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Friday, August 3, 2001

Sravana 12, 1923 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Friday, August 3, 2001/Sravana 12, 1923 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of censure motion against the adverse and indecent remarks made by the Finance Minister. My request is to hold a discussion thereon and get the motion passed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I have received your notice and the same is under my consideration.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my request is to consider the said motion early and to remove the Finance Minister.

11.01 Hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Fall in Prices of Cashewnut

*181. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have noticed the decrease in prices of cashewnut in the international market;

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

(c) the estimated loss suffered by Indian cashew industry due to the fall in international rate; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government to overcome the situation and also to save the domestic industry?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) The average realisation of India Cashew in the international market for the year 2000-01 was US$ 5 per kg. In comparison the average realisation in the first quarter of the year 2001-02 has been US $ 4.42/kg. This fall in prices came about due to increased production in Brazil and Vietnam. In addition, other tree-nut producing countries aggressively promoted use of other nuts in view of the high prices of cashew nuts that prevailed in 1999-2000.

(d) The on-going schemes to improve quality standards and packaging systems implemented by the Cashew Export Promotion Council are helping in increasing our exports of cashew kernals. Grants-in-aid assistance is being given to cashew processing factories for modernisation. Assistance is available under various schemes for brand promotion, market development and infrastructure creation for the cashew industry to reduce fluctuation in export prices.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Sir, there are two parts to my first supplementary. Firstly, the price level shown in the answer is incorrect. During 1999-2000, the price level of cashewnut was about US $ 6 per kg. There is a hint in the answer that the price level was too high in 1999-2000. It is not true. US $ 6 means the cost of three cups of tea. The price level was not too much. But during 2000-01, the price level came down to US $ 5, and in this year, it has further come down to less than US $ 4. There has been a decrease of 40 per cent in the prices. The loss suffered by the industry is not given in the answer. Part (c) of the question is not at all answered.

MR. SPEAKER : By way of supplementary, you can seek the answer.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : In the second part of my first supplementary I would like to know as to what short-term and long-term steps the Government of India is proposed to take with the perspective to utilise the potential for the development of cashew industry, cashew cultivation, to protect the interests of about five lakh workers engaged in this industry and about 10 lakh farmers engaged in the cashew cultivation all over India.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I should thank the hon. Member for bringing this issue to the notice of the Government. We are all well aware of it. In 1999-2000, the export prices were really high at US $ 6.1 per kg. Thereafter, there has been a continuous slope. In 1996-97, it was US $ 5.3. In 1997-98, it was US $ 4.9; in 1998-99, it went up to US $ 5; in 1999-2000 - it was an extraordinary year – the prices went up to US $ 6.1;

and in 2000-2001, the prices have come down to US $ 5 per kg. On an average it looks nice.

I am giving the recent figures for 2000-2001, April-June – the prices have come down to US $ 4.42. We are also bothered about it. There are various reasons for this. Our competitor, Vietnam, is very aggressively marketing their product. Hence, we will look into all the aspect.

The hon. Members has asked about the losses. It is very difficult to calculate the losses. It all depends upon the cost of production and most of the losses are only notional.

When they were getting $ 6.1 per kilogram, they never bothered about talking to us. Naturally, the farmers may not be incurring the loss in the cost of production. Unless and until they do not incur the loss in the cost of production, the loss factor may not come in. Any how, we will do our best to improve the situation.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Sir, through you, I intend to ask the Government of India to constitute a Task Force consisting of representatives from the Departments of Commerce and Industry, Agriculture, Food Processing, Labour, Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare to plan schemes for the next five years.

This figure is not actual. During 1999-2000, the export earning was Rs.2,500 crore. It is decreasing. I have questioned about the loss in exports. They are importing the raw material and getting value addition. They are getting more than what we get. In order to solve the problem, the Government of India is doing nothing. I am requesting the Government to consider this problem.

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask a supplementary. There is no question of a request.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : I am asking the Government to consider the proposal to constitute a Task Force for the next five years.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, there is already a dichotomy in the sense that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has its Export Promotion Council and the Ministry of Agriculture also operates the Directorate of Cocoa and Cashew Development.

MR. SPEAKER : This question is with regard to cashewnuts. Many hon. Members are raising their hands.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : There are two organisations that look into this problem. This dichotomy has created a lot of problems. With a view to having a holistic approach on cashew development, a Steering Committee on Cashew under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been constituted with the following terms of reference:

> "to coordinate the activities of promotion of cashew in the country; to identify research activities in the promotion of cashew cultivation; and to coordinate and suggest measures for promoting export of cashew."

Naturally, the suggestion of the hon. Member will also be taken into consideration.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Sir, you have explained in your reply that the price has fallen because of the increased production in Brazil and Vietnam. You have got the Cashew Export Promotion Council. Their basic job is to promote and influence the marketing and advise our interest persons appropriately. If that be the case and when there are several instruments with you, did you forewarn or did you caution our producers and suppliers in advance that this debacle or this havoc will happen ?

Secondly, you have said that the realisation is US $ 4.42/ kg for the first quarter.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Malaisamy, you need not give information to the Minister. You have only to seek information from the Minister.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : In the reply, you are able to say about the realisation of cashew during the first quarter.

As far as the second quarter is concerned, has it fallen further or is there a marginal increase in the realisation ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, 1999-2000 was an extraordinary year, we were the world leader in cashew. Our market share was about 90 per cent. Now, it has been reduced to about 65 per cent. The extraordinary year of 1999-2000 created problems because the prices had risen. Naturally, in many countries, they blend.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Were you able to foresee it ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Even if only we are able to foresee things properly in the world nothing would have happened. No harm would have been done. The point is that we could not foresee it. Vietnam is aggressively marketing. It is all cyclical.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : What have you been doing ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : It has been the case for the last three or four years. Vietnam entered into the market in the last three or four years. We are encountering the difficulties. Our Committees and Councils are aware of it.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister that Vietnam is aggressively marketing cashew. But there is one thing that I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister for his knowledge that cashew kernel can be produced maximum by the workers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu only. All other countries have tried it. Japan tried it by electronic means and Africa also tried it several times. But, the full kernel could be taken out of the nut only by our cashew workers.

My colleague Shri Rajendran has also mentioned about it. But the problem is that we have to make it a value added product now. The Cashew Export Promotion Council, which the hon. Minister has mentioned, is doing little or nothing in this regard. Of course, the hon Minister has agreed to take a holistic approach because cultivation is a major thing. So, we have to do cashew cultivation.

My question is, will the hon. Minister be kind enough to arm the Cashew Export Promotion Council to be active in this field and find out what value added things can be produced and marketed, which is entirely India's domain ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, cashew export is one of the biggest exports from India. The biggest producer in this field is not Kerala. Kerala may be producing fine nut, but capacity-wise the biggest producer happens to be Maharashtra. Then comes Kerala.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am not talking about production, I am talking about the kernel. I agree that Maharashtra is producing the maximum quantity.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : The Export Promotion Council is doing its best to modernise cashew processing factories because the heating is now done by ovens, which is not good. It destroys many nuts. It has to be done by steam. So, we are helping them, we are helping for the technology transfer, processing, upgradation and for packaging system also, the Government is helping them. We are arranging foreign trade fairs also.

Moreover, assistance for sale-cum-study tours is also arranged and under the critical infrastructure programme we have given huge sums of money for the Export Promotion Council Laboratory's Technical Division at Quilon over the years. These are the efforts we are making.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker Sir, now the cashew is being produced throughout the country and in recent years, even Andhra Pradesh is also producing a lot of cashew. The Government of India is giving a lot of support in the form of grant-in-aid to the Cashew Promotion Development Council. But the problem is that it is not reaching people at the ground level.

Now, the global scenario has converted the markets into one market. So to compete with Vietnam and Brazil we have to give a lot of boost to the manufacturers for modernisation, packaging, etc. I would like to know what amount of grant-in-aid the Government is providing for modernisation in this Budget and if it is not sufficient, whether the Government is ready to increase it in the Budget.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, enough money is being spent by the Directorate of Cocoa and Cashew Development in the Ministry of Agriculture. They are spending about Rs. 76 crore in the Ninth Plan and out of that Rs. 70 crore is for cashew alone. But what is important is brand-building. In marine products, they have purchased two brands from America and we are exporting under that name from Kerala. So, brand-building is very important. We are doing our best in this matter. Money is no consideration if we can improve our exports.

Fall in Production in PSUs

*182. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

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

(a) wheter the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Major PSUs output dips" appearing in the Statesman dated May 9, 2001;

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

(c) whether the overall production growth of PSUs have fallen considerably during the year 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the factors responsible for such a steep fall in production growth of PSUs; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target of production growth of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news item refers to the negative growth in production of PSUs under the Department of Heavy Industry

(DHI) during 2000-2001. PSUs under DHI achieved a total production of Rs. 11175 crore in 2000-2001 as compared to the production of Rs. 11240 crore achieved in 1999-2000 signifying a marginal fall of 0.57%.

(d) The basic reasons for decline in production are shortage of working capital, paucity of orders, obsolete technology and high cost of production due to many factors including excessive manpower. With regard to PSUs which have registered steep decline, it may be mentioned that Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC), Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL), Cement Corporation of India Limited (CCI) and Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) are sick companies under reference to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR has already given order for winding up of MAMC. Permission for closure of Tangra Unit of TCIL has been given. Most of the units of CCI are non-operational. HMT is in the midst of implementing a rehabilitation package approved by the Government.

(e) Efforts for revival of PSUs include financial restructuring wherever appropriate, implementation of rehabilitation schemes to improve long term viability through BIFR in case of sick PSUs and independently in case of others. The Government also gives financial support for investment for de-bottlenecking, urgent renewals/replacements etc. and non-plan support for rationalization of manpower etc. The government also gives assistance in securing orders and recovery of dues.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, will the Government clarify whether the fall in output in many cases is due to the denial of the PSUs' need for modernisation and upgradation of facilities, which, in turn, is due to the Government's pressure to raise resources through siphoning all of their surpluses leaving little for modernisation ?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : The hon. Member is right in saying that there is a shortfall of money for working capital in all the PSUs but at the same time that is not the only reason why the PSUs are suffering. The contention that the hon. Member has put forward that the money is being siphoned, according to me, is not correct but there are a number of other reasons for which the PSUs start suffering.

For instance, after liberalisation, marketing has become important. Also, we find in the case of the PSUs that the machinery has become obsolete. So, there is a necessity for bringing in new machinery. In olden days, there was excess staff recruited in all the PSUs. There are various reasons like excess of staff, shortage of funds for modernisation, etc. Therefore, these, PSUs, suffer but it is not correct to say that the money is being siphoned for some other purposes.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Is it a fact that many of these PSUs are unable to meet their targets due to the Government's inability to fill the top level executive posts and the posting of IAS officers rather than management experts in these companies ? Also, is the PSU output falling due to managerial inability to reorganise production ?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is true that in a few cases there are positions lying vacant for some time ..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : There are many cases.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : I must say that even before the vacancy occurs, six months in advance, we inform the committee that is authorised for recruitment about it. It is not that the Government is not taking proper care. But at the time of interview, if there are no efficient people available, the interview is to be conducted again. This is not so in the case of the public sector undertakings alone; it is happening in the private sector also.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, it is not true. It is a managerial problem.

MR. SPEAKER : If it is not ture, is this the way to obstruct the hon. Minister ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sometimes, there might be procedural delays but I must say that the situation as it stands, as regards my Department, is that there are only four or five cases where the Chief Executive has not been recruited. I am talking about the Department of Heay Industries and Public Sector Undertakings. I must also say that these vacancies are being filled in as quickly as possible by the Government. Therefore, that is not the only reason. I must say that there might be some inefficiency in some of the cases ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : There are 19 companies.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister had admitted that the figure has fell by 0.57 per cent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the numbers of profitable and non-profitable units and the position in regard to the capital and the surplus staff. If the staff are surplus, there is VR Scheme for them. So far as skilled labourers are concerned, they opt for VRS but I want to know whether the Government have formulated any attractive Scheme under VRS for the unskilled labourers. I would like to know about it if any such scheme has been formulated.

[English]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : The information that I have is particularly about my Department, which I would like to place before hon. Members because they have put a general question about this Department.

The hon. Member has also expressed a desire to know about the losses. In 2000-2001, there was a loss of Rs. 1,202.31 crore; and in 2001-2002, the loss is expected to be Rs. 1,046.85 crore.

I have mentioned about the excess staff. The hon. member also wanted to know from me about the VRS. I must say that the VR Scheme was improved last year. Earlier, if some companies were sent for the winding up process, they used to give 15 days' salary against one year. Now, the VRS percentage has also been increased and 45 days' salary is being given. So, the Government is trying its best to satisfy those people who opt for VRS. But the general desire of the Government is not to remove workers. We do not have a desire that they should opt for VRS. We are trying to redeploy them wherever possible. In addition to that, I must say as the hon. Member has asked me that the general policy of the Government is to restructure wherever possible. While restructuring sometimes it becomes unavoidable to reduce the number of workers.

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN : Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Heavy Industries.

Nilgiris has got a unique industry called Hindustan Photo Films. It is not only unique to Nilgiris but for the entire India too. For the last ten years, it is languishing because of timely assistance not being given by the Government. The hon. Minister has also visited the spot. Till now, the industry is not able to get revived propertly. So, I would like the hon. Minister to explain what his proposal is. We have taken up this matter with the hon. Prime Minister, with the hon. Minister of Finance and also with our hon. Minister of Heavy Industries. But till now no proper action has been taken and no one-time financial assistance has been given for the revival of this industry. The hon. Minister of Heavy Industry may kindly explain what he is going to do for this industry.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, HPF is an important organisation in Tamil Nadu. The hon. Member has been often talking to me about this company. I have also personally visited the company. But it must also be seen that in HPF, the loss to the company in the year 1999-2000 was Rs. 278 crore and in 2000-2001, it was Rs. 308.93 crore. The company has been suffering continuous losses for a very long time. The only favourable aspect in the case of restructuring of the company is that it is a unique production company and to a certain extent it is required for defence-related production also. Therefore, we were trying for a very long time for a joint venture partner as the hon. Member is aware of. But unfortunately wherever we tried we did not succeed and it is really difficult to restructure this company unless a joint venture partner is available to us. Therefore, we are trying our best once again to see that we get a joint venture partner.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, the BIFR is there only to issue orders for winding up the units. The BIFR is never active to provide alternative packages. Just now the case of Hindustan Photo Films was mentioned. If BIFR can give a package that X-ray films for all the hospitals of the country would be produced by Hindustan Photo Films, whose market has been captured by Agfa, Konica and Kodak films, it could be revived. The Indu film was the most reputed one once in our country but they are not giving any proposal. I have also recently visited the Hindustan Photo Films at Ooty.

What for have I risen here ? It is for the Tangra unit of the Tyre Corporation of India, which belongs to my constituency in Calcutta.

The Tyre Corporation of India Limited has two units – one is a profit-making unit and the other is a loss-making unit. I met the hon. Minister several times along with the trade unions. Representatives of all political parties have also met the hon. Minister. It is a very small unit and a very small amount of money is required for the revival package. The hon. Minister has more or less assured us that the Tyre Corporation of India Limited's Tandra unit will be revived. I would only like to know the specific proposal that BIFR has placed insofar as winding up of Tyre Corporation of India Limited's Tandra unit is concerned and how much money is required for this revival package.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a specific question.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, the exact figure of the amount required is not available with me. But as the hon. Member has rightly said, we are interested in reviving this proposal. I am putting up a proposal to the Cabinet as early as possible.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, for the first time the hon. Minister has admitted that there has been deceleration in the production because of closure of some of the PSUs. The MAMC and the Tyre Corporation of India Limited are the two units which were referred to BIFR. Even before BIFR has given its final verdict in regard to the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Tandra Unit, the Government has given permission under the Industrial Disputes Act to close down this Unit. Why did the

Government not wait for the verdict of BIFR in case of Tyre Corporation of India Limited's Tandra Unit ? In case of MAMC, what efforts have the Government made to revive such an important unit ? The MAMC was set up to manufacture underground coal-mining machinery and this important unit of West Bengal is being closed down. Already a substantial percentage of workers have been removed.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please conclude your supplementary.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the workers have left under the VRS scheme. I want to know whether the Government has made any effort to revive this unit and secondly before taking a final decision in regard to the closure of PSUs, whether the State Government would be consulted or not.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, regarding MAMC the hon. High Court has disposed of the writ petition which was filed on 13.2.2001 with a direction to BIFR to consider any other revival scheme that may be filed either by the petitioners or by any other employees' union or the Government of West Bengal or the Confederation of Indian Industries or any member thereof at an early date and thereupon take a decision. This has happened on 13.2.2001.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government of West Bengal came forward to assist this Unit. But what was the role of the Government of India ? I want to know whether the Government of India has submitted any proposal in regard to the revival of this Unit before BIFR ?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, let me make it clear to the hon. Member and to the entire House that the closure matter is accepted as the last recourse. It is not that the Government is interested in closing down the companies. But when all other efforts have failed, it is resorted to.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I want to know as to what efforts have been made by you.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : In case of this company also, the matter had gone to the court. The court heard everything and thereafter gave this decision. Some people have again requested against the closure of this company because the proposal seems not workable. But, Sir, it does not mean that everything is finalised. The question of closure can be again discussed, it is not that the matter is finalised. No doubt, that there has been a recommendation for closure. But I am prepared to discuss this issue across the table.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You please review the decision ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the statement of the hon. Minister amply demonstrated how the State of West Bengal is a victim in the hands of the Government. Right from the days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, during all these tenures, whenever an issue of West Bengal came up, cutting across the party lines all the hon. Prime Ministers assured that the public sector companies would be placed at commanding heights in various parts of the country and they would be supported. One of the ventures of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Heavy Engineering Corporation. All efforts were made to keep it alive in the interest of the workers. Since the hon. Minister has just now said that it is not the final decision, will you please have a total re-look involving the trade unions, professionals and the State Government to see that the Tandra Unit of Tyre Corporation of India Limited and MAMC are not closed ?

Secondly, will you please specially look into the burning issue of Howrah's Burn Standard Company which is under review ? It is a wagon-manufacturing unit. They have complied with all the norms of BIFR including reduction of the staff. Yet they are not functioning because no capital grant has been given. The workers there are not getting their wages for the past three months.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is four months now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : That Unit has complied with all the norms of BIFR and yet they are cut off.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, two-three questions have been raised by the hon. Member. I must make it clear to the House that this Government has nothing against any particular State. Unfortunately, it is true that out of the eight companies which are chosen for closure, six companies are from West Bengal. There are a number of reasons which I have already stated in the House that it becomes really impossible for any company to run if there is a continuous loss. In the case of companies which were chosen for closure, I must make it clear that this decision was not taken by the present Government. It was taken by the previous Government and thereafter the decision was confirmed during the time of this Government.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No. Your Cabinet took the decision. I know the fact ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please allow the hon. Minister to speak.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I will not mislead the House because I have always been honest in giving replies in the

House and I understand the importance of this important body. Therefore, the decision of closure was taken in this particular case because there was no alternative left.

As regards Burn Standard company, about which the hon. Member has asked the question, in the case of Burn Standard's Howrah unit, it has also been running in a loss and, therefore, the Government is considering whether it can be closed or whether something else can be done in this matter.

RBI Nominees on Boards of Banks

*183. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take action against the RBI nominees on the boards of the banks for their failure in performing their duties resulting in one scam after another;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the procedure adopted in appointing RBI nominees on the Boards of various banks;

(c) whether any proposal to ask the M.Ps to recommend names for such posts, whom they consider as dedicated and honest, are under the consideration of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) RBI nominees on the Boards of various banks are appointed in accordance with the provisions contained in the relevant Act governing such banks. RBI nominees on the Boards of public sector banks are senior officers of the RBI who are well versed with matters relating to operations of the banks. In banks, decisions are taken by the members of the Board collectively. It would not be appropriate to single out RBI nominee directors for lapses if any.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In view of the need to adopt sound regulatory and supervisory policies, it is thought appropriate to leave the discretion to appoint/recommend RBI nominee with the regulator i.e. RBI.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has stated in his reply that the RBI nominees on the Boards of Public Sector Banks are well versed with matters relating to operations of the banks. He has also said that it would not be appropriate to single out RBI nominee Directors for lapses. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what criteria are adopted in appointing RBI nominees, whether any screening test is conducted or any special criteria are adopted for this purpose ? Moreover, I would also like to know that if they alone are not responsible for the lapses then whether they owe at least some responsibility or not ? If they are responsible to some extent, then let me know in detail as to what action is taken against them. Recently, there have been several scams in the country in which the role of Banks has been dubious. Please tell us in detail as to what action has been taken against such people.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am having with me the list of RBI nominees which I can lay on the table of the House if you so permit. The fact remains that the officers of the RBI are well versed with matters relating to banks and they do put forward their views in the board meetings. When the members of the board do not agree to their views then there is a voting and they also send their report to the governor of the RBI then there is a review of the report in the RBI and thereafter instructions are sent to the banks as to what is proper or otherwise and what action is required to be taken. There is a discussion in the board. There are 15 members in the board. I can read out the composition the board if you so desire.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is not necessary. He is asking about what action has been taken in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : We cannot single out RBI officer for action because the board is informed immediately if something wrong is done. If the board does not take cognizance then the matter is reported to the RBI.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has said that if some wrong is committed in the board, then the matter is reported to RBI. The name of Madhopura Bank figured when there was a sharemarket scam sometime back. The matter is under investigation at various levels. When the well versed persons are appointed on the board why then these matters are left to the Reserve Bank. The board of directors comprising 15 members are especially responsible to

undertake the reviewing work and then to report the matter to the RBI. But even after giving such reports, irregularities and scams are whether they were also found guilty or not after the investigations. I want to know whether action is proposed to be taken against them if they have been found guilty ? If so, what action is being taken ? At least he should not be involved in the irregularities because a large number of persons are involved in it. He should state this thing categorically.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say very politely that nobody is going to be involved in the irregularities and the Government is also not to be involved in it. Stern action is being taken and inquiry is also being conducted wherever it is required. The hon. Member has mentioned the name of Madhopura Bank. This Bank has committed irregularities in the capital market. In the case relating to Madhopura Bank 3-4 banks were involved. It allowed more than five per cent exposure limit. The House is aware that action has already been taken against Ketan Parikh and others.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Please tell us about the RBI nominees.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : There is no RBI nominee in Cooperative Banks. They are there only in cases of Public Sector Banks and some private sector Banks. The question that was asked was not concerning this, yet for your information I would like to say that these was a RBI nominee in the Midigundi Bank. Following the irregularities committed in the capital market told that those things were wrong. Lateron, they stopped producing the facts before the board and at this stage, the RBI nominee sent a report. The RBI Governor gave instructions which they refused to follow. That is why the Chairman of the Bank was removed.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether any formula was evolved at the time of appointing RBI nominees on boards of the banks so as to check scams. There should be a check on the board of directors. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that RBI nominees on the Boards of various banks are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Act. Scams and irregularities are taking place even after such appointments. I would like to know whether the Government propose to make necessary amendments in the Act to avoid scams and irregularities ?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the RBI is autonomous so it appoints the nominees itself but about their role etc. guidelines have been issued to every bank and the concerned management. They have taken care of these things. The board has a set policy. She is perfectly right that such things are done at senior level and manager's level. We take action when such things come to the notice of the bank. After due deliberation in this regard we have decided that every bank should report to the Government every fortnight or a month about what has happened in the bank. The Government will intervene and instruct the bank to take action. The Government will also do monitoring in this regard.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in other banks there are only RBI nominees or other nominees also. A number of banks have come up and one scam after the other is coming up. Many of the Directors have failed in their performance. I would like to know whether any action is taken by the Government of India or the RBI against any of the Directors on any such Boards, for their failure.

