

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 31, 2001/Bhadra 09, 1923 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Misuse of Facilities by Export Firms

+

*561 SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) whether the Government are maintaining the State-wise data of export firms availing the benefits of various export promotion schemes being run by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of such export firms, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the manner in which the Government are ascertaining the information about the misuse of these facilities by export firms in various States;

(e) the details of export firms against whom complaints have been received by the Government regarding misuse of export promotion schemes;

(f) the action taken by the Government against them; and

(g) the mechanism evolved by the Government to check misuse of these facilities in future ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Government is having separate importer-exporter code wise data in respect of all the 32 offices of DGFT and 7 offices of Development Commissioner spread over the country. As on date, the total validated Importer Exporter Code holders are 139889. The office wise detail of the same are as follows :

Office Name		Validated IEC
1		2
1.	Calcutta	7434
2.	Mumbai	37701
3.	Chennai	11322
4.	Kanpur	2217
5.	CLA, New Delhi	32282
6.	Bangalore	5924
7.	Ahmedabad	4319
8.	Hyderabad	3301
9.	Ernakulam - Cochin	3091
10.	Bhopal	1113
11.	Amritsar	1194
12.	Jaipur	4138
13.	Guwahati	355
14.	Varanasi	1096
15.	Shillong	443
16.	Panaji, Goa	405
17.	Jammu	532
18.	Pondicherry	231
19.	Patna	537
20.	Chandigarh	840
21.	Cuttack	246
22.	Rajkot	2334
23.	Vishakapatnam	378
24.	Moradabad	1401
25.	Ludhiana	3784
26.	Pune	3333
27.	Coimbatore	4411
28.	Panipat	1364
29.	Baroda	1029
30.	Madurai	1494
31.	Surat	959
32.	Gandhidham	53
33.	SEEPZ, Mumbai	81

1	2
34. Kandla Free Trade Zone	137
35. Chennai Export Processing Zone	131
36. Cochin Export Processing Zone	83
37. Falta Export Processing Zone	53
38. Noida Export Processing Zone	117
39. Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone	26
Total :	139889

(d) to (g) Each of the export promotion schemes is being implemented through the mechanism of licence issued under Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. Each licence contains various conditions including fulfillment of export obligation. In case of violation of any condition, suitable action is taken by the respective licensing authority against the licence holder through quasi-judicial proceedings leading to imposition of fiscal penalty and denial of further licences to such licence holder. More than 100000 such licences are issued every year and each such licence has to be accounted for at the time of closure before the Customs and DGFT authorities. In addition to such cases of misuse of the scheme, cases of fraud, forgery, misdeclaration etc. are also looked into by the investigating agencies like the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and others.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Sir, I am sorry to say that the reply of the hon. Minister is very ambiguous and not at all satisfactory. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what concrete action has the Government taken against export firms which are misusing and exploiting the various export promotion schemes, in order to put an end to such exploitation by these firms. Stringent action should be taken against such firms and genuine exporters should be encouraged.

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has said that stringent action should be taken against the firms. Sir, through you, I would like to inform her that in 1995-96 the firms to whom we have given this facility have misused it. We have taken action against them and that action has been taken at various levels. Debarment order is passed against those firms against whom serious allegations are proved after registering the case. Serious cases are, if any, is referred to CBI. Penalty is imposed and de-judication orders are passed in individual cases. I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that in 1995-

96 penalty of Rs. 68.21 crore was imposed, in 1996-97 penalty of Rs. 32 crore, in 1997-98 Rs. 85 crore and in 1998-99 penalty of Rs. 20 crore was imposed. During 1995-96 we have referred 15 cases to CBI. In 1996-97 at different level eight and two cases were referred to CBI and debarment order was passed. In 1995-96, 37 cases, in 1996-97, 66 cases, in 1997-98, 60 cases in 1998-99, 7 cases and in 1999-2000, 3 cases were given. Action is taken on the basis of the complaint received in this regard. A huge network of DGFT has been established wherein 32 offices are functioning, 7 Development commissioners are there and as on date approximately 1,39,879 persons have been registered for export and import and are working through it. After registration, the exemption given to them and the exemption given to exporters under Export Promotion Scheme is closely monitored. The case wise monitoring is being done in 32 DGFT offices which are spread all over the country. These are given exemption from duty while importing input and it is obligatory for them to export the goods accordingly against the import of inputs. It is almost fixed. On the basis of figures given by them, it is calculated as per the standard input and output norms, thus final record is maintained. Separate action is taken if misuse is found. The method of action depends on seriousness of the case. I would like to tell that the Department is taking action in this regard continuously on the basis of case. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon'ble Member has asked as to whether the Government is giving some incentives to the good exporters or not ?

DR. RAMAN : From 1995 to 2000 the Government have imposed penalty as well as referred cases to CBI against the misusers of the facility ? I would also like to furnish scheme-wise figures of current year. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the case regarding misuse of facilities are as such- 4 cases of DEPB, 33 cases of drawbacks 13 cases of DEEC, 13 cases of EPCG, 3 cases of ASEZ, one case of EHTP and 209 cases of EOU. As such the action was taken in 276 cases in 2000-2001.

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the percentage of exports routed through the duty exemption scheme; and whether the country is benefiting substantially from the quantum of exports under this category. Also, despite the misuse of the various export promotion schemes, is the Government planning any more incentives for export firms; and whether the export firms which have been known to misuse these schemes would also be eligible to benefit from the new incentives planned by the Government ?

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 80 per cent export is done under various schemes of export and only 12 per cent of trade is done under EOU and EPZ. Our export is centered on the exemption given by the Government. We are trying to establish ourselves in world market wherein competition has increased to a great extent. We face difficulties in establishing our position in the market because of infrastructural problems. These exemptions have been given to them to compete in the market and boost the exports.

In second part of the question, she has asked about the total share.

[English]

The total duty forgone under various export promotion schemes ranges from 10 to 12 per cent of the total export which, keeping in view the average customs duty of around 25 per cent and excise duty of 16 per cent, is justifiable.

[Translation]

She has asked as to whether in addition to all these schemes, is there any other scheme for promoting export of India. Whether the Government intend to provide more facilities to exporters and importers. The Commerce Department has taken a decision to provide more facilities to them for boosting exports. Ten years ago, our share was .4 in the world trade which has now increased to .7. A market study is being conducted and show-rooms funding will be done. We want to establish our show-rooms in big cities of the world and assistance will be provided for it. We also intend to provide warehousing facilities. We have a scheme to display products in big departmental stores of the world. There is also provision of publicity campaigning, so that sale of our products could be promoted by launching various products bearing 'made in India' mark in world market. Our participation should increase in big trade fairs. We will try to allocate more funds to Research and Development for boosting export. These are the measures being taken by the Government for promoting export and import.

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Sir, I asked as to whether the firms which are exploiting and misusing these schemes would again be eligible to benefit from the other incentives planned by the Government of India. That has not been answered, I am afraid.

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : The hon'ble Member can tell the name of a specific firm which has misused the facilities. It is really

difficult to give case-wise information regarding one lakh 40 thousand firms registered under various offices in the country. We will conduct inquiry if any such specific case is mentioned by her.

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Sir, I am not interested in any specific firm, but by and large, I want to know because these schemes should be there to promote exports and to encourage genuine exporters; and not to benefit defaulters and exploitative people.

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Public Account Committee has conducted an inquiry in this regard. In the report submitted by the committee it has been stated that there are several such companies which are importing various machines duty-free in the name of export and do not fulfil the obligation of export. These companies were detected later on and now there is no whereabouts of the companies which have imported duty-free machines. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether any action has been taken against such companies and if so, the details thereof ?

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are certain cases detected earlier than 1995. As per the latest position I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that the report was submitted only after we have taken action against such companies. I have said that action should be taken in such cases detected during 1995 to 2000. Action was taken on the complaints received in this regard. Stringent action is taken by our department on receiving complaints in this regard.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister one thing ? The exports got completely a new orientation and definition in the present day economy which we popularly say global economy. Keeping that in view, did the hon. Minister consider that our three streams of exports – exports through Free Trade Zones (FTZ), Export-Oriented Units (EOU) and in some cases hundred per cent Export-oriented Units – get value added export and whether it is ensured and guaranteed by the units ? For the benefit of the hon. Minister I would like to say that when I used to handle this subject, I found that there are three basic lacunae in this. When a particular product comes into the market and a similar product can be produced in our country, we do not have the infrastructure support. Taking that into account, will the hon. Minister tell us about it ?

The ASEAN trading is centred through Singapore. Some part of the European trading is centred through Rotterdam. I want to specifically ask about tea trading. Our own super brands of Darjeeling logo and Assam logo for tea have been fetching highest value in those days in the market of Germany. It still holds the same thing. So, what additional infrastructure support the Ministry of Commerce is contemplating keeping in view our export target growth at the end of the Ninth Plan in this area with the help of export houses, trading houses and the Government?

Secondly, did you evolve a permanent mechanism in the Ministry of Commerce to quarterly monitor the value added export obligation of big houses through the Free Trade Zones and the Export-oriented Units? If they do not comply with that, what mechanism did you evolve to take cognisance of those facts and to ensure that if they cannot do it on one occasion, they compensate it on another occasion? For example, I will give you the case of Hindustan Lever Limited. It has been stated by them, for the last several decades, that through the Free Trade Zone they will add value added product for the export benefit, which they never complied. I want to know whether you are evolving any mechanism for such things?

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has raised a good issue which is a policy matter. He has said that in several cases exemption from duty is not provided on many inputs imported for export goods. Secondly, he has said that market survey is conducted for choosing specific items like tea, coffee or clove. Separate markets are there for each of these, so country-wise, item-wise and company-wise survey of international market should be conducted for exploiting export potential in those markets. He has stated that duty has not been exempted on inputs imported for special economic zones. I would like to say to Shri Dasmuni. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I said that Rotterdam and Singapore markets have been claimed by Indian exporters. I want to know whether we can have a permanent infrastructure there to build up our own storage facilities for better exporting and better trading. I want to know whether the hon. Minister is reacting to that issue. Mr. Minister, do you know that the Darjeeling logo has the highest demand in the entire market of Europe? But there are efforts to put wrong things into that logo and spoil the name of the logo. Please inform whether you are aware of this fact and whether you have taken enough precaution in this regard.

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that warehousing facility for these products is provided in selected markets. I agree with you, discussion is going on, on this issue. The Commerce Department has planned to provide this facility on large scale in near future. The policy has been formulated in this regard and we want to assist small exporters of our country.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, the EPZs were set up with some specific and positive purpose. But, I want to mention about a particular EPZ, Falta in West Bengal. There is no infrastructure there; the road conditions are totally worse. I want to be clarified on this point. My question is very simple. Who are mainly responsible for the non-functioning of the EPZ of different States and what is the performance grade of Falta EPZ in comparison with other export zones of this country and who will be held responsible for this utter failure?

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has made a specific complaint that action is not being taken regarding EPZ zones. Information will be provided if hon'ble Member raises a separate question in this regard.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, for years together, Nepal has been enjoying free duty access of manufactured goods in Nepal into India. It has been found that there is an enormous surge of export of Chinese goods through Nepal's route, which is adversely affecting the indigenous production. Under the bilateral treaty of trade on non-reciprocal basis, the Government of Nepal has been given the concessions. Now, are you considering to restrict the exports of Chinese goods through Nepal into India so that the indigenous production could be saved from such invasion?

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the Indo-Nepal Treaty, 40 such items are being imported in India which have adversely affected our domestic market and the hon'ble Member has raised this question. The Secretary-level discussion is going on in this regard. I have also gone to Nepal and this matter was taken up with Minister of Nepal. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has also discussed this matter with Nepali Prime Minister during his visit to India. In the forthcoming round of discussion, we will raise our

objections in this regard and present our viewpoint that export of how many sensitive items could be checked which are going to affect Indian market adversely.

[English]

Rural Cooperative Banks

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new scheme to support the Rural Cooperative Banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NABARD has launched any scheme to assist the cooperative banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Government had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri Jagdish Kapoor, former Deputy Governor, RBI to study the functioning of cooperative credit system and suggest measures for its strengthening. The task Force submitted its report to the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 24th July, 2000. The Report is under examination of Government in consultation with State Governments whose active participation is necessary for revitalization of Cooperative Banks.

(c) and (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that with a view to strengthening the cooperative credit institutions it had introduced a mechanism of Development Action Plans (DAP)/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aiming at institution specific measures. The performance obligations arising out of DAP formed the basis of MoU. The implementation of DAP and compliance of MoU covenants is being monitored at State and District levels by a Committee with representatives from the State Government, NABARD and Reserve Bank of India. NABARD also provides financial assistance to cooperative credit institutions for giving impetus to institutional development in the form of grant, soft loan or grant-cum-soft loan for various purposes aimed at improving the performance of these institutions from Co-operative Development Fund (CDF) constituted for the purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a one-day-conference was organised a few days ago wherein the hon'ble Prime Minister and both the Finance Ministers were present. The Hon'ble Prime Minister had expressed his concern over the poor performance of all the banks in the cooperative sector, especially management and financial performance of Rural Cooperative Banks. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Finance as to whether any proposal has been formulated under the new scheme for removing the present shortcomings in the system of cooperative banks. If so, the details thereof. In part 'b' of my question, I would like to know. . . .

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask part 'b' later on, let the reply of it come first.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the House that in March 1999, a delegation of several hon'ble Members of this House and the upper house who are interested in cooperative movement and are holding office in various organisations came to meet me. They drew my attention towards the various problems of the cooperative banks functioning in rural areas. At that time, I took the decision to set up an expert committee which would look into the problems of banking in the cooperative sector. Thus, a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Jagdish Kapoor, the then Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India. The committee gave its recommendations and a conference of Ministers of Cooperatives was convened in December, 2000 to discuss the recommendations of the committee. Recommendations made by this committee were comprehensive and consensus could not be reached on some points. Hence, recently a conference of Chief Ministers was convened to consider these recommendations. As the hon'ble Members have stated that the hon'ble Prime Minister not only addressed this conference but also listened to the view points of the Chief Ministers, Ministers of Cooperatives and Finance Ministers of various States. Consensus was reached on several points in this conference. But there were differences on two-three points like the issues of de-layering and series of cooperative movement as due to various levels of cooperative movement intermediation cost increases. Another important issue was that of compensating the capital erosion to the tune of Rs. 8 to 10 thousand crore which occurred in cooperative banks for which the Jagdish Kapoor Committee had made a recommendation. The committee had given a suggestion that 40 per cent of this loss should be borne by Union Government, 40 per cent by State Governments and remaining 20 per cent

would be shared by the member of the Cooperative Committees. Consensus could not be reached on this point. As well as on the issue of de-layering some participants gave the suggestion that the whole loss of those States which have been accorded special status should be borne by the Union Government. Since a total consensus could not be reached at the conference, thus a committee was constituted at political level to decide this matter. My colleague, the hon'ble Minister Shri Vikhe Patil is the Chairman of this committee and Ministers of Cooperatives from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal are the members of this committee. Besides, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Chairman, NABARD, Deputy-Governor-RBI have also been included. This committee has been asked to give suggestions within three months regarding raising capitalisation of cooperative banks and sharing the responsibility among stakeholders after discussing various aspects of these issues. The committee has been allotted a period of three months and asked to make recommendation on the issues of de-layering, cost of intermediation, sharing of loss and recapitalisation.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : We may say anything on it but the fact is that our district banks especially the District Cooperative Banks of Maharashtra have a huge share of NABARD. District Cooperative Banks have been set up for assisting farmers but farmers do not get any loan from it and loans from these banks are sanctioned for non-agricultural purposes. I would like to cite an example of Hyderabad Agricultural Bank. The funds meant for farmers are being misused. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what measures are proposed to be taken to stop sanctioning of loans for non-agricultural purposes especially from those District Cooperative Banks where share of NABARD is quite higher. Again, what measures are proposed to be taken by the Government for reimbursing funds embezzled by Hyderabad Agriculture Bank where the funds meant for farmers have been misused.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hyderabad Agriculture Bank mentioned here by the hon'ble Member is a Nagrik Cooperative Bank.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : It is an agricultural bank.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Though its name is Krishi Bank yet it acts like a Nagarik Sehakari Bank. It is true that sometimes it happens that the farmers do not get the required amount of loan at district level cooperative banks. The reason is that certain banks are running in losses and in some of the States loan at village

level is granted through State Cooperative Banks. Some of the States have village societies in addition to State Bank and district Banks. In some of the States loan is given through district Banks and village societies. Different systems of loan disbursement are in vogue in our country at present. The committee has recommended several times that in case of non-agricultural products it is mandatory to provide 10 per cent loan to farmers for non farming purposes on their deposits. Dairy and poultry farm of a farmer are substitute of farming and loan can be provided for these also as is provided for the unemployed since in most of the cases farming runs in losses. Whichever bank has provided loan for non agricultural purposes, has acted against the law. Even otherwise the banks are incurring losses. Many banks have been booked under Sec. S.11(1) and NABARD is taking action against such banks from time to time. Action can be taken in a specific case, but no bank has financed them for commercial purposes.

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the financial efficiency of the cooperative banks in the country is lowered down due to the restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India after the Madhavpura Bank scam, and if so, what measures would be suggested in order to increase the profitability of the cooperative banks. As on today, so many banks have come in troubles due to the fault of only one bank and the restrictions imposed are causing a lot of troubles to the common banks in the rural areas.

So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what measures are suggested and whether there will be some encouragement coming in to the banks which have, so far, been doing good work in the rural areas.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, Madhavpura Bank is a Nagarik Sehakari Bank. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed certain restrictions on it so as to avoid recurrence of bungling, though it has adversely affected the functioning of the bank. Therefore, I am going to convene a meeting. On an occasion, the hon'ble Minister had stated in the House that all the persons cannot be held guilty if only one or two persons have committed the mistake. But it is right that everyone should take note of it and maintain discipline.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is not a simple mistake they have committed an offence, a crime.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Stringent action is being taken against the offenders. There is no pardon for

an offence but if one Member of Parliament has committed a crime, all the Members cannot be held responsible. Several persons commit crime.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I have said that Madhavpura has not made a mistake but has committed a crime. The Government should punish the guilty.

This has been discussed several times hence I would not like to go into the details. Kapoor Committee has been constituted to suggest measures for improving the condition of cooperative banks. I have been told that several MPs also are members of the said committee. Some of the State Cooperative Banks and District Cooperative Banks are also sick. After submission of final report by Kapoor Committee some action will definitely be taken for their improvement of these banks.

11.30 hrs.

[English]

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, as all of us are well aware, our main economy is the agricultural economy. Everybody knows the plight of the poor people in the rural areas which may be on account of havoc caused by natural calamities like floods and also drought conditions and, apart from these things, on account of heavy population that we are witnessing in the rural areas particularly. People have started leaving their villages and going everywhere on account of drought conditions, particularly in States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and many other areas, and on account of floods, whether they are coming in Bihar or Assam.

Sir, I would like to know that exactly is the experience of the hon. Minister after detaching people from the clutches of the moneylenders. This cooperative movement was, in fact, started many decades back. It has paid heavy dividend actually on the plus side, according to me. But of late, we are seeing an altogether different picture in the rural areas. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, in order to make this cooperative movement through cooperative banks a stronger movement wherein the poverty of all the poor people is eradicated and poor people's needs are attended to, he would think of having the Reserve Bank of India as the umbrella organisation under which all these institutions of cooperative banks or societies will come. Actually, they are the doorsteps of the common man living in the rural areas. Therefore, the Government should make this movement a very strong one so that even during calamities like floods or drought conditions, people can, in fact, expect a little

help from the Government and also through these financial institutions.

Now, I would like to know what exactly is his experience and whether we have achieved that or not. If he feels that there is a little dearth in achieving this, will he kindly make this movement a stronger one by making the Reserve Bank of India to come to the aid of all these cooperative societies and also the banks immediately?

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has said a right thing. In fact, everything is linked with the problem of agriculture, be it export or import, production or price. So far as bank loan is concerned, I fully agree with the idea of strengthening cooperative movement so that moneylenders are totally vanished. The suggestion made by hon'ble Member, that the functioning of cooperative societies, banks and also rural banks should be controlled by the Reserve Bank of India, is good thing. The present system is strictly different. His suggestion is worth considering. The Government would take a note of it and it would be considered in due course of time

[English]

so that the cooperative banking system as a whole will come under one umbrella.

Secondly, agricultural loan through the banking system as a whole is increasing day by day. I do agree because the commercial banks disburse only 15.6 per cent against the target of 18 per cent, but the cooperative banks are giving more than 82 per cent so far as agricultural credit is concerned. While the target for agricultural credit was Rs. 54,000 crore, we have fixed a target of Rs. 64,000 crore in the coming year. So, naturally, we are trying to expand the activities of agricultural credit through cooperative as well as commercial banks. But finally, we are trying to improve it. So far as cooperatives in the country, in general are concerned, they are not in a very healthy position in all the States. There are some imbalances. Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka are doing something. Andhra Pradesh is doing something. Some States are not doing that way. Very good attempts to improve the cooperative movement have been made. So, the Government constituted the Brahmaprakash Committee to formulate the model law. We requested all the States for implementing the model law, but only a handful of States have passed model laws, and the other States have just committee in the last conference that they would act on that. As soon as that model Act is implemented, I think, the universal progress of the cooperative will take place

and so far as agriculture is concerned, it will progress further.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the issue of granting loan to farmers is concerned, NABARD grants loan to State Cooperatives. State cooperative grant loan to district cooperatives and district cooperatives to village cooperatives. The banks charge additional amount of five Takka from the farmers, a part from the interest rate stipulated by the Government, in the form of administrative and service charges. The farmers get loan at 14 per cent interest rate out of the money released by NABARD to State cooperatives. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether NABARD has framed any rule stipulating per centage of administrative and service charges ?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : It is true that the cooperative credit system is slightly expensive. No such rules are framed for State level bank or district bank societies but margin for the State and NABARD is very less. Margin from State Government to district level is also quite low but margin of 3-4 per cent is kept while levying tax at district level. Such problem exists in 3-4 States. The societies charge 3 per cent extra from the farmers taking loan. RBI charges 7 per cent from NABARD, at State level it becomes 7½ per cent, district bank charges 8½ per cent and interest at the rate of 9-10 per cent is charged at the level of societies. Further 4 per cent more and in several cases it comes to 16 per cent. I feel hon'ble Minister need to ponder over the recommendations made by Kapoor Committee evolving the ways and means to provide soft loan to farmers and reducing intermediate cost.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : Thank you very much, Sir. When the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development was created, the intention of the Government was to help the real and genuine agriculturists particularly, and the poor people. But it is reported that just to procure a very small loan, in the name of security, the agriculturists and other people are taken for a ride by taking their jewels and lands, but they are not able to redeem those things, and soft loans or grants for the agriculturists are not given on the basic of rules.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, what are the steps taken to monitor the methods of distribution of loan to the genuine agriculturists because only people known to the people of a particular party or the ruling party are able to get loans, while people at large are not able to procure even small loans. I would like to

be informed by the hon. Minister what are the steps taken to alleviate their sufferings. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the House is fully aware of it and in order to depoliticise all this loaning system in general, two years back, the Government of India had introduced Kisan Credit Card. I think, until now, 1.5 crore Kisan Credit Cards have been issued and already loan has been sanctioned on Kisan Credit Cards. Naturally, the three-year Kisan Credit Card is given to them so as to depoliticise sanctioning of loan and distribution of loan. I think, there is some relief. I do agree with him that there are groups at the level of village because I am staying in a village and not going to the village on tour only. My point is that to depoliticise the entire cooperative movement is also one of the issues and it should be solved on political lines; it cannot be solved in an administrative way. But somehow, I must tell you that due to Kisan Credit Cards, the purely genuine farmers are now getting loans.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : There must be some genuine system because the agriculturists are the backbone of our economy.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to raise certain questions.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir I would like to give certain suggestions on this issue and ask some questions. Can the Government not issue directions to NABARD to grant loan directly to the farmers ?

[English]

Why can the Government of India not direct NABARD to provide loan to the needy farmers and why is it doing in a zigzag way ? Why should farmers pay huge amount of interest ?

In Assam, there is one Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Society.

[Translation]

There are some officers in the Management of the Bank who manipulated the things and granted loan to industrialists in place of general public. And that loan amount could not be recovered.

[English]

One preliminary inquiry was done. Some action should have been taken on that, but nothing has been done as yet. What is the answer from the side of the hon. Minister in this regard ?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I will answer the second part of his question. If it is a member-driven cooperative, then

[Translation]

then there would not be any bungling, but if it is political driven then it is bound to happen.

[English]

The members should check it up at the local level themselves. The Chairman and the officer-bearers also should have some fear about the fact that people are watching them, and they should not divert the entire amount from the needy to the unwanted families or persons. That is the only solution for that.

NABARD is only refinancing and it is not a direct financing agency. Therefore, naturally they refinance cooperative societies. The Government has also decided two years before, on an experimental basis, that NABARD can do direct financing to some PACS, Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies. If that experiment goes on well, then it can be considered later on.

Then, there is also a recommendation in the Capoor Committee that NABARD can finance directly the district cooperatives, and the district cooperatives can become scheduled banks. So, a number of such things are going in that direction.

As far as local things are concerned, we should be very careful; and we do not allow the officer-bearers to divert funds.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : In Land Development Banks, as agriculture rural banks, the funds had been eroded because of natural calamities, etc. Secondly, they are creating infrastructure for agriculture. So, every ten years, the Government is investing, again and again, in that field. What is the further move of the Government for improving the activities of Land Development Banks?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : My friend Shri Prakash Patil is fully right because the conditions of the State Land Development Banks are deteriorating very badly throughout the country. Some States are worst in this respect. Capoor Committee has also suggested that we could give universal banking to them, and at the same time, we should see how they could mobilise resources, including deposits etc. So, it is under the consideration of the Government. If it is too much on the negative side and if there is total erosion, then, they may be closed down or new bank could be established in that area. This is also one of the major recommendations of the Capoor Committee.

As far as the first part of his question is concerned, I fully endorse his views. When natural calamity comes, the cooperatives go to the farmers and give relief and help, and they just try to find out solutions.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hard earned money of labourers, farmers and other common men is deposited in cooperative banks. But Directors of cooperative banks grant loan in such a manner that they are unable to recover that amount. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister, you have said that :

[English]

"The report is under examination of the Government in consultation with the State Government, whose active participation is necessary for revitalization of cooperative banks."

[Translation]

Jagdish Capoor Committee has made some suggestions for recovery of loan amount, giving the banks more rights for making awards. Other people also deposit their money in banks. . . . (Interruptions) When some amount is deposited in fixed deposit certain interest is paid on that. But the Government have changed the policy later on, consequently the interest rates are lowered which is breach of trust one way. My suggestions is that the rates of interest should not be lowered in between. My submission is that whether the Government would consider my suggestion in respect of policy to be adopted in future for fixed deposits.

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : He is referring to the urban cooperative banks, for which Madhavrao Committee is there. That is totally a separate issue.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Vasantha Sarkari Bank is in my constituency.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : It is an urban cooperative bank. It relates to the Madhavrao Committee. Anyway, I do agree with him. There are some issues in the urban cooperatives also.

Shri Shrinivas Patil initially asked about the controls that the RBI should take and said that RBI should ask some sort of discipline from the banks, in the interest of depositors or customers. We should see how the urban cooperative banks can work and at the same time, we should also see how the urban cooperatives could be developed.

As far as the interest rates are concerned, as of today, there are RBI rules. When we have a deposit for a particular period already, till the maturity of that deposit, there is no change in the interest rate. But when we want to have a new deposit, then it will be at a lower rate because throughout the world there is a reduction in interest rates. Naturally we should follow the international environment. So, when we have some new deposits, naturally the interest rates will be lower and we should follow it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Task Force Committee submitted its report one year back; and the Government is still discussing with the State Governments, in regard to the implementation of its recommendations. The Government has not yet arrived at any conclusions in regard to the implementation of the recommendations. May I know from the hon. Minister as to how much time the Government will take to implement some of the vital recommendations of the Task Force Committee?

Part B of the question is this. The Regional Rural Banks are doing commendable work in regard to providing credit to rural agriculture. May I know what is the proposal of the Government, because it is pending for a long time, about restructuring and reorganisation of Regional Rural Banks? May I know whether the Government is contemplating to have State-wise Rural Banks or to have National Rural Banks as recommended by the RBI?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Earlier, the hon. Finance Minister replied that the major recommendations for re-capitalisation and revitalisation would be done within three months before the Budget report will come. Naturally, then it will think about it. But as far as the other recommendations are concerned, they are very complicated – some are with NABARD, some are with RBI and some are with other multiple agencies. So, naturally it will take some time. But now the Government has decided an action plan.

Secondly, as far as RRBs are concerned, I do agree that they are doing a good job, and there is no doubt about that. The only thing is about wages; the revised agreement is there; and as per the other nationalised banks, we are paying wages to them also.

As regards the rest of the issues like restructuring and others, I know what is his view on this issue. But at the same time, the Government is not in a position to do it today. We are going to restructure the entire gamut of RRBs. On the basis of our experience, we will do it; Capoor Committee has given some recommendations that it is to be controlled by the NABARD. When the time comes, we will consider that also.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR : In the last 30 years, a large number of committees have gone into this issue. Jagdish Capoor Committee is also there. But the fact remains that so far as cooperative movement in the country is concerned, barring one or two or three States, it did not find its roots. It remains to be a Government-sponsored movement and it did not become a movement of the people. The main reason is that the entire thing is controlled; the power has been controlled by the rural rich; we have been playing into the hands of the rural rich; and the rural poor – unfortunately and sadly-enough – do not get anything out of this. We can have any number of committees. My suggestion is this; and I will come to the question later.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. You can ask your supplementary question only. There need not be any suggestions. There is no time for that.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR : Okay; I will put my supplementary. What is the Central Government's thinking on revitalisation of the cooperative movement? I can give you an example. In West Bengal, in spite of all these reports of Committees, in the last 35 years, there is no impact whatsoever; and even now 85 per cent of the rural poor are being kept outside the purview. What is the Central Government doing about it?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is one of the recommendations of the Capoor Committee. We would be helping in revitalisation as also giving all the assistance to those cooperative which are going in for reforms. This is being done for reforming the cooperative system as a whole. I have already told you the position regarding Gujarat and Maharashtra. But a cooperative should be need-based and member-driven. As has rightly been pointed out by the Prime Minister, it should not be fully politicised and should not be totally bureaucratised like a Government-owned company. There should be elections every five years. I do not know the legal position as to whether there is any need to amend the constitution or not. But there should be regular and timely elections of the cooperative. Only then, the things would move on the right track.

[Translation]

Antyodaya Yojana

+

**563. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :**

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

(a) the States where the Antyodaya Scheme has been introduced so far;

(b) the States where the Antyodaya scheme has not been executed despite its introduction in those States;

(c) the reasons for not executing this scheme so far, and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against such States by the Union Government ?

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

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been introduced in the following States and Union Territories :-

S.No.	States	Union Territories
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2.	Chhattisgarh	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
3.	Gujarat	Daman and Diu
4.	Haryana	
5.	Himachal Pradesh	
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	
7.	Jharkhand	
8.	Karnataka	
9.	Kerala	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	
11.	Maharashtra	
12.	Mizoram	
13.	Punjab	
14.	Rajasthan	
15.	Uttar Pradesh	

(b) There is no such State/Union Territory. The scheme is being implemented in all the States/Union Territories where it has been introduced.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Hon'ble Minister has stated that this scheme has been introduced in 15 States in the

country. I would like to know why "Antyodaya Scheme" is not being introduced in all the States, especially in Bihar, where the number of people living below the poverty line is maximum.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : The Union Government want to introduce this scheme in all the States and we have been making constant efforts in this regard. This scheme has since started in 18 States. Funds have been allocated and the percentage of off take is very good. We are in constant touch with the States where this scheme has not yet started. Union State Minister had been to those States and we are reminding these States repeatedly. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH : He has directly asked a question regarding Bihar. Why the hon'ble Minister is not telling as to why this scheme has not been started in Bihar so far ? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : We are making efforts to introduce this scheme in all the States. So far as Bihar is concerned as per the information available the work relating to issue of families identification cards is yet to be completed in Bihar. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMSHAKAL : I would like to bring one thing to the notice of hon'ble Minister that there is lot of bungling in PDS in Bihar. The District Supply Officers and the local Officers have connived with each other. In my constituency, 60,000 bogus ration cards have been prepared in the name of poor people and foodgrains and kerosene oil is sold in black. Some sort of bugling has been made in Sonebhadra in Uttar Pradesh. I urge upon the Government to get the matter investigated.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Preparation of ration cards and sorting of discrepancies in it is the responsibility of the State Government. Yesterday, this issue was discussed here for 6 hours and during discussion yesterday, I had told that there are 1 crore and 83 lakh bogus and illegal ration cards in the country. Union Government are repeatedly asking the State government to look into the matter relating to bogus ration cards again since CAG in its report has indicated that eligible people have not been issued ration cards whereas the number of bogus ration cards is mind boghling. Consequently we have been asking the State Government to rectify the mistakes in issuance of ration cards. So far as the issue of bungling cards, as stated by hon'ble Minister, is concerned, responsibility for administration of PDS lies with the State Government, but if any complaint comes to our notice, we would surely take appropriate action.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far on the 18 States included in the list, where Antyodaya scheme is going on, are concerned, I would like to know if any criteria was fixed for inclusion of States in the list and if so, what was it? What are the reasons for not including Bihar in that list.

Now, coming to bungling in ration cards and conducting of inquiry by the Government, I would like to say that dispute between the Centre and the State has put the poor people in trouble. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government have decided to review it. If so, what steps have been taken by the Government so far in this direction?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Sir, this scheme is meant for five crore people living below poverty line. The State Government has to identify such people and Union Government have not laid down any criteria in this regard. Our criteria is only one that families of people living below poverty line should be identified in each State and accordingly the cards be issued. Union Government have intimated the State Governments regarding percentage of such people in respective States and the number of families to be selected. Accordingly, the States are intimating the Union Government regarding number of families issued with ration cards and we are allocating the ration. Our endeavour is to introduce this scheme in all the States as soon as possible. But the preparatory actions for the purpose are required to be taken by the State Governments.

So far as, the issuance of ration cards and its verification is concerned, it is the responsibility of the State Government to detect bogus cards and cancel these. In this connection there is no dispute between the Union Government and the States. There is only one point that ration cards are issued to the eligible persons and bogus ration cards are cancelled. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the identification of families has been done deliberately on political basis. They are picking and choosing whereas the work is to be done everywhere. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would give you also a chance to ask supplementary, you may ask then.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several wrong names have appeared in the list whereas names of many poor families have not been included. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the list will

be rectified? Members of Parliament are telling that wrong names have been included in the list but they are not in a position to get it changed. Secondly, yesterday an issue relating to starvation was discussed in the house. Names of such people might be in the list of those who have died. I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister whether there is any proposal to include the names of such persons immediately in the list and are provided with ration.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Sir, the procedure and guidelines for selection of such families have been issued by the Union Government to the States and entire job is to be carried out by the State Governments and they are doing this job. Their decision in this regard would be final. Whichever State Governments are doing it, we are allocating foodgrains to them. Let the Government of Bihar first complete the task of identifying such families and accordingly we would release foodgrains to them. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, 15 States have been covered under Antoyada Scheme and States which are not included are – Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that when where the guidelines for identification of families living below the poverty line were sent to these States?

12.00 hrs.

Whether the Union Government have fixed any time for the States for identifying such families and send the list to the Government of India.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Sir, this scheme has been introduced in a record time. The hon'ble Prime Minister announced this scheme at 12.00 o'clock on 25 December and that very day, a letter was dispatched to the Chief Ministers at 4 o'clock. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First you listen what the hon'ble Minister wants to say.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Directions were issued on 25 December itself. You have asked as to how one crore families were selected? . . .(Interruptions)

The number of such families was fixed on the basis of sample survey report of 1997. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**Credit Rating by Standard and Poors***[English]*

*564. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether credit rating agency Standard and Poors downgraded India's sovereign credit rating for foreign currency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the reasons for lowering India's credit rating at international level;

(d) the likely effects of such ratings on Foreign Direct Investment flow in the country; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve its position ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Standard and Poor's on 7th August, 2001 affirmed its BB long-term and B short-term foreign currency sovereign credit ratings on India. The outlook on the long-term rating was revised from stable to negative.

(c) The revision of S and P's outlook is based, *inter-alia*, on their perception about public finances and the deceleration in GDP growth.

(d) It is not likely to have an appreciable impact on foreign direct investment flows.

(e) Government has initiated several measures to improve the fiscal situation of the Centre and States.

[Translation]

**Assistance to Non-Governmental
Organisations**

*565. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

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

(a) the details of the Non-Governmental Consumer Organisations functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have formulated any parameters to provide grants/allocation to these organisations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the financial assistance provided to each of these organisations during the last two years;

(e) whether the Government have received any reports of misuse of the funds by these organisations; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Union Government against each of these organisations alongwith the details thereof ?

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

(a) According to information available with the Department, there are 1406 Voluntary Consumer Organizations (VCOs) [Non-Governmental Organizations working in the field of Consumer protection and welfare] in various States/Union Territories. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The Department provides assistance for consumer welfare – oriented projects, to those VCOs which have been registered for at least three years and have undertaken consumer protection/awareness related activities during each of the last three years, as per the Guidelines and Rules for grant of financial assistance under Consumer Welfare Fund.

(d) 112 number of Non-Governmental Consumer Organizations have been provided financial assistance from Consumer Welfare Fund in the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) and (f) The Department has received one complaint of alleged misuse of funds by one voluntary organization in Orissa. The State Govt. was requested to enquire into the complaint and has submitted a report. The report has since been received and is under examination.

Statement-I

*List of number of Non-Governmental Consumer
Organizations functioning in various States/UT
Administration*

S.No.	State/UTs	No. of NGOs
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	342 *
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Assam	8

1	2	3
5. Bihar		20
6. Chandigarh		6
7. Chhattisgarh		5
8. Daman and Nicobar Haveli		—
9. Daman and Diu		1
10. Delhi		26
11. Goa		5
12. Gujarat		123
13. Haryana		16
14. Himachal Pradesh		9 *
15. Jammu and Kashmir		6
16. Jharkhand		10
17. Karnataka		78
18. Kerala		63 *
19. Lakshadweep		2 *
20. Madhya Pradesh		66
21. Maharashtra		70 *

1	2	3
22. Manipur		3
23. Meghalaya		6
24. Mizoram		2
25. Nagaland		3
26. Orissa		46
27. Pondicherry		31 *
28. Punjab		70 *
29. Rajasthan		79
30. Sikkim		3
31. Tamil Nadu		161
32. Tripura		5
33. Uttar Pradesh		95
34. Uttaranchal		8
35. West Bengal		36
Total		1406

* As on date, other figures are as per information collected in 1998.

Statement-II

Non-Governmental Consumer Organizations provided financial assistance during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

Name	Year	Amount Sanctioned (Amount in Rs.)
1	2	3
ANDHRA PRADESH		
1. Sarvodaya Youth Organization, Distt. Warangal	1999-2000	28,800
2. Manasa Social Service, Krishna Distt.	1999-2000	22,500
3. Santi Mahila Mandali, Distt. Guntur.	1999-2000	22,500
4. Shri Vinayaka Yuvajana Sangam, Distt. Chittoor	1999-2000	31,500
5. Yuvajana Sangam, Distt. Cuddapah	1999-2000	27,000
6. Nehru Yuvak Mandali, Distt. Krishna	1999-2000	22,500
7. Aruna Mahila Mandali, Shed No. 5, Phase-II, Auto Nagar, Nellore – 524004,	1999-2000	27,000
8. Consumer Welfare Society, 2-160, Vidyanagar Colony, Adoni – 518302,	1999-2000	13,500
9. Garthapuri Consumers Council, Tripuramalluvari Veedhi, Old Guntur,	1999-2000	27,000
10. Jagruthi Voluntary Organisation, Office H.No. 11-3-34/2, Nehru Nagar, Khamman-507001, Khamman Distt.	1999-2000	22,500

1	2	3
11. Kasturibai Mahila Mandali, Elchuru, Santhamaguluru Mandal, Prakasham Distt.	1999-2000	22,500
12. Machilipatnam Consumers Protection Council, D.No. 18-120, Sukarlabad, Machilipatnam – 521 001,	1999-2000	31,500
13. Madhuri Mahila Mandali, Bharatpet, 1st Line, Guntur – 522 002,	1999-2000	27,000
14. Sree Devi Weaker Section Mahila Mandali, T.S.R. Building, IInd Line, Nallacheruvu, Guntur – 522 003,	1999-2000	22,500
15. Vijaya Voluntary Orgn. (VVO), H.No. 13-74, Dr. Ram Reddy Complex, Post-Jadacheila – 509 301, Mahabubnagar Distt., Andhra Pradesh	2000-2001	60,000
16. Integrated Rural Development Trust, Prasennayapalli Village, Engineering College, Post Rappthad Mandal, Post-Rappthad Mandal, Anantpur Distt., Andhra Pradesh	2000-2001	50,000
17. Prakasam District Mahila Consumer Council (A.P.). BIHAR	2000-2001	50,000
18. Jan Jagaran Samiti, Patna	1999-2000	8,100
19. Lok Manglam, Mohalla – Gudri, P.O. – Laheriasarai, Distt., – Darbhanga	1999-2000	22,500
20. Seva Sansthan, C/o Rambilash Roy, (Chandwara) Kanhauli Math Road, P.O. – Ramna, Distt., Muzaffarpur,	1999-2000	18,000
21. Vikasayan, Vill. P.O. Sheikhpur, Akharaghat, Muzaffarpur,	1999-2000	22,500
22. Daroga Prasad Ray Mahila Prashikshan Evam Audyogik Kendra, Sutihaar, Nawadah (Saran)	1999-2000	27,000
23. Mahila Avam Bal Vikas Kendra, Jayprakash Nagar, Patna – 800001,	1999-2000	12,500
24. North Bihar Samaj Kalyan Sangathan Paigamberpur Via – Silout, Distt. – Muzaffarpur,	1999-2000	22,500
25. Radhika Sewa Sansthan, Vill.–Partapu, Mehshi (thana), Distt. East Cahmparan, JHARKHAND	1999-2000	22,500
26. Bhartiya Gramathan Avan Janhit Seva Sansthan, Bokaro, Jharkhand CHANDIGARH	2000-2001	45,000
27. Consumer Forum Chandigarh, Room No. 3, 3rd Floor, Karuna Sadan, Sector 11-B, Chandgiarh – CCPC member. DELHI	2000-2001	35,000
28. Consumer Coordination Council, 62, Qutab View Apartments, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110 016 – CCPC member	1999-2000	5,00,000
29. Consumer Coordination Council, 62, Qutab View Apartments, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110 016 – CCPC member	1999-2000	54,000
30. Citizen Development Society, 1 – West Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi	2000-01	2,50,000
31. Consumer Coordination Council, 62, Qutab View Apartrments, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110 016 – CCPC member	2000-01	5,00,000

1	2	3
32. Consumer Coordination Council, 62, Qutab View Apartments, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110 016 – CCPC member	2000-01	2,50,000
33. Delhi Medical Council, New Delhi	2001-01	5,00,000
34. VOICE, New Delhi	2000-2001	2,25,000
GUJARAT		
35. Consumer Affairs and Protection Agency of Gujarat, N.R. Walee Tank, Sarangpur, Ahmedabad	1999-2000	1,80,000
36. Jagrut Grahak, Deepak Chambers Nawabwada Raopura Vadodara – 390001 (Gujarat)	1999-2000	36,000
37. Consumer Protection Association, Vigyan Bhavan, P.N. Institute, of Medical Science Campus, Clinical Research Centre, "Jai Somnath", Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha, Gujarat – 383 001 – Former CCPC member.	2000-01	40,000
HARYANA		
38. Adarsh Saraswati Shiksha Samiti, Kakroi Road, Sonapat, (Haryana)	1999-2000	31,500
39. Haryana Lok Kalyan Shiksha Samiti, Blue Jay Road, Sonapat, (Haryana)	1999-2000	31,500
40. All India Common Weal Organisation, 665/20, Prem Nagar, Rohtak (Haryana)	2000-2001	35,000
JAMMU AND KASHMIR		
41. Jammu Consumers Council, Kashmir Times Building, Residency Road, Jammu (J and K)	2000-2001	54,000
KARNATAKA		
42. Yelahanka Vishva Bharati Welfare Society and Training Institute, Bangalore	2000-2001	41,400
43. Adarsha Youth Association, Tumkur Distt.	2000-2001	36,000
44. Prasanthi Rural and Educational Development Society, Bellary Distt.	2000-2001	31,500
45. VIDYA, Gulbarga Distt.	2000-2001	40,500
46. Consumer Rights and Education Awareness Trust, Bangalore	2000-2001	2,35,000
47. Hazrat Allipur Moral and Spiritual Association (R), Armangalu – 577558, Hiriyur Taluk, Chitraduega Distt, Karnataka	2000-2001	35,000
48. Seva Bharathi Trust, First Cross, Bramaramba Extension, Chamaraganagar – 571313, Karnataka	2000-2001	40,000
49. Balakedara Vedika (R) Consumer Forum (R) Sagar, Karnataka	2000-2001	25,000
50. Shri Akshayam Kethani Trust (R), Swmagahally, Mandya (Tq. And District), Karnataka	2000-2001	25,000
CHHATTISGARH		
51. Jaya Prakash Memorial Centre, 11/89 Distt. Bastar, Kirandul – 494556,	1999-2000	27,000
MADHYA PRADESH		
52. Upbhokta Samrakshana Salahakar Samiti, Bhoital, M.P.	2000-2001	2,50,000
53. Consumer and Civil Rights Association, Janakjanj Hanuman Choraha Lashkar, Gwalior, M.P.	2000-2001	2,50,000

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MAHARASHTRA		
54. Bahun Education Society, Tembhari, At. Tembhan, Post – Silli, Tahsil Kuhi, Distt., Nagpur – 441202.	1999-2000	18,000
MANIPUR		
55. Resource Centre for Social Welfare and Community Div., Japhou Bazar, P.O. 18, Distt., Chandel, Manipur	2000-01	2,50,000
MIZORAM		
56. Mizoram Consumer Union (MCU), Aizwal, Mizoram	2000-2001	1,20,000
NAGALAND		
57. Kwghi Kemehai Zie (Consumer Welfare Organisation), Tseminyu, Distt., Kohima, Box No. 197, Nagaland – 797001,	1999-2000	27,000
ORISSA		
58. CARD, Disst., Ganjam	1999-2000	49,500
59. ASHA, Bhubaneswar	1999-2000	27,000
60. Nabajyoti Club, Dhenkanal	1999-2000	18,000
61. Project Swarajya, Cuttack	1999-2000	31,500
62. All Orissa Research Insititute for Development of Women Memorial, Distt. Angul	2000-2001	58,500
63. Holy Home Distt. Keonjhar	2000-2001	50,850
64. SEVA, Distt, Cuttack	2000-2001	40,500
65. SANSKRUTI, Distt. Mayurbhanj	2000-2001	40,500
66. Consumer Protection Council, C/66, Sector-2, Rourkela – 769000	1999-2000	2,35,000
67. Orissa Consumers' Association, (Ex. Member C.C.P.C.) Biswanath Lane, Cuttack – 753002.	1999-2000	45,000
68. National Council of Child and Rural Technology, At. Randhagarh, P.O. Gorual, Distt. Puri – 752002,	1999-2000	22,500
69. Project Swarajya, At. Moti Bhavan, Kesharpur Road, Buxibazar, Cuttack – 753001	1999-2000	31,500
70. Mousumi Social and Charitable Organisation, Plot No. 3456, At. Palasuni, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar – 751010	1999-2000	30,600
71. Naba Jyoti Club, At. Madhapur, P.O. Kabara, Madhapur, P.O. Kabara, Madhapur, Distt. Dhenkanal,	1999-2000	18,000
72. Zilla Parishad, Sundargarh District, Orissa	2000-2001	2,50,000
73. Zilla Parishad, Keonjhar District, Orissa	2000-2001	2,50,000
74. Integrated Women and Child Development Centre, At/PO – Bauasingh, Via – Mahimagari, Distt–Dhenkand (Orissa)	2000-2001	60,000
75. SANCHAR, At/PO-Fakirpur, Distt–Keonjhar–758022 (Orissa)	2000-2001	60,000

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76. Better Institute for Rural Development and Action (Birda), At-Kankalunda, PO-Mahimagadi, Distt., Dhenkonai – 759014	2000-2001	45,000
77. Social Awareness Institution (SAI), At Divine Nagar, Nayabazar, Cuttack (Orissa)	2000-2001	30,000
78. 'Suprativa', Fakirpada, Baribati, Sadar Block, Cuttack Orissa	2000-2001	40,000
79. National Institute for Community and Child Development, Khurda, Orissa	2000-2001	50,000
80. Thanapally Millit Jubak Sangh, At/PO Thanapally, Via-Kalapathir, Distt-Khurda (Orissa)	2000-2001	40,000
RAJASTHAN		
81. CUTS, Jaipur	1999-2000	2,35,000
82. Ajmer Zilla Gramin Upabhokta Sansthan, Masuda, Ajmer Distt.	1999-2000	22,500
83. Ajmer Zila Gramin Upbhokta Sansthan, Masuda (Raj), CCPC Member	2000-2001	50,000
84. Nirashirit Mahila Bal Vikas Gramodyog Shiksha Samiti, Pai Bagh, Bharatpur (Raj)	2000-2001	40,000
TAMIL NADU		
85. Nehru Social Education Centre, Nagai Distt.	2000-2001	72,000
86. Organization for Rural Development, Madurai Dstt.	2000-2001	69,300
87. Malar Social Society, Theni Distt.	2000-2001	49,200
UTTAR PRADESH		
88. Awadh Grameen Vikas Sansthan, Vill. and P.O.-Dhammaur, Distt. Sultanpur,	1999-2000	22,500
89. Bhartiya Upbhokta Sanrakshan Samiti, L-124, Sector 11, Noida, Distt. – Gautam Budh Vihar,	1999-2000	25,500
90. Gram Vikas Seva Sansthan, Village Mannipur, P.O. Golabazar, Gorakhpur,	1999-2000	22,500
91. Institute for Socio-Cultural and Rural Development, 32, Narendra Nagar, Unnao,	1999-2000	27,000
92. Janta Sewa Samiti, Vill. Pakarder, P.O. Mahson, Distt. Basti,	1999-2000	31,500
93. Kalyan Shikha Seva Sansthan, At. – Chaudah Meel, P.O. – Ghurwara, Distt.– Rarebareli,	1999-2000	22,500
94. Late Ramrakhar Randey Jan – Hitkari Kendra, Gram – P.O. – Malookbari, Fatehpur – 212658.	1999-2000	22,500
95. Mahila Mandal Sewa Sansthan, 476, Ram Janki Nagar, Near Viveka Nand School, Basaratpur, Gorakhpur. (U.P.)	1999-2000	18,000
96. Manishi Bal Vidya Mandir Samiti, 402/1, Sharma Sadan, Raj Colony, Jaunpur,	1999-2000	27,000
97. Rasoolpur Latif Nagar. Paropkari Sanstha, Vill. – Rasoolpur, Post – Bhatgaon, Distt. Lucknow.	1999-2000	22,500
98. Sangram Samai Seva Sansthan, Vill. and P.O. Betabar Kalan Distt.–Ghazipur,	1999-2000	22,500
99. SHARP Development, L-124, Sector-XI, Noida, – 201301,	1999-2000	27,000

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100. Pushpanjali, Vill and P.O. Baroora (Baroura) district – Unnas	2000-01	22,500
101. Surya Gamodyog Vikas Samiti, Vill and P.O., Sari, District – Faizabad	2000-01	36,000
102. Safi Udyog Vikas Seva Sansthan, Vill and P.O. Kot, district – Gautam Budh Nagar	2000-01	31,500
103. Shri Nageshwar Jan Kalyan Samiti, 125/1 Chota Bhagara, Prayag, Allahabad	2000-01	39,240
104. Surya Gramodyog Vikas Samiti, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh	2000-01	36,000
105. Consumer's Protection and Service Council (U.P.), Harisevak Niwas, 2/22, Jagatnarayan Streat, Sadhwar, Farukhabad.	2000-01	13,500
106. Bharat Jyoti, 16, Jopling Road, Lcknow – 226001, Uttar Pradesh	2000-01	2,35,000
WEST BENGAL		
107. Federation of Consumer Association, West Bengal, 39 Shakespesr Sarani, Calcutta – 700017,	1999-2000	1,90,000
108. Federation of Consumer Association, West Bengal, 39 Shakespesr Sarani, Calcutta – 700017,	1999-2000	4,41,000
109. Federation of Consumer Associations West Bengal, 39, Shakespeare Sarani, Calcutta.	1999-2000	400,000
110. Better Business Bureau, A Scoiety Incorporated, 39, Shakespeare Sarani, Calcutta – 700017	2000-2001	5,00,000
111. Better Business Bureau, A Scoiety Incorporated, 39, Shakespeare Sarani, Calcutta – 700017	2000-2001	2,50,000
112. Nautanhat Hospital Para Khadi Unnyan Samiti, Nautanhat (WB)	2000-2001	40,000

Setting up of Exhibition Centres Abroad

*566. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up its exhibition centres in various countries to promote exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely benefit from such exhibitions;

(c) the names of countries where these centres are to be set up; and

(d) the amount allocated by the Government for the execution of the said work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) "Export Enhancement and Export Studies-Market Access Initiative" Scheme launched during the current year, *inter-alia*, provides for setting up of showrooms, warehousing

facilities and display of selected products in the identified international departmental stores at centres specially selected for exhibition and display of selected Indian products. These centres will be selected on the basis of marketing studies by the Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and Trade Promotion Organization (TPOs) on country-product focus approach. EPCs and TPOs have been requested to send suitable proposals on project basis for approval. Funds required this year are proposed to be met from within the approved plan allocation for the Department of Commerce and the display of selected products in the chosen centres would promote brand image of the country, its products and boost exports.

