rights he enjoys whether it concerns building houses or leasing out land or any other thing. I would like to make a request at this juncture and that is 'Gram Sabha' must get more and more rights. This is because the Members of Parliament have to face practical problems in this regard. As per the attitude of the society as it goes now, those who vote for us for expect that we are the ones who have to do everything.

You are aware that the issue related to the public, the issue related to day to day life of the people has to be addressed to by the State Government. The issue of electricity, water, roads, canals, hospitals etc. are State matters. Now the situation is that if a Member of Parliament visits his constituency people come to him complaining that a particular brickroad has not been repaired or the ration cards have not been issued in their villages. These things have posed a practical problem for us. The amount of two crore rupees which we get under 'M.P.L.A.D.S.' has become a great problem. If there are five Assembly segments in my Parliamentary constituency, each segment will get share of Rs. 40 lakh per year. The Engineer prepares the estimate stating that construction of one kilometre of road would cost eight lakh rupees. In that case an M.P. can get only five kilometres of road constructed in the Assembly constituency per year. Rasa

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Singhji knows that if an M.P. visits a village, the people of the village demand that their village has a stretch of three kilometres of road which may be repaired by the M.P. They further demand for electrification, opening of a school and they add that at least ten hand pumps must be installed in their village.

Sir, as a matter of fact the funds provided to an M.P. is only sufficient to improve the condition of only one village. So this is the situation prevailing in our country. M.L.As are in a better position than us. The M.L.A. funds have been raised to Rs. 75 lakh in Uttar Pradesh whereas we the M.Ps. get only Rs. 40 lakh per year for spending the same in an Assembly segment. The Member of Legislative Assembly and the Member of Legislative Council get Rs. 75 lakh. Raghuvanshji was telling that the amount in this regard is one and a half crore in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, we are facing all these practical problems. Even here we cannot discuss certain issues. While we give notice for the Zero Hour in the morning 73 per cent of the notices cannot be taken up since the issues are under State Government. Our supporters and well wishers expect that we would be raising certain questions concerning their problems in Lok Sabha but we cannot discuss even what we want. Sir, if the Gram Panchayats are strong even we would be relieved and benefitted. Hon'ble Minister is present here, it has been a convention that when someone becomes the Chief Minister he invites all the State's Members of the Parliament and talks to them, rising above all the party affiliations. The Member of Parliament from U.P. in the last Lok Sabha were given 20 villages for electrification and this time not even a single village has been given for electrification to the Members of Parliament and no meeting has taken place. I support the proposal made by Raghuvanshji.

We want the Gram Panchayats to become more strong. Simultaneously, it is also to be seen that they are the properly exercising rights bestowed upon them. This was my request and it needs to be seen.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to have the opportunity to speak on this issue. I have spoken on various issues in the House but this has been my favourite topic so far.

When I visit any village of my constituency about 40-50 people approach me and they request me for the allotment of a house under the Indira Awas Yojana. Hon'ble Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, who has brought this proposal is of the opinion that a house can be allotted, if Member of Parliament or an M.L.A. writes.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It is not possible through an M.P. but through bribe.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Whenever someone approaches me in Orissa, I tell them to go the Sirpanch. You have said that Gram Sabha be strengthened. In Orissa, IRDP loan, Oldage pension, Widow pension are disbursed through Gram Sabha. But Sir, Gram Sabhas do not exist in Orissa, there are Sirpanch Sabhas. Mostly, you would find there that people come and say that they are very poor and their names do not appear in this scheme. When you would question how such and such person's name appeared they would say it was passed by Gram Sabha. When you would visit the village you would find that most of the time there are no Gram Sabhas but there are Sirpanch Sabhas. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat was saying that members from within the party are called and Sabhas are held but I would say that not even that takes places. They are only asked to put their signatures and they are told that if they sign they would get an accommodation next time.

I have two suggestions to make. First, that block office should be asked to fix the date of the month in which the Gram Sabha is likely to meet. For example, if it is for 5th of the month and the venue the school or the village can also be fixed for meeting. At least the people will be aware of it. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister who is present here it should be specified in the guide lines being issued by us. That the time and the date and venue of the meeting should be fixed by the block office in advance.

The second suggestion is that it is not sufficient to empower Gram Sabhas. The Gram Sabhas in Orissa known as the village committees have been given these powers, however, in every meeting confrontation take place. The reason being that the Sirpanch is of different opinion from the opposition. We easily opine that there is 'Ram-rajya' in villages and everybody is working in harmony.

The villages of India are not such thus it is not proper to give them this right. My suggestion is that a committee of three members be constituted and all the proposals should be jointly reviewed by the Members of Parliament, M.L.As. and the Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti. They should review the Old Age Pension, widow pension, I.R.D.A. Indira Awas Yojana and should comment who is likely to be benefitted. These three four persons should be from different parties. There would be no arbitrariness. Someone or the other would prevent this.