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, E. Ahamed, the question is with regard to RBI nominees.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I am asking the question about RBI nominees also. Is there any action taken by RBI against any of their nominees for their failure in performance in the Boards on which they have been nominated and whether there are other members also there, apart from RBI nominees ? Did the Government take any action against any member on any of the Boards of these banks for failure in the performance of his/her duties ? Then, scams come up one day. The Government says that they do not have the responsibility. If they do not have the responsibility, Mr. Minister, who is responsible to take action against them ? The Minister is entitled to take action. He has to give an answer to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has never said that it is unaware. It is a public sector bank. So far as the matter of private sector banks is concerned, their licences have been cancelled. I would like to inform that nomination of RBI officers is done and action against them is taken according to the staff rules. However, as and when the matter is noticed, the board reports to the RBI, there is a committee which takes care of such things. Afterwards, the concerned banks are instructed as per the rules and regulations as to what they have to do and what not. After that action is taken against that bank.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said that several scams have been committed in the capital market. Now, all the banks have decided that the exposure limit will not be more than 5 per cent. There are four private sector banks, which had allowed

more than 5 per cent capital market exposure. This fugure is not more than two or two and a half per cent in Public Sector banks due to RBI directions but the private sector banks have allowed less that 5 per cent capital market exposure. In reply to the question, an honourable member had asked whether we would do like this. We have decided that we would call for a report from each bank after every fortnight or a month.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other question that was asked was whether any action would be taken against the directors ? Action can be taken against the part time or elected directors but if the House would permit, action would be taken otherwise it is difficult to take action.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : There is no legal provision for taking action against the Director's failure and against their acts of omission and commission. The hon. Minister has said that in this country, there is no law for taking action against any Board member who failed to do his duty.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the third question was asked about the Government directors. I would like to tell the honourable member that Government directors do attend the bank meetings and if they notice any thing wrong, they report the same to the Government. A complaint officer is appointed to monitor all these things who has to see whether CBI directives and Government orders have been complied with or not. We also undertake monitoring of all these things. So far as the elected directors are concerned, disqualification has been decided in their case. It is not that there are no guidelines for them. But it is an established fact that when the things are brought on record, then nobody is spared.

[English]

Losses Suffered by Super Bazar

*184. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss suffered by the Super Bazar so far;

(b) the main reasons for the loss; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As on 31st March, 2001, the accumulated losses suffered by Super Bazar are Rs. 39.28 crores (un-audited).

(b) The losses in Super Bazar are inter alia due to lack of professionalism in management, mismanagement and corruption of employees, disproportionate Wage revisions without corresponding increase in volume of business, reduction in credit from suppliers, reducing turnover with disproportionate large number of employees, increasing level of fixed costs and inadequacy of working capital.

(c) The remedial measures inter alia taken so far are as under :

(i) Reduction of expenditure through economy measures;

(ii) Temporary closure of non-viable outlets;

(iii) Rationalisation in the deployment of staff;

(iv) Steps to recover outstanding dues of Super Bazar;

(v) Providing greater emphasis on quicker turnover in respect of items having better margins;

(vi) Implementation of policy to pay suppliers after realization;

(vii) Enhancing the margin from 8% to 15% in selected products to earn more.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr Speaker, Sir, in the reply the Minister has put all the blame on the cooperative store Super Bazar. It is a prestigious cooperative store of Delhi which was started on trial basis in the cooperative sector in the country in 1966 during the tenure of Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. In all 152 branches and 16 mobile vans are operating in Delhi and Noida as of now. Since 1966 till 1996-97, it has earned profit continuously and it is the first cooperative store that has paid Income Tax. The people of Delhi get essential items of good quality through this cooperative store. I would like to ask the Minister as to why the store has suffered loss for the last three years since 1996-97. What are the reasons that a store which was earning profit in 1996-97, has suffered loss thereafter especially during the period when Shri Barnalaji was the honourable Minister of this department and Shri S.S. Dhuri, appointed by Shri Barnalaji was the Chairman of the cooperative store. I am sorry to say that after a report was lodged against him, CBI enquiry was conducted and it was

found that there is a fraud of rupees 19 crores and an FIR as registered against him on 16.7.2001. Thereafter when this department was assigned to Shri Shanta Kumarji, he brought an officer Shri Mitra from his State Himachal Pradesh in this store.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask supplementary, there is no need for such a long speech.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Sir, I am coming to the question but before that it is necessary to give the background of it for the reason that the ministers of the Union Government are hatching a conspiracy to sell off the property amounting to rupees 12 crore of the cooperative store after the incident of Modern Bread in Delhi. Public money has been invested in the store, the money of the Union Government has been invested in this store. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please see the anxiety of other members also. This is question Hour and you have to ask only supplementary questions.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is necessary to give the background because it is an institution recording a monthly sale of over 10 crore rupees. Hon'ble Minister Shri Shanta Kumar has said in an interview on Zee TV and through the press that it is not the job of the Government to sell flour or sugar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? This is too much. The way you are behaving in the House is not correct.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : I would like to ask the Minister ...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, he does not want that a discussion on this important subject should take place in the Parliament. The Food and Civil Supplies Minister had deliberately given such interview to sell such items of cooperative society. I would like to ask whether he has made recommendations to the central cabinet either to sell it off or to hand it over to some other consumer store.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, he is levelling an allegation.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very pertinent question. I have already made it clear in my answer to part (b) of his question that losses in the *Super Bazar* are, *inter alia*, due to lack of professionalism and other reasons.

Regarding handing over of the *Super Bazar*, I will give you a brief background on this. In 1997, the Cabinet took a decision to hand it over to the Delhi Government. At that time, the Delhi Government was willing to take over it. In the meanwhile, a Writ Petition was filed in the Delhi High Court. The Delhi High Court gave its judgment directing the Government to complete the process of election for SRGB and the Board of Directors because the life span of the Board of Directors, at that time, was over. It was continuing on extension. After the High Court gave its verdict, again, it was referred to the present Government of Delhi. Very recently, my senior colleague had a talk with the Chief Minister of Delhi, Shrimati Sheila Dikshit, but the Delhi Government in its cryptic reply has declined to accept the offer, that is, taking over the Super Bazar. We will hold a meeting of the full Board of Directors within a week.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : My question is whether the CBI has made an inquiry or not. Please reply to that question.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : I will reply to your question about the CBI inquiry. As you said, in 1996-97, when Shri Dhuri was the Chairman, at that time, several irregularities took place. The matter has been referred to the CBI, and the CBI will investigate it. After the investigation, against whosoever is found guilty the law will take its own course.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : The FIR has already been filed. The Chairman and others have been found guilty, and the matter is in the court now.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Only the FIR has been filed.

MR. SPEAKER : Is the CBI still investigating the matter or is the ivestigation over ?

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : The investigation is going on. Yesterday, it was reported in the Hindustan Times .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : I have got a court copy. Please do not mislead the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, what is your information about the investigation ? Has it been completed ?

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : As far as my knowledge goes, the CBI has been investigating the matter. They have filed the FIR before the court. As I said, the law will take its own course of action.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the second supplementary that National cooperative store .....

MR. SPEAKER : Don't ask a lengthy supplementary, ask a small supplementary.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one institution namely National Cooperative store has asked the Government to hand over the Super Bazar to them. One hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha is patron in that institution and a BJP member is the Chief Patron.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, this is not fair.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : It is on the records. National cooperative store authorities have given a letter to honourable Shanta Kumarji in connection with taking over the Super Bazar and for handing over its property worth two hundred crore rupees and Shanta Kumarji has recommended to the cabinet that Super Bazar be sold to the National Cooperative store.

I would like to ask the honourable Minister that if you have to hand over the cooperative society to any institution, then why are you not giving it to the cooperative society of 2100 employees working in Super Bazar. I demand from the hon. Minister to revive this institution by providing it a loan worth rupees twenty crore as recommended by the sub-committee of the Planning Commission and if you do not want to revive it, then I would like to know whether the Government propose to handover the institution to the cooperative society of 2100 employees working in this institution ?

[English]

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Sir, we do not have any such proposal. I can assure the House that definitely we would protect the interest of the Super Bazar and the taxpayers. We would certainly take a decision keeping in view the interests of the Super Bazar and the taxpayers. We do not have any such proposals. We will try to explore all possibilities to revive the Super Bazar.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Sir, the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, Shri Shanta Kumar is trying to hatch a conspiracy ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing other Members to speak here.

Shri Maheshwar Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are asking a supplementary and making noise a well.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Noting, except what Shri Maheshwar Singh is speaking, would go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

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

Nothing except, what Shri Maheshwar Singh is speaking, would go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the information laid on the table of the House, the Minister has said that as per the data available upto 31 March, 2000, the accumulated losses are reported to be Rs. 39.28 crore. The hon. Minister has also given certain reasons for the losses and one of the reasons is mismanagement and corruption.

Through you, I would like to know from the Minister as to how many officers have been found guilty in this matter during the last two years and what are the names of the officers against whom cases of corruption have come to notice and what action has been taken against the persons responsible for the mismanagement ? Another point I would like to ask is that how many sale centres or branches out of those running in loss have been closed during the last two years and to what extent dues have been recovered during the last two years ?

[English]

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Sir, the *Super Bazar has its own* the Vigilance Department and it is headed by the Chief Vigilance Officer.

Sir, the hon. Member has asked as to how many enquiries are pending. I would give the detail of these cases. The number of administrative enquiries pending against employees are 30. The number of major penalty proceedings pending against employees are 24. The number of minor penalty proceedings initiated against employees is 247.

*Not Recorded.

*Not Recorded.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Sir, the hon. Minister has not answered my Question.

[Translation]

The first part of my question was that you have said that the main reason for the loss is mismanagement and corruption. I wanted to know the names and number of the officers against whom cases of corruption have been registered and how many sales centre out of those running in loss have been closed during the last two years. I would also like to know the amount of dues recovered during the last two years ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, he is asking about the centres.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. The Minister has not come prepared. Please allow a discussion on it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is replying to the question.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :We have taken a number of corrective measures recently. Some of them are .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : He is playing hide and seek with the reality. Truth should come out ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Allow the Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, why do we not have a half-an-hour discussion on this when the Members want to know the details of the whole issue ?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you have any objection for a half-an-hour discussion on this ?

SHRI SREENIVASA PRASAD : If the hon. Members feel that this is a very important question and needs to be taken up in the form of a half-an-hour discussion, I do not have any objection to it.

MR. SPEAKER : A half-an-hour discussion will be taken up on this Question.

Capital Adequacy Ratio

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

(a) whether the Government propose to support the Industrial Finance Corporation of India with finance to maintain capital adequacy ratio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the fall in capital adequacy ratio of IFCI has adversely affected the business in the international market;

(d) if so, the action being taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose the merger of IDBI and IFCI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) Government has decided to shore up Tier-I capital of IFCI by subscribing Rs. 400 crores to the 20 years convertible debentures to be issued by IFCI.

(c) Fall in Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of IFCI and in other performance parameters has resulted in downward revision of its credit rating which inturn does affect adversely the business standing in the market.

(e) There is no such proposal.

(f) Does not arise.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Industrial Finance Corporation of India is going the US-64 way. The Government has sanctioned a Rs. 1000 crore bailout package for IFCI only three days back. That package had to be sanctioned because IFCI has not been doing well. IFCI's ratio of NPAs is very high. Companies which have taken long-term loans have defaulted in payments. IFCI is not being run properly. There is no Director. There is a Managing Director who is going to retire after one month. The Government is dumping the exchequer's money in the financial institutions like this. My pointed question is how the Government has given a bailout package of Rs. 1000 crore to IFCI.?

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr Speaker, Sir, the reply clearly states that.

[English]

"Government has decided to shore up Tier-I capital of IFCI by subscribing Rs. 400 crore to the 20-year convertible debentures to be issured by IFCI."*.....(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : That is not ture. It is not Rs. 400 crore, it is Rs. 1000 crore. IDBI is also giving money. The Minister is not giving the correct information ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Choudhary, the time available is very short. Let the Minister give his reply.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, Basu Committee was appointed in December, 2000. That Committee submitted its report and the Ministry, within six-seven months, took a series of meetings. The Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Basu Committee. According to the recommendations of that Committee, Rs.400 crore in the form of debentures and Rs. 600 crore in the form of loan and deposits will be raised. Rs. 1000 crore is given not by the Government alone. Kindly do not misunderstand or misinterpret the recommendations of the Basu Committee.

The level of NPAs is the same everywhere. As far as IFCI is concerned, textiles, steel and jute are the three major areas where we have NPAs. Classification of NPAs is also available with me. Due to the high cost of finance, our interest has gone down and the disbursement is also the same. At the same time, the old deposits and debentures bear high cost of interest. So, naturally due to the high cost also this has become very expensive. ... *(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : My pointed question was, "How the Government is giving Rs. 1000 crore to IFCI ?" The Minister is not answering my question.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can send a written reply to the hon. Member.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Reduction in Prices of Wheat and Rice

*186. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the prices of wheat and rice sold under PDS to the families living above poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of families who are likely to be benefited under this shceme, Statewise;

(d) whether any instructions have been issued to the State Governments 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) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice have been reduced to Rs. 610 per quintal and Rs. 830 per quintal respectively per families Above the Poverty Line (APL) with effect from July 2001. This would benefit 1151.64 lakh families as per details contained in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Necessary intimation in this regard was sent to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on July 12, 2001.

Statement

Estimated number of household and estimated number of APL household as on 1.3.2000.

(in lakhs)

State/UT	Estimated No. of Households as on 1.3.2000	Estimated No. of APL Households as on 1.3.2000
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	158.21	117.58
Arunachal Pradesh	2.42	1.43
Assam	44.93	26.57
Bihar	1 62.24	73.07

1	2	3
Goa	3.20	2.72
Gujarat	87.57	66.37
Haryana	31.48	23.59
Himachal Pradesh	12.57	7.43
Jammu & Kashmir	18.02	10.66
Karnataka	94.37	63.08
Kerala	61.10	45.56
Madhya Pradesh	141.15	81.14
Maharashtra	177.27	111.93
Manipur	4.07	2.41
Meghalaya	4.49	2.66
Mizoram	1.67	0.99
Nagaland	3.02	1.78
Orissa	67.91	34.93
Punjab	39.76	35.08
Rajasthan	88.67	64.36
Sikkim	1.05	0.62
Tamil Nadu	138.82	90.19
Tripura	7.22	4.27
Uttar Pradesh	273.61	161.84
West Bengal	145.23	93.44
Andaman Nicobar Islands	0.81	0.53
Chandigarh	2.03	1.80
D&N Haveli	0.36	0.18
Daman & Diu	0.26	0.22
Delhi	27.82	23.73
Lakshadweep	0.11	0.08
Pondicherry	2.24	1.40
Total	1803.68	1151.64

UTI's Role in Share Market

*187. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the control of the Union Government over the Unit Trust of India;

(b) the details of the composition of UTI's Board;

(c) whether the Union Government had been warned sufficiently in advance regarding UTI's role in the share market;

(d) if so, the steps the Government have taken to make UTI's functioning more realistic; and

(e) the role played by the representatives of IDBI, RBI and Government when UTI's dubious role in share market was made public ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Under the UTI Act, UTI is managed by its Board of Trustees. The Central Government appoints the Chairman of UTI in consultation with the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). From May 1997 till 21st July, 2001, Government did not have a nominee on the UTI Board.

(b) Section 10 of the UTI Act provides that the Board of Trustees shall consist of the Following, namely,

(i) the Chairman to be appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Development Bank;

(ii) One trustee to be nominated by the Reserve Bank;

(iii) four trustees to be nominated by the Development Bank of whom not less than three shall be persons having special knowledge of, or experience in commerce, industry, banking, finance or investment;

(iv) one trustee to be nominated by the Life Insurance Corporation;

(v) one trustee to be nominated by the State Bank;

(vi) two trustees to be elected in the prescribed manner by the contributing institutions; and

(vii) an executive trustee to be appointed by the Development Bank provided that if the appointment of the Chairman is whole time, it shall not be necessary to appoint an executive trustee.

The present composition of the Board of Trustees is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) As there are implications for investors and for the capital markets, Ministry of Finance has been in touch with UTI with respect to UTI's exposure to the equity market and early implementation of the Deepak Parekh Committee recommendations. UTI's consistent response was that they are monitoring the situation and taking appropriate steps to implement the Deepak Parekh Committee recommendations. At no time prior to 30th June, 2001 did UTI communicate that they may need to freeze the US'64 sales and repurchases.

(e) IDBI has intimated vide their faxes dated 31st July, 2001 and 1st August, 2001 that during March/April 2001 when stock market irregularities came to light, UTI was advised by IDBI on 4th May, 2001 to submit a detailed report on investments made by UTI in certain scrips, viz., Zee Telefilms, Himachal Futuristic Communication Ltd., DSQ Software, Global Tele Systems, etc. and to get a special audit conducted by its statutory auditors on these transactions.

Statement

Board of Trustees as on July 30, 2001.

1. Shri M. Damodaran, Chairman, UTI
2. Dr. J. Bhagwati, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Economic Affairs, IDBI Nominee (Appointed on 21 July, 2001)
3. Shri S. K. Chakrabarti, Acting Chairman and MD, IDBI
4. Shri K. L. Khetarpaul, Executive Director, RBI
5. Shri G. N. Bajpai, Chairman, LIC
6. Shri Janki Ballabh, Chairman, SBI
7. Shri Rajendra P. Chitale - Chartered Accountant, IDBI Nominee
8. Dr. V.V.Desai - Economist - IDBI Nominee
9. Mr. D.T. Pai, Chairman, Syndicate Bank - Elected by contributing institutions.
10. Elected Member - Vacant
11. Executive Trustee - Vacant

Prasar Bharati Board

* *188. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI MANJAY LAL :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that all the activities of the Prasar Bharati Board is being carried out by a single Government officer;

(b) if so, the reasons for not filling up the vacancies of 15 member Board; and

(c) by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) As per section 4(1) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, the Chairman, Whole Time Members and Part Time

Members of Prasar Bharati Board are appointed on the recommendations of a Committee as provided in the Prasar Bharati Act. A request has been made by the Ministry to the said Committee for its recommendation for making appointments to fill the vacancies. Its recommendation is awaited. However, no time frame can be laid down for filling up the vacancies.

Settlement of WTO Rules of Origin

*189. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Government seek early settlement of WTO "rules of origin";

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government for quick negotiations of the "rules of origin";

(c) whether the criteria adopted for determining origin was designed to be helpful to trade interests of any particular country; and

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

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

(b) to (d) India is actively participating in the on-going negotiations in WTO for harmonisation of the rules of origin. The WTO Agreement on Rules Of Origin has laid down the objectives and principles and the broad criteria that will govern the harmonisation of the rules of origin including that they should be objective, understandable and predictable and should be administered in a consistent, uniform, impartial and reasonable manner.

In the discussions held so far in the negotiations, it has been possible to arrive at a consensus on a harmonisation of certain origin rules. There are, however, a number of issues where a consensus is still to emerge.

Along with some like-minded developing countries, India had insisted, as part of the proposals relating to implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements, that the work relating to harmonisation of rules of origin should be quickly concluded. This has led to decision by the General Council of WTO in its Special Session on Implementation held in December 2000 to complete the remaining work of harmonization of rules of origin by the Fourth Ministerial Conference in November 2001 or by the end of 2001 at the latest.

Radio Station at Kargil

*190. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the resident of the border areas are exposed to Pakistani propaganda in the absence of full-fledged radio stations;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there has been any demand from residents of Kargil to set up a full-fledged radio station in Kargil;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a full-fledged radio station there;

(e) the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(f) the details of various steps taken to strengthen the broadcasting system in border areas ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Full-fledged Radio Stations of AIR are already providing radio coverage to the areas bordering Pakistan. Radio broadcasts from across the border can also be received in these areas.

(c) to (e) A full-fledged radio station, with transmitter and programme generating studio, is already operational in Kargil since 1997.

(f) A special plan for expanding AIR and Doordarshan coverage in J&K is already under implementation, which includes setting up of an additional 200 KW Medium Wave Transmitter at Kargil.

Trading in Sugar

*191. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow futures trading in sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the futures trading in sugar is likely to bring about a stability in price; and

(d) the benefits which the farmers and consumers are likely to derive from such trading ?

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

(b) Government approved futures trading in sugar on 26.4.2001 and the notification was issued on 14.5.2001. A press release inviting applications was also issued. The last date for receiving applications was 13.7.2001. Fourteen applications have so far been received and these are being scrutinized.

(c) and (d) Futures trading in sugar is expected to help price discovery, i.e. in knowing prices of sugar likely to prevail in future, in guarding against future price risks or hedging, and in price stabilization since the fluctuations tend to get moderated. Futures trading provides for risk management in trading and farmers, as well as consumers are likely to benefit through price discovery and stabilization.

[Translation]

Geethakrishnan Committee Report

*192. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) the details of recommendations of Geethakrishnan Committee report accepted by the Government on reorganisation of various wings of her Ministry and the action taken so far or proposed to be taken by Government thereon;

(b) the details of recommendations, which have not been accepted by the Government alongwith the reasons in each case; and

(c) how far this has affected the efficiency of the various wings of her Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The Report of Geethakrishnan Committee, pertaining to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has been considered in this Ministry. However, no final decision has been taken in the matter.

[English]

Gyan Darshan Programme

*193. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether Doordarshan has decided to drop the educational programme of Gyan Darshan from its national network;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to provide high degree of informative programme on national network ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Programme content for the National Network is constantly reviewed by Prasar Bharati to provide a mix of informative, educational, entertainment and public service programmes.

Stock of Surplus Foodgrains

*194. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the current stock of surplus food-grains with Government agencies in the country; and

(b) the steps, if any, taken to utilise the same through "Food-for-Work" programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) As on 1.7.2001, 373.70 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice were available in the Central Pool in excess of the minimum buffer stocking norms as per details given below :

(in lakh tonnes)

	Minimum buffer stocking norms	Stocks in position	Stocks in excess of buffer stocking norms
Wheat	143.00	389.20	246.20
Rice	100.00	227.50	127.50
Total	243.00	616.70	373.70

(b) 18,19,238 tonnes of wheat and rice have been made available to the drought affected States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orisaa and Rajasthan, free of cost for uhdertaking Food for Work programme. Details in this regard are given below :

(In tonnes)

	Wheat	Rice	Total
Chhattigarh	0	507000	507000
Gujarat	116515	31590	148105
Himachal Pradesh	0	11549	11549
Madhya Pradesh	158655	54424	213079
Maharashtra	40000	10000	50000
Orissa	0	150000	150000
Rajasthan	739505	0	739505
Total	1054675	764563	1819238

Production/Export of Tea

*195. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

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

(a) the average annual production, consumption and export of tea in the country;

(b) the total production, domestic consumption and export of tea during each of the last three years including this year till date and target fixed for next year, it any;

(c) the gap between demand and production of tea in the country;

(d) whether the export of tea has been declining year after year;

(e) if so, the reasons, therefor; and

(f) the foreign exchange earned from the export of tea and the loss of revenue, in terms of rupee, due to fall in export of tea during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Production, consumption and export of tea during the last three years including this year are as follows :

(Figures in Mn. Kgs.)

Year	Production	Export	Consumption*
1998-99	852.45	205.86	620
1999-2000	835.35	192.44	638
2000-2001	848.36	196.32	658
2001-2002 (Estimates)	875.00	225.00	678
2001-2002 (Apr-May)@	128.53	26.27	95

* Figures based on the survey conducted by Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.

@ Estimated

The targets fixed for production, domestic consumption and export of tea for the year 2002-03 are 927 Mn. Kgs. 693 Mn. Kgs and 234 Mn. kgs respectively.

(c) The gap between the demand and production of tea in the country was 8 Mn. kgs during 1998-99, 70 Mn. kgs during 1999-2000 and 27 Mn. kgs during 2000-2001.