[English]

Irregularities in Import of Gold by MMTC

*567. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government have issued orders for CBI/CVC probe against MMTC for importing gold through the United Bank of Switzerland (UBS) since 1988 at a higher premium despite agreement in the mid-90s with the Credit Suisse Bank at a far lower premium;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of losses suffered by MMTC on account of gold import since 1988 and quantum of gold imported;

(d) the reasons for not implementing the agreement signed in the mid-90s with the Credit Suisse Bank; and

(e) the present policy of the Government regarding import of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) This issue is presently under examination of the Government for appropriate action.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the information furnished by MMTC, no loss been suffered by MMTC on account of import of gold. The total quantity of gold imported by MMTC during the period from 1988-89 till 31.7.2001 is about 395 tonnes.

(d) The agreement between MMTC and Credit Suisse First Boston Bank, has been under implementation since it was signed in October 1994.

(e) Under the existing Export and Import Policy (1997-2002), import of gold is under restricted category. However, the Government nominated agencies and agencies as authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/ Ministry of Finance for this purpose, are allowed to import gold for catering to various requirements as specified in the Exim-policy.

Bank Loans for Flood affected People

*568. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued direction to the commercial banks located in the coastal Orissa to extend any special loan assistance to the people of the flood affected areas for constructing dwelling units and also for starting business for their economic rehabilitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to provide easy credit facilities to the above mentioned people living in coastal areas of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India have issued standing instructions to banks in August 1984 (revised in June 1998) for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities. These guidelines, inter-alia, envisage

- Grant of fresh crop loans to affected farmers
- Grant of consumption loan up to Rs. 1000/-.
- Conversion of short-term production loans into medium term loans.
- Rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan installments
- Relaxation in security and margin norms.
- Not to treat portion of converted/rescheduled loans as NPAs.
- No penal interest to be charged. The banks should also suitably defer the compounding of interest charged.

These guidelines come into effect after the State Government issues a formal order declaring the area to be affected by natural calamity. The State Government of Orissa issued the order on 13th August, 2001. Banks are initiating action accordingly.

Revised VRS for Employees of PSUs

*569. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to raise the compensation paid under the Department of Public Enterprises Voluntary Retirement Scheme to ensure that there are more takers for the VRS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the VRS package offered to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) employees notified in May, 2000; and

(d) the time by which the revised VRS package to be offered to PSUs employees, is likely to be notified?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The salient features of the VRS package offered to PSU employees notified in May 2000 are as under :-

Under the already notified VRS package offered to PSUs in May, 2000, undertakings 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.

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

3. For sick and unviable units, the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) package of Department of Heavy Industry will be adopted. As a corollary, the VSS may be modelled on Gujarat pattern. However, employees would have to opt for VSS within 3 months from the date of offer failing which they would be eligible only for retrenchment compensation.

Review of schemes is an ongoing process and no time limit can be fixed.

[Translation]

Pre-mature Payments by the Financial Institutions

*570. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of schemes of the Government run Financial Institutions like the UTI, ICICI, IDBI, and others which have compelled the investors to withdraw their money before maturity by sending proposals to this effect on their own ignoring the announcements was they had made for these schemes;

(b) If so, whether the permission of the Government had been obtained to resort to activities;

(c) If not, the action taken by the Government against them; and

(d) The steps taken by the Government to prevent such activities and safeguard the interest the investors ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) According to the financial institutions IFCI, ICICI, IDBI, they redeemed some of their bond issues by exercising the early redemption option (call option) before maturity. UTI has intimated that it has terminated three of its scheme before the maturity dates. Details are as under :—

Name of the Institution	Name of the Scheme
IFCI	(i) IFCI Family Bonds, 1996
ICICI	(i) ICICI Multi-option Bonds (issued by erstwhile SCICI in 1996)
	(ii) ICICI Bonds (Ashirwad Deep Discount Bond and Akshay Monthly Income Bond) 1996
IDBI	(i) Flexibonds – 1996
	(ii) Flexibonds – 1997
UTI	(i) Rajlakshmi Unit Scheme (RUS – 1992)
	(ii) Parents' Gift and Growth Fund Unit Scheme 1987 (PGGF'87)
	(iii) Institutional Investors Special Fund Unit Scheme 1993 (IISFUS'93)

(b) The exercise of early redemption option (call option) and early termination of UTI schemes were provided for in the respective offer documents, and Government approval was not required.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

FM Radio Licenses

*571. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's policy regarding FM radio licensing has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Time Radio and some other bidders have raised objections;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Government has approved the Policy for "FM Broadcasting Service Through Private Agencies" which *inter-alia* included the following parameters :

(i) Expansion of FM radio broadcasting services, including Value Added Services in 40 centers;

- (ii) The license shall be for free-to-air broadcasts of music, education, entertainment and information and shall exclude News and Current Affairs.
- (iii) The Licensee shall follow the Programme and Advertisement Standards and Codes.
- (iv) The eligibility criteria and procedure of selection of licensees was also laid down.
- (iv) Companies eligible under the Scheme should be registered in India with shareholding held by Indians except for limited shareholding by FII, NRI, and OCB, subject to such ceiling as prescribed by the Ministry of Finance, from time to time.

(c) and (d) Some companies had represented that there were deviations in the terms and conditions of the Letter of Intent, as compared to the original Tender conditions. These points were clarified. List of companies who have defaulted in submission of Bank Guarantee and signing License Agreement and have asked for refund of advance reserve licence fee, is enclosed as Statement.

(e) 9 companies out of the list placed at Statement have gone to Court and the matter is subjudice.

Statement

Name of Companies who have defaulted and gone to courts or represented to the Ministry for refund of reserve licence fee

S.No.	Name of Companies
1.	New Media B' Casting Pvt. Ltd.
2.	Vertex B' Casting Company Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Indigo Radio Pvt. Ltd.
4.	Hind B' Casting Co. Pvt. Ltd.
5.	Magic Radio India Pvt. Ltd.
6.	Dream Radio (India) Pvt. Ltd.
7.	Kismat Radio (India) Pvt. Ltd.
8.	Dhun Radio Pvt. Ltd.
9.	Bollywood B' casting Pvt. Ltd.
10.	Observer Network Pvt. Ltd.
11.	Nimbus Communications Ltd.
12.	Neffs (India) Pvt. Ltd. Guwahati
13.	Modi Entertainment Network, New Delhi
14.	Raj Telefilms Ltd. Chennai

Regulations for Non-Banking Financial Institutions

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently announced modifications in regulations for the Non-Banking Financial Institutions;

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

(c) whether the Government have received reports on various irregularities being committed by Non-Banking Financial Institutions during the last few months;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the modifications by RBI in the regulations are going to check various irregularities being committed by Non-Banking Financial Institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put in place a comprehensive regulatory and supervisory framework aimed at protecting the interests of depositors and ensuring that the NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. Recently, on 27th June, 2001 RBI issued the Guidelines for Asset-Liability Management (ALM) System in Non-Banking Financial Companies as a part of the overall system for effective risk management in their various portfolios. As per the guidelines, NBFCs, which have asset size of Rs. 100.00 crore and above or public deposits of Rs. 20.00 crore and above as per their balance sheet as on 31.3.2001, should put in place an ALM system which is required to be implemented by the year ending 31.3.2002. The NBFCs have been advised that it would be desirable to constitute an Asset Liability Management Committee under the charge of Chief Executive Officer or other Senior Executive with specialist members for carrying out the spadework for formalising ALM system in the institution. Effective from April 1, 2001, the ceiling on interest rates has been reduced to 14% from 16%.

(c) and (d) Complaints of non-repayment of deposits or non-compliance with orders of repayment passed by Company Law Board in Non-Banking Finance Companies have been received by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time.

(e) For overseeing the implementation of the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the directions and instructions issued by RBI thereunder, RBI

has put in place a strong Regulatory Framework. This includes scrutinising applications of NBFC to determine their eligibility as per the criteria enunciated in the RBI Act for issue of a Certificate of Registration, on-site inspections for ascertaining the level and quality of adherence by the entities inspected to the regulatory norms prescribed by RBI in relation to deposit taking activities, quality of assets, capital adequacy, off-site surveillance and market intelligence system. The Statutory Auditors of NBFCs have also been assigned the role of reporting directly to the Reserve Bank the irregularities, if any, noticed by them in the working of an NBFC. Moreover, Chapter III-B, III-C and V of the RBI Act were amended in 1997, vesting considerable powers with the RBI for effective supervision over Non-Banking Financial Companies to ensure that they integrate their functioning with the Indian financial system. In addition, the Finance Companies Regulation Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2000. Hon'ble Speaker has referred this Bill to the Standing committee on Finance. Once this Bill becomes an Act, it will further strengthen the legal framework towards affording greater protection to the interests of depositors.

[Translation]

High Powered Committees for Non-Banking Financial Institutions and Co-operative Banks

*573. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is contemplating to set up High Powered Committees separately to monitor the routine work of non-banking financial companies and co-operative banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these Committees are likely to be set up; and

(d) the extent to which these Committees are likely to help the working of non-banking financial institutions and co-operative banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) There is no such proposal at present in the case of Non-Banking Financial Companies. However, the Reserve Bank of India has mooted a proposal, in Monetary and Credit Policy, 2001-02, for setting up a separate Supervisory Body for Urban Cooperative Banks. The proposed separate body can take over the entire supervisory functions in relation

to Urban Cooperative Banks. The matter is under examination of Government.

[English]

CII's Suggestions for Entertainment Industry

*574. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether the Govt. propose to set up a transparent regulatory framework with less Government control to boost the growth of the media and entertainment industry, as suggested by the Confederation of Indian Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The present regulatory and institutional framework for media-both print and television as well as for cinema is itself quite transparent and open and conducive to the growth of media and entertainment industry.

Improvements and adjustments in response to changing circumstances are considered on a continuing basis.

Decentralisation of Foodgrain Procurement

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

(a) whether the Union Government constituted a Chief Minister's Committee to evolve a mechanism for bringing down mounting subsidy bill on account of handling foodstocks;

(b) if so, whether the proposal of Union Government for Decentralised Foodgrain Procurement to prevent wastage and cut subsidy bill was rejected by the State Governments;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Pursuant to the Chief Ministers Conference held on 21.5.2001, a Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agricultural Exports has been constituted. The Standing Committee, in its first meeting held on 6.7.2001, discussed the issue of decentralized procurement. There was, however, no consensus on the issue.

It was clarified on behalf of the Government of India in the said meeting that the scheme would not be imposed on any State Government. It was also emphasised that in order to make the concept of minimum support prices a reality for all farmers everywhere in the country, it was necessary to encourage States to take up procurement operations. The Government of India would work out a detailed scheme in consultation with State Governments to share gains of localised procurement.

[Translation]

Revenue Cases Pending In Courts

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

(a) whether several cases of revenue involving crores of rupees are pending with the courts;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending with the courts as on date alongwith the amount involved therein;

(c) whether difficulties are being experienced in the recovery of dues because the cases are pending in the courts; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard and the efforts being made by the Government to remove the hurdles ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 30.6.2001, 8342 cases relating to central excise and customs were pending in various courts, involving an amount of Rs. 1382 crore. In respect of income tax, 36055 cases were pending with the courts as on 31.03.2001, and the revenue involved in such cases as on 30.6.2001 was Rs. 1545 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Wherever stays are granted by the courts, all efforts are made to get the stays vacated or for deciding the cases on priority basis. Steps are also taken to get the pending cases finalised by bunching of cases issue-

wise/cases covered by earlier judgement of the Supreme Court/High Courts, and requesting the courts concerned for early hearing and one-time disposal of such cases. Continuous monitoring and coordination of the work relating to court cases is also undertaken, in collaboration with the legal agencies handling court cases on behalf of the Government.

[English]

Policy of FDI

*577. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines issued so far regarding foreign investment in those areas, which are not covered under the automatic approval list;

(b) the extent to which these guidelines have helped in increasing the Foreign Investment in India; and

(c) the total Foreign Investment proposal brought under the purview of these guidelines and accepted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) As per the existing policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals attracting one or more of the following conditions require prior approval of Government for setting up operations in India :-

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

Promotion Board (FIPB) instead of availing the automatic route.

Government notified from time to time sector specific guidelines governing FDI in different sectors such as telecom, domestic airlines, atomic minerals, defence industry, integrated township development, broadcasting and satellite operations.

(b) These guidelines have helped make the decision making process speedy and transparent leading to a higher level of investor confidence.

(c) 10,338 out of a total of 12,992 FDI proposals approved during the period 1991 to June 2001, are through Government route, which constitute 79.57% of the total approvals.

Utilisation Certificate on Foodgrains

*578. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to produce a utilisation certificate of foodgrains supplied to them for people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the names of the State who have furnished/ not furnished such utilisation certificate so far separately;

(c) the action taken against such States who have not furnished such certificates;

(d) the details of subsidy being given by the Government on such foodgrains meant for people living below poverty line;

(e) whether various complaints have been received by the Union Government in the past few months on the blackmarketing of such foodgrains; and

(f) if so, the concrete action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The mechanism of linking utilisation certificates with distribution of subsidised foodgrains exists at present in respect of those States where decentralised procurement is being undertaken. Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have been submitting the utilisation certificates with effect from April 2000 as required, whereas Uttar Pradesh has been furnishing the utilisation certificates with effect from April 2001. Under the system of decentralised procurement, subsidy is released to State Governments on submission of bills to the extent of 90% of their claim. The balance 10% is released on submitting the utilisation certificates.

(d) The total amount of consumer subsidy born by the Government of India during the year 2000-01 for distribution of subsidised foodgrains to Below Poverty Line population throughout the country is estimated to be Rs. 4478 crores.

(e) and (f) Some complaints were received in this regard. These complaints have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking suitable action. Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. Whereas the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated godowns of FCI, the responsibility of distribution of foodgrains to targeted beneficiaries in a transparent and accountable manner rests with the State Governments.

Complaints against Customs Officials

*579. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints of corruption have been received against the Customs Officials posted at airports at Delhi and other places;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received during the last two years, airport-wise; and

(c) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information relating to complaints against Customs Officials dealing with air cargo and passenger clearance at airports received during the last two years, airport-wise, is as under :—

S.No. Airport(s)	No. of complaints received	
	1999	2000
1. Bangalore	Nil	02
2. Chennai	03	01
3. Trichy	01	Nil
4. Hyderabad	03	03
5. Mumbai	10	11
6. Delhi	10	05
7. Amritsar	Nil	01
8. Lucknow	Nil	02
9. Ahmedabad	03	06

(c) The complaints mostly pertain to allegations of harassment by Customs Officials in relation to clearance of air cargo and personal baggage upon arrival at airports. The complaints include demand of illegal gratification for clearance of personal baggage, delay in clearance of cargo and under-valuation of goods etc. Such complaints are investigated and appropriate action as per the prescribed procedure is taken including transfer to non-sensitive posts, suspension and disciplinary proceedings where warranted.

Stealing Foodgrains from Godowns of FCI

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

(a) whether a large quantity of foodgrain was stolen from the godowns of FCI during the last three years;

(b) if so, the estimated value of foodgrains stolen alongwith its quantity, item-wise as on date;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken any measures to prevent recurrence of such thefts in the godowns of FCI;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) and (b) The quantity of foodgrains stolen from the godowns of FCI during the last three years is as under :—

Year/ Commodity	Quantity involved (In MTs)	Amount involved (In Rupees)
1	2	3
1998-99		
Wheat	86.305	6,47,525
Rice	21.520	1,26,787
Paddy	—	—
Total	107.825	7,74,312
1999-2000		
Wheat	92.265	5,38,521
Rice	42.835	4,21,897
Paddy	26.260	1,73,379
Total	162.360	11,33,797

1	2	3
2000-2001		
Wheat	153.065	10,82,033
Rice	50.785	4,25,624
Paddy	59.940	3,82,397
Total	263.790	18,90,054

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The measures taken to prevent thefts in FCI godowns include, inter alia, the following

- (i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force and State Armed Police at vulnerable godowns.
- (ii) Deployment of Security staff of FCI as well as other Agencies like Homeguards, Special Police Officers and Private Security Guards, wherever necessary, for the safety of godowns.
- (iii) Provision of barbed wire fencing of boundary walls and streetlights for illumination of godowns.
- (iv) Inspection of depots at various levels to detect and plug security lapses.
- (v) Appropriate penal action, including recovery, against the officials found guilty.
- (e) Does not arise.

Adulteration in Ghee and Katha

5852.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Taxman Uncover Undeclared wealth" appearing in the Hindu dated November 16, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported thereon;

(c) whether it is also correct that the group was engaged in Milk/Ghee and Katha having unit in Delhi and other places;

(d) if so, whether in view of dubious record of this group, it is apprehended that they were also indulging in adulteration and using synthetic/sub-standard materials for ghee and katha;

(e) whether the Government have also involved PFA authorities, to investigate adulteration aspect apart from fiscal irregularities; and

(f) if so, the details with outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item contained information regarding income tax searches and post search investigations conducted in the cases of manufacturers of katha and ghee/milk powder. However, the facts reported in the news-item that the manufacturers of ghee and milk powder had declared unaccounted income of Rs. 10 crores and had admitted having indulged in Hawala transactions were not correct. The position regarding alleged multi-crore money-laundering racket and over-invoicing of exports of case in would crystallise only after the relevant income tax assessments are made.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Income tax investigations did not reveal adulteration or use of synthetic/sub-standard material. Therefore, PFA authorities were not involved.

Appointment of Chairman, CBEC

5853. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :
SHRI SUBODH ROY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CVC had informed the Personnel Department about the antecedents of Mr. Verma before his appointment as Chairman of Central Board of Customs and Excise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that objection were not taken into consideration; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Narcotics from Pakistan

5854. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Narcotics' are smuggled into India from Pakistan through sea route; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered during the previous year and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and

(b) No such incident of drugs being smuggled from Pakistan to India through sea route during the previous year has come to the notice of the Government.

Irregularities in Storage of Wheat in FCI Godown

5855. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding irregularities in storage of wheat in godowns of the Food Corporation of India in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, whether the Government would initiate inquiry to check irregularities committed in godown at Gonda, Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A complaint was received regarding functioning of FCI godown at Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. Upon this, a flying squad consisting of officers of the Ministry was deputed on 17th July, 2001 to conduct an inquiry. The inquiry report is being examined.

[English]

Income Tax on Senior Citizens

5856. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed the banks to deduct the income tax of Government pensioners particularly of senior citizen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the senior citizens are required to fill up the form and stand in queue for long time;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the senior citizens do not fill up the return (file tax returns) as they are not covered under the tax, but they are served notices to pay penalty;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to allow the banks from which the pension is drawn to deduct the taxable money at source; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Under the Income-tax laws any person responsible for paying any income chargeable under the head "salaries" which includes pension also, shall, at the time of payment, deduct income-tax at source on the amount payable after allowing such rebates and reliefs as may be admissible as per the tax laws/rules at the average rate of Income-tax computed on the basis of the rates in force for the financial year in which the payment is made. Since the pension to retired Govt. pensioners is paid by the Banks, they are liable to deduct tax at source on the pension payable.

(c) and (d) Every citizen (including senior citizens) who has a taxable income is required to fill up the form (file income-tax return) and deposit the same at the designated counters at the local Income Tax office by the stipulated date. Special arrangements are made for Senior citizens and others by the Income-tax Department at various places near the last date for depositing the returns to tackle the last minute rush to avoid any inconvenience to the tax payers.

(e) As already stated against (c) and (d) above, every citizen who has a taxable income is required to file return. Whenever any case of default in the compliance of the tax laws is detected, notices are served upon the defaulters as per the income tax laws/rules wherever called for.

(f) and (g) The position has already been explained against (a) and (b) above.

Privatisation of PSUs

5857. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since decided to refer all documents regarding privatisation of public sector undertakings to the CAG after making transaction of disinvestment; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not referring the matter before the transaction ?

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) The office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India audits the records of various Ministries/ Departments of the Government after the transaction is completed. This audit is normally done after about a year of completion of the transaction. On special request, the CAG has agreed to audit all the disinvestment cases immediately after the disinvestment transaction is completed. It cannot be done before the completion of the transaction. However, in case of Air India disinvestment, the Government had approached CAG to agree to vet the valuation principles, before the transaction. CAG has not agreed to do so.

[Translation]

Indo-Spain Trade Ties

5858. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Madrid Official Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Spain have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for promoting trade relations between India and Spain;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Madrid Official Chamber of Commerce and Industry have signed the Protocol and Cooperation Agreement in New Delhi on 14th February, 2001 to establish and develop commercial and science and technology links between the business communities of both countries in general and their respective members in particular.

(b) The details of the Protocol and Cooperation Agreement include promotion of trade relations between India and Spain, improving cooperation between the two Organisations, Organisation of trade and market research missions, conferences, symposia, trade exhibitions, seminars and other trade promotion activities in each other's country, encourage reciprocal visits of business persons and technical specialists, arrange visits of officials of both organisations, exchange of information about economic development and other matters affecting trading interests of their members, encourage and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation between their members, etc.

(c) Subsequent to the signing of the Protocol and Cooperation Agreement, the Madrid OCCI in consultation with PHDCCI and in collaboration with some European Chambers have submitted an application to the European Commission under the Asia Invest Programme to organise a two-day Asia-Interprise event in March, 2002 in New Delhi with focus on Food Processing Industry where about 40 European companies in the field of food processing are expected to take part for forging strategic alliances with Indian food processing companies.

(English)

Dispensary Supervisor in RBI

5859. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI has obtained the ex-post facto approval/concurrence from the Board of Directors for dereserving the reserved vacancy of dispensary supervisor at its New Delhi Offices and Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for filling the vacancies by appointing a candidate from general category at these posts; and

(d) the steps taken to do justice with the SC/ST candidates by taking corrective action in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India had obtained ex-post facto approval of Government of India for dereserving the vacancy of Dispensary Supervisor at its New Delhi office. For the vacancy at Kolkata no such formality was considered necessary.

(b) and (c) The vacancy at New Delhi arose in May, 1989 and there was no Scheduled Caste candidate who fulfilled the eligibility criteria. The post was therefore filled up by a general category candidate empanelled for the post and the backlog of the vacancy reserved for Scheduled Caste was carried forward. In Kolkata the only candidate who fulfilled the eligibility criteria was selected by the interview Board and promoted in 1992.

(d) No injustice has been done to Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe candidates and the question of taking corrective action does not arise.

Distribution of Sugar at Cheaper Rates through PDS

5860. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have invited views of all the State Governments on a proposal for distribution of sugar at cheaper rates through the ration shops to the poor in the country;

(b) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto; and

(c) the final decision taken by the Union Government on this issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government of India solicited the views of the Governments of the surplus sugar producing States as well as those of the sugar deficit States on whether sugar distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) should continue even after complete decontrol of sugar and if so, the modalities thereof. The majority of the State Governments have suggested that the distribution of sugar under PDS should continue even after the complete decontrol of sugar. As regards the modalities of such distribution, different views have been expressed.

(c) Levy sugar distribution under the Public Distribution System is presently continuing.

Lending Through Banks

5861. SHRI SURESH KURUP :
PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an immediate need to increase lending in areas like agro-processing, bio-technology and horticulture by commercial banks with regular monitoring;

(b) whether loans are needed to be given in the education sector so that promising students are not deprived of education because of lack of funds; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to relax loan norms for these activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that traditional/non-traditional plantations and horticulture as also medium and long term loans to all plantations/horticulture have already been included in Priority Sector and have been classified as Direct Finance to Agriculture. Loans given by banks to food and agro-processing sector are also included under priority sector lending and achievement are being monitored regularly by RBI.

(b) and (c) RBI has reported that a new educational loan scheme prepared by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) duly approved by the Government has been circulated among all scheduled commercial banks for implementation during this academic session itself. The salient features of the scheme are :

- Cover courses in schools and colleges in India and abroad;
- Loans up to Rs. 7.5 lakhs for studies in India and up to Rs. 15 lakhs for studies abroad;
- No collateral or margin required for loans up to Rs. 4 lakhs;
- Interest on loans up to Rs. 4 lakh will not exceed PLR and those above Rs. 4 lakhs will be PLR+1 percent;
- Repayable over a period of 5-7 years after completion of the course.

RBI has also reported that out of 27 banks 26 banks have already issued instructions to their branches for implementation of the scheme and circular is being issued by the remaining one bank shortly.

World Bank Aided Projects in Karnataka

5862. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India and the World Bank have signed three legal agreements for World Bank assisted projects to be taken up in Karnataka State;

(b) if so, the details of the projects to be undertaken;

(c) the total amount the World Bank has agreed to provide for developing these projects;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(e) the extent to which project are likely to be benefit Karnataka ?

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

(b) to (e) As per statement attached.

Statement

S.N.	Name of Project	Date of signing	Date of completion	Amount of assistance (in US\$ mln)	Expected benefit
1.	Karnataka Economic Restructuring Project	26.7.2001	31.12.2001	150.00	The project will provide the budgetary support to cover the fiscal cost of the reforms that are being undertaken by the Govt. of Karnataka.
2.	Karnataka State Highway Improvement Project	26.7.2001	30.6.2006	360.00	The project will assist Govt. of Karnataka in improving its core road network and State highways.
3.	Karnataka Watershed Development Project	26.7.2001	31.3.2007	100.40	The project will improve the productive potential of selected watershed and their associated natural resources base, and strengthen community and institutional arrangements for natural resource management.

[Translation]

Export of Rice

5863. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision for presenting per quintal bank guarantee on rice sold by the FCI to rice exporters for export purpose; and

(b) if so, the details of bank guarantees by various scheduled banks presented by rice exporters since April, 2001 till date ?

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

Statement showing the details of Bank Guarantees
received from April, 2001 onward from Rice Exporters in
Food Corporation of India is enclosed.

Statement

Details of Bank Guarantees Received in FCI, Headquarters, New Delhi

Name of Distt. from where the rice stocks being lifted for export purposes	Name of the Exporters	B.G. No. and Date	Amount	Validity Period	Name of Nationalised Scheduled Bank
	(i) M/s Priyanka Overseas Ltd., New Delhi	344/2001 dt. 1.5.2001	2,75,00,000/-	1.5.2002	Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd., New Delhi.
	(ii) M/s Amira Foods Ltd., New Delhi	95/2001 dt. 2.5.2001	2,75,00,000/-	24.4.2002	Canara Bank, New Delhi.
	(iii) M/s Padam Shree International, Delhi	011/BG-057 dt. 13.6.2001	3,50,00,000/-	12.6.2002	Canara Bank, Chandni Chowk, Delhi.
	(iv) ITC Ltd., Secunderabad	5012020038 dt. 21.7.2001	5,67,00,000/-	20.7.2002	HDFC Bank Ltd., Hyderabad.
		5012290043 dt. 17.8.2001	5,70,50,000/-	16.8.2002	-do-
	(v) M/s L.M.J. International Ltd., Calcutta	COMBR/372 2001-2002 dt. 17.8.2001	2,80,00,000/-	16.8.2002	State Bank of India, Calcutta.
	(vi) M/s Bishan Saroop Ram Kishan, Delhi	25/2001-2002 dt. 22.8.2001	38,50,000/-	21.8.2002	State Bank of Mysore, Delhi.

Details of Bank Guarantees Received from Rice Exporters, in Fileds

Name of Distt. from where the rice stocks being lifted for export purposes	Name of the Exporters	B.G. No. and Date	Amount	Validity Period	Name of Nationalised Scheduled Bank
1	2	3	4	5	6
Nagpur	1 M/s Hari Shellac Ind., Gondia	(i) 29/31 dt. 14.7.2001	10,00,000/-	12.8.2002	Bank of India.
		(ii) 29/32 dt. 14.7.2001	10,00,000/-	12.8.2002	do-
		(iii) 29/33 dt. 14.7.2001	10,00,000/-	12.8.2002	-d-

1	2	3	4	5	6
		(iv) 29/34 dt. 14.7.2001	6,75,000/-	12.8.2002	Bank of India.
		(v) 29/39 dt. 1.8.2001	10,00,000/-	30.8.2002	-do-
		(vi) 29/40 dt. 1.8.2001	10,00,000/-	30.8.2002	-do-
		(vii) 29/41 dt. 1.8.2001	10,00,000/-	30.8.2002	-do-
		(viii) 29/42 dt. 1.8.2001	7,45,000/-	30.8.2002	-do-
		Total :	74,20,000/-		
	2. M/s Shah Nanji NAGSI, Nagpur	IFB/2001/C28 dt. 4.7.2001	70,00,000/-	3.1.2002	State Bank of India.
Hyderabad	1. Al Gyam Exporters, Mumbai	3707 dt. 14.7.2001	87,50,000/-	13.7.2002	Union Bank of India Mumbai.
	2. Bagadia Brothers, Raipur	104/2001 dt. 21.7.2001	94,05,000/-	20.7.2002	Dena Bank Raipur.
	3. MM Exports Chennai	27/2001 dt. 24.7.2001	81,20,000/-	23.7.2002	Indian Oversease Bank Chennai.
	4. Jivan Lal and Sons Mumbai	30038 dt. 3.8.2001	84,87,500/-	2.8.2002	Union Bank of India, Mumbai.
	5. ITC Ltd., Secunderabad	5012150041 dt. 3.8.2001	1,99,50,000/-	2.8.2002	HDFC Bank Ltd., Hyderabad.
	6. ITC Ltd., Secunderabad	5012210042 dt. 9.8.2001	1,99,50,000/-	8.8.2002	-do-
	7. Food Date and Fertiliser Ltd., Hyderabad	8/01-02 dt. 14.8.2001	91,00,000/-	13.8.2002	SBH Hyderabad.
	8. Bharath Exporters, Hyderabad	2001/6 dt. 20.8.2001	84,70,000/-	19.8.2002	Andhra Bank, Kamareddy.
Haryana	i. Shiv Shakti Rice Mills, Taraori	2001/19 dt. 18.7.2001	87,50,000/-	-	State Bank of India, Karnal.
	ii. M/s Lekh Raj Narinder Kumar, Kaithal	6614 dt. 6.8.2001	70,00,000/-	-	Union Bank of India. Overseas, Br. New Delhi.
	iii. M/s. Pawan Jain and Sons, Delhi	09/2001-02 14.8.2001	1,05,00,000/-	-	Bank of Raj. Overseas Br., New Delhi.
	iv. M/s Bansal Overseas, Karnal	2001/16 dt. 5.7.2001	70,00,000/-	-	SBI, Karnal.
	v. M/s D.D. International Inc., Taraori	239/41/2001 dt. 6.7.2001 239/44/2001 dt. 10.8.2001	70,00,000/- 14,31,500/-	-	Oriental Bank of Com- merce Amritsar.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	vi. M/s Mahavir Rice Mills, Taraori	2000/1 dt. 10.8.2001	84,00,000/-	—	SBI, Taraori.
	vii. M/s Veer Overseas Ltd., Gharaunda	53003 dt. 19.7.2001 53004 dt. 20.7.2001	70,00,000/- 15,40,000/-	—	Central Bank of India. -do-
	viii. M/s Amrit International Rice Co. Ltd., New Delhi	2001123 dt. 17.8.2001 2001124 dt. 17.8.2001	3,30,00,000/- 3,00,00,000/-	— —	BNP Paribas Hansalaya, New Delhi.
	ix. M/s Lekh Raj Nrinder Kr. Kaithal	6611 dt. 20.7.2001	70,00,000/-	—	Union Bank of India, CP, New Delhi.
	x. M/s. L.T. Overseas New Delhi	28/2001 dt. 14.8.2001	70,00,000/-	—	Corporation Bank, C.P., New Delhi.
Calcutta	i. M/s V.K. Udyog Ltd., Kolkata	Exp/4048/G/ 2000-01/60 dt. 17.3.2001	27,50,000/-	Released on 3/4	Bank of India Overseas Br., Calcutta.
		Exp/4048/G/ 2000-02-/06 dt. 11.4.01	13,75,000/-	Released on 16/5	-do-
		Exp/4048/G/ 2000-02-/07 dt. 11.4.01	13,75,000/-	Export docu- ments under process.	-do-
	ii. M/s Brij Kishor Prasad	Exp/4048/G/ 2000-02-/1005 dt. 11.4.01	27,50,000/-	Not released due to sub- mission of incomplete export docu- ments	Oriental Bank of Comm- erce, Calcutta.
	iii. M/s R. Piyaalal Inter- national	OSC/BG/11/01 dt. 4.4.01	5,50,000/-	Documents of Export not yet sub- mitted	Bijoya Bank Oversease Br., Calcutta.
		OSC/BG/12/01 dt. 4.4.01	5,50,000/-	-do-	-do-
	iv. M/s. P.K.S. Ltd.,	LG/386INL/2001 dt. 2.5.2001	15,16,625/-	Not released	Union Bank of India, Overseas Br. Calcutta.
		LG/394/INL/01 dt. 11.5.01	3,16,250/-	-do-	
	v. M/s. K.P.S. Enterprises	02/01 dt. 3.4.01	13,75,000/-	-do-	Oriental Bank of Com- merce, Kolkata.
	vi. M/s. LNC Enterprises	1/2001-02 dt. 3.4.01	5,50,000/-	Released on 19/4, 15/5 and 24/8	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur Kolkata.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		04/2001-02 24.04.01	2,75,000/-	Released 15/5	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur Kolkata.
Punjab	i. M/s Emmasons Inter- national Ltd.	115/79/2001 dt. 8.6.01	1,67,50,000/-	7.6.02	Indian Overseas Bank.
		115/LG/106/01 dt. 22.8.01	1,61,00,000/-	21.8.01	New Delhi. ICB, New Delhi.
	ii. M/s KRBL Ltd., Delhi	00548 dt. 20.3.01	3,50,00,000/-	19.3.02	SBI, Overseas Br., New Delhi.
		000563 dt. 25.4.01	70,00,000/-	24.4.02	-do-
		0070100000412 dt. 12.6.01	96,25,000/-	11.6.02	UTI Bank Ltd., New Delhi.
		0070100000418 dt. 25.6.01	87,50,000/-	24.6.02	-do-
		0480301 BG 000630 dt. 21.7.00	3,50,00,000/-	20.7.02	SBI, Overseas Br., Delhi.
		04/01-02 dt. 25.7.01	1,22,50,000/-	24.7.02	State Bank of Hyderabad. Delhi.
		06/01-02 dt. 27.7.01	2,27,50,000/-	26.7.02	-do-
		BG17/2001-02 dt. 17.8.01	96,25,000/-	16.8.02	Karnataka Bank, Delhi.
		BG 18/01-02 dt. 8.8.01	1,54,00,000/-	7.8.02	-do-
		LG 003370/01 dt. 13.8.01	84,00,000/-	12.8.02	ABN Amro Bank, New Delhi.
		LG 003369/01 dt. 13.8.01	1,15,50,000/-	12.8.02	-do-
		048031 BG 00612 dt. 5.7.01	1,54,00,000/-	4.7.02	SBI, Overseas, New Delhi.
		0070/00000447 dt. 5.7.01	3,08,00,000/-	4.7.02	UTI Bank, New Delhi.
	iii. Bishan Saroop Ram Kumar Agro Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.	17/2001-02 dt. 18.6.01	75,00,000/-	17.6.02	State Bank of Mysore, Delhi.
		024/01-02 dt. 17.8.01	1,15,00,000/-	16.8.02	-do-
		25/01-02 dt. 22.8.01	38,50,000/-	21.8.02	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6
iv.	M/s Priyanka Overseas Ltd., Delhi	344/2001 dt. 1.5.01	2,75,00,000/-	1.5.02	Jand K Bank, New Delhi.
v.	M/s Amira Foods Pvt. Ltd, Delhi	95/2001 102/2001 dt. 8.6.01	2,75,00,000/- 75,00,000/-	24.4.02 7.6.02	Canara Bank Overseas Br., New Delhi. -do-
vi.	M/s Amir Chand Jagdish Kumar, Delhi	N.DO. 6042 17/14 dt. 15.6.01 6609 dt. 13.7.01 BG 6616 dt. 17.8.01	3,50,00,000/- 38,50,000/- 38,50,000/-	14.6.02 12.7.02 16.8.02	Bank of India Overseas Br., New Delhi. Union Bank of India, New Delhi. UBI, Overseas Br., New Delhi.
vii.	M/s Padam Shree Intl. Delhi	011 BG 056 dt. 13.6.01	3,50,00,000/-	12.6.02	Canara Bank Delhi.
viii.	M/s GRM Overseas Ltd. Panipat	0405001 BG 026014 dt. 4.7.01	70,00,000/-	3.7.02	SBI, Panipat.
ix.	M/s NAV Bharat Exports, Delhi	108/2001 dt. 6.7.01 109/2001 dt. 13.7.01	87,50,000/- 1,22,50,000/-	4.7.02 12.7.02	Canara Bank Overseas Br., New Delhi. -do-
x.	M/s D.D. International, Amritsar	1/2001 dt. 5.7.01 2/2001 dt. 17.7.01 3/2001 dt. 3.8.01	70,00,000/- 70,00,000/- 70,00,000/-	4.7.02 16.7.02 2.8.02	PNB, Amritsar. -do- -do-
xi.	M/s Shiv Nath Rai Harnarain (India) Ltd., Delhi	42/8 dt. 16.7.01	70,00,000/-	15.7.02	Bank of India, New Delhi.
xii.	M/s G.M. Overseas Rice Millers and Exporters, Delhi	6610 dt. 18.7.01	70,00,000/-	17.7.02	Union Bank of India, New Delhi.
xiii.	M/s Satnam Overseas Ltd., Delhi	GC/GV/SOL/ 2001/134 dt. 18.7.01	1,50,00,000/-	17.7.02	O.B.C. New Delhi.
xiv.	M/s M.M. Overseas, Saharanpur	6/2001 dt. 19.7.01	70,00,000/-	18.7.02	PNB, Saharanpur.
xv.	M/s Bhandari Rice Mills, Delhi	442/LG/25/2001 dt. 20.7.01	70,00,000/-	20.7.02	Indian Overseas Bank, New Delhi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
xvi.	M/s ITC International Ltd., Secundrabad	5012020038 dt. 21.7.01 50/2290043 dt. 17.8.01	5,67,00,000/- 5,70,50,000/-	20.7.02 16.8.02	HDFC Bank, Hyderabad -do-
xvii.	M/s Alagyas Exports Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	3709 dt. 21.7.01	70,00,000/-	20.7.02	Union bank of India.
xviii.	M/s GV (God Vishnu) Rice Mills, Karnal	6/2001 dt. 23.7.01	70,00,000/-	22.7.02	Canara Bank, Karnal.
xix.	M/s Jindal Niryat Ltd. New Delhi	26/2001 dt. 28.7.01	89,35,000/-	27.7.02	Canara Bank, New Delhi
xx.	M/s Vishal Exports Overseas Ltd., Ahemdabad	2063 dt. 31.7.01 30/47/2001	43,00,000/- 50,00,000/-	30.7.02 22.7.02	State Bank of Saurashtra Ahemdabad. Canara Bank, Ahemdabad.
xxi.	M/s Shah Nanji Nagasi Export Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur	IFB/2001/C/39 dt. 1.8.01	83,00,000/-	31.1.03	SBI, Nagpur.
xxii.	M/s Glove International Delhi	952/2001 dt. 6.8.01	80,50,000/-	5.8.02	UBI, Delhi.
xxiii.	M/s Rice India Exports (P) Ltd., Delhi	02/2001-02 dt. 6.8.01	2,31,00,000/-	5.8.02	State bank of Mysore, Delhi.
xxiv.	M/s Pepsico India Holding Pvt., Ltd., Gurgaon	796BGG01 00518 dt. 3.8.01	5,91,25,000/-	2.8.02	Deussche bank, New Delhi.
xxv.	M/s B. Natha Singh Karam Singh Pvt. Ltd., Delhi	SBP/KGM/163/01-02 dt. 9.8.01	73,50,000/-	10.8.02	SBP, Delhi.
xxvi.	M/s R.K. Overseas, Rice Mills, Jalandhar	SBP/BG/11/01-02 dt. 7.8.01	70,00,000/-	6.8.02	SBP, Jalandhar.

[English]

External Aid Receipts and Debt Repayments

5864. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the external aid receipts and debt service repayments from April to January in the fiscal Year 2000-01 resulted in a net outflow of Rs. 3647 crore whereas, there was an outflow of only Rs. 2365 crore in the corresponding period during the last fiscal year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the reasons for heavy increase of outflow; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to curb it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. As indicated in the Table below, the figures reflect the net external assistance position, taking into account the gross disbursements and debt service payments, both on Government and Non-Government accounts :

Net External Assistance

(Rs. crore)

	April-Jan. 1999-2000	April Jan. 2000-01
1. Gross Disbursements	10,312	10,419
2. Debt Service Payments	12,677	14,066
(a) Amortization	8,096	9,502
(b) Interest Payments	4,581	4,564
3. Net External Assistance (1-2)	-2,365	-3,647

(b) The main reasons for the increased outflow up to end January 2001, as compared to January 2000, were prepayment of 8 high cost IBRD loans involving additional outflow of Rs. 580 crores and slower pace of disbursements in respect of non-Government projects.

(c) All externally aided projects are monitored closely so as to maximize disbursements.

Excise on Liquor

5865.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Excise Dept's Gift to liquor firms" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated August 7, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether steep hike in liquor has only benefited the liquor firms and not the Excise Department; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and rationale behind fixing high price of liquor by Excise Department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) Excise duty on alcoholic liquors being a State subject, the Central Government is not in a position to provide this information.

[Translation]

Distribution of Additional Commodities through PDS

5866.SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the quantity of items like wheat, rice, sugar and oil etc. distributed through fair price shops to the consumers to tackle the situation of famine in various States particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) The policy relating to allocation of foodgrains, sugar and oil to the States/ UTs under PDS is uniform through out the country. However, to take care of the situation arising out of natural calamities, additional allocations are made to the concerned State on case to case basis.

National Savings Organisation

5867.DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the number of employees of the National Savings Organisation from 1191 to 25;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the functions being discharged by the National Savings Organisation are likely to be transferred to any other institution and if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) whether the aforesaid expenditure is likely to be less than the expenditure being incurred on running the National Savings Organisation;

(e) if not, the justification behind downsizing the NSO; and

(f) the fate of the surplus employees after downsizing the NSO ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Government has accepted the recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission to downsize the National Savings Organisation by reducing its staff strength from 1191 to about 25,

(c) to (f) The modalities of redeployment/transfer of staff and other related issues are under finalisation.

*[English]***Dues of FI's to ESSAR Group**

5868. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Essar Group of Companies have more than Rs. 400 crore as outstanding loan payable to IDBI, ICICI and GIC which have not been cleared so far;

(b) whether it is also a fact that additional financial assistance has been provided as bailouts to this Group; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to recover dues from this Group ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) IDBI, ICICI and GIC have also finance of Essar Group of Companies. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Merger of Nationalised Banks

5869. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge some nationalised banks to improve efficiency and profitability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Narsimhan Committee had also recommended merger of nationalised banks;

(d) if so, whether any nationalised banks made applications for merger;

(e) if so, the details of such applications; and

(f) the present status of the applications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No Sir, At present there is no proposal under consideration of Government to merge nationalised banks.

(c) The Narsimham Committee had recommended in its report that initiatives for mergers between public sector banks should emanate from the management of the

concerned banks and should be based on synergy and business complementarity.

(d) to (f) No nationalised bank has so far made any application for merger with another bank.

Current Account inflow in GDP

5870. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of current account inflows in GDP was 18.9% on 2000-2001;

(b) if so, whether 18.9% of current account inflows is less than the desired percentage to have a stable balance of payments position;

(c) if so, whether Government have any plan to set the target of current account inflows to 21% of GDP in 2001-2002;

(d) if so, the details of policy initiative to achieve the target of 21% of GDP with regard to current account inflows;

(e) whether a careful review of short-term fiscal policies is underway; and

(f) if so, the details of plan to stabilise the balance of payments position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Gross inflows on the current account of Balance of Payments (including official transfers) were 16.7 per cent of GDP in 2000-01, up from 15.0 per cent in 1999-2000

(b) The viability of Balance of Payments (BOP) is better judged by the current account balance in relation to the sustainable capital flows. The deficit in the current account of India's BOP in 2000-01 was only 0.5 per cent of GDP, well below the sustainable level of 2 per cent of GDP.

(c) and (d) There is no such target fixed the year 2001-02. However, the country's balance of payments position is monitored closely both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and appropriate measures are taken, when necessary, to increase the growth of exports and invisible receipts and to enhance the level of non-debt creating capital flows, particularly of foreign investments, so as to help maintain a viable balance of payments position and an adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

(e) and (f) Fiscal trends in the economy are under constant review and appropriate measures are undertaken

in the light of the emerging trends. India's balance of payments position has shown distinct improvement in recent years and it continues to remain comfortable.

Purchases by NCCF

5871. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NCCF make purchases from suppliers on the basis of authority letters from the distributors and not the manufacturers; and

(b) if so, the steps initiated by Union Government to immediately discard this system and to direct the NCCF to make purchases only from the manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The NCCF is an autonomous cooperative organization registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. The business and other administrative matters of the NCCF are managed by the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of its bye-laws. The NCCF have revised their procedure for sourcing of major branded items w.e.f. 1.7.2001, and all major branded items are sourced from the manufacturers or agencies nominated by them. Only the low value items are sourced from the distributors/manufacturers.

(b) In view of the reply at (a) above, does not arise.

World Bank Aid for Forestry Projects

5872. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank provided funds for forestry projects of some States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of beneficiary States and Union Territories with terms and conditions;

(c) the names of States and Union Territories received funding under the projects during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(d) the present status of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Bank has provided funds for Forestry projects to some States.

(b) Presently, the States of Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal are the beneficiary States. The funds that

have been provided by the World Bank in the Forestry Sector are under the standard terms and conditions as applicable to all credit given by the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank.

(c) The States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala received funding under the projects in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 whereas Uttar Pradesh and Kerala received funding under the projects in 2000-2001.

(d) The projects are progressing smoothly. They are being regularly monitored and are being satisfactorily implemented.