Who are the ones living below poverty line? My district Balashwar is prosperous in comparison to other areas of Orissa. How many names have been recommended for B.P.L. from that area? 73 per cent names have been recommended. 84 per cent came from one block. I asked the collector in a D.R.D.O. meeting as to who could be included in the B.P.L. list since people come and complain that their names were not included. What is your criterion? He told me that the people who do not have fan, radio, telephone and television in their

houses are to be included in the list. I asked him for more details. He then told me that the family whose monthly income is less than Rs. 250 shall be included in B.P.L. list. In Orissa, one person consumes at least half kg. rice. If there are five persons in a family the consumption would be two and a half kgs. in a day. If he does not eat anything or wears and goes nowhere, even then he has to spare Rs. 25 per day. In this case he has to spend Rs. 750 for rice in a month. Whereas people having less than Rs. 250 monthly income are only to be included in the B.P.L. list. Every individual constantly tries to get his name included in the list by hook or by crook. If his name will not be in the B.P.L. list he will not get anything. He will not get a house under Indira Awas Yojana, he will neither get loan nor pension not even rice through P.D.S. You ask the primary teachers to prepare the list of such persons. They are not able to do it. If he does not write some name for including in the list, he is beaten up. My suggestion is to engage some non government organisation for this work. According to official figures 33 per cent people are below poverty line but from Orissa 73 per cent and 84 per cent of such persons figure on. Most of these names are fake. I admit that from my district fake names have figured. Our Finance Minister had stated in his budget speech this year that income tax payee will not be getting sugar through P.D.S. While earlier they used to get it. Why they used to get it from there? Government of India spends Rs. thousands of crore on subsidy. Who is the benefited? Every body should be benefited. But, the question is whether they are benefited? They get sugar and kerosene through P.D.S. vested interest is there. Private agency should do something for this. It will not cause any problems.

You pay the poor people money under Indira Awas Yojana.

The poor people who are not having money are paid in instalments. They are first asked to get the house constructed and to be paid thereafter. Wherefrom these poor people are likely to have money. Last year Orissa was ripped by cyclone. Everybody was given Rs. twenty thousand for constructing his house. Can a house be constructed in rupees twenty thousand? He pays rupees five thousand to the contractor. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister that the poor man should be given 50 per cent money in advance to enable him to get his house constructed.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (ARARIA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Raghuvansh Babu has brought this resolution. It is very useful for the people living in villages who form 80 per cent of the population. Most of the people among us do not know that we are celebrating the year 2000 as the Gram Sabha year. People are not aware of it. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what was the problem owing to which he could neither communicate to the hon'ble Members nor to the villagers. Government should have paid its attention towards

it. If Gram Sabha is developed then definitely country will also be developed. Whatever might have been the reason behind all this, if we could not develop our villages then how could we develop our country? I appeal to everybody that State Governments should think in such a manner that development of villages should be done appropriately. Just now one of my friends was telling that Panchayat elections have taken place in many states and at some places there have been no elections. Where elections have been held Panchayats have not been given due recognition at those places. Therefore I have said that as long as villagers are not developed we cannot make our country prosperous.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are guidelines for the money given by the Union Government for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The money given under this scheme should be sanctioned in a general meeting. If we say that works are not being carried out as per the guidelines laid down by the Government then it won't be wrong. Therefore we should ponder over as to what should be the powers of the Gram Sabhas in the real terms. Today the BDO is responsible for all the development work of Gram Sabhas. He asks his Panchayat Karmcharies to submit the list of schemes which are to be undertaken by convening a general meeting. I would like to say that development is not possible in this manner. As long as Gram Sabhas are not there true facts will not be known. Gram sewaks and Mukhiyas work as per the dictates of the MLAs or the leaders.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Indira Awas Yojana has the similar fate. You will be surprised to know that the place where from I belong to, the beneficiary there has to pay Rs. 5-7-8 thousands as commission out of Rs. 20 thousand paid under the said scheme.

17.00 hrs.

Thereafter the politicians and the BDOs also have their share in it. FIR has also been registered against BDO. But today such a situation has been created there that they do not spare even the dead person from looting. The morality of these persons has fallen to such an extent. We have stooped to such an extent. The less said about it, the better.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what should be done under the Indira Awas Yojana is that we should give directions to all the BDOs and the concerned officers in our district to visit villages and collect the names of the poorest and downtrodden persons by holding a General Meeting. Old age pension, handicapped pension, allowance for pregnant women, these all should be paid after being sanctioned by the Gram Sabha. Definitely the Gram Sabha won't recommend the name of such persons who are not needy. But this does not happen. BDO and local employees function arbitrarily. Therefore the desired work is never accomplished.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I cannot say what is the position of

[Shri Sukhdev Paswan]

Red Card Scheme in your State but in my State almost 75 per cent of the population is under poverty line. We had held a meeting of the Managing Committee. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Shah Nawaz belongs to our district and we brought a resolution in our district managing committee that 61 per cent people of Araria Parliamentary constituency of Bihar the names of which should have been figured in the list of persons living below the poverty line, they have not been mentioned in the list and we have written to the district managing committee that again a survey in Araria Parliamentary constituency should be conducted. The names of many persons who are living below the poverty line are not in the said list. I want to request the House that resurvey in whole of Bihar should be conducted. If survey is conducted Gram Sabha-wise then definitely not a single person living below the poverty line should be left out. We need to pay our attention thereto.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is the condition of education in villages. 70 per cent children belonging to the scheduled castes and tribes still do not go to schools in villages. At some places schools are very far off. Kids do not want to go two-three kilometres away, at some places parents do not let them go to the school as they fear that something might happen to their wards. At some places there is no school and if there is any school then teachers do not come to schools. The local school inspectors and concerned officers are on the pay roll of these school teachers, you pay some rupees as bribe and do not come to school. In such a situation how could the development of villages be possible. Whether it is Union Government or State Government, attention is required to be paid towards this aspect. As long as these are not improved country could not be strengthened. Today private schools have been opened in villages. No teaching work is done in Government schools. Private Schools have been opened in every village and these are boarding schools too. People pay money to the private schools because Government schools are not run properly. Therefore, I want to say in the end that when we visit our constituency we have also to play the roles of MPs, MLAs, Ward Commissioners, Mukhiyas and BDOs. Sir, many people might have been visiting you as elections have not been held in many States for many years, therefore, we have to look after all these things.