(d) to (f) No Sir, export of tea from India in quantity terms has registered an increase during the year 2000-2001 to the extent of 3.88 Mn. kgs. as compared to 1999-2000. During the first two months of the year 2001-2002 (April-May), export of tea has registered an increase by 2.12 Mn. Kgs in quantity terms and Rs. 31.66 crores in value terms over the corresponding period of previous financial year. However, there has been a decline in value terms to the extent of Rs. 259.18 crores, during 1999-2000 and Rs. 184.30 crores in 2000-01 over the previous years due to low unit price realization. Export of tea in quantity and value terms during the last three years was as follows :

Year	Quantity	Value		Unit Price
	(M. Kg)	(Rs. crores)	(in Mn. US$)	(Rs/Kg)
1998-1999	205.86	2191.84	520.88	106.47
1999-2000	192.44	1932.66	427.46	100.43
2000-2001	196.32	1748.36	380.07	89.06
2001-2002	26.27	251.81	53.58	95.86
(Apr.-May)	(24.15)	(220.15)	(47.83)	(91.16)

(Figures in bracket indicate corresponding figures of the previous year)

World Bank Loan for Poverty Alleviation Programmes

*196. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank have recently approved loan to India to support poverty alleviation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the loan is likely to be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Poverty alleviation is one of the primary objectives of all World Bank assistance to India. In the last one year, however, specific projects which seek to directly attack poverty have been taken up. These are the District Poverty Initiatives Projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. These projects seek to improve opportunities for the rural poor to meet priority social and economic needs through community driven participatory approaches and demand based investment decisions. The total assistance for these projects amounts to USD 321.6 million (equivalent to approx. Rs. 1500 crores).

(c) The loan will be utilised for social, economic and infrastructural activities including group based income generating activities, small infrastructure investments, including access to public services and improving skills and organisation. The projects also have a human resource development component under which capacity building of community based Common Interest Groups and other local institutions would be taken up.

[Translation]

Import of Apples

*197. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of apples imported during the last three years alongwith the Indian currency paid to these foreign countries;

(b) whether the Indian apple growers/traders have been adversely affected by these imports;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the import of apples in order to protect our apple growers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore;

(e) the details of steps being taken/proposed to be taken to save the domestic apple growers/traders ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The quantum of apples imported and the Indian currency paid during last three years is as under:

Qty. in tons
Value in Rs. Crore

	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001 (April 00-Feb.01)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Apples fresh (08081000)	3	0.005	1974	5.52	5411	16.90
Apples dried (08133000)	–	–	36	0.09	–	–

(b) to (e) Import restrictions on apple have been removed in accordance with the economic liberalistion policy and in accordance with our international commitments. However, subsequent to removal of the quantitative restrictions on imports, the customs duty on imports of apples was raised from 35% to the maximum bound rate of 50% during 2000-2001. In addition, import of all primary agri products including apple has been made subject to an import permit to be issued by Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, as per Plants, Fruits, Seeds (importation in to India) Order 1989.

[English]

Export to EU Contries

*198. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether the European Union countries propose to open up custom free access to exports from the 48 least developed countries;

(b) if so, India's exports to these countries during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the extent to which the Euro-move is likely to affect India's exports to European Union ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Under their 'Everything But Arms' (EBA) proposal, the European Union has opened up duty free access to exports from 48 Least Developed Countries. This initiative is effective from 5/3/2001, with provision for longer transition period in case of sugar, rice and bananas.

(b) India's exports to European Union countries during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 amounted to US$ 9,337.41 million and US$ 10,362.58 million respectively.

(c) The EBA initiative could be an opportunity to Indian trade and industry for setting up of new production capacities and investment opportunities in LDC countries.

Asset Liability Management

*199. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have recently issued some guidelines regarding Asset Liability Management (ALM) to all Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) having assets over Rs. hundred crore or public deposit of Rs. Twenty crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chit Funds and other such agencies have not been covered under the guidelines;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of small investors in Chit Funds ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has issued "Guidelines for Asset-Liability Management (ALM) System in Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)". These guidelines would be applicable to all the Non-Banking Financial Companies irrespective of whether they are accepting/holding public deposits or not. However, to begin with, NBFCs (engaged in and classified as equipment leasing, hire purchase finance, loan, investment and residuary non-banking companies) meeting the criteria of asset base of Rs. 100.00 crore (whether accepting/holding public deposits or not) or holding public deposits of Rs. 20.00 crore or more (irrespective of their asset size) as per their audited balance sheet as of 31st March, 2001, would be required to put in place the ALM System.

(b) The guidelines aim at regulating the credit risk, interest rate risk, equity/commodity price risk, liquidity risk and operational risk and enforcing the risk management discipline, i.e. managing business after assessing the risks involved. The NBFCs need to address these risks in a structured manner by upgrading their risk management and adopting more comprehensive Asset-Liability Management (ALM) practices than has been done hitherto. For this purpose, these guidelines will act as a Guide-Book for the managements of NBFCs relating to (i) ALM Information Systems (Management Information Systems and information availability, accuracy, adequacy and expediency), (ii) ALM Organisation (structure and responsibilities, and level of top management involvement), and (iii) ALM Process (Risk parameters, Risk Identification, Risk measurement, Risk Management and Risk Policies and tolerance levels).

(c) The Chit Fund Companies, i.e. Miscellaneous Non-Banking Companies (MNBCs) and Nidhi Companies, i.e. Mutual Benefit Finance Companies (MBFCs) have been kept out of the purview of these guidelines.

(d) The Chit Fund Operations are supervised by the Registrar of Chits of the concerned States under the rules framed by the State Governments under the Central Chit Funds Act, 1982 or any legislation passed by the States for regulation of Chit Fund activities in their jurisdiction. As regards Nidhi Companies, their operations are governed by the Department of Company Affairs of Government of India under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.

(e) As the Chit Fund Operations are regulated by the Registrars of the concerned States, Government of India/ Reserve Bank of India need not initiate any measures in this regard.

Deepak Parekh Committee on UTI

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

(a) whether the Deepak Parekh Committee which inquired into the UTI crisis in 1998 had made some recommendations which were not implemented by UTI resulting in a similar crisis recently;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing these recommendations so far ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Deepak Parekh Committee constituted by UTI in October 1998 submitted its report to UTI on 25th February, 1999. The Board of Trustees of UTI considered the report at its meeting on 23rd March, 1999. The Committee made nineteen recommendations out of which ten have already been implemented, two require an amendment in the UTI Act and the remainder are under implementation. The Parekh Committee recommendations are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) According to UTI, since the Parekh Committee had suggested a 3-year time frame for making the scheme NAV-linked, they were preparing to do so within this time frame.

Statement

Already implemented	Already considered for implementation
Recommendation #1 Initial contributors to infuse permanent funds of at least Rs. 500 crore	**Recommendation # 3** Strategic sale of significant equity holdings by negotiation to the highest bidder, wherever feasible
Recommendation # 2 Create a Special Unit Scheme 99 (SUS 99) Transfer PSU stocks and Government subscribes to SUS 99, by issuing dated GoI securities.	**Recommendation # 7(b)** Increase in remuneration of Trustees and publication of attendance record of Trustees in Annual Report
Recommendation # 4 Remove tax on income distributed by US 64 and schemes investing more than 50% in equity	**Recommendation # 12** Focus on small investors to be strengthened and tilt towards corporate investors reduced.
Recommendation # 5 Launch of a new UTI scheme for investing in the equity of growth stocks in IT, Pharma and FMCG sectors.	**Recommendation # 13** Make US-64 NAV-driven in three years
Recommendation # 7(a) Trustees to assume higher degree of responsibility and exercise greater authority	**Recommendation # 14** Spread between sale and repurchase prices be gradually increased to deter short term investors
Recommendation # 9 Chinese walls to be created by appointing separate and independent fund managers for each scheme Inter-scheme tranfers to be effected based on independent decisions and requirements of concerned fund managers and at market determined prices	**Recommendation # 17** Portfolio Composition to be changed to provide for more weightage to debt in US-64 portfolio consistent with Scheme objectives Needs to happen without US-64 to resort to selling large parts of equity portfolio in the market
Recommendation # 10 independent fund manager for US-64 with full responsibility and accountability. Fund manager should be helped by strong research team and reaserch capability be strengthened.	**Recommendation # 18** Operations of US-64 be brought under SEBI preview at the earliest. This would ensure transparency to unitholders and would significantly enhance investor confidence.
Recommendation # 11 Investment/disinvestment decisions to be based on research analysts' recommendations - analysts to have authority and responsibility Fund manager to have final authority and responsibility in decision making based on his perception of the market and research inputs.	**Recommendation # 19** To commission an independent professional firm for detailed review of asset management processes including back office, inter scheme transfer and investor servicing.
Recommendation # 15 Dividend distribution policy to be thoroughly revamped to ensure that the Scheme is responsive to changing market conditions. Needs to follow a more conservative approach to build up sufficient reserves during periods of good performance. As a rule, dividend needs to be curtailed when there is inadequate income.	**No Immediate Action : Requires amendment in UTI Act** **Recommendation # 6** Increase size of UTI Board to 15, with additional 5 members being co-opted by the Board.
Recommendation # 16 The rate of return offered to investors to be reviewed on a periodic basis.	**Recommendation # 8** Separate Asset Management Company for US-64 with an independent Board of Directors.

Setting up of Sectoral Product Display Centres Abroad

1857. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up permanent sectoral product display centres abroad to help Indian exporters to be more competitive;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to remove the problems being faced by the Indian exporters abroad ?

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) Export Enhancement and Export Studies — Market Access Initiative Scheme launched during year 2001-02 provides for setting up of showrooms and warehousing facilities in leased or rental accommodation for selected consumer items at identified centres abroad on the basis of marketing studies. The leased/rental charges for showrooms and warehousing facilities would be borne by the scheme in the first three years on a tapering basis @ 75%, 50% and 25% in the first, second and third year respectively. Display charges of selected products of selected exporters in the international departmental stores for the approved period of the project would also be borne by the scheme and participating exporters on a matching basis.

(c) With a view to assisting the Indian exporters to overcome the problems faced in sustaining and further increasing exports in different markets, assistance is provided to them, inter-alia, for carrying out market-studies, holding buyer-seller meets, participation in international trade fairs, organising sales promotion visits, contesting anti-dumping actions initiated abroad and launching publicity campaigns for brand promotion efforts.

[Translation]

Production of Ethanol

1858. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to manufacture Ethanol from molasses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ethanol thus produced can be used as automobile fuel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereofor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) Molasses is one of the feedstocks from which ethanol is manufactured. There are a number of distilleries in the country manufacturing ethanol from molasses.

Present BIS specifications in India permit blending of ethanol with petrol upto 5%. The technical feasibility of the use of ethanol blended petrol as auto fuel is well established. Three Pilot Projects on gasohol have been commissioned by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at following locations :

- Miraj/Hajarwadi depots in Sangli District, Maharashtra
- Manmad/Panewadi depots in Nasik District, Maharashtra
- Bareilly/Aonla depots in Bareilly District, Uttar Pradesh.

The objective is to ascertain the economic and operational aspects of usage of gasohol in terms of logistic, pricing and environmental impact, customer feedback, etc. Field trials and R & D studies would go on concurrently, the duration being 6 months and 12 months respectively.

(e) Question does not arise.

[English]

World Bank Aided Projects in A.P.

1859. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh tops the World Bank borrowers list in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount borrowed and the projects for which the said loan in utilised during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh, like any other state of India, does not borrow from the World Bank, as it is not constitutionally permitted. Govt. of India borrows from the World Bank for state sector projects as well. In terms of amounts borrowed by Govt. of India for State Sector projects, Andhra Pradesh tops the list. The amount borrowed by Govt. of India for state sector projects during 1998-99, 99-00 and 2000-01 was $ 1540.70, 999.05 and 1889.74 million, out of which amount borrowed for A.P. Projects was $ 752.20 million for FY 1998-99, $ 0.00 million for FY 1999-00 and $ 111.00 million for FY 2000-01. AP had a

share of 19.4% of the total outstanding committed loan from World Bank to India as on 30.06.2001.

(c) The details of projects and amount borrowed during the last three years for Andhra Pradesh Projects are as follows :

Name of the Project (Date of Signing)	Loan Amount		Total	Amount in USD Million Utilization as on 31.03.2001
	IDA	IBRD		
AP Economic Restructuring Project (4-02-1999)	241.9000	301.300	543.200	137.382
AP Power Restructuring (5-03-1999)	210.000	—	210.000	96.292
AP District Poverty Initiative Project (12-05-2000)	111.000	—	111.000	3.227
Total	562.900	301.300	864.200	

Decentralised Procurement by FCI

1860. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether FCI has engaged State Government agencies as sub agents of FCI to procure coarse grains to make the use of infrastructure available with the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this decentralized procurement has been instrumental in reducing the economic cost of foodgrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether keeping in view the reduction in economic cost of foodgrains, FCI propose to engage more State Government agencies in procurement of foodgrains; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and further steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The State-wise details of sub-agents engaged by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for procurement of coarsegrains is as under :

State	Sub-agents
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	AP MARKFED
Karnataka	Karnataka State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation (KFCSC)
Maharashtra	State Government
Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation (MPCSC)

The details of coarsegrains procured as on 16.7.2001 by FCI and States Agencies during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The question of reduction in the economic cost does not arise as the coarsegrains are purchased by the State Government and its agencies on behalf of FCI.

(e) and (f) The procurement policy for the relevant crop season is decided in consultation with State Government. It is for the State Government to decide about the engagement for more State Government Agencies for the procurement of coarsegrains.

Statement

Details of coarsegrains procured by FCI and State agencies during current kharif marketing season 2000-01 (As on 16.7.2001)

(Fig. in MTs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Commodity			
		Maize	Jowar	Bajra	Ragi
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Karnataka				
	FCI	121604	–	–	–
	KFCSC	261012	–	4514	15413
	Total	382616	–	4514	15413

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Maharashtra State Govt.	16107	151229	10510	–
3.	M.P. MPCSC	19535	1168	7373	–
4.	Andhra Pradesh				
	FCI	20451	–	–	–
	AP Markfed	22468	–	–	–
	Total	42919			
	Grand Total	461177	152397	22397	15413

Non-Plan Provision in Budget

1861. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter of extra non-plan provision in budget to clear the dues of exporters which have been withheld for many years with the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Ministry of Finance 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) to (c) During the pre-budget discussion, a demand of Rs. 700 crore had been projected for clearing the arrears for duty drawback ad central sales tax in respect of deemed exports Scheme. The final non-plan allocation for the Department of Commerce was, however, pegged at Rs. 851.78 crore out of which Rs. 610.00 crore has been earmarked for this purpose.

Genetically—Engineered Food

1862. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the genetically-engineered (GE) food has illegally entered the country as ingredients of legally imported food products which are freely available in local markets; and

(b) if so, the step taken by the Government to check this trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) set up under the Rule 4 of the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has not accorded approval for import of any genetically modified food in the country.

Wheat Export to Iraq

1863. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the high level delegation which visited Iraq to probe into rejection of two wheat shipment has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not following the stringent quality norms before export of wheat to Iraq by the exporters; and

(d) the action taken on the findings of the reports ?

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

(b) to (d) As per the International CODEX standards, foreign matter in the grain is permissible upto 2% out of which 1.5% consists of organic matter, such as chaff, weed seed, other edible and inedible grains, etc. and the balance 0.5% inorganic foreign matter, such as stones, sand, dust etc. Quality specification prescribed in the Iraqi contract provided for the presence of foreign matter upto 2%. There was no further break-up of this 2% into organic and inorganic foreign matter. The Indian delegation that visited Iraq was, however, informed by Iraqi authorities that, according to their definition, they do not count sand particles under foreign matter. In other words, inorganic matter, which is a part and parcel of foreign matter like sand, stones, pebbles, clay particles etc. are not accepted under this category. The explanation given by them was that only organic foreign matter (like chaff, glumes, weed seeds and other edible and inedible grains) are taken under this category. The exporters did not know this position. They presumed that as in the CODEX standards, the 2% foreign matter would include upto 0.5% inorganic matter. The delegation was further informed that the Iraqi flour mills were not having adequate facilities for separation of inorganic matter because of the problem of spare parts required for maintenance of such machines owing to UN sanctions. The delegation was told that the Iraqi authorities had accordingly taken a decision to reject any wheat stocks found with inorganic matter like sand, stones etc. The delegation was further informed that Iraq had also rejected the wheat source from various other countries

on the same grounds. 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. The 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.

Subsidy for Setting up of Cold Storages

1864. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD provides subsidy to individual companies for setting up of cold storages;

(b) if so, the number of such applications pending with NABARD and since when these are pending; and

(c) the steps taken by NABARD for speedy disposal of such applications ?

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 it provides subsidy under the cold storage scheme of Government of India to the eligible organizations availing bank loan through financial institutions eligible for refinance from NABARD. As approved by Government, Cooperatives, companies, partnership and proprietary firms, agricultural produce marketing committees/boards, agro-industries, Corporations and Growers' Associations are eligible for subsidy under the scheme.

(b) As on 28th July, 2001, NABARD has received 221 applications, of which, only 8 applications are pending for release. The period of pendency is less than one month in the case of seven applications. Only one application is pending for more than one month for want of certain clarifications.

(c) In order to ensure speedy disposal of subsidy claims, the sanctioning powers for release of subsidy have been delegated to the Regional Offices of NABARD. The progress is monitored at Head Office level on a weekly basis. The Regional Offices of NABARD have been advised to process the subsidy claims on priority basis.

Unclaimed Mutual Fund Dividend

1865. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the hundred crores of rupees lying unclaimed with the Mutual Fund;

(b) if so, whether the SEBI has done any study in this regard;

(c) the unclaimed dividend lying with various Mutual Funds during the last ten years;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation regarding its utilisation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the present status of this fund ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that the total amount of dividends and redemptions lying unclaimed with mutual funds registered with SEBI (excluding UTI) was Rs. 496 crores approx. as on March 31, 2001. The total unclaimed income under various matured close-ended schemes of UTI was Rs. 3.03 crores as on 31st March 2001.

(d) to (f) Based on discussions with the mutual fund industry, SEBI, vide letter dated November 24, 2000 issued guidelines to all mutual funds, including UTI, regarding the deployment of unclaimed dividends and redemptions. According to these guidelines, mutual funds should deploy these unclaimed amounts in the call money market or money market instruments only. Investors who claim these amounts within a period of three years from the due date would have to be paid at the prevailing net asset value.

After a period of three years, the funds can transfer this amount to a pool account and investors can claim the amount at NAV prevailing at the end of the third year. The income earned on such funds can be used for the purpose of investor education.

Procurement of Paddy in A.P.

1866. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Paddy Procurement has been put on hold by the Food Corportion of India in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether FCI has decided to give boost to procurement of levy rice in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001, till 30.7.2001, the Food Corporation of India has procured 429125 tonnes of paddy as

against nil procurement during the corresponding period last year from the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) As on 30.7.2001, FCI has accepted a quantity of 65.16 lakh tonnes of levy rice in Andhra Pradesh against 51.59 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

Market Value of Shares of PSU's for Disinvestment

1867. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5068 dated the August 25, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In part (d) of the Unstarred Question No. 5068 answered on 25-8-2000, the value of market shares two years ago and the then value of market shares of the PSUs were asked for. The concerned authorities have been requested to furnish the required information and the information will soon be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Palm Oil

1868. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

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

(a) whether the Government have allowed import of Palm Oil from Malaysia and Indonesia at very low import duty resulting in the record price fall of coconut oil in the recent past in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to safeguard the interest of the domestic farmers; 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) No, Sir. On the contrary the duty structure has been revised upward effective from 1.3.2001.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Some of the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the domestic farmers are :

(i) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of vanaspati to at least 25% of the production on a monthly basis has been made mandatory. Also, higher use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati up to 30% has also been allowed. The objective is to incentivise the farmers in terms of better returns for their produce.

(ii) In order to harmonise the interests of domestic oilseeds growers, consumers and processors and to regulate large import of edible oils to the extent possible, the duty structure on edible oils has been revised upward effective from 1.3.2001.

[Translation]

Right for Manufacturing of Life Saving Drugs

1869. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government feel the necessity of making a demand to the WTO for reclaiming the manufacturing rights of life savings drugs and general medicines under TRIPS agreement;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government (India) in this regard in the recently concluded session of the TRIPS council in Geneva; and

(c) the opinion/reaction of TRIPS 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) to (c) The TRIPS Council of the WTO in a special session on 20th June, 2001 discussed the issue of Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and affordable access to medicines. In the special session, India along with 46 other developing countries submitted a joint paper on TRIPS and public health. India along with other co-sponsors has demanded in this joint paper that the WTO should ensure that

the TRIPS Agreement does not undermine the right of the WTO Members to formulate their own public health policies and adopt measures for providing affordable access to medicines. Greater flexibility and clarity in the interpretation of the TRIPS Agreement has been sought in order to take care of the public health concerns of the developing countries so as to ensure affordable access to essential medicines and life saving drugs.

In the special session, it was decided that the issue of the TRIPS Agreement and access to medicines would be further discussed in the next meeting of the TRIPS Council of WTO to be held in September, 2001.

[English]

Monitoring of Economy by RBI

1870. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India inspite of closely monitoring the economy is uncomfortable with the State of affairs of the economy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The assessment of the Reserve Bank of India has been presented in the April 19, 2001 statement on monetary and credit policy for the year 2001-02. As per this assessment, the overall macro-economic indicators during 2000-01 remained favourable for growth with price stability. Among the positive developments were an easing of the inflation rate towards the close of the year, considerable strengthening of the balance of payments, lower current account deficit and rising level of foreign exchange reserves. However, there was deceleration in the real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to 5.2 per cent in 2000-01 from 6.4 per cent in 1999-2000. Assuming revival of industrial sector, reasonable monsoon and good performance of exports, the monetary and credit policy statement has, for the purpose of monetary policy formulation, placed the likely growth rate of real GDP at 6-6.5 per cent in 2001-2002. The objective conditions for revival of growth are favourable. The outlook for agricultural growth has been brightened by the favourable monsoon. The broad strategy with focus on agriculture and rural development, as set out in the Union Budget for 2001-02, is therefore expected to facilitate a significant increase in agricultural growth in the current financial year. This, in turn, is expected to contribute to the revival of growth in other sectors of the economy.

Hawala Transaction

1871. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US based NRI admitted that he had channelised fodder scam money to beneficiaries in India through hawala transaction;

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

(c) the details of persons whom the payment of money made by the NRI; and

(d) 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) One Shri Ramesh Arora, a Cannadian citizen of Indian origin, who is presently living in the USA, during the course of investigations has revealed to have made payments to the tune of Rs. 30 lakhs through his NRE accounts in India to the family members of Dr. R.K. Rana, an accused in the fodder scame case.

(c) The details of family members of Dr. R.K. Rana to whom the payments have been made by Shri Ramesh Arora through his NRE accounts are as follows :

S. No.	Name of recipient	Amount paid
1.	Mrs. Nayana Rana	Rs. 6 lakhs
2.	Master Amit Rana	Rs. 6 lakhs
3.	Master Saurabh Rana	Rs. 6 lakhs
4.	Master Gaurave Rana	Rs. 6 lakhs
5.	Km. Rashmi Rana	Rs. 6 lakhs
	Total	Rs. 30 lakhs

(d) A Show Cause Notice has been issued against Dr. R.K.Rana, Mrs. Nayana Rana and Shri Ramesh Arora under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. Adjudication and prosecution proceedings have also been initiated against them.

Expansion of Wide Area Network (WAN) by LIC

1872. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the LIC has proposals to expand its WAN (wide area network) to 33 more cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cities or centres, where presently LIC have such WAN facility;

(d) the number of policy holders being serviced by the existing WAN;

(e) whether any efforts are poposed to simplify the forms, the system of payment, and all other matters relating to policy holders interaction with LIC; and

(f) if, so, the time by when it is likely to be done ?