[Translation]

Mid Term appraisal of Ninth Five Year Plan

5873. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan reveals that the people living below the poverty line in Uttar Pradesh are not able to avail of the benefits of Public Distribution System so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for failure of the PDS in the State;

(d) whether the Union Government have taken any corrective steps in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Planning Commission in the Mid-Term appraisal of the 9th Five Year Plan has cited a study conducted in Uttar Pradesh (March, 2000) which concluded that TPDS has not helped the poor in the State. The main causes pointed in the study are :

1. U.P. Government does not lift its quota due to bad administrative arrangements.
2. A substantial portion of whatever is lifted is often sold in the black market.
3. Imperfect targeting has led to exclusion of eligible households.
4. The basis of selecting beneficiaries lacks transparency and is too complicated for local officials to administer.

5. There is a lack of political commitment and the FPS does not have adequate incentive.
6. Multiplicity of agencies, poor co-ordination and low administrative accountability have crippled the delivery machinery.

(d) and (e) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and the State Governments/UT Administrations. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the designated depots, identification of BPL population, issue of ration cards and distribution of subsidised foodgrains to the cardholders in a transparent and accountable manner through the FPS rests with the State Governments.

In a meeting held in Lucknow on 31.8.2000 with Members of Parliament, State Food Ministers and State government officials to review the implementation of TPDS in Uttar Pradesh, the issues relating to implementation of PDS including BPL population identified by the State Government, bogus ration cards, allocation and offtake of foodgrains and status of TPDS monitoring, were discussed.

All State Governments have been requested to initiate suitable measures at all levels to formulate and implement foolproof arrangements for distribution of the poor, for delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops (FPS) and for its distribution in a transparent and accountable manner at the FPS level with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as a measure of social audit. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under PDS to the consumers, a Model Citizens Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption. The charter contains essential information regarding FPS, procedure of issue of ration cards, inspections and checking, right to information and vigilance and public participation. Government Uttar Pradesh has adopted the citizen' charter.

In order to make the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) more focused and targeted towards the poorest of the poor, the Prime Minister announced the "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" on 25 December 2000. The Yojana contemplates identification of poorest of the poor families amongst BPL families and issue of 25 kg of foodgrains at highly subsidised prices of Rs. 2 per kg for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg for rice to them. Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been implemented in the State of Uttar Pradesh with effect from July 2001 after the completion of the task of identification of Antyodaya families and issue of distinctive ration cards to the beneficiaries.

[English]

Disinvestment of ITDC

5874. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to sell off the still to be completed projects undertaken by ITDC in Chandigarh and Anandpur Sahib as per the disinvestment policy of the Government; and

(b) 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) The Government has not yet taken any decision regarding disinvestment of the hotel projects of India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (ITDC) at Chandigarh and Anandpur Sahib.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cost of Sugar Production

5875. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of sugar production in Uttar Pradesh is more than cost of sugar production in other States;

(b) if so, details of the per quintal cost of sugar production in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the price at which sugarcane is being sold by the farmers to the sugar mills in various States of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The actual cost of production of sugar, as incurred by various sugar mills, is not maintained by the Government. Hence, no comparison of production cost of sugar between Uttar Pradesh and other States is feasible.

(c) As reported by the sugar factories, the range of sugarcane prices paid by the factories in the different

States of the country for the sugar season 2000-2001 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*Range of Sugarcane Price Paid by the Factories
in the Different States of the Country during
Sugar Season 2000-2001 (Provisional)*

(Rs. per Quintal)

S.No.	States	
1.	Uttar Pradesh	86.00 to 95.00
2.	Bihar	81.00 to 86.00
3.	Punjab	96.00 to 100.00
4.	Haryana	104.00 to 110.00
5.	Assam	72.50
6.	West Bengal	76.00 to 84.00
7.	Orissa	59.50 to 83.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	77.50 to 94.05
9.	Maharashtra	60.00 to 96.60*
10.	Gujarat	65.00 to 85.50*
11.	Andhra Pradesh	67.90 to 88.10
12.	Tamil Nadu	59.50 to 87.93
13.	Karnataka	60.00 to 83.50*
14.	Pondicherry	59.50

* In case of Maharashtra, Gujarat and part of Karnataka, the final cane price is decided after the close of the sugar season.

[English]

Export of Quartz Stone

5876. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of quartz stones/powder exported during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any specific plans to support the export of quartz-stone/powder;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the authority entitled to give licence to export quartz blocks/powder ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY

SINGH) : (a) State-wise data on exports is not maintained. Total export of quartz stones/powder (Exim Code 2506) during last three years is as under :-

		Qty. in Tonns		Value in Rs. crore	
		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Qty	Value	Qty	Value
		2000-2001		Qty	Value
		27366	9.15	48979	14.65
				95650	23.43

(b) to (d) As per Exim Policy 1997-2002, quartz stones/powder are freely exportable. As such there is no restriction on the export of quartz stones/powder. In fact their exports are showing an increasing trend.

Taxation Policy for Tobacco

5877. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the collection of Central Excise and AED for the Period 1.4.2000-31.3.2001 in respect of tobacco products such as cigarettes, bidi, chewing tobacco, pan masala and snuff;

(b) the percentage of tobacco being consumed in India in the form of cigarettes, bidi and others;

(c) whether the taxation policy of the Government is same in respect of tobacco products also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total excise duty collection, for the period 1.4.2000 - 31.3.2001, from tobacco products (including pan masala, whether containing tobacco or not) was about Rs. 6433 crore. Out of this A.E.D. collection was about Rs. 1726 crore.

(b) Cigarettes account for about 16% of the total tobacco consumption. Biris and other forms account for about 84%.

(c) and (d) Cigarettes, biris, and other tobacco products are charged to different rates of excise duties. The respective rates of excise duty on various tobacco products have been prescribed taking into account relevant factors such as, the nature of the product, the class of consumer, revenue potential etc.

[Translation]

Licences to Financial Institutions

5878. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the financial institutions which have obtained licence for operating in the field of investment in the country;

(b) the number of Financial Institutions, which are not operating after obtaining the licence; and

(c) the names of the non-operational financial institutions against which the Government have initiated/not initiated any action?

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

[English]

World Bank Aided Projects in Haryana

5879. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the scheme have been undertaken in Kurukshetra and other districts of Haryana with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the World Bank for each of the above scheme since 1998 till date year-wise; and

(c) the targets achieved under the above schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is only one ongoing World Bank aided State Sector Project in the State of Haryana viz. Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project. In addition, there are two Multi-State projects viz. Agriculture Human Resources Development Project and Integrated Watershed Development Project (Hills) in which Haryana is one of the participating States.

(b) The assistance provided by the World Bank for the State Sector Project is as follows :

Name of the Project	Funds Received in Rs. Crores			
	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02 upto July '01
Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	81.33	142.35	190.86	154.15

(c) The targets are linked to the Development Objectives to be achieved by project closing date. The implementation of these projects is satisfactory and they are well on course to achieving the targets set in the Development Objectives.

Life of Currency Notes

5880. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a Committee of Experts was formed to examine possibility of increasing the life of Indian currency notes;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Government had set up a Committee of Experts on 15th Oct., 1999 to examine various proposals for increasing the life of Indian Bank Notes. General Manager, Currency Note Press (CNP), Nashik was nominated as the Convenor of the said Committee alongwith six other Members including General Manager, Bank Note Press (BNP), Dewas; Head of the Department, Security Paper Mill (SPM), Hoshangabad; Chief General Manager, Department of Currency Management (DCM), Reserve Bank of India; two representatives from Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd (BRBNML), RBI and Financial Advisor, India Security Press (ISP), Nashik.

(c) The Committee has submitted its report recently and the same is under examination in the Department of Economic Affairs.

Reduction of Excise Duty of SSIs

5881. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are promoting import of "Parts of Arms and Ammunition" into the country without customs duty;

(b) whether the Government are aware that adoption of this method is causing serious damage to the small scale industries that are manufacturing and supplying these goods in the country; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Only those parts of arms and ammunition which are not indigenously produced in required quantity are imported by Ordnance Factories for defence purposes availing customs duty exemption. Therefore, the question of such imports causing serious damage to small scale industries manufacturing parts of arms and ammunitions does not arise.

(c) Does not arise in view of the above.

Films Certified by CBFC of Tamilnadu

5882. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details about the total number of Tamil feature films certified by the CBFC during 1999 to 2001, name-wise details;

(b) the details about the Chairperson and other non-official members of the board and their background of each regional office;

(c) the details about the guidelines followed by the Government in appointing advisory panels;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints about the advisory members having links with the producers in certifying certain vulgar scenes of the films; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Ms Asha Parekh, an eminent film artiste, is the Chairperson of the Board. The names and educational background of the members of the Board are given in the enclosed Statement-II

(c) As per the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, any person, who in the opinion of the Central Government, is qualified to judge the effect of a film on the average audience, can be appointed as member of CBFC's advisory panels.

(d) No record of such complaints is available.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Name-wise Details of total Number of Tamil Feature Films Certified by the Central Board of Film Certification, from January, 1999 to June, 2001

Names of the Films

(1999)

1. Maaya	29. Nenjinile
2. Mannavaru Chinnavaru	30. Oruvan
3. Thullatha manamum-thullum	31. Kadhalar dhinam
4. Unnai thedi	32. Swayamvaram
5. Ninaivirukkum varai	33. Sangamam
6. Chinn raja	34. Viraluketha veekam
7. Poovasam	35. IPC 215
8. Manam virumbudhe unnai	36. Ennuyir nanba
9. Kalvan	37. Rojavanam
10. Kallazhagar	38. Poovellam kattuppar
11. En swasakatre	39. Suryodayam
12. Ethirum puthirum	40. Kathalukku eacharikkai
13. Dha dha dharbar	41. Kattu kuthirai
14. Maravadhe Kanmaniye	42. Malabar Police
15. Chinna durai	43. Kanave kalaiyathay
16. Padyappa	44. Manaseka kadal
17. Mr. Anandhan	45. Nee varuvai ena
18. Guest house	46. Kannodu kanbethelam
19. Poomagal oorvalam	47. Cinema shooting
20. Nilave mugam kattu	48. Nineivugalmaraivathillai
21. Poo maname vaa	49. Munivikku Mariyathai
22. Manisha en monaliza	50. Amarakkalam
23. Kaadhal daham	51. Maya maligai
24. Parianna	52. Minsara kanna
25. Oor iravu	53. Pooparikka Verigiram
26. Kama	54. Anbulla kthalukku
27. Vaalee	55. Sundari neeyum sundaran naanun
28. Rajasthan	56. Jodi
	57. Kaakai siraginille

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 58. Unakkaga ellam unakkaga | 91. Pathram | 126. Ramba Urvashi Menaka | 139. Enga mappiley |
| 59. Nesam pudusu | 92. Anantha Poonkatre | 127. Kaki chataya karuppu chataya | 140. Dhalapathi kottai |
| 60. Mugham | 93. Taalam | 128. Malare mayangathe | 141. Kshathriya dharmam |
| 61. Jayam | 94. Pai Jenmam | 129. Nesikkirean | 142. Vanmurai |
| 62. Pudhu kudhithanam | 95. Unakkaga | 130. Ganesh | 143. No. 1 Police |
| 63. Ooty | 96. Pagaiyal | 131. Devi | 144. Antahpuram |
| 64. Kannu pada poguthaia | 97. Yelam | 132. Makkalukkaga | 145. Kama sāstra |
| 65. Kanmani unakkaga | 98. Harikrishnans | 133. Jitthan | 146. Thulum ilamai |
| 66. Sethu | 99. Avala aviya | 134. College Gallata | 147. Bharatha Ratana |
| 67. Sivan | 100. Superman | 135. Ladies special | 148. Singanadai |
| 68. Aids kaatteri | 101. Amarnath | 136. Enga veettu mahalakshmi | 149. nee enakku uyiramma |
| 69. Mudhalvan | 102. City Commissioner | 137. Thedi vantha devadi | 150. Kiladi marumagal |
| 70. Tajmaghaal | 103. F.I.R. | 138. Tiger | 151. Singara purushan |
| 71. Hallo | 104. Makkal thilagam | | 152. 31st night |
| 72. Azhagarsami | 105. Elamaikku oru ellai | | 153. Kadhalae satchi |
| 73. Adhandha Edhandha | 106. Ithu oru kathal Kathai | | |
| 74. Unnaruge nan irundhal | 107. Minnal | | (2001) |
| 75. Assayil oar kaditham | 108. Iravu mohini | 1. Kannukku Nilavu | 20. James Pondu |
| 76. Iraniyan | 109. Thambathya Vazakkai | 2. Vaanathaippola | 21. Athey Manithan |
| 77. Muthal eacharikkai | 110. Edho mogam yeno thagam | 3. Good Luck | 22. Mouna Dagam |
| 78. Thirupathi ezhumalai venkatesa | 111. Vazhu vazhavidu | 4. Crime File | 23. Andavan |
| 79. Time | 112. Commissioner Bhavani | 5. Eazhaiyin Sirippil | 24. Kannan Varuvan |
| 80. Paattalee | 113. A | 6. Anbe Diana | 25. Kushi |
| 81. Dubashi | 114. Mister Z | 7. Thy Poranthachu | 26. Karisakkaattu poove |
| 82. Annai | 115. Hello sundari | 8. Mugavaree | 27. Unnaikkodu Ennai Tharuvan |
| 83. Tirunelveli | 116. Aengukiral oru maadhu | 9. Sudhantiram | 28. Kandha kadamba kathirvela |
| 84. Bharani | 117. Rough and tough | 10. Devil nights | 29. Natchatra Kaadel |
| 85. Iravu mani pannirendu | 118. Rowdy vamsam | 11. Thalaivi | 30. Senthazham Pookkal |
| 86. Hey ram | 119. Peyi vamasam | 12. Brahmachari oru Kamsutra kathai | 31. Magalirkkaga |
| 87. Nilave ennai nerungathe | 120. The real fire | 13. Alai paythe | 32. Mudhal Iravukku Munnal |
| 88. Kummi paattu | 121. Lady tiger | 14. Vallarasu | 33. Vetri kodikattu |
| 89. Regina | 122. A.K. 47 | 15. rajakaliamman | 34. Appu |
| 90. Pon Vizha | 123. Azhagu Rani | 16. Santhitha | 35. Ennamma Kannou |
| | 124. Naga bandham | 17. Veerandai | 36. Nagalingam |
| | 125. No entry | 18. Kandakondain Kandukondian | 37. Indpendence day |
| | | 19. Kangal | |

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 38. Pennin Manathai thottu | 71. Vanna thamih pattu | 106. Kathal mazhal | 132. America america |
| 39. Unakkaga Mattum | 72. Thenali | 107. Kathal arangetram | 133. Rathai manmutham |
| 40. En iniya pon nilave | 73. Priya mannavale | 108. Rakkilikal | 134. Deva kanni |
| 41. Koodi vazhuthai kodi manmai | 74. Vanavil | 109. Warrant | 135. Maram jaalam |
| 42. Kuberan | 75. Seenu | 110. Iravu rojakkal | 136. City rowdy |
| 43. Kannal pesava | 76. Puthiya udayam | 111. Mandira Kottai | 137. Ladies hostel |
| 44. Simhasanam | 77. Pudhiraapunithama | 112. Police Adhikari | 138. Kadhal mogam |
| 45. Kan thiranthu paramma | 78. Puratchikkaran | 113. Paruva vasaliley | 139. Shankar |
| 46. Thambathyam puthira punithamma | 79. Anbudan | 114. Nagadevathai | 140. Shanmuga pandian |
| 47. Dasami | 80. Nilaakaalam | 115. Pularairuthurai | 141. Guru brahma |
| 48. Doubles | 81. En sahiye | 116. Sugumaana anubhavam | 142. Kathal vennila |
| 49. Parthen Rasithen | 82. Theerpugal matra padalam | 117. Nee inri naanillai | 143. Kadhal vaniley |
| 50. Maayie | 83. Manamtha mayakkam | 118. Indha padai poduma | 144. Azagea unnai kadali kquirean |
| 51. Pirantha maal | 84. Neelambari | 119. Babilona | 145. Ilamai thappu thalun |
| 52. Relax | 85. Kanden Seethayai | 120. Honey moon secret | 146. Amman koyil kulandhan |
| 53. Unnai Kan theduthe | 86. Ennavalle | 121. Sundara Kannigal jakirathai | 147. Nalliruva |
| 54. Agraharam 2000 | 87. Manu needi | 122. Anbe azhaikkiren | 148. Moothavan |
| 55. Bharathi | 88. Sinbad | 123. Mona alaigal | 149. Veera vamsam |
| 56. Budget padamanabhan | 89. Kadalpookal | 124. Ilamai oru inbam | 150. Sammadham tharuvaalaa |
| 57. Marina beach | 90. Pottu amman | 125. Mohini dhagam | 151. Elamai unnarchigal |
| 58. Chinna china kannilay | 91. Looty | 126. Penngaley jagirathai | 152. Singa tamizham |
| 59. Sabash | 92. Parua mazhai | 127. Aasaigal nooru vidham | 153. Commander jayanthi |
| 60. Khrotham-2 | 93. Maname mayangathe | 128. Amma kanu thirandha | 154. Nagathamman |
| 61. Avalin iravugal | 94. Iniya udhayam | 129. Idhu oru kandhal anubhavam | 155. Dharma vamsam |
| 62. Ilayavan | 95. Aval paavam | 130. Devi samundi | 156. Love in khajura |
| 63. Ninaivellam nee | 96. Vuyirin vuyirae | 131. Azhagu Singane | 157. Elamai vetai |
| 64. Vyirile kalanthadu | 97. Theendum inbam | | |
| 65. Rhythm | 98. Kathanayaki | | |
| 66. Nee enthan vaanam | 99. Azhakiya maina | | |
| 67. Snehithiye | 100. Kannimayakkam | | |
| 68. Penngal | 101. Nadavadikkai | | |
| 69. Playathuamman | 102. Ennavale adi | | |
| 70. Kanukku kannaga | 103. Kashmir rajakkal | | |
| | 104. Devadasi | | |
| | 105. Kavalan | | |

(2001)

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|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Friends | 7. Unmayil avalum appadithan |
| 2. Dheena | 8. Thunai iruppal pannari |
| 3. Vanchinathan | 9. Minnale |
| 4. Nageshwari | 10. Engalukkum kaalam varum |
| 5. Thaali kathakaliman | |
| 6. I love you Julie | |

11. Ullamkollai pogudhey	30. Middle class madhayan	50. Cover story	68. Ushaar
12. Nenje nenje	31. Vadugapatti maapillai	51. Elamai etho etha	69. College story
13. Rishi	32. Chithiram	52. Kathara	70. Villayathu ponnu
14. Piriyaadha varam vendum	33. Sonnalthan Kathala	53. Kuttravali	71. Tha Uyirai tha
15. Ninaikatha naalillai	34. Kabadie kabadie	54. Enn aththal	72. Papa
16. Arjuna	35. Sihamani Ramamani	55. Chinna chinna thapukkal	73. Kurukshetram
17. Kanguma pottu gounder	36. Asathal	56. thanga thoni	74. Dinamum oru roja
18. Vinnukum mannukum	37. Krishna krishna	57. Nee enakku mattum than	75. Kaamagni
19. Kutty	38. Anandham	58. The Great Dada Saheb	76. Oozhal
20. Parvai ondre pothume	39. Oorukku noorupar	59. Raasanila	77. Lady captain
21. Ennpurusu kozhan thai mathiri	40. Love channel	60. Indha ravil	78. Sorry aunty
22. Azhagia laila	41. Kanna unnai thedukiran	61. Ruchi	79. Kuzhandai yum deivamum
23. Seeri varum kalai	42. Kalakalappu	62. Elamaikala asaikal	80. Pennalla peni
24. Little ohn	43. Citizen	63. Mayuri	81. Paruvam
25. Dum dumm dumm	44. Dost	64. Aasai alaipayuthi	82. Miss Rathi
26. Santhiya	45. Azhaki	65. Unnai thedi varuvan	83. Theeviravathi
27. Badri	46. Viduvatharkku munnal	66. Travellers bungalow	84. February 14th Lovers day
28. Azhageswaran	47. Vegam	67. Rambane oru azagusilai	85. Aatchi
29. Sir Raja Rajeshwari	48. Vazhukiren		86. Vettakaran
	49. Gandharva rathri		

Statement-II*Details of Members of the Board of Central Board of Film Certification*

Sr.No.	Name of the Member	Region	Qualification
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri R. Sowrirajan	Chennai	M.A. M. Phil (Hindi) M.A. (Tamil) M.A. (Sanskrit)
2.	Shri R.S. Manohar	Chennai	B.A.
3.	Smt. S. Radhakrishna	Chennai	M.A. (Sociology)
4.	Shri Vinod Sharma	Mumbai	1. Sahitya Ratna in Hindi 2. Prabhakar Ratna Sanskriti Pratima
5.	Shri Arvind Trivedi	Mumbai	Inter
6.	Ms. Namita Shankar Pandya	Mumbai	B.A.
7.	Dr. (Smt.) Snehlata Deshmukh	Mumbai	M.S., F.R.C.S. F.A.M.S.
8.	Shri H.N.Y. Pathanjall	Hyderabad	B. Com.

1	2	3	4
9.	Smt. S. Janaki	Hyderabad	B. Com.
10.	Smt. Sarala Kumari	Hyderabad	B. Com.
11.	Shri Sitaram Sastri	Hyderabad	B.A.
12.	Ms. Saroja Devi	Bangalore	S.S.L.C.
13.	Dr. A. Sreedhara	Bangalore	M.B.B.S. and D.I.H.
14.	Ms. Jayanthi	Bangalore	Matriculation
15.	Smt. Leela Latheef	Thiruvananthapuram	B.A., B.Ed.
16.	Shri Rosscote Krishna Pillai	Thiruvananthapuram	I.M.S.C., Certificate of Proficiency in French
17.	Shri Tapas Paul	Calcutta	B.Sc.
18.	Ms. Arundhati Mukherjee	Calcutta	M.A.
19.	Smt. Binapani Mohanty	Cuttack	M.A. (Economics)
20.	Shri Anant Mahapatra	Cuttack	B.A. (Hons.)
21.	Shri Hemant Das	Guwahati	B.A. Part-I
22.	Smt. Chitra Mudgil	Delhi	M.A. (Hindi)
23.	Shri Ramakant Goswami	Delhi	B.A., M.A., Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism
24.	Shri Dinesh Vats	Delhi	Graduate
25.	Smt. Sowcar Janaki	Chennai	Since resigned

NPAs of FIs

5883. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "FIs promoters busy 'restructuring' steel loans to avoid NPAs" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated the August 20, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the loan from the private steel companies due to which NPAs have accumulated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) In the context of the problems being faced by the Steel Industry in which financial Institutions (FIs) have substantial exposure, large steel projects assisted by FIs and at advanced stage of implementation are being reviewed continuously by the Institutions of asses the long-term viability of these projects. The consensus among the Institutions is that FIs could provide need based reliefs, keeping additional funding to the minimum required, subject

to the promoters bringing in reasonable contribution and agreeing to certain built-in safeguards aimed at stricter financial discipline on the promoters. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Foreign Investment

5884. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 922 on July 28, 2000 regarding Foreign Investment and state :

(a) whether the statistical figures for the year 1999-2000 have since been collected; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) During 1999-2000, payment of dividend and profit to non-

resident share holders amounted to US \$ 537 million. The interest payments on account of non-resident deposits, loans from non-residents and on debentures, Floating Rate Notes (FRNs), Commercial Papers (CPs), fixed deposits etc. amounted to US \$ 4928 million. During 1999-2000, payment of dividend and profit at US \$ 537 million was lower than that of foreign investment inflows of US \$ 5191 million.

Leather Export

5885. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the target fixed for the export of leather and leather products during 2001-2002;
- (b) the extent to which target has been achieved till date;
- (c) the growth rate in leather exports during the current financial year as compared to previous year;
- (d) whether the Government are considering to adopt latest technology from developed countries to improve the quality of our leather goods to compete in world market; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The target fixed for export of leather and leather products during 2001-2002 is US \$ 2405.24 Million.

(b) As per the DGCI&S statistics available upto April-May 2001, the target has been achieved to the extent of 11.91%

(c) The growth rate in leather exports during the current financial year as compared to previous year for the same period is 4.08% in \$ terms.

(d) and (e) Technological up-gradation of products is a continuous process. Institutions like Central Leather Research Institute and Footwear Design and Development Institute set up by the Government are constantly endeavouring to improve product designs and quality of the products.

Income Tax on UTI

5886. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that income tax department has sent a notice to UTI demanding Rs. 1,100 crore as income tax arrears;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the likely impact of this decision on unit-holders and future business of UTI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Income Tax department had initiated proceedings under Section 10(a) of the Interest Tax Act, 1974 against Unit Trust of India.

(b) The notices for Assessment years 1992-93 to 1999-2000 under Section 10(a) of the Interest Tax Act issued by the Income Tax department were contested by Unit Trust of India and a Writ petition was filed before the Hon'ble Mumbai High Court. The Hon'ble High Court in its order dated 19.4.2001 has quashed the notices issued.

(c) In view of the facts mentioned in part (b) above, there is no likely impact on the Unit holders/UTI – at present.

[Translation]

Deficiencies in Telecasting of Rights/Marketing

5887. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

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

- (a) whether Doordarshan's management of commercial time has brought out serious deficiencies in acquisition of telecast rights, marketing arrangements, tariff setting and revenue sharing;
- (b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the action taken against guilty officials; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. Acquisition of telecast rights marketing arrangements, tariff

setting and revenue sharing are ongoing process in a commercial broadcast scenario. In order to ensure that there is transparency and objectivity and fairness in management of commercial time Prasar Bharati, has decided that the commercial rate structure would be reviewed once in every three months as necessary to keep up with the dynamics of commercial marketing.

(b) to (e) CBI is conducting enquiry into the irregularities in awarding of telecast rights of various sports events since 1996. They have also filed five (5) FIRs against six officials and further investigation is being conducted by them.

CBI is also investigating alleged irregularities in granting marketing and telecasting rights for the Sunday Bengali Feature Films on Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata. CBI has filed FIR against three (3) officials of Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata and one (1) official of Doordarshan Commercial Service in this regard.

[English]

Income Tax on Salaries of MLAs

5888. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Income-tax is imposed on the salary and allowances drawn by the Members of Legislative Assemblies;

(b) if so, the norms prescribed therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to grant exemption of MLAs as it is being granted to the Member of Parliament; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Salary of Members of Legislative Assemblies is not exempt from the income-tax. However, Daily Allowance received by a Member of any State Legislative or Committee thereof is exempt under the provisions of Sec. 10(17A)(i) of the Income-tax Act, 1961. All other allowances upto rupees two thousand per month in aggregate received by a Member of any State Legislature or Committee thereof is exempt under the provisions of Sec. 10(17) (ii), as per Notification No. 11458 dated 7th August, 2000, w.e.f. 01.04.98.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration to grant exemption to MLAs.

(d) Nil in view of (c) above.

Abrupt Stoppage of Rice Sale by FCI

5889. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the disposal of 6.5 lakh tonnes of rice cleared for sale from the overflowing godowns in Punjab by a high level Government Committee was abruptly stopped and an earnest money of Rs. 50 crore deposited by the bidder has not been returned to them;

(b) if so, the reasons for the sudden decision of the FCI to abruptly cut off the sale of the rest of the quantity of rice and inviting another bid in the last week of April for the sale of another 2 lakh tonnes of rice and for not refunding the earnest money to bidders;

(c) whether the tenders invited by a specific date to be opened on a particular date at a particular time from amongst the registered suppliers be postponed to consider the proposal for the supply of items from a supplier who is not registered with the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check such malpractices in the inviting of tenders and opening thereof ?

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

(b) The Sale of rice was withheld due to certain complaints received and not due to invitation of fresh bids for balance quantity of URS rice (1998-99) to the tune of 2.0 lakh MT.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

CBI Raids

5890. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRI SURESH KURUP :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

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

(a) whether the CBI has been enquiring in a number of cases of involving Doordarshan officials who have been

favouring a number of private telecast companies and other deals;

(b) if so, the details of cases so far investigated by the CBI; and

(c) the action taken or contemplated by the Government in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Excise Duty Evasion

5891. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

"Will the Minister of Finance be pleased refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 6200 dated April, 27, 2001 regarding evasion of excise duty and state :

(a) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the Officer who adjudicated the case and had to be reviewed by Central Board of excise and Customs and to file an appeal in Central excise and Gold Appellate Tribunal; and

(b) the steps taken to get the case expedited in the CEGAT and to get the stay vacated to clear the way to recoveries ?"

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Adjudication is a quasi-judicial function in which an adjudicator gives independent judgement. Cases are reviewed in terms of the provisions of the Central Excise Act, 1944. Review of an order does not call for action against the adjudicating officer.

(b) The case was heard by the in Customs Excise and Gold Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT), Mumbai in January, 2001 but orders could not be passed due to retirement of Member (Technical). The Departmental Representative has been requested for taking actions for early hearing.

Sale of Hindustan Teleprinters and CMC Ltd.

5892. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment have cleared the shareholders' agreement for the sale of

Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd., and Computer Maintenance Corporation Limited (CMC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to set up shell companies to facilitate the sale of IBP Ltd.; 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) No, Sir. The final drafts of the shareholders agreement have not yet been approved by Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has accorded approval for formation of a new company for the purpose of demerger of IBP's investment in Balmer Lawrie Limited. The shares of Balmer Lawrie presently held by IBP will be transferred to the new company after completion of the necessary formalities.

Revenue Earned from Textiles

5893. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the revenue earned by the Government from the processing of mixed cotton knitted fabrics and 100 per cent polyster sectors, during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) For most portion of the last three years, independent textile processors, engaged in the processing of fabrics including mixed cotton knitted fabrics and 100 per cent polyester fabrics, were discharging excise duty liability on chamber basis under the capacity-based compounded levy scheme. As such, no separate revenue figures in respect of mixed cotton knitted fabrics and 100 per cent polyester knitted fabrics are available.

Case against Assistant Controller of Prasar Bharati

5894. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem published in "Dainik Jagran" dated 30 June, 2001 under the caption "Prasar Bharti ke Sahayak Controller Va Koyla Mafiya Ke Khilaf Ek Aur Mamla Darz;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such cases registered in the country, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) A Regular case has been registered by the CBI on 20.06.2001 interalia on the issues mentioned in the said news item, against the following persons :

(i) Sh. Shashank Narayan, Assistant Controller of Sales, Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan, New Delhi.

(ii) Sh. Ramesh Gandhi, Director, M/s. Aarambh Advertising and Marketing Pvt. Ltd.

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

Sale of Time Slot of Saturday Night Movie

5895. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the company to which Doordarshan had sold the time slot of Saturday night movie for 52 weeks;

(b) whether the said company had some outstanding dues against it;

(c) if so, the reasons the dues were not recovered before awarding the time slot;

(d) the total loss incurred by Doordarshan in the said transaction; and

(e) the details of action taken by the Government for making good of its loss by fixing the responsibility and penalising the guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the time slot for telecast of Saturday Hindi feature film was given to M/s Shree Madhav Poly Products and Trading Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai from 22nd January 2000.

(b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that there were no outstandings against the company when the time slot was allotted to it.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Disinvestment of BALCO

5896. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the honourable Supreme Court had decided in the Samatha case against giving the mining lease to Government land in scheduled areas to non-tribals;

(b) whether this judgement was kept in view and its implications critically examined before taking the disinvestment decision in BALCO;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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) In the case of the Samatha judgement, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had interpreted the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Areas Transfer Regulations, 1959. Further in Andhra Pradesh, existing mining activity by non-tribals in Scheduled Areas has been stopped on account of Section 11(5) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, (MMDR Act) 1957, inserted by a local amendment after exercising powers given under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. The Supreme Court had held that in view of these Statutes, mining leases held by non-tribals in the areas included in the areas notified under the Fifth Schedule in the State of Andhra Pradesh were null and void. The Supreme Court also gave directions to other State Governments who had areas notified under the Fifth Schedule to consider whether the Andhra Pradesh Statutes should be emulated and new mining leases in such areas should be granted after a national policy emerges in this regard.

Applicability of Samatha Judgement to lands and mining leases held by BALCO was gone into carefully prior to the disinvestment. The Samatha judgement has interpreted the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Areas Land Transfer Regulations, 1959 and in the absence

of any such Regulations in the State of Chhattisgarh (or the erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh), and in the absence of any local amendment in the MMDR Act, 1957 in Chhattisgarh (or the erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh), the situation regarding transfer of land was entirely different in that State. It was therefore found that the Samatha judgement had no direct and immediate bearing on the disinvestment process of BALCO.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Himachal Gramin Bank

5897. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that less interest has been paid on SLR deposits of Himachal Gramin Bank by Punjab National Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken with regard to repayment of the said amount to Himachal Gramin Bank;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the claim with regard to the said amount of interest worth Rupees 28,20,550 on SLR deposits for the period from March 4, 1993 to July 15, 1994 has been withdrawn by the Chartered Accountant as per the Annual Financial Report of Himachal Gramin Bank;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps being taken by the promoter Bank for the payment of the balance amount of interest ?

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

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

(c) and (d) Punjab National Bank (PNB), which is the sponsoring bank of Himachal Gramin Bank (HGB), Mandi, has reported that upto 15.01.1994 HGB was keeping funds with sponsor bank without making any distinction between SLR and Non SLR funds and interest was being paid on the amount qualifying for SLR deposits as per undertaking given by HGB to PNB, Branch Office, Mandi. With effect from 16.01.1994, HGB, Mandi started keeping SLR deposits separately with PNB and interest thereon is being paid as per extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India. As per the notes annexed to the Annual Report of HGB for the year ended 31.03.2000, it has been stated that the claims of Rs. 28,20,550/- with PNB, Mandi regarding

interest arrears has been dropped by the Board of the Bank.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

[English]

Public Sector Insurance Companies

5898. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether General Insurers' Public Sector Association of India (GIPSA) is a Regulatory Authority and its decisions are binding on Public Sector Insurance Companies;

(b) if so, the details of its scope and terms of office.

(c) whether GIPSA had called Employees Unions/Associations for talks in Chennai on various dates in the last nine months;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken during the rounds of talk; and

(e) the details of expenditure incurred on meetings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA) is a voluntary association of public sector general insurance companies. It is to be registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. GIPSA is not a regulatory authority and its decisions are not binding on public sector insurance companies.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. GIPSA had invited Development Officers' Associations and Class III/IV Employees' Associations for discussion on the role of Development Officers, restructuring of offices, re-training and deployment, transfer policy and mobility, customer services, working hours and days etc. GIPSA is yet to take a final decision on the issues discussed in these meetings.

(e) Expenditure, other than TA/DA to delegates, incurred for organising these meetings was Rs. 7.46 lacs.

DD Kendra - II, Mandi House

5899. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an unnecessary delay in the construction of Doordarshan Kendra-II at Mandi House New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith time and cost overrun;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken for an early construction of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that there has been delay in the construction of Doordarshan Bhawan (Phase-II) building, due to failure on the part of the construction agency. Consequently, earlier contract for civil works was rescinded and fresh contract for the completion of balance works has been awarded in May, 2001. While the project was originally targeted for completion by March 1999, it is now expected to be completed by 2002-2003. Prasar Bharati does not anticipate any over-run of the costs approved in 1994, at present. Prasar Bharati is taking all possible steps to have the project completed by the end of 2002-2003.

Laxity on Nepal Events

5900. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the failure of Doordarshan in promptly reporting the tragic turning of events in Nepal on the assassination of the King of Nepal;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been made by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action has been taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that there was no failure on the part of Doordarshan in promptly reporting on the assassination of the King of Nepal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that the first news item of the assassination of the King of Nepal was available at around 3.45 AM on 2nd June, 2001. After confirming the news from the AIR (Kathmandu) Correspondent, it was scrolled on the News Channel at around 0600 hrs. The news was the lead headline in the first bulletin in the morning at 0700 hrs.

(d) Does not arise.

Expenditure Incurred by Ministers

5901. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are downsizing various departments and offices in order to curtail its expenditure, whereas many of his colleagues in the Council of Ministers are continuing to have services of personal staff and vehicles both on formal and informal basis beyond their entitlement;

(b) if so, whether he has impressed upon his colleagues to manage their affairs within their entitlement and observe economy;

(c) the excess expenditure incurred by Ministers on entertainment, salaries of both formal and informal personal staff, separately, TA and DA, telephones and vehicles during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 (upto June); and

(d) the level of expenditure on above likely to be brought down in 2001-02 as compared to last year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Optimizing the Government workforce with a view to economising on non-plan expenditure and improving efficiency is a continuous process and guidelines thereon are issued from time to time. The Prime Minister in his letter dated 23.9.2000 addressed to all the Ministers, had urged them to comply with the existing guidelines of austerity, drawing their special reference to the need for observing the existing entitlement of use of official car, official hospitality, entitlement of the scale of the personal staff, foreign travel, telephones, etc. However, no centralised and separate data is maintained on individual items of expenditure in the offices of various Ministers.

Vacant Post of Clerks

5902. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of posts of clerks are vacant in various branches of SBI in Haryana;

(b) if so, the branch-wise details of such vacant posts particularly in Sonapat, Bahadurgarh, Rohtak, Rewari branches of State Bank of India in Haryana; and

(c) by when these posts are likely to be filled up by the Government ?

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

Bank of India has denied any report about acute shortage of staff in the State of Haryana.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme, pockets of deficit and surplus staff got created in various areas including the State of Haryana. The Bank have since redeployed the employees from surplus pockets to deficit pockets to fill up the vacancies.

Food for Work Programme

5903. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the Committee of Chief Ministers' was held in July, 2001 to discuss the issues pertaining to the restructuring of the food-for-work programme and repeal of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken to implement the food-for-work programme more effectively so that its benefit reach the genuinely needy persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Implementation of the Food for Work Programme and review of Essential Commodities Act and Control Orders issued under the Act to ensure free movement of agricultural commodities were among the items discussed in the meeting.

(b) The Food for Work Programme was started in 2001 as part of the EAS, in eight drought affected States viz. Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya

Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttranchal. The programme aims at generating wage employment and income in the drought affected rural areas as notified by the Ministry of Agriculture.

As per the revised guidelines, the Food for Work Programme has since been expanded so as to cover other natural calamities like food, cyclone and earthquake. The Programme was earlier to have ended by 30 June, 2001 but has now been extended upto 30 September 2001. Under the programme, the Government of India are to make available appropriate quantity of foodgrains to each of the affected States as an additionality and free of cost, with a view to enable the affected States to provide adequate wage employment opportunities to the needy rural poor. The States may take payment of wages partly in kind (upto 5 kg. foodgrains per man per day) and partly in cash.

The eligibility criteria under the programme includes both BPL and APL families. The State Governments will be free to calculate the cost of the foodgrains paid in wages at either BPL or APL rate or anywhere between these rates. The workers will be paid balance of wages in cash so that they are assured of the payment of minimum prescribed wages. The cash component of the wages and material cost are to be met from the scheme under which the Food for Work Programme is implemented. The cost of the transportation of foodgrains from FCI godown to the work-site/PDS outlets and its distribution is the responsibility of the State Governments.

So far a quantity of 23.42 lakh tonnes has been allocated free of cost to the States for Food for Work Programmes in drought/heavy rain/flood affected areas as per details given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*Allocation and Offtake of Foodgrains under Food for Work Programme in Drought/
Flood affected States (January, 2001 to date)*

(Allotted Free of Cost)

(in tonnes)

	Allotment (Upto 29.8.2001)			Offtake (Prov) (Upto 23.8.2001)		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	300000	0	300000	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	507000	0	507000	407000	0	407000
Gujarat	31590	116515	148105	22771	76892	99663
Himachal Pradesh	11549	0	11549	7286	0	7286

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Karnataka	57460	42540	100000	0	0	0
Maharashtra	10000	40000	50000	5110	14368	19478
Madhya Pradesh	55254	175705	230959	39095	123846	162941
Orissa	250000	0	250000	131815	14617	146432
Rajasthan	0	739505	739505	0	477441	477441
Kerala	5000	0	5000	0	0	0
Total	1227853	1114265	2342118	613077	707164	1320241

In case of Orissa wheat allocation of 20,000 tonnes has been converted into rice allocation but 14617 tonnes of lifting of wheat has been reported.

Import of Indian Wheat by Iraq

5904. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iraq has decided to import more than 7 lakh tonnes of Indian wheat;

(b) whether Iraq has signed the contracts with the companies of Russia, Jordan and UAE instead of Indian exporters of import of Indian wheat;

(c) if so, the reasons for not signing the contracts with Indian exporters;

(d) whether the exports will be made through these countries; and

(e) if so, the extent to which it will affect the Indian exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Grain Board of Iraq against their tender had awarded orders for supply of 3.5 lakh MTs of wheat on 8 registered Indian exporters, including STC, under phase VIII of UN Food-for-Oil programme. Later the Grain Board of Iraq awarded further orders for supply of 2.5 lakh MTs of wheat to 14 registered exporters in phase IX of UN programme.

(b) to (d) STC has informed that they do not have detailed information regarding contracts signed by Iraq with the companies of Jordan and UAE. However, one Russian Trading Company concluded a contract for supply of 5 lakh MTs of wheat with STC on FOB basis. The Russian Trading Company which has signed contract with STC intends to export some quantity of wheat out of the contracted quantity of Iraq.

(e) The Indian exporters have already received orders for supply wheat to Iraq for a total quantity of 6 lakh MTs. In view of this, it is not likely to affect the Indian exporters.

[Translation]

Construction of FM Channel Office at Jaipur

5905. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of the F.M. Channel office building in Jaipur city has been completed;

(b) whether the above office has been inaugurated;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the above Channel has not been aired despite fixing the date of broadcast of programmes from this channel;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the time which the said channel is likely to be aired for the listeners ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) The FM Channel at Jaipur will start functioning after H.T. power supply from Rajasthan State Electricity Board is made available. However, the FM channel is proposed to be started through interim captive power source in September, 2001.

Regional Centres of Film Division*[English]*

5906. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of the Regional Centres of the Film Division in the country at present;
- (b) whether these centres are well equipped with equipment;
- (c) if not, the steps taken for equipping them with latest equipments;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to set up more Regional Centres of the film division in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith its location ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) There are two Regional Production Centres of Films Division at Bangalore and Kolkata apart from a Unit of the Division at New Delhi for production of family welfare and defence training films.

(b) and (c) The Regional Production Centres are equipped with essential infrastructure like cameras, editing machines and recording equipments. Subject to availability of funds upgradation is undertaken under a Plan Scheme for modernisation and replacement of obsolete equipment.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Outstanding Dues

5907. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

- (a) the details of dues pending for recovery against each of the organisation/company during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the amount released during the current financial year and the balance of dues still required to be recovered in each case;
- (c) the efforts made by the Government for the recovery of dues in each case;
- (d) whether certain outstanding dues have been written-off during the last three years due to its non-realisation; and
- (e) if so, the amount written-off during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Details as regard Doordarshan are given the enclosed Statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Outstanding dues against defaulting agencies as on 01.04.1999, 01.04.2000, 01.04.2001 and Recoveries made (Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Agency	Outstanding as on 1.4.1999	Outstanding as on 1.4.2000	Outstanding as on 1.4.2001	Amount recovered during 2001-2002	Balance Outstanding	Action taken to recover the dues
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Aaliya Productions	0	75	60	0	60	Agency Blacklisted. Legal case at Delhi High Court.
2.	ABCL	1765	2032	678	388	290	Reconciliation of dues in Progress. Principal amount is being paid in instalments. Last instalment paid in Sept. 2001. For Interest Components ABCL will do Public Service Broadcasting for Prasar Bharati.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	AD Factor Advtg.	7	7	7	0	7	
4.	Advance TV Net-work	230	248	213	0	213	Agency blacklisted. Legal notice issued.
5.	Anand Advertising	140	140	140	0	140	Legal notice issued.
6.	APCA	0	99	42	31	11	Paying according to Plan.
7.	By Padhya	13	13	13	13	0	
8.	Balaji Telefilms	0	17	140	140	0	
9.	BAG Films	2	43	2	2	0	
10.	Bidhan Advertising	22	12	11	0	11	Matter being pursued with the agency.
11.	Chaitra Advertising	6	3	3	0	3	Matter being pursued with the agency.
12.	Cinema Vision	28	13	38	0	38	Bank guarantee being sent for encashment. Matter being pursued with the agency.
13.	Clarion Advertising	46	30	17	17	0	
14.	Concept Advertising	156	208	188	0	188	Agency blacklisting. Legal notice issued.
15.	Contract Advertising	42	10	10	10	0	
16.	Copy Desk	0	3	56	11	45	Accreditation Status suspended. Legal action being initiated. Bank guarantee encashed.
17.	Corrum Communi-cations	17	21	45	0	45	Agency blacklisted. Legal notice issued.
18.	Crayon Advertising	18	6	6	6	0	
19.	Creative Eye	315	0	1341	376	965	Accreditation status suspended. Paper being finalised for legal action.
20.	DAVP	28	0	0	0	0	
21.	Dawnmod Advertis-ing	0	421	0	0	0	
22.	Deptt. of Post	8	0	0	0	0	
23.	Drishiti India	350	350	294	0	294	Legal notice issued.
24.	Enterprise Advertis-ing	45	45	20	20	0	
25.	Everest Advertising	56	45	20	20	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26. Frame Comm.	512	0	1167	93	1074	Accreditation status suspended. Legal notice being issued. Bank guarantee encashed.	
27. Film Craft	158	0	787	100	687	Accreditation status suspended. Business on advance payment. Matter being pursued with the agency.	
28. First Option T/F	0	0	76	76	0		
29. Future Communications	0	28	17	6	11	Agency black listed. Bank guarantee encashed.	
30. Global Entertainment	0	0	115	22	93	Accreditation status suspended. Paper being finalised for legal action.	
31. GN Communications	0	5	25	0	25	Agency black listed. Paper being finalised for legal action.	
32. Gold Video	13	0	0	0	0		
33. Guruji Advertisers	0	150	90	5	85	Accreditation status suspended. Paper being finalised for legal action.	
34. HMT	17	0	0	0	0		
35. HTA	350	50	50	0	50	Disputed	
36. Hansa Vision	744	122	108	108	0		
37. Innovision Film and TV Dis.	5	25	25	0	25	Agency black listed. Case in Mumbai High Court.	
38. Jatiyaar Pub.	34	34	25	25	0		
39. Jaya Advertising	60	60	49	0	49	Papers being finalised for legal action.	
40. Joslin Comm.	42	42	42	0	42	Agency black listed. Paper being finalised for legal action.	
41. Kine Scope	126	70	70	0	70	Agency black listed. Legal noticed issued.	
42. KLI	106	50	59	59	0	Rs. 50 lakhs to be adjusted against payments to be made to the company.	
43. Lehar Public Service	0	0	32	2	30	Accreditation status suspended. Paper being finalised for legal action.	
44. Lintas	205	0	0	0	0		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
45. MAA Bozell	0	10	0	0	0	0	
46. Madison	70	0	0	0	0	0	
47. Magic Box	0	14	14	0	14	14	Agency black listed. Legal noticed issued.
48. Magna vision	108	108	108	0	108	108	Papers being finalised for legal action.
49. Market Movers	0	329	314	0	314	314	Agency black listed. Case processed for appointment of arbitrator.
50. Maya Entertainment	0	0	212	14	198	198	Agency black listed. Legal noticed issued.
51. MBM	0	0	163	0	163	163	Agency black listed. Legal noticed issued.
52. Media Asia	146	146	146	0	146	146	Agency black listed. Case filed in Delhi High Court. Arbitrator appointed.
53. Moulis Advtg.	0	0	9	6	3	3	Matter being pursued with agency.
54. Mudra Comm.	55	0	0	0	0	0	
55. Multi Channel	1800	1500	1102	0	1102	1102	Legal notice issued. Criminal complaint being filed.
56. National Saving Organisation	0	2	2	2	0	0	
57. NCYP	0	61	11	0	11	11	
58. Neerja Films	0	50	27	2	25	25	Legal action being taken.
59. NFDC	5500	2800	4230	557	3673	3673	Approx. Rs. 30.00 crores to be adjusted against payments to be made to the company.
60. Nimbus Comm.	870	834	612	0	612	612	Under arbitration.
61. Numero UNO	0	0	1006	50	956	956	Accreditation status suspended. Papers being finalised for legal action.
62. PNC	212	338	224	70	154	154	Accreditation status suspended. Business on advance payment. Matter being pursued with the agency.
63. Pas International	0	30	166	114	52	52	Paying in instalments.
64. Pen 'A' Trait	0	4	4	4	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
65. Plus Channel	1205	1205	1205	0	1205	Agency black listed. Liquidator appointed.	
66. Prime Time Media	413	0	46	26	20	Accreditation status suspended. Business on advance payment. Matter being pursued with the agency.	
67. Prominent	172	72	10	0	10	Disputed	
68. RK Swamy	0	0	0	0	0		
69. Radha Publicity	0	19	18	0	18		
70. Reasonable Advtg.	0	0	60	8	52	Accreditation status suspended. Payment plan obtained for clearance of dues.	
71. Sagar Enterprises	178	50	816	76	740	Accreditation Status suspended. Papers being finalised for legal action. Bank guarantee encashed.	
72. Samvaad Video	0	0	0	0	0		
73. Shree Madhav	0	400	1270	0	1270	1230 (Bank guarantee sent for encashment). Legal notice issued. Criminal complaint filed.	
74. Stracon	535	0	0	0	0		
75. TNE Asia	293	0	0	0	0		
76. Triton Comm.	136	150	48	48	0	Accreditation status suspended. Payment plan obtained for clearance of dues.	
77. Universal	88	88	73	0	73	Legal notice issued.	
78. Uranus	0	130	46	0	46	Agency black listed. Legal notice issued.	
79. UTV	2289	636	43	43	0	Accreditation status suspended. Matter with CBI.	
80. Vigyapan	0	27	5	2	3	Agency black listed.	
81. WD Consumer	0	40	99	44	55	Amount being adjusted from payments to be made by Doordarshan to the company.	
82. World Media	70	38	132	0	132	Legal notice issued.	
83. Worldcom M/M	54	58	58	0	58	Legal notice issued.	
84. B4U Multimedia	0	0	245	0	245	237 crore disputed. Case going for arbitration.	
Total	19860	13616	18605	2596	16009		

[Translation]

FIs Loan to Power Generation Companies

5908. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial institutions have given loans to several power generation companies;

(b) if so, company-wise amount of loan given alongwith the names of the financial institutions, which have provided loans;

(c) whether some foreign companies are also among the companies, who have taken loans from these financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the names of such foreign companies ?