As long as Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat and Blocks are not happy, prosperous and are not provided all the facilities till then the country can never be prosperous. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government through you that Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayats should be strengthened from all angles by way of education or health care facilities so that India could make progress. I conclude with these words.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) : Hon. Chairman, Sir,

thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I congratulate Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh for moving such an important and vital resolution. Sir, the dream of the hon. former Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to my knowledge, is totally defeated even after the passing and implementation of 73rd Constitution Amendment.

17.06 hours

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair)

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, though the *Panchayati Rajis* in action, the public have not enjoyed the fruits and the benefits that they should have enjoyed. If I analyse where we went wrong, how we can modify things and how we can take the schemes to the poor people, I find that there is syllabus available. There is a *Panchayati Raj* Awareness Programme in the Indira Gandhi Open University. That syllabus can be translated into regional languages and circulated to all the States. The District Administration can be instructed to give proper training to the general public as well as *Panchayats* for making them aware of the various schemes and also about sensitisation of the members of the *Gram Panchayat* to know their responsibilities, accountability, duties and the way these functions should be discharged.

Sir, without people's participation, no scheme can be successfully implemented. This is one aspect which the Government machinery as well as the *Panchayati Raj* have forgotten. I was in the Government service for 18 years. I could easily demarcate that the Government machinery is going parallel to the *Panchayati Raj*. There is no understanding and there is no discussion between the District Administration and the official machinery at the local level as well as the district level as to how to solve the problems of the local *Panchayat*. Before deciding the schemes, there is absolutely no consensus reached between the *Panchayati Raj* and the official machinery of the local area.

Above all, the public representatives, the MLAs and the MPs are totally neglected. You may say that all the MLAs and the MPs were asked to take part in the district administration and also in the implementation of all the schemes sponsored by the State as well as Central Governments. It is unfortunate that in no State, the official machinery is taking into consideration the opinion of the elected representatives of the public. It is only the information that we get.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (TENALI): It is not so in all the States.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sorry, I am talking about Tamil Nadu.

In the Employment Assurance Scheme and also in selecting the beneficiaries, not even the District Administration is being consulted and the officials are taking law into their

hands. Before selecting the beneficiaries, they have to have a consensus. Also, the local self-help groups of the Empowerment Committee should have a role to play in the *Panchayati Raj*.

Seventy-five per cent of the population lives in rural India. Our great leader Perarignar Anna has said, "Go to the villages, be with the villagers, plan and implement, then only you will see a India which was visualised by Mahatama Gandhi".

In this respect, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the increase in our population. We have now reached the 100 million figure, and that is a worrying problem. I would only suggest one simple thing. If all the pregnant mothers are registered, then it would become the sheet-anchor for controlling the population under the family planning programme. Even after 50 years of our independence, I am sorry to say that no State has implemented this programme. We do not know how many mothers are to be brought under this family planning programme because we do not know their history, and other details like the number of children, type of delivery, the number of living children etc. In this respect, I feel, the *Gram Panchayat* and the local officials can play their role in achieving our goal of stabilising the population growth.

Regarding the poverty alleviation programme, as Shri Swain has rightly pointed out, the definition is still in a fluid state. Nobody is able to identify a beneficiary, who is actually below the poverty line. It should be thoroughly demarcated, properly understood, and the same scale should not be there for every State because economic power or status varies from State to State. It should be individualised, and it should be properly demarcated.

Madam, I feel, there should be critical evaluation of all the schemes through which we have given money to the State Governments. We, the Members of Parliament, do not know as to what is happening to the schemes. Eighty per cent of the financial support that we are giving to the State Governments is not being properly utilised. In fact, it is being diverted to some other schemes; especially, the money meant for the Tribal Development Programme is not being utilised properly. In the SC/ST areas, there are reports that even the *Gram Panchayats* were not taken into account. In the *Gram Sabhas*, most of the time, the people are not even allowed to sit; they have to simply stand and given the replies in front of the district administration. This is really a pathetic situation. Above all, whenever the *Gram Panchayats* discuss anything, it should be above party lines. Politics should not come in the way. If politics play a role, then selecting the real beneficiary would become difficult.

As far as the land reforms and the revenue department are concerned, whenever they are issuing *pattas* to the SC/ST people and the poor people, it is not being done properly.

The village administrative authority thinks that he is the king or the boss. He is not able to give the classification of the revenue land either to the *Panchayat* people or to the general public or to the MPs or the MLAs who wanted to know as to what type of Government land it is and whether it can be given as *pattas*. When people approach us for the *pattas*, we are not able to give them a proper reply. My suggestion is that a social worker should be posted in the BDO as well as in *Taluka* headquarters. When the public approaches the officials, they are not in a receptive mood; they do not receive the public properly, and they do not give them a patient hearing. So, my suggestion is that a social worker should be posted in all the Government offices so that the people can air their grievances properly.

Madam, the *Indira Awas Yojana* is meant for constructing group houses for the rural people. The concept of town *Panchayats* has been done away with after the implementation of the *Panchayati Raj* thinking that the *Nagarpalikas* would take care of the Town *Panchayats*. Most of the people, the poor people, come under the jurisdiction of the Town *Panchayats*. In the State of Tamil Nadu, there are more than 600 Town *Panchayats*. A similar scheme of constructing group houses, as is available for people in the villages, could also be formulated for the Town *Panchayats* so that the interest of the poor people and the socially backward people could also be taken care of.