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

(b) Names of the cities where Wide Area Network (WAN) facility is being extended by LIC are given below :

1. Jaipur	18. Coimbatore
2. Amritsar	19. Madurai
3. Chandigarh	20. Thiruananthpuram
4. Ludhiana	21. Ernakulam
5. Jullundhar	22. Vijaywada
6. Guwahati	23. Mysore
7. Jamshedpur	24. Vishakhapatnam
8. Patna	25. Nellore
9. Cuttack	26. Nagpur
10. Bhopal	27. Nasik
11. Indore	28. Vadodara
12. Jabalpur	29. Surat
13. Agra	30. Aurangabad
14. Allahabad	31. Kolhapur
15. Bareilly	32. Thane
16. Lucknow	33. Goa
17. Kanpur	

(c) At present 41 cities are covered under WAN.

(d) Approximately 3.63 crore policies are serviced by the existing WAN.

(e) For policies which are serviced by 663 branches in the 41 cities on WAN, payment of premiums in any of these branches has become possible. For help of policy holders all claim forms are available for download from the website *www.licindia.com*. The other facilities being extended to policy holders are payment of premiums on Internet and status of policies on Internet. This facility will be available for non-Salary Savings Scheme type of policies, which are on WAN. Similarly, position of policies can be had on telephones in 57 centers through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) installed by LIC. Additionally, LIC has installed 30 touch screen Information Kiosks in different centres, 15 of which are online and provide information regarding policies. Similar facilities are being planned for remaining centers.

(f) By the end of the current financial year.

Austerity in Expenditure

1873. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether several departments of the Government are not following fiscal prudence in the purchase of stationery and other items from NCCF and Super Bazar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for authorising NCCF and Super Bazar to supply stationery to Departments of the Government when Kendriya Bhandar has already been authorised for the same;

(d) whether authorisation of more than one agency has not resulted in mismanagement of supply of stationery and other items to the Departments of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of remedial measures initiated, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Government Departments and required to follow the fiscal prudence in the purchase of stationary and other items from the three approved agencies namely the Kendriya Bhandar, the Super Bazar, Delhi and the NCCF. However, the information/details relating to this is not centrally maintained in the Department of Personel and Training.

(c) and (d) 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 to the three cooperatives has been given.

(e) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of Hindustan Zinc Ltd.

1874. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had planned to disinvest Hindustan Zinc Limited by the end of June, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for which it is being delayed;

(c) whether Trade Unions have expressed their opposition; 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) The Government has decided to disinvest 26% equity in Hindustan Zinc Ltd. through strategic sales along with an appropriate role in management to the strategic partner. This decision is proposed to be implemented during the year 2001-2002.

(b) There is no delay in implementation of the decision.

(c) and (d) The Indian National Trade Union Congress has forwarded a copy of the resolution adopted by their working Committee calling the Government of India to review its decision and not to go for privatization of Hindustan Zinc Ltd. Their representation has been responded to.

Disinvestment of Hindustan Copper Ltd.

1875. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL);

(b) if so, whether the leading trade unions have expressed their opposition to disinvestment of HCL;

(c) the percentage of Government stake to be disinvested; and

(d) the prices at which it is to be sold and the details of the party to whom it is to be sold ?

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 decided to set up, in the first phase, a new company of Khetri (Rajasthan) and Taloja (Maharashtra) plants of Hindustan Copper Ltd. with a strategic partner. In this new company, 51% equity will be held by the strategic partner and 49% by HCL.

(b) The Khetri Tamba Shramik Sangh has sent representations to the Government opposing the disinvestment proposal. Government has responded to their representation, explaining clearly the rationale of disinvestment in this enterprise.

(c) As given in (a) above.

(d) This will be known once the process of competitive bidding is completed.

[Translation]

Pending Projects of Bihar

1876. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether several projects pertaining to Bihar are pending with his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of those projects;

(c) since when these projects are pending and the estimated cost of each project;

(d) the reasons for delay in according approval to these projects; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No Industrial Licence application for the State of Bihar is pending approval of the Central Government as on 1.7.2001.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Disinvestment of PSUs

1877. SHRI S.D.N.P. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of major Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the country;

(b) whether some of those PSUs proposed to be privatized as decided after the review of their performances;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government thereto ?

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 functioning of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), which are registered Companies, is governed by the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Government, as a shareholder of these Companies also has a mechanism of reviewing the performance of these PSUs periodically through the concerned Administrative Ministry and the Department of Public Enterprises.

(b) to (d) The decision to disinvest Government equity in any PSU is taken after considering various aspects, including performance of the company, in accordance with the declared policy of the Government. The process of decision-making involves large-scale inter-ministerial consultations involving, intre-alia, the Ministry controlling the PSUs administratively.

NABARD Assistance for School Buildings in Karnataka

1878. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought NABARD assistance for construction of school buildings in the State;

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

(c) the districts likely to be covered under the proposed NABARD assistance from its Rural Insfrastructure Development Fund in Karnataka ?

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 Government of Karnataka has not sought any assistance for school buildings in the State.

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

Visit to France and England

1879. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether she had been on tour to France and England during the third week of May, 2001; and

(b) if so, what has been the outcome of her visit to these countries ?

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

(b) As a result of IBM's meeting with the French Minister for Culture and Communications, both countries agreed on setting up a Sub-Group on films under the aegis of the Indo-French Forum. The visit also included a stopover at the on-going Cannes Film Market where India had set up an Indian Pavilion for the first time to promote Indian films and software by providing a common platform for all Indian participants to interact with their counter parts from various countries.

The visit of IBM to Cannes focused Media attention on the Indian Pavilion and on Indian films. In London IBM's visit covered institutions connected with the film and broadcasting industries including the BBC.

[Translation]

Official Language Policy

1880. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes formulated for implementation and spread of official language policy by her Ministry;

(b) whether the same programme of progressive use of Hindi is repeated time and again since the last three decades;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) This Ministry follows the Annual Programme prepared every

year by the Ministry of Home Affairs, D/o Official Language, the nodal agency for this purpose. Implementation of the above programme is a continuous process.

In addition, many steps are taken to propagate use of Hindi. These include organisation of various competitions i.e. essay writing, debate, antakshari etc. during Hindi Diwas celebration, Hindi workshops are organised. House magazines are published. The progress of implementation is reviewed by the Minister in the quarterly meetings of Hindi Salahakar Samiti. Significant progress has been achieved in this regard which is evident from the fact that this Ministry was awarded "Rajbhasha Shield" as second prize at the national level for the year 1999-2000 for meritorious work done in respect of implementation of Official Language policy of the Government.

Foreign Investment in Transport Sector

1881. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to allow cent percent foreign investment in the public transport sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above decision is likely to take effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% in Road Transport and Mass Rapid Metro Transport Systems is permitted. FDI up to 40% and NRI/OCB investment up to 100% is permitted in domestic airlines sector. Railway transport is reserved for the public sector.

Privatisation of CIL

1882. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise Coal India Ltd. in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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. Currently, there is no proposal to privatise Coal India Limited.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Illegal Sale of Explosive Materials

1883. SHRI P. D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that large quantity of explosive materials produced in the country have been sold illegally and in turn misused for producing country bombs and other types of explosives;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the cases filed and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have been monitoring this illegal sale; and

(d) if so, the action taken against such licensee and management during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) Under Explosives Act, 1884 and Explosives Rules, 1983 no person shall manufacture, possess, sell and use any explosive except under and in accordance with appropriate licences granted by the competent authority. It is also obligatory under Explosives Rules, 1983 for all licensed manufacturers and explosives dealers to sell explosives to only valid licence holders and to maintain proper accounts and file monthly returns before the Department of Explosives. Compliance is monitored by way of scrutiny and verification of monthly returns filed by the manufacturers, sellers and other users of explosives about the transaction of explosives. Whenever any discrepancy or irregularity is noted in the monthly returns filed by any manufacturer/user of explosives, action is taken by the

Department of Explosives to suspend/cancel the licence. In addition to this, inspections of licensed premises are carried out by the officers of Department of Explosives regularly. Under Explosives Rules, 1983 other authorities like District Magistrate, Commissioner of Police, Police Officers not below the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police and officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety are also empowered to carry out inspections of licensed premises. Number of licences cancelled and suspended by the Department of Explosives during the last three years, State wise are as under :

State	Cancelled	Suspended
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	4	23
Assam & Other N.E.	3	Nil
Bihar	22	17
Chandigarh	Nil	Nil
Delhi	2	Nil
Goa	Nil	Nil
Gujarat	Nil	10
Haryana	22	9
Himachal Pradesh	Nil	1
J & K	Nil	Nil
Karnataka	1	7
Kerala	8	18
Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
Maharashtra	1	70
Orissa	7	Nil
Punjab	Nil	Nil
Rajasthan	Nil	97
Tamil Nadu	8	51
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	5
West Bengal	7	Nil
Grand Total	85	308

Disinvestment of Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.

1884. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest the Pradeep Phosphates Ltd., Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received the proposals for reconsideration of the decision; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has decided to disinvest 74% of its shareholding in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) through strategic sale.

(c) and (d) During the course of a meeting held on 16th July, 2001 between the representatives of PPL employees and the Secretary (Fertilizers) and Secretary (Disinvestment), four employees' union/associations of PPL have submitted a joint representation requesting for reconsideration of the Government's decision for disinvestment in PPL. The Government's stand on the issue has been explained to the unions during the meeting. There is no proposal before the Government to reconsider its decision.

BHEL Foray into Defence Production

1885. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is contemplating a foray into defence production; and

(b) if so, the fields of involvement and with what terms and conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) BHEL is already

manufacturing certain equipment for Defence such as Simulators, Gun mounts, Recovery Vehicles, Turret Castings. The terms and conditions are finalized on contract basis.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Cattle

1886. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bangladeshies are smuggling cattle from India;

(b) if so, whether some Bangladeshies have recently been apprehended;

(c) if so, the number thereof;

(d) the action taken against them; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some cases of smuggling of cattle by Bangladeshies have been detected.

(b) to (e) 9 Bangladeshies have been apprehended by the field formations under the Customs Department in connection with smuggling of cattle during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (upto June, 2001). All of them have been handed over to the police.

[English]

Complaints Against T.V. Channels

1887. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether major TV Channels like Star TV, Sony, ESPN etc., have been issued notice under MRTPC for their alleged restrictive trade practices by hiking subscribers fee frequently and arbitrarily;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government to protect the viewer interests ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Monopolies and Restrictive trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has informed that they have received complaints against major TV Channels alleging restrictive trade practices resulting in restriction of competition, manipulation of price etc. The details provided by MRTPC are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The existence of a large number of competing channels itself ensures protection as viewer interest which is further buttressed by existence of laws such as the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act and the Consumer Protection Act in addition to the MRTP Act.

Statement

The details of the sub-judice complaints are as follows :

1. Restrictive Trade Practices Enquiry (RTPE) 02/2001

This is an application/complaint filed by Shri Nirmal Jain against Indusind Media and Communication Ltd. and six other television networks under Section 12-A and 10 (a) (i) of MRTP Act, 1969. It is alleged that the trade practices adopted by the respondents has the effect of preventing, distorting and restricting competition, manipulation of prices and indulging in various restrictive, unfair and monopolistic trade practices.

The matter is sub-judice. Notices under Section 10 (a) (i) 12-A of MRTP Act, 1969 have been issued to seven respondents namely Indusind Media and Communication Ltd., News Television (India) Ltd, Sony Entertainment Television (India) Ltd. Turner International (India) Pvt. Ltd, Discovery Communications India Ltd, ESPN Software India Ltd and Modi Entertainment Network Ltd. and the matter is listed before the Bench on 23-08-2001 for consideration.

2. Restrictive Trade Practices Enquirty (RTPE) 3/2001

This is an application/complaint by Noida Network System Pvt. Ltd. against Star TV and another under Section 12-A and 10 (a) (i) of MRTP Act, 1969. It is alleged that the respondents are increasing the subscriber fees frequently and arbitrarily, resorting to discriminatory prices and similar other restrictive and unfair trade practices.

The matter is sub-judice. Notice under Section 10(a) (i) and 12-A of MRTP Act, 1969 have been issued to the respondents namely Star TV and News Television (India) Ltd. and the matter is listed before the Bench on 13-08-2001 for consideration of the interim application filed by the applicant/complainant.

3. Restrictive Trade Practices Enquiry (RTPE) 26/2001

This is an application/complaint by Jammu Communications Networks Pvt. Ltd. against Star TV and

another under Section 12-A and 10 (a) (i) of MRTP Act, 1969. It is alleged that the respondent are increasing the subscriber fees frequently and arbitrarily, resorting to discriminatory prices and similar other restrictive and unfair trade practices.

The matter is sub-judice. Notice under Section 10 (a) (i) and 12-A of MRTP Act, 1969 have been issued to the respondents namely Star TV and News Television India Ltd. and the same is listed before the Banch on 27-09-2001 for consideration of the interim application filed by the applicant/ complainant.

4. Restrictive Trade Practices Enquiry (RTPE) 76/1998

This is a complaint by Indusind Media and Communications Pvt. Ltd. against El Zee Television Pvt. Ltd. and four others under Section 10(a) (iv) of the Act. It is alleged that the respondents are increasing prices arbitrarily and indulging in various restrictive and monopolistic trade practices.

The matter is sub-judice and it is listed before the Bench on 06-09-2001 for settlement of issues.

[Translation]

Procurement of Wheat

1888. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of wheat in metric tonnes procured by the Government agencies during the current year and the States from which maximum and minimum procurement has been made;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the wheat procured by the Government agencies in metric tonnes during the current year has been stored in open instead of storing the same in safe godowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the quantity of wheat in metric tonnes not procured by the Government agencies from the farmers during the current year due to which the farmers were compelled to sell the wheat in the open market through the middlemen of lower price that the prescribed procurement price; and

(e) the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) As on 30.7.2001, a quantity of 206.15 MTs of wheat has been procured by Government agencies during the current Rabi Marketing Season 2001-2002. A quantity of 105.60 lakh MTs of wheat has been procured in Punjab which is the maximum and a quantity of 0.01 lakh MTs has been procured in Himachal Pradesh which is the minimum.

(b) Yes, Sir. The wheat stocks procured by the Government agencies during the current year have been temporarily stored in CAP (open). The stocks are preserved properly on scientific lines by the trained and qualified technical staff by undertaking frequent and periodical inspections and imparting prophylactic and curative treatments.

(c) Presently the Food Corporation of India is holding a stock of 32.90 million tonnes of food grains i.e. wheat, rice and paddy. Out of this, 74.18 lakh tonnes are kept in the open storage godowns. The stocks lying in the open storage are mainly wheat and a small quantity of paddy.

(d) During the current Rabi Marketing Season 2001-2002, till 30.7.2001, the total market arrival of wheat reported was 216.29 lakh tonnes. Out of this, a quantity of 206.15 lakh tonnes of wheat conforming to FAQ specifications has been procured by the Government Agencies at Minimum Support Price.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to help the farmers are as follows :

(i) Adequate number of purchase centres have been opened in different States to avoid distress sale by the farmers.

(ii) Quick payment is being made to the farmers for their produce.

(iii) Government accepts foodgrains stocks at Minimum Support Price without any quantitative restrictions.

(iv) Adequate publicitiy is given by the Government about the procurement prices, FAQ specifications and purchase centres.

[English]

Establishment of Procurement Centres of FCI

1889. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether during rabi season 2000-2001 no procurement centre of FCI has been established in the State of Orissa for 24 agricultural commodities;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether the Government has initiated remedial measures in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Food Corporation of India (FCI) deals with the Procurement of wheat, rice and coarsegrains.

For both Rabi and Kharif, FCI had operated 70 procurement centres in Orissa for collection of levy rice during 2000-01 and procured a quantity of 7.66 lakh tonnes of levy rice. Wheat and coarsegrains are not procured in Orissa as it is not a surplus State in the production of these grains.

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

(c) to (e) To avoid distress sale by the farmers, the FCI and the State Government have taken various measures which include evacuation of 1,58,000 tonnes of foodgrains from Bargarh, Sambalpur, Kalahandi and Bolangir during the last six months. The stocks are being sent to censuming areas like Cuttack, Bhubaneshwar and Khurda. FCI created additional storage capacity in the State by hiring private godowns. Movement of foodgrains from outside to Orissa has been stopped with effect from January 2001. The State Government advised the District Collectors to take action against the millers/ agents if they buy paddy at a rate less than Minimum Support Price.

Rice Scam in FCI

1890. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any rice scam has come to the knowledge of the Government in FCI godowns at Dhilwan in Punjab this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated action to enquire into the irregularities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether necessary disciplinary action has been initiated against the guilty officers involved in the scam;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) During the investigation of a complaint, it was detected that rice common (Boiled) loaded in the special Ex-Beas (out of Dhilwan stocks) on 26.1.2001, in fact, had been loaded directly by two millers and the consignee staff/officers at Cooch Behar in West Bengal Region in connivance with the millers, and FCI staff of Dhilwan acknowledged the receipt of the said stocks and intimated receipt of only 86 bags of substandard rice. Subsequently on a joint inspection and analysis of the stocks in question, it was revealed that sub-standard stocks had been received at Cooch Behar against special No. 199 despatched Ex-Beas (out of Dhilwan stocks) on 26.1.2001. The consignee on the basis of this joint sampling/ analysis results, submitted a revised Loss Assessment Statement amounting to Rs. 20,48,353.31/-.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) On the basis of findings of the investigation report, major penalty proceedings were initiated against the then District Manager, Kapurthala, and after completing the inquiry proceedings the penalty of dismissal has been imposed upon him.

Major penalty proceedings have also been initiated against 2 Category — I and 19 Category — II/III officers/officials in both Punjab and West Bengal Regions. The case has also been handed over to CBI for probe.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Details indicated in para (d) of the question.

(g) Needs no reply in view of reply furnished in para (e) above.

[Translation]

Impact of WTO on Sugar Industry

1891. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the experts have expressed grave apprehensions in regard to the potential of sugar industry to face the new challenges as a result of the agreement signed with the World Trade Organisations; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to fully equip the sugar industry to face the challenges of the World Trade Organisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has not received any communication/representation from the sugar industry expressing grave concern in regard to the implementation of the agreement signed with the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

(b) In order to protect the interests of the sugar industry and the sugarcane farmers, the Government has increased the custom duty upto 60% in addition to the countervailing duty of Rs. 850.00 per tonne. This has helped in checking the inflow of the imported sugar in the country. Further, the Government has adopted suitable mechanism for monitoring of the imported and sensitive items and are committed to provide adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which included appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, anti-dumping and safe guard action and imposition of countervailing duties under certain specified circumstances.

Outstanding Dues to Rice Mill Owners and Farmers

1892. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

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

(a) the actual stock of rice lifted so far from each State by Food Corporation of India from January 1, 2001;

(b) the payments made to rice mills and farmers of each State during the above period;

(c) the outstanding dues as on date payable to farmers and rice mills in each State; and

(d) the steps taken by the FCI to pay these outstanding amount to farmers and rice mills at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

ADB Assisted Projects in Maharashtra

1893. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of ongoing projects with the assistance from the Asian Development Bank in Maharashtra; and

(b) the present status of these projects, project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Asian Development Bank has not provided any assistance for projects specific to Maharashtra. However, the Surat Manor Tollway Project, for which ADB has extended a total assistance of US $ 180 million to National Highways Authority of India for four laning of National Highway No. 8, includes a 60 km. long section in Maharashtra. The loan approved in July 2000 is scheduled to close in September, 2004. The cumulative loan disbursement as of May 2001 is US $ 7.78 million.

[English]

Import of Bound Items

1894. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of bound items of imported goods alongwith the current tariff rate with highest bound limit for each of the items;

(b) the imported bound items which are adversely affecting the indigenous products in our internal market during 2000-2001;

(c) the steps that are being taken to protect the indigenous producers against such cheaper imported items;

(d) the price of each of the imported items with the current tariff rate per unit against the price of each of the corresponding indigenous items; and

(e) the extent to which the import of such goods has affected the indigenous items ?

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) Following the Uruguay Round, India's tariff binding commitments reached up to 67% of a total of 5134 tariff lines in its tariff schedule. A copy of the Schedule has been placed in the Parliament Library, this is also available on the Department of Commerce web site at the following address *http://commin.nic.in/doc/indsched.html*. The current tariff rates are available on the web site of the Central Board of Excise and Customs at *http:/www.cbec.gov.in/cae/customs/cs-abc.html*.

The government is monitoring the import of 300 domestically sensitive items following the removal of quantitative restrictions in April this year, of these 205 are agricultural products and 95 others including SSI items. While all the agricultural products are bound of the others only 26 items are bound. As a group, there has been a negative growth rate of 11% in the imports of these items during April-May, 2001 as compared to the same period last year.

As and when any domestic industry is affected adversely by unfairly priced or surge of imports, action such as safeguard action, anti-dumping action etc. can be initiated by the domestic manufacturers themselves to protect their interests. Similarly, domestic standards and quality requirements are being imposed on imported products and customs duties have been enhanced on a number of agricultural items. The Government has proposed a Bill for the amendment of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, to incorporate the provisions regarding imposition of QRs on safeguard grounds.

The price of any product depends on its quality, quantity of imports, market where sold, local taxes and levies etc. There is no single reference price for a product either imported or domestically produced. Further, import data is not compiled on consignment basis in India.

Funds Allocated by Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission

1895. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to various States by the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commissions;

(b) whether some States have not fully utilised the funds allocated to them by the Tenth Finance Commission so far;

(c) if so, the details in this regard with the reasons thereof;

(d) whether any change has been made in the heads of expenditure to be incurred or the laid down norms by the Tenth Finance Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A Statement showing total estimated transfers under the recommendations of the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commissions is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The reasons for non-utilisation of grants in full have, generally been late formulation/execution of action plans, non-availability of land, litigation, non-conduct of elections to local bodies and non-submission of utilisation certificates in respect of the grants released by this Ministry.

(d) and (e) The grants for upgradation, special problems and for local bodies were released to the States as per the guidelines framed for utilisation of the provisions recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission. The guidelines were framed keeping in view also the recommendations of the Commission.