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.

Increment of Bank Employees

5909. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have issued orders on June 8, 2000 regarding that the period of strike should not be considered as a bar in granting increment to the employees of Regional Rural banks; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not removing the ban in granting increment to the employees of the Himachal Gramin Bank for the period of strike after the above orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per extant guidelines there is no postponement of increment of an employee of RRB for participating in a strike, only if it is legal, irrespective of the period of strike.

(b) The Punjab National Bank which is sponsoring bank of Himachal Gramin Bank has reported that increment bar has not been removed as the strike observed by the Himachal Gramin Bank employees in 1990 was held to be illegal.

[English]

Export of Chalk Powder in Place of Drug

5910. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence caught 3 containers of chalk powder in place of bulk drug export from Inland Container Depot (ICD), Hyderabad under scheme of duty drawback;

(b) if so, the details with the persons involved therein;

(c) the number of containers exported by the customs agent during the last one year from Hyderabad and what action taken/being taken against the agent; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government against guilty persons and official of Customs involved in the fraud ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Two containers of chalk powder destined to Dubai attempted to be exported under Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme declared as Naproxen (Bulk Drugs), were seized by Dte. of Revenue Intelligence at Mumbai (JNPT Docks) on 15.1.2001. Declared value of the goods in above two containers was Rs. 7.26 crores.

Investigations done so far indicate involvement of 5 persons in the fraudulent export. Further investigations are in progress.

(c) During the last one year, the particular Custom House agent who handled the consignment of chalk powder misdeclared as Naproxen, handled export of 20 containers of different goods belonging to different exporters, through Hyderabad Customs and Central Excise Commissionerate.

Pending investigation in the matter, the Custom House Agent's license has been suspended.

(d) 5 Customs officials suspected to be involved in the case have been placed under suspension. Disciplinary proceedings against them and penal action under Customs Act against the persons as are found involved in this fraudulent export under Drawback claim will be initiated on completion of investigations.

[Translation]

Setting up of Consumer Forums

5911. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

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

(a) whether consumer courts/forums have been set up at State and District level;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance to States for setting up said Courts/Forums; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of the State Commissions and District Forums set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) No assistance was given to the States by the Central Government for setting up the Commissions/Forums. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the States, One-Time-Grant of Rs. 61.80 crores was given during the period 1995-99 to the States for strengthening the infrastructure of the Commissions/Forums.

Statement

State Commissions and District Forums set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986

States/UTs	Number of State Commission	Number of District Forum
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1	25
Arunachal Pradesh	1	13
Assam	1	23
Bihar and Jharkhand	1	55
Goa	1	2
Gujarat	1	19
Haryana	1	19
Himachal Pradesh	1	12
Jammu and Kashmir	1	2
Karnataka	1	22
Kerala	1	14
Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	1	61
Maharashtra	1	34
Manipur	1	8
Meghalaya	1	7

	1	2	3
Mizoram		1	3
Nagaland		1	8
Orissa		1	31
Punjab		1	17
Rajasthan		1	33
Sikkim		1	4
Tamil Nadu		1	30
Tripura		1	3
Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal		1	87
West Bengal		1	19
Andaman and Nicobar Islands		1	2
Chandigarh		1	2
Daman and Nicobar Haveli		1	1
Daman and Diu		1	2
Delhi		1	9
Lakshadweep		1	1
Pondicherry		1	1
Total		32	569

Appointment of topmost Post in IDBI

5912.SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in major financial institutions of the country like the SBI and the LIC, officers working in these institutions itself are appointed to the topmost posts of these institutions;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to adopt the same policy in regard to appointment to the top most posts in the IDBI;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation or memorandum in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The board level posts in the public sector banks and financial institutions including IDBI are filled up on the recommendations of Appointments Board consisting Governor, RBI as Chairman and five other members viz.

1. Finance Secretary,
2. Additional Secretary (Financial Sector),
3. Deputy Governor, RBI,
4. Management Expert,
5. Banking Expert.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[English]

Banking Audit Commission

5913. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether All India Bank Employees Association suggested to the Government to institute an independent Banking Audit Commission on lines with Comptroller and Auditor General in order to identify the areas of weaknesses that led to creation of growing number of Non performing Asset (NPAs) accounts in the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal made; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has received a copy of the letter dated 3rd June, 2000 from the All India Bank Employees' Association, Calcutta, wherein it had submitted that there should be an independent Banking and Audit Commission on the lines of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(c) The Central Government and RBI are of the view that the existing arrangements relating to external audit of banks are adequate and there is no need for setting up a separate Banking Service Audit Commission.

TV Relay Centre at Basanti, West Bengal

5914. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken an accommodation on rent at Basanti, Sundarbans, in the district of Chobis Pargannas, West Bengal to start a TV relay centre service in 1996;

(b) if so, the rent paid so far;

(c) whether the Relay Centre was started functioning;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the Relay Centre would start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Doordarshan had taken an accommodation on rent in 1996 for establishment of a Low Power TV Transmitter at Basanti.

(b) Rent @ Rs. 1350/- per month has been paid for the accommodation, till June 2001.

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the Low Power TV Transmitter at Basanti is functional since March, 1997.

Demand for Free Trade

5915. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether North Eastern States are demanding for free trade by reopening of traditional border routes and free trade zones along Bangladesh border;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government have taken up this matter with Bangladesh authorities during the talks held in New Delhi in June, 2001; and

(c) if so, the response of Bangladesh Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The issue has been referred to a Joint Group of Experts of India and Bangladesh for making appropriate recommendations.

Radio Station

5916. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it a fact that Lasker-e-Toiba Terrorist Organisation is planning to establish a Radio Station in Jammu and Kashmir with its base in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The

information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Heavy Industries with Foreign Collaboration

5917. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have encouraged entrepreneurs to start heavy industries with foreign collaboration in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such industries started during the last three years; and

(c) the details of employment opportunities created due to this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) There is no formal classification of Industries as "Heavy", therefore, it is not possible to give the desired information. However, a Statement on sector-wise break-up of foreign direct investment and technical collaboration cases approved and the amount of foreign equity envisaged therein during last three years (i.e. January, 1998 – December, 2000) is enclosed.

(b) The details of such proposals viz., name and country of Foreign Collaborator, percentage of equity, items of manufacture/activity and location of the project are published on a monthly basis in SIA Newsletter which is widely circulated, including to the Parliament Library.

(c) The data on employment generation with specific linkage to FDI is not centrally maintained.

Statement

Sector wise break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration approved during the Post – Policy period (from 01.01.1998 to 31.12.2000)

(Amt. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Industry	No. of Approval			Amount of FDI Approved	% to Total Amount
		Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Metallurgical Industries						
	Ferrous	47	28	19	1966.21	2.04
	Non-Ferrous	5	2	3	3.14	0.00
	Special Alloys	43	24	19	823.05	0.86
	Mining Service	47	12	35	2629.82	2.73
	Misc. (Other Items)-Metallurgy	25	7	18	27.61	0.03
	Total	167	73	94	5449.82	5.66
2. Fuels						
	Power	104	8	96	10787.69	11.21
	Oil Refinery	78	30	48	7708.56	8.01
	Power (Other)	54	5	49	1065.74	1.11
	Oil Refinery (Other)	90	53	37	3815.48	3.97
	Other (Fuels)	41	19	22	1953.54	2.03
	Total	367	115	252	25331.00	26.33
3. Boilers and Steam Generating Plants						
		10	5	5	30.02	0.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Prime Movers other than Electrical	8	6	2	25.40	0.03
5.	Electricals Equipment					
	Electrical Equipment	338	159	179	2086.20	2.17
	Computer Software Industry	973	20	953	13448.48	13.98
	Electronics	133	37	96	929.03	0.97
	Computer Hardware	2	0	2	0.90	0.00
	Others (S/W)	15	5	10	26.47	0.03
	Total	1461	221	1240	16491.08	17.14
6.	Telecommunications					
	Telecommunications	114	11	103	1306.94	1.36
	Radio Paging	8	2	6	64.50	0.07
	Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	83	4	79	6373.50	6.62
	Telecommunication (I and B)	75	1	74	7876.83	8.19
	Others (Telecommunications)	12	1	11	622.02	0.65
	Total	292	19	273	16243.78	16.88
7.	Transportation Industry					
	Automobile Industry	226	98	128	2031.32	2.11
	Air/Sea Transport	79	8	71	876.22	0.91
	Passenger Cars	32	3	29	3020.58	3.14
	Auto Ancillaries/Parts	138	63	75	1701.54	1.77
	Ports	11	0	11	812.25	0.84
	Others (Transport)	46	8	38	361.05	0.38
	Total	532	180	352	8802.96	9.15
8.	Industrial Machinery	264	121	143	393.54	0.41
9.	Machine Tools	48	14	34	124.91	0.13
10.	Agricultural Machinery	16	7	9	235.71	0.24
11.	Earth-Moving Machinery	20	12	8	22.90	0.02
12.	Misc. Mechanical and Engineering	332	134	198	589.87	0.61
13.	Commercial Office and Household Equipment	25	3	22	459.04	0.48
14.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	31	7	24	116.04	0.12
15.	Industrial Instruments	26	15	11	8.11	0.01
16.	Scientific Instruments	6	1	5	5.44	0.01
17.	Mechanical-Surveying and Drawing	3	1	2	38.00	0.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18. Fertilizers		12	11	1	0.00	0.00
19. Chemicals (other than Fertilizers)		353	133	220	2885.18	3.00
20. Photographic Raw Film and Paper		10	3	7	15.23	0.02
21. Dye-Stuffs		5	1	4	78.09	0.08
22. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals		154	77	77	1785.55	1.86
23. Textiles (include Dyed-Printed)		204	36	168	787.43	0.82
24. Paper and Pulp including Paper Product		37	3	34	956.42	0.99
25. Fermentation Industries		12	5	7	6.20	0.01
26. Food Processing Industries						
Food Products		137	17	120	1038.30	1.08
Marine Products		5	1	4	6.81	0.01
Miscellaneous (Food Prod)		6	0	6	4.32	0.00
Total		148	18	130	1049.43	1.09
27. Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati		7	0	7	49.15	0.05
28. Shops, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations		15	6	9	61.80	0.06
29. Rubber Goods		53	17	36	677.05	0.70
30. Leather-Leather Goods and Pickers		43	7	36	99.82	0.10
31. Glue and Gelatin		4	1	3	1.43	0.00
32. Glass		42	6	36	638.30	0.66
33. Ceramics		48	9	39	181.92	0.19
34. Cement and Gypsum Products		24	9	15	1070.89	1.11
35. Timber Products		9	0	9	18.27	0.02
36. Defence Industries		1	1	0	0.00	0.00
37. Consultancy Services						
Design and Eng. Services		103	15	88	625.59	0.65
Management Services		95	9	86	260.06	0.27
Marketing		17	0	17	15.09	0.02
Construction		5	0	5	49.63	0.05
Others (Consultancy Service)		29	7	22	49.69	0.05
Total		249	31	218	1000.07	1.04
38. Service Sector						
Financial		150	5	145	4225.11	4.39
Non-Financial Services		113	7	106	841.30	0.87
Banking Services		14	0	14	61.67	0.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Hospital and Diagnostic Centre	46	12	34	192.06	0.20
	Other Services	21	2	19	46.32	0.05
	Total	344	26	318	5366.46	5.58
39.	Hotel and Tourism					
	Hotel and Restaurants	132	54	78	915.00	0.95
	Tourism	36	8	28	486.78	0.51
	Others (Hotel and Tourism)	7	2	5	238.22	0.25
	Total	175	64	111	1640.00	1.70
40.	Trading	177	13	164	1619.92	1.68
41.	Miscellaneous Industries					
	Horticulture	28	1	27	38.77	0.04
	Agriculture	59	17	42	194.54	0.20
	Floriculture	12	5	7	7.28	0.01
	Diamond	6	0	6	13.44	0.01
	Ornament and Gold	7	0	7	11.84	0.01
	Construction Activities	35	5	30	475.69	0.49
	Tea/Coffee	4	2	2	317.25	0.33
	Cigarettes	1	0	1	7.35	0.01
	Printing of Books etc.	8	1	7	9.88	0.01
	Coir	8	2	6	2.19	0.00
	Others (Misc. Industries)	252	67	185	785.03	0.82
	Total	420	100	320	1863.25	1.94
	Grand Total	6154	1511	4643	96219.49	

Bidding Process in Air India

5918. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the conditions incorporated in the draft shareholder's Agreement and share purchase Agreement were the important reasons for lack of interest of foreign airlines, in continuing with their participation in the bidding process;

(b) if so, whether the Government assures that no substantive changes or dilution will be made to the provisions of these agreements at the instance of selected strategic partners for the disinvestment of Air India; and

(c) 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) No, Sir. The parties who withdrew from the bidding process did so for their own internal reasons and they did not mention the conditions of the draft shareholders' agreements and share purchase agreement as the reasons for their withdrawal.

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

Motor Insurance Claims

5919. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the General Insurance companies incurred losses in underwriting business relating to motor insurance for the year ended 31, March 2000;

(b) if so, the quantum to total income from motor vehicle insurance for the year and total expenditure including net claims paid;

(c) whether the total premia collected was 65 percent of the total expenditure;

(d) whether a lot of false claims are being settled due to connivance among the claimants, agents and GIC officials; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to exercise greater control over expenditure to generate a reasonable surplus ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The public sector general insurance companies have incurred losses in underwriting business relating to motor insurance for the year ended 31.3.2000. The details are given below :

- (i) Total premium income from : Rs. 3417.44 Cr.
Motor Insurance
- (ii) Total expenditure on Motor : Rs. 4888.13 Cr.
claims
- (iii) Under writing losses on : Rs. 1470.69 Cr.
Motor business

The total premia collected was 69.9% of the total expenditure on motor claims.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, the general insurance companies have taken the following loss control measures to exercise greater control over expenditure to generate reasonable surplus :

- (i) Utilizing "in-house" loss assessors for small claims;
- (ii) Close co-ordination with Legal Aid and Advisory Board for settlement of cases through Lok Adalat, out of Court conciliation etc. to enable quick settlement of claims.

(iii) Periodical appraisal of the performance of Advocates;

(iv) Investigation in Third Party Claims to ascertain authenticity of accidents and collection of details for effective handling of the cases.

Merger of Banks

5920. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DÁSMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to unite United Bank of India, UCO Bank and Allahabad Bank as a common bank to strengthen its capital base and to stimulate its commercial output;

(b) if not, the steps the Government are contemplating to strengthen the viability of the above three banks in the present day competition of the private and public sector banks; and

(c) the present financial status of the above three banks upto 31st March, 2001 and the total number of employees working in these three banks and total number of branches operating in India, respectively ?

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

(b) and (c) The present financial status, total number of employees and total number of branches as on 31.3.2001 are given below :—

Sl. No.	Name of the bank	Gross Profit (Rs. in crores)	Net Profit (Rs. in crores)	No. of employees	No. of branches
1.	Allahabad Bank	266	40	21,009	1,902
2.	UCO Bank	214	33	29,166	1,712
3.	United Bank of India	137	19	19,963	1,316

A restructuring plan for UCO Bank and United Bank of India have been worked out and is under implementation.

Cheques of Earthquake Relief

5921. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the residents of remote villages in western Kutch received

relief cheques following the January 26, 2001 earthquake, but to date, the local Bank manager has refused to honour the cheques; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Reserve Bank of India for honouring of these relief cheques ?

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

Growth Rate in Insurance Sector

5922. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of public sector insurance companies during the last three years;

(b) whether due to defective insurance policies and practices implemented by these insurance companies they are not able to achieve the targeted profit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the these companies to improve their performance ?

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.

SBI Lending Rates

5923. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India has cut down the short term lending rates and the long term deposit rates from August 6, 2001;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether other banks including nationalized banks have also followed suit;

(d) if so, its impact on the small depositors and the big creditors and creditor firms; and

(e) the steps taken to minimize the suffering of the small depositor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) State Bank of India have reduced their short-term Prime Lending Rates (PLRs) by 50 basis points and long-term deposit rates by 50 basis points since August 6, 2001. Two nationalized banks and a private bank have also reported that they reduced long-term deposit rates. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Reserve Bank of India have reported that returns for depositor on the long-term deposit rates for above 3 years maturity at 9 per cent and above should be viewed in the context of current inflation rate being around 5 per cent.

Statement

Changes in Short-term PLR and Long-term Deposit rate effected by Commercial Banks from August 6, 2001

Name of the Banks	Rate of cut with effect from date	Previous Rate	Present Rate
State Bank of India			
Short-term PLR (Less than 1 year)	6.8.2001	10.50	10.00
Long-term Deposit Rate (Over 1 year)	6.8.2001		
1-2 Year		8.50	8.00
2-3 Year		9.00	8.50
Other Banks			
Punjab National Bank	13.8.2001		
1-2 Year		8.50	8.00
2-3 Year		9.00	8.50
3 Year and above		9.25	9.00
Vijaya Bank	13.8.2001		
1-2 Year		8.50	8.00
2-3 Year		9.00	8.50
3 Years and above		9.50	9.00
Jammu and Kashmir Bank	16.8.2001		
1-2 Year		8.50	8.00
4-5 Year		10.00	9.50

[Translation]

Loan to State Governments

5924. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the State Governments which have taken loans from the Union Government during the last three years so far and the year-wise details thereof;

(b) the purpose for which these loans were taken and the purpose for which these loans have been utilized;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the misuse of these loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) to (d) State plan loans recommended by the Planning Commission and loans against net small savings collections form part of the financing of the States' Annual Plan and are released by Ministry of Finance to States.

States are expected to utilise funds for the purposes for which they have been allocated or earmarked. Financial Management of the States including utilisation of plan funds is primarily the responsibility of the States concerned for which they are accountable to their respective States Legislature through the Audit Reports prepared by the C and AG of India.

Statement

Details of Plan Loans/Small Savings Loans released by Ministry of Finance to the States during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	States	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
		Plan Loans	Small Saving Loans	Plan Loans	Small Saving Loans	Plan Loans	Small Saving Loans
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1360.58	986.60	1832.90	1141.07	1772.71	1787.14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	51.69	12.64	62.60	12.92	61.08	11.06
3.	Assam	146.38	131.97	156.70	300.27	168.85	527.58
4.	Bihar	1383.32	1432.37	1587.25	1463.93	1247.84	1604.93
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	130.23	116.59
6.	Goa	48.46	78.56	47.73	82.95	104.88	99.21
7.	Gujarat	906.80	2325.09	1050.15	2594.93	1465.79	3428.09
8.	Haryana	288.03	714.62	348.77	741.69	387.21	795.87
9.	Himachal Pradesh	79.94	279.29	103.99	68.88	104.93	128.90
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	235.19	207.86	289.59	194.65	170.03	317.46
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	139.93	154.26
12.	Karnataka	726.58	799.74	900.73	1113.85	1029.40	1179.54
13.	Kerala	469.09	392.77	495.29	571.37	463.92	440.15
14.	Madhya Pradesh	982.63	886.81	1356.09	993.55	952.07	992.19
15.	Maharashtra	1073.09	3694.10	849.09	4119.51	771.90	4659.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Manipur	51.08	13.79	75.41	18.86	38.02	22.83
17.	Meghalaya	3.50	15.54	40.18	12.93	41.47	24.02
18.	Mizoram	32.25	5.18	41.76	7.36	38.04	13.55
19.	Nagaland	36.40	8.15	47.27	10.56	44.38	5.56
20.	Orissa	850.19	378.31	860.17	384.47	938.52	602.85
21.	Punjab	299.18	1350.44	285.83	1711.63	367.26	2330.40
22.	Rajasthan	906.96	1130.13	805.77	1705.34	706.94	2203.82
23.	Sikkim	24.94	7.82	30.33	8.33	24.66	7.64
24.	Tamil Nadu	794.05	780.31	986.97	1013.56	1140.04	1286.97
25.	Tripura	54.84	65.01	94.69	64.52	74.68	103.68
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2050.57	3406.49	2451.78	3255.69	3236.89	3857.05
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.39	70.33
28.	West Bengal	1468.86	3922.90	1468.80	4160.40	1303.93	4949.27
Total		14253.60	23026.49	16269.84	25753.22	17023.99	31720.47

[English]

Foreign Bank Branch

5925. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the branches of foreign banks in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the details of their deposits and advances in Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The details of the branches of foreign banks operating in Tamil Nadu and their total deposits and advances, as on 31st March, 2001, furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the bank	No. of branches operating in Tamil Nadu	Total deposits (Rs. in crore)	Total deposits (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Stan. Chart. ANZ Grindlays	4	41167	81606

1	2	3	4	5
2.	American Express Bank	1	14059	15595
3.	ABN Amro Bank	1	15370	41599
4.	Bank of America	1	10199	64261
5.	Bank of Ceylon	1	6891	8904
6.	Citi Bank	2	36444	223969
7.	HSBC	1	49865	81944
8.	Standard Chartered Bank	2	28044	54029
9.	Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi	1	6316	11113
10.	State Bank of Mauritius	1	8710	12118
11.	Credit Lyonnais	1	1207	16612
12.	BNP Paribas	1	6265	8077
13.	Deutsche Bank	1	3445	9440
14.	Bank of Nova Scotia	1	5157	34726

Sugar Development Fund

5926. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sugar Development Fund was created in 1989, alongwith a levy of Central Cess of Rs. 140/- per tonne to its credit;

(b) if so, the credit balance of this fund during 2000-2001

(c) the purpose for which the fund was created;

(d) whether the funds are being used for those purposes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Sugar Development Fund was formed under the provisions of the Sugar Development fund (SDF) Act, 1982 promulgated on 20.3.1982, by crediting to the Fund an amount equivalent to the proceeds of the duty of excise levied and collected under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, reduced by the cost of collection as determined by the Central Government after due appropriation made by Parliament by law. The duty of excise levied under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982 was Rs. 5.00 per quintal w.e.f 20.3.1982 which was enhanced to Rs. 14.00 per quintal w.e.f. 29.10.1982 on all sugar produced by any sugar factory in India.

(b) Net fund available in Sugar Development Fund i.e. SDF (excluding repayment) of principal amount and interest thereon) as on 31.03.2001 was Rs. 605.16 crores. In addition as on 31.03.2001 an amount of Rs. 627.76 crores has been repaid by the sugar units (as principal and interest) on the loan given to them. Therefore, the total fund available in the SDF as on 31.03.2001 is Rs. 1232.92 crores.

(c) The Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 provides that the Fund shall be applied for by the Central Government for the following purposes :

- (a) Making loans for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernization of any sugar factory;
- (b) Making loans for the undertaking of any scheme for development of sugarcane in the area in which any sugar factory is situated.
- (c) Making grants for the purpose of any research project aimed at development of sugar industry.
- (d) Defraying expenditure for the purpose of building up and maintenance of Buffer Stock with a view to stabilizing price of sugar.
- (e) Defraying any other expenditure for the purpose of the Act.

(d) and (e) The funds are being utilized for the purpose specified in the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982. An expenditure of Rs. 1917.69 crores has been incurred on the above mentioned Heads since the inception of the Sugar Development Fund and upto 31.3.2001.

Publication of BIS Specifications

5927.SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have directed Bureau of Indian Standards to immediately publish specifications for packing all commodities in Jute/Non-Jute Bags of 50 kgs. (or less) size as per ILO norms;

(b) if so, whether specifications for sugar packing in 50 kgs. Jute bags been published;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the time by which the same are likely to be published ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has already taken up formulation of Indian Standards for jute/non-jute bags for packing of 50 kg foodgrains and sugar. The following standards have already been published :

1. IS 12650:1997 Textiles – Jute bags for packing 50 kg foodgrains – Specification (first revision)
2. IS 14887:2000 Textiles – High density polyethylene (HDPE)/Polypropylene (PP) woven sacks for packing 50 kg/25 kg. foodgrains – Specification.
3. IS 14968:2001 Textiles – High density polyethylene (HDPE)/Polypropylene (PP) woven sacks for packing 50 kg/25 kg. sugar – Specification.

(b) to (d) Specifications for jute bags for packing 50 kg sugar are under preparation and are likely to be available by the end of October, 2001.

[Translation]

Export of Wheat and Rice

5928.SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iraq is a major importer of Indian wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details of wheat and rice exported to Iraq during the last three years;

(c) whether export of wheat and rice from India to Iraq has decreased;

(d) whether the Government of India has taken any measures to maintain the quality of wheat as per the norms of Iraq; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) There was no export of rice to Iraq during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (April-May, 2001) and wheat during 1999-2000. During 2000-2001, a quantity of 23,600 MT of wheat has been exported to Iraq as per provisional figures contained in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India compiled by the Directorate general of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. However, the Grain Board of Iraq had rejected three wheat consignments sent to Iraq which were reportedly sold by the exporter to a company in Dubai.

(d) and (e) Government has directed the Food Corporation of India to set up cleaning facilities at Kandla port or any other port from which export takes place. FCI was also directed to ensure that no consignment of wheat is sent to Iraq unless the wheat is cleaned to meet the requirements of the Grain Board of Iraq.

[English]

Sarvpriya Yojana

5929. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce Sarvpriya yojana in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Government of India have launched a scheme, called Sarvpriya Yojana, 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/U.T. Administrations including

the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are to implement the scheme, and have the option to choose the items as per their requirements/preferences. 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 and Civil Supplies Departments would monitor the distribution arrangements under the scheme in their States.

Long Term Food Grain Policy

5930. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether a high-level Committee on formulating a long-term foodgrain policy has recommended the exemption of Food Corporation of India from paying statutory levies to State Government;

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

(c) whether the Government have examined the interim report submitted by Prof. Abhijit Sen on said subject.

(d) if so, the main recommendations made in the report; and

(e) the time by which long-term food grain policy is likely to be finalised ?

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

(b) This recommendation is under examination of Government of India.

(c) The interim report is under examination of Government of India.

(d) The main recommendations of the high-level committee in its interim report are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The high-level committee is expected to submit its report to Government by the end of September, 2001.

Statement

Recommendations of the High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy, in its Interim Report

(I) Recommendations for Immediate-Run

- (1) Statutory levies imposed on purchase of food grains amount to as much as 12.5 per cent of the procure-

ment price in certain States. The Committee recognizes that payments by the FCI as statutory levies to State Governments are essentially transfers from the Centre to State Governments and should be counted as such. It therefore recommends the elimination of such levies on food grain, an essential commodity. Till such time, the statutory levies charged by States should be settled separately between the Centre and the State Governments without involving FCI or its economic cost. This would require necessary amendments in the States' Sales Tax Acts. Alternatively, the amounts being implicitly transferred to States from the Central Government in the form of statutory levies may be transferred directly in the form of current transfers.

- (2) The Committee notes with concern attempts by various producing State Governments to have the quality norms for purchase of food grain for the Central Pool relaxed from time to time. Many consuming State Governments have refused to accept such food grains for PDS distribution. The Committee therefore recommends that FAQ norms be strictly adhered to. If any State Government requests for relaxation of quality norms, this should be invariably accompanied by an appropriate price reduction *besides* exemption from statutory State levies.
- (3) The MSP for paddy and the levy price for rice be fixed only for a single grade, as against Common and Grade 'A' at present.
- (4) OMSS prices should cover not only the acquisition cost but also, as far as possible, reflect fully the differences in costs of transport and storage at different points of sale. This should be at least FCI's acquisition cost less statutory levies. Further, differentials across regions should be restored, and there should be a pre-announced graded escalation per quarter.
- (5) In order to revive the offtake from PDS system, the APL population needs to be brought into the net by reducing the APL price to 80% of the economic cost, excluding statutory levies or about 75% of the present economic cost including levies. The BPL price should be 50% of the economic cost, excluding the statutory levies. This would help improve the viability of the distribution network and thus improve BPL offtake as well.
- (6) For the BPL families, the quota should depend on the number of members in a family. The Committee recommends that each BPL family be permitted to purchase up to 5 kg per person at the announced BPL price per month or an allocation of 20 kg per family whichever is higher. Any additional requirement may be provided at the APL price.

- (7) For the areas covered earlier under the Revamped PDS (1775 blocks), and areas currently drought affected or ravaged by other natural calamity like floods, cyclones, earthquakes, etc., a universal PDS be introduced at BPL prices and quota.
- (8) In the Revamped PDS areas, the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) of ICDS maybe strengthened. Similarly, the Midday Meal Scheme could be strengthened by extending its coverage to secondary school students.
- (9) The Committee strongly urges the Government to examine ways of expanding programmes of employment generation to create an effective demand for food grains.
 - (i) Ideally, a massive food for work type programs should be launched. The primary responsibility of launching these programs should rest with Ministry of Rural Development.
 - (ii) There may however be practical implementation problems in making payments in kind. In these cases, employment provisions with wage payments in cash may be increased simultaneously with an expansion in PDS supplies and strengthening of PDS network.
 - (iii) The exiting restriction on employment in the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) to BPL cardholders alone should be removed immediately.

To facilitate speedier implementation of food for work schemes, an interim allocation of 2 to 3 million tonnes of food grains may be made available to the States at discounted BPL price. The main objective should be to supplement/ amplify scheme currently undertaken by the States such as PM's Sarak Rozgar Yojana.

(II) Recommendations for Long-Run

- (1) The MSP should be announced before the sowing season on the basis of C2 cost of production (i.e., all costs including the imputed costs of family labour, owned capital, and rental on owned land) on the recommendations of the CACP. At this price the Central Government should undertake open ended purchase of FAQ of grains to assure growers an adequate return on their cost.
- (2) The Central Government may purchase above MSP in situations where market conditions warrant to make up any shortages in normative buffer stocks and to meet PDS requirements. This price should be determined by the FCI on the basis of market assessment in each year. And this should not form the basis of MSP for the next year.

- (3) The Central Government should instruct its procuring agencies/State Governments to extend their MSP operations more effectively to States/regions, such as Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, where farmers have reported to have been receiving prices below MSP.
- (4) There is a need for immediate action to reduce taxation on essential food items and to minimize barriers to private trade.
- (5) OMSS should not distort markets by selling grains at heavily subsidized prices. The minimum price for OMSS should not be below the acquisition cost of FCI less statutory levies with additions for transport and storage cost in different regions and at different times of the year.
- (6) System of exports and imports of food grains should be based on a system of variable tariffs which should replace quotas. This is required for stabilization of prices in an open economy. Also, as far as possible, release for exports from public stocks should be on best commercial terms.
- (7) Entralisation of the food grains procurement and distribution system is desirable provided this is seen as a means by which States can be given greater flexibility in design of their PDS and the FCI be given greater incentive for cost control, without the Central Government diluting its commitment to the requirements of price stabilization and food security.
- (8) Principle, the Committee believes that dual/multiple prices in the PDS are distortionary and provide scope for leakages.
- (9) The basic approach of the Committee is that barriers to trade in the grain market should be removed so as to make it more integrated nationally. The role of public intervention should primarily be to stabilize prices and that any system of price stabilization must be national in scope. Also, decentralization will be acceptable to the States only if this is carried out in a manner which does not involve the Centre passing on to them the fiscal costs that it bears currently. The Committee will elaborate on the above-mentioned issues in its final report.

Setting up of SEZ in Gujarat

5931. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Gujarat Government or memorandum from any organisation of Gujarat or Members of Parliament

regarding setting up of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Sourashtra region of Gujarat particularly Kutch;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status of the proposal; and
- (d) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) a Special Economic Zone is already functional in Kandla in Kutch region. Further, a proposal was received from Gujarat Positra Port Company Ltd. for setting up of a SEZ in Positra in Sourashtra. The proposal was supported by the Government of Gujarat and has already been approved in principle. The project is under implementation by M/s Gujarat Positra Port Infrastructure Ltd. There is no other proposal pending with the Central Government for setting up of any other SEZ in Sourashtra region of Gujarat.

Financial Assistance for Controlling Drug Abuse

5932. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government for financial assistance on evolving Master Plan for Drug Abuse Control in the States;
- (b) if so, the quantum of financial assistance sought by the State Governments for this purpose, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have released the funds;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which the funds are likely to be released, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) A proposal for funding of Rs. 28.28 lakhs for setting up of Special Intelligence and Investigation cell was received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu and a proposal of Rs. 88.62 lakhs for creation of posts for the Narcotics Intelligence Cell was received from the State Government of Karnataka.

- (c) to (e) The State Governments have been informed that the Union Government has no objection to States setting up the Special Cells provided they are funded from their own resources. The Union Government has not earmarked any funds for this purpose.

Quality of Imported Goods

5933. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken various steps ensuring that products imported should be of a good quality conforming to some particular standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such steps have been implemented completely;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) Imports into India in addition to being subject to the provisions of export and import policy are also subject to all domestic laws, rules, orders, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. In addition, import of 133 specified products is also subject to adherence to the mandatory BIS quality standards as applicable on domestically produced similar products. These products include various food preservatives and additives, milk powder, infant milk food, certain kinds of cement, household and similar electrical appliances, gas cylinders and multipurpose dry batteries. Import of all types of food products is subject to the quality and other standards laid down in Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954. Import of all primary agricultural products is subject to an import permit to be issued as per the conditions of Plants, Fruits and Seeds (regulation of import into India) Order, 1989 and import of animal products including meat, egg, milk etc. is subject to an import permit as per conditions of Live Stock Importation Act, 1898. All these conditions are applicable on the relevant imports. The necessary notifications are already in force and are being applied at the time of customs clearance of such imports.

[Translation]

Bombay Mercantile Bank

5934. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bombay Mercantile Bank is running in loss for the last few years due to which it has not been able to pay dividend to its shareholders;

(b) if so, the number of years for which it has been incurring loss and the accumulated loss of the said bank

upto 31.3.2001 alongwith year-wise details of the loss suffered by the bank during the last three years;

(c) the details of the reasons for loss by the bank; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to get the matter investigated and control the expenditure of the bank ?

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

Chinese Goods in Indian Market

5935. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) whether despite anti-dumping measures, Government could not stop the entry of Chinese goods into Indian markets;

(b) if so, whether due to large dumping of Chinese goods, most of the domestic industries are on the verge of closure;

(c) if so, whether affected domestic industrialists have met him and submitted their demands;

(d) if so, the details of their demands; and

(e) the further action being taken by the Government to protect the domestic industries and also to stop the dumping of Chinese goods into the Indian markets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Anti-Dumping measures are not against import of goods from any country including China but are imposed as a trade distortion removal measure to provide a level playing field to the domestic industry when faced with unfair trade practices.

(b) to (d) Domestic industries affected by dumping approach the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD). Anti-Dumping measures are initiated and decided in accordance with our national law as enshrined in Section 9, 9A and 9B of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (as amended in 1995) when the domestic industry files with the DGAD a fully documented petition with sufficient evidence of dumping, injury and a causal

link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury. So far 46 cases have been initiated concerning imports from China of which final definitive anti-dumping duty has been recommended in 31 cases, preliminary findings have been recommended in 9 cases, 5 cases are under investigation for preliminary findings and one case was terminated after initiation for want of evidence of injury.

(e) Some of the measures taken by the Government to combat the threat of dumping including from China are as follows :

- (i) Import duties on a number of items have been increased in recent past including in the Budget of 2001-02.
- (ii) A Standing Group has been constituted for tackling, collating and analyzing data on sensitive items, which are of importance to the public. The Government is monitoring import of 300 sensitive items.
- (iii) Import of all packaged commodities will be subjected to compliance of the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977, as applicable to domestic producers.
- (iv) Import of 131 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement, all manufacturers/exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- (v) Import of all food products will be subjected to compliance of all the provisions of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) and rules thereunder.
- (vi) The course of Safeguard duties is also available to domestic industries to check any surge in imports.
- (vii) The Government has taken various steps to speed up the Anti-Dumping investigation, streamline the procedures and provide quick relief to the domestic industry which inter-alia include immediate initiation of investigations on submission of fully documented petition, recommending Preliminary Findings early to provide immediate relief to the domestic industry and holding of Seminars/Workshops/Interactive sessions all over the country to make people aware of the Anti-Dumping rules and procedures.

[English]

Construction of Godowns

5936. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Food Corporation of India have acquired land for construction of godowns;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether construction activities have been started on the acquire land;
- (d) if so, whether the land use has been changed and instead of godowns some other construction is going on these; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Visa Desk System in IGI Airport

5937. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Customs Department at IGI Airport, New Delhi been recently equipped with Visa Desk System to identify frequent offenders;
- (b) if so, a similar system was operational at the above airport some years back;
- (c) the reasons for discontinuation of this system alongwith the names of the officials during whose tenure this system was unauthorisedly removed; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken against the earning officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Customs Visadex System at the IGI Airport linked with Immigration Centralised Visadex System had developed certain software problems and went into disuse sometime in the later half of 1997. It took time in restoring connectivity between the Customs and the Immigration computers, based upon sound-dex principle. During the period the computerised linked and exchange of Information

was not operative, alerts issued by the DRI were kept in Master folder and referred to for follow-up checks of particular suspect passengers. Similarly, local alerts were also being monitored as and when the situation demanded and even help of the immigration Authorities taken. There were no orders issued for discontinuation of the Customs Visadex System.

(d) Does not arise in view of the position stated at (c) above. However, the reasons for non-operation and steps required to make the system effectively functional are being further examined in coordination with Immigration Authorities.

Investment in Power Plants by FIS

5938. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hyderabad based Lanco group a large borrower of funds from public sector financial institutions like IDBI and IFCI having net worth of less than Rs. 45 crore had offered corporate guarantee upto Rs. 700 crore to obtain loans; and

(b) if so, the funds which the, public sector banks and financial institutions so far invested in Lanco Group of companies and the terms and conditions thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) IDBI and IFCI have also financed Lanco Kondapalli Power Corporation Ltd. (LKPCL). However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Sale of ITDC Hotels

5939. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for selling ITDC Hotels to private sector;

(b) the number of employees working in these hotels;

(c) the fate of these employees in the event of privatisation; and

(d) the specific steps proposed to be taken to safeguard their interests ?

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) The process of disinvestment in India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) has been taken up following the acceptance of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission by the Government. While recommending disinvestment of ITDC, the Commission observed that :

- ITDC falls under the category of non-core sector industry.
- Public sector is handicapped in providing high quality of services especially in the luxury segment, which is one of the key success factors in the hotel industry.
- Public sector does not have to play a role in providing hospitality services in metro locations where the private sector has established adequate presence in the market.
- In non-metro and other locations where the private sector hotels are yet to establish a presence, the public sector may be suited to play the role of a facilitator rather than direct provider of services.
- The role of the Government in the tourism sector should be re-oriented towards facilitating development of tourism and away from actually providing services.

Disinvestment is being considered and carried out in various PSUs in accordance with the declared policy of the Government. According to the policy, in generality of cases, Government will bring down its equity to 26% or below in all non-strategic PSUs. The strategic PSUs are those in the areas of arms and ammunitions; allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships; 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) and railway transport. This policy covers all Central PSUs.

(b) As on 31.03.2001, the total number of employees in the ITDC hotels/restaurants was 6242.

(c) and (d) The Government is committed to fully protect the interests of the workers, as mentioned by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Loans to Farmers

5940. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have instructed the financial institutions to provide loans to the farmers against their foodgrains stock;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the financial institutions are fully complying with these instructions;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of loans provided by the financial institutions to the farmers against their foodgrain stock during the last three years, State-wise ?

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

[English]

Dismantling of Divisional Preventive Units of Central Excise

5941. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI N. SHANMUGAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a move for dismantling of the Preventive Divisional Units of Central Excise Department; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As part of reorganizing and strengthening Headquarters anti-evasion set up in the Central Excise Commissionerates and preventive units in the Divisional offices of Commissionerates following the recommendations of the Rathindran Committee report, it has been decided that in places where the Divisions are located in the city in which the Commissionerates are also located, the anti-evasion work in the city should be entrusted to the Headquarters Anti-Evasion Wing, which is to be supervised by an officer of Joint Commissioner level. Wherever the Divisions are located in places other than that of Commissionerate, the Divisional Preventive Units will continue to function as before.

[Translation]

Circulation of Currency Notes and Coins

5942. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of currency notes and coins of different denominations are in circulation in the country;

(b) whether the Government monitors the position of notes and coins;

(c) if so, the extent of shortage of notes and coins of different denominations; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of these notes and coins ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Information on currency/bank notes and coins of different denominations in circulation in the country is given below :

Currency/Bank Notes :

Denomination	Pieces in Million
Rs. 1/-	3066
Rs. 2/-	2356
Rs. 5/-	2032
Rs. 10/-	12336
Rs. 20/-	506
Rs. 50/-	6564
Rs. 100/-	10814
Rs. 500/-	1059
Rs. 1000/-	37

Coins :

Denomination	Pieces in Million
5p	83489
10p	116405
20p	38921
25p	134844
50p	123015
Re 1/-	13890
Rs. 2/-	4070
Rs. 5/-	3088

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no shortage of currency/banks notes in the country. Some shortage of coins is reported from time to time and these are promptly attended to by rushing additional supply of coins to the affected areas.

(d) To meet the increasing demand for coins, the Mints at Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai have been modernised with a view to raising their blanking and coining capacities. The Government also resorts to import of coins as and when required to meet the shortfall.

[English]

Slaughter of Animals

5943.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether European Union (EU) has specified certain conditions for import of Bones/Gelation;

(b) if so, their likely effect on India's exports;

(c) whether the specifications require bones of 'healthy' and disease free bovine animals;

(d) whether such slaughter of healthy bovines does not violate Supreme Court ruling in the matter of Mohd. Hanif Qureshi, subsequent Gujarat judgement and article 48 of Constitution of India;

(e) whether killing of young and healthy animals also violate IS : 1982 of 1971 clause; and

(f) the measures being taken by the Government to stop slaughter of healthy productive animals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Import of bones/gelatin into EU are regulated by the relevant European Commission regulations, which inter alia provides for a certificate that the gelatin being exported is Specific Risk Material (SRM) free. It would have impact on the exports of animal casings and gelatin from India.

(d) to (f) Slaughter of bovines in India can only be in accordance with the laws of the land. Slaughter of animals is a State subject and is regulated by State Acts which are to be enacted as per the Directive Principles of the State Policy. The selection of animals for slaughter is made in accordance with the existing laws/regulations made in this regard.

Auction of Prime Time Slots

5944.SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

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

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati is planning to lease out the National channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for auction of prime time slots of channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati had taken a decision to auction bulk airtime on DD-Metro channel so as to bring it in line with the prevailing market situation. Prasar Bharati has informed that the time slots between 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. were allotted to M/s Nine Network Australia Pty. Ltd., through an open bid process, for a period of one year, expiring on 10.9.2001 and 15.10.2001 respectively. The time slots from 10 p.m. to 0030 a.m. were already vacant. Therefore, open bids were invited for the airtime from 7 p.m. to 0030 a.m. with a floor price of Rs. 115 crores, for 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., and without any floor price for the slots from 11 p.m. to 0030 a.m. In response, only one bid was received for the 11 p.m. to 00 hours slot, from M/s Moving Pictures Company India Private Limited with an offer of Rs. 50 lakhs net. Prasar Bharati then took a decision to invite fresh bids for 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. slots without fixing any floor price. Even though three bids were received, these were considered too low and rejected.

Old Stock of Foodgrains in Godowns

5945.DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have taken note of a World Bank Report of June, 2000 which reveals that half of the stock with FCI is at least two years old, 30 percent between two and four years old and some stock are as old as 16 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not clearing old stock of FCI on a regular and priority basis; and

(d) the fresh steps taken/proposed to dispose off old stock of foodgrains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) It is not true to say that FCI was having half of the stock atleast two years old, 30% between two and four years etc. The exact position as on 30.6.2000 is given below :

(Figs. in M.T.)

Commodity	Total Stock	Upto 2 years old	%age	2 to 4 years old	%age	More than 4 years old	%age
Wheat	11216884	9858770	87.89	1292540	11.52	65574	0.59
Rice	12878448	12338362	95.80	379486	2.95	160600	1.25

(c) FCI is required to follow the principle of First-in First-out (FIFO) while issuing the stocks of foodgrains. But, FCI is unable to follow this principle strictly. Due to the preference of local consumers, the State Governments do not accept/lift older stocks of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and various other schemes of the Government of India and insist on issue of fresh stocks.

(d) The procedure for disposal of old stocks of foodgrains has been streamlined, and powers have been delegated to the High Level Committee of FCI, as well as Zonal Managers, to approve the tenders for sale of such stocks.

Contribution of Maharashtra in Central Revenue

5946. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total Central Revenue contribution by the Maharashtra State;

(b) the allocation made to Maharashtra from the Central funds in the past three years; and

(c) the details of the performance of tax collection in Maharashtra

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The collection of excise duty, corporation tax and income tax in respect of Maharashtra State (Mumbai and Pune region) during 2000-2001 is provisionally estimated at Rs. 39043 crore.

(b) The allocation made to the State Government of Maharashtra during the last three years as assistance towards States' Annual Plan, share in Central Taxes and grants-in-aid recommended by the Finance Commission, is as under :-

(Rs. in crore)

1998-1999	4525.20
1999-2000	4501.36
2000-2001	5066.17

(c) The details of tax collection in respect of Maharashtra State indicating the performance during the last 3 years, are as under :-

(Rs. in crore)

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Excise duty	12579	13034	13133
Corporation Tax	11901	14199	16301
Income Tax	6041	8405	9609

Portfolio Investments in Shares

5947. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mandatory to check portfolio investments in share of Indian companies;

(b) if so, whether portfolio investment of shares of companies like DSQ Softwares, Sounkh Technologies, Lupin Lab, Grasim, Satyam Computers, HCL Technology etc. have been monitored by the Government;

(c) if so, the details of irregularities committed by these companies; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and sub-accounts registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have been allowed to purchase shares under the portfolio investment scheme as specified under the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2000. Total holdings of all FIIs/sub accounts put together shall not exceed 24% which can go upto 49% of the paid up equity capital of the company provided this is approved by the shareholders through a special resolution.

(b) to (d) Investigations by SEBI in respect of the shares of DSQ Software, Shonkh Technologies, Lupin Lab, Satyam etc. are in progress. On completion of investigations, necessary action will be taken against persons/entities if

found guilty in terms of the SEBI Act, 1992 and Regulations made thereunder.

Export of Raw Sugar

5948. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to allow the export of raw sugar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether markets have been identified for the export of raw sugar from India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the impact of this decision on the domestic market;
- (f) whether State Governments have been consulted on this issue;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Sugar, which include raw sugar, is freely exportable without any restriction.

(c) and (d) Export of sugar, including raw sugar, is on commercial basis. It is for sugar mills/exporters of sugar to identify markets for export of raw sugar.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The export of sugar is under the EXIM policy of the Government.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

Bank Loan Defaulters

5949. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Banking Association has represented to Government seeking protection in their efforts to collect loans from giant defaulters;

(b) if so, the details of this representation;

(c) whether the Government have identified big defaulters who are creating problems for the banking industry in this matter; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by Government to ensure that big defaulters do not threaten the banking sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d). In one case, Indian Banks' Association (IBA) ha forwarded to the Government in July, 2001 a copy of letter from the Chairman and Managing Director of a public sector bank where, subsequent to legal action through the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) and sale of property charged to the bank as security, the borrower had filed a criminal complaint against the Chairman and Managing Director and other senior executives of the bank. In a meeting of the Finance Minister with the chief executives of public sector banks, the Chairman, IBA mentioned that bank's executives taking stringent legal action for recovery of dues faced such retaliatory actions by powerful borrowers and sought Government's support in facing such threats. The Finance Minister assured the full protection of the Government to the bank executives in their drive for recovery of the banks' dues and urged them to pursue such cases relentlessly and with vigour.

Export of Granite

5950. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's total granite exports has been hampered by the arrival of other countries in the export market;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rejuvenate granite exports in the country; and

(c) the total exports of granite made during each of the last three years in terms of both quantity and value ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Inspite of competition, there has been no decline in the export of granite during the last three years.

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

(c) Total export of granite and products thereof from the country during each of the last three years is as follows :—

Granite and Products thereof	Quantity	Value in (Crore)
1998-99	Not maintained	1013.00
1999-2000	Not maintained	1671.20
2000-2001 (Estimated)	Not maintained	1830.00

*[Translation]***Foreign Investment in Tobacco Sector**

5951. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed foreign investment in Tobacco industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government are permitting the foreign companies to manufacture cigarettes in India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether aspect of ill-effects of tobacco on public health has been considered before encouraging the foreign countries to manufacture cigarettes; and

(e) if so, the justifications behind encouraging the cigarette industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (e) Until 1998 FDI proposals in tobacco sector were considered as per the then prevalent policy. Subsequently, no proposal has been considered for FDI in tobacco sector, including manufacture of cigarettes.

*[English]***Rule for Screening News Documentary in Cinema Houses**

5952. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any rules for compulsory screening of news documentary in cinema house;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some cinema houses are flouting these rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have any provision for monitoring the regular screening of news documentaries in cinema houses;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken against the cinema houses for violation such rules ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Section 12 (4) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. inter alia empowers the Central Government to issue directions to the Union Territory Administrations to ensure the compulsory exhibition of news documentary films in the cinema theatres.

Since licensing of Cinema theatres is a State subject, various State Governments/Union territory Administrations have made their own Cinema (Regulations) Acts for the compulsory exhibition of approved films including documentary films, in the cinema theatres as a pre-condition for the purpose of grant of license to the cinema theatres.

(c) and (d) As per the records available in the Films Division, 62 cinema houses in West Bengal are not screening the approved films and have filed a Writ Petition in the High Court of Kolkata on the plea that the documentary films/news magazines produced by the Films Division are not approved by the Film Advisory Board of West Bengal and notified in the State gazette. A list of these 62 cinema theatres is enclosed as Statement. The matter is subjudice.