Madam, the issuance of birth certificates, death certificates and corrections in the voters' list must properly be evaluated and should be given to the people on time. I feel, the *Gram Panchayats* and the social welfare organisations would be able to do this job better than the teachers or the official machinery. It is because they correct the voters' list by sitting at their homes. This should definitely be taken care of.

Madam, as far as the social sector is concerned, the beneficiaries are not selected by the *Gram Panchayats*. They are selected by the *Mukhya Sabikas* who sit in the Block Development Offices. When we go to the people we find that the real beneficiaries are not getting the benefits but the rich people are getting the benefits. The Forest Conservation Act of 1980 is coming in the way of our trying to provide the basic amenities to the tribal people.

Madam, through you, I would like to have a clarification from the hon. Minister on the following points. Even after the implementation of the *Panchayati Raj*, the MPs have to provide for the drinking water, electricity and other facilities from their MPLAD funds. Then what is the role of the *Panchayats*? I would like to have clarification on this point. I have my own worry on this because funds from the MPLADS could be allotted for areas where the *Panchayati Raj* institutions or the District Administration is not able to take up jobs. But, even basic amenities like drinking water, electricity and other such

[Dr. V. Saroja]

facilities are not being provided by the *Panchayati Raj* Institutions. I do not know as to what is the aim of having these *Panchayati Raj* Institutions.

Madam, I would like to request through you that at least a sum of Rupees five lakh, out of the MPLADS funds, should be allocated to MPs for allocation of work, selection of schemes and all other such things. Basic amenities should be provided by the *Panchayati Raj* Institutions. More powers should be given to them. It should be educative and informative training may be given and before that powers are given to them.

SHRIANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : Madam, with your permission, may I speak in Oriya? I have given a notice for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes,

*SHRIANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR ORISSA) : Madam Chairperson, I would like to speak a few words on the resolution related to participation of Gram Sabha in poverty alleviation programme which has been moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. Hon'ble Member Dr. Singh has moved a timely resolution. While moving his resolution Dr. Singh perhaps wanted to speak on Bihar. He has raised certain financial matter on which I do not want to comment. Rather I would like to draw your attention to the last line of the stanza of *Rigveda* which has found place in the form of inscription in Room No 53 and 62 of Parliament House. It is written there as follows :

*"Samana Mantrah Samiti Samani
Samanaha Akuti Sahachittamesha".*

Dr. Singh is perhaps able to follow the meaning of Akuti. It is being used both in his mother tongue Bhojpuri and my mother tongue Oriya. The English meaning of Akuti is imploration. Then, Sahachitta Mesham means working in one mind and one intention by the Gram Sabha and all other assemblies. The Gram Sabha should work in union and one mind while performing the work entrusted to it. But it is regrettable that the Gram Sabha has been given so much power and importance without any result. The Gram Sabha is not able to implement all these objects and reasons. If you look at the present situation in the villages you will find that there is growing difference and anguish among the villagers.. The Members of Gram Sabha are divided on every issue. There is growing difference and lethargy everywhere. Everything is seen from political angle. That is why the provision made under Article 243 of our Constitution and again the provisions made in the 73rd amendment of our Constitution are not being implemented. This is because the persons who should have done the work are being involved in wranglings and disputes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sahu, please sit down for a little while.

Hon. Members, the two hours time allotted for this discussion is finished. There are a lot of members who would like to participate in this debate. If you all agree, we would extend the time for the discussion by an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. The time for this discussion is extended by an hour.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Madam Chairperson, I was telling you that the Gram Sabha is not able to perform its duty. The sitting of the Gram Sabha is required to be held once in a month. The implementation of schemes like Employment Assurance Programme, the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, widow and old aged pension, the identification and rehabilitation of people below the poverty line connectivity of roads, development of wasteland and maternity welfare centre are to be monitored by the Gram Sabha. Particularly the Gram Sabha should make sincere efforts in effective implementation of Employment Assurance Scheme on priority basis. The people in several villages are going to far off places as migrant workers. Why are they leaving their native villages? The Gram Sabha should think of such people and see to it that these people get job under the Employment Assurance Scheme and do not leave the village. But it is regrettable that the Gram Sabha is not able to do so. It is fully controlled by some people in power. The Panchayat Secretary and V.L.W. are mainly controlling the Gram Sabha. You will be surprised to know as to how the Gram Sabha is being terrorised by these powerful people. The Gram Sabha functions as per the desires of these people. Going by the wishes of VLW and Panchayat Secretary it is losing its separate identity. Thus the Gram Sabha is cutting its tongue in its own hand. In this connection I would like to quote a line from Bhagavat, I quote the English rendering which reads-

"If you cut off your tongue yourself, how do you speak to others.

That is the thing which is happening in these Gram Sabha."

The Gram Sabha is doing work at the behest of the VLW and Panchayat Secretary. It is not able to go by the listed items. There are three stages in which the local Self Administration functions. First of all at the lowest level it is Gram Sabha and then the Gram Panchayat, and then block and after that it is Zila Parishad. The Members of Parliament and the Members of the Assembly do not have much say in the day to day working of the local self administration. They can only comment on the Central allocation made under different centrally sponsored schemes like Indira Awas Yojna,

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

Jawahar Rojgar Yojna and Food for work etc. There are some States who take interest on the implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes. These schemes are implemented effectively in those States only. In other States MPs will beat their breasts, shed tears or shout but nobody care for them. For example in Orissa these Gram Sabhas are not paying any attention to the implementation of various programmes being implemented through them. There is clear demarcation on the basis on which these schemes are to be funded by the Centre and the State. The States has to bear 20% of the total allocation in some schemes and 25% in some other Centrally sponsored schemes. The Central Government bears 100% of the total fund in some other scheme. The State Government does not have to pay anything in those schemes. But all these schemes are being implemented by Gram Sabha.