Statement

Estimated Total Transfers Recommended by Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission

(Rupees crore)

Sl. No.	State	Tenth Finance Commission (1995-2000)						Eleventh Finance Commission (2000-05)					
		Share in Taxes & Duties	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant	Upgradation & Special Problem	Local Bodies Grant	Relief Expenditure	Total Transfer (Col.2 to 6)	Share in Taxes & Duties	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant	Upgradation & Special Problem	Local Bodies Grant	Relief Ex-penditure	Total Transfers (Col. 8 to 12)
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Andhra Pradesh	16325.94	686.45	153.88	424.94	490.33	18081.54	28980.25	0.00	285.23	924.90	820.80	31011.18
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1360.03	307.60	68.31	4.63	27.79	1768.36	918.22	1228.02	90.59	28.52	49.83	2315.18
3	Assam	7064.14	712.03	206.86	147.56	197.46	8328.05	12362.05	110.68	132.54	254.99	420.60	13280.86
4	Bihar	23302.45	333.06	240.63	574.28	205.14	24655.56	54934.90	0.00	401.60	878.94	512.46	56727.90
5	Goa	524.06	77.26	10.79	5.91	4.23	622.25	775.22	0.00	27.28	13.91	5.15	821.56
6	Gujarat	8014.95	0.00	50.00	259.47	551.17	8875.59	10615.93	0.00	234.85	480.56	668.88	12000.22
7	Haryana	2554.96	0.00	40.00	99.22	98.93	2793.11	3552.44	0.00	132.65	183.73	336.95	4205.77
8	Himachal Pradesh	3743.81	772.18	105.03	34.23	106.41	4761.66	2570.25	4549.26	91.16	69.56	180.20	7460.43
9	Jammu & Kashmir	5904.70	1184.13	105.77	49.68	77.80	7322.08	4854.50	11211.19	127.82	90.07	144.64	16428.22
10	Karnataka	10034.64	0.00	29.00	291.96	165.23	10520.83	18552.48	0.00	311.53	518.94	309.03	19691.98
11	Kerala	7217.00	0.00	81.83	204.24	218.74	7721.81	11504.04	0.00	129.14	404.88	278.66	12316.72
12	Madhya Pradesh	15275.50	0.00	206.37	410.43	201.67	16093.97	33258.98	0.00	494.52	871.48	373.40	34998.38
13	Maharashtra	12859.84	0.00	100.00	479.96	269.28	13709.08	17431.05	0.00	331.97	972.98	651.49	19387.49
14	Manipur	1689.63	350.92	74.74	11.54	9.79	2136.62	1377.32	1744.94	58.59	23.17	11.89	3215.91
15	Meghalaya	1534.58	316.42	16.72	10.12	11.01	1888.85	1287.01	1572.38	57.39	28.31	16.32	2961.41
16	Mizoram	1398.37	331.19	64.13	3.32	5.00	1802.01	745.11	1676.30	89.84	11.70	12.32	2535.27
17	Nagaland	2197.38	529.78	53.96	5.21	6.71	2793.04	827.90	3536.24	62.84	14.66	8.12	4449.76
18	Orissa	8783.41	371.74	137.79	220.10	193.51	9706.55	19026.64	673.60	215.05	385.55	453.66	20754.50
19	Punjab	3160.41	0.00	81.31	133.95	213.80	3589.47	4316.37	284.21	110.01	209.37	508.57	5428.53
20	Rajasthan	10255.26	33.45	149.87	255.40	706.89	11400.87	20595.88	1244.68	299.85	590.37	857.85	23588.63
21	Sikkim	562.07	105.69	10.06	2.48	18.59	698.89	6?2.43	840.58	66.78	5.50	28.63	1633.92
22	Tamil Nadu	12622.54	0.00	100.84	402.86	234.33	13360.57	202b4.72	0.00	251.86	659.49	425.36	21601.43
23	Tripura	2325.81	488.78	25.90	14.97	17.75	2873.21	1832.67	2414.16	60.18	32.48	21.55	4361.04
24	Uttar Pradesh	33526.67	982.00	275.54	880.70	494.00	36158.91	?4501.56	1026.74	669.91	1570.76	740.33	78509.30
25	West Bengal	14104.85	0.00	219.17	453.77	202.63	14980.42	30540.09	3246.09	239.45	775.22	419.00	35219.85
	Total	206343.00	7582.68	2608.50	5380.93	4728.19	226643.30	376318.01	35359.07	4972.63	10000.00	8255.69	434905.40

Assistance to Gujarat

1896. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance given by financial institutions and NABARD to Gujarat during each of the last two years;

(b) whether the assistance is very low when compared to the other States; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps being taken to improve the position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The financial assistance extended by the All-India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) viz. Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finanace Corporation of India, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, Small Industries Development Bank of India, Indian Investment Bank of India, Export-Import Bank and National Ba:k for Agriculture and Rural Development, to Gujarat during the last three years is as under :

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Disbursed
1998-99	8615.07	7311.05
1999-2000	12424.13	7678.24
2000-2001	13094.53	4756.99

(b) No, Sir. During the last three years, Gujarat has been the second highest recipient of financial assistance from AIFIs.

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

Bottling Operations by Hindustan Coca Cola Holding Pvt. Ltd.

1897. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Coca Cola Holding Private Limited has been allowed to set up downstream ventures for Bottling operations in India with condition to 49 per cent equity to Indian shareholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether said condition has not been fulfilled by the company till today;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether said company has requested to extend further period of 5 years to bring 49% for the equity to Indian shareholder; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (f) Hindustan Coca Cola Holdings Private Limited (HCCHPL) has been granted foreign collaboration approval dated 17.7.97 for setting up two downstream subsidiaries for bottling operations with the condition that HCCHPL will ensure Indian participation of upto 49% in each of the two downstream subsidiaries proposed to be set up, over a period of 5 years i.e., by 16.7.2002. The request of HCCHPL for extension of period for divestment of 49% equity stake in its subsidiary namely M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Private Limited (HCCBL) in favour of Indian residents, for a period of 5-years beyond 16.7.2002 to bring an Indian partner, was considered and not acceded to in view of the fact that the 5-year period within which divestment was to be made would come to an end only in July 2002 and at present there was no substantive or compelling reason to dilute the condition of divestment. Presently, there is no proposal from the company in this regard pending consider-ation of the Government.

Performance of STC

1898. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the main items alongwith the quantity and value exported by State Trading Corporation under canalised and non-canalised categories during 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(b) whether the performance of STC is not satisfactory;

(c) if so, whether Government have reviewed the perfomance of STC;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the performance of STC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A statement showing year-wise non-canalised items exported by State Trading Corporation during the last three years is attached.

(b) to (e) The performance of STC which is a profit making PSU, for the last three years is as under :

Rs. in Crores

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (Provisional)
Turnover	1894	1163	1180
Profit before tax	13.88	23.91	8.00
Profit after tax	12.51	22.91	8.00
Networth	445.44	461.63	462.31

The performance of STC is normally reviewed in terms of the Momorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed annually and the corrective steps taken, wherever required. The overall performance of STC is also evaluated at the end of every year by the Department of Public Enterprises. As per such evaluation, the performance of STC during the last three years has been rated as 'Very Good'.

Statement

STC : Export Performance During 1998-99 to 2000-2001

Value : Rs. crore
Qty : 000 MTs in Brackets

Exports

Items	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
Canalised	Nil	Nil	Nil
Non-Canalised			
Extractions	5.24 (13.00)	—	—
Tea	16.42 (1.44)	1.37 (0.09)	2.64
Jute Goods	2.46	0.32	0.22
Others (including spices)	0.17 (0.07)	1.01 (0.31)	0.54
Coarse Grains/Pulses	1.44 (2.23)	0.48 (0.22)	0.39 (0.17)
Sugar/Alcohal/Molasses	41.48 (38.21)	—	—
Castor Seed/Oil	23.42 (8.16)	119.64 (32.49)	128.62 (36.12)
Drugs & Chemicals	10.54	8.95	13.13
Wheat/Wheat Flour	—	0.49 (0.50)	163.74 (297.03)
Coffee	60.76 (7.90)	50.39 (8.21)	12.18 (2.64)
Cashew	13.50 (0.61)	19.91 (0.71)	10.52 (0.43)

1	2	3	4
Rice	4.68	4.61	2.48
	(4.11)	(3.92)	(2.00)
Engg./Const. Materials	20.18	2.19	—
Leatherware	0.15	1.08	0.02
Brassware	—	—	—
Tobacco	—	—	—
Consumer/Sports Goods	0.15	0.13	0.25
Foods/Marine Products	—	0.12	—
Textiles & Garments	4.45	2.10	2.97
Natural Rubber-Deemed exports	15.42	49.92	72.84
	(5.34)	(19.58)	(24.59)
Off-shore	—	20.52	25.10
		(22.28)	
Counter trade	—	161.66	27.63
Total Exports	220.46	444.89	463.27

[Translation]

Wheat and Rice Stock in FCI Godowns

1899. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the stocks of wheat and rice in the Government godowns have risen by 60 million tonnes after the procurement of the last wheat crop;

(b) if so, the quantum of wheat and rice in Government godowns, State-wise as on date;

(c) the estimated total procurement price of this stock; and

(d) the annual interest likely to be paid by the Corporation on this amount ?

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

(b) As on 1.7.2001, the quantum of wheat and rice in Government godowns, State-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The stocks of foodgrains with the Central Pool as on 1.7.2001 were around 22.75 million tonnes of rice and 38.92 million tonnes of wheat totalling to 61.67 million tonnes. The acquisition cost of the above stocks are of the order of Rs. 28,700/- crores for wheat and Rs. 23,300/- crores for rice totalling to 52,000/- crores. The current rate of bank interest on the above would thus be of the order of Rs. 6050/- crores per annum.

Statement

Total stock of foodgrains in central pool as on 01.07.2001 (P)—held by FCI and State Agencies.

S.No.	States/UTs	Rice ($)	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	34.93	3.81	38.74
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Assam	1.68	0.42	2.10
4	Bihar	2.35	2.35	4.70
5	Chhattisgarh	7.21	2.20	9.41
6	Delhi	0.31	3.24	3.55
7	Goa	0.10	0.03	0.13
8	Gujarat	1.27	5.34	6.61
9	Haryana	17.57	96.13	113.70
10	Himachal Pradesh	0.05	0.11	0.16
11	Jammu & Kashmir	0.39	0.26	0.65
12	Jharkhand	0.55	0.34	0.89
13	Karnataka	5.84	2.06	7.90
14	Kerala	6.58	0.18	6.76
15	Madhya Pradesh	2.99	5.96	8.95
16	Maharashtra	4.11	13.08	17.19
17	Manipur	0.10	0.00	0.10
18	Meghalaya	0.08	0.01	0.09
19	Mizoram	0.06	0.01	0.07
20	Nagaland	0.18	0.02	0.20
21	Orissa	5.11	0.31	5.42
22	Punjab	99.22	188.44	287.66
23	Rajasthan	1.06	15.44	16.50
24	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Tamil Nadu	9.74	1.96	11.70
26	Tripura	0.06	0.06	0.12
27	Uttar Pradesh	18.00	40.08	58.08
28	Uttaranchal	1.66	2.95	4.61
29	West Bengal	4.65	2.72	7.37
30	A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
31	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	D & N Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Stocks in Transit	1.66	1.69	3.35
	Grand Total (All-India)	227.51	389.20	616.71

(P) = Provisional (Neg) = Below 500

($) = Rice includes paddy in terms of rice.

(Source : FCI + States)

Procurement by FCI in Katihar, Bihar

1900. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has not procured wheat properly at the rates fixed by the Government in Katihar, Bihar;

(b) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have sent around 80 trucks of wheat to the Food Corporation of India, Katihar;

(c) whether due to non-availability of space in the godown, the officers of this Corporation are unable to procure the wheat;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to put a ban on procuring wheat from outside and thus procuring the wheat from local farmers;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir. At FSD Katihar, a quantity of 1230.66 MTs of wheat conforming to FAQ specifications has been procured at Minimum Support Price.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) and (e)There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(f) The Food Corporation of India and its Agencies procure wheat throughout the country. Wheat so procured is kept in godowns in various parts of the country depending on the procurement and storage space.

[English]

Free Availability of Foodgrains to Poors Through PDS

1901. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether free availability of Foograins and rice to people of weaker and poorer section of the society is being made through public distribution system in some States and Union Territories at present;

(b) if so, the names of such States and Union Territories with criteria of distribution as on May 31, 2001;

(c) whether such schemes have been launched under MP's Funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Management of EPF/PPF Fund

1902. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to entrust the management of EPF/PPF funds to professional fund managers;

(b) if so, whether the Government will insist that a major portion of funds to be invested in Government securities

at treasury rates and only a minor part in rated corporate instruments;

(c) If so, with the experience gained from the present UTI crisis, whether the Government will discourage public funds investment in equity or stock market linked instruments: and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) With effect from 1.4.1995, the Central Board of Trustees, EPF has appointed State Bank of India to act as the portfolio manager for investment of funds. The investment of funds are carried out as per the "Investment Pattern" notified by the Government of India from time to time. A copy of the Investment Pattern, notified by the Government of India, to be followed by the non-Government Provident Funds, Superannuation Funds and Gratuity Funds is enclosed as statement.

PPF Scheme, 1968, is a Government of India scheme, which has been devised under the provisions of the Public Provident Fund Act, 1968. The receipts under this scheme accrue to the Public Account of India and the disbursements are also debited to the corresponding head in the Public Account. There is no proposal to entrust the management of PPF scheme to professional fund managers.

Statement

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PART I—Section 1

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NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1999/CHAITRA 10, 1921

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(Department of Economic Affairs)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 31st March, 1999

Subject:- Pattern of investment to be followed by the non-Government Provident Funds, Superannuation Funds and Gratuity Funds.

No. F. 11(3)-PD/98 — In partial modification of this Ministry's Notification of even number dated 12th June, 1998, the pattern of investment for incremental accretions by the non-Government Provident Funds, Superannuation Funds and Gratuity Funds shall be as follows effective from 1st April, 1999 :—

INVESTMENT PATTERN	Percentage amount be invested
(i) Central Government Securities as defined in Sec, 2 of the Public Debt Act, 1944 (18 of 1944); and/or units of such Mutual Funds which have been set up as dedicated Funds for investment in Government securities and which have been approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India;	Twenty Five per cent
(ii) (a) Government Securities as defined in Section 2 of the Public Debt Act, 1944 (18 of 1944) created and issued by any State Government; and/or units of such Mutual Funds which have been set up as dedicated Funds for investment in Government Securities and which have been approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India; and/or	Fifteen per cent
(b) Any other negotiable securities the principal whereof and interest whereon is fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the Central Government or any State Government except those covered under iii (a) below.	
(iii) (a) Bonds/Securities of 'Public financial institutions' as specified under Section 4(1) of the Companies Act; "public sector companies" as defined in Section 2 (36-A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 including	Forty per cent

public sector banks and the Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited (IDFC); and/or

(b) Certificate of deposits issued by public sector banks.

(iv) To be invested in any of the above three categories as decided by the Trustees. Twenty per cent

(v) The Trusts, subject to their assessment of the risk-return prospects, may invest upto 10% out of (iv) above, in private sector bonds/securities which have an investment grade rating from at least two credit rating agencies.

2. Any moneys received on the maturity of earlier investments reduced by obligatory outgoings, shall be invested in accordance with the investment pattern prescribed in this notification.

3. Interest received on the Special Deposit Scheme itself. Similarly, interest received under other categories may be re-invested in the same category.

4. The investment pattern as envisaged in the above paragraphs may be achieved by the end of a financial year.

S.C. PANDEY, Director (Budget)

[*Translation*]

Balance of Payment Position

1903. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the situation of balance of payments of the country is not sound;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for reaching this stage; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) India's balance of payments (BOP) position remained comfortable, despite a very unfavourable world economic and financial situation as a fall out of the crisis in Asia and hardening of international oil prices. The deficit in the current account of BOP, which was 1.0 per cent of GDP in 1999-2000, narrowed down to 0.5 per cent of GDP in 2000-01. Foreign exchange reserves (including gold & SDRs) had increased by US $5546 million in 1999-2000 and US $4245 million in 2000-01. They have increased further by US $1323 million in the current financial year upto July 20, 2001.

(c) 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.

[*English*]

Establishment of Local Area Banks

1904. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise, number of licenses issued by the RBI so far for setting up of local area banks;

(b) the State-wise, number of such proposals pending with RBI for consideration; and

(c) the time by when the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has so far issued five licenses for setting up of Local Area Banks (LAB). The State-wise position is given below:

Name of the State	Number of licenses issued
Andhra Pradesh	2
Gujarat	1
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	1

(b) Eight proposals for setting up of Local Area Banks are pending with RBI. The State-wise position is as given below:

Name of the State	Number of Proposals pending
Andhra Pradesh	2
Assam	1
Uttar Pradesh	1
Gujarat	1
Haryana	1
West Bengal	1
Tamil Nadu	1
Total	8

(c) Reserve Bank of India have reported that the proposals for setting up of Local Area Banks are sent to their respective regional offices for preliminary scrutiny. The promoters of the proposed Local Area Banks are required to furnish information/data promptly. The clearance of proposals for LABs is contingent on receipt of desired information from promoters. On receipt of the required information/documents, RBI processes the proposals expeditiously.

Whole Sale Price Index

1905. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the weekly rate of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index of essential commodities during the last six months;

(b) the weekly rate of inflation on point-to-point basis during the above period;

(c) the reasons for the continuous increase in the WPI, CPI and the rate of inflation; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the prices of essential commodities and to contain the inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is computed on a weekly basis while the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is brought out only on a monthly basis with a one-month lag.

The WPI and CPI of essential commodities (covering 30 commodities) and the inflation rates based on these two indices during the last six months are enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) As is evident from Statement, price rise in essential commodities has been very moderate during the current financial year both at the wholesale and retail level.

In order to contain prices, Government monitors both the demand and supply sides of inflation very closely. It not only follows an effective supply management policy to ensure adequate availability of essential commodities of mass consumption at reasonable prices, but also adopts measures on the demand side to control inflationary pressures. These include bringing about greater fiscal discipline, and regular monitoring of monetised deficit and broad money (M3) growth.

Statement

Table-1

WPI and CPI of essential commodities and Rate of Inflation in Essential Commodities

Month 2000-01	WPI-ess* (Base 1993-94 =100)	Inflation rate (%) based on WPI-ess	CPI-ess (Based 1982=100)	Inflation rate (%) based on CPI-ess
January	161.3	6.0	422	3.4
February	160.5	5.8	418	3.0
March	161.5	3.0	419	2.9
April	163.7	1.4	421	1.2
May	164.3	1.0	424	1.4
June	164.5	1.1		

* average of weeks

WPI-ess: Wholesale Price Index of essential commodities

CPI-ess: Consumer Price Index of essential commodities

Table-2

Weekly movement of Wholesale Price Index of Essential Commodities & inflation rate based on WPI of Essential Commodities

Month	Week-Date	WPI-ess	Inflation rate(%)
2000-01			
January	01/06/01	161.4	6.3
	01/13/01	161.8	6.6
	01/20/01	161.2	5.8
	01/27/01	161.0	5.3
February	02/03/01	160.3	5.1
	02/10/01	160.8	6.1
	02/17/01	160.3	6.0
	02/24/01	160.7	6.2
March	03/03/01	160.7	3.6
	03/10/01	161.0	3.6
	03/17/01	161.5	3.8
	03/24/01	161.9	0.6
	03/31/01	162.1	0.7
April	04/07/01	163.3	1.1
	04/14/01	164.0	1.4
	04/21/01	163.5	1.5
	04/28/01	164.0	1.3
May	05/05/01	164.1	1.0
	05/12/01	164.5	1.3
	05/19/01	164.4	0.6
	05/26/01	164.2	1.1
June	06/02/01	164.1	1.1
	06/09/01	164.7	1.1
	06/16/01	165.0	1.0
	06/23/01	164.5	1.0
	06/30/01	164.3	0.4
July	07/07/01	164.9	1.2
	14/07/01	164.0	1.1

Setting up of Grain Banks

1906. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to set up grain bank in every State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) A Group of officers is reviewing the experience of Grain Bank Scheme as implemented in Madhya Pradesh. Currently a Central Sector scheme for setting up of Grain Banks is under implementation since 1996-97 exclusively for tribal villages in 13 States in the country. The Scheme provides that villagers in identified areas can form a Committee and set up grain bank in the village. The Government of India provides one time 100% grant for setting up the grain banks, at the rate of 100 Kgs. of locally consumed foodgrains per family.

The members can borrow from this bank in time of need and repay in kind after harvest or getting income as wages.

Stoppage of Wheat Supply to Flour Mills

1907. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of wheat at the subsidised rate of Rs. 600/- per quintal has been stopped to flour mills in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has resulted in the closure of large number of flour mills in these States/Union Territory because of their inability to purchase wheat at economy rates;

(d) whether the mills owners have urged the Government of lift the ban on supply of wheat by Food Corporation of India to these mills at the existing terms and conditions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps initiated by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The open sale of wheat at the rate of Rs. 650/- per quintal was suspended during the months of April and May, 2001 in North Zone (except the States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh) with a view to encourage the Roller Flour Mills and other bulk buyers of the North Zone to purchase wheat directly from farmers during the procurement season.

(c) No information has been received in this regard, Sir.

(d) and (e) Some of the associations of flour mills from North Zone had requested the Government for resumption of open sale of wheat in the North Zone. After consideration of these requests, the open sale of wheat was resumed in the month of June, 2001.

Modernisation of Cement Plant

1908. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IDICOL Cement Plant in Orissa is proposed to be modernised with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) if so, the amount of World Bank aid obtained for the modernisation of that Cement Plant; and

(c) the details of the steps taken for the modernisation of that Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. IDCOL Cement Ltd. had obtained World Bank aid amounting to Rs. 97.23 crores under World Bank Line of Credit (IBRD) through IDBI and ICICI for modernisation of their cement plant and took up the modernisation of the plant in the year 1992. The modernisation was completed in 1995 and the company started commercial production on 5th April, 1995.

[*Translation*]

Recommendations of R. V. Gupta Panel

1909. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of R.V. Gupta Panel constituted by the Reserve Bank of India to bring about improvement in the availability of agricultural loans and to make far reaching changes to simplify loan procedure in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which it has been accepted; and

(c) the impact of these recommendations on the agro-economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) and (b) Majority of the recommendations made by R.V. Gupta Committee for simplification and improvement in system and loan procedures have been accepted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Banks were advised by RBI to implement the recommendations vide ther circular dated 20-5-1998 and all banks have implemented most of the recommendations.

(c) The recommendations of Gupta Committee are expected to facilitate easy access to credit by farmers from banks, quicken the pace of flow of credit to agriculture sector, enhance quantum of credit to farmers besides enabling them to get timely and adequate credit from banks for meeting not only their production needs but also their household/post harvest expenditure. The impact of the recommendations on the agro-economy cannot be adjudged in isolation since the implementation of the recommendations by banks was supplementary and complementary to other measures adopted by banks simultaneously, such as formulation of Special Agricultural Credit Plan (SACP), introduction of Kisan Credit Card Scheme, etc. However, during the past few years, there has been marked improvement in the disbursement of credit to agricultre. The disbursement of credit to agriculture by public sector banks under SACP since 1994-95 is given below:

Year (April-March)	Amount Disbursed (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	8255.00
1995-96	10172.45
1996-97	12782.53
1997-98	14808.35
1998-99	17787.63
1999-2000	21913.14
2000-2001	24654.40

[*English*]

Reimbursement of Freight Charges

1910. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat had represented to the Union Government for increasing reimbursement of road freight expenses for transportation of palmolein allotted by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government are considering the claim of the State for increase in reimbursement of road freight; and

(c) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

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

(b) and (c) Government of India considered the representation of Gujarat Government. However, the representation could not be acceded to and the Government of Gujarat has been informed on 8.12.2000.

Representation from Maharashtra Regarding Sugar Factories

1911. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations seeking adequate grants for the sugar factories covered under 1993 and 1997 schemes from Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The representations have been received from the sugar factories of Maharashtra and Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Sangh Ltd. requesting the Government to compensate the new and expansion projects for loss in incentive on account of change in levy freesale ratio. The representations have been examined and it has been found that with the reduction of levy percentage, the freesale quota has increased, thus benefiting all sugar factories including new and expansion projects availing of incentives.

Huge Foodgrains Stocks in FCI Godowns

1912. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the godowns of FCI are overflowing with Foodgrains meant for exports while huge stock of wheat purchased by the FCI for PDS has been laying open at Najafgarh and Narela grain markets in Delhi for want of space;

(b) if so, the details thereof the estimated loss likely to be suffered by the FCI as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated remedial steps to rectify the situation and to stop its recurrence in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Due to record procurement of rice and wheat in 2000-2001, and 2001-2002, some stocks of foodgrains have been kept in Covered and Plinth (CAP) godowns. Wheat stocks in Najafgarh and Narela mandis have been shifted to storage complexes. No losses are expected because of storage in CAP complexes.

(c) to (e) Steps have been taken to create additional storage capacity through PSU's as well as private parties to accommodate fresh stocks.

Share Price Manipulation by Companies

1913. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sterlite, Videocon and BPL were recently barred from accessing the capital market by SEBI on charges of share price manipulation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the enquiry in this regard has been completed; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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 passed orders on 19.4.2001 debarring BPL Ltd., Videocon International Ltd. and Sterlite Industries Ltd. from accessing the capital market for a period of 4 years, 3 years and 2 years respectively, under section 11 and 11B of the SEBI Act. Prosecution proceedings of the above mentioned companies were ordered under section 24 of SEBI Act for violation of SEBI Act and SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices for dealing in securities) Regulations.