(e) to (g) Cinema being a State subject, enforcement of the legal requirement fall within the purview of the State Government. As and when complaints in this regard are received, these are forwarded to the concerned licensing authorities i.e. District Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police of the respective region/State for taking necessary action against the defaulting theatres.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Town	District	Name of Cinema
1	2	3	5
1.	Behala	Calcutta	Ajanta
2.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Aleya
3.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Alochhaya
4.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Ananya
5.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Aruna
6.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Ashoka
7.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Basusree
8.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Bhabani
9.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Bharati
10.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Bidhusree

1	2	3	5
11.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Bijuli
12.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Chaplin
13.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Chhabighar
14.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Chhaya
15.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Crown
16.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Darpan
17.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Elite
18.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Ganeh
19.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Globe
20.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Grace
21.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Jagat
22.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Jamuna
23.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Jawahar
24.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Jyoti
25.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Kalika
26.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Khanna
27.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Khatoon Mahal
28.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Krishna
29.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Light House
30.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Menoka
31.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Metro
32.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Minar
33.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Mitra
34.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Moonlight
35.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Naaz
36.	Calcutta	Calcutta	New
37.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Newempire
38.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Noor-Mahal
39.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Orient
40.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Padmashree
41.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Paradise
42.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Park show House
43.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Prabhat
44.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Pradip

1	2	3	5
45.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Priya
46.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Purabi
47.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Purna
48.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Purnasree
49.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Pushpashree
50.	Calcutta	Calcutta	P. son
51.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Ragine
52.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Regent
53.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Roxi
54.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Society
55.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Sree
56.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Talike S.H
57.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Tiswir Mahal
58.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Hind Palace
59.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Uttara
60.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Vaishali
61.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Suktara
62.	Calcutta	Calcutta	Liberty

Reduction in Outlay of CFSI

5953.SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether the Children's Film Society of India (CFSI) has been entrusted with the task of advancement of education and culture through films especially among children and adolescents;

(b) if so, the plan outlay sanctioned to CFSI during the last three years and current year, year-wise;

(c) the actual plan expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the plan estimates has been reduced drastically at revised estimate stage;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to encourage children to see CFSI's films ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)	Year	Sanctioned Plan outlay
	1998-1999	Rs. 560.00 lakh
	1999-2000	Rs. 650.00 lakh
	2000-2001	Rs. 650.00 lakh
	2001-2002	Rs. 455.00 lakh

(c)	Year	Expenditure
	1998-99	Rs. 349.74 lakh
	1999-2000	Rs. 430.29 lakh
	2000-2001	Rs. 327.61 lakh

(d) and (e) The reduction of outlays at RE stage in the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 was mainly on account of non-utilisation of the provisions made for the scheme of construction of CFSI complex at Hyderabad due to problems relating to land allotment.

(f) Apart from exhibiting its films through theatres, TV channels, school shows, film festivals in different States and sale of video cassettes, CFSI has taken following steps to encourage exhibition of children's films:-

- (i) A package of children's films in video format called 'video treasure chest' is being distributed in schools and other educational institutions all over the country;
- (ii) CFSI films are being released on theatrical circuit throughout the country at nominal ticket rates;
- (iii) TV rights of children films are being sold to prominent TV channels for telecast over their networks;
- (iv) Various types of workshops like animation, scriptwriting, video and film appreciation workshops are being organized as a promotional activity.

Foodgrains Lying in Open

5954. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether several lakh tonnes of foodgrain are lying in the open without proper protection with food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of foodgrains found rotten and the losses suffered as a result thereof during the current year so far; and

(d) the steps initiated by the Government to store the surplus foodgrains properly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has a total storage capacity (owned and hired) of 35.36 million tonnes including 8.3 million tonnes CAP (Covered and Plinth). The stock holding of FCI is 33.33 million tonnes as on 31.7.2001, which includes 7.14 million tonnes in CAP (Open) storage which is also a scientific form of storage where stocks are stored for a temporary period to meet the demands of increased procurement as per needs.

(c) and (d) The quantity of foodgrains damaged due to various reasons like cyclones, floods, unprecedented rains and also due to multiple handling, transportation by rail and road, long periods of storage etc. during the current year w.e.f. April, 2001 to 31 July, 2001, is 1125.09 MT, provisionally.

Following steps are taken to protect foodgrains from deterioration :

- (i) Liquidate damaged foodgrains.
- (ii) closely monitor the available storage capacity in each depot.
- (iii) create additional storage capacity by construction of godowns at strategic locations at micro level under the Five Year Plans and
- (iv) also explore additional resources for investment in augmentation of storage facilities.

Jobs on Acquisition of Land

5955. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Central Public Sector Undertakings which have established their projects in Navi Mumbai and Raigad district of Maharashtra;

(b) the approximate land of villagers acquired by each public sector undertakings for establishment of said projects in the above places;

(c) whether there was a provision to provide jobs to the affected persons or to compensate them by other means;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of persons affected due to acquirement of land for these projects and the number of persons out of them have been compensated till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) As per available information there are 4 PSUs which have established their projects in Navi Mumbai and Raigad Distt. of Maharashtra namely Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.(HOCL), The Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF), Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. (HIL).

(b) The approximate land of villagers acquired by HOC, HIL, RCF and BPCL is 1061 acres, 124 acres (approx.), 246H-72.22 ares and 806.69 sq.mtr. respectively.

(c) and (d) As per the existing guidelines, apart from compensation under Land Acquisition Act, the project authorities are also advised to arrange education and training of the members of affected families to enable them to qualify for employment in the project and compete with others subject to availability of vacancy without commitment for ultimate employment.

(e) The total number of persons affected due to acquisition of land by HOC was 580 and out of them 565 were given employment. HIL had provided employment to the persons belonging to the families of land losers and compensation was provided to 191 affected persons. Employment was provided by RCF to 615 persons against 385 affected families and by BPCL to all 190 affected persons.

Relief to Natural Calamities affected States

5956.SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the funding pattern of banks for providing relief to the natural calamities affected States;

(b) whether banks have adhered to the guidelines of RBI in this regard;

(c) if so, the State-wise relief amount given by various banks during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure strict implementation of RBI's guidelines in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India have issued standing instructions to banks in August 1984 (revised in June 1998) for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities. These guidelines, inter alia. envisage.

- Grant of fresh crop loans to affected farmers
- grant of consumption loan up to Rs. 1000/-
- Conversion of short-term production loans into medium term loans.
- Rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan installment.
- Relaxation in security and margin norms.
- Not to treat portion of converted/rescheduled loans as NPAs.
- No penal interest to be charged. The banks should also suitably defer the compounding of interest charged.

These guidelines come into effect after the State Government issues a notification declaring the area to be affected by natural calamity.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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

(d) The mechanism of State level Banker's Committee (SLBC) and monitoring by Regional offices of RBI, under whose jurisdiction the region affected by natural calamity falls, ensure strict compliance of RBI's guidelines.

[Translation]

Appointment in Top Posts

5957.SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report of Intelligence Bureau is taken into consideration in case of appointment to senior level posts in his Ministry and in the matter of Departmental promotions and appointments the suggestions and recommendation of Intelligence Bureau are given due weightage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of senior level officers, of the rank of Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Chairman of the Boards against whom Intelligence Bureau and other

Intelligence Agencies have given adverse and favourable reports during the last three years and during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) While making appointment to senior level posts in the Ministry of Finance, only those officers are considered for appointment who are given vigilance clearance by their respective parent cadres and also the clearance of the Administrative Vigilante Division of the Department of Personnel and Training in case of posts falling under the Central Staffing Scheme. Further, in the case of persons considered for appointment to higher posts in the Department of Revenue, who are not working in the Government of India, security clearance from the IB is obtained.

[English]

Payment Problem in Calcutta Stock Exchange

5958. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta Stock Exchange failed to follow the guidelines issued by SEBI due to which there was payment problem;

(b) if so, the reasons for not following the laid down norms by CSE; and

(c) the further steps taken or likely to be taken by SEBI in this regard ?

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

IDBI Loans to Agrani Promoted by Zee Telefilms

5959. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 300 crore to Agrani promoted by Zee Telefilms without asking for personal guarantee of promoters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there was any understanding between officials of IDBI and Agrani for granting the loan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that this amount will not become NPA ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Benefit to Flour Millers by State Governments

5960. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether eight State Governments gave undue benefit of Rs. 372.56 crore to the flour millers by not collecting the difference between the market price and PDS price of flour millers during 1992-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the State Governments and flour millers to whom benefits were given;

(d) whether officials responsible for this have been identified and proceeded against;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any proposal to recover the difference amount from the millers;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (h) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its Report No. 3 of 2000 (Civil) on the Public Distribution System (PDS) of this Department for the year ended 31.3.1999 pointed out that the State Governments of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa and Delhi gave undue benefits to the extent of Rs. 372.56 crores to the millers due to non-compliance of orders issued by Government under the Custom Milling Scheme in September, 1994. The States, which adopted the scheme,

were to deposit the differential amount between the cost of wheat to be sold through PDS and the cost realized by sale of maida, suji, atta and bran out of wheat allowed to be converted under the scheme. The Government of Tamilnadu has since deposited a sum of Rs. 7.79 crores with the Central Government Account and would remit the remaining amount of Rs. 19.70 crores after reconciliation of relevant accounts. Government of Karnataka has not accepted the observation of the C and AG on the plea that the retail prices of wheat products quoted by the Audit in their report are unrealistic and the claim raised against them is without any authenticity. Governments of Delhi and Meghalaya have stated that this scheme has not been implemented by them. Governments of Kerala and Orissa have also not accepted any debit on this account to be paid to the Government. Government of Maharashtra has stated that the matter is receiving attention. Govt. of Assam is yet to respond. Details of millers stated to have been benefited has not been given in the report.

A complaint regarding alleged irregularities in allocation of 30,000 M. T. s of wheat per month through PDS, Assam was received through C.B.I., Guwahati, Assam. The matter is being investigated by them and further necessary action would be possible on receipt of their report. Barring this, no other complaint has been received from any other State.

Trading in Sugar

5961.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided not to opt for complete demutualisation in futures trading of sugar;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have also asked the applicants to have non-trading partners as at least one-third of the members on their Board;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government are considering to have the entire process change to pick momentum in sugar policy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (e) The Government, while recently permitting futures trading in sugar have, decided to select only modern, well organized, professionally managed Exchanges that have 'online' system of trading; efficient clearing, settlement and guarantee systems; transparency in operations and

decision-making; reliable, effective and impartial management, preferably demutualised form of organization. Complete demutualisation is not one of the criteria laid down, while representation of non-trade interest in the management is stipulated for effective and impartial management. The Government is committed to the policy of decontrolling the sugar industry in 'a phased manner.

Modern Foods Employees Complain of Pressure to Accept VRS

5962.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Modern Food staff complain of pressure to accept VRS" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated July 20, 2001;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the Government had given an assurance to the workers of Modern Foods Industries Limited before disinvestment that their interests would be protected; and
- (d) if so, the action Government propose to protect the interests of the employees as promised ?

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) As per information available, on receipt of requests from the workmen and representatives of workmen of Modern Food Industries (India) Limited (MFIL) for introduction of a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), the management of MFIL held discussions with the two Federations representing the workmen of MFIL and after signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federations on 16.06.2001 introduced a VRS applicable to the workmen of all the factories of MFIL. The office bearer of the minority union of MFIL's Delhi Bread Unit-I, who is under suspension for assaulting a co-workman, accused the management of having forced the workers to accept VRS. Thereafter, the management at the Unit notified and communicated that those who had felt

pressurised to accept VRS could rejoin their duties after refunding the amount of retirement benefits taken by them. No candidate came forward unconditionally to rejoin duties. The Unit received requests from only 9 workmen stating that they would like to rejoin duties provided the management gave an assurance that they would not be transferred to any other Unit. Since transferability is one of the conditions of service in MFIL, which existed even when MFIL was a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), the management could not give such an assurance.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government as well as the new management of MFIL has fulfilled the promise regarding protection of interest of the employees. There had been no retrenchment after the transfer of management control following disinvestment. The wages/pay of the workers/employees have been upwardly revised, which would not have been possible had MFIL remained a PSU. Introduction of the VRS in June 2001, Which is much more generous than the VRS applicable to PSUs in general, would also not have been possible had MFIL remained a PSU.

[Translation]

Action against Casual Employees

5963. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of regular employees of various units of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are working on casual basis in the AIR and Doordarshan News Division without disclosing it to their parent departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Disinvestment of IPCL

5964. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to hand over the two units of IPCL at Nasothane and Gandhar to the Indian Oil Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government also propose to consider to other part of its equity in IPCL to the general public as a means of nation's resources through disinvestment; 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) and (b) Government have not received any proposal to hand over the two units of IPCL at Nagothane and Gandhar to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. However, a suggestion for transfer of IPCL as a whole to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. on a nomination basis had been received. Since, the other two units, unlike IPCL, Baroda, do not offer any synergy with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., The Government did not accept the suggestion.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal currently with Government for offer of its equity held in IPCL to the general public.

Closure of Department Under the Ministry

5965. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down any department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

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

(c) whether the entire staff of said department has been declared surplus;

(d) if so, the criteria adopted in this regard;

(e) whether any analysis has been made for consideration of Staff Inspection Unit Report before taking such decision;

(f) whether employees / trade unions have opposed this move;

(g) if so, the details of representations received against the closure of said departments; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to close down the Department of Supply Under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, a downsizing exercise is underway on the basis of recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission and internal assessment.

(e) No, Sir. There is no SIU report on the Department of Supply.

(f) No, Sir. No representations opposing this decision have been received from employees/trade unions.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Does not arise.

Higher Interest for Senior Citizens

5966. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased the state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to give higher interest to senior citizens on their fixed deposits in post offices as has been done by certain banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, any other kind of concessions the Department of Posts propose to extend to senior citizens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to give wide publicity to such schemes to enable senior citizens aware of these schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of HCI

5967. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received financial bids for disinvestment of the Hotel Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be earned therefrom; and

(d) the reasons for disinvestment of HCI despite its financial strength?

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) The process of disinvestment of the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) is under progress. Financial bids in respect of HCI have not yet been invited.

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

(c) The realization from the proposed disinvestment would depend on various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the Company, terms and conditions of sale, interest of the prospective investors etc. As such, it is not possible to estimate the expected return from the disinvestment.

(d) The process of disinvestment in HCI has been taken up following the acceptance of the recommendations of the Disinfectant Commission. While recommending disinvestment of HCI, the Commission observed that;

- The hotel industry is a highly competitive industry where quality of service is the key success factor. HCI faces tough competition from the private sector operators.
- The poor condition of facilities has adversely affected the brand image and has forced the hotels to compete in terms of price rather than quality. Consequently, HCI is not able to charge premium on room rents.
- HCI compares poorly in terms of cost of repairs per room, selling expenses per room etc.
- The units are highly overstaffed in relation to the size of their operations.
- The occupancy rates of HCI hotels are low in comparison with other private sector hotels. Moreover, the occupancy rate is characterised by a high share of business from airlines which

operates on substantial discount as compared with the regular tourist traffic.

All the hotels under HCI require renovations on a large scale involving significant capital expenditure.

Disinvestment is being considered and carried out in various PSUs in accordance with the declared policy of the Government. According to the policy, in generality of cases, Government will bring down its equity to 26% or below in all non-strategic PSUs. The strategic PSUs are those in the areas of arms and ammunitions; allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships; 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 and railway transport. This policy covers all Central PSUs.

Import of Indian Sugar by Pakistan

5968. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has decided to import 50,000 tonnes of sugar from India;

(b) if so, the rates offered and whether it is based on consideration of most favoured nation under WTO treaty; and

(c) the impact of export of this quantity on the domestic requirement in view of ensuing festival season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Pakistan has not accorded MFN Status to India. It prescribes a list of items which can be imported from India. The list presently contains 600 items. The list does not include sugar.

Government of Pakistan (GoP) had allowed in Financial Year 2000-2001 import of sugar from India. It decided on 7th March, 2001 to ban import of sugar from India. It, however, allowed import of sugar against Letters of Credit (LCs) opened till 7.3.2001. Since the LCs for import of 50,000 tons of sugar are still valid, GoP, in line with its earlier decision to allow import of sugar against LCs opened before 7th March 2001, has allowed import of 50,000 tons of sugar against these valid LCs. There has not been, however, any change in the policy of GoP regarding banning import of sugar from India and import of sugar from India continues to remain banned.

The export of sugar from India to different countries including Pakistan is on commercial basis. As such, it is not possible to indicate the rates offered by importing parties of foreign countries.

(c) The country is having large stocks of sugar. The sugar season 2000-2001 is likely to close with closing stocks of about 10 million tones. Hence, export of 50,000 tonnes of sugar to Pakistan would have no impact on the availability and prices of sugar in the country.

[Translation]

Sick Public Sector Undertakings

5969. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI SAHIB SINGH :
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :

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

(a) the details of public sector undertakings declared sick during each of the last three years, State-wise.

(b) whether one of the main reasons for these undertakings going sick is due to mismanagement by senior officials;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken against those guilty officials; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive these public sector undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Since 1998, 10 CPSUs have been declared sick and referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of Sick Industrial (Special Provisions) Companies Act. Details of these CPSUs are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The reasons for sickness are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons for sickness include inherited sickness in case of taken over units from the private sector, obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, low capacity utilisation, excess manpower, resource crunch and erosion of net worth due to continuous losses, lack of credit worthiness, heavy interest burden, weak marketing strategies as well as managerial problems etc.

It is the constant endeavor of the Government to revive and turn around such units which are potentially viable.

Under the present arrangements, BIFR decides the viability and sanctions rehabilitation plans for revival of sick industrial PSUs. The concerned administrative Ministries/Departments also explore options and devise the final course of action, as necessary, on case to case basis.

The remedial measures undertaken by the Govt. for revival/rehabilitation include periodical reviews by

Administrative Ministries/Departments, Technology Upgradation, diversification and change in product mix, financial and business restructuring, rationalisation of manpower, modernisation of plants, inventory and cost control, improved marketing strategies, as well as professionalisation of management and restructuring of Board of the PSU, etc.

Statement

State wise list of Central PSUs declared sick since 1998 and registered with BIFR

Sr. No.	State Reference	Year of Reference	Name of the CPSU	Status with BIFR as on 31.05.2001	Profit/Loss as on 31.3.2000 (Rs. Crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1998	Praga Tools Ltd.	Under Enquiry	-29.11
2.	Bihar	2001	Bharat Wagon and Engg. Co. Ltd.	Under Enquiry	-10.77
3.	Bihar	1999	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	Under Enquiry	-70.18
4.	Bihar	2001	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	Under Enquiry	-692.32
5.	Delhi	1999	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	Under Enquiry	-6.50
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1998	NEPA Ltd.	Under Enquiry	5.68
7.	Rajasthan	2000	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	Under Enquiry	-2.91
8.	Uttar Pradesh	1998	Bharat Immunological and Biologicals Corp. Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated	0.04
9.	West Bengal	1999	Birds, Jute and Exports Ltd.	Under Enquiry	-4.46
10.	West Bengal	2000	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	Under Enquiry	-728.23

[English]

Bounced Cheques

5970.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a panel to sort out the knotty problem of bounced cheques;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its terms of reference;

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

(d) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken to amend Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 to deal strictly with the cases of unpaid cheques ?

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

Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs constituted a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Shri S.B. Jaisinghani, Additional Solicitor General of India to review the law relating to section 138 to 142 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and make recommendations as to what changes are needed to be made to effectuate purpose of these sections. The Working Group submitted its report which was examined in consultation with Reserve Bank of India. Accordingly a bill was introduced in the Sabha on 24th July, 2001 to amend various sections of the Negotiable Instruments Act. The said Bill has been referred to Standing Committee on Finance by the Hon'ble Speaker

Fine against Dabhol Power Company Limited

5971.SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs Department has slapped 283 crore fine on the controversial American energy giant Enron promoted Dabhol Power Company and has also decided to initiate penal action against it for falsification of statements;

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

(c) whether the Department has also accused the Dabhol Power Company of large scale duty evasion by false declaration of value and suppression of vital facts from the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the final action taken against Dabhol Power Company by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (e) For import of various machinery/equipments/materials for setting up of LNG facility at Dabhol, M/s. Dabhol Power Company had claimed concessional rates of Customs duty at the rate applicable for the power projects. They had also claimed, while declaring the value of the machinery/materials etc. Imported, that almost 88 million dollars out of 115 million dollars service charges paid by them to overseas contractors, would not form part of the customs value.

Detailed examination of the contentions of M/s. Dabhol Power Company were carried out and a Show Cause Notice has been issued to M/s. Dabhol Power Company (DPC) on 31.7.2001, demanding a duty of Rs. 283.39 crore. It has been alleged in the Show Cause Notice that M/s DPC is not eligible for power project rate of Customs duty in respect of machinery, equipment and materials imported for setting up of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility at Dabhol. It has also been alleged that a substantial portion of service charges has not been included in the assessable value of goods. Penal action has been proposed against the Company for alleged suppression of vital facts. At present, the matter is subjudice before the jurisdictional Commissioner of Customs.

[Translation]

NABARD Assistance for Drinking Water to Villages

5972. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Government particularly the Maharashtra Government have sought loan from the NABARD to meet the expenditure to be incurred

on providing drinking water to all the villages in the State;

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

(c) the steps taken for providing financial assistance for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that some State Governments including Maharashtra have sought loan assistance from NABARD to meet the expenditure incurred on providing drinking water facility to the villages in the State. State-wise details of the loan sanctioned for rural drinking water projects (DWP) under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) are given below :

(Rs. Lakhs)

S. No.	State	No. of DWPs	Loan Sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	495	9366.51
2.	Goa	9	216.86
3.	Haryana	89	4863.84
4.	Himachal Pradesh	30	1991.35
5.	Maharashtra	195	9650.30
6.	Punjab	297	9420.68
7.	Sikkim	2	237.12
Total		1117	35746.66

(c) NABARD has reported that they have written letters to Chief Ministers/Chief Secretaries of Various States to avail loan under RIDF for implementation of various rural infrastructure projects including rural drinking water projects from time to time. The Regional Offices of NABARD also pursue with the State Government in various fora like High Power Committee Meetings, etc. regarding availment of funds under RIDF for development of rural infrastructure in the State.

[English]

Target for LPT/HPT

5973. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for setting up of Low Power Transmitter / High Power Transmitter Centres in the various States during 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) the actual progress made so far in the setting up of these transmitters;

(c) whether target of the establishment to LPT/HPT centres in Orissa in the above Years has not been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) During 2000-2001, Doordarshan has targeted completion of 40 High Power and 72 Low Power/Very Low Power Transmitter Projects. Against these targets, 38 High Power Transmitter Projects, and 33 Low Power/Very Low Power Transmitter Projects have been completed. State-wise location of these transmitters are given in the enclosed Statement. In addition, one High Power Transmitter and 13 Low Power/Very Low Power Transmitters were completed during 2000-2001 as part of the Special Plan for Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) and (d) Out of three High Power Transmitters targeted for completion in Orissa during 2000-2001, the project of DD-1 augmentation and DD-2 at Sambalpur, have been completed. The High Power transmitter project at Berhampur has been delayed due to delay in construction of building, and this project is expected to be completed during 2001-2002.

Statement

Doordarshan Transmitter Projects Completed during 2000-2001

A. High Power Transmitters

State	Project
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Rajahmundry (pmt.) Vijayawada (DD II)
Assam	Guwahati (DDII) Silchar (DDII)
Bihar	Muzaffarpur (DDII) Patna (DDII)
Goa	Panaji (DDII)
HP	Shimla (DDII)
Jharkhand	Jamshedpur Ranchi (DDII)
Karnataka	Mangalore

1	2
Kerala	Calicut (Pmt.) Cochin (DDII) Trivandrum (DDII)
Maharashtra	Nagpur (DDII)
Manipur	Churachandpur
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal (DDII) Indore (DDII) Jabalpur (DDII)
Orissa	Sambalpur (DDI-aug.) Sambalpur (DDII)
Pondicherry	Pondicherry (interim)
Rajasthan	Ajmer (interim) Jaipur (DDII) Jodhpur (DDII)
Tamilnadu	Kumbakonam (interim)
Tripura	Agartala (DDII)
Uttar Pradesh	Banda Lakhimpur (interim) Agra (DDII) Allahabad (DDII) Gorakhpur (DDII) Lucknow (DDII) Varanasi (DDII)
West Bengal	Krishnanagar (interim) Shantinkietan (interim) Asansol (DDII) Murshidabad (DDII)

B. Low Power and Very Low Power Transmitters

State	LPT	VLPT
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Sirpur Vemalvada	
Arunachal Pradesh		Sangram
Bihar	Ramnagar	
Chhattisgarh	Konta Champa	Pathalgaon
Haryana	Bhiwani (DDII)	
Himachal Pradesh		Tissa
Jammu and Kashmir		Batalik Turtok

1	2	3
Karnataka	Mundargi	
Kerala	Kottarakara	
Madhya Pradesh	Bareilly Agar Lakhnadon	
Maharashtra	Bhamragad Daryapur Raver Pune DDII Sholapur DDII	Sakoli
Mizoram		Aizawl
Meghalaya		Shillong
Nagaland		Bada Basti
Rajasthan		TIBI
Tamil Nadu	Kallakuruchi Palani	
Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh (DDII) Bidhuna	
Uttaranchal	Khetikhan	Badrinath
West Bengal	Jhalda	

**Relaxation of Bureau of Indian
Standards (BIS)**

5974. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to relax certification norms for a large number of imported products identified earlier for compulsory Bureau of Indian Standard Certification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BIS has forwarded proposals to directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for relaxing certification norms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps the Union Government/BIS propose to take to check the quality of imported products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The quality

standards as imposed vide Notification No. 44 dated 24.11.2000 issued by Department of Commerce are still in operation. However, the condition of registration with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been exempted on import of cylinders to be used exclusively in the CNG kits for automobiles. This exemption is applicable only on such cylinders and cylinder valves fittings which have been approved by the Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur.

(c) and (d) In order to evolve a speedier mechanism for grant of licences, particularly where imported products are being used as raw material by the Indian industry, BIS has proposed to Department of Commerce (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) to permit BIS Certification of these 133 items under their Indian Importers Scheme provided the items are required for captive consumption on continuous basis and are procured from pre-identified sources.

(e) Government, in Department of Commerce, have taken steps through issue of various notifications, etc. to ensure that the quality of imported products conforms to the specified levels.

[Translation]

Programmes Production Studios

5975. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Government have set up studios for production of programmes to be telecast on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the number of such studios and the places where they exist;

(c) the number of programmes produced on an average in a month; and

(d) the average total amount spent on these studios annually ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati Has its own studios for production of TV programmes.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

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

(d) The total amount spent during the year 2000-2001 for maintenance of Doordarshan studios is Rs. 8.15 crores approximately.

Statement*[English]**Studio Centres of Doordarshan (As on 24.8.2001)*

S.No	State/UT	Location
1.	Assam	Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Vijayawada
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
4.	Bihar	Patna, Muzaffarpur
5.	Chhattisgarh	Jagdalpur, Raipur
6.	Goa	Panaji
7.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Rajkot
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
9.	Jharkhand	Ranchi, Daltonganj
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar, Jammu
11.	Kerala	Trivandrum
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Gulbarga
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior
14.	Meghalaya	Shillong Tura
15.	Maharashtra	Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune
16.	Manipur	Imphal
17.	Mizoram	Aizawl
18.	Nagaland	Kohima
19.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar, Bhawanipatna, Sambalpur
20.	Punjab	Jalandhar
21.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
22.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
23.	Tripura	Agartala
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Mau, Allahabad, Varanasi, Mathura
25.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
26.	West Bengal	Calcutta, Shantiniketan, Jalpaiguri
27.	Delhi	Delhi
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair
29.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
30.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh

Procurement of Tobacco

5976. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has decided to procure the tobacco produced by unregistered growers at minimum support price;

(b) if so, whether there will be no levying of 40 percent penalty and marketing of Tobacco Production by these unregistered growers at Tobacco Board Auction plat forms;

(c) if so, the details of directives issued in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which this decision would be helpful to the tobacco growers in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government of India, vide orders issued on May 24, 2001, authorised the Tobacco Board to Purchase at MSP the unauthorised crop produced by the unregistered growers of Andhra Pradesh in the 2000-01 season. This was in supercession of Government's earlier orders issued on March 20, 2001, permitting the sale of the unauthorised crop at the auction platforms of the Tobacco Board, subject to the condition that 40% of the sale proceeds be contributed by every such grower to the Tobacco Fund. The objective was to eliminate the profit element from the unlawful activity of a few growers without subjecting them to unbearable economic hardship, in a year when a considered decision was taken at the express request of the majority of tobacco growers as well as the Government of A. P. to refrain from registering any growers or fixing any crop size. However, in keeping with the interim directions of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh on various writ petitions filed against these orders, the unauthorised tobacco has since been auctioned at the auction platforms of the Tobacco Board, with the growers getting the sale proceeds at minimum support price and the remainder being kept in a separate account pending further orders.

(d) The decision to restrict to MSP the proceeds from the sale of the unauthorised tobacco by A. P. growers in 2000-01 is expected to help in checking the tendency amongst growers to cultivate tobacco without authorisation from the Board in future. The Tobacco Board, on the basis of an assessment of demand, both domestic and

international, fixes the FCV tobacco crop size every year. The tendency of some growers to produce in excess harms the interests of the tobacco growing community as a whole since prices fall in situations of excess supply.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

5977. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of the minimum foreign exchange reserve and the manner in which it is maintained;

(b) whether this reserve had fallen below the minimum limit in the country; and

(c) the impact of the minimum foreign exchange reserve on the economy of the country when it falls below the minimum limit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Minimum level of foreign exchange reserves of a country is normally judged by the cover that they provide to imports. As per International standards, the level of foreign exchange reserves at any point of time is considered adequate, if they provide cover for at least 3 months of imports. The level of India's foreign exchange reserves (including gold and SDRs) at US \$44.59 billion as on August 17, 2001 provide cover for about 8.2 months of estimated imports in 2001.02, and it is considered comfortable, keeping in view India's need for essential imports, short-term liabilities, including debt service obligations, and other unforeseen contingencies.

(c) When foreign exchange reserves of a country fall below the minimum level, unless the country is in a position to meet its short term requirements for foreign exchange from normal sources of foreign exchange inflows, it becomes difficult to pay for essential imports and to fulfil short-term obligations. The situation may trigger speculation and panic among market participants leading to payments crisis, and pressure on exchange rate.

PSEs Referred for Disinvestment

5978. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI :

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

(a) whether the Government have referred 13 Public Sector enterprises (PSEs) to the Department of Disinvestment;

(b) if so, the names of these PSEs alongwith their performance during the last three years particular of Chhattisgarh State;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to make these PSEs economically viable before referring them to Department of Disinvestment;

(d) whether some of loss making PSEs have been declared sick during last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof Ministry-wise alongwith the names of PSEs which are still in the red ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the PSUs under Department of Heavy Industry which are under reference to the Department of Disinvestment and their performance during the last 3 years is enclosed.

(c) Efforts to improve the performance of PSUs under the Department of Heavy Industry include Revival through BIFR, financial restructuring wherever appropriate and manpower rationalisation etc.

(d) and (e) 4 PSUs viz. NEPA Ltd. (NEPA), Praga Tools Ltd. (PTL), Bharat Wagon and Engineering Co. Ltd. (BWEL) and Hindustan Salts Limited (HSL) under the Department of Heavy Industry have been declared sick during the last 3 years and are still in the red.

Statement

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of PSE	Location	Profit (+) Loss (-) Position			Production Performance		
			1998-99 (Actual)	1999- 2000 (Actual)	2000-01 (Flash Results)	1998-99 (Actual)	1999- 2000 (Actual)	2000-01 (Flash Results)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (BSCL)	Kolkata (WB)	-26.95	-35.41	-31.36	272.41	217.71	235.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd. (BHPV)	Vizag (AP)	1.12	-24.80	0.54	209.58	154.00	266.40
3.	Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd. (BBVL)	Kolkata (WB)	-3.28	-7.02	-6.71	8.47	6.61	2.68
4.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd. (BPCL)	Allahabad (UP)	-12.91	-19.30	-5.38	45.09	42.53	61.40
5.	Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. (BCL)	Kolkata (WB)	0.41	-14.13	-4.90	161.74	118.59	147.54
6.	Engg. Projects (India) Ltd. (EPI)	N. Delhi	-34.19	-48.14	-47.37	180.92	171.05	220.30
7.	Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL)	Kolkata (WB)	-138.73	-40.14	-66.56	220.99	804.31	858.34
8.	Hindustan Salts Ltd. (HSL)	Jaipur (Rajasthan)	-2.16	-2.91	-2.81	4.59	3.82	5.09
9.	Instrumentation Ltd. (ILK)	Kota (Rajasthan)	-13.35	-28.35	-28.56	126.88	124.48	96.16
10.	Jessop and Co (JESSOP)	Kolkata (WB)	0.70	-43.93	-45.16	68.08	48.26	56.30
11.	Nepa Ltd. (NEPA)	Nepanagar (MP)	-25.15	-21.29	-2.98	98.65	98.91	130.42
12.	National Industrial Development Corp (NIDC)	New Delhi	-5.88	-5.02	-6.70	2.80	6.85	4.87
13.	Scooters India Ltd.. (SIL)	Lucknow (UP)	6.60	6.78	4.88	125.91	132.05	122.29
14.	Sambhar Salts Ltd. (SSL)	Jaipur (Rajasthan)	-0.18	-2.03	-2.88	6.53	5.17	3.78
15.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd. (TSP)	Hospet (Karnataka)	0.06	0.11	0.05	25.39	40.93	36.01

NPA'S of Non-Banking Financial Institutions

5979.SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed recently the position of NPA's in respect of Non-banking Financial Institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof year-wise for the last three years with emerging trends;

(c) the details of plan of action suggested to deal with the problem effectively; and

(d) the follow up action taken/proposed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India has been vested with the regulatory and supervisory powers in respect of Non-Banking Financial Companies through the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Act, 1997.

The Reserve Bank has been periodically (on half yearly basis) reviewing the position of NPAs in respect of

NBFCs through control returns received from the deposit taking/holding NBFCs. The latest review pertained to March, 2001 in respect of 71 NBFCs which showed that the NPA ratio had come down. The NPA ratios during the last three years are as Under :

(Rs. in crores)

	March, 1999	March, 2000	March, 2001
Net NPA%	12.18% (2740)	5.55% (1228)	3.00% (571)
Gross NPA%	12.68% (2855)	11.00% (2499)	4.00% (643)

Figures in brackets are the amount of NPAs.

The NBFCs are advised by the Reserve Bank of India to recover the NPAs by taking effective steps and position is closely monitored by the Bank.

Institute for TV Commentators and Announcers

5980.SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some suggestions have been made to the Government to start an institute for the Television Commentators and Announcers to train them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have considered the suggestions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. No suggestions have been received from any Member of Parliament or State Government to start an Institute to train Television Commentators and Announcers.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Premium Rates of Insurance Companies

5981. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is true that insurance companies have increased the premium rates under "third party risks";

(b) whether any request has been received from the All India Motor Transport Association in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of their demands;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to reduce these premium rates; and

(e) if so, by which time the new rates will come into effect?

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

(b) and (c) The All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) have represented vide their letter date 2.8.2001 against the alleged hike in Third Party premium and requested for withdrawal of the same.

(d) and (e) Do not arise, in view of reply to Part (a) of the Question.

Production and Export of Sugar

5982. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total production, domestic consumption and export of sugar during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, separately;

(b) the gap between the demand and production of sugar;

(c) whether the export of sugar is declining year after year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether any target has been fixed for production export of sugar for the next year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The total production, domestic consumption and export of sugar during the sugar seasons 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as under :

Sugar season (Oct.-Sept.)	Production (In lakh tonnes)	Domestic Consumption (In lakh tonnes)	Export (In lakh tonnes)
1999-2000	181.93	155.08	0.23(P)
2000-2001	176.71(P) (Upto 15.07.2001)	145.84 (Upto Aug' 2001)	8.11(P) (Upto 23.07.2001)

(P)-Provisional

(b) There was no gap between internal consumption and production of sugar. On the other hand, the production of sugar was more than the internal requirement of sugar.

(c) to (f) The export of sugar depends upon the production, requirement of sugar for internal consumption, prices of sugar in the international market and the surplus availability of sugar in the country. Due to decline in production of sugar in the 1996-97 and 1997-1998 sugar seasons, no commercial exports of sugar were allowed. Due to high level of production during 1998-1999 and 1999-2001, 10 lakh tonnes of sugar was allowed for commercial exports. With the high level of production estimated during 2000-2001, the Government have removed quantitative restriction on export of sugar w.e.f. 01.04.2001.

Till 23.07.2001, 8.11 lakh tonnes of sugar (provisional) has been exported as per the information received from various trade circles.

[Translation]

Setting up of Special Export Cell

5983. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a special export cell to look into the cases pertaining to export of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said cell has been set up;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) The Government has set up an Export Cell for the purpose of monitoring export of foodgrains from the Central Pool with the following function :

- (i) Monitoring of international prices of foodgrains on day-to-day basis.
- (ii) Collection and compilation of information relating to export as well as import of foodgrains, country-wise.
- (iii) Maintenance of data on freight rates and their monitoring.
- (iv) Maintenance of data on international production of foodgrains
- (v) Analysing policy thrusts.
- (vi) Examination of representations relating to export of foodgrains.
- (vii) Dealing expeditiously with routine queries by exporters.
- (viii) Putting up issues relating to exports for decision.
- (e) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

[English]

SEBI Report on Small Investors

5984. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the report of dated August 2, 2001 by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to the effect that directors of over 200 firms, including around 65 from Gujarat and 33 from Delhi, have been on the run after generating crores of rupees leaving subscribers in the lurch;

(b) if so, the number of such companies from each State; and

(c) the steps taken against such companies to secure the investments by subscribers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that as on 30.06.2001, 176 companies have been identified as "vanishing companies" i.e. those companies which are not complying with the requirements of listing agreements and/or are not available at their registered office addresses after making public issues. Statewise details of these companies are provided in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Show cause notices were issued to these companies by SEBI 86 companies have been debarred from associating with capital market activities for a period for 5 years. Action is in progress in respect of the other 90 companies.

Further, the Department of Company Affairs has launched prosecution proceedings against 66 companies; 26 are under liquidation; 02 have been seized by State Governments; action is being taken against another 16 companies and reports are awaited with respect to 04 companies.

Statement

Statewise details of 176 companies which have been identified as "vanishing companies" as on 30.06.2001

Gujarat	59
Karnataka	08
Orissa	04
Maharashtra	06
West Bengal	17
Tamil Nadu	21
Delhi	17
Andhra Pradesh	20
Uttar Pradesh	08
Punjab	14
Madhya Pradesh	02
Total	176

*[Translation]***FERA Cases**

5985.DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of persons convicted in FERA cases during the last two years, till date;

(b) the State-wise number of the FERA cases registered during the last two years till July, 2001;

(c) whether the persons accused in the FERA cases go unpunished due to the negligence on the part of officers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The work of the Enforcement Directorate is divided across the country in seven zones. The various statistical data in respect of FERA cases is compiled zone-wise and not State-wise. The zone-wise details in respect of number of persons convicted in FERA cases and number of FERA cases registered for investigation during the last two years and upto July, 2001 are given in the statement annexed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

(i) *Zone-wise and year-wise number of persons convicted in FERA are as under :*

Name of the Zones	1999	2000	2001 (upto July)
Ahmedabad	04	01	—
Bangalore	02	01	01
Calcutta	08	01	04
Chennai	02	05	19
Delhi	—	11	05
Jalandhar	01	01	01
Mumbai	21	17	13
Total	38	37	43

(ii) *Zone-wise and year-wise number of FERA cases registered for investigation are as under :*

Name of the Zones	1999	2000	2001 (upto July)
Ahmedabad	324	234	32
Bangalore	234	125	54
Calcutta	490	157	63
Chennai	528	87	01
Delhi	1658	567	133
Jalandhar	446	801	25
Mumbai	699	257	127
RBI cases*	—	—	481
Total	4379	2228	916

*These case have been transferred recently by RBI for investigation.

MoU Signed between ITPO and CII

5986.SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum of understanding has been recently signed between ITPO and CII to promote Indian trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between ITPO and CII on 19-04-2001. The salient features of the MoU are as under :

- (i) ITPO and CII will develop knowledge- based services, which would be shared for the promotion of trade and industry.
- (ii) The CII and ITPO will undertake studies on potential for enhancement of Indian exports of products in various sectors and markets. These studies will analyse the scope to market Indian products and services in the short to medium and long term.
- (iii) Through interaction and mutual consent, the CII will be associated with ITPO in select fairs, annually. The role of the CII for such chosen events will be to assist ITPO in mobilizing participation of industry, organize seminars and

mount business delegations to the selected countries and shows. For each of these trade fairs, a separate working agreement would be entered into between ITPO and CII.

- (iv) ITPO and CII will consult each other on the organization of national and international trade fairs.
- (v) ITPO and CII will jointly organize Road Shows, Conferences, Seminars both in India and overseas to promote India and Indian products. These will be done in focused areas and for identified products and services.

Export of Wheat and Rice

5987. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL :
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

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

(a) whether export of wheat and rice is in accordance with or more than the target fixed during the current year;

(b) whether the export of rice and wheat has decreased as compared to their production during the above said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the problem of storage of wheat and rice has cropped up due to this in balance;

(e) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to increase the storage capacity and exports; and

(f) whether any ports have been selected for export of wheat and rice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) During the current financial year, 50 lakh MTs and 30 lakh MTs of wheat and rice respectively, are being offered for export from the Central Pool. So far, 12.99 lakh MTs of wheat (upto 31.7.2001) and 1.21 lakh MTs of rice (upto 22.8.2001) (1.91 lakh MTs from the country as a whole upto May, 2001) have been exported from the Central Pool.

The decision to export foodgrains from Central Pool is taken on the basis of the extent of surplus stocks over and above the buffer norms, availability of storage capacity for further procurement, carrying cost of foodgrains etc. and not merely on the basis of production of foodgrains in the country.

(d) and (e) Export of wheat and rice forms only a small part of our total production and also of the stocks held in the Central Pool.

However, FCI also undertakes creation of additional storage capacity by construction of godowns at strategic locations at micro-level under the Five Year Plans and by exploring additional resources for investment in augmentation of storage facilities under the National Storage Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains. During the Annual Plan for 2001-2002, the targets of FCI and CWC are 1.29 lakh MTs and 2 lakh MTs respectively for construction of godowns.

To increase exports of wheat and rice, the export prices have been fixed keeping in view, inter-alia, the international prices. Alongwith PSUs/Agencies, private parties have been permitted to export these commodities.

(f) FCI has been permitted to offer foodgrains for export from its port godowns. The selection of ports for export wheat and rice are actually decided by the exporters.

[English]

Sale of PDS Items at Higher Rates

5988. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that PDS items are being sold at higher rates in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as compared to other parts of the country due to inter-island transportation cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation that this inter-island transportation service cost might be borne by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No Sir. As per the reports received, the retail issue price of foodgrains under TPDS in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for BPL families is comparable to other parts of the country.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Government have received a representations stating that A and N Administration has to bear substantial transportation, labour and handling costs for transporting the foodgrains to Fair Price Shop located in various inhabited islands. It has been requested that transport subsidy for transportation of PDS food grains to

various inhabited islands may be provided by Government of India.

A proposal to open six new Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) is under consideration of the Government.

Food Deficit States

5989.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the difficulties of the food deficit States due to the present Public Distribution Policy;

(b) whether the Government has received any representations from these States particularly from the State of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government on the requests of these States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), introduced in June, 1997 the average lifting of foodgrains for the past 10 years was continued for the benefit of APL population. The quantity of foodgrains out of this average lifting which was in excess of the requirement of Below Poverty Line families was allotted to the States as transitory allocation to also take care of the requirement of the States deficit in foodgrains production. Allocation for the APL families has been continued at the same level as at the time of introduction of TPDS even after doubling of allocation from 10 kg to 20 kg per family per month w.e.f. 1.4.2001 and now to 25 kg per family per month from July, 2001.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Industrial Growth

5990.SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has directed banks to ensure easy liquidity conditions to improve credit growth;

(b) if so, whether this will help to improve the industrial output data which for the first month of the fiscal year, showed a year-on-year rise of 2.7 per cent compared with 6.5 per cent in April, 2000;

(c) to what extent interest rates softened by the RBI will help the growth of industrial production in the country; and

(d) the other steps being taken by the Government to improve the industrial growth in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) In the Monetary and Credit Policy announced in April 2001, Reserve Bank of India had indicated that they would ensure that all legitimate requirements for credit are met consistent with price stability. Towards this end, the RBI reduced CRR by 50 basis points in May 2001. The stance of monetary policy for 2001-02 had emphasised that "within the overall framework of imparting greater flexibility to the interest rate regime in the medium-term, to continue the present stable interest rate environment with a preference for softening to the extent the evolving situation warrants."

Reserve Bank of India has reported that adequate flexibility has been given to banks in prescribing interest rate and facilitate credit flow. The interest rates have, in fact, softened in line with the expectations. RBI has also state that demand for industrial credit is usually buoyant in the second half of the year while demand for food credit is strong in the first half due to the procurement season. Further credit pick-up depends on the overall growth and business confidence. Credit off-take would pick-up with changes in perceptions and increased investor confidence about the overall prospects of the economy.

In the current financial year 2001-02 (upto August 10, 2001) bank credit increased by Rs. 15,269 crore (3.0 per cent) as compared with an increase of Rs. 21,826 crore (5.0 per cent) in the corresponding period of the previous year. The deceleration in credit off-take in the current financial year partly reflects the sluggish industrial activity as revealed from the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which recorded a lower growth of 2.1 Per cent in April-June 2001 as compared with 6.1 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year.

[Translation]

Investment and Loan Policy of Banks

5991.SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken to revise the investment and loan limits of the banks in view of the scams;

(b) if so, details of the revision in this regard;

(c) whether scams can be checked completely as a result of these revisions, and

(d) if so, upto what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised guidelines in May, 2001 to all commercial banks on banks' investments in shares and financing of equities. These guidelines, inter-alia, stipulate that subject to the overall exposure to sensitive sectors, a bank's exposure to capital market by way of investments in shares, debentures and units of mutual funds (other than debt funds) through primary or secondary markets should not exceed 5% of its total outstandings domestic credit as on 31st March of the previous year. The ceiling of 5% covers:

- i Direct investment by a bank in equity shares, convertible bonds/debentures and units of equity- oriented mutual fund.
- ii Advances against shares to individuals for investment in equity shares (including IPOs), bonds and debentures, units of equity oriented mutual funds etc.
- iii Secured and unsecured advances to stockbrokers and guarantees issued on behalf of stockbrokers/ market makers.

These guidelines also stipulate that, as a prudential measure, banks' investment in equities etc. should not normally exceed 20% of its net worth.

(c) and (d) The banks are required to ensure that their operations are in tune with the prescribed regulatory guidelines and compliance thereof is verified by RBI through its inspections and by the Statutory Auditors of the Bank. RBI has reported that the total exposure of the Banking System by way of investment in capital market as on 31st January, 2001, stood at Rs. 8770.55 crore, which formed 1.97% of the banks' outstanding advances. RBI has further reported that the total exposure of the banks by way of advances against securities like shares, debentures etc. was less than 2% of their total advances. According to RBI, the loss incurred by banks in investments and lending operations on account of fall in the market value of securities was not large.

[English]

Procurement of Sub-Standard Foodgrains

5992.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of substandard foodgrains procured by Food Corporation of India during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total amount of loss due to procurement of sub-standard foodgrains and the total amount of loss reported to have been caused to other States due to sub-standard foodgrains supplied to them;

(c) whether some senior officers of FCI have been found to be involved in such huge losses in collusion with the suppliers/middlemen/farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against such corrupt officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

NABARD Loan for School Buildings

5993.KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments particularly the Uttar Pradesh Government have sought assistance from the NABARD for construction school buildings in the State;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the State-wise names of districts to be covered under the proposed assistance by NABARD from the Rural Infrastructure Development fund ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the State Governments of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan have sought loan assistance from it for construction of school buildings. Government of Uttar Pradesh has not sought loan under RIDF for construction of school buildings.

(b) The state-wise details of the loan sanctioned by NABARD for the purpose are given below :

(Rs. Lakh)

State	No.	Sanction
Gujarat	2360	2000.00
Himachal Pradesh	1484	2858.00
Jammu and Kashmir	1860	3183.56
Rajasthan	2214	3609.00
Total	7918	11650.56

(c) The State-wise names of Districts being covered/ to be covered with the above loan assistance for construction of school buildings are indicated below :

State	Districts Covered/To be Covered
Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Amreli, Kutch, Kheda, Gandhinagar, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Dangs, Panchmahal, Banaskantha, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Mehsana, Rajkot, Vadodara, Valsad, Sabarkantha, Surat and Surendranagar.
Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and Una.
Jammu and Kashmir	Baramulla, Badgam, Anantnag, Kupwara, Pulwama, Srinagar, Leh, Kargil, Jammu, Katra, Poonch, Rajouri, Doda.
Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dungarpur, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Rajasamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Tonk and Udaipur.

[English]

Export of Flowers

5994. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

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

(a) the total amount earned by the Government on export of flowers to various countries during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) whether marigold and several other Indian flowers have great demand in the European market;

(c) if so, the possibility explored to increase floricultural export to those countries; and

(d) the specific programme drawn up in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The total value of foreign exchange earned by the country on export of flowers during the last three years, namely 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 have been as follows :

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1998-99	97.22
1999-2000	116.72
2000-01	132.65

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

(b) While marigold has very little export demand, other Indian flowers such as fresh Anthurium, Carnations, Chrysanthemum, bulbs and tubers and dried flowers, etc. have good demand in the European market.

(c) and (d) Government has taken a number of measures to enhance exports of flowers to the various markets including the European market. Some of the steps taken to enhance production and encourage exports of flowers include:

- (i) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs, flower shows and exhibitions;
- (ii) Grant of air freight subsidy on exports of select floriculture products;
- (iii) Setting up of Flower Auction Centres in potential flower growing States;
- (iv) Assist in enhancing market access for Indian products through market access initiative programme;
- (v) Setting up walk-in-type cold storages and integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as floriculture and horticulture products; such walk-in cold storage facilities have been set up at Guwahati, and Kolkatta Airports. Integrated cold storage and cargo and cargo handling facilities have been set up at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram Airports. An Integrated Cargo handling Centre for perishables is being set up at Mumbai International Airport;
- (vi) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control, packaging, transport, etc.