Madam, there is corruption everywhere. Somewhere it is less and somewhere it is more. I say it is the lowest common factor (LCF). But there is wide spread corruption in Gram Sabha. For example the Gram Sabha's sitting should be held every month. But it is not actually held on the plea that there was no quorum. In the next month quorum is not being insisted upon. If somebody shows the knife or lathi and terrorise the people nobody will attend the meeting next month. Then it was said that there was no quorum as only nine people as in the last month attended the meeting and with the same number of attendance in the next month the quorum strength is fulfilled. For allotment of houses under Indira Awas Yojna the VLW, Gram Sabha and village headman take Rs. 1,000/- each. When the second instalment comes, the BDO and overseer who is designated as Junior Engineer now takes Rs.2000/-. In the third and last instalment another Rs. 2000/- is paid by the beneficiary to the persons involved in the allotment of houses from below to the top level. A sum of Rs. 18,000/- was paid to the beneficiary for constructing houses under IAY which has been enhanced to Rs. 20,000/- and subsequently to Rs. 22,000/-. The beneficiary will not get house unless he pays bribes to the tune of Rs. 3000/- to Rs 5000/-.

Madam, I have an Assembly constituency where 80% of the total population are Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. Out of them 70% are ST and 10% are SC. That is a Naxalite affected area. Since the Gram Sabha is not performing its work properly no development scheme is implemented there in a systematic manner. This leads to the rise of naxalism. Non implementation of Centrally sponsored programmes and widespread corruption are encouraging naxal activities in that Assembly constituency. Whether it is Bihar or Southern Orissa the situation is the same. A few days ago I had visited that Assembly constituency. A group of people gheraoed me and directed me to follow them to an unknown place. I did not agree to go with them. Then they said that we will not leave me. I said, OK, do not leave me. I am ready to

sit with you here. I sat with them. Then they took pity on me and allowed to go on some conditions. They said, "When you come here next time a particular road must be constructed and drinking water supply should be ensured to that village". Otherwise, they threatened me with dire consequences by saying, 'Unless you do this and come next time, you will not be able to go back, only your dead body will go'. They threatened me in this way. Why it is so? It is because no development work is being done in those rural areas by the local self administration and the person who are to oversee are callous.

Madam, take the case of drinking water. Now it has become a practice to entrust the work of the installation of tube wells to the NGOs. They installed the tube wells. Water started coming. But supply does not go on like this. After a period of six months it is seen that the tube wells became defunct. No water is lifted, only air is lifted. Once the tube wells are installed the duty of NGOs are over. Nobody is there to monitor their maintenance. If you approach the water supply department or the public health department they will say that they are not responsible for the repair of the tube wells as they have not installed them. A number of tube wells were installed in the State of Orissa under Danida projects. The NGOs have also now installed a number of tubewells. These tube wells are functioning for a maximum period of six, eight to nine months. The maintenance should have been ensured by the Gram Sabha. But the persons involved in giving the tube well work to someone are not working with one mind and sincerity. Everybody is politically motivated. How then the work will be done. So time has come to think over the matter rather than boast of development through Gram Sabha. Let us look at the situation in the village. The duty of the Gram Sabha is to identify the poor people who are living below the poverty line. The norms are prescribed for identifying such people. But who cares for the norms. Unless bribe is given a name will not be included in the BPL list. The people who have loud voice are only able to get enlisted in the BPL and get work from the Gram Sabha. The same practice is prevailing in this House. Those who shout and speak in loud voice are getting more time to speak. The persons who speak in loud voice get the people of their choice listed in BPL prepared by Gram Sabha.

Madam, I would like to say about kerosene. It is sold in black market. I appeal to all of you to decontrol kerosene if we want to stop the black marketing. Madam, Hon'ble Member Shri Yerran Naidu is not present here now. He represents my neighbouring constituency in Andhra Pradesh. He knows it very well how one third of kerosene coming to Andhra Pradesh and Orissa on subsidised rate is being set to the inter-state check gate for mixing with diesel. The adulteration of kerosene with diesel is taking place in those areas on large scale. This adulterated diesel is being extensively used as fuel in trucks. These days a kind of engine is used in motorcycles which

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

runs on kerosene. The Government is giving kerosene on subsidy with a view to provide light in the villages which is directly going to the black market. The Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat and a handful of officials are involved in this kind of activity. We are making plans and say grandiose things on how to uplift the poor people from below the poverty line. But Madam, nothing has been done in that direction. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has moved the resolution for participation of Gram Sabha in poverty alleviation programme. But this resolution will fail to achieve success. We are making plans and we are not planning to achieve the target. Due to lack of proper planning and sincerity in implementation all our schemes are not able to provide the desired result.

Madam, take the case of minor irrigation projects and drinking water supply. The watershed development projects are planned. How there will be watersheds when there is no sincere attempt to prevent the unabated felling of trees. There is large scale deforestation. How can the watershed development projects achieve success? A huge amount is being allocated to implement watershed development projects and social forestry projects. Similar is the case of water harvesting projects. All end in fiasco.

Water harvesting structure was implemented in Gujarat. I had been to Gujarat the other day. Thousands of crores of rupees were spent for the last 10 to 15 years but where is water? Had there been a water harvesting structure with the Rs. 2,000 crore that were spent in Gujarat within the last 10 to 15 years, it would have been a green area. But there was nothing of the sort and the scarcity of water in Gujarat area is deplorable.