(c) and (d) SEBI had initiated enquiries into the alleged price manipulations in the share prices of M/s BPL, Videocon and Sterlite in April/May, 1998. The investigations were completed in three stages. In the first stage, which was completed in October 1998, it was brought out that a set of brokers and sub-brokers acting on behalf of a common set of clients who were acting as a front for Harshad Mehta cornered large chunk of shares of these companies. This cornering led to price manipulation. Pursuant to these investigations, 18 brokers were suspended for periods ranging from one to three years. Punishment for shorter periods was awarded to some other brokers depending on the extent of ther involvement. In the second phase of investigation, which was completed in January, 1999, President of BSE was asked to relinquish office, the Vice President and Executive Director of BSE resigned following investigations. The Executive Director was also debarred from holding public office in any capital market related public institution for a period of three years. In the third phase, investigations were completed against Harshad Mehta, BPL, Videocon and Sterlite by October, 1999. Show cause notices were issued to them in December, 1999. The parties were given the opportunity of final hearings in the month of March/April, 2001. Pursuant to the hearings, SEBI passed orders on 19.4.2001 debarring BPL Ltd., Videocon International Ltd. and Sterlite Industries Ltd. from accessing the capital market for a period of 4 years, 3 years and 2 years respectively. Harshad Mehta has been permanently debarred from dealing in securities and his prosecution has also been ordered.

[*Translation*]

Swarn Jayanti Rozgar Yojana

1914. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed in regard to providing loans under the 'Swarn Jayanti Rozgar Yojana' and other welfare schemes;

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

(c) the number of families benefited therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Loans are being provided under various welfare schemes such as Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) implemented by different Ministries/Departments. According to the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, the State-wise details of target fixed, the number of beneficiaries under SJSRY, PMRY and amount of credit targeted and disbursed under SGSY is given in Statement-I. Public Sector Bank-wise details of number of accounts covered and amount outstanding under DRI Scheme is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

The State-wise details of target, number of beneficiaries and amount of credit targeted and disbursed during year ended March 2001

Name of the State	Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana		Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana		Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana	
	Target No.	Total Loans Disburse No.	Target No.	No. of Beneficiaries	Total Credit Target (Amount)	Total Credit Disbursed (Amount)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1443	897	33800	6536	21600.00	5433.23
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	500	118	880.00	69.43
Assam	2003	939	6600	1334	7000.00	771.02
Bihar	1716	2736	21900	6159	37040.00	13453.97
Chattisgarh	1534	591	—	—	10020.00	3955.59
Goa	135	128	625	256	170.00	3.33
Gujarat	12040	2807	14700	8105	7500.00	3803.66
Haryana	1748	1289	8600	4348	4200.00	5812.11
Himachal Pradesh	335	285	2500	1862	2000.00	1634.62
Jammu & Kashmir	4260	1236	4000	652	1800.00	642.28
Jharkhand	40	88	—	—	13960.00	2460.46
Karnataka	6429	4441	22000	5873	14000.00	5471.37
Kerala	675	3363	23700	9372	7000.00	6012.73
Madhya Pradesh	24144	7874	32400	10065	21480.00	12074.24
Maharashtra	15541	4847	45000	16555	28500.00	17377.48
Manipur	10	23	1100	357	500.00	0.00
Meghalaya	438	293	600	381	600.00	0.00
Mizoram	390	277	250	245	200.00	3.96
Nagaland	176	158	200	21	400.00	15.43
Orissa	7051	2048	15500	1027	20700.00	12333.87
Punjab	853	1876	9000	6291	2000.00	2605.08
Rajasthan	16073	5241	16600	8291	14000.00	12416.61
Sikkim	0	25	50	33	230.00	187.54
Tamil Nadu	1215	2299	18500	9184	18000.00	8236.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	725	285	1300	35	2100.00	1164.22
Uttar Pradesh	34445	13720	52200	28198	61755.00	21286.78
Uttaranchal	1608	652	—	—	3245.00	16.73
West Bengal	2991	3439	22500	1622	20000.00	448.69
A & N Islands	6	5	150	106	125.00	3.90
Daman & Diu	0	0	50	22	125.00	0.00
D & N Haveli	0	0	50	22	120.00	0.00
Lakshadweep	0	0	50	14	125.00	0.50
Pondicherry	92	123	625	159	125.00	3.22
Not specified	0	1093	0	690	0	0
Total	143028	63222	360050	128623	320500.00	137698.06

Statement-II

Bank-wise details of number of accounts and amount outstanding under DRI scheme during the year March ended 2000

(Amt. in crores)

(A/c. in lakhs)

Name of the Bank	No. of A/c	Balance O/S
1	2	3
State Bank of India	1.26	34.35
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	0.93	7.16
State Bank of Hyderabad	0.39	22.00
State Bank of Indore	0.15	6.75
State Bank of Mysore	0.18	4.87
State Bank of Patiala	0.11	5.64
State Bank of Saurashtra	—	0.11
State Bank of Travancore	0.41	2.91
Allahabad Bank	0.63	31.23
Andhra Bank	0.08	13.00
Bank of Baroda	0.30	44.51
Bank of India	1.70	51.45
Bank of Maharashtra	0.04	4.82
Canara Bank	0.90	27.70
Central Bank of India	0.41	18.70
Corporation Bank	0.02	2.35

1	2	3
Dena Bank	0.01	3.79
Indian Bank	1.79	10.11
Indian Overseas Bank	0.35	32.50
Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.05	9.17
Punjab National Bank	0.49	41.93
Punjab & Sind Bank	0.01	14.17
Syndicate Bank	0.05	15.00
Union Bank of India	0.15	12.46
United Bank of India	0.04	2.89
UCO Bank	0.20	5.00
Vijaya Bank	0.02	8.25
Total	10.67	432.82

[*English*]

Decentralisation of Foodgrains Procurement

1915. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have been actively considering implementing the decentralised scheme of food procurement and distribution activities in all States of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has constituted a working group to make consensus among States for this purpose; and

(c) to what extent the farmers and consumers in food deficit States are likely to be benefited under decentralized scheme of food procurement and distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports held on 6.7.2001, it was clarified that the scheme of decentralized procurement of foodgrains will not be imposed on any State. Further, consultations will be held with the State Governments and sharing of gains under the scheme will be considered with those States which agree to adopt the scheme.

(c) The Scheme has the following advantages:

(i) The local farmers would get Minimum Support Price

(ii) Locally grown varieties, which are, preferred by local consumers, will be available through the Public Distribution network.

(iii) Since the consuming States themselves will be procuring foodgrains, there would be no complaint about quality.

(iv) Dependence of the State Governments on the FCI for PDS supplies would be reduced.

(v) Higher local procurement would reduce pressure on freight movement by rail.

(vi) The economic cost of the foodgrains to be procured by the states under the decentralized scheme would normally be less than the economic cost of the FCI.

Financial Health of Public Sector Financial Institutions

1916. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector financial institutions are in poor financial health;

(b) if so, the details of the profit/loss of UTI, ICICI, IDBI, IFCI etc. during each of the last three years and upto June 30, 2001;

(c) the reasons for the loss, if any, for any of the above mentioned financial institutions; and

(d) the concrete steps the Government have taken or proposed to be taken to improve the over all scenario of these financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The details of Net profit/loss of, ICICI, IDBI and IFCI during the last three years and upto June 30, 2001 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Institution	March 1998-99	March 1999-2000	March 2000-2001	June 2001
ICICI	1001	1206	537	326
IDBI	1258.9	947	691	181.9
IFCI	23.5	–191.8	–261.9	–27.8

So far as UTI is concerned, it is not a regular financial institution but a mutual fund. It does not prepare/publish a common balance sheet and income and expenditure account for the corporation as a whole. It only publishes scheme-wise balance sheet and income and expenditure account and its profit and loss is reflected in Net Asset Value (NAV) of its schemes.

(c) Some of the Financial Institutions (FIs) have suffered losses due to bad investment decisions and asset liability maturity mismatch. In addition, changes in Government policies from time to time, recessionary conditions in major industrial sector resulting from excess capacity creation, increased competition from imports and slowdown in exports also affected the health of the institutions. There are also certain industry/unit specific and management related problems which has adversely effected the profitability of FI.

(d) Government is taking various steps in consultation with all concerned to help the financial institutions who are presently in financial distress to revive them so that they continue to play their significant role. FIs are also taking measures like exercising prepayment option on high cost debt, raising fresh funds through appropriate liquidity/maturity/cost mix and offering new structured products.

[*Translation*]

Inferior Consumer Goods

1917. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that markets of the country are flooded with inferior goods particularly with electrical goods are dangerous for consumers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to stop the sale of inferior goods in the country;

(c) whether any raids were conducted by the BIS and seized inferior goods which were put on sale in the country particularly electrical goods during the last two years;

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

(e) the details of action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is monitoring the quality of products of the manufacturers who have obtained license under the Product Certification Scheme being operated by the Bureau. Presently about 111 electrical items have been brought under the Product Certification Scheme. To stop the sale of inferior goods in the country, the Government has brought seven items, namely, electric immersion water heaters, electric iron, electric stoves, electric radiators, switches for domestic and similar purposes, 2 Ampere switches for domestic and similar purposes and 3 pin plugs and socket outlets under Mandatory Certification.

BIS is monitoring the performance of licensees through surprise visits to factories and drawal of market samples. In case the items are found sub-standard necessary punitive action including stoppage of marking, non-renewal of licence and even cancellation of licence is taken. In case of fake ISI marked products, detailed investigations are carried out by BIS and if the evidence thus collected is found adequate, prosecution is launched in the court against the offending party under the BIS Act, 1986.

(c) to (e) During last two years 46 search and seizure operations were carried out by BIS in the country. Six of them related to electrical goods as per following details:

Year	Search & Seizure Carried Out		Parties Convicted
1999-2000	Maharashtra	01	Cases subjudice
	Uttar Pradesh	02	– do –
2000-2001	Delhi	01	– do –
April 2001 to July 2001	Delhi	02	– do –

[English]

Export of Leather Products

1918. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether any target has been fixed for the export of leather products during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of leather products?

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 export target for leather and leather products during 2000-2001 had been fixed at 1760 Million US $ as per details given hereunder:

(Value in million US $)

Category	Target 2000-2001
Finished Leather	250
Leather Footwear	360
Footwear Components	260
Leather Garments	350
Leather Goods (including Saddlery Harness)	490
Non-Leather footwear	50
Total	1760

As against the target of 1760 Million US $, the actual exports were 1970.99 Million US $ during the year 2000-2001.

(c) Exporters are being extended various benefits for participation in buyer-seller meetings, fairs, trade delegations. In addition, during the current year, at the initiative of the Government, the Council for Leather Exports is formulating a plan for a more focussed approach to exports of leather products by identifying specific products to be marketed in specific countries.

Expansion of Diamond Processing Industry

1919. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand country's diamond processing industry;

(b) if so, the programme drawn up in this regard;

(c) whether Russia is likely to assist India in the expansion of diamond processing industry; and

(d) if so, the details of the joint ventures established 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 Indian diamond processing industry is highly dependent on imports of rough diamonds and most of its production is sold through exports. As of now, there is some shortage in the supply of rough diamonds of the sizes in which the Indian diamond processing industry has established expertise and also has comparative advantage. Ther is some downturn in the global market of cut and polished diamonds and as such it may not be opportune time for taking up expansion of the diamond processing industry, though diversification by the existing diamond processing industries into diamond studded jewellery manufacturing may be highly desirable. However, the Exim Policy initiatives such as provision for the establishment of private/public bonded warehouses, the Diamond Dollar Account Scheme, permission for personal carriage of import and export parcels and the scheme of allowing export and subsequent re-import of cut and polished diamonds for certification by international agencies, etc. are directed towards facilitating growth in the export of cut and polished diamonds. Besides the Government, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, a representative autonomous body of the trade sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, have undertaken and have proposed to undertake several actions in the short/medium term, some of which are given below:

- Have got prepared a medium-term export strategy.
- Exploring the possibilities of direct procurement of rough diamonds from the diamond mining countries.
- Have provided funds under the Critical Infrastructure

Balancing Scheme to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture under the auspices of Indian Diamond Institute at Surat to give a fillip to the Jewellery design and manufacturing.

- Explore and identify new markets by undertaking market study through expert consultants and by deputing Indian designers to various international trade fairs and exhibitions for on the spot study for latest trends in designs.
- Newer markets in the Latin American Countries are also being closely examined for evolving a strategy for promotion of gems and jewellery exports from India.

(c) During the visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India in October 2000, a Protocol of Intentions was signed between Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Ministry of Finance, Russian Federation for co-operation in the trade of diamonds and precious metals. To operationalise the arrangements under the above Protocol, an agreement was later on got concluded with M/s. Gokhran (State Depository of Precious Commodities) Ministry of Finance, Government of Russia as per which they have to directly export rough diamonds valued at US $ 4,468,894.42 to India. The supply of diamonds from Russia under the above agreement is, however, yet to materialise.

(d) No joint venture in the field of diamond cutting and polishing industry has yet been set up between India and Russia.

Failure of PDS in Bihar

1920. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Plan has revealed that people living below the poverty line are no longer PDS beneficiaries in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Union Government have initiated 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 9th Five Year Plan has cited a study in Bihar which has reported inter alia that on the whole, only Government staff, agents and retailers benefit from the scheme.

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 procuring and making available to the States the PDS commodities to the Principal Distribution Centres, identification of BPL population, issue of ration cards and distribution of subsidised foodgrains to the cardholders rests with the State Governments.

It is not correct that people living below the poverty line are no longer PDS beneficiaries in the State of Bihar. As per the report received from Government of Bihar, however, at present the prevailing prices of foodgrains available in open market is nearly at par with the rates of BPL foodgrains at the retail level. It is further reported by Bihar Government that, therefore, beneficiaries under BPL category are not much inclined to lift their foodgrains from PDS. Lifting of foodgrains during last four years is as follows:

(figures in MT)

	Allocation		Lifting	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
1997-98	380560	545560	158258	414105
1998-99	412320	618480	227075	533418
1999-2000	412320	618480	216977	575927
2000-2001	824640	1236950	109205	280919

(d) and (e) State Government of Bihar has been requested to initiate suitable measures at all levels to rejuvenate the Public Distribution System. State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels and make arrangement for distribution of the PDS commodities to the target beneficiaries in the transparent and accountable manner with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Antyodaya Yojana

1921. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poorest of the poor in the country

are not getting the Foodgrains while the godowns are over flowing with food grains;

(b) if so, the measures the Government have taken or purpose to take to ensure that Foodgrains reach the needy persons;

(c) the number of families benefited under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana;

(d) whether the Antyodaya Anna Yojana has failed to achieve its target; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps initiated by the Union Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana was announced on the 25 December, 2000 so as to serve the poorest of the poor in rural and urban areas by providing them with foodgrains @25 kg. per family per month at highly subsidised rates Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg. for rice.

(c) to (e) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families in the country. So far Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu after completing the task of identification of the beneficiary families and issue of distinctive ration cards to them. The number of Antyodaya families benefited in these States is 5187520. The task of identification of beneficiaries and issue of distinctive ration cards to them is in progress in other States/UTs.

Exemption to Provide Subsidies to Women

1922. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to seek exemption to provide subsidies to women, especially in rural areas, involved in income generation at the lower economic strata, and to evolve mechanisms to protect women, farmers and workers from the adverse effect of WTO regime;

(b) if so, whether to achieve this objective the Government propose to take up the issue of setting up a "gender box" akin to the "green box" in the WTO regime at the next round of negotiations; and

(c) if so, the decision, if any, has been taken in the matter?

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) At present there is no proposal with the Government for creation of a "gender box". However, India in its proposals submitted to the WTO for the ongoing negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture, has demanded creation of a "Food Security Box" so as to take care of its food security and livelihood concerns and has, interalia, sought sufficient flexibility for domestic policy measures taken by the developing country members for alleviation of poverty, rural development, rural employment and diversification of agriculture.

Procurement of Maize by FCI in Karnataka

1923. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has not paid the amount due to the farmers on account of maize procured form them in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total quantity of maize procured in the State by FCI;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued directions to FCI to make payments to the farmers at the earliest;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has made full payments to the farmers to the extent of procurement made by FCI. The FCI has also made payment for the stocks procured and passed on by the Karnataka State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation to FCI upto 28.2.2001.

A total amount of Rs. 109.07 crore has been paid to the farmers. Out of this, Rs. 58.42 crore has been paid by FCI and Rs. 52.65 crore has been paid by Karnataka State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation.

As on 31.3.2001, the FCI and the Karnataka State Food

and Civil Supplies Corporation, a sub-agent of FCI, procured a quantity of 3.79 lakh MTs of maize in Karnataka.

(c) to (e) FCI is releasing payments to the State Government on the submission of Bills regarding release of the stocks to the tenderers.

Insurance Claims of Earthquake Victims

1924. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Companies have since settled the claims of the affected persons in the recent earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which all these claims are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) LIC of India have received 1656 Gujarat earthquake related claims out of which 1586 claims have been settled. The General Insurance Companies have received altogether 47,727 claims out of which 40,998 claims have been settled. The delay in settling the outstanding claims is due to non-submission of required documents by the insured and non-completion of survey particularly of large claims. The outstanding claims will be settled expeditiously on completion of required formalities.

[*Translation*]

NAV of UTI

1925. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government was aware that the Net Assets Value (NAV) of UTI scheme was falling continuously during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

(c) whether some big industrial houses, who had invested huge amounts in the UTI scheme, knew before the annual closing of accounts of UTI that its Net Assets Value (NAV) has fallen;

(d) if so, whether big investors had withdrawn largest amounts of money from US-64 during the last three months;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) UTI has intimated that there is no consistent trend. Net Asset Value of UTI's schemes depend upon the market value of their underlying securities. Hence, the NAV of the schemes move in line with market movements. When the stock markets were moving up until March 2001, NAVs showed uptrend. Since then NAVs declined due to fall in the stock market.

(c) US-64 is not an NAV based scheme. UTI has intimated that it is not aware of any industrial houses having known about the NAV of US-64 before annual closing of accounts.

(d) and (e) Investors other than individuals had withdrawn about Rs. 2484 crores out of total repurchases of the order of Rs. 4389 crores during March-May, 2001.

(f) A decision to suspend sales and repurchases was taken by the Board of Trustees of UTI at its meeting on 2nd July, 2001. However, keeping in view the interests of small unitholders, it was decided on 15th July, 2001 to reopen limited repurchase facility for small investors from August 1, 2001.

[*English*]

Closure of Banks

1926. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether branches of all Public and Private Sector Banks remained closed continuously for three days in April, 2001;

(b) whether such continuous closure has caused immense inconvenience to the depositors as well as huge financial loss to the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some steps ensuring that no branch either under Public or Private Sector Bank shall remain close for more than 2 days continuously under any circumstances in any month of the calendar year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Bank branches in most States were closed on 13th, 14th and 15th April, 2001 on account of Good Friday, Ambedkar Jayanti and Sunday respectively as these days were declared holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 by the respective State Governments/Central Government.

(b) Generally, Bank holidays during any calendar year are announced by the respective State Governments

before the commencement of the year and banks display the list in the Branch Notice Board. As such, the customers are able to plan their bank transactions. While inconvenience is caused to customers of banks remain closed continuously for a number of days, it would not be possible to measure financial losses, if any, on account of such closure.

(c) and (d) Government of India is considering the questions of rationalizing the number and pattern of bank holidays in the context of the difficulty being caused to the public by a large number of consecutive bank holidays and of ensuring that, as far as possible, the banks shall not remain closed continuously for more than two consecutive days.

Closure of PIB Office

1927. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for closing down of any of the PIB office in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the office and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DFID Assistance to Orissa

1928. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DFID has adopted Orissa State as one of the focus State in the country;

(b) if so, the projects in the State for which DFID assistance is being obtained; and

(c) the details of progress made in the negotiations to obtain such financial assistance?

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

(b) and (c) At present the following DFID assisted projects are under implementation in Orissa State:

Name of the Project	Amount of assistance (Figures in Mln. £)
1	2
(1) Orissa Power Sector Project	64.50
(2) Orissa Health & Family Welfare Reforms Project	3.83
(3) Cuttack Urban Services Improvement Project	12.72
(4) Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Project	32.75

In addition to above, the following project proposals submitted by the State Government of Orissa are in pipeline for seeking DFID assistance:

Name of the Project	Amount of Assistance (Figures in Mln. £)
(1) Orissa Post Cyclone Reconstruction of Primary Schools Project	33.2
(2) Rehabilitation of Cyclone Damaged Lift Irrigation Project	5.5

Negotiations in the case of above two projects are in advanced stage.

Minimising Carrying Cost of Buffer Stock

1929. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to minimize surplus buffer carrying costs;

(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) Yes, Sir. Government has taken a number of measures to liquidate excess stocks of foodgrains, and increase the off-take of wheat and rice during 2001-2002. These include, inter-alia, increase in the allocation of food-grains for BPL families under TPDS, down-ward revision of Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice for APL families, open market sale of wheat and rice at reduced rates, allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates to the State Governments for undertaking 'Food for work Programme', allotment of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes of the Government, and export of wheat and rice. The above measures have been taken with a view to offloading surplus stocks and reducing the buffer carrying costs.

Overdrafts by States

1930. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have taken overdrafts from the Reserve Bank of India during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, till date alongwith the amount taken in each case alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the RBI has dishonoured the cheques of some of the States;

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

(d) the amount of advance released by the Union Government to the States facing financial crisis during the above period, State-wise, and

(e) the steps suggested by the Union Government to the States to avoid the overdraft situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The position of cash balances and over-drawal if any, of the State Governments may vary from day to day and State to State. Transactions between a State and the RBI are conducted as per agreement between the two. Since, it is a matter of relationship between the banker and the client (RBI and State Government) the information about the State's overdraft on their accounts with the RBI is not published/made public by the Government of India.

(d) The Union Government through a combination of feasible releases helps the States from time to time to overcome the cash imbalance and overdraft with the Reserve Bank of India.

(e) The financial management of the States is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and it is for the respective State Government to initiate remedial action. However, pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, a scheme for the States' Fiscal Reforms Facility has been drawn up. Under the scheme, States have been encouraged to draw a monitorable fiscal reforms programme aimed at improving their finanical position in the medium term.

Stock of Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

1931. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether off-take of Foodgrains has increased after the Government's decision to reduce their prices for the APL groups

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

(c) whether the Government will supply more food items to States as per their requests;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has made any study/reviewed the cases for increase in the stock of rice and wheat in the godowns; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Central Issue Price (CIP) for Above Poverty Line (APL) families has been recently reduced with effect from 12.7.2001. It is, therefore, anticipated that offtake will increase in the forthcoming months.

(c) and (d) The stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool being quite comfortable, the Government will allot more quantities of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) for APL families to States/UTs., if so demanded.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A High Level Committee on long term grain policy has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Ex-Chairman of Commission on Agriculture Cost and Prices (CACP) which will look after various aspects of foodgrains policy including surplus stocks of foodgrains.

Export of Maize

1932. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has withdrawn its proposal for allowing exports of maize;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are planning to sell maize from FCI godowns to all interested parties, both private and public sector trading houses;

(d) if so, the total purchases made by these parties from FCI godowns;

(e) the total production of maize in the country;

(f) the extent to which FCI has procured maize from the farmers, State-wise;

(g) whether the maize farmers have urged the Government to export maize; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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) FCI has been permitted to sell maize to the interested parties on "first come first serve" basis. After issue of stocks in such manner domestically, FCI may negotiate with the PSUs for export of the undisposed stocks.

(d) Upto 25.07.2001, a quantity of 4.59 lakh MTs has been sold to private parties.

(e) As per advance estimates of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the total production of maize in the country in 118.40 lakh MTs for the year 2000-2001.

(f) As per the details given in the enclosed Statement.