Allocation of Foodgrains

5995. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of foodgrains allocated by the Central Government and lifted by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh during the current year;

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has made a request for increase in the allocation of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The allotment and lifting of rice and wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in respect of Madhya Pradesh during 2001-2002 (April-July, 2001) are as under :

(in 000 tonnes)

	Allotment	Lifting
Rice	118.09	45.22
Wheat	261.37	39.80

The lifting figures do not include the quantities utilised by the Government of Madhya Pradesh out of the stocks procured by the State Government under decentralized procurement scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Procurement of Foodgrains

5996. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the procurement of foodgrains and actual achievement made during the current year;

(b) whether the procurement could not take place as per the target fixed in some States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same ?

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

(SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) As the procurement operations are voluntary in nature and the farmers have the choice to sell their produce to State Government, Food Corporation of India, or in the open market, as is advantageous to them, no target, is fixed for procurement of rice and wheat. However, keeping in view the estimated production and availability of rice and wheat, a quantity of 173 lakh tonnes of rice and 192 lakh tones of wheat was expected to be received in the Central Pool during the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001 and Rabi marketing Season 2001-2002 respectively.

As on 20.8.2001, a quantity of 188.31 lakh tonnes of rice and 206.14 lakh tonnes of wheat have been procured.

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

IFC's Investment in India

5997. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation, an affiliate of the World Bank Group has approved over \$ 400 million of new investment in India during the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether this would also make India the largest recipient of IFC finance this Financial year;

(c) if so, the details of the projects for which this loan is likely to be invested;

(d) whether the IFC has already started providing this loan; and

(e) if so, the present status of these projects?

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

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The companies/facilities in which loans/equity/structured obligations have been approved during the current year are:

1. Ballarpur Industries Ltd.
2. Bharati Telecom.
3. Continental Carbon India Ltd.
4. Gurucool
5. GI Wind Farms
6. Global Trade Finance Pvt. Ltd.
7. GTB SME Facility

8. ICICI Guarantee Facility
9. ICICI-Risk Management Facility
10. Indian infrastructure Equipment Ltd.
11. Indian Seamless Metal Tubes
12. Internet Express
13. Jetair
14. Mahindra Infrastructure Developers Ltd.
15. NIIT Hole in the Wall
16. NIIT Student Loan Program
17. Orchid Chemicals
18. Samruddhi
19. Samtel Color Limited
20. SBI-Risk Management Facility
21. Spyranace.com
22. Varun Shipping-Rights Issue
23. Vysya Bank.

(d) and (e) The loans will be disbursed as per the disbursement schedule of the projects.

Amount Siphoned by Essar Group

5998.SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount siphoned off by Essar Group of Companies in the name of restructuring as on July 31, 2001.

(b) the details of diversion from listed Essar Group of Companies into private owned companies;

(c) whether a large amount have been channelled out to UAE in some fictitious companies by Essar Group;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether any investigation has been undertaken by the DRI; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Monitoring of National Savings Organisation

5999.SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :
SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the National Savings Organisation was set up and the objectives for which it was set up;

(b) the annual administrative expenditure on the NSO;

(c) the Year-wise, Gross and Net Collection since the inception of the NSO till the year 200-01;

(d) the assessment made by his Ministry regarding the work done by this organisation since its inception till the year 2000-01; and

(e) the steps taken to tighten the monitoring of the funds of NSO ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) National Savings Organisation (NSO) was constituted in 1948 with the objective of inculcating the habit of thrift and savings among the masses and for promoting small savings schemes of the Government of India.

(b) Administrative expenditure on the NSO during 1999-2000 was Rs. 17.29 crore.

(c) Year-wise gross and net small savings collections from 1977-78 to 2000-2001 (Provisional) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) National Savings Organisation was established at a time when the banking system in the country was underdeveloped. Banking habits of the general masses have significantly developed over the Years. NSO played an important part in product design and development, marketing and product promotion, market research, customer service and investors' grievance redressal, training and development, etc.

(e) Rule 6 of General Financial Rules and Government of India decisions thereunder stipulate that every officer should enforce financial orders and strict economy at every step and see that all relevant financial rules and regulations are observed by his own office and by subordinate offices. In addition, from time to time, economy instructions are issued to tighten the monitoring of funds controlled by NSO.

Statement*Small Savings Collections Over the Years*

(Rupees in Crore)

Sl.No.	Year	Gross Collections	Net Collections
1.	1977-78	2037.29	560.90
2.	1978-79	2583.91	880.92
3.	1979-80	2921.93	1143.83
4.	1980-81	3266.58	1176.52
5.	1981-82	3945.49	1464.13
6.	1982-83	4463.00	1828.05
7.	1983-84	5672.11	2535.91
8.	1984-85	7199.82	3715.41
9.	1985-86	8571.07	4368.71
10.	1986-87	8384.52	3410.66
11.	1987-88	9916.61	3911.42
12.	1988-89	13064.93	5835.05
13.	1989-90	17149.45	8574.88
14.	1990-91	18904.69	9089.49
15.	1991-92	18571.45	6626.02
16.	1992-93	19366.04	5713.74
17.	1993-94	27280.06	9083.24
18.	1994-95	37465.94	16556.44
19.	1995-96	36643.50	12732.67
20.	1996-97	37973.16	15223.46
21.	1997-98	51811.15	24442.92
22.	1998-99	62049.51	32943.60
23.	1999-2000	75434.71	38570.52
24.	2000-2001 (Provisional)	88468.41	45357.24

Note : The figures prior to 1977-78 are not available.

Losses Incurred by SIDBI

6000.PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has recorded losses of over 37 crore in the first quarter of 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for these losses;

(c) whether the Government have called for any report on the investment made by SIDBI;

(d) whether any punitive steps have been taken to prevent such misuse of public funds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Coverage of News

6001.SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the State Government to provide with the list of journalists covering various news media and Journalists in the States all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the methods devised by the Government to check and control the Spate of non-accredited journalist actually engaged in covering the news/reporting;

(d) the action taken against such journalists, State-wise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No Sir.

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

(c) to (e) The Central Government places no restriction that coverage of news/reporting has to be by accredited journalists.

Listed Banks on NSE

6002.SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details about the total number of listed banks on National Stock Exchange; and

(b) the reasons for not encouraging listing of stocks of foreign banks and corporate bodies as Indian Stock Exchanges ?

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

Levy Obligation on Export of Sugar

6003. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Government have received some requests from sugar mill to extend period to exempt the sugar meant for export from levy obligation;

(b) if so, the period for which such exemption has been made available;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend the period of such exemption;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the other incentives given to the sugar mills to boost the export of sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (e) Government has already extended the period to exempt the sugar meant for export from levy obligation upto 30.9.2001 or till further orders whichever is later.

(f) Government has taken the following measures to boost the export of sugar are given below:

(i) The quantity exported for commercial export is treated as advance free sale release to be adjusted after a period of 12 months from the date of release.

(ii) The levy exemption on the quantity of sugar meant for commercial exports, if it cannot be availed by the sugar factory out of 1999-2000 season's production due to completion of its levy obligation, the same may be availed by the concerned sugar factory from the production in the 2000-2001 sugar season.

(iii) DEPB at the rate of 5% of the FOB value of exports of sugar has been allowed.

(iv) Government has removed the quantitative ceiling on export of sugar and has also dispensed with

the requirement of the issue of Registration-cum-allocation Certificates (RCACs) by APEDA, w.e.f. 01.04.2001.

Trading in Foodgrains

6004. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated steps to encourage inter-State trading in foodgrains and relaxing the stock limits for traders; and

(b) if so, the extent to which these measures have obviated the effect of drought situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Central Government has adopted the National Policy of treating the entire country as a single zone for the movement of foodgrains. All the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been accordingly requested to take necessary action to remove all formal and informal controls on trade and industry dealing with wheat and rice in the form of licensing, stock limits and movement restrictions etc.

(b) With the removal of movement restrictions by almost all States, free flow and easy availability of foodgrains to consumers all over the country has been ensured to a large extent.

HFCL Participation in Disinvestment Process

6005. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Disinvestment has taken a note of SEBI's preliminary investigation on present capital market scam;

(b) whether the department had contacted SEBI and other investigating agencies;

(c) whether one of the companies acting in Disinvestment participation i.e. HFCL has been named in the investigation;

(d) whether Department of Disinvestment will allow HFCL to participate in disinvestment Process;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any other company active in disinvestment process is also named in preliminary findings; and

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

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) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (g) Guidelines have been issued on 13.7.2001 for the qualification of bidders seeking to acquire stakes in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), through disinvestment. (Guidelines are enclosed as Statement). In the light of these guidelines, Advisors have been directed to verify whether any of the bidders attract the disqualification criteria. If bidders are disqualified, following due process of law, they will not be allowed to participate in the Disinvestment transaction.

Statement

No. 6/4/2001-DDII
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT

Block 14, CGO Complex
New Delhi.

Dated 13th July, 2001.

Office Memorandum

Subject : *Guidelines for qualification of Bidders seeking to acquire stakes in Public Sector Enterprises through the process of disinvestment*

Government has examined the issue of framing comprehensive and transparent guideline defining the criteria for bidders interested in PSE-disinvestment so that the Parties selected through competitive bidding could inspire public confidence. Earlier, criteria like net worth, experience etc. used to be prescribed. Based on experience and in consultation with concerned departments, Government has decided to prescribe the following additional criteria for the qualification/disqualification of the parties seeking to acquire stakes in public sector enterprises through disinvestment :-

(a) In regard to matters other than the security and integrity of the country, any conviction by a Court of Law or indictment / adverse order by a regulatory authority that casts a doubt on the

ability of the bidder to manage the public sector unit when it is disinvested, or which relates to a grave offence would constitute disqualification. Grave offence is defined to be of such a nature that it outrages the moral sense of the community. The decision in regard to the nature of the offence would be taken on case to case basis after considering the facts of the case and relevant legal principles, by the Government.

- (b) In regard to matters relating to the security and integrity of the country, any charge-sheet by an agency of the Government/conviction by a Court of Law for an offence committed by the bidding party or by any sister concern of the bidding party would result in disqualification. The decision in regard to the relationship between the sister concerns would be taken, based on the relevant facts and after examining whether the two concerns are substantially controlled by the same person/persons.
- (c) In both (a) and (b), disqualification shall continue for a period that Government deems appropriate.
- (d) Any entity, which is disqualified from participating in the disinvestment process, would not be allowed to remain associated with it or get associated merely because it has preferred an appeal against the order based on which it has been disqualified. The mere pendency of appeal will have no effect on the disqualification.
- (e) The disqualification criteria would come into effect immediately and would apply to all bidders for various disinvestment transactions, which have not been completed as yet.
- (f) Before disqualifying a concern, a Show Cause Notice why it should not be disqualified would be issued to it and it would be given an opportunity to explain its position.
- (g) Henceforth, these criteria will be prescribed in the advertisements seeking Expression of interest (EOI) from the interested parties. The interested parties would be required to provide the information on the above criteria, along with their Expressions of Interest (EOI). The bidders shall be required to provide with their EOI an undertaking to the effect that no investigation by a regulatory authority is pending against them. In case any investigation is pending against the concern or its sister concern or against its CEO or any of its Directors/Managers/employees, full

details of such investigation including the name of the investigating agency, the charge/offence for which the investigation has been launched, name and designation of persons against whom the investigation has been launched and other relevant information should be disclosed to the satisfaction of the Government. For other criteria also, a similar undertaking shall be obtained along with EOI.

(A. K. TEWARI)
Under Secretary to the
Government of India

To
The concerned Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India

Restructuring of Central Warehousing Corporation

6006.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to restructure Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether CWC profit has been reduced during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for healthy growth of CWC ?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The following steps have been taken for healthy growth of the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) :
- (i) The Government has introduced Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2001 in the Parliament on July 30, 2001. The same has been passed by both Houses of Parliament in the current session. The proposed amendments will enable the CWC to set up warehouses abroad and also to enter into joint ventures.

- (ii) The CWC will be one of the major players in bulk silo storage infrastructure.
- (iii) No fresh recruitment is being undertaken by the CWC with a view to controlling the establishment cost. Further, it is proposed to introduce a Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the CWC to curtail establishment cost.
- (iv) The Corporation has improved percentage utilization of the storage capacity available with it. The present percentage utilization of storage capacity as on 1.6.2001 is 91%.
- (v) Five new Container Freight Stations have been opened during 2000-2001 by the CWC.

Conference of Developing Countries on WTO Issues

6007.SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Spotlight on WTO issues" appearing in the 'Hindu' dated August 9, 2001;
- (b) if so, whether an international conference on WTO issues has been held at New Delhi by developing countries on August 20, 2001;
- (c) if so, the details of discussions held at the conference;
- (d) the views of various participants in the conference;
- (e) the reaction of Indian Government thereto; and
- (f) the final outcome of the conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The International Conference on Concerns of Developing Nations in the WTO Regime was organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in Collaboration with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties, Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 20th and 21st August, 2001 in New Delhi.

- (c) The issues discussed in the Conference inter-alia included :

- Issues before the next Ministerial meeting at Doha.
- Anti-Dumping Duties-Major issues and Emerging Scenario for Developing Nations.
- Anti-Subsidy Laws-Developing Countries' concern for compatibility with WTO Agreements.
- Competition Law and Policy under open trade-Indian Perspective.
- Emerging Competition in India, Developing Country Concerns with regard to Competition Policy.
- Competition Rules in WTO and Developing Country concerns with regard to Competition Policy.
- Business Services Under GATS- Effects and Approach.
- Trade Related Intellectual Properties (TRIPs).
- Trade Negotiation Process-Overview of Emerging Issues.
- Comments from Other Developing Countries and Industry.

(d) to (f) The Conference provided a platform for all concerned policy makers, administrators, executives, professionals from diversified fields, business managers, economists etc. to discuss and deliberate on key issues facing the country in general and industry in particular under the WTO Regime. It was felt that there is a need for developing countries to come together to protect their interest in the WTO Regime.

Streamlining of PDS in Orissa

6008.SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are complaints that the PDS does not function effectively in the flood affected areas of the country, particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have a proposal to streamline Public Distribution System in those areas and elsewhere in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to implement such scheme in the country particularly in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. While the Central Government is Responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the designated depots and making them available to the States, the responsibility of distribution of the essential commodities to the consumers through the Fair Price shop and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations.

As multiple agencies including a large network of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are involved in PDS operations, the possibility of shortcomings in the implementation of the PDS in some flood affected areas of Orissa cannot be ruled out.

(b) to (d) State Governments including the Government of Orissa have been requested to closely monitor the Public Distribution System at the Fair Price Shop (FPS) and other levels. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under Public Distribution System to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a Model Citizens' Charter for Targeted public Distribution System (TPDS) has been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption. Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government has also advised the State Governments to more substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

With a view to protect the interest of the producers and consumers, Consultative Committee at Zonal and State level have been formed in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) which serve as an interface between the FCI and the PDS in the States. The Committees discuss and make recommendations on procurement, distribution and transportation of foodgrains, sale, disposal of foodgrains and implementation of 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana'.

[Translation]

Export of Marble

6009.DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of marble has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of marble exported during the last three years, country-wise;

(d) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps for boosting up the exports of marble; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The marble exports to major countries during each of the three years country-wise, is given as under :

(Value : Rs. Lakh)

Countries to which exported	1998-99	1999-2000	2001-01
China P Rp	373	1086	4124
Egypt A Rp	50	589	1153
Hongkong	577	1642	1453
Italy	3457	3774	3856
Saudi Arabia	850	2125	2340
UAE	1125	1264	1630
USA	1213	1460	1932
Others	4046	5895	8219
Total	11691	17835	24707

(d) and (e) The government has constituted a Group on Marble Development which will work under the overall guidance of the Granite Development Council set up under the Ministry of Mines. The terms of reference of the Group includes, among others, assessment of technology employed in the marble quarries and recommend measures for upgradation of technology, scientific exploitation of minerals and measures for increasing value addition in marble, marble products and exports. The Group is looking into these issues and shall be making its recommendations in due course.

[English]

Export of Vanilla

6010. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether despite, apprehension, in the wake of WTO, India has many strength, and opportunities to be a major player in export of vanilla, herbal spices;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to explore the opportunities to export herbal spices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) India is not a major player in the world market of vanilla and herbal spices due to inadequate production in the country at present.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to increase export of herbal spices:

- Spices Board under UNDP project is supporting the production of herbal spices mainly rosemary, thyme, parsley and oregano under organic farming through a non-governmental organisation, namely HOPE, in Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu.
- The Spices Board is also assisting in establishing a pilot plant for dehydration of herbal spices and extraction of oil therefrom under the UNDP project.
- Under the poverty alleviation schemes of the Central Government, demonstration are given in Nilgiris to the tribal population of the interior villages to take up cultivation of herbal spices as an income generation activity.

[Translation]

Assets of Prasar Bharati

6011. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI

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

(a) the total assets of Prasar Bharati as on date;

(b) the total number of employees working in this institution as on 31 March, 2001; and

(c) the details of income earned by Prasar Bharati during the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The actual progressive capital outlay on the assets of Prasar Bharati since inception, as determined by Principal Accounts Office, as on 31.3.97, is Rs. 3245 crores.

(b) The total number of employees working in Prasar Bharati is about 41,349.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the total revenue receipts for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were Rs. 493.06 crores, Rs. 678.03 crores and Rs. 711.41 crores respectively:

[English]

Duty Drawback Rates

6012.SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leather exporters have urged that the new duty drawback rates notified recently be deferred to prevent adverse impact on exports; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to this demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Subsequent to the announcement of the All industry Rates of Drawback on 1.6.2001 vide Notification No. 29/2001-Cus. (N. T.), the Council for leather Exports on behalf of the leather exporters had represented against the inadequacy of All Industry Rates of Drawback for leather products. Considering their request, and taking into account fresh data submitted by the council, the drawback rates and drawback caps for these products were revised suitably upwards vide Notification No. 30/2001-Cus. (N. T.) Dated 22.6.2001.

Dismal Performance of BHEL Units

6013.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the Units of BHEL which are having dismal performance, Unit-wise:

(b) whether the Government propose to take some measures to improve dismal functioning of affected units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The names of the Units of BHEL which incurred losses during 2000-01 are as under :

1. Heavy Electrical Plant (HEP), Bhopal

2. Transformer Plant (TP), Jhansi
3. Central Foundry Forge Plant (CFFP), Hardwar
4. Insulator Plant (IP), Jagdishpur
5. Component Fabrication Plant (CFP), Rudrapur and
6. Industrial Systems Group (ISG), Bangalore.

(b) and (c) The poor performance of these Units is closely linked to general industrial slowdown and reduced off-take from the Railways. However, these Units are adopting a combination of strategic measures like cost reduction, rightsizing manpower, productivity improvement, better inventory control etc. in order to improve their performance.

Infrastructure Development Finance Company

6014.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Infrastructure Development Finance Company in the current financial year has given its approval for 31 projects at the cost of Rs. 2,467 crores:

(b) if so, the details of these projects;

(c) the amount out of this fund disbursed so far;

(d) the number of development projects approved; and

(e) the amount disbursed during the last year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) sanctioned Rs. 2467 crore against 31 projects during the year 2000-2001. Disbursement is generally spread in more than one year. IDFC disbursed Rs. 762 crore in the year 2000-2001 against 15 projects.

[Translation]

FERA Cases against Private Aviation Companies

6015.SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of private aviation companies against whom investigations is on in FERA cases;

(b) the year since when these investigation are on and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken against guilty companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Names of private aviation companies against whom investigation has been initiated under FERA alongwith year of initiation of investigation is given in the statement annexed.

(c) Investigation has been taken up against these companies.

Statement

Name of private Aviation company	Year of initiation of investigation
1. M/s Sahara India Airlines Ltd. (now M/s Sahara Airlines Ltd.)	1999
2. M/s NEPC Airlines Ltd. (a division of M/s NEPC India Ltd.)	1999
3. M/s U. P. Airways Ltd.	1998
4. M/s Sam Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	1996
5. M/s India Airways Pvt. Ltd.	2001
6. M/s Delta Airlines Pvt. Ltd.	1999
7. M/s Frank Airways Pvt. Ltd.	1997

[English]

Irregularities in IDBI

6016.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Koshika Ka Telecom par IDBI Meharbaan" appearing in the Jansatta dated the August 8, 2001.

(b) if so, facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Koshika Telecom was given Rs. 100 crore loan at a time when this company of Usha Group of companies has no work at hand its licences were cancelled by Ministry of Communications for non-payment of licence fee to the tune of Rs. 400 crore during May, 1999;

(d) if so, whether special favour was made to Koshi Ka Telecom by IDBI flouting all laid down norms;

(e) if so, whether the Government have ordered any enquiry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) to (f) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Bogus Ration Cards

6017.SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of bogus ration cards in majority of the State leading to a large scale diversion of PDS items in open markets;

(a) whether the Union government have conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to eliminate all the bogus ration cards and the action taken against the authority responsible for the issue of bogus ration cards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. Whereas the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and bulk allocation of PDS commodities, the responsibility of identification of the BPL families, issue of ration cards and distribution of food grains in a fair and accountable manner through the FPS rests with the State Governments. As per the population projections of 2000, there are 18.3 crore households in the country against which the States have reported issue of 19.5 crore ration cards. The excess ration cards in circulation also includes bogus ration cards.

(b) to (d) Government of India commissioned M/s Tata Economic Consultative Services (TECS) to carry out a study to assess the extent of diversion of foodgrains, sugar and edible oil under PDS in the year 1997. The study estimated the diversion of wheat at 36%, rice at 31%, sugar at 23% and edible oils at 55% at the national level.

Existence of bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards was also cited as one of the causes of diversion of food grains.

Under TPDS guidelines issued in February, 1997 States/UTs have been asked to involve Panchyati Raj instituted (PRIs) in the identification of targeted families. States have been instructed to take every care while issuing ration cards against its possible misuse. Guidelines issued for greater involvement of PRIs in functioning of TPDS, issued in June, 1999 emphasize the role of Gram Panchyat/Gram Sabhas for checking of ration cards for their genuineness. Govt. of India has also requested States/ UTs to take effective steps for elimination of bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards through door to door surveys, periodical checking so that menace of diversion of subsidized food grains is effectively controlled.

Ban on Filling of Vacant Posts

6018.SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is ban on filling up certain categories of posts in order to effect economy in expenditure;

(b) whether this ban has also been extended to public sector undertakings;

(c) the details of post abolished both in Government department and PSUs in 2000-2001 and likely to be abolished in 2001-2002;

(d) whether the Government have undertaken any work measurement study of all departments and PSUs to identify posts rendered surplus;

(e) if so, the results thereof; and

(f) if not the criteria adopted to declare posts surplus ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. However, there are restrictions on filling up of posts which are vacant for more than one year. Instructions have also been issued by the Department of Personnel and Training restricting direct recruitment to one-third of direct recruitment vacancies in a year subject to ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Abolition of redundant posts and creation of additional functionally needed posts is a continuing process. As such data on posts abolished on various counts in Government Departments and PSUs is not compiled centrally.

(d) to (f) Work measurement studies of various Departments in the Central Government are conducted by the Staff Inspection Unit from time to time for assessing manpower requirements and result in increase/decrease in number of posts depending on the workload. The requirement of posts in PSUs is assessed by respective Board of Directors.

[Translation]

Investment by Japan

6019.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the industries of the country in which investment has been made by Japan during each of the last three years;

(b) whether Japan has also set up some joint ventures in India during the said period;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) the capital investment made by Japan in each of these joint ventures;

(e) whether Japan propose to invest in some more joint ventures during the current financial year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) The year wise details of FDI proposals from Japan approved during the last three years together with FDI inflows received from Japan during this period are as follows :

Year (Jan to (Dec.)	Number of proposals (Rs. in crore)	Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. in crore)	Amount of FDI Inflow (Rs. in crore)
1998	67	1282.82	780.56
1999	91	1594.73	635.64
2000	65	827.54	681.55

The main sectors of Japanese investments are transportation industry, telecommunications and chemicals.

The details of joint ventures pertaining to Japan that have already been approved and the percentage of foreign equity proposed in each of those are contained in the Monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of

Industrial Policy and Promotion, which is widely circulated, including the Library of the House and also posted on the SIA Website (<http://www.nic.in/indmin>).

(a) and (f) Japan has also been granted approval to make investment in 18 FDI projects with proposed investment of Rs. 77. 59 crore in the current financial year till 30. 6. 2001.

[English]

Export Fraud

6020. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate/DRI has completed its investigation into Rs. 400 crore export fraud from Mumbai to Moscow;

(b) if so, the details thereof and details of persons arrested;

(c) whether "Exports" are over invoiced to claim bigger amounts in duty drawback in India by Indian exporters;

(d) if so, details of duty drawbacks scams detected during the last three years mentioning names of the exporters involved in the scam and quantum of money claimed by each; and

(e) the action taken against each one and steps taken to recover the money ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Investigations into fraudulent exports of garments from Mumbai to Moscow are still going on. So far, in this regard, 9 persons have been arrested by the investigating agencies.

(c) and (d) A number of cases involving overinvoicing of export goods to claim higher amount of duty drawback than what was legally due have been booked by the Custom Houses including DRI. Details of the main cases (involving fraudulent drawback claim of Rs. 10 lakhs or higher in each case) detected during the last 3 financial years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) All cases were taken up for investigations and appropriate penal action initiated against the offending goods as well as the persons involved in fraudulent drawback claim as per provisions of Customs Act, 1962. In more serious cases of drawback frauds, arrest and prosecution action also resorted to.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Exporter	Amount of drawback involved (Rs in lakhs) for cases above Rs. 10 lakhs	Name of the Customs formation where detected
1	2	3	4
1998-1999			
1.	M/s. N. M. Exports	61.67	Bangalore
2.	M/s. Livia Exports	122.17	Jaipur
3.	M/s. Fairdeal World Impex	15.40	Ahmedabad
4.	M/s. Raizada Exports	21.95	-do-
5.	M/s. Alhuda International	11.06	Chennai
6.	M/s. Bhagwati Exporters	11.90	New Delhi
7.	M/s. Wonderland Trading Co.	17.38	-do-
8.	M/s. Glints Globals	28.81	-do-
9.	M/s. Balaji Universal (P) Ltd.	17.01	-do-
10.	M/s. Shakti International	17.13	-do-
11.	M/s. Handloom Only.	41.41	-do-
12.	M/s. Radmie-V Exports	86.83	-do-
13.	M/s. Opers Fashion	57.80	-do-
14.	M/s. Puneet Exports, O. K. Hosiery	436.00	-do-
15.	M/s. Perfect Icros (P) Ltd.	27.69	-do-
16.	M/s. M/s. Vam Overseas	11.74	-do-
17.	M/s. World Fashion	12.47	-do-
18.	M/s. R. B. Knit Exports	12.84	-do-
19.	M/s. Neha Impex and Bright Impex	35.00	-do-
20.	M/s. Sali Exports	47.00	D. R. I.
21.	M/s. Shivji Exports	61.20	-do-
22.	M/s. Persian Carpets	19.38	-do-
23.	M/s. Unique Impex and Global Arts	164.79	-do-
24.	M/s. Neetu Fashion and others	93.60	-do-
25.	M/s. Medident India	15.13	-do-

1	2	3	4
26.	M/s. P. S. International	107.54	D. R. I.
27.	M/s. Manitoba Inc.	31.43	-do-
28.	M/s. Brooks Indl.	31.43	-do-
29.	M/s. Overseas Business	29.54	-do-
30.	M/s. Romil Industries	50.48	-do-
31.	M/s. Kanak Exports	145.12	-do-
32.	M/s. Shelkom Exports	58.57	-do-
33.	M/s. Victor Indl.	51.65	-do-
34.	M/s. Victor Indl.	26.621	-do-
35.	M/s. Globus Office	39.05	-do-
36.	M/s. CMC Exim Pvt. Ltd.	26.63	-do-
37.	M/s. CMC Exim Pvt. Ltd.	21.86	-do-
38.	M/s. Livya Exports	264.00	-do-
39.	M/s. Terai Overseas	34.91	-do-
40.	M/s. K. K. Traders	25.50	Mumbai
41.	M/s. Shiv Krishna Exports	18.18	-do-
42.	M/s. A. G. International	11.15	-do-
43.	M/s. Topaz Exports and Others	234.35	-do-

1999-2000

1.	M/s. Nambu Nayaki Exports	14.98	Bangalore
2.	M/s. Mokashi International	16.88	-do-
3.	M/s. Sun Shine Industries	18.65	-do-
4.	M/s. Adarsh Textiles	17.66	-do-
5.	M/s. J. G. Exports	12.00	Chennai
6.	M/s. Jigar-A-Hind	30.64	-do-
7.	M/s. O Master Export House	10.18	-do-
8.	M/s. Sidsheva Exports	33.00	D. R. I.
9.	M/s. AMP Exports	90.61	-do-
10.	M/s. President Fashions	317.27	-do-
11.	M/s. Omega Trading & Exports	19.99	-do-
12.	M/s. N. M. Exports	35.09	-do-
13.	M/s. Creative Apparels	219.74	-do-
14.	M/s. Kanchi Impex	20.23	-do-
15.	M/s. Midland Wools & Others	57.54	-do-

1	2	3	4
16.	M/s. Radheshyam Stalmach and Others	643.86	D. R. I.
17.	M/s. D. K. Bros.	23.38	-do-
18.	M/s. Apex Garment	29.87	-do-
19.	M/s. Prefect Micro	1701.00	-do-
20.	M/s. Aravali Inds. Ltd.	692.00	-do-
21.	M/s. Sandeep Impex	39.21	-do-
22.	M/s. S. K. Enterprises	12.66	-do-
23.	M/s. N. M. Exports	61.67	-do-
24.	M/s. Nambu Nayaki Exports	14.98	-do-
25.	M/s. Marveloue Creations	11.34	-do-
26.	M/s. Mamta Fashions	32.64	-do-
27.	M/s. Sarla Enterprises	37.77	-do-
28.	M/s. Intraport India Ltd.	267.00	-do-
29.	M/s. P. K. Exports	23.73	-do-
30.	M/s. Laxmi Exports	24.63	-do-
31.	M/s. Ethnic	290.00	-do-
32.	M/s. Priya Impex (I) Ltd.	66.00	Mumbai
33.	M/s. Shree Ganesh Enterprises	14.90	-do-
34.	M/s. Air Trade International	300.00	-do-
35.	M/s. Sims Enterprises	16.00	-do-
36.	M/s. Rupen Exports Pvt. Ltd.	250.00	-do-

2000-2001

1.	M/s. Self Knitting works	22.57	Bangalore
2.	M/s. Elit	14.43	Ahmedabad
3.	M/s. Trade Link International	15.21	Chennai
4.	M/s. Lakshmi Oversea Hoiseries	11.43	-do-
5.	M/s. Update Clothing	10.75	-do-
6.	M/s. Waff Trading	16.89	-do-
7.	M/s. Arun Associates	17.10	-do-
8.	M/s. A. K. Enterprises	70.32	-do-
9.	M/s. Merrill Export	16.30	-do-

1	2	3	4
10. M/s. Classic Exports and Others	1400.00	D. R. I.	
11. M/s. Classic Clothing	14.57	-do-	
12. M/s. Aafaag Leathers	18.46	-do-	
13. M/s. Pan Clothing	14.68	-do-	
14. M/s. Babu Enterprises	62.84	-do-	
15. M/s. Alex Enterprises	42.90	-do-	
16. M/s. Brij Impex	70.55	-do-	
17. M/s. S. Y. Indua	13.25	-do-	
18. M/s. S. R. G. International	306.00	-do-	
19. M/s. A. D. Exports	23.12	-do-	
20. M/s. Kaleida Exports and Others	275.80	Mumbai	
21. M/s. Air Trade International	300.0	-do-	
22. M/s. Mamta Fashions	16.00	-do-	
23. M/s. Quality Exporters	75.60	-do-	
24. M/s. Quality Apparels	56.00	-do-	

**Separate Insurance Company for Rural
and Agriculture Sector**

6021. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a separate insurance company for providing risk cover to the rural and agricultural sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also received proposal from IRDA in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) An Inter-Ministerial Group constituted by the Government to work out the details for setting up a separate organisation for transaction of crop insurance business in the country has recommended setting up such a separate organisation for the purpose. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

SIDBI's Investment Schemes

6022. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) propose to formulate new scheme keeping in view the market requirements in order to boost trade to maximum level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Small Industries Development Bank of India Has reported that a new Scheme viz. Fast Track Financing Scheme (Direct Finance) has been introduced with a view to provide direct financial assistance to existing well performing clients/business house which have been assisted by SIDBI in the past with satisfactory repayment track record to enable them to meet their immediate requirements of either executing certain bulk orders or for meeting capital expenditure for marginal expansion and/or modernization of technology. The main feature of the Scheme is to process sanctions and disbursements on a fast track basis.

SIDBI is also operating an innovative and flexible Marketing Scheme for financing of the following tangible and intangible activities;

- Setting up new showrooms and/or renovation of existing showrooms for marketing predominantly small scale, cottage and village industry products;
- Development of infrastructure like permanent exhibition centers, marketing emporia, design and fashion forecasting centers etc. largely benefiting small scale sector;
- Setting up of facilities for providing marketing support to SSI Units like data bank libraries, Internet services etc.,
- Intangible activities like market research, R and D Product Upgradation standardization, preparation of strategic marketing plan, advertising, branding catalogue preparation, sales promotion tours and training personnel in activities relevant to marketing etc.

Any other activity directed towards promoting the marketing of SSI Sector in domestic or international markets.

[English]

Doordarshan Facilities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

6023. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no Doordarshan coverage in the Andaman District in the Islands such as Hari Nagar, Diglipur, Millangram, Swarajgram and also in the tribal areas of Southern Group of Islands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are proposing to provide Doordarshan coverage in these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that eight transmitters are presently providing terrestrial coverage in the Andaman District of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including one at Diglipur, and that 5 transmitters are providing Doordarshan coverage in the Nicobar district. However, Doordarshan signals are available throughout the country in Satellite mode.

(c) to (e) Expansion of Doordarshan terrestrial coverage in various parts of the country, including the uncovered parts of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is implemented by Prasar Bharati in gradual phases, and schemes in this regard are formulated from time to time depending upon availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

News Bulletin

6024. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Kendras are allowed in every State to telecast regional news bulletin twice a day in the morning and evening;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, which are the Doordarshan Kendras who enjoy this facility; and

(d) the Doordarshan Kendras which do not have regular regional language news bulletins telecast till now ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that Doordarshan is telecasting regional news bulletins twice a day i.e. in the morning and evening from Doordarshan Kendras, in some States. A list of Doordarshan Kendras along with the details of news bulletins telecast by them is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) A list of Doordarshan Kendras which do not telecast regular regional language news bulletins is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of News Bulletins Telecast from different Regional News Units (RNU) in Doordarshan (As on 15.8.2001)

S. No.	Name of Doordarshan Kendra	Language(s) in which News Bulletins are Telecast	Time (000 Hrs) of Telecast of News Bulletins
1	2	3	4
11.	Ahmedabad	Gujarati	(i) 0830-0850 (Mon. to Sat.) 0900-0920 (On Sunday) (ii) 1600-1605 (iii) 1900-1920
2.	Bangalore	Kannada	(i) 0745-0755 (ii) 1900-1915
3.	Bhubaneswar	Oriya	(i) 1900-1915
4.	Bhopal	Hindi	(i) 1900-1915
5.	Kolkata	Bengali	(i) 0645-0655 (ii) 0850-0900 (iii) 1002-1007 (iv) 1600-1610 (v) 1900-1915 (vi) 2220-2235
		Urdu	(vii) 1915-1925

1	2	3	4
6. Chennai	Tamil	(i) 0700-0715 0715-0720 (From News Papers)	
		(ii) 1200-1205	
		(iii) 1430-1440	
		(iv) 1900-1905 (Sat. and Sunday)	
		(v) 2030-2100	
7. Guwahati	Assamese	(i) 0902-0907 (ii) 1915-1930	
	English	(iii) 1900-1915	
8. Hyderabad	Telugu	(i) 0750-0800 (ii) 1900-1915	
	Urdu	(iii) 1915-1925	
9. Jaipur	Rajasthani	(i) 1600-1615	
	Hindi	(ii) 1900-1915	
10. Jalandhar	Punjab	(i) 0815-0830 (ii) 1700-1705 (iii) 1900-1915	
11. Jammu	Dogri	(i) 1900-1910	
12. Lucknow	Hindi	(i) 1900-1915	
	Urdu	(ii) 1915-1920	
13. Mumbai	Marathi	(i) 0830-0840 (On Mon. to Sat.) 0900-0910 (On Sunday)	
		(ii) 1430-1440	
		(iii) 1900-1915	
		(iv) 2130-2200	
14. Patna	Hindi	(i) 1900-1915	
	Urdu	(ii) 1915-1925	
15. Srinagar	Kashmiri	(i) 0900-0905 (ii) 1430-1435 (iii) 1900-1915	
	Urdu	(iv) 1915-1930	

1	2	3	4
			(v) 1930-1935 (News Magazine Programme)
16. Shimla	Hindi	(i) 1900-1915	
17. Thiruvananthapuram	Malayalam	(i) 0815-0825 (ii) 1700-1705 (iii) 1900-1915	

Note : (1) The timings of evening regional news bulletins on Sundays have been changed/shifted to 1830 from 1900 hrs. with effect from 1.3.2000.

(2) Special Assembly news is broadcast by all RNUs during Assembly sessions in the evening after 1900 hrs. bulletin.

Statement-II

List of Doordarshan Kendras which do not Telecast Regular Regional Language News Bulletin (As on Date)

S.No. Doordarshan Kendra

1. Panaji
2. Pondicherry
3. Shillong
4. Imphal
5. Itanagar
6. Kohima
7. Aizawl
8. Agartala
9. Chandigarh
10. Port Blair
11. Gangtok
12. Ranchi
13. Bareilly
14. Dehradun
15. Raipur

UTI Under SEBI

6025.SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the schemes which are under UTI are likely to be brought under the jurisdiction of SEBI; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. UTI has intimated that out of 75 domestic schemes in operation as on 29th June 2001, 70 are SEBI approved.

On the suggestion of the Government, UTI set up a Committee on Corporate Positioning under the Chairmanship of Shri Y.H. Malegam, to review, inter alia, its competitive and commercial positioning in the light of financial sector reforms and developments in the mutual fund industry and to recommend appropriate follow up action plans, including amendments to connected legislation, for enabling UTI to fully meet with the Mutual Fund Regulations of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

UTI has intimated that the Committee is in the process of submitting its report.

Debt Repayment Scheme

6026.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been brawn to the news item captioned "Junk in Dubai fraud in Moscow, rich in Mumbai" as reported in Indian Express dated August 12, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts reported in the newspaper;

(c) the details of debt repayments made so far under the debt repayment scheme to Russia;

(d) whether the Government are aware that this scheme is widely misused by some exporters;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the export made under this scheme may reach Russia as per agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item refers to defrauding of Russian Debt Repayment Scheme, alleging, inter alia, abuses of the scheme as detected by investigating agencies

discovering evidence of massive frauds, money laundering and number of export shipments consigned to Russia being diverted while en-route, to Dubai.

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

(d) and (e) The Government is aware that the scheme has been misused by some unscrupulous exporters and has already ordered detailed investigations to be carried out in respect of fraudulent exports from India to Russia effected by several Indian exporters against repayment of State Rupee Credit. The probe so far has revealed several shipments having been effected by different exporters to Russia but off-loaded en-route and handed over to third parties, mostly in Dubai. A number of such consignments also involve fraudulent claim of Duty Drawback. Investigations by the DRI and other investigating agencies of the Government are in progress.

(f) Monitoring mechanism for India's exports to Russia on debt repayment track is being strengthened. Banks have been advised in a meeting called by Reserve Bank of India to instruct their branches to exercise caution while scrutinizing documents relating to exports to Russia under the scheme of repayment of state credit and not to negotiate Letters of Credit unless they are satisfied on the basis of documents tendered by their clients that the goods covered under the said documents would reach Russia. Intelligence agencies have also been alerted to be on the vigil to prevent diversion of goods while en-route to Russia.

[Translation]

Director of Banks

6027.KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the banks in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra whose Directors are public representatives and the social workers as on date;

(b) the names of the banks in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra in which the social workers have not yet been appointed as Directors as on date; and

(c) the time since when the said posts are lying vacant and the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The appointments of the Directors on the Board of Public Sector

Banks is made in accordance with the criteria and procedures prescribed in the relevant statute. Public representative and social worker are not specifically included as subjects under the relevant statute, the special knowledge or practical experience of which is considered while appointing Director on the board of public sector banks. However, the Government attempts to reflect the plurality of Indian Society in the composition of the Banks Boards.

[English]

Benefits to Software Companies

6028. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases come to notice of Government of irregularity in granting incentives to computer software companies and causing revenue loss to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government do not maintain records in respect of assessee awaiting the exemptions and deductions;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to review such cases; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported in C and AG's Report No. 12 A of 2001 (Chapter 2) that irregular and incorrect deductions u/s. 80 HHE, 10A and 10B of the Income-tax Act, 1961 have been allowed in a number of computer software companies in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal Charges.

(c) and (d) All such records are maintained in the respective jurisdictional offices of the Income Tax Deptt.

(e) and (f) Remedial measures are taken in all the cases reported by the C and AG-to rectify the mistakes.

Action against Kiran Leather International

6029. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Bank of India, was defrauded and cheated to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs by the Proprietors of Kiran Leather International in 1995-96 and a case was registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government to plug the loopholes in the system;

(d) whether any punitive action has been taken against the guilty bank officials and the firm; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) M/s. Kiran Leather International a proprietorship firm of Ms. Saroj Kushwaha was sanctioned packing credit cum export bill facility of Rs. 50 lakhs against export orders of Rs. 70 lakhs by the Sukhdev Vihar Branch, New Delhi of Central Bank of India on 27.2.1996 against collateral security of immovable property valued at Rs. 77.12 lakhs belonging to her father-in-law. During internal investigation, it was revealed that borrower had misutilised the limits released to them by withdrawing Rs. 6.60 lakhs in cash and Rs. 38.75 lakhs remitted through demand drafts favouring M/s. Concord Leather at Chennai, who encashed these drafts through an account opened with Oriental Bank of Commerce and closed the account thereafter. No goods were purchased by the firm against the remittance. The mortgage was also done based on photocopy of title deeds which is disputed by other claimants.

(c) to (e) The fraud was perpetrated by the firm in connivance of branch officials who allowed misutilisation of limit by permitting cash withdrawals and mortgage against the photocopy of title deed. Branch also failed to ensure end use of funds. Bank had lodged a complaint with Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) who after investigation filed chargesheets in Court against both the firms/proprietors and two banks officials involved in the fraud. Bank has also filed a recovery suit in Debt Recovery Tribunal.

Mutual Fund Under SEBI's Purview

6030. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to bring Mutual Funds under the purview of SEBI rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government for proper funding of mutual funds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, mutual funds are required to be registered with SEBI. Mutual funds are regulated by SEBI under the SEBI (Mutual Fund) Regulations, 1996.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The funds collected by mutual funds from investors are managed by Asset Management Companies (AMCs). SEBI has prescribed a minimum networth requirement of Rs. 10 crores for the AMCs. According to SEBI regulations, Trustees of Mutual funds are required to monitor the activities of AMCs to ensure that these are carried out in accordance with SEBI's regulations. SEBI also monitors compliance with the regulations through periodical reports submitted by mutual funds and through periodical inspections conducted by independent chartered accountants.

Role of JMMS in Air India Disinvestment

6031. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the role of M/s. J.M. Morgan Stanley (JMMS) in the disinvestment process on behalf of Government for Air India;

(b) whether the head of JMMS is serving as Director on the board of Tata Companies and is the Lead Manager for several Tata Group of Companies;

(c) if so, whether the Government have appointed JMMS as investment bankers in the Air India disinvestment;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government will issue guidelines with regard to the appointment of Investment Banker and the role of JMMS in Air India disinvestment would be thoroughly probed; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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) M/s JM Morgan Stanley Private Limited (JMMS) has been appointed as the Advisor to the Government to advise and assist in the disinvestment of Government equity in Air India. The responsibilities of JMMS involve preparation of an operational scheme for disinvestment. This includes all marketing aspects and advise on matters related to negotiations and firming up of the disinvestment related documents/agreements, advise on post-sale and other related matters.

(b) As per information available, the Chairman of M/s JM Morgan Stanley Private Limited had been invited to join the Board of Directors of the Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) as an independent Director in his personal capacity and not as a Tata Group appointee. He joined the Board of IHCL on the 29th March 2001 and resigned there from on the 25th May 2001, without attending a Board meeting. JMMS is presently acting as the Lead Manager for the issue of shares on a rights basis by Telco Limited.

(c) No, Sir, JMMS have been appointed as Advisors and not as Investment Bankers for Air India Disinvestment.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above. However, it is clarified that the appointment of JMMS was made through a transparent and competitive bidding procedure.

(e) and (f) The Government has issued guidelines regarding qualification of Advisors for disinvestment process. The criteria prescribed in the guidelines would uniformly apply to all the Advisors in various disinvestment transactions.

Export of Spices

6032. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Spices Board is encouraging the production of black pepper and other spices for exports;

(b) if so, the quantity of various spices exported in 2000-2001 and in the first quarter of 2001-2002, item-wise;

(c) whether exports of spices recorded a 12% decline in the first quarter of current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year;

(d) if so, the reasons for this decline;

(e) whether there has also been a steep decline in term of quantity of Spices exports during this period;

(f) whether foreign markets refuse to accept low quality spices from India; and

(g) the steps proposed to stem this decline ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Spices Board is concerned only with cardamom on the production side and in export of all spices.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The major decline in export of spices is due to decline in export of pepper which accounts for major share of the total export earnings from spices. Fall in export of pepper is on account of cheaper prices offered by the competing countries like Vietnam and increased supply position. Other reasons for decline in export of spices are non-availability of adequate exportable surplus in case of cumin, fenugreek, ginger and other seed spices; poor international demand in the case of celery and fennel and cheaper prices offered by the competing countries in case of ginger, coriander, chillies and fenugreek.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Though major foreign buyers like USA, Europe, Japan etc. have adopted stringent measures of quality standards with reference to aflatoxin, microbial load pesticide residue etc., they are not refusing Indian Spices because of low quality.

(g) The steps proposed to stem the decline of spices exports include :—

- (i) Introducing pepper cultivation in non-traditional areas including north-east;
- (ii) Encouraging cultivation of major spices viz. pepper, ginger, chillies, turmeric for export through service providers in agri. export zones;
- (iii) Encouraging organic production of major spices in traditional and non-traditional areas and support of marketing of organic spices in bulk as well as consumer packs;
- (iv) Introducing cultivation of high value items like vanilla and herbal spices and encouraging further value addition through specialized processing;
- (v) Undertaking market studies and research through the market access initiative programme of the

Govt., for promoting value added and processed spices in selected countries preferably in LAC countries;

- (vi) Undertaking research and development for studying health and medicinal values of spices with clinical testing for introducing high value items in the developed countries;
- (vii) Establishing joint venture units for ginger processing in north-east for exporting ginger in brine to Japan;
- (viii) Supporting harmonization of quality standards and providing regular training for quality upgradation;
- (ix) Establishing better processing units like steam sterilization, cryogrinding, super critical extraction units etc.

Statement

Qty in tonnes.
Value in Rs lakhs.

Item	Apr.-March 2000-01		Apr.-June, 2001	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Pepper	19250	32632.75	7700	8240.00
Cardamom (S)	1100	5654.70	190	1091.25
Cardamom (L)	1645	2768.75	275	450.00
Chilli	61000	19523.50	16500	5310.00
Ginger	6580	2295.40	1150	506.00
Turmeric	34500	9106.00	10500	2175.00
Coriander	11700	2742.50	1950	583.50
Cumin	13800	11743.50	3800	3387.00
Celery	5250	1700.50	800	260.00
Fennel	4000	1778.00	1400	600.00
Fenugreek	9050	1787.50	1250	632.50
Other Seeds (1)	2425	896.25	950	332.50
Garlic	11000	1040.30	700	126.00
Other spices (2)	35000	14490.00	9500	3300.00
Curry Powder	6200	3997.00	1250	812.50
Mint oil	3875	12645.00	975	3493.75
Spice Oleoresins and other oils	3625	36405.00	950	9577.50
Total	230,000	161206.65	59840	40607.50

CRR of Banks

6033. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines that banks need not maintain the minimum Cash Reserve Ratio upto 3 per cent on inter-bank liabilities;

(b) the date on which these guidelines were issued;

(c) the impact of these guidelines on the liquidity position of banks;

(d) whether the RBI further propose to lower the CRR to stimulate the economy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank has clarified that all scheduled commercial banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) have been exempted from the prescription of minimum statutory Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) requirement of 3.0 per cent on inter-bank term deposits/term borrowing liabilities of original maturity of 15 days and above and upto one year from the fortnight beginning August 11, 2001.

(c) to (e) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the exemption of minimum statutory CRR requirement of 3.0 per cent on inter-bank term deposits/term borrowing liabilities of original maturity of 15 days and above and upto one year is expected to help in developing the inter-bank term money market, besides being a marginal saving on cost to banks.

In the Monetary and Credit Policy of RBI announced on April 19, 2001, it is stated that Reserve Bank proposes to continue to ensure that all legitimate requirements for credit are met consistent with price stability. Towards this objective, the Reserve Bank will continue its policy of active demand management of liquidity through Open Market Operation including two-way sale/purchase of Treasury Bills, and further reduction in CRR as and when required. Accordingly, the CRR was reduced by 0.5 percentage point to 7.5 per cent from 8.0 per cent effective fortnight beginning May 19, 2001. The reduction in CRR augmented lendable resources of banks by about Rs. 4,500 crore.

Disinvestment of Salem Magnasite Corporation

6034. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Magnasite Corporation, Salem, Tamil Nadu is on the cards for Disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not supporting the Magnasite Corporation, Salem both financially and technically ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE 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) and (b) There is no Central Public Sector Undertaking by the name Magnasite Corporation, Salem, Tamilnadu. Hence the question of disinvestment of the same does not rise.