Madam, we are allocating fund to the Gram Sabha for implementing watershed development projects. This money will not be properly utilised and Gram Sabha will not be able to implement the watershed development projects as they are planned. I have already spoken on Indira Awas Yojna. Now I would like to speak on Employment Assurance Programme. Under the programme it is decided to provide jobs for 100 days to the agricultural workers. The farm activity is not done throughout the year. The agricultural workers remain busy at the time of transplantation, weeding out unwanted plants and at the time of harvest. After that they sit idle at home. It is during this period that jobs for 100 days are provided to the agricultural workers under the Employment Assurance Programme. There is a provision to maintain a list and a roster. As per roster, the Employment Assurance Programme should be implemented. The Gram Sabha is not strictly going by the roster and the programme is not implemented in a systematic manner.

: was saying about migrant workers. When they do not get any scope of employment, there is exodus in search of jobs. These workers should be given employment. The Gram

Sabha takes the benefit of their absence, puts thumb impression against their names shown in the list and take the money. This kind of malpractice is going on in the Gram Sabha. Therefore we have to be united and work unitedly if we have to implement these programmes and to achieve the target and ameliorate the conditions of the persons below poverty line.

Take the case of maternity Welfare Center. The pregnant women are supposed to be given Rs 500/- every month for a period of 3 months. How many pregnant women are getting this amount? I am citing an instance of Phulbani district which is of course not in my constituency. It is the constituency of Hon'ble Member Shri Padmanav Behera who is not present here at the moment. A few days ago I had been to a historical place called Lankagarh in his constituency. It is located in an inaccessible area where mostly tribals are living. I saw a number of pregnant women there and some of them were standing there with babies in arm. I asked whether they are getting Rs. 500/- every month. They queried as to what is this Rs. 500/-. They count money in unit of twenty.

They know only the units of twenties. They do not know hundreds. That is the poverty line of those people.

I had explain them how much is Rs. 500/- with Rs.20/- as a unit. They said that they are not getting anything. But there is a Maternity Welfare centre, Anganwadi workers are there. But the amount released by the Government is not paid to the pregnant women. They said that nobody has come to pay them. On the other hand we are asking Gram Sabha to perform this work. There are Anganwadi workers who are supposed to look after the pregnant women. The expectant mothers to be given nutritious food and medicine. Their state of health should be enquired into and the needful was to be done. But no such work is being performed by either Anganwadi workers, the Maternity Welfare Centre or the Gram Sabha.

Madam, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is laying emphasis on allocation of funds. Very high sounding words are being uttered about giving power to Gram Sabha. It is said here that there was allocation of Rs. 15000/- crores. But what is the use of making such huge allocation? What is going on in DRDA and Zila Parishad? When they meet to discuss various issues we find that they are only shouting at each other and exchanging blows. They are discussing everything from the political angle. They are not taking decision on the recommendation of Gram Panchayat. Every recommendation of Panchayat is altered there. They are only worried about their percentage. As I had said earlier, it is lowest common factor and on that basis share is divided.

How much percentage of money each elected representative will get is the main criterion and not how much benefit the poverty stricken people in the villages get.

Therefore we have to make a self assessment on the various rural development programme. we have to oversee the implementation of each programme. If the fund is really spent for the purpose it is allocated then the entire nation will become prosperous be it in road communication, agriculture or any other rural upliftment. But nothing is going to happen. We only cry in the wilderness. So after crying in the wilderness, I am concluding my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI) : Madam Chairperson, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the private Member's resolution. I also thank Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh for moving the resolution and providing us an opportunity to consider the resolution which aims at strengthening of the Gram Sabha.

73rd amendment in the Constitution was made with a view to strengthening the Gram Panchayats. Based on that elections were held in most of the states and the system of Panchayati Raj came to be established on records. But in reality, no good work is being done at grass root level. The speakers who spoke before me have expressed their agreement that Sarpanch, Pradhan or Mukhiya in Gram Sabha is in a position to influence the other Members of the Sabha. Whatever proposals are worked out by him and whatever schemes he submits to the Union Government for their clearance, he makes manipulations in them. It is a sensitive issue. 73rd Constitution Amendment provides powers to the villages and Raghuvansh ji has provided an opportunity to consider this resolution in order to strengthen this power. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development and Employment is present in the House. I would like to say that the time allotted for discussion on this resolution may be extended and let the Hon. Minister adopt a practical approach and present a proper resolution after talking to all the parties. Gram Sabha in the country has been given some powers under the 73rd constitutional Amendment. We must do some concrete work to translate those powers into action. Elections have not been held in some of the states. Dr. Raghuvansh ji, who has moved this resolution has talked about it. He has advocated the case of Bihar with regard to holding panchayat elections in the State. I do not agree with him. I come from Bihar. Elections have not been held there for the last twenty five years. The institution of Gram Sabha is being demolished there. Elections may not have been held at other places but Bihar ranks first among them. Elections are being stalled in the name of honourable court. Whenever a marriage takes place in our system, talks are held between the two fathers in law at the time of giving dowry. I would like to cite an example here. One father in law said to the other that you should give me a buffalo in dowry. The other replied that buffalo can be given but it is smeared in mud and as such we do not want to

give it in dowry. The same thing applies to our Bihar State. Our learned Member Shri Raghuvansh ji has brought such a good resolution and has drawn the attention of all the people in the country towards Gram Sabhas by bringing such a good private Member's resolution. But when he takes the side of those people who are not willing to hold elections in the State while elections can be held there as per the old laws and when he pleads for those persons who in the name of court are deliberately stifling Democracy in Bihar State, then it does not behave him.