(g) and (h) As per the EXIM Policy, export of maize is freely allowed subject to quantitative ceilings as may be notified by the Department of Commerce (DGFT)

Statement

State-wise procurement of maize by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the current kharif marketing season.

(Figures in tonnes)

State	Quantity procured		Total
	FCI	State Agencies	
Andhra Pradesh	20451	22468	42919
Karnataka	123309	259307	382616
Madhya Pradesh	0	19535	19535
Maharashtra	0	16107	16107
Total	143760	317417	461177

Setting up of Resource Centre at Bangalore

1933. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a Resource Centre and digital Documentation Centre in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal to set up such a Centre in Tamil Nadu is also under consideration of the Government; and

(d) 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) to (d) No Sir. No such proposals are under consideration in the Department of Commerce or in the Ministry of Information Technology.

TV Tower at Ajmer, Rajasthan

1934. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up a TV tower on the Taragarh Fort of Ajmer was under consideration of the Government;

(b) whether the proposed TV tower was abandoned;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any alternative site was considered; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A High Power Transmitter has been commissioned at Ajmer on 11th July, 2001 in an interim arrangement with a temporary Tower at Taragarh Fort.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Lack of Staff in Kohima

1935. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan Kendras in North Eastern States especially in Kohima the capital of Nagaland, do not have the requisite number of staff and officers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether adequate number of programmes are also not being produced due to paucity of staff and officers; and

(d) if so, action being taken by the Government to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The staff in all the Doordarshan Kendras in the North-Eastern

States, including Kohima, has been provided as per the functional requirements.

(c) Adequate number of programmes are being produced.

(d) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of PSUs

1936. DR. ASHOK PATEL:

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue guidelines shortly regarding private participation in the disinvestment of the public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the guidelines are likely to be issued?

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) The disinvestment policy of the Government implying private participation in disinvestment of PSUs, has been announced from time to time in the Parliament during the Budget speeches. The salient features of this policy are:

- Restructuring and reviving potentially viable PSUs;
- Closing down PSUs which cannot be revived;
- Bringing down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26% or lower, if necessary; and
- Fully protect the interest of workers.

A manual titled "Disinvestment: Policy and Procedures" has also been published providing all necessary details. This manual has distributed to, among others, all the members of Parliament. The Government has also issued on 13-7-2001 the following guidelines for qualification of bidders seeking to acquire stakes in public sector enterprises through the process of disinvestment:

(i) 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 facts of the case and relevant legal principles, by the Government.

(ii) 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.

(iii) In both (i) and (ii), disqualification shall continue for a period that Government deems appropriate.

(iv) Any entity, which is disqualified from participating in the disinvestment process, would not be allowed to remain associated 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.

(v) 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.

(vi) 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.

(vii) 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, as approved, 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 Government. For other criteria also, a similar undertaking shall be obtained along with EOI.

[*English*]

Invitation to Pakistan in Film Festival

1937. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has invited Islamabad to take part in the forthcoming International Film Festival at Bangalore during October, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received the response from the Pakistani Government;

(c) whether any deadline was fixed for accepting the invitation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the other countries which are participating in this film festival;

(f) whether any film from Pakistan will be displayed on this festival; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Entries have been invited from several film producing countries, including Pakistan, for participation in International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held at Bangalore in October, 2001, by sending a communication to their Embassies/High Commissions in New Delhi alongwith copies of IFFI Regulations. The last date for receipt of entries is 31st August, 2001. No entry has been received from Pakistan so far.

(e) to (g) The details of countries who will participate in the Festival will be known only after the last date of receipt of entries is over. Films from Pakistan would be shown in IFFI in case entries are received and the same are found eligible for participation in the festival.

Agencies Notified for Export of Maize

1938. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted the State Governments to export two lakh metric tonnes of maize through various agencies;

(b) if so, whether the nodal agencies have been identified for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the quota fixed for each agency;

(d) whether the notification in this regard has been issued;

(e) whether even after the clearance from the Union Government for export of maize, the State Governments are considering to help the exporters; and

(f) 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) to (f) The Office of Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) vide Public Notice No. 64 (RE-2000)/1997-2002 dated 16.3.2001 have released a quantity of 2 lakh MT of maize for export to be distributed as under:

Name of the agency	Quantity in MTs
KSCMF, Bangalore (State Govt. Org.)	25,000
KAPPEC, Bangalore (State Govt. Org.)	25,000
STCL, Bangalore (Govt. PSU)	30,000
NAFED (Govt. Co-operative)	10,000
NCCF (Govt. Co-operative)	10,000
APEDA for Pvt. Exporters	1,00,000
Total	2,00,000

The Organisations who have been allocated the above quantities take necesary steps to export maize.

Grants to Tea Garden Owners in West Bengal

1939. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant has been sanctioned to various tea garden owners in West Bengal during 1.4.1997 and 31.3.2001;

(b) if so, the amount of grant sanctioned to each tea garden owner;

(c) whether such grant has also been sanctioned either by Union Government or by State Government to such tea gardens owners, who have encroached the Governments land illegally in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the circumstances in which the grant was sanctioned to these tea garden owners during the above period?

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 amount of subsidy disbursed by the Tea

Board in West Bengal during the period 1.4.97 and 31.3.2001 year-wise are as follows:

Year	No. of gardens	Amount disbursed (Rs. in Lakhs)
1997-98	220	179.22
1998-99	104	78.66
1999-2000	83	107.48
2000-2001	140	133.29

(c) and (d) The subsidy is given by the Tea Board only to the legal owners of the tea gardens after physical verification of the developmental activities undertaken by them. Therefore, the question of sanctioning any grant to such tea garden owners who have encroached upon Governments land illegally in West Bengal does not arise.

Black Money in Film Industry

1940. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a plan to protect film industry from influence of balck money and underworld;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether officials of her Ministry have undertaken a foreign visit to study the functioning of media channels in these countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the visit ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) "Police" is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Nevertheless, in order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, Notification dated 16.10.2000 was issued by the Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division), Ministry of Finance, whereunder the "Entertainment Industry including films" has been specified as an approved activity under "Industrial Concern" in exercise of powers conferred by Section 2(c) (xvii) of the IDBI Act. The Industrial Development Bank of India has evolved guidelines to enable banks and financial institutions to fund proposals for financing of film production.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Officials of this Ministry visited London for this purpose. During the visit, discussions centerd on State-of-art technologies and afforded the officials and opportunity to understand DTH operations, cable operations, digital terrestrial transmission as well as public service broadcasting system undertaken by British Broadcasting Corporation.

Raid on Outlook Premises

1941. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been raid on the Outlook premises;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Delhi Union of Journalists had taken up the matter with the Government; and

(d) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

ICICI Loan to Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.

1942. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICICI has recently agreed to give a loan of Rupees 500 crores to the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation;

(b) whether the counter guarantee has been obtained for security of loan;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the guidelines laid down for the financial institutions to ensure and secure repayment of loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) ICICI has given "in principle" sanction to Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) for a term loan of Rs. 500 crores. No disbursement has been made out of the loan till now.

(b) and (c) The loan would be secured by a charge on the fixed assets of the KPTCL as well as a charge over the receivables of KPTCL. The loan does not carry any guarantee.

(d) Financial Institutions including ICICI while extending loans to projects stipulate certain terms and conditions i.e. rate of interest, repayment period, security creation, personal and corporate guarantee etc. to ensure timely implementation of the projects within the estimated cost and to enable the lenders to monitor the project. Certain project specific conditions are also stipulated. Loans are extended to borrowers as per the well laid out credit policy duly approved by their respective boards and also guidelines issued by RBI/ Government in this regard.

[*English*]

Meeting of Indo-Pak Chamber of Commerce

1943. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Indo-Pak Chamber of Commerce was held in Lahore on May 22, 2001;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed at the meetings;

(c) whether Pakistan has agreed to accord most favoured nation status to India; and

(d) if so, the benefits that will flow to India after obtaining this status?

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. The second meeting of India-Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held in Pakistan on May 22, 2001.

(b) The subjects discussed at the meeting included the potential for enhancing bilateral trade including the channelisation of unofficial trade and promotion of bilateral joint ventures.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Tyres

1944. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to whom tyres are being exported at present from India;

(b) the total value of tyres exported to those countries during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether the Government have set up any target for tyre export during the coming years; and

(d) 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) Value of tyres exported during the last 3 years are as under:

(Rs/Crores)

Year	Tyres
1998-99	810.97
1999-00	863.82
2000-01 (estimated)	953.00

Source: CAPEXIL

Country-wise export data is available in the DGCI&S publication, viz., "Monthly statistics of the Foreign Trade of India".

(c) and (d) Capexil, the Export Promotion Council under Department of Commerce, has set a target of Rs. 1000 Crores for export of tyres during 2001-02.

Vacant Post of Chairman, IDBI

1945. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the exact date from when the post of Chairman in the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has been lying vacant;

(b) the steps have been taken by the Government to fill up this post; and

(c) the time by which the Chairman of IDBI is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) in Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) is lying vacant with effect from 1st February, 2001. The matter for filling up the post of Chairman, IDBI is under consideration of the Government and the post will be filled up shortly.

[*Translation*]

Functioning of Voluntary Consumer Organisations

1946. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Volunatry Consumer Organisations functioning in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) whether the Union Government have provided assistance to each organisation during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the criterion adopted for allocating funds the Voluntary Consumer Organisations;

(d) whether the Government have received some complaints regrding the misuse of funds by these organisations during the above period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) As per information available with the Department, the number of Voluntary Consumer Organizations (VCOs) functioning in States of U.P. and Delhi are 103 and 26, respectively.

(b) and (c) A list of Voluntary Consumer Organizations of U.P. and Delhi that have been provided financial assistance during the last three years from the Consumer Welfare Fund is attached as Statement. 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 can apply for assistance from the fund for projects which will promote consumer welfare.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Voluntary Consumer Organizations that received financial assistance from Consumer Welfare Fund during last three years

(Amount in Rupees)

	Name	Year	Amount Sanctioned
	1	2	3
	Uttar Pradesh		
1.	Amit Shikshan Sansthan, Vill. & PO Mahanajganj, Azamgarh	1998-99	18,000
2.	Bhoot Purva Sainik Sanstha, Vill, Kumrala, PO Gajraula	1998-99	18,000
3.	Grameen Shiksha avam Prodyogiki Vikas Sansthan, L-33, Indira Nagar, Rae Bareli	1998-99	18,000
4.	Shiksha avam Jan Kalyan Samiti, Ranipur, PO Bharsar (Sahjanwa)	1998-99	22,500
5.	Shivam Udhyog Shakti Sansthan, Gram Fatepur, PO Anoopshahar	1998-99	34,200
6.	Awadh Grameen Vikas Sansthan, Vill. & P.O. Dhammaur, Distt. Sultanpur	1999-2000	22,500
7.	Bhartiya Upbhokta Sanrakshan Samiti, L-124, Sector 11, Noida, Distt. – Gautam Budh Vihar	1999-2000	25,500
8.	Gram Vikas Seva Sansthan, Village Mannipur, P.O. Golabazar, Gorakhpur	1999-2000	22,500
9.	Institute for Socio-Cultural and Rural Development, 32, Narendra Nagar, Unnao	1999-2000	27,000
10.	Janata Sewa Samiti, Vill. Pakarder, P.O. Mahson, Distt. Basti	1999-2000	31,500

1	2	3
11. Kalyan Shikha Seva Sansthan, At. – Chaudah Meel, PO. – Ghurwara, Distt. – Raebareli	1999-2000	22,500
12. Late Ramrakhar Randey Jan-Hitkari Kendra, Gram P.O.- Malookbari, Fatehpur-212658	1999-2000	22,500
13. Mahila Mandal Sewa Sansthan, 476, Ram Janki Nagar, Near Viveka Nand School, Basaratpur, Gorakhpur. (UP)	1999-2000	18,000
14. Manishi Bal Vidya Mandir Samiti, 402/1, Sharma Sadan, Raj Colony, Jaunpur	1999-2000	27,000
15. Rasoolpur Latif Nagar, Paropkari Sanstha, Vill.- Rasoolpur, Post-Bhatgaon, Distt. Lucknow	1999-2000	22,500
16. Sangram Samal Seva Sansthan, Vill. & P.O.- Betabar Kalan Distt. Ghazipur	1999-2000	22,500
17. SHARP Development, L-124, Sector-XI, Noida, - 201301	1999-2000	27,000
18. Pushpanjali, Vill & P.O. Baroora (Baroura) district-Unnao	2000-01	22,500
19. Surya Gramodyog Vikas Samiti, Vill & P.O., Sari, District- Faizabad	2000-01	36,000
20. Safi Udyog Vikas Seva Sansthan, Vill & P.O. Kot, district- Gautam Budh Nagar	2000-01	31,500
21. Shri Nageshwar Jan Kalyan Samiti, 125/1 Chota Bhagara, Prayag, Allahabad	2000-01	39,240
22. Surya Gramodyog Vikas Samiti, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh	2000-01	36,000
23. Consumer's Protection and Service Council (UP) Harisevak Niwas, 2/22, Jagatnarayan Street, Sadhwar, Farukhabad	2000-01	13,500
24. Bharat Jyoti, 16, Jopling Road, Lucknow-226001, Uttar Pradesh	2000-01	2,35,000
25. Bhartiya Upbhokta Sanrakshan Samiti, L-124, Sector 11, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Vihar	1999-2000	22,500
Delhi		
1. Voluntary Organisation in Interest of Consumer Education (VO F-71, Basement)	1998-99	500,000
2. Consumer Coordination Council, 62, Qutab View Apartments, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi- 110 016 - CCPC member	1999-2000	5,00,000
3. Consumer Coordination Council, 62, Qutab View Apartments, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi- 110 016 - CCPC member	1999-2000	54,000
4. Citizen Development Society, 1- West Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi	2000-01	2,50,000
5. Consumer Coordination Council, 62, Qutab View Apartments, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi- 110 016 - CCPC member	2000-01	5,00,000

1	2	3
6. Consumer Coordination Council, 62, Qutab View Apartments, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi- 110 016 -CCPC member	2000-01	2,50,000
7. Delhi Medical Council, New Delhi	2000-01	5,00,000

[*English*]

Institute for Jewellery

1947. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up an institute for some specific designs of jewellery on the line of National Institute of Fashion Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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 (c) While the Government do not have any plan at present to set up any institute for the jewellery designing, a project under the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture, at a project cost of about Rs. 4.8 crores, has been initiated under the auspices of Indian Diamond Institute at Surat. Government of India and State Government of Gujarat have agreed in principle to share most of the capital cost of the Project as contained in the Project Report submitted by IDI, Surat to Government of India. The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai (GJEPC) which is a representative autonomous body of trade sponsored by the Department of Commerce, has informed that they intend to set up Indian Institute of Gems and Jewellery at Mumbai as a subsidiary company under Section 25 of the Companies Act with a view to provide world class training covering areas such as jewellery designing, various manufacturing processes including latest high technology processes, gemology, diamond grading, valuation, marketing and management etc. The total project cost of this Institute as per the GJEPC is estimated to be about Rs. 16 crores and GJEPC have already acquired a building at Mumbai at a cost of about Rs. 277 lakhs. GJEPC application for Government assistance under the Critical Infrastructure Balancing Scheme is under examination of the Government. GJEPC have informed that they would like to make this institute operational next year.

Task Force on Trade and Industry

1948. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task force on Trade and Industry for administrative and legal simplifications has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, whether this report is yet to be made public;

(c) if so, the reasons for not making the report public;

(d) whether it is a fact that at the time of formulating the above report, the Task Force did not involve persons or organizations involved with the suffering of the Dalits; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not involving such persons or organizations?

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) The task force on administrative and legal simplifications submitted its report to the Prime Minister at the second meeting of the Council of Trade and Industry on 14.12.1998. The report has been made public and is available on the website at http://www.nic.in/councils. The Task Force was mainly concerned with simplification of administrative and legal procedures involved in industry's interaction was the Government and therefore the report is based on consultation and interaction with Secretaries of various Ministries and Departments, Apex Bodies of Commerce and Industry, practicing advocates, Company Secretaries and professionals in trade and insustry.

Shortage of Coins in Gujarat

1949. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of coins in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware of the soiled and mutilated currency notes are in circulation in Gujarat; and

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

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

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to mitigate the problem of shortage of coins and circulation of soiled and mutilated currency notes in Gujaraj State. The quantity of coins supplied to the Gujarat State increased from 204.78 million pieces (MPCs) during 1999-2000 to 307.04 MPCs during 2000-2001. And, during the current year, 156.80 MPCs of coins or 51.07% of the last year's supply have already been supplied to Gujarat State in just 3 months. In addition, the Regional Office of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at Ahmedabad is ensuring regular supply of coins to various currency chest branches of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in different parts of Gujarat State to ensure proper distribution of coins in the State.

Special efforts have also been made in Gujarat to withdraw soiled and mutilated currency notes from circulation. During 2000-2001, 279.45 MPCs of soiled and mutilated currency notes were withdrawn from circulation and during the first two months of the current year, 46.31 MPCs of soiled and mutilated currency notes have already been withdrawn. RBI, Ahmedabad Regional Office has also commissioned mobile van services with the assistance of other PSBs in important cities of Gujarat to retrieve soiled and mutilated currency notes from members of public in exchange of coins besides opening special counters in its office to provide exchange facility to the public.

Report of Debt Recovery Tribunals

1950. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Committee on Debt Recovery Tribunals headed by Shri S.N. Agarwal;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

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

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

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

Functioning of Independent Regulatory Authorities

1951. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the functioning of the independent regulatory authorities is being brought under the purview of the audit by statutory bodies like the CAG because of recent events in stock market and telecom sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Conduct of audit of the accounts of the concerned regulatory bodies is done as per the provisions in the respective Acts under which these regulatory bodies have been set up.

(b) Information pertaining to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 No. 15 of 1992

15 (2) The accounts of the Board shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Board to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

15 (3) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India and any other person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Board shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor General generally has in connection with the audit of the Government accounts and in particular shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, Connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Board.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 No. 24 of 1997

23. Accounts and audit

(2) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Authority to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(Explanation: For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the decisions of the Authority taken in the discharge of its functions under clause (b) of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of section 11 and section 13, being matters appealable to the Appellate Tribunal, shall not be subject to audit under this section)

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India and

any other person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Authority shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the comptroller and Auditor General generally has, in connection with the audit of the Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Authority.

[*Translation*]

DD-II in Alwar, Rajasthan

1952. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Alwar district of Rajasthan are devoid of watching DD-II channel though this district comes under National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the DD-II channel is likely to be started in Alwar district; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that some areas of Alwar district lie in the coverage zone of DD-II High Power TV Transmitters functioning at Jaipur and Delhi.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has no proposal, at present, to set up any DD-II transmitter in Alwar district.

[*English*]

Export of Wheat

1953. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to export good quality wheat from the central pool at the predetermined price of Rs. 1410 per tonne less than the price quoted for Australian and Argentinian wheat in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the export price of Indian wheat vis-a-vis the economic cost incurred by FCI in procurement, storage and transportation; and

(c) the reasons for export of good quality wheat at less price especially when the consumers in the country are paying high prices for purchasing the inferior quality wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The wheat from the Central Pool is being offered by FCI at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category to the PSUs/agencies etc. for export purposes. FCI has been permitted to offer 50 lakh MTs of wheat during the year 2001-2002. The wheat is being delivered @ Rs. 4300/- per MT to exporters w.e.f. 1.4.2001. This export price will remain applicable till 30.9.2001. The PSUs/agencies are exporting the offered wheat to prospective buyers at the mutually agreed price which differes from destination to destination. The minimum export price realized by the PSUs etc. is not less than US $102 PMT. However, the export price for US wheat is in the range of US $111 PMT to US $149 PMT FOB, as per the latest International Grains Council Daily Monitor dated 25th July, 2001.

The economic cost of wheat for the year 2001-2002 is Rs. 872.00 per quintal. Export of wheat is just one of the many options available with the Government to liquidate mounting stocks lying in the Central Pool which are far in excess of the prescribed buffer norm. The country also earns precious foreign exchange by exporting the surplus stocks of wheat, which also creates additional storage space for the new crop.

The price fixed is competitive when compared to other major suppliers like USA, Australia and Canada. However, when compared to the wheat of France, Turkey, Belgium origin, price is more or less equal. The impurities contained in Indian wheat is more as compared to those of USA, Australia and Canada origins and therefore the price of wheat of these origins can not be compared to that of FCI price.

Cannes Film Festival

1954. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials visited the Cannes (France) in connection with the setting up a stall of NFDC at the film festival held there recently alongwith expenditure incurred on their visit;

(b) the number of Indian films screened at the Cannes Film Festival; and

(c) how far the expenditure made on the visit commensurate with the outcome of the film festival?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) One official from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was deputed in connection with setting up the India Pavilion at the

Cannes Film Market. Three officials from National Film Development Corporation also attended the market to conduct business. The expenditure incurred on the visit of Deputy Secretary, Min. of I & B is Rs. 1.86 lakhs and Rs. 5.39 lakhs was spent on the visit of NFDC officials.

(b) No official Indian entry was screened at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

(c) The total expenditure incurred on the visit of Cannes by officials of Min. of I & B NFDC and towards setting up the Indian Pavilion was approximately Rs. 22.60 lakhs this year, whereas as a result of participating in the Market NFDC alone has finalized deals worth Rs. 64.6 lakhs and expect to do more business as a result of this year's participation. Apart from this, the Indian Pavilion facilitated the participants from the Indian Film Industry by providing a common meeting place for meetings and several agreements were signed in the Pavilion itself. The presence of the Pavilion also attracted coverage in the international film trade journals.

Strategy for FDI

1955. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced six point strategy for speedier implementation of the projects and closer interaction with foreign investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the FDI inflow is likely to increase as result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has set up a Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) to facilitate quick translation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals into implementation, provide a pro-active one-stop aftercare service to foreign investors by helping them obtain necessary approvals, sort out operational problems and meet with various Government agencies to find solutions to problems. Recently the Government has announced a six-point strategy for speedier implementation of the projects and closer interaction with foreign investors. The key element of the strategy is closer and more sustained interaction with the investors, relevant agencies of the Government and institutions, to bring a much sharper focus on implementation, to supplement the far-reaching policy changes which have already been put in place. A decision has recently been taken to involve the Indian Embassies abroad in monitoring the FDI cases emanating from their region on behalf of FIIA. Follow up action on reports from Embassies would be taken by FIIA.

(c) The estimated increase in FDI inflow cannot be projected.

Amendment in Industrial Licensing List

1956. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the list of the industrial licensing;

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

(c) the names of items likely to be included in the amended list of industrial licensing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Review of the list of industries under compulsory licensing is an on-going process with the Government. Government has recently amended the list by deleting certain hazardous chemicals. There is no proposal under consideration of Government in regard to inclusion of any item on the list of industries under compulsory licensing.

Cane Price Arrears

1957. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cane arrears have risen to 12,5475.43 lakhs in 2000-2001 from Rs. 797 crores in 1999 which account about 32% of total cane price;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken some special measures including amendment in Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 to recover the cane price arrears;

(d) if so, the total arrears recovered by the Government after amendment of the aforesaid order till now and steps initiated to recover arrears expeditiously;

(e) whether the farmers have diverted their attention to other crops due to non-payment of cane arrears; 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) and (b) The cane price payable amount, cane price paid amount, the cane price arrears amount and the percentage of cane price arrears for 2000-2001 sugar season as on 31st May, 2001, was as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)
(i) Cane price payable amount	11672.78
(ii) Cane price paid amount	0305.61
(iii) Cane price arrears amount	1367.17
(iv) Cane price arrears as percentage to (i) above	11.7%

Similar details for the 1999-2000 sugar season as on 31st May, 2000, was as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)
(i) Cane price payable amount	8275.04
(ii) Cane price paid amount	7333.03
(iii) Cane price arrears amount	942.01
(iv) Cane price arrears as percentage to (i) above	11.4%

It may be observed from the above that the cane price payable amount in 2000-2001 sugar season has increased by Rs. 3397.74 crores, while the cane price paid amount has increased by Rs. 2972.58 crores as compared to the preceding sugar season. The increase in the cane price arrears has been Rs. 425.16 crores but percentage-wise, the cane price arrears during the 2000-2001 sugar season is 11.7% of the cane price payable amount against 11.4% in the preceding sugar season. The increase in the cane price arrears amount is mainly on account of increase in the cane price payable amount.