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

International Sugar Organisation

6035. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the aims and objects of International Sugar Organisation; and

(b) the details of benefits received by our country from the above organisation during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The International Sugar Organization (ISO) is an International Commodity Body which administers various International Sugar Agreements. The International Sugar Agreement 1992, which is presently in force has the following objectives :—

- (i) To ensure enhanced International cooperation in connection with world sugar matters and related issues;
- (ii) To provide a forum for intergovernmental consultations on sugar and on ways to improve the world sugar economy;
- (iii) To facilitate traded by collecting and providing information on the world sugar market and other sweeteners;
- (iv) To encourage increased demand for sugar, particularly for non-traditional uses.

(b) India has been a member of all International Sugar Agreements since 1961. As one of the largest producers of sugar in the world, it is necessary for India to remain a member of the ISO. The membership of the Agreement enables us to get information on the international sugar situation in respect of country-wise production/consumption as well as likely imports/exports, market review, prices and future trends, assessment of various developments taking place in the sugar industry, including by product utilization as well as changes in policies in different countries and other such matters. It also provides us with detailed impact reports/analysis/assessment of the beet sugar industry and also of artificial sweeteners. All this information is useful to our country for planning its imports/exports. Membership of the International Sugar organization also enables us to seek funds from the Common Fund for Commodities for projects connected with sugar and sugarcane.

It may also be mentioned that Indian representative was elected Chairman of the International Sugar Council for the year 2001 and the 19th Session of the International Sugar Council was held in India at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi between 28th to 30th May, 2001.

Revival of Sick Cooperative Sugar Mills

6036. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have set up High Powered Committee to examine the revival package of sick cooperative sugar mills;

(b) if so, the names of the sick cooperative sugar mills whose cases have been examined by the said Committee during the last three years and in the current financial year so far, along with the rehabilitation the package provided to each of them, State-wise and mill-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have examined the reasons of the sickness of cooperative sugar mills and the financial and physical performance of these mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Yes Sir, the Union Government have constituted a Committee under the

Chairmanship of Secretary (F and PD) to examine the revival packages of potentially viable cooperative sugar units or merger of non-viable units with adjoining units of sick sugar mills on receipt of reference from State Governments/U.Ts.

(b) So far no case of a cooperative sugar mill has been approved by the Committee. Before the Committee could take up the revival packages of cooperative sugar factories, it is proposed to amend the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 in order to provide for loan to potentially viable sick sugar undertakings at concessional terms and conditions for their rehabilitation. The necessary exercise in this regard is being carried out.

(c) and (d) The closure/sickness of cooperative sugar mills may be due to variety of factors such as inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size, old age and bad condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence, excessive high cane price not commensurate with sale realization.

Import Through Nepal

6037. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting has been held between India and Nepal recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether the Indian Government have raised the issue of increasing import of vanaspathi, acrylic yarn and zinc oxide through Nepal with the Nepal Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government of Nepal thereto; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the import of cheaper vanaspathi and other products to save the Indian industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A meeting of the India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee Meeting was held on August 2-5, 2001 at Kathmandu to review matters relating to bilateral trade. The delegations were led by the Commerce Secretaries of India and Nepal. The issues discussed at the meeting

included promotion and protection of investments, harmonization of standards, regulation of vehicular traffic, improvement of infrastructural facilities to promote bilateral trade, joint ventures, effect of emission norms in Nepal on export of Indian vehicles, facilities relating to Nepalese trade-in-transit through the Indian territory and facility of duty-free entry into India of goods manufactured in Nepal.

(c) to (f) The Indian side underlined that a surge has taken place in the imports of certain Nepalese commodities such as vanaspati, acrylic yarn, copper wire and zinc oxide under the preferential trade regime provided by the Treaty and there was adverse impact of these imports on Indian industries. It was also emphasized that there is a need for taking safeguard measures, under the Treaty, to protect the Indian industry. The Nepalese side showed concern about such measures being taken. However, both sides agreed that these problems needed to be addressed with a sense of urgency.

Complaints against Sanchayani Savings and Investment Co.

6038. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received several complaints against Sanchayani Savings and Investment Co.

(b) whether several Investors Associations including Investors Grievances Forum have lodged complaint regarding this;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Sanchayani Savings and Investment (I) Ltd. (SSIL) was prohibited by the Reserve Bank of India on November 23, 1994 from acceptance of deposits. However, Calcutta High Court set aside the Prohibitory Order on July 23, 1996. The Bank on February 6, 1999 instructed the Company to stop immediately accepting fresh deposits and a special officer was also appointed to oversee the functioning of the Company with effect from April 1, 1999. The Company filed a Write Petition before the Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench challenging the appointment of special officer as also the instructions relating to non-acceptance of deposits. By an interim order dated April 13, 1999 the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court has

directed the maintenance of status quo. The Calcutta High Court, in its order dated August 6 and 10, 1999 had restrained the Company by an order of injunction from accepting any further deposits and directed the appointment of Hon'ble Justice Amal Kumar Chatterjee, a retired Judge, as a Special Officer of SSIL. The Division Bench, in its interim order dated 15th September 1999, allowed the continuance of the Special Officer appointed by the trial court. The SSIL has filed a Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court of India on November 3, 1999 against the Division Bench order. Pending further order, an order of status quo as of November 3, 1999 was passed by the Supreme Court of India on November 22, 1999. The Bank has filed a transfer petition on April 28, 2000 before the Supreme Court for transferring all the cases, filed by the Company at various Courts, to the Supreme Court and prohibit the Company from accepting deposits from public. The matter is pending in the Supreme Court.

Kerosene Crisis in Orissa

6039. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the severe crisis of kerosene in flood affected areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to enhance allocation of kerosene to Orissa to meet the demand; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken to ensure the smooth and proper distribution of kerosene in the flood affected areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) In view of the situation arising out of the floods, the Government of India have made an additional allocation of 5000 KL (3891 MT) of kerosene in the month of July, 2001 to the State of Orissa. However, since the State could not uplift the entire additional allocation during July, 2001, the Union Government have made an allocation of 2500 MT in August, 2001 in lieu of the quantity of kerosene lapsed out of 5000 KL sanctioned in July, 2001.

Restructuring Andrew Yule and Company Limited

6040. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to restructure the Andrew Yule and Company Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a High Power Committee has been set up in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Year 1997-98, Government had approved a financial and business restructuring based on the turnaround strategy formulated by the SBI Capital Markets Limited. The restructuring package included infusion of Rs. 44 crores, conversion of outstanding loan of Rs. 12.49 crores into equity and spinning off of the Belting and Engineering Divisions into JVs. The financial restructuring was implemented and JV formation completed in respect of the Belting Division. Efforts for JV formation for the Engineering Division did not succeed.

With the objective of maximizing the value of shareholders of AYCL, the Company engaged M/s. KPMG India Pvt. Limited in April, 1999 to advise further restructuring of the AYCL Group.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Department of Heavy Industry constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor to examine the recommendations of the consultant. The Committee has submitted its first report on major issues and its final report is expected shortly. As per recommendations, the Government has decided to rationalize the cross holding of equity in the AYCL Group, undertake disinvestments in Hoogly Printing Company Limited and Tide Water Oil Company (India) Limited and enhance AYCL's stake in DESCON Ltd. A revival plan of the Engineering Division of AYCL is under implementation with a view to facilitate the JV formation.

World Bank Loan to States

6041. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI MANJAY LAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued to the States for seeking World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the projects which are to be accorded priority while approving the World Bank loan to the States; and

(d) the outstanding amount of World Bank loan, State-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No guidelines have been issued to States to seek World Bank assistance.

(c) The projects in pipeline are taken up for negotiations with the World Bank as the preparations get completed. The question of prioritisation does not generally arise.

(d) The State Governments do not take the loans from the World Bank directly. It is the Government of India, which secures the loans and passes on to the States under the Additional Central Assistance mechanism.

Clearing Corporation of India

6042. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India constituted advisory group on payment and settlement system has recommended setting up a clearing agent abroad by the Clearing Corporation of India;

(b) if so, whether this panel has also advocated instituting a separate guarantee fund for foreign exchange clearing;

(c) whether it has suggested integrating banks and the CCI with the real time gross settlement system;

(d) if so, the details of other recommendations made; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement them?

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

(d) The Group also made recommendations for meeting the minimum standards of Lamfalussy report, taking adequate risk control measures and explore the possibilities of introduction of extended time zone, loss sharing arrangements, creation of a contingency fund etc.

(e) The Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) was incorporated on 30th April, 2001 under the Companies Act, 1956 with State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank Ltd., ICICI, IDBI and LIC as the core promoters. The CCIL will handle integrated clearing and settlement of

interbank foreign exchange transactions besides clearing and settlement of domestic debt and money market instruments. The CCIL will also have in place a Guarantee Fund for forex clearing and settlement operations.

[Translation]

Foreign Aided Projects

6043. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects undertaken with foreign assistance in India;

(b) whether some projects have come to a halt due to discontinuation of foreign assistance;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to revive these projects with its own funds;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHAB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) At present 299 projects are being undertaken with foreign assistance in the country.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export Oriented Units

6044. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of big and medium industrial units set up under the public sector in each State;

(b) the number of units out of them are export oriented;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up some more export oriented units in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the plans formulated in this regard for the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The details of the Export Oriented Units set up in each State are given in the enclosed statement. These units have been set up by the private sector. There is no proposal with the Central Government to set up any such unit under public sector in the current financial year.

Statement

State-wise Break up of Functional EOUs (As on 31.3.2001)

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Functional EOUs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	166
2.	Bihar	1
3.	Chhatisgarh	4
4.	Gujarat	182
5.	Haryana	59
6.	Himachal Pradesh	8
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
8.	Jharkhand	5
9.	Karnataka	257
10.	Kerala	34
11.	Madhya Pradesh	28
12.	Maharashtra	230
13.	Orissa	7
14.	Punjab	42
15.	Rajasthan	76
16.	Sikkim	1
17.	Tamil Nadu	286
18.	Uttar Pradesh	81
19.	Uttaranchal	1
20.	West Bengal	52
21.	A and N Islands	2
22.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	9
23.	Delhi	32
24.	Pondicherry	5
Total		1589

[English]

Review of Anti-Dumping Steps

6045. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General Anti-Dumping had reviewed the impact of anti-dumping steps on the domestic industry;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have obtained the views of industrial and non-industrial sector on anti-dumping measures undertaken by the Government;
- (d) if so, the inputs provided by them; and
- (e) the measures undertaken to beef up dumping machinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) held a series of meetings with the domestic industry and user industry in the month of July, 2001 in order to assess the status of the domestic industry before the imposition of Anti-dumping duty and how the duty has affected the market situation of the product including changes in terms of import quantities, total demand, domestic production, capacity utilisation and realisation of profits in the domestic market. Representatives from industries of chemicals and petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals and steel and other Metals were invited for discussion. The role of DGAD was appreciated for taking timely action on imposition of Anti-dumping duty to protect the industry against unfair trade practices.

Besides, various interactive sessions have been held from time to time with the domestic industry and other interests concerned in association with CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, PHDCCI, FIEO etc. to familiarize the domestic industry with anti-Dumping concepts, procedures and other aspects relating to dumping, injury and causal link etc.

(e) The Government has also taken various steps to speed up the Anti-Dumping investigation, streamline the procedures and provide quick relief to the domestic industry which inter-alia include immediate initiation of investigations on submission of fully documented petition, recommending Preliminary Findings early to provide immediate relief to the domestic industry and holding of Seminars/ Workshops/ Interactive sessions all over the country, coordinating through DGFT officials in port offices to sensitise and familiarise small scale sector with the Anti-Dumping rules and procedures.

Non-Performing Assets

6046. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will he Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether in order to reduce non-performing assets, public sector banks are writing off corporate loans;
- (b) if so, the policy in this regard;
- (c) the amount of loans that have been written off during last three years and details of the such borrowers;
- (d) whether these actions of banks are in accordance with the policy of Reserve Bank of India in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the action Government propose to take against such banks and what is the present value of NPAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The public sector banks (PSBs) reduced the levels of their non-performing assets (NPAs) through upgradation, compromise/write off and cash recoveries Under the present income tax laws, provisions made by the PSBs for their NPAs do not entitle them to tax rebate. Hence, the banks have been resorting to write-offs for claiming tax benefits. The write-offs are generally resorted to only after the PSBs have made provisions and the write-offs are to the extent of provisions made. This, however, does not amount to loan waiver since the PSBs continue their efforts to recover their dues from the borrowers even after such technical write-offs.

(c) and (d) As per the information available with RBI, the reduction of NPAs of public sector banks through upgradation, compromise/write off and cash recovery during the last three years was as under :

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	8720
1999-2000	10424
2000-2001	13650

(e) RBI has reported that the gross NPAs of public sector banks as on 31st March, 2001 was Rs. 54773 crore, constituting 12.4% of their gross advances, as against 14.02% as on 31st March, 2000.

Charging of Earnest Money by NCCF

6047. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government are aware that a procedure is followed in DGS and D regarding the

amount of earnest money deposit/performance security and cost of the tender form to be charged from the registered suppliers etc. but there is no such laid down written procedure on these in NCCF;

(b) whether these organisations do not accept the performance security amount in the form of FDRs but insist on bank draft and use this money for their day to day business activities without payment of interest; and

(c) if so, what action does the Government propose to take to ensure that the organisations have a laid down procedure like DGS and D do not use the security deposit amount into their day to day business and accept the FDRs in place of bank drafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The NCCF is an autonomous cooperative organisation, registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. The business and other administrative matters in the NCCF are decided by the Board of Directors of the NCCF as per the provisions of its bye-laws. As per the procedure, registration of suppliers is being done after collecting a registration fee of Rs. 10,000/- which is treated as non-interest bearing deposit. Apart from this, the suppliers are required to pay earnest money/security amount and performance guarantee etc. in case of tenders and terms and conditions settled by them. The NCCF, however, does not collect the cost of tender forms from the suppliers.

(c) Does not arise.

Code of Ethics for Elected Director of Stock Exchanges

6048.SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6059 regarding code of ethics for elected Directors of stock exchange dated April 27, 2001 and please state :

(a) whether the said information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of elected Directors found involved in irregularities and action taken against each one ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information has since been collected. A copy of the Implementation Report sent to Lok Sabha is enclosed as statement.

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

Statement

SEBI has intimated that they have formulated a code of ethics for Directors and functionaries of stock exchanges aimed at improving transparency in the Indian Stock Exchanges. The code of ethics seeks to establish professional and ethical standards for creating a fair and transparent market.

The code of ethics has the following salient features :

- Fairness and transparency in dealing with matters relating to the exchange and the investors.
- Prohibition on dealings in securities in proprietary account by elected office bearers of the exchange (President/Vice President/Treasurer).
- Disclosure of dealings in securities by functionaries and Directors of the exchange.
- Avoidance of conflict of interest in decision making and.
- Disclosures of beneficial interest by all Directors and functionaries.
- Compliance with all laws/rules/regulations laid down by regulatory agencies/exchange and exercising due diligence in the performance of duties.

When implemented, the code is expected to help in improving the professional and ethical standards of exchanges and also in creating better perception amongst investors about their working. Section 11 of the SEBI Act, 1992 provides that it is the duty of the SEBI Board to protect the interest of investors in securities and to promote the development of and to regulate the securities market by such measures as it thinks fit. SEBI has intimated that it has taken various measures, in the interest of investors and orderly development of the securities market, from time to time to perform its duties effectively. During March and April, 2001, following investigations carried out by SEB. It has taken action as per Section 11 and 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992 against various entities like Anand Rathi and his concerns. Ketan Parekh and his concerns. Arvind Johri, Shankar Sharma and Devina Mehra and the entities controlled by and connected with them, Nirmal Bang, Kishore Bang and Dilip Bang and the entities controlled by them prohibiting them from undertaking any fresh business as stock brokers or sub broker or merchant

bankers. Palombe Securities Pvt Ltd. was debarred from dealing in securities. Anand Rathi and other broker member Directors were earlier restrained by SEBI from acting as Directors on the governing board of Stock Exchange, Mumbai. Harshad Mehta has been permanently debarred from dealing in securities. His prosecution has also been ordered under Section 24 of the SEBI Act, 1992. BPL Limited Videocon International and Sterlite Industries Ltd. have been debarred from accessing capital market for a period ranging from 2 to 4 years. Prosecution proceedings against these 3 companies under SEBI Act, 1992 have also been ordered by SEBI.

Government intends to propose legislative changes to further strengthen the provisions in the SEBI Act, 1992 to ensure investor protection.

In order to strengthen the institutional arrangements in the capital markets, for protecting small investors and to make the market safer and more transparent, SEBI have taken several measures. These include introduction of computerised screen based trading, setting up of trading terminals in different cities, establishment of Clearing Corporation to improve transparency and efficiency in the markets, setting up of trade/settlement guarantee fund by stock exchanges, setting up of depositories and expediting dematerialisation, setting up of surveillance systems in stock exchanges, introducing uniform norms for good and bad delivery, weekly settlement cycle and auction, setting up of investor protection fund and investors services fund.

SEBI has reported that few members in some of the exchanges failed to fulfil their pay-in liabilities in the month of March, 2001 due to volatile market conditions during this period. The details of pay-in amount due and amount of short fall against that in the major exchanges is as below :—

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Exchange	Total Pay-in liability	Shortfall	% shortfall to total Pay-in
1.	BSE	4252.48	31.21	0.73
2.	NSE	4818.38	98.51	2.04
3.	CSE	871.43	95.40*	10.95
4.	DSE	232.98	0.89	0.38
5.	ASE	191.31	4.59	2.54

* Out of this Rs. 91.36 crores pertains to 10 members, who have been declared as defaulters by Calcutta Stock Exchange (CSE).

In case of pay-in shortfall by a member, the short amount is generally taken from the settlement guarantee fund of the exchange as per prescribed norms.

SEBI has taken various steps to safeguard the interest of investors by infusing more transparency in stock exchanges, widening and deepening the reach of the market, speeding up transactions and ensuring safety in capital market transactions. The steps taken by SEBI include setting up of trade guarantee fund/settlement guarantee fund, investor protection fund, surveillance systems in the stock exchanges, implementation of risk management measures such as implementation of circuit filters and uniform intra-day price band, margin system, intra-day trading and gross exposure limits for stock brokers linked with capital adequacy, etc.

The objective of the Government and SEBI is to ensure that capital markets operate in an orderly, Transparent, safe and fair manner. Government has announced, inter-alia, the following measures to improve institutional mechanisms and trading practices in the stock markets (i) demutualisation of stock exchanges by which ownership, management, and trading membership would be segregated from each other; (ii) extension of rolling settlement to 200 category "A" stocks. This has been implemented from July 2, 2001; (iii) to propose legislative changes in the SEBI Act, 1992 to strengthen investor protection provisions.

Earning from Journals

6049. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details about the total circulation of Employment News, Yojana, Kurukshetra, Bal Bharti, Aajwal in a Year;

(b) whether the Government has been earning profit from these Journals;

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

(d) whether the Government have any plan to publish Kurukshetra and Employment News in Tamil and in other Indian languages also;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The requisite details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Profit of Rs. 1706.89 lakhs has been earned from the sale and advertisements given out in the Employment News which has a separate budget during the year 2000-2001. However, as the Publications Division does not have the system of commercial accounting for other journals, the relevant information for the same is not available.

(d) to (f) There is no proposal at present to publish Kurukshetra and Employment News in Tamil and in other Indian languages.

Statement

Details of circulation of Employment News, Yojana, Kurukshetra, Bal Bharti and Aajkal for the year 2000-2001:

Name of journal	Total circulation during 2000-2001
Employment News (English)	239.03 lakhs
Employment News (Hindi)	46.11 lakhs
Employment News (Urdu)	0.53 lakhs
Yojana (English)	210842
Yojana (Hindi)	284157
Yojana (Urdu)	1046
Yojana (other 10 regional languages)	332836
Kurukshetra (English)	120242
Kurukshetra (Hindi)	112795
Bal Bharati	84673
Aajkal (Hindi)	71566
Aajkal (Urdu)	28804

Violation of Companies Act, 1956

6050. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :
DR. BALIRAM :
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the M/s. Shouunk Technologies and their sister concern M/s. Padmini Polymers Limited are involved in price rigging, insider trading price manipulations, misappropriation of companies fund and have also violated the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered by the Government against these companies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

Ban on Recruitment in Income Tax Department

6051. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a ban on the recruitment of staff in Income Tax Department;

(b) if so, since when the ban is in operation;

(c) the vacancy position cadre-wise and circle-wise in the country;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to lift the ban and fill up the vacancies; and

(e) if so, the time frame for such recruitment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a general ban on recruitment in all Ministries/Departments of Government including Income Tax Department, in terms of order dated 24.9.2000.

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

(d) and (e) The ban order dated 24.9.2000 on recruitment would not apply to the posts approved by the Government on 31.8.2000 as a part of restructuring of the Income Tax Department. The Department is in the process of filling up of the vacant posts and will complete the same at the earliest.

Import from Nepal

6052. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have agreed to waive off excise duty on fuel supplied to Nepalese aircraft in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no complete waiver of Excise Duty

on fuel supplied to Nepalese aircraft in India. However, on aviation turbine fuel mineral oil products falling under Chapter 27 of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 (5 of 1986) exported as stores for consumption on board an aircraft on foreign run, including Nepal, Central excise duty is required to be paid @ Rs. 24.94 per kilo liter.

Rejection of Rice by Iran

6053. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries to which rice is being exported from India;

(b) the estimated quantum of rice being exported to these countries annually;

(c) whether Iran and some other countries have returned the rice exported to those countries from India due to its poor quality;

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

(e) the estimated loss of foreign exchange to the Government and exporters respectively as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of exports of rice (both basmati and non-basmati rice) during the last 3 years is as under :-

Qty : in MT
Value : Rs. Crores

Year	Basmati Rice		Non Basmati rice	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1998-99	597793	1876.91	4365888	4403.85
1999-2000	638382	1780.34	1257793	1345.58
2000-01 (P)	848919	2141.94	683194	784.16
Apr.-May, 2001 (P)	110960	340.08	79983	84.03

(Source : DGCI and S, Calcutta)

published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. Copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

BHEL Tie Up with USA

6054. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether BHEL has entered into technical tie up with United States of America's firm;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this State-of-the-art technology is proposed to be transferred to BHEL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BHEL has had technical tie-ups with USA's firms in the past, and they have on-going tie-ups with M/s. General Electric Co., M/s. Vogt-NEM Inc. and M/s. Kvaerner National.

The latest technical tie-up entered into with USA's firm is with M/s. Max Control Systems Inc. This tie-up would enable BHEL to engineer, manufacture and sell state-of-the art Control and Instrumentation System both for power plant application and for various process industries.

(c) Under the tie-up the American Company would transfer state-of-the-art technology to enable BHEL to configure, integrate, engineer, manufacture, assemble, test, install, commission and service the Control and Instrumentation System.

Spilling of Wheat Due to Rains

6055. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

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

(a) whether the wheat stocks procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the Northern States have been spoiled by the heavy rains in the month of May, 2001;

(b) if so, the total damage caused due to the rains alongwith its estimated value;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India faces shortage of godowns to store the stocks procured; and

Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to avoid such damages in near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The quantity of wheat damaged during procurement by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the Rabi Marketing Season 2001-02 Statewise, together with its value, is given below :—

Region	Quantity damaged (MT)	Value (Lakh Rs.)
Punjab	268	16.35
Haryana	375	22.87
Rajasthan	199.58	12.47

(c) and (d) Sufficient storage capacity is made available by the FCI for storage of stocks procured. The storage capacity (covered and CAP (cover and plinth)), available with the FCI as on 1st July, 2001, stocks held and its percentage utilization is given below :—

	Covered	Cap	Total
Capacity	267.18	83.38	350.56
Stocks	260.82	74.54	335.36
Utilization	98%	89.0%	96%

Besides, FCI is also creating additional storage capacity of its own at strategic locations, The Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporations have also been asked to construct godowns on seven years guarantee basis. Further, the field offices of the FCI have also been delegated with full powers to hire godowns as and when considered necessary.

The Government have also taken the following steps to augment the storage capacity and modernize handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains :

- (i) The national policy announced by the Government envisages harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to build and operate infrastructure for bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains.
- (ii) The policy also envisages creation and operation of conventional storage godowns by private sector for storage of foodgrains of the FCI on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.

Funds to MPEDA, Chennai

6056.SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the financial grants allocated to the Marine Products Export Development Authority during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have introduced any new schemes to promote export of marine products through the office of MPEDA, Chennai; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The financial grants allocated to the Marine Products Export Development Authority during the last three years are given below :

Year	Grant allocated (in Rs. lakh)
1998-99	1340.89
1999-2000	1600
2000-01	2425

(b) and (c) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has been operating a number of schemes for extending financial assistance to facilitate export promotion of marine products through modernization and technological upgradation of seafood processing units and promotion of aquaculture. These Schemes are implemented through their offices located in different parts of the country, including the one at Chennai. These Schemes include the following new schemes viz., i) financial assistance for acquisition of refrigerated trucks/containers, ii) subsidy for setting up PCR laboratories in hatcheries, iii) subsidy for effluent treatment system, iv) subsidy for establishment of chill room facilities in shrimp/prawn farming areas etc.

Smuggling of Chinese Goods

6057.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the hue and cry in India about alleged Chinese dumping of cheap consumer goods has been described as a 'misconception' by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII);

(b) if so, the views of CII in this regard;

(c) whether the Indian Parliamentary, Industry and Trade Union delegation which visited China has submitted its report about the smuggling activities of Chinese goods into India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling activities of Chinese goods into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir, as per the information provided by CII.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The CII report on the visit to China relates to the Reforms Process in China, its effect and the benefits it has derived.

(d) and (e) The requisite machinery of Government of India to deal with smuggling and such other illegal activities is available at all border check posts in different parts of the country.

Ban on Left Hand Driven Vehicles

6058. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to ban all existing left hand driven vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) According to the provisions of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, vehicles as are type approved have to be fitted with right hand steering along with associated controls. In respect of imported vehicles, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has notified on 31st March, 2001 that all imported vehicles (new/used) shall have right hand steering and controls except for the purpose of certification under Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, Defence requirements and R and D by the vehicle manufacturers. However, limited number of vehicles of imported origin with left hand steering and controls, which have been imported against special provisions of the baggage Rules or other provisions of the then Import Policy are operating in the country. As per information received from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways there is no proposal to ban plying of existing left hand driven vehicles.

[Translation]

Fixation of Prices by FCI

6059. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have fixed different prices of wheat and rice for BPL, APL and for export purposes;

(b) if so, the criteria on the basis of which the prices have been fixed for different categories; and

(c) the prices of wheat and rice fixed different categories at present?

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

(b) Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice for BPL and APL categories have been fixed at about 48% and about 70% of economic cost respectively in order to liquidate surplus stocks in the Central Pool and with a view to increase offtake of the foodgrains under Public Distribution System. Export prices of wheat and rice are fixed, keeping in view the international prices, freight charges and surplus stock position in the country.

(c) At present, the Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice for BPL and APL categories are :-

(Rs. per Quintal)

Commodity	BPL	APL
Wheat	415	610
Rice		
(i) Common	565	795*
(ii) Grade 'A'	565	830

* Applicable to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, North East States, Sikkim and Uttaranchal.

The current export prices of wheat and rice are as follows :

Commodity	Rs. per MT
Wheat	4200
Rice	
(i) Raw	5650
(ii) Par-boiled	6000

*[English]***Procurement of Maize from Bihar**

6060.SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have allowed their agencies to procure maize from Bihar;

(b) if so, the quantity of maize purchase during last three financial years and also during the current year so far;

(c) whether the procurement of maize were not as per the targets fixed;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) As there was no request from the State Government to procure maize, Food Corporation of India did not undertake procurement operation.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Customs Duty on Import of Lead Acid Battery

6061.SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

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

(a) whether the domestic lead acid battery manufacturers have suffered a six percent drop in market share owing to cheap imports from various countries, who avail of low custom duty on the finished products;

(b) whether the Indian Battery Manufacturers Association has appealed to Government to review and amend the existing customs duty on import of lead;

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

(d) the extent to which this import of lead acid battery is harmful to environment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the other concerned Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in CCI

6062.SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) whether Central Vigilance Commission had advised initiating major penalty proceedings against Director, Operations Cement Corporation of India, New Delhi;

(b) whether the Chief Vigilance Officer, Cement Corporation of India, had advised the Chief Vigilance Officer, Ministry of Heavy Industry, that the Director, Operations, CCI has committed financial irregularities, including violation of delegated powers; and

(c) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government against him ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is being looked into.

*[Translation]***Setting Up of a Special Inspection Unit**

6063.SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Special Inspection Unit (SIU) was set up by the Ministry of Finance in the Ministry of Surface Transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the SIU has submitted its final report; and

(d) if so, the total expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) A team comprising of a Senior Analyst as the Team Leader and two Junior Analysts as Team Members of the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance is at present undertaking a work measurement study for assessment of the manpower requirement of the Roads Wing of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (erstwhile Ministry of Surface Transport).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

*[English]***Share of Central Sales Tax**

6064.SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reduced the Karnataka's share in Central Sales Tax from four to three per cent;

(b) if so, the estimated loss to the Karnataka; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken for compensating the revenue loss to Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Arrest Under FEMA/FERA

6065.SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of arrests that have been made under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) since June 1, 2000 and Foreign Exchange Regulations Act from April 1 to May 31, 2000.

(b) the action taken by Government on the passing of detention orders on accused for alleged violation of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA); and

(c) the consistent decision of the advisory board when reviewing of detention under (COFEPOSA) of such accused detained after June 1, 2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No arrests have been made under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), as there is no such provision in the Act. Under Foreign Exchange Regulations Act (FERA), 10 arrests had been made during the period from April 1 to May 31, 2000.

(b) The Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA) is an independent Act which authorises the Detaining Authority to issue Detention Order, if satisfied, in respect to any person with a view to preventing him, inter-alia, from acting in any manner prejudicial to the conservation and augmentation of foreign exchange. This is purely an activity based provision which does not anywhere refer to FERA, 1973 or FEMA, 1999 or violation thereof. The Detention Orders are being issued under COFEPOSA Act, 1974

irrespective of the fact that FERA, 1973 has since been replaced by FEMA, 1999 w.e.f. 1.6.2000.

(c) No such case has come up so far for review before the Advisory Board.

Sales and Purchases Policy in Super Bazar

6066.SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no fair policy in respect of purchases sales, and selection of items at competitive rates in Super Bazar; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to ensure that the cooperative societies authorised to sell stationery and other items to Government Department sell quality items at most competitive prices and have a policy of sales and purchases based on law, keeping the interest of the public ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Super Bazar has reported that they follow the policy of purchase of items either through competitive tender process or from manufacturers/distributors. Various checks like Market Intelligence, comparison of rates, quality checks, etc have been inbuilt to ensure reasonable purchase prices. As regards sales, the selling rate is fixed after adding processing costs (where applicable) and a reasonable profit margin. Items are selected depending upon consumer requirements.

(b) Government have authorized the Kendriya Bhandar, the Super Bazar, Delhi and the NCCF for supply of stationery and other items to Government Departments located in and outside Delhi. The Government's effort has been to give thrust to cooperative movement by encouraging the cooperative stores. But, to ensure quality and reasonable prices, it was essential to introduce an element of competition and thus authorization of the three cooperatives has been given.

Down Sizing of Departments

6067.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sub-ordinate offices/autonomous bodies under his Ministry which are under the process of being down-sized;

(b) the present status in this regard, sub-ordinate office-wise and autonomous body-wise;

(c) whether any representations have been received from various MPs/Organisation requesting not to downsize some organisation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) In the context of the announcement made by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech for 2001-2002 regarding downsizing of various organisations under the Department of Economic Affairs on the basis of the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, the details of subordinate/autonomous bodies which are in the process of being downsized and the number of posts abolished under the control of Department of Economic Affairs, are as under :

Name of the Organisation	No. of Posts Abolished
(i) India Government Mint, Noida	23
(ii) India Government Mint, Hyderabad	83
(iii) Bank Note Press, Dewas	94
(iv) India Government Mint, Mumbai	75
(v) India Security Press, Nashik	238
(vi) Currency Note Press, Nashik	871
(vii) Security Paper Mill, Hoshanagabad	126
(viii) India Government Mint, Calcutta	188
(ix) National Savings Organisation	121
(x) India Investment Centre -	The exercise of restructuring has also been taken up.

(c) and (d) In the case of transfer of staff of the officials of N.S.O., some representations have been received for deployment of the officials of N.S.O., who will be rendered surplus, within the Ministry of Finance, to Department of Posts, etc. In the case of Coin and Currency Division, no representation has been received from any Member of Parliament against the downsizing. However, representations from three Workers' Unions, viz. Hyderabad Mint Employees Unions Tankasal Karmika Sangh and Bhartiya Mint Mazdoor Sangh have been received against the abolition of 83 posts, through the General Manager, India Govt. Mint, Hyderabad. Appropriate decisions would be taken in the matter having regard to all relevant factors.

Outstanding Corporate Tax

6068.SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the income tax and corporate tax outstanding against Central Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) the comparable outstandings against similar large industrial houses and multinational corporations respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total outstanding demand against Central Public Sector Undertakings having outstanding demand of over Rs. 1 crore-as on 31.3 2001 - is Rs. 3554 crores.

(b) The outstanding demands against other Corporate assesseees having outstanding demands of over Rs. one crore (excluding the above stated Central Public Sector Undertakings) is Rs. 22, 554 crores as on 31.3.2001.

Chargesheet against Director Finance, CCI

6069.SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Director, Finance, Cement Corporation of India has been issued a chargesheet for major penalty proceedings as per the advice of Central Vigilance Commission;

(b) whether he has given the vigilance clearance by the Central Vigilance Commission.

(c) whether his five year tenure expired in May, 2001;

(d) whether extension in his tenure has been granted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) He has not yet been cleared from vigilance angle.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Extension of tenure purely on ad-hoc basis for a period of three months after expiry of his tenure had been granted by the Competent Authority after taking into account the recommendations of PESB pending vigilance clearance.

Trust of Chairman, SEBI

6070.DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Chairman of SEBI has his own trust in Rajasthan and funds are diverted by various companies to this Trust;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that current Chairman SEBI has no Trust in Rajasthan. Further, SEBI has intimated that it has no information whether late Shri S.S. Nadkarni, former Chairman, SEBI had any Trust in Rajasthan.

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

Investors Protection Bill, 2001

6071.SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Investors Protection Bill, 2001 propose to vest more powers with the SEBI for search and seizure of incriminating documents; and

(b) if so, the type of financial frauds which come under SEBI's investigating powers under the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) In a report on Investor Protection prepared by Dr. N.L.

Mitra, it has been recommended, inter alia, that the Securities and Exchange Board of India should be empowered to conduct inquiry and investigation, to search, seize and attach properties and for prosecution, establishment of Special Courts to try financial fraud etc.

Government intends to propose legislative changes in the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 to, inter alia, strengthen provisions for the protection of investors.

**Bureaucrats/Ministers Link with IMF/
World Bank**

6072.SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Ministers/Bureaucrats in the present Government who were previously working with the IMF/World Bank;

(b) whether they are still getting any financial benefits from these organisations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The appointments/assignments in IMF/World Bank are made directly by these Organisations against global advertisement and selections are made by them directly, details of which are not compiled in this Department. With reference to captive assignments of the Government of India, orders are made by the Ministry of Personnel and Training in the case of those who are selected to hold assignments. It is also stated that the present Ministers in the Ministry of Finance have never worked in the IMF/World Bank. In so far as Bureaucrats working in the Department of Economic Affairs are concerned, the information reported by those who have worked in the World Bank/IMF is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

The details of the Gr. 'A' officers presently serving in Ministry of Finance, (Department of Economic Affairs) who were previously working with IMF/World Bank

Officer	Organisation	Details of benefit being currently received from World bank/IMF
1. Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Adviser to Finance Minister	World Bank	None
2. Dr. Shankar N. Acharya, Chief Economic Adviser	World Bank	Receiving pension from the World Bank after attaining age of 55 years in 2000.
3. Shri Ashok Lahiri, Economic Adviser	IMF/World Bank	None
4. Dr. Jaimini Bhagwati, IFS working as Joint Secretary	World Bank	None

Irregularities in CCI

6073. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CCI chief in eye of storm before sell-off" appearing in the Economic Times dated June 17, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of facts reported therein; and

(c) 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) to (c) Yes, Sir. Various allegations were examined by the CVC before giving vigilance clearance for appointment to the post of Chairman and Managing Director, Cement Corporation of India Limited in March, 2001.

[Translation]

**Pay Scales of Employees of
Prasar Bharati**

6074. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has increased the salaries of the technical and programme staff of Akashvani excluding administrative staff of Akashvani;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to this anomaly there is resentment among the administrative staff; and

(d) if so, remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Central Excise Duty Exemption to
North Eastern States**

6075. SHRI A. KRISHNA SWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Excise Duty Exemption Scheme introduced in the North-East is functioning satisfactorily;

(b) if so, whether the CAG has expressed its dissatisfaction on the present working of this scheme, in North-East;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether functioning of Central Excise Duty Exemption Scheme is resulted into heavy losses to the Government Exchequer;

(e) if so, whether the Government are aware of the enterprises that are resorting to this evasion of excise duty;

(f) if so, the details of the study conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(g) if not, the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in his regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The scheme, as it exists at present, is working satisfactorily.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not rise in view of (b) above.

(d) to (g) No cases of evasion of excise duty on account of misuse of the exemption scheme as it exists after 1.3.2001 have been reported. As such the question of heavy losses does not arise. So also the question of any remedial measures.

Development Aid by European Union

6076. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the development aid strategy for India is being reviewed by the European Union;

(b) if so, whether the direct aid to the States has been offered by the European Union;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government is not in favour of this;

(d) if so, the guidelines issued to the States, with regard to the aid from the European Union; and

(e) the reaction of the State Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. A document entitled "EC India Partnership for Development. Strategic approach for the years 2002 to 2006", which sets out the European Commission's approach to EC - India Cooperation for the next five years has been received from the Delegation of European Commission in New Delhi.

(b) The document envisages a State oriented approach of European Commission to evolve a three dimensional "partnership for education, health and environment", and more concisely a "partnership for progress". It does not mention about direct aid to the States.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Fuel Efficient Cars

6077. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the installed capacity and actual production of cars in the country;

(b) whether the Government have given any direction to the manufacturers to produce only fuel efficient cars in view of the scarcity of petroleum products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) According to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the total installed capacity of cars during 1999-2000 was 10,80,000. During the same period, the production of cars was 6,39,888.

(b) to (d) There is no specific direction from the Government for production of fuel efficient cars. However, enforcement of tighter emission norms in the country, ensures that car manufacturers produce fuel efficient cars to enable them to stay in the market.

Income Tax Raids on Hotels

6078. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Income Tax Authorities recently raided some prominent hotels and restaurants in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether further investigations have revealed that Income Tax to the tune of crores of rupees have been evaded by these hotels and restaurants during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the total income tax paid by five star hotels and prominent restaurants based in Delhi in during the last three year, Year-wise and Hotel-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) During the Financial Years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 searches were conducted in respect of three Hotels/ Restaurants and the details of seizure, estimated concealed of income and the taxes paid are mentioned as under :-

Name of the Group-Hotel/ Restaurant	Date of Search	Total Seizure (in lakhs)	Estimated concealment of income (in crores)	Taxes Paid (in lakhs)	
				F.Y. 2000-01	F.Y. 2001-02
M/s Bikanerwala Group	9.3.2000	35.39	1.83	1.08	Nil
M/s Evergreen Sweet House	3.11.2000	20.57	19.57	Nil	5.18
M/s Metropolitan Hotel, Nikko	21.11.2000	267.41	73.50	Nil	Nil

The Block Assessment proceedings in the above cases are in progress and are yet to be finalised.

LTC for Bank Employees

6079. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether officers who sought voluntary retirement under the VRS during the last one year in Bank of India were not permitted to avail LTC by the bank authorities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to compensate all such officer who have been allowed to avail VRS ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Leave Travel Concession (LTC) is provided when the officer has been sanctioned appropriate leave. Regulation 31 of Bank of India (Officers) Service Regulations, 1972 provides that grant of leave for an officer has to be determined by the exigencies of service. Bank of India has

reported that due to exigencies of work, leave applied for by a few VRS optee employees was declined and hence they could not avail LTC.

(c) The Bank has further reported that there is not proposal to compensate the officers as the leave in such cases was refused due to administrative exigencies.

Foreign Visit of FICCI Delegation

6080. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FICCI delegation had visited Pakistan, Spain, Germany and USA to mobilise foreign direct investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the composition of delegation;

(c) whether any agreements between India and these countries have been reached with regard to the FDI;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the visit of delegation has mobilised FDI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) An FICCI delegation comprising 35 members representing Government and business led by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting visited U.S.A.

Another delegation of FICCI comprising 29 delegates representing Government and business led by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry visited Spain and Germany in June, 2001.

The above two delegations were aimed at promoting India as a favoured investment destination.

Apart from this, an FICCI Presidential delegation visited Pakistan on the occasion of the second meeting of India - Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The visits of these two delegations contributed to enhancing the interest in India as an investment destination among prospective investors in those countries.

Basic Facilities Providing Organisation Status to IDBI

6081. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
SHRI A. KRISHNA SWAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give IDBI the status of basic facilities providing organization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give any duty subsidy on its long-term bonds; 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) There is no proposal at this stage to give any duty subsidy on IDBI's long-term bonds.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 :

- (1) Report of Justice Nanavati Commission of Enquiry set up to inquire into the facts. Circumstances and events leading to use of force by the police on the lawyers' demonstration held at Parliament Street, New Delhi, on the 24th February, 2000 [Volume-I, Volume-II (part-I A and B) and Volume-III].
- (2) Memorandum of Action Taken on the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4111/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA') : Sir, I on behalf of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4112/2001]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4113/2001]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4114/2001]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, Ranchi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, Ranchi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4115/2001]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Andhra Pradesh Prathamika Vidya Parishad, Hyderabad (District Primary Education Programme, Andhra Pradesh), for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh Prathamika Vidya Parishad, Hyderabad (District Primary Education Programme, Andhra Pradesh), for the year 1999-2000.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4116/2001]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, Bhubaneshwar, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, Bhubaneshwar, for the year 1999-2000.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4117/2001]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4118/2001]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

of Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4119/2001]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Indian Institute of Technology Act, 1961.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 1999-2000.

- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4120/2001]

- (19) A copy of the National Council for Teacher Education (Establishment and Territorial Jurisdiction of the Regional Committee) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 23 in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2001 under sub-section 33 of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4121/2001]

- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book

Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, together with an Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (21) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (20) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4122/2001]

- (22) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 1999-2000.

- (23) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (22) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4123/2001]

- (24) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English version) of the Nagaland University, Kohima for the year 1996-1997 together with an Audit Report thereon.

- (25) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (24) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4124/2001]

- (26) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Maharashi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, for the year 1999-2000 together with an Audit Report thereon.

- (27) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (26) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4125/2001]

- (28) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Nagaland University, Kohima for the year 1997-1998 together with an Audit Report thereon.

- (29) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (28) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4126/2001]

- (30) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with an Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

- (31) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (30) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4127/2001]

- (32) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bihar Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad, Patna, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bihar Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad, Patna, for the year 1999-2000.

- (33) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (32) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4128/2001]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing allotment and off take of rice from April, 2000 to March, 2001 under TPDS.
- (2) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing allotment and off take of wheat from April, 2000 to March, 2001 under TPDS.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4129/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : On behalf of Shri Sharad Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 :—
- (i) The Aircraft (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 485 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2001, together with an explanatory note.
- (ii) The Aircraft (Second Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 383 in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2001, together with an explanatory note.
- (iii) The Aircraft (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 400 in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001, together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4130/2001]

- (2) A copy each 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 Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4131/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956.
- (i) S.O. 719 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

[Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

- (ii) S.O. 722 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) S.O. 723 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vishakapatnam-Bhubneshwar-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) S.O. 761 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vishakapatnam-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (v) S.O. 762 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vishakapatnam-Section) in Srikakulam District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (vi) S.O. 720 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (vii) S.O. 724 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (viii) S.O. 740 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the, 1st August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatanam-Bhubneshwar-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (ix) S.O. 721 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for construction of Toll Plaza National Highway No. 8 (Haryana).
- (x) S.O. 738 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the, 1st August, 2001 seeking to amend Notification No. S.O. 602 (E) dated the 28th June, 2001.
- (xi) S.O. 739 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the, 1st August, 2001 regarding appointment of Competent Authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956.
- (xii) S.O. 741 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the, 1st August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the construction of four laning at National Highway No. 5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xiii) S.O. 751 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the, 6th August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for 4/6 laning of existing 2 lane Mandal-Bhilwara Section at National Highway No. 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xiv) S.O. 752 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the, 6th August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for 4/6 laning of existing 2 lane Udaipur-Mangalwar Section at National Highway No. 76 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xv) S.O. 753 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the, 6th August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for 4/6 laning of existing 2 lane Udaipur-Mangalwar-Chittorgarh Section at National Highway Nos. 76 and 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xvi) S.O. 772 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the, 10th August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land (Kishangarh to Nasirabad) on State Highway No. 7A.
- (xvii) S.O. 773 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the, 10th August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land (Gulabpura to Station Nagar, Tehsil Mandal) on National Highway No. 79.
- (xviii) S.O. 777 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the, 10th August, 2001 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of stretch between (Kotputli-Jaipur-Section) of National Highway No. 8.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4132/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : I beg to lay on the Table : A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) article 323 (1) of the Constitution :-

- (1) Fiftieth Annual Report of the Union Public Service Commission for the year 1999-2000.
- (2) Memorandum explaining reasons for non-acceptance of the advice of the Union Public Service Commission in respect of the cases referred to in Chapter 10 of the Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4133/2001]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : On behalf of Dr. Vallabh Bhai Kathiria, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4134/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

A statement (Hindi and English versions) correcting the reply given on the 22nd March, 2001 to the Starred Question No. 369 by Shri Tarachand Bhagora and Shri Shriniwas Patil, M.Ps. regarding 'Guarantee to Enron' and (ii) reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4135 /2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the AIDS Prevention and Control project (Voluntary Health Services), Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English Versions) of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project (Voluntary Health Services), Chennai, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project (Voluntary Health Services), Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4136/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks for the year 1999-2000 under section 126 of the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4137/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980.
- (i) The Central Bank of India Officers' Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. CO/PRS/LEGAL/MISC/2869/SAK/2000-2001 in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 2000

[Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran]

- (ii) The Union Bank of India Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 3 (C)/31-10/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2000.
- (iii) The Bank of Maharashtra Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. AXI/ST/OSR/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2000.
- (iv) The Vijaya Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PER:IRD:2853:2000 in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2001.
- (v) The Oriental Bank of Commerce Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 3929 in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2000.
- (vi) The Canara Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations' 2000 published in Notification No. IRS:124A:6480:NAK in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2001.
- (vii) The United Bank of India Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 4/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2001.
- (viii) The Corporation Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PAD:IR:OSR Amend:579:2000-2001 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2000.
- (ix) The Punjab and Sindh Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. DAC/MISC/2001/2808 in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2001.
- (x) The Dena Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. IR/Amend/01/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2001.

- (xi) The Indian Overseas Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 Published in Notification No. IRD/184/234 in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4138/2001]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 :

- (i) The Amendment in Regulation 42 of Subsidiary Banks General Regulation, 1959 published in Notification No. SBD No. 10/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 2000.
- (ii) The Amendment in Regulation 4, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 16A of Subsidiary Banks General Regulation, 1959 published in Notification No. SBD No. 9/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 2001.
- (iii) The Amendment to Regulation 50 of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur/Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/Patiala/Saurashtra/Travancore Officers' Service Regulation published in Notification No. SBD/1/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4139/2001]

- (3) A copy of the State Bank of India General Regulations (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 5 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 2001 under sub-section (4) of Section 50 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4140/2001]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 590 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2001.

- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Chairman (Certain Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S. R. 591 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2001.

- (iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Managing Directors (Revision of certain terms and conditions of service) (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 592 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2001.

- (iv) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Payment of Gratuity to Chairman and Managing Directors) (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 593 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4141/2001]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of Section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 :-

- (i) The General insurance (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 775 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2001.
- (ii) The General Insurance (Termination, Superannuation and Retirement of Officers and Development Staff) (Amendment) Scheme, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 780 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2001.
- (iii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and other conditions of service of Officers) (Amendment) Scheme, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 781 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4142/2001]

- (6) A copy each of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of India, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Mysore for the years 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section

- (4) of section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 and under sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, respectively.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4143/2001]

- (7) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts, 1970 and 1980 :-

- (i) Report on the working and activities of the Allahabad Bank for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4144/2001]

- (ii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Baroda for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4145/2001]

- (iii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of India for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4146/2001]

- (iv) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Maharashtra for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4147/2001]

- (v) Report on the working and activities of the Dena Bank for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4148/2001]

- (vi) Report on the working and activities of the Indian Bank for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4149/2001]

- (vii) Report on the working and activities of the Syndicate Bank for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4150/2001]

[Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran]

- (viii) Report on the working and activities of the Union Bank of India for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4151/2001]

- (ix) Report on the working and activities of the Andhra Bank for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4152/2001]

- (x) Report on the working and activities of the Corporation Bank for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report Thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4153/2001]

- (xi) Report on the working and activities of the Oriental Bank of Commerce for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4154/2001]

- (xii) Report on the working and activities of the Punjab and Sind Bank for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4155/2001]

- (xiii) Report on the working and activities of the Vijaya Bank for the year 2000-2001, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4156/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : On behalf of Shri Digvijay Singh, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 637 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 2001 specifying zero per cent ad-valorem as the rate of cess of export of all marine products by the Export Oriented Units and the Units in the Export Processing Zones and Special Economic Zones, issued under sub-section (1) of section 14 of the Marine

Products Exports Development Authority Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4157/2001]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (I) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MMTC, New Delhi for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the MMTC, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4158/2001]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4159/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : Sir, I on behalf of Shri V. Sreenivasan Prasad beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 803 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2001 seeking to rescind three Notifications mentioned therein

under sub-section (6) of section (3) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4160/2001]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi for the year 1996-97, along with Audited accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4161/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2 and 3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4162/2001]

- (5) A copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (General) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 551 (E) in Gazette of India dated 25th July, 2001 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4163/2001]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS MINUTES

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Fifteenth to Eighteenth sittings of the

Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current session.