I would like to make an appeal through you that as he gives advice to the state government by giving press statements that elections may be held at an early date, likewise he should also speak on this forum that the Union Government should talk to the state Government. Democratic set up has collapsed in Bihar. There should be elections there in this very financial year and democracy should be restored. Since I come from Bihar, that is why I want to draw your attention towards Bihar State where elections have not been held for the last 30 years. Our Union Ministers also take this issue lightly. I would also tell them to take a firm stand to restore democracy in the villages in Bihar in their capacity as Union Ministers from Bihar otherwise fingers may be raised against them. The Government of India should take a strong stand to protect the law and democracy and hold elections in Bihar and should not postpone them indefinitely. Wherever elections have been held, whatever work Gram Sabha has to do practically that has not been done in the real sense of the term even after declaration of the results of elections. Practically Gram Sabha has been converted into Sarpanch Sabha, Mukhiya Sabha nad Pradhan Sabha. They call their own people and ask them to put their signatures. Fake signatures/thumb impressions are being obtained not only of hands but of feet and fake proposals are being formulated thereby reducing the Gram Sabha to mockery. It is a very sensitive issue.

I would like to submit to you that when 73rd Constitution Amendment was made, then you too were among the persons who had supported the idea of Shri Rajiv Gandhi of taking democracy to the common man in the villages. Incidentally you are in the Chair at present. Practically Gram Sabha does not reflect the real democracy. Honourable members from all sides have expressed their views and I also agree with them that the House should ponder over it seriously and the Government should find out some solution. Incidentally, the current year is being celebrated as Gram Sabha year.

I would like to submit that in this Gram Sabha year the State Government should maintain a roster in each village indicating the village wise dates of meetings of Gram Sabha in various villages. Wide publicity should be given to the dates of meeting in each and every village of the block through Information and Public Relations media and through loud

[Shri Nawal Kishan Rai]

speakers, letters, cinema slides, advertisements in newspapers or through beating of drums so that every body may come to know about those dates. It would help all the persons, whether willing or unwilling, to attend the meeting. We want to draw attention of the Government towards it.

The current financial year has been named as the Gram Sabha year and so many legal experts and scholars are sitting here. If we want to strengthen Gram Sabha in the real sense then all the honourable members sitting here should express their opinion after due consideration and act towards linking the government to common man. This is what I want to submit to Government through you.

Time allotted for discussion on the resolution moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad is two hours. I want to say that eighty per cent population of the country lives in villages and only two hours time has been allotted for this discussion. I would like to request that this time should be extended and the discussion should continue next Friday also and decision should be taken after a serious and thorough discussion and every member should be provided an opportunity to participate in the discussion so that a judicious decision could be taken. Therefore, I would submit that some more time should be allotted for discussion on it.

I come from Bihar and no scheme of any kind in this regard has been implemented there. The situation has come to such a pass in the State that if money under various schemes of the Government of India is not released to that State, then even papers for writing would not be available in blocks, sub-divisions and tehsils. Government of India have issued guidelines for the utilization of that money. The guidelines say that the villages be adopted as a base, Gram Sabha be treated as a unit and the decisions taken by Gram Sabha be accepted in toto. But in our State things happen contrary to it. Assured Employment scheme is no more the scheme of the village and instead it has become collector's scheme. In Bihar, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana has become BDO Yojana. Posting of BDO is done at state governments level after taking bribes. If he gives one rupee as a bribe, then he recovers fourteen rupees from Gram Samridhi Yojana and no work takes place at the ground level. Like wise there is old age pension scheme, social security scheme. Rupees 75 per month are given under National Social Security Scheme. There is a scheme to construct houses for the poor under Indira Awas Yojana. There is a scheme to give 20kg foodgrains per month to Red Card holders under targeted Public Distribution System. Ration is given to the general public under Public Distribution System. Then there is a scheme to provide wheat and rice to the school going children under Assured Employment scheme. There is also a scheme to give one rupee per day as incentive scholarship to the school going children falling below poverty line limit. There is a scheme to give pension to the pregnant women. There is one Bal Samridhi Yojana. All these schemes have been implemented by the Government of India.

I understand that time allotted for discussion is limited but it is a comprehensive issue. When discussions were started on all these schemes, Government of India decided to constitute a committee. It was decided that it would be a surveillance and monitoring committee which would keep a watch on the centrally sponsored schemes. The Committee was constituted on papers only. We were also informed of the same but nowhere such committee is in existence and functioning. Gram Sabha has collapsed. It is matter of serious concern and requires discussion in the Parliament of India. It requires to be set right after a thorough discussion. There are many irregularities in Indira Awas Yojana. Now prices of everything have gone high. The amount of Rupees twenty thousand may be raised to Rupees fifty thousand under Indira Awas Yojana.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Even twenty thousand rupees are not being provided.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : At present Rupees seventy five are being given under National Social Security Pension Scheme. An honourable member from Orissa was telling as to what amount of money is spent on buying half kilogram of rice. After all what message you want to convey to a helpless person whom you want to pay rupees seventy five. You should increase these seventy five rupees to one hundred fifty rupees.