12.03-1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Seventh Report

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation-Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme'.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY (2001)

Eighteenth Report

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy on "The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) amendment Bill, 2000."

12.05 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

PROMOTION OF INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Hon. Members would recall that in order to create a conducive atmosphere for talks prior to the India-Pakistan Summit in July, 2001, Prime Minister had announced certain unilateral initiatives to enhance people-to-people ties and to assist in the establishment of durable peace and stability between India and Pakistan.

These initiatives were born out of our continuing conviction that the foundation of peace between India and Pakistan has to be laid in the minds and hearts of the people of both countries.

We hold that increased trade between the two countries would have its own dynamics and that would

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

impact positively on our bilateral relations. Accordingly, on 4th July, 2001, Prime Minister had instructed the Ministry of Commerce to identify fifty tariff lines on which tariff could either be eliminated or reduced, on imports from Pakistan.

Ministry of Commerce has identified these fifty tariff line through a process of inter-Ministerial consultation. The list is placed on the Table of the House.

The Department of Revenue will be issuing formal notifications in this regard after completing all necessary procedural requirements.

***List of 50 Tariff Lines**

Sr. No.	HS Code	Commodity Description
1	2	3
1.	071230	Mushrooms and Truffles, Dried
2.	080211	Almonds fresh or dried in shell
3.	080212	Shelled almonds - fresh or dried
4.	080250	Pistachios fresh or dried
5.	080420	Figs fresh or dried
6.	080520	Mandrain (including Tangerines and Satsumas); Clementines, Wilkings and similar Citrus hybrids - fresh/dried
7.	081100	Forzen fruit and nuts
8.	081200	Fruit preserved
9.	081310	Apricots, dried
10.	081340	Other fruit dried
11.	251010	Unground natural calcium phosphates, Natural Aluminium, Calcium Phosphates and Phosphatic Chalk
12.	283650	Calcium Carbonate
13.	300110	Glands and other organs, dried, whether or not powdered
14.	300120	Extracts of Glands or other organs or of their secretions
15.	300640	Dental cements and other dental fillings; Bone reconstruction cements
16.	300660	Chemical contraceptive preparations based on hormones or spermicides

*Laid on the Table of the House.

1	2	3
17.	330410	Lip make-up preparations
18.	330420	Eye make-up preparations
19.	330430	Manicure or pedicure preparations
20.	330491	Powders, whether or not compressed
21.	330499	Other beauty/make-up/skin care preparations
22.	330510	Shampoos
23.	330520	Preparations for permanent waving or straightening
24.	330530	Hair Lacquers
25.	330590	Other
26.	330620	Yarn used to clean between the teeth (Dental floss)
27.	330690	Other
28.	330710	Pre-shave, shaving or after-shave preparations
29.	350300	Gelatin
30.	410210	Raw skins of sheep or lambs with wool on
31.	410410	Whole leather of Bovine skin of a unit surface area not exceeding 28 square feet (2.6 Sq. M)
32.	410619	Other goat/kid skin leather - tanned/retanned, not further prepared
33.	440399	Other wood in rough
34.	490110	Printed books etc. in single sheet W/N folded
35.	490199	Other printed books etc. of Heading No. 4901
36.	490210	News Papers, journals etc. appearing at least four times a week
37.	690410	Building bricks
38.	741022	Foil of copper alloys, backed
39.	901849	Other instruments and appliances, used in dental science
40.	901890	Other instruments and appliances of medical science

1	2	3
41. 902119	Other orthopaedic/fracture appliances	
42. 902129	Other (Dental fittings)	
43. 903300	Parts and accessories for machines, appliances, instruments/apparatus of Chapter 90, n.e.s. (not elsewhere specified)	
44. 940210	Dentist chairs	
45. 940330	Wooden furniture of a kind used in offices	
46. 940340	Wooden furniture of a kind used in the kitchen	
47. 940350	Wooden furniture of a kind used in bedroom	
48. 940360	Other wooden furniture	
49. 940380	Furniture of other materials, including cane, osier, bamboo or similar materials	
50. 940390	Parts	

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4164/2001]

12.08 hrs.

[Translation]

OFFSHORE AREAS MINERAL
(DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a bill to provide for development and regulation of mineral resources in the territorial waters, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone, and other maritime zones of India and to provide for matters connected there with or incidental there to.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a bill to provide for development and regulation of mineral resources in the territorial waters, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone and other maritime ones of India and

to Provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : I introduce the Bill.

12.09 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION SCHEDULED CASTES
ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up item No. 20. Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, this is an important Bill pertaining to the interests of Scheduled Castes. . . . (Interruptions) The hon. Minister is conspicuously absent today. . . . (Interruptions) The West Bengal's Government and the Assembly's unanimous recommendation to include Chain community has not been accepted and it has been excluded from the list. . . . (Interruptions) The Minister's total negligence towards this matter is evident now. . . . (Interruptions) This is a Constitution Amendment Bill pertaining to the interests of the Scheduled Castes. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : This is an important Bill. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If the House agrees, we will go to the next item.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will take up next item.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, This department is very serious on the issues concerning SCs and STs.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a Bill relating to SCs has been introduced and hon. Minister is absent. The Government does not appear to be serious on the issue. . . . (Interruptions)

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 31.8.2001

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SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government does not seem to be serious on issues of SCs and STs.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : If the Minister cannot come, then she should authorise some other Minister to introduce the Bill, under intimation to the hon. Speaker. . . .(Interruptions) That is the practice. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Home Minister is on his legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please hear the Home Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It shows the total negligence of the Minister herself towards the interests of Scheduled Castes. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us hear the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, it shows the total neglect of the interests of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people by the hon. Minister herself. Why is she not present in the House at the time of introduction? . . .(Interruptions) We cannot agree to it. We want to know whether she sought advance permission from the Speaker or not. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kindly take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government is not taking the issues relating to Scheduled Castes seriously. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, kindly inform us whether she sought the special permission from the hon. Speaker for her absence at the time of introduction of such an important matter related to Constitutional Amendment. It is not a light matter. It is related to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. . . .(Interruptions) We cannot agree to it. If permission was sought, we will

sit down. If permission is not sought, I feel it is a total neglect of the interests of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes by her. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will find out. I will inform you whether she has written to the hon. Speaker on that or not.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I want to know from the Treasury Benches whether permission was sought from the hon. Speaker or not. That is all. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : This shows the total disregard to and contempt of the House. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This is contempt of the House. When it is listed in the Order Paper, she should have been present here. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, I only want to apologise. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He wants to apologise to the House. I am on my legs. Please take your seats.

SRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Does he apologise to the House on behalf of the Minister concerned? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please hear him for a moment.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : This is a constitutional amendment. The Minister should have been present here. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will find out whether she has written to the hon. Speaker or not. He wants to say something now. Please hear him.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the concern of the House. This is a lapse on the part of the Government. On behalf of the Government, I apologise for the absence of my colleague and Minister.

I would seek the indulgence of the House and your permission. We get her to attend. If she is not in a position to attend, we will get the authorisation for someone else to present this important Bill. This may be permitted.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : She must first express her regrets to the House.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have already said it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will go to the next item now.

[Translations]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government are going to introduce an important Bill. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has expressed regrets. In my view the permission to introduce the Bill should be granted. . . .(Interruptions) Chair has the right to grant permission to introduce the Bill. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : She has already come. She may introduce the Bill now.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. She should first apologise.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : She is apologising but you are not hearing.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We take into account the spirit of the hon. Home Minister's Statement. The hon. Minister owes an apology to the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : I apologise deeply for coming late. . . .(Interruptions) For some reason, I was mistaken in believing that it would come up at 12.30 p.m. I apologise for that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962 and the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964.

I also inform the House that Clause 2 of the Bill, which is to be printed in thick type, inadvertently has not been printed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order

1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962 and the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964."

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the bill is meant for the welfare of scheduled castes for which Government had been assuring for a long time. In Bihar and Uttar Pradesh people belonging to Nonia caste make earthen wares and those belonging to Mallah caste do fishing. The social and economic conditions of the two castes make them fit for inclusion in the list of scheduled castes. In other States of the country, for instance, in West Bengal, the two are included in the list of scheduled castes. A lot of consultation has been made in this regard and the Department has assured us that the matter is under consideration and will be settled soon. State Governments have also recommended for that. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the Bill is at introduction stage. There is no need to discuss it at present, you should only express your views as to whether you object to its introduction.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill mentions Paan, Savasi and Panar castes but fails to mention Nonia and Mallah castes. Even after many assurances, the two castes have not been included in the scheduled castes. Therefore I oppose the Bill. Government should clarify that the two castes would be included in the Bill. . . .(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government should clarify the correct position and the reason for the exclusion of the two castes. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Adhir Chowdhury, you cannot speak at this stage.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a senior Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has expressed his objection in writing.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have to give it in writing to speak at the introductory stage. It is only at the introductory stage. You can speak at the time of discussion. Do not do this now ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, you would have given your objection in writing to speak at the introductory stage.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members have full liberty to participation in the discussion, but not at this stage. The Bill is at the introductory stage.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you cannot speak at this stage. What is this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government should have brought a comprehensive Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Adhir Chowdhary, this is at an introductory stage. You can participate in the discussion later.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you have already stated what you wanted to say.
.*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, even though at this stage, I should be just asking leave to introduce the Bill, I would like to say something for two minutes before I ask for leave.

Many Members are going to say, namely, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, that did you not include this and did you not include that. In 50 years, there was really no inclusion of any sort because there were no modalities worked out on as to how a particular caste should be included or unincluded. In 1998, when I became the Minister, for the first time, modalities were made.

After this, modalities are simple now. A request comes from the State and that the same is immediately sent to the Registrar General of India (RGI). When the RGI passes

it, it goes to the Commission. As soon as the Commission clears it, it comes to us. This has been a longish procedure which we have been trying to tackle as quickly as we can. Some States have sent their full list but the RGI does not have staff to look at them. Sometimes, the RGI says 'yes' but the Commission says 'no'.

Then, it gets reverted back to the State. So, I assure you that each caste and community is being pursued actively. In fact, the Registrar General said, "I do not have an anthropologist to study it." He did not have expert people in this field. . . .*(Interruptions)* Then, I gave him consultants from my side last year so that he could do this very quickly.

We have tried to do something that has not been done for the last 50 years. In this connection, there will be a series of Bills coming in. This is the first lot that has been cleared by all three and by the Cabinet. Now, it has been brought here as quickly as possible.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When would the next lot come? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962 and the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I introduce** the Bill.

12.21 hrs.

COMMUNICATION CONVERGENCE BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will take up item No. 21. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to promote, facilitate and develop in an orderly manner the carriage and content of communications (including broadcasting, telecommunications and multimedia), for the

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 31.8.2001

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

establishment of an autonomous Commission to regulate carriage of all forms of communications, and for establishment of an Appellate Tribunal and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to promote, facilitate and develop in an orderly manner the carriage and content of communications (including broadcasting, telecommunications and multimedia), for the establishment of an autonomous Commission to regulate carriage of all forms of communications, and for establishment of an Appellate Tribunal and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I introduce** the Bill.

12.22 hrs.

COMPANIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we come to item No. 22. Shri Arun Jaitley.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I introduce the Bill.

12.22-1/2 hrs.

MAJOR PORT TRUSTS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we take up item No. 23. Shri Arun Jaitley.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 31.8.2001

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Major Port Trust Act, 1963."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The next item is : 'Matters under Rule 377.' Now, let us conduct the proceedings peacefully. Then, "Zero Hour" would follow. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you please read only the approved text and not add anything.

12.23 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to set up an oil refinery in Rajasthan

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Government have set up oil refineries in many States where oil and gas are found and even where these are not found. In the refineries, the domestic or imported crude oil is processed and various products such as petrol, diesel, kerosene, Damar, Naphtha etc. are prepared. States such as Punjab, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Western Uttar Pradesh do not have oil reserves, still oil refineries have been set up and domestic or imported crude oil is transported to the site through pipe lines. For the last many years various Governments and political parties of Rajasthan have been demanding for setting up an oil refinery in Rajasthan on the same lines. Oil and gas prospecting is being done in Jaisalmer, Nagore, Bikaner and oil has been struck at a few places. Rajasthan also lies nearer to the oil producing areas.

Therefore, Government of India is requested to establish an oil refinery at a suitable place in Rajasthan as soon as possible.

(ii) Need to open more Diesel/LPG/Petrol outlets in Saran district of Bihar

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, the district of Saran in Bihar is one of the hundred districts identified

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy]

by Government of India as most backward. There is an urgent need to establish retail outlets/fuel stations for the growing traffic in the district, whether several roads have been declared as NH. More LPG distribution outlets are requested at the Block level to cater to the needs of large rural and semi-rural population.

Therefore, I will request the Minister of Petroleum to open diesel and petrol outlets on National Highway 19 at Nayagaon, Sonapur Bypass, Ami, Dorigang and on National Highway 102 at Rewa Ghat, Katsa, Chhapra-Garkha Bypass, Sonohu Bazar and diesel/petrol outlets at General location at Amnour, Mirzipur (Marhowrah), Derini (Dariyapur), Parsa and Naini (Chhapra Sadar) and Kerosene Depot/Outlets at Blocks at Sonohu, Amnour, Parsa, Dariyapur, Shamkauria and Derni and LPG distribution at Amnour, Taraiyan, Garkha, Parsa, Isuapur, Traiya and Sonepure.

(iii) Need to provide special economic package to Chhattisgarh for all round development of the State

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Sir, new State of Chhattisgarh was created on November 1, 2000. But at the time of its separation from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh was not given adequate funds but loan for development which is obstructing the development of common people, scheduled castes and tribes and backward classes, women and farmers. Repeated famines have made the condition of farmers pitiable. The aid given by the Central Government last time was not found adequate. This year Kunda region of Pandiria block in Kavardha district is facing severe famine. Even 53 years after independence, Chhattisgarh does not have adequate arrangements for proper roads, drains, bridges, pulia, colleges, high schools, engineering colleges, medical colleges, agriculture universities, agriculture research centres, employment opportunities for educated unemployed and for the upliftment of the women.

Therefore the Union Government is requested to provide a special economic package of Rs. 200 crores for the development of the people of Chhattisgarh State.

(iv) Need to provide halt of Navjeevan Express at Sullurpet, Andhra Pradesh

[English]

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY (Tirupati) : Sir, Sullurpet is an internationally known Satellite Launching Centre. It is 12 kms from Sullurpet main town, which is in between

Chennai and Gudur in Andhra Pradesh. Many scientists working in this Centre come from all parts of the country, mainly from Gujarat. Navjeevan Express is the only train, which is having direct link between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu via many other States. As it is already mentioned, Sullurpet is situated in between at about 70 kms. from Gudur and 80 kms. from Chennai. Scientists/staff members working at SHAR Centre are either to get down at Gudur and to travel 70 kms. by road or 80 kms. back from Chennai to reach the place. The inconvenience is being felt by more than 12, 000 personnel who are working at SHAR Centre. There is an imperative need to have one minute stoppage of Navjeevan Express at Sullurpet.

I urge upon the Union Government to see that Navjeevan Express stops at Sullurpet.

(v) Need to clear the project 'Improvement of Mother and Child Health Programme' of Karnataka seeking financial assistance from the Japanese International Cooperative Agency

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan) : Sir, the Medical Council of India inspected Bangalore Medical College, Mysore Medical College, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli and Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Science, Bellary and all the attached hospitals in 1996 and pointed out certain deficiencies in the infrastructure of these hospitals which consequently resulted in reducing intake of undergraduate students of these four colleges from 600 seats to a meager 400 seats.

With the objective of providing modern treatment facilities, a project called "Improvement of Mother and Child Health Programme for Bangalore Medical College and attached Teaching Hospitals" is proposed for availing assistance of Rs. 60 crore from Japanese International Cooperative Agency which will be in the form of equipment. The entire assistance will be grant and no State share is involved.

I urge upon the Central Government to expedite the matter and help Bangalore Medical College to get the assistance from the Japanese International Cooperative Agency.

(vi) Need for construction of a railway flyover at Parvathipuram in Andhra Pradesh

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO (Parvathipuram) : Sir, Parvathipuram is the headquarter of my constituency in Andhra Pradesh. It is a leading trade centre. A large number of people and traders come there for business from the neighbouring districts of Orissa and other States. A railway line passes through the town of Parvathipuram.

The railway crossing there remains closed for hours for the trains to pass. Vehicular and other traffic remains jammed and as a result, a large number of people are put to inconvenience. A railway flyover is needed there.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to sanction a railway flyover at Parvathipuram. It will go a long way in providing relief to the people of the town.

(vii) Need to rehabilitate the Tawaria Scheduled Tribes to ensure that they do not indulge in anti-social criminal activities

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government, through the House, towards the crimes being committed by the Tawaria tribe. These tribes commit loot and murder throughout India. They have committed many such crimes in my Parliamentary constituency Kheri wherein entire families have been murdered. These gangs work on inter-district and inter-State level and in order to check their crimes, police cooperation and data collection at the inter district and inter-State level is required.

Government is requested to rehabilitate these criminal tribes and undertake special arrangements to stop their criminal activities.

(viii) Need to set up industries in Bhojpur and adjoining districts in Bihar

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the districts of Bhojpur, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Gaya, Jehanabad and Dulhin Bazaar, Paliganj and Masaurhi of Paliganj sub-division in Patna district of Bihar have come under the grip of extremism. The reason is that the whole region is devoid of industries. These districts have thousands of educated unemployed youth. They are facing the problem of starvation. Even agricultural labourers have no work. In view of their pathetic situation they are being alienated from the mainstream of society and joining anti-social groups. Even the agricultural scenario is bad.

Therefore, I request the Government of India, through the Chair, to set up small or big industries in these districts as soon as possible so that the helpless people could get jobs and return to the mainstream of the society.

(ix) Need to ensure early payment of dues to the sugarcane growers in the country particularly in Bihar

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balua, Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane farmers of the country have

dues worth crores of rupees over most of the sugarmills of country. The price of their sugarcane is not being paid. Farmers are distressed. The condition of payment with respect to the mills located in Bihar is worse. The cultivation of sugarcane is an expensive exercise. Farmers supply sugarcane to the mills on time but they have to face difficulties as they do not get payment on time. Therefore, a provision should be made to ensure payment within 15 days of sugarcane supply, or if the period exceeds that, the farmers should get interest at bank rate.

Therefore, I request the Government to ensure payment of dues to the farmers immediately and in case of delay ensure payment of the dues with interest.

(x) Need to provide Central funds to the Government of U.P. for providing uninterrupted supply of electricity to Moradabad district

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad) : Moradabad earns the country a stupendous amount of foreign exchange because of its thriving brass exports. A large rural agricultural base ensures that its industrious farmers augment our agricultural production immensely.

However, the erratic and dismal electric supply to the district threatens both industry and agriculture and as a consequence national interest. It would be worth considering the prospect of making available Central funds, either directly or through the U.P. Government, to alleviate and solve the problem of electric supply to Moradabad district considering the great financial contribution of the town and of the district to the exchequer of the nation.

(xi) Need to ban private TV pay channels in the country

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the managers of pay channels other than Doordarshan are behaving in an autocratic manner which is causing economic strain and loss to the cable operators in town and semi urban areas.

For instance, USA have accessibility system. This system was approved even by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. Probably it could not be implemented in India because of the huge expenditure it entailed. Therefore pay channels should be brought under strict regulation to relieve the pressure on cable operators of town and semi urban areas.

My demand to the Union Government is to regulate the pay channels in view of the economic condition of consumers.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Today's matters under rule 377, including the standby names, may be laid* on the Table of the House.

(xii) Need to accord approval to the Revised Long Term Action Plan for the KBK Districts of Orissa

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : The Planning Commission of India should accord approval to the Revised Long Term Action Plan for the KBK Districts of Orissa immediately.

(xiii) Need to ensure early implementation of Railway projects in Bikaner, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI (Bikaner) : The survey work for Converting Rewari-Bikaner metre gauge railway line into broad gauge and strategically important Kolayat-Falaudi new railway line is complete. The demand for new trains between Bikaner and Chennai and Bikaner and Guwahati alongwith increase in coaches of Bikaner-Howrah Express is also being made for a long time. But no provision has been made in this regard in this year's budget. Besides, a bye pass also needs to be constructed for the railway line passing within the Bikaner city. Bikaner district has received about Rs. 175 crores from Asian Development Bank. Out of which Rs. 16 crores have been kept for the repairing of rail line and construction of an overbridge. If the bypass track is approved, this amount can be utilized for it. I demand that the Government of India approve the implementation of the above mentioned projects and incorporate these in the supplementary budget of the current year.

(xiv) Need to provide financial assistance to Karnataka Government for anti-sea erosion work in coastal areas of the State

[English]

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore) : The State of Karnataka has been facing a serious problem due to increasing soil erosion along the coast line. The State has a coastline of about 300 kms. Stretching from Mangalore to Karwar covering three districts with a number of estuaries formed due to the drainage of a large number of rivers joining the Arabian Sea. Out of this 300 kms., a length of 215.685 kms. has been identified to protect the

sea coast against erosion. The State Government of Karnataka had prepared a Master Plan for Rs. 575/- crores and submitted to Central Water Commission in September, 1997 for obtaining external funding.

As the implementation of the Anti-sea erosion programme is very urgently required, I demand that adequate fund provision may be made by the Union Government to expedite anti-sea erosion activities in the coastal areas of Karnataka.

(xv) Need to declare support price of millet in Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY (Nagaur) : The farmers of Rajasthan are distressed at slump in the price of Bajra. They had been famine for the last three years and had to migrate to other States for livelihood. This year, they had high hopes due to good rainfall but the hopes are being belied. For the last many years, the price of millet was in the range of Rs. 400-500 per quintal, but the prospect of good harvest lowered the price to Rs. 200 per quintal. Market is selling bajra at an advance rate of Rs. 150-160 per quintal which is not even half of the cost price of the farmers. The woes of the farmers should be realised. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture is requested to arrange for direct procurement of the farmers' produce at a fixed support price.

(xvi) Need to improve the lot of bidi workers in the country

[English]

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore) : The condition of the beedi workers is very distressing. Most of them are unemployed. There are 3 lakhs of beedi workers. Most of them are working under the cooperative sector. I request Central Government to intervene and take all relief measures for improving their working conditions.

As a first step cess must be introduced immediately.

(xvii) Need to Issue a Commemorative Stamp on the Occasion of Birth Centenary of Shri Yashpal, Prominent Writer and Freedom Fighter

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Communications towards the fact that among the distinguished and progressive writers of Hindi, name of Yashpal comes after Premchand. Name of Yashpal

* Rest of the Matters under Rule 377 were treated as laid on the table of the House.

cannot be ignored whenever, there is any mention of freedom struggle, literature and fight against exploitation and atrocities in the society. It is a matter of pride for Himachal Pradesh as it gave India such a talented literature and freedom fighter as Yashpal.

He was a revolutionary litterator who left all the comforts of life and embraced the path of struggle. The flame of freedom kept burning within him till the end. He was born on 3.12.1903 and died on 2.12.1976. Year 2003 will be the birth centenary year of this great litterator and freedom fighter. I request the Government to issue a special commemorative stamp on the occasion.

(xviii) Need to implement one rank one pension scheme for Defence Personnel

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : As per the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendation, an individual is required to complete 33 years of service in order to earn 50% of the basic pay as pension. Five years are added to the actual number of years of service rendered by them in case of persons below the rank of officers. Sepoys, Naiks, Havildars, Naik Subedars and Subedars had to compulsorily retire, in the past after completing 17, 22, 24, 26 and 28 years of service respectively. But their civil counterparts will retire at the age of 60 irrespective of their grade and thus they are eligible to get pension whereas the persons below the officer rank in Defence Services will not get that benefit. These two yardsticks for the Ex-servicemen and retired civil servants are not justified. In order to remove this anomaly it is necessary to reduce the minimum number of years of service to enable them to earn the pensionary benefits. I also urge the Government to implement one rank one pension policy for Defence personnel irrespective of the number of years service rendered by them.

(xix) Need to set up an institute of Information Technology in Murshidabad district, West Bengal

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore) : District Murshidabad in West Bengal is known for its historical importance. Once a capital of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, It has been a commercial hub for long years. Since the independence of India, the district has been gradually sliding into economic black out. A few industrial units which were grown up are only to be found in the graveyard. However, the district is enriched in agriculture. It has been regarded as the largest jute producing district in West Bengal. But the jute farmers of the district are undergoing

a state of despair because of winding up of jute mills one after another.

The number of unemployed youth is increasing by leaps and bounds creating a social problem in the border district. I would like to propose to the Government that it is an ideal place for setting up an institute of information technology. The district is situated in a strategic point which connects north and south Bengal. It is adjacent to Bangladesh. In the age of knowledge based industry I think the district can play a potential role as there is existence of a large pool of talented youth in my district.

(xx) Need to look into the difficulties being faced by agents of North Malabar Gramin Bank in Kerala

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister towards the difficulties being faced by the daily deposit collection agents of North Malabar Gramin Bank in Kerala.

The collection agents are now getting 3.5% commission. The only means of living of those people is the commission amount. More than one collection agents are working in many branches. So, the income of these agents is very meagre. It is understood that bank management have issued an order to impose 10.2% Income Tax on their income. All the collection agents who are getting commission of Rs. 2,500/- are liable to pay the income tax. It is ironical that bank employees and other employees are paying income tax for the amount above Rs. 50,000/-.

In this context, I urge upon the Government to withdraw the circular affecting the commission agents. I understand the bank managers are misinterpreting a Finance Ministry order regarding payment of Income Tax. I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to look into the matter.

(xxi) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Andhra Pradesh to check the spread of Japanese Encephalitis disease particularly in rural areas of the State

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA (Nellore) : Many children in rural areas die in Andhra Pradesh on account of Japanese Encephalitis during the period September to December every year. They belong to below the poverty line category. They are unable to bear the high cost of vaccination which can prevent this disease and save their children. Unless the Union Government assist in immunizing the children of the Poor people free of cost, they would continue to die.

[Dr. Rajeswaramma Vukkala]

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to extend necessary cooperation in purchasing the Japanese Encephalitis vaccines according to the requirement of Andhra Pradesh as it is quite necessary to take up eradication programme of Japanese Encephalitis by the Government seriously to immunize the poor people free of cost.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour.'

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Indian Drugs and pharmaceuticals Limited and Smith and Stanistreet pharmaceuticals Limited are the two public sector pharmaceuticals limited. . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir the Tehelka people have been responsible for the stock market crash. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will get chance only if Zero Hour runs smoothly.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, the Tehelka people have been involved in the stock market thereby destabilising the country. They have caused loss to the exchaquer to the tune of Rs. 14,000 crore.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, today's 'Zero Hour' is going to be up to one o' clock.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I will take a fraction of time in the 'Zero Hour', but please give me a chance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will get the chance. But just now I have given the floor to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : By this, you are wasting the time of your own 'Zero Hour'. It is up to one o' clock only today.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will everybody get chance today. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale, I have given the floor to him.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : How will we get chance. . . .(Interruptions) I am giving notices repeatedly. . . .(Interruptions) Mill workers have begun agitating in Mumbai. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale, I have given the floor to him.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited and Smith and Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited are languishing for a long time. These two public sector pharmaceutical undertakings were set up to produce life saving drugs. IDPL has got three units. They are at Risikesh, Hyderabad and Gurgaon. IDPL was set up to manufacture life saving dugs and to provide drugs to the poor people at a cheaper rate. These two Public Sector Undertakings were referred to the BIFR and the BIFR had asked the Government to submit a revival proposal. But the Government of India is yet to submit its revival proposal to the BIFR. These are two pharmaceutical undertakings.

The Prime Minister is here. He knows the problem of IDPL. We met him several times and he had also assured that the Government would take necessary action to revive the IDPL. In spite of the assurance given by the Prime Minister, no action has been taken by the Government of India. . . .(Interruptions) Shri Yerrannaidu, you are also interested to revive the IDPL because the larger unit is located at Hyderabad.

Your delegation also met the Prime Minister a number of times.

We would like to know what action the Government would take in regard to revival of IDPL and SSPL. SSPL is located in the State of West Bengal. It is a small unit and not much funds are required for its revival. For IDPL, the Government should take immediate action to revive the undertaking. . . .(Interruptions) Workers of IDPL have not received their salaries for two months. . . .(Interruptions) Workers are starving. So, immediate action should be taken to revive these two important pharmaceutical public sector undertakings. . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, I associate with him on this subject. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister and the entire Government.

Within a week from today, Bengal is approaching the festival season. Hon. Prime Minister is aware, during festival season, basic issues come up from industrial workers in terms of their wages and bonus. The Indian Iron and Steel Company's revival plan, for which we approached the hon. Prime Minister cutting across party lines to implement the package of MECON, has still not come to see the light of the day.

Cutting across party lines, we have met the distinguished Minister of Heavy Industries, who was kind enough to assure in this House that he would again look into the issue of MAMC, National Tanneries, Tangra as well as Burn Standard, Howrah because for the last four months their workers have not been paid salaries and wages. I am sorry to inform you that one worker has committed suicide last week. This is really appalling. This could cause a law and order problem in our State. I would request the Government, through you, that before the festival season approaches that it should take care of the units of National Jute Manufacturing Company, Hoogly Dock and Port Engineering, Burn Standard units at Howrah and Burnpur, MAMC and National Tanneries and especially IISCO. In totality, this would decide the fate of more than 1.5 million people. Therefore, you can well imagine the situation.

They have already chalked out a plan for *rail roko, raijdhani roko*. I personally phoned up two trade unions yesterday and requested them not to do these things during the festival season and assured that the Government was seized of the matter. Therefore, I appeal, through you, to the hon. Prime Minister and the entire Government to formulate a revival plan or package. Otherwise, there would be a terrible law and order situation and it would cause sufferings to the people and all of us. I would therefore request the hon. Prime Minister to take cognisance of it and advise the hon. Minister responsible for these units to see to it that their grievances are met.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, in spite of the assurance given by the hon. Minister of Heavy Industries on the floor of the House, they have not been paid their wages. . . . (Interruptions).

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, I am very grateful to you.

Cutting across party lines, I fully endorse the views expressed by hon. Members Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. It is a fact that the industrial scenario in West Bengal is very bad now. We are proud of our SAIL; we are proud of our IISCO; MAMC (Durgapur)

we are proud of our NJMC; we are proud of the National Tanneries, Tangra, the IDPL and jute mills.

The modernisation of IISCO has been pending since long. May I make a request to the hon. Prime Minister, who is present here? Today is the last day of this Session and I do not want to disturb him but I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Prime Minister. The IISCO modernisation programme is pending since long though the Government has a proposal to go to the BIFR. Within the month of September, the Government has to submit its revival package to the BIFR. I am told that the Government is going to submit the proposal for Rs. 600 crore regarding IISCO modernisation.

Sir, may I submit to the hon. Prime Minister that in the month of September that date will be over? If it is finished, then our pride will be finished. That is why may I request the hon. Prime Minister, through you that, for the modernisation of IISCO the Government must submit their proposal within the proper time so that the workers should not suffer?

Sir, I want to mention about MAMC, Alloy Steel, Tyre Corporation of India, NTC mills and NJMC mills. The workers in the jute mills and textile mills all over the country, including in my State, are suffering a lot because there is no plan of action. I request the Government to set up an expert committee to go into the details so that the employees do not suffer. The Government must prepare a Master Plan in this regard.

Sir, the three public sector undertakings - Burn Standard, Jessops, Breathweight - used to get orders for manufacture of wagons from the Government. But this time it has been stopped. I know that if it is totally stopped, then the workers of these units will suffer a lot. I do not know why these public sector units are not getting the order and are lagging in this regard. There may be a communication gap and that is why they are not getting their order within the proper time. Because of this they are going to be sick. May I request the Government to see this matter seriously? I submit that crores of workers should not be rendered unemployed.

I also would like to request the Government for its help with regard to the floods and drought situation in the country. We are facing flood situation every year in the country. But there is no master plan and there is no comprehensive plan of action. Whenever floods come we used to give crores of rupees for this purpose. But we have to set up some plan of action so that these floods are stopped. We should not limit to only giving money when the floods come. I would like the Government to see to this matter very seriously.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to one issue. All the State Electricity Boards throughout the country are incurring heavy losses. Now so many State Governments have entered into PPAs with naphtha-based power plants. Only 1,400 MW capacity of naphtha-based power plants are in the pipeline. We are exporting naphtha to other countries at cheaper rate. We are importing naphtha at a higher cost. Now the Government of India took a decision to supply our indigenous naphtha to the fertiliser plants without excise duty and other duties. Why are we supplying it to the fertiliser plants? It is a product for the farmers. Even in regard to the Electricity Boards, 80 per cent of the electricity is supplied to the farming community. The burden is on the consumers. Whatever PPAs that are entered with naphtha-based power plants, ultimately the burden is on the consumer.

The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra - who have entered into PPA with naphtha-based power plants - requested the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas for help in this regard. They are also persuading the matter. Even now they are incurring losses and after this they will incur more losses. We are using most of the power produced for the farming community, particularly for the agricultural sector.

Once we have extended this facility to the fertiliser industry, why do we not extend it to the Electricity Boards? I am appealing to the Government, through you, to help in this regard. This is a policy decision. It will help the Electricity Boards. Ultimately it will also reduce the burden on the consumers.

Sir, the Kudremukh Iron and Steel Plant in Karnataka in the public sector is making heavy profits. The Government of India has given the lease for five years. Now the Ministry of Steel and the Ministry of Environment and Forests have started negotiations. But the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not extended the lease. When the lease is not extended in regard to public sector undertakings where hundreds of crores of money is spent, there is no use for the industry. Recently the Kudremukh plant have extended their operations. So many NGOs have filed petitions regarding environmental problems in this place and they are creating hurdles.

In this scenario the Government must take steps to renew the lease for this unit for a further period of 15 years.

Otherwise all the industries related to it will become sick and may collapse. I, therefore, humbly request the hon. Prime Minister to help this industry. . . .(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, hon. Members Shri K.H. Muniyappa and Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake may associate themselves with Shri Yerrannaidu on this subject.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sunil Khan, do not shout like this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Uttar Pradesh who go for Haj, face a lot of difficulties. People of Western Uttar Pradesh and Eastern Uttar Pradesh have to face problems. A national conference of Haj pilgrims was held in Delhi. The Hon. Prime Minister had participated in the conference and had announced on 5th August, 1999 that to ameliorate the problems of Haj pilgrims of central and eastern Uttar Pradesh, direct flights from Lucknow would be arranged. But this arrangement has not been made even after three years of announcement. . . .(Interruptions) 8000 Haj pilgrims and their families face difficulties. . . .(Interruptions) They have to spend on additional amount of Rs. 15000 besides facing lot of difficulties. It is a serious matter. . . .(Interruptions) Since the Hon. Prime Minister is committed towards solving the problems of Haj pilgrims I would like to submit that even after three years no arrangement has been made for them from Lucknow. . . .(Interruptions) It is your duty also because you represent Lucknow in Lok Sabha. . . .(Interruptions) If the announcement is not implemented. . . .(Interruptions) The Hon. Prime Minister is present here. . . .(Interruptions) If the announcement is not translated into action. . . .(Interruptions) I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister, whether the announcement made three years ago would be implemented or not ?. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot compel Pradhan Mantri.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the situation in Western Uttar Pradesh is grim. . . .(Interruptions) Advocates are on strike there. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not disturb now. Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Three years have passed since the hon. Prime Minister made the announcement. . . .(Interruptions) Since the issue relates to Muslims. . . .(Interruptions) Since the Hon. Prime Minister is present here, therefore I want to know why the announcement he had made three years ago has not been implemented? . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want your protection. . . .(Interruptions) The Hon. Prime Minister is present in the House. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He will be present here.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you resume your seat now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Saiduzzama speaks.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding the High Court, the situation is serious in Western Uttar Pradesh. The Hon. Prime Minister is present in the House. . . .(Interruptions) First I have been called and I should be allowed to complete. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ramji Lal Sumanji, you have said what you had to say. Now please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : I have been called and they are interrupting. . . .(Interruptions) Situation in Western Uttar Pradesh is serious on the issue of High Court. . . .(Interruptions) When Vajpayee ji was a Member of Rajya Sabha in 1986, he had said through a question that there should be a Bench of High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh. . . .(Interruptions) Situation is worsening all over the State. . . .(Interruptions) Advocates and traders are on strike in

Western Uttar Pradesh. . . .(Interruptions) Vajpayee ji had said in 1986 that a High Court Bench should be set up in Western Uttar Pradesh. . . .(Interruptions) In his reply, the then Minister of Law, Shri Bhardwaj had said that Government have accepted the suggestion in principle. . . .(Interruptions) Now why it is being delayed? It should be set up at once. . . .(Interruptions) The Government of India was also empowered to fix the place for the proposed Bench. . . .(Interruptions) He had asked this Question as a Member of Rajya Sabha. Now he is the Prime Minister and is present in the House. . . .(Interruptions) His suggestion was accepted by the Government of that time and now he should announce the setting up of a Bench in Western Uttar Pradesh today itself. . . .(Interruptions) Situation in the whole Uttar Pradesh is volatile and the hon. Prime Minister is present here. . . .(Interruptions) It is a serious issue. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not disturb now. Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, we have all heard everyone silently. It is not fair that when you have asked this Member to speak, all of them are disturbing. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is what I am telling them.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I should be given the chance to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he should be listened to. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I cannot accommodate so many Members.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is this the way? They are disturbing the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : It is a serious issue. . . .
(Interruptions) On this issue the situation in Western Uttar Pradesh is volatile.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want me to name him on the last day ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you please ask your Members to behave. You are the leader of your party. I am only seeking your cooperation.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am trying to make him sit down and you are getting angry. . . .
(Interruptions) I we also have to go to our respective constituencies. . . .(Interruptions) Your anger or rebuke is not justified.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I tell you that this is too much.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already spoken.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is a limit.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : You have asked him to speak, but his mike has not been switched on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has to press the button before speaking.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shri Raghunath Jha.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India provides every year grants to the tune of crores of rupees to districts through State Governments under rural development, poverty alleviation, maternity allowance, Indira Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. But I am sorry to say that hon. MPs have practically no role in the said programmes. House has discussed many times the issue of making the roles of MPs effective, but no concrete decision has been taken.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is present here, and I demand that Government take decision immediately regarding the role of MPs in the said programmes. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, NTC Management has issued a circular making its intention clear to implement VRS on the pattern of Gujarat. As per the pattern, an employee of NTC would get between Rs. 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh. But if Mumbai pattern is adopted, worker would get. Rs. 4-5 lakhs. All NTC employee unions of Mumbai are opposing the implementation of Gujarat pattern VRS. Several mills have been closed due to non availability of raw material, cotton and also working capital. It has been reported that Government would mobilise Rs. 2005 crore by selling off the surplus land of NTC.

12.58 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

The Hon. Minister had assured that the money mobilised by selling the surplus land would be given to the mills of Mumbai. I would like to know the progress made in the regard? Through you, I want to request the government to cancel the notice of adopting Gujarat pattern and replace it with Mumbai pattern.

[English]

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP (Outer Manipur) : Sir, there are three national highways in Manipur. Two of them are blocked and one is in shape. I want to speak in Manipuri, which is listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

*Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to speak in Manipuri, a VIIIth Schedule language. It is almost two and half months now that the major national highways had been blocked in Manipur and people are suffering as they are not getting edible items. No food, no essential materials are available. On the road the trucks had been burnt including the loaded goods. Sir, what I want to highlight is that the national

highway No. 150 is trouble free. Trucks carrying consumer items and other transport vehicles may ply on national highway No. 150. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to improve this national highway particularly in between Tanlon and Tipaimukh. National Highway No. 150 is free, safe and peaceful. Trucks and other transport vehicles should be sent through it. If the edible consumer items are brought through national highway No. 150 from Jiri via Taithu, Manipur will be peaceful.*

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA (Jhunjhunu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government of India, towards an important issue. I represent the constituency number four of Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan. Jhunjhunu district has a recruitment office right from the days of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. It comes under the Jaipur office. From the time before the Chinese aggression of 1962, the Recruiting Officer of Jaipur sends jawans to Bara, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jhalawar etc. Where there is no recruiting office for procedures related to recruitment. Jhunjhunu has Medical Officer, Recruiting Officer and all other staff. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Rajiv Pratap Rudyji, such behaviour is not proper in the House.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I submit to the Government of India that the places where the jawans are sent for recruitment, are located at a distance of around 700-800-900 kms from Jhunjhunu. Travelling to and fro takes at least four days. Besides they have to spend at least two to two thousand five hundred rupees. Not necessarily, all the jawans sent for recruitment are selected. Some of them are not selected. There is a procedure for recruitment in Army. They have to go three times, one for examination, second for recruitment and third time for medical examination. Now, Jaipur has been made the headquarters of Recruiting office of Rajasthan in place of Ajmer. I am not sure about the reasons behind the move Jhunjhunu has a large representation in Army. . . . (Interruptions) Population wise Jhunjhunu is the leading district of India with respect to its representation in the Army. It is not correct to send them to Kota, Bundi or Jhalawar. The matter should be properly investigated and the reasons behind the move should be explained, especially because there is a full fledged recruiting office along with full staff.

13.03 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, today, we come to the end of the seventh Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 23rd July, 2001. The House had a total of 29 sittings, spread over 174 hours.

During the session, the Lok Sabha transacted several items of important financial, legislative and other business. The Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2001-2002 and Budget in respect of the State of Manipur were passed with full co-operation of the House.

Lok Sabha gave approval to 35 Bills which is a record in itself. Some of the important Bills passed are the Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2001; Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 2000, as reported by the Joint Committee, the Indian Council for World Affairs, 2001 to replace Ordinance No. 1 of 2001; the Constitution (Ninety-First Amendment) Bill, 2000, which inter-alia provides for a freeze on undertaking a fresh delimitation of constituencies up to 2026 and to re-fix number of seats reserved for SCs/STs in the House of People and Legislative Assemblies on the basis of population ascertained in 1991 census; the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2001; and the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

The House had fruitful debates on six important matters of public importance under Rule 193. These are : (i) on the statement made by the Prime Minister regarding the recent summit level talks held between India and Pakistan in Agra; (ii) loss of lives and property due to floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country; (iii) saffronisation of education. (iv) Disinvestment of public sector undertakings, (v) New Telecom Policy, 1999 and its effect on the licences and revenue generation of Government of India in general, and limited mobility issue in particular; and (vi) acute problems being faced by the poor in rural and urban areas in various parts of the country due to non-availability of foodgrains.

The issue of mismanagement of (US-64 funds by Unit Trust of India and the failure of the Government to take timely action to prevent it, was raised by way of Adjournment Motion which was negatived by the House after a seven-hour long discussion. Thereafter, in a meeting of leaders of parties convened by me on 3rd August, 2001, it was decided that all issues relating to UTI, including the issues discussed in the House, would be considered by

* . . . English translation of the speech Originally delivered in Manipuri

the existing Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Markets Scam.

Two important matters were raised by Members by way of Calling Attention and the concerned Ministers made statements thereon. These were : (i) on the situation arising out of the recent killings of members of a minority community in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir, and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto; and (ii) on the situation arising out of the difficulties being faced by jute-growers and jute industry in the country, and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto. Fourteen statements were made by Ministers on different issues of urgent public importance.

As regards the Question Hour, out of the 580 Starred Questions listed 87 were orally answered in the House. Replies to the remaining 493 Starred Questions and 6,081 Unstarred Questions were laid on the. Four half-an-hour discussions on different subjects were also held.

As regards the Private Members' Business, 60 Bills were introduced during the Session. The Bill seeking to amend the Constitution of India with a view to providing that a No Confidence Motion in the Council of Ministers of the Union, or of a State, shall also be accompanied by a composite motion proposing the alternative Government, was further discussed during the Session and withdrawn by leave of the House. Another Bill seeking to provide for reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in establishments under the State and also in private sector, remained part discussed.

As regards Private Members' Resolutions, the discussion on a Resolution urging upon the Government to formulate a programme with allocation of adequate funds for time-bound completion of all projects which have been pending for the last several years and to ensure that new schemes are launched only after arrangements for adequate funds have been made so as to enable their completion within a stipulated period, received wholehearted support from all sections of the House before it was withdrawn by leave of the House. Another Resolution moved regarding review of the decision to withdraw quantitative restrictions, remained part discussed.

Members raised 277 matters under Rule 377 while more than 300 matters of public importance were raised by Members during 'Zero Hour.' In this Session, the Departmentally-related Standing Committees presented fifteen reports.

Hon.. Members, it has always been our combined endeavour to see that the proceedings of the House are

conducted in an orderly manner. Unfortunately, precious time of the House is sometimes lost due to disorderly conduct by some Members in the Well of the House. This happened in the present Session as well. I am beholden to the Leaders of parties who have expressed the unanimous view that entering the Well of the House has to be stopped forthwith. They have assured me that they would make all efforts to ensure that their Members do not resort to disorderly conduct in the Well of the House. I need hardly emphasise that we not only enhance our own dignity but also that of the institution of Parliament when we conduct the proceedings of the House in a disciplined and orderly manner.

Debate and discussion being essence of Parliamentary form of democracy, let us respect the other Member's right to have his say as also to express our disagreement with him on the floor of this august House within the parameters of the Rules of Procedure.

It may interest you to know that while 29 hours and 31 minutes were lost due to disturbances in this Session, the House sat for additional 42 hours and 52 minutes having extended sittings by sitting late in the night or during lunch-hour and thereby, compensated for the lost time. This was made possible due to the wholehearted support and willing cooperation that I received from all sections of the House.

I am extremely grateful to the hon. Leader of the house, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of various parties and Groups in the House as also their Chief Whips and Whips and indeed to each and every Member of the House for their kind cooperation and courtesy extended to me and to my colleagues - the hon. Deputy-Speaker and Members of the Panel of Chairmen.

I would also like to express our appreciation and thanks to the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and allied agencies for their valuable support in running the House. I also thank the Media people for the cooperation extended by them.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we convened at the start of this Session with many matters agitating our minds, namely, the Agra Summit, the UTI Crisis, several unfolding scams, the unresolved Ayodhya issue, the increasing impact of the WTO on farmers and on small industrialists, the disinvestment process and Saffronization of the Education System.

Through your efforts, Sir, and the efforts of the Members here, some of these issues were discussed.

Perhaps, there was no agreement between the opposition and the Treasury Benches. But every major view-point was heard by the House and the nation. This is the essence of democracy.

Yet despite the two extra weeks which were added on to this Session, several of the important issues could not be discussed. In this context, Sir, the Congress Party welcomes your initiative to impose greater discipline. My Party and I have full faith in you, in your ability to control unnecessary and trivial interruptions, in an impartial manner without, in any way, curtailing the inherent right of the Members to express their views or to take up issues.

In addition to the Agenda we carried at the start of the Session, several emergent issues overtook us during its course. The poorest in all parts of the country have been facing the prospect of starvation even as our granaries are overflowing. A number of regions are already reeling under drought. The earthquake relief in Gujarat remained incomplete. To add to all this, Kerala, Orissa and Bihar fell to the onslaught of floods during the Session.

Violence in Jammu and Kashmir reached a peak. The NSCN Agreement, later modified had erupted in massive unrest in Manipur and elsewhere. Disaffection is still very much present amongst the people of the North-East; and we do hope, Sir, that we have not prepared a new recipe for prolonged unrest and suffering in the North-Eastern Region.

More recently the truth exposed by Tehelka came under threat of being lost sight of due to the controversy over the means adopted by reporters.

Sir, some important legislative businesses have been transacted. However, the important legislation regarding women's reservation, unfortunately, is still languishing. We are still awaiting the outcome of the Prime Minister's promise to us when he had said that he would try and bring about a consensus on this most important issue for all of us women.

Also important are the various policies and programmes of the Government that affected the welfare of the poorest people in our country. We are extremely keen to discuss the population policy and the agriculture policy. We are also very eager to discuss the Kargil Report and the national security system. We view with gravity, the slow down in poverty alleviation schemes and the decline in the rate of growth in total employment. We are also keen to discuss the Approach Paper for the Tenth Plan.

On all these issues, Sir, we have a lot to say; and we do hope that through you, the Government will grant us an opportunity to discuss all of them.

Finally, I thank you, Sir, for your ability, your dexterity and patience with which you have been conducting the Session. I also extend my good wishes to all my colleagues here.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Monsoon session is now over. Today people are celebrating the festival of Onam. On this occasion, I would like to greet all countrymen and the hon. Members. Tomorrow is "Ganapati Visarjana." Ganapati is the God of wisdom. We need to learn things and take blessings from him.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you dwelt upon the achievements of this session and in many respects, the House has done significant work. If work could not be transacted in day time it was completed in the night and for this we sat late. It is quite right to dispose off the work, but this sort of routine is not good. You have taken important measures. There should be discipline in the House. I am advocating discipline right from the days I was in Opposition. We need cooperation from the people who are at present in the opposition.

We have different ideologies here. We get opportunity to express them in House. I don't want to dwell upon the achievements of the Government, but at a time when the whole world is going through economic recession, we are successful in making economic progress. It is worth mentioning and it should be appreciated by all. I don't want to go into the statistics of development in various sectors as this is not the right moment to do so. I am only expressing my pleasure that the session is closing on a cheerful note. Such a scenario should not be seen only at the time of culmination but should permeate all through the session.

Opportunity for discussion can always be had and Government has never shied away from discussion. We put forth our views clearly. Allegations are levelled and refuted. But there should be a limit to allegations and counter allegations. Democracy can't function without dignity and if that is practised voluntarily, it would be better. If Members of all the parties take a collective decision regarding it, a better atmosphere could be created.

Session is closing today. We are enumerating achievements. But the public perception of Indian democracy, the largest democracy of the world, is not such that we can be proud of our democracy. The situation can be improved with the cooperation of all. I want

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

to congratulate you for the efficiency with which the business of the House was conducted and I also greet all the Members on this occasion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Members may now stand up as "Vande Mataram" will be played.

13.23 hrs.

THE NATIONAL SONG WAS PLAYED

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned sine die.

13.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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