Now, it is the month of August. I come from Sitamarhi area of Bihar. There the Bagmati barrage has been breached. Three block headquarters namely Bailsund, Runi Saidpur and Bajpatti are water logged. All the roads have been damaged. We are about to go there. We express our concern about this. Flood is a regular phenomenon there. People pray for help. The concept of Gram Sabha has collapsed there. The benefit of funds released by the centre does not reach the persons at grass root level. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had once said in this house that if the centre releases one rupees only fifteen paise reach there. The same is the position today. It has become essential to strengthen the Gram Sabha. People had demonstrated in Sitamarhi on 11th August, 1998. As many as forty thousand poor people had gathered to gherao the block. The issue of Red Card, Indira Awas Yojana, wheat and old age pension was also raised there. People were fired at. Freedom fighter Ram Charitra Rai Yadav, who has been an MLA for four terms, Dr. Ayub, who was Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti and Mahanth Mandal, Munif Nadaf, Ram Pari Devi were killed. The problem continues to be there even today. 11th August is approaching. This is the question of our village. We remember them. On the occasion of martyrdom day of those people. I would like to urge the Union Government to take concrete steps to strengthen the gram sabha and to translate all these schemes into action.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were making a very good speech so I did not think it proper to disturb you.

DR. LAXINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji has drawn the attention of the government through a good resolution. The benefit of different schemes of the government should reach the rural poor so that the gap of disparity could be abridged. As per the government's claims and figures the level of poverty has gone down and regional imbalance has been reduced but actually it is not so. This might have been benefited some particular areas but disparity and poverty are existing even today. The condition of villages is miserable.

To overcome this pitiable condition we accepted the proposal to introduce the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Bill in the context of decentralisation of power to strengthen the bodies at village level. It is true that empowerment of Panchayati Raj institutions by the State Governments have yielded good results. But even today there are some shortcomings and distortions in it and it is imperative to remove them. The mover of this resolution himself had accepted the fact that the facilities which ought to have reached the common people are not reaching them. He has gone to the extent of saying that the common people are not getting those commodities under the Public Distribution System which they are supposed to get through it. Therefore, Gram Sabha should be involved in it. Though I fully agree with this proposal, yet I would like to submit that the present condition of villages is mainly due to illiteracy. Either the meetings of the gram sabha are not held and if the meetings are held at all, these happen to be only one sided. The people of the village gather at one place and their signatures are obtained and ultimately they are not included in the proceedings of the Gram Sabha. Thus some shortcomings creep in the process of strengthening the democratic institutions. Therefore, it is necessary for us to establish a transparent system.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we have decided to observe the year 1999-2000 as the Gram Sabha year. The mover of this resolution is aware that we have organised several rallies in different States in this context. I do not know whether such rallies were organised in Bihar or not. But in our State several such programmes were organised in villages. Ministers also attended such functions. Besides attending those programmes they met the people and enquired about their difficulties. Before leaving that place the hon'ble Ministers asked the people whether the meetings of the gram panchayats are held in time or not and whether a Panchayat secretary is there or not but after that they do not bother to find out whether any remedy to all these have been found or not. Only observing the gram sabha year will not do. Only listening to the complaints of the people will not do. Things won't improve unless the problems of the people are resolved.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, some days back the Minister of rural development had himself admitted that a conference of the journalists was held proceedings of which were also reported in the newspapers. In this news report it was stated that despite existence of various poverty alleviation programmes, poverty is on the rise in the country. This is not my statement, this is what the Government says. The Government are making a lot of effort for poverty alleviation and are incurring expenditure under various schemes meant for this purpose. I have personally visited several places. At one place I was told that a pond has been constructed there. When I went to see that pond with a team of journalists, there was merely a pit instead of a pond. If programmes are executed in this manner, the poor will remain poor and the poverty alleviation programmes will remain merely an eyewash. There should be transparency in it. These things are repeatedly raised in the House. Therefore, there should be a monitoring system for this.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we provide funds for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which are spent through the sarpanch but there is no system for auditing of this expenditure. He can spend the entire funds as he likes. There should be some transparent system in this regard. Who is accountable for all this? Similarly funds are released for Indira Awas Yojana and self employment scheme. Besides there are several schemes under which assured employment is provided and the Union Government provides 70 per cent financial support for those schemes. The Union Government are providing 75 per cent financial assistance for J.R.Y. and Indira Awas Yojana. The State Governments contribute their share in it. Sometimes the state governments do not contribute even their share in it and as a result the funds released by the Union Government do not reach the village level and thus the poor people do not get the benefit of these schemes.

18.00 hrs.

On the other hand the Union Government have got the feedback that the funds provided by it to the state governments are not utilised fully by them. If we go through the previous figures in this regard we will find that the funds allocated by the Union Government for poverty alleviation under various programmes and schemes have not been fully utilised by the State Governments. Only 70 per cent of the allocated funds have been utilised and 30 per cent of the funds have not been utilised. This is because the State governments have failed in formulated any such schemes. Therefore, it is necessary for us to evolve such a system or formulate certain guidelines or programmes so that the funds provided for different schemes reach the states well in time and could be utilised properly. Besides there should be proper system for monitoring of the utilisation of funds provided by the government. Sometimes it is said here and rightly so that there should be participation of the Members of Parliament or MLAs in such work. But despite

[Shri Laxminarayan Pandeya]

the participation of the member of the Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assemblies there is no mechanism in our present system, in our administration through which they can monitor these schemes. At some point or the other, we have to depend on the administration. Therefore, I would like to submit that it will be beneficial to have a right policy and well thought out programme. In this resolution emphasis has been laid on further strengthening of the gram sabha. I agree that the gram sabha should be strengthened further. In order to strengthen the gram sabha some State Governments set up rural secretariat at the lower level.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandeyaji, It is six o'clock now, you can continue next time.

The House now stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Monday.

18.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till eleven of the clock on
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