(c) The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 has been amended empowering the Central Government/State Government to recover cane price arrears as arrears of land revenue. A sub-clause (aa) has been introduced to Clause 9 of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 under which the Chief Director (Sugar), Directorate of Sugar, Department of Food and Public Distribution has been authorized by the Central Government who can direct any producer of sugar or his agent to maintain and furnish within 7 days of the close of each fortnight to the Directorate of Sugar the details of cane purchase, cane price due, cane price paid, cane price arrears for each fortnight as specified in the 3rd Schedule to the Amendment Order.

(d) The central Government, apart from reviewing the cane price payment position from time to time, has written to the State Governments for expediting clearance of cane price dues to the farmers. The Central Government has reduced the levy percentage of sugar factories from 40 to 30 w.e.f. 1.1.2000 and subsequently from 30 to 15 w.e.f. 1.2.2001. In addition, Central Government grants advance freesale releases to needy sugar factories for payment of cane price dues.

(e) and (f) No State Government has reported the diversion of sugarcane area to other crops due to non-payment of cane price arrears by the sugar factories.

Regulatory Body for Cooperative Banks

1958. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to appoint a regulatory body for smooth functioning of the cooperative banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) At present three authorities are involved in regulatory and promotional aspects concerning urban co-operative banks — Central Government, State Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). At times this results in overlapping jurisdictions and difficulties in carrying out administrative/prudential measures with required speed and stringency. Concerned about the potential consequence of the present multiplicity of authorities involved in supervising and regulating the urban co-operative banks, RBI has proposed for setting up of a separate apex supervisory body which can take over the inspection/supervisory function in relation to urban co-operative banks. This proposal of RBI is under examination of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Funds for Panchayati Raj Institutions

1959. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission to Bihar State for the Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(b) the funds released by the Union Government to Bihar for the purpose so far;

(c) whether full amount has not been released to Bihar;

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

(e) whether the Union Government are likely to release the remaining amount;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (g) The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) has recommended total grants of Rs. 507.19 crore to Bihar for Panchyati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for the period 1996-97 to 1999-2000. PRI grants amounting to Rs. 126.80 crore had been released to the State Government during 1996-97.

As per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance, the Local Body Grants recommended by the TFC was part of a larger Constitutional scheme of devolution of functions and responsibilities from the State to local bodies with mandatory elections so that they could function as effective units of local self-Government. Hence, the grants were to be released only in respect of elected local bodies wherever such elections were mandatory under the Constitution. Since the due elections to PRIs in Bihar had not been held during the TFC period 1995-2000, balance of TFC grants could not be released to the State Government. Entitlements to grants recommended by any Finance Commission lapse after the period of its recommendations get over.

[*English*]

Impact of Economic Slowdown of Foreign Countries on Indian Export

1960. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reported slow down of economies of some developed countries has any adverse impact on India's export performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategies adopted to counter the situation and accelerate export to those countries?

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) Export performance inter alia is influenced by international market conditions, export competitiveness of the domestic industry, and that of the competitors in other countries etc. In 2000-01, growth rate in India's exports were 19.83% which was above the target of 18% set for the year. India's lower export growth rate in the first two months of this year, however, is due to the slowdown in the US and other developed country economies. Sectors where sluggish export growth has been noticed during 2000-01 are plantation, gems and jewellery, sports goods, handicrafts and carpets, etc.

Export promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government, export progress is counstantly being monitored and export strategy and export policies are formulated. A number of steps have been taken to enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction costs through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to further boost the exports. Besides these, the measures announced in the new Exim Policy 2001-2002 inter alia include promotion of agricultural exports, market access initiative, setting up business cum trade facilitation centre and trade portal, strengthening of the Advance Licensing Scheme, etc.

Disinvestment of Companies/Corporations

1961. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the companies/corporations which have been earmarked for disinvestment during the next phase;

(b) whether the Government have made the actual assessment of their assets; and

(c) if so, the total assets of these companies and corporations?

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) Disinvestment is a continuous process in which Government keeps considering on an ongoing basis disinvestment in different Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). The process of disinvestment is currently in progress in the following (PSUs):

Air India, CMC Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd. (Phase-I), Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Indian Airlines, IBP Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd., Properties of India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., State Trading Corpn. Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Jessop and Co. Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Bharat Brakes and

Valves Ltd., HTL Ltd, NIDC, Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels, Hindustan Salts and Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.

(b) and (c) Information on the financials including the net current assets of these PSUs for three years up to 1999-2000 is available in the published document of Public Enterprises Survey for 1999-2000 (Vol-III). Valuation including that of assets is carried out by independent valuers, before strategic disinvestment in each PSU is completed.

Drug Transit Point

1962. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Delhi emerging as major drug transit point" appearing in the 'Hindu', dated the June, 29, 2001;

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

(c) the number of cases detected involving illegal drug rackets during the last one year; and

(d) the quantity of drugs captured and the persons arrested during the last one year?

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

(b) The proximity to the International border and good air-linkage with other countries make Delhi vulnerable to drug trafficking, which is a clandestine activity. Seizure of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the Delhi region, as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies, do not indicate an overall increasing trend.

(c) and (d) The total quantity of Opium, Heroin, Ganja, Hashish and Methaqualone seized, the number of cases detected and the number of persons arrested as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies as on June 30, 2001 during the year 2000 are as under:

Drug seized	–	4472.69 kgs.
Number of cases detected	–	603
Number of persons arrested	–	682

World Bank Assistance to Karnataka in Improving Business Milieu

1963. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to help the Government of Karnataka to improve business milieu;

(b) if so, whether the team comprising of 20 experts drawn from various advisory profiles of the global development funding organization led by mission leader World Bank Vice-President had a workshop on April 16-17, 2001 jointly organized by the Government of Karnataka and the World Bank;

(c) if so, the main decisions taken thereon; and

(d) the extent to which the World Bank has agreed to help the Government of Karnataka in improving business milieu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As a part of the recently signed Karnataka Economic Restructuring Programme Loan, the World Bank has suggested that the Government of Karnataka may initiate measures to improve the business environment to enable flow of private sector investment to the State.

(b) A workshop on improving the business environment for sustained growth in Karnataka was organized by the Government of Karnataka in Bangalore in collaboration with the World Bank. A team of ten officials from the World Bank including its Vice-President attended the workshop.

(c) As a result of the recommendations of the workshop, Government of Karnataka has approved certain proposals for reform measures in the regulatory framework governing industry and business. These measures pertains to (i) designating a Nodal agency for obtaining all approvals by new industry/business (ii) common application form for obtaining various clearances (iii) common registers and returns under various Acts and Rules wherever possible and (iv).combined inspection based on random sample generated through a computerized data base. The reform measures also propose a self-certification mechanism for industries, which are not polluting or hazardous to provide a fast track clearance mechanism.

(d) Improving business environment is one component of the recently signed World bank assisted Economic Restructuring Programme of Karnataka for which World Bank has agreed to provide US $150 million in the form of budgetary support.

[*Translation*]

Exhibitions Organised by India Trade Promotion Organisation

1964. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various exhibitions and international trade fairs organised by ITPO so far at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi;

(b) the expenditure incurred on these exhibitions and

international trade fairs alongwith the details of income earned by the Government therefrom, year-wise;

(c) whether the ITPO has organised such exhibitions/international trade fairs in other parts of the country during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of exhibitions/international trade fairs, proposed to be organised in various parts of the country in near future?

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) Details of exhibitions and international trade fairs organised by ITPO during last three years at Pragati Maidan alongwith expenditure incurred and income earned for each exhibition/fair is given in Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Details are given in Statement-II.

(e) During 2001-2002 ITPO proposes to organise India International leather fair at Chennai and International leather goods fair at Kolkata.

Statement-I

Exhibitions organised by ITPO at Pragati Maidan New Delhi

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Exhibition/Fair	Income	Expenditure	Deficit(-) Surplus
1	2	3	4	5
	1998-99			
1.	Consumex	70.50	31.42	39.08
2.	Shoe Fair	77.12	36.60	40.25
3.	National Children Fair	27.55	22.60	4.95
4.	Food Expo	119.85	29.74	90.11
5.	Social Development Fair	37.53	36.76	0.77
6.	Mystique India	26.41	30.11	- 3.70
7.	Delhi Book Fair	60.91	33.90	27.01
8.	Sajavat	27.72	18.23	9.49
9.	Ujala	12.38	24.15	- 11.77
10.	Winter Show	36.50	23.23	13.27
11.	Print Pack	290.38	61.13	229.25
12.	Tex-Style	283.11	176.76	106.35
13.	India International Trade Fair	1429.73	346.38	1083.35
	1999-2000			
1.	Social Development Fair	29.86	23.31	6.55
2.	Consumex	28.43	26.20	2.23
3.	Shoe Fair	75.29	26.47	48.82
4.	Stationery Fair	15.33	21.09	- 5.76
5.	Delhi Book Fair	59.32	29.30	30.02
6.	Sajavat	28.58	20.99	7.59
7.	Prakash	94.62	41.76	52.86
8.	Mystique India	25.29	14.27	11.02

1	2	3	4	5
9.	National Children Fair	17.94	14.08	3.86
10.	Winter Show	20.12	13.83	6.29
11.	International Security & Fire Exh.	55.84	23.91	31.93
12.	Krishi Expo	76.74	47.11	29.63
13.	Food Expo	97.69	30.53	67.16
14.	Tex Style	270.03	122.23	147.80
15.	India International Trade Fair	1623.20	322.58	1300.62
	2000-01 (Provisional)			
1.	Consumex	10.37	12.48	– 2.11
2.	Shoe Fair	97.76	36.88	60.88
3.	Stationery fair	22.47	12.57	9.90
4.	Social Development Fair	28.81	20.22	8.59
5.	Delhi Book Fair	83.97	33.36	50.61
6.	Sajavat	25.00	12.63	12.37
7	Print Pack	247.00	103.00	144.00
8.	Tex Style	209.00	146.00	63.00
9.	Krishi Expo	70.00	41.05	28.95
10.	Aahar	90.00	46.75	43.25
11.	India International Trade Fair	1972.79	522.60	1450.19

Note : In addition, ITPO & Messe Frankfurt India jointly organized Heimtextil India and Ambiente India during Oct, 2000 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. ITPO's share of profits for these events was Rs. 83.48 Lakh.

Statement-II

Exhibitions organised by ITPO out side Delhi

(Rs. in Lacks)

Sl.No.	Name of Exhibition/Fair	Income	Expenditure	Deficit (–) Surplus
	1998-99			
1.	India International Leather Fair–Chennai	149.76	138.94	10.82
2.	International Leather Goods Fair–Kolkatta	29.11	21.05	8.06
3.	Film Fair – Hyderabad	27.69	25.35	2.34
	1999-2000			
1.	India International Leather Fair–Chennai	156.11	140.09	16.02
2.	International Leather Goods Fair–Kolkatta	31.24	26.96	4.28
3.	Indian Trade Show–Gangtok	14.26	22.73	– 8.47
	2000-01			
1.	India International Leather Fair–Chennai	201.00	170.96	30.04
2.	International Leather Goods Fair–Kolkatta	40.00	32.90	7.10

Seizure Made by Directorate of Enforcement in Ashram Express

1965. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers of the Directorate of Enforcement and various departments of the Ministry of Finance had seized on July, 11, 2001 crores of rupees in cash and also Gold, Silver, Gems and Jewellery worth lakhs of rupees being carried illegally in Ashram Express at Ahmedabad Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the persons found involved in this activity;

(d) the number of persons apprehended and the action taken against them; and

(e) the concrete measures taken or likely to be taken to check recurrence of such illegal act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The officers of the Directorate of Enforcement had seized Indian currency, gold biscuits, silver bars, diamonds and jewellery worth Rs. 3.35 crores from a luggage van of Ashram Express at Ahmedabad Railway Station. The luggage van was on lease from Northern Railway to M/s Gurjar and Partners, Ahmedabad.

(d) None, as there is no provision for arrest under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

(e) To check the recurrence of such illegal acts, action as per law is taken by the Directorate of Enforcement on receipt of specific information.

[*English*]

Losses to ICICI

1966. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ICICI posts net loss of Rs. 257 crore in Q4" appearing in 'Business Standard' dated May 4, 2001;

(b) whether ICICI has posted an all time high 4th Quarter loss (ending March, 2001) of Rs. 257.00 crores against a profit of Rs. 395.00 crores for the corresponding quarter last year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for improving the performance of ICICI?

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

(b) to (d) In tune with the international practice ICICI resorted to enhanced provisioning against its Non Performing Assets (NPAs). As per revised provisioning policy ICICI made aggregate provisions and write-offs of Rs. 1421 crores in 2000-2001 including Rs. 608 crores made as per the requirements of RBI guidelines and accelerated provisions and write-offs of Rs. 813 crores. The entire provisioning was done in the fourth quarter leading to a loss of Rs. 257 crores in the quarter ending March 31, 2001 (Quarter 4, 2001) and a net profit of Rs. 537 crores in financial year 2000-2001. These provisioning and write-offs are only an accounting loss and not an economic loss for ICICI.

[*Translation*]

Dividends to Shareholders of Cooperative Banks

1967. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain cooperative banks functioning in the country are not giving dividends to their shareholders;

(b) if so, the names of the banks and the number of years since when they are not paying dividends, bank-wise;

(c) whether the Government have tried to find out the reasons for non-payment of dividends by these banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) A large number of banks are incurring losses and are having accumulated losses. Besides, though some banks have earned profit, their profit is not sufficient enough for paying dividend. These are the main reasons which could be attributed for non-payment of dividend by there banks.

[*English*]

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

1968. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA:

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared certain Public Sector undertakings for disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof, undertaking-wise, including the terms and conditions, process of selection of strategic partners, offer of equity to employees etc; and

(c) the expected earnings therefrom?

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) The process of disinvestment is currently in progress in the following PSUs:

Air India, CMC Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd. (Phase I), Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Indian Airlines, IBP Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corpn Ltd., Properties of Indian Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., State Trading Corpn. Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Jessop and Co. Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd., HTL, NIDC, Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels, Hindustan Salts and Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.

The percentage of disinvestment and mode of disinvestment contemplated in these PSUs are given in Statement-I. Typically, the process of disinvestment through strategic sale method involves the procedure detailed of Statement-II.

(c) The amount realizable from disinvestment would depend on factors like market conditions, financial performance of the companies under consideration, terms and conditions of sale, interest of bidders, attractiveness of the company and its future prospects. Finally, the process involves competitive bidding by different bidders. Thus, it is not possible to precisely estimate the receipts from disinvestment.

Statement-I

List of PSUs/subsidiaries in which strategic disinvestment is expected to be completed during 2001-2002 with percentage of proposed disinvestment of equity

S.No.	Name of the PSU	Present Govt. shareholding/equity %	Proposed disinvestment percentage
1	2	3	4
1.	Air India Ltd. (IA)	100	60
2.	Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd. (BBVL)	Subsidiary of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. (BBUNL)	@
3.	Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd. (BHPV)	Subsidiary of Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.	@
4.	Computer Maintenance Corporation Ltd. (CMC)	83.31	57.31
5.	Engineering Project (India) Ltd.	97.75	74
6.	Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL)	98.96	@
7.	Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL)-Phase I	98.76	$$
8.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. (HIL)	100	51
9.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL)	58.61	32.61
10.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	100	@

1	2	3	4
11.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL)	75.92	26
12.	HTL	100	74
13.	Indian Airlines Ltd. (IA)	100	51
14.	Indian Petrochemicals Corportation Ltd. (IPCL)	59.75	25
15.	Indian Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (ITDC)	89.97 Handing over the hotels located in prime locations to established hotel chains to run on long term structured contract on lease cum management basis. The hotels in other locations may be demerged into separate companies	To sell 100% $
16.	IBP Ltd.	59.59	33.58
17.	Instrumentation Ltd.	100	@
18.	Jessop & Co. Ltd. (JCL)	Subsidiary of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. (BBUNL)	@
19.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL)	59.15	32.74
20.	Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC) -	99.34	To reduce the Government's Shareholding to 26%.
21.	National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL)	97.65	51
22.	NEPA Ltd.	96.31	@
23.	National Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC)	100	@
24.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL)	100	@
25.	Sponge Iron India Ltd. (SIIL)	97.45 (balance of equity by Govt.of A.P.)	100
26.	State Trading Corporation (STC)	91.03	To reduce the Government's shareholding to 26%
27.	Tungbhadra Steel Products Ltd. (TSPL)	Subsidiary of Bhari Yantra Nigam Ltd.	@
28.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL)	52.97	26.97

@ Scouting for joint venture formation for up to 74% equity.

$ Disinvestment of individual hotels/properties through various modes of Disinvestments.

$$ No decision on percentage of disinvestment has been taken.

$$ Phase-I. To restructure HCL by hiving of Khetri Unit and the Taloja Plant into a new company with HCL's equity in the new company to 49%, the balance 51% being that of the Strategic Partner. Phase II to be taken up after phase I.

Statement-II

- Proposals for disinvestment in any PSU, based on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission or in accordance with the declared Disinvestment Policy of the Government, are placed for consideration of the Cabinet Committe on Disinvestment (CCD).

- After CCD clears the disinvestment proposal, selection of the Advisors for assisting in the implementation of disinvestment decision, is done through a competitive bidding process.

- The Advisors assist the Government in preparation and issue of advertisement in leading newspapers, for inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from Prospective strategic Partners. In case of urgency, EOI is prepared by the Department of Disinvestment and issued after approval of Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG).

- After receipt of the EOI, Prospective Bidders are short listed, based on objective screening in the light of the announced pre-qualification criteria/requirements.

- The Advisors, after due diligence of the PSU, prepare the Information Memorandum in consultation with the concerned PSU, which is given to the short listed Prospective Bidders, after who have entered into a Confidentiality Agreement.

- The draft Share Purchase Agreement or the Shareholder Agreement are also prepared by the advisors, with the help of the Legal Advisors and given to the Prospective Bidders for eliciting their reaction.

- The Prospective Bidders undertake due diligence of the PSU and hold discussions with the Advisors/the Government/the representatives of the PSU for any clarifications.

- Concurrently, the task of valuation of the PSU is undertaken in accordance with the standard national and international practices.

- Based on the reaction received from the Prospective Bidders, the Share Purchase or Shareholders Agreement is finalised and vetted by the Ministry of Law, they are approved by the Government. Thereafter, they are sent to the Prospective Bidders for inviting the final binding bids.

- After examination, analysis and evaluation, the recommendations of the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) are placed before the CGD & CCD for a final decision regarding selection of the Strategic Partner, signing of the Share Purchase or Shareholders Agreements and other ancillary issues.

- In the disinvestment process mentioned above, Department of Disinvestment is assisted at each stage by an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) comprising officers from the Ministry of Finance, Department of Public Enterprises, the Administrative Ministry/Department controlling the PSU, Department of Company Affairs, Department of Legal Affairs, Representative of the Controller General of Accounts, apart from the officers of the Department of Disinvestment and the Advisors.

- After the transaction is completed, all papers and documents relating to it are provided to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India: the CAG shall prepare an evaluation for sending to Parliament and releasing to the public.

Self Help Group—Bank Linkage Programme

1969. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has been implementing a strategic action plan under Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme in various States particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of banks linked with S.H.Gs;

(c) the State-wise number of persons benefited therefrom; and

(d) the achievements made under the Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has been implementing a strategic action plan under Self-Help Group (SHG) – Bank Linkage Programme in Gujarat through the active participation of its Regional Office at Ahmedabad and the various District Offices. Under the same, 4929 SHGs were provided cumulative bank loan to the tune of Rs. 639.11 lakhs in Gujarat as on 31 March 2001.

(c) As reported by NABARD, the state-wise number of SHGs provided with bank loan as on 31-3-2001 is at Statement enclosed.

(d) As on 31 March 2001, a cumulative number of 263825 SHGs were credit linked by NABARD in the country involving bank loan of Rs. 48087.90 lakhs. The cumulative refinance provided by NABARD worked out to Rs. 40074.51 lakhs.

Statement

State-wise details of the number of Self-Help Group provided with bank loan as on 31-3-2001

Sl.No.	State	No. of Self-Help Group
1	2	3
1.	A & N Islands	33
2.	Andhra Pradesh	126362
3.	Assam	278
4.	Bihar	4592
5.	Goa	146
6.	Gujarat	4929
7.	Haryana	537
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2545
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	203
10.	Karnataka	18619
11.	Kerala	9625
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23152
13.	Maharashtra	10468
14.	Manipur	31
15.	Meghalaya	160
16.	Orissa	8888
17.	Pondicherry	318
18.	Punjab	111
19.	Rajasthan	5616
20.	Sikkim	5
21.	Tamil Nadu	32766
22.	Tripura	5
23.	Uttar Pradesh	23152
24.	West Bengal	8739
	Total	263825

Financial Assistance to J & K for Drug Abuse

1970. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir had requested the Union Government for financial assistance of evolving Master Plan for Drug Abuse Control in the State;

(b) if so, the quantum of financial assistance sought by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for this purpose;

(c) whether the Union Government have released the funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(f) the time by which the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No request form the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir for financial assistance under the Master Plan for Drug Abuse Control has been received by the Government of India.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Appointment of SCs/STs on Statutory Commodity Boards

1971. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by his ministry on the representations submitted by the SC/ST Parliamentarians to the Prime Minister on December 17, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 demanding posting/appointment of adequate number of persons from SC and ST community as heads/CMD and Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management/ Governing Councils of various Public Sector Boards and undertakings under his ministry;

(b) the total number of posts in the rank of heads/ CMD, Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management/ Governing Councils of all the Statutory Commodity Boards under the administrative control of his Ministry and the number of persons from SC/ST community working against such post as on January 1, 2001 and their percentage as compared to the total posts; and

(c) the reasons for not fulfilling the demands of SC and ST Parliamentarians satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Department of Personnel and Training has intimated that the Memoranda submitted by the Parliamentary Forum for SCs

and STs urged, the Government of India for taking comprehensive measures for development of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, inter-alia, requesting for posting of suitable persons belonging to the SC/STs for posts of importance like Governors, Ambassadors, Members of Planning Commission, Secretaries to the Government of India, Members of the UPSC, PESB, Directors of PSUs etc. The policy as enunciated in the resolution No.27(21) EO/86 (ACC) dated 3.3.1987 constituting the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) (the body which makes recommendation for appointment to board level posts in PSUs) is to appoint through a fair and objective selection procedure, outstanding professional managers to Level-I (Chief Executives) and Level-II (Directors) posts and posts at any other level as may be decided by the Government from time to time.

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

(c) Caste is not one of the criteria for selecting persons for appointments to the board level posts of PSUs. Therefore, information on the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among those appointed to board level posts in the PSUs falling under this Department is not maintained.

[*Translation*]

Pending Cases Against FCI in the Courts

1972. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether several cases concerning Food Corporation of India and its employees are pending in the courts and are under investigation by the CBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such cases, which are pending in courts till June, 2001 and the number of those cases, which are under investigation by the CBI alongwith their duration of pendency; and

(d) the average annual expenditure borne by the FCI to pursue these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Cell in PSU's Targeted for Privatisation

1973. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a cell in each PSU targeted for privatisation;

(b) if so, the purpose of setting up of a cell in each PSU;

(c) whether the setting up a cell in each PSU will have any impact on the functioning of PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Godowns in Katihar, Bihar

1974. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has acquired 23 acres of land in Katihar city, Bihar;

(b) if so, whether in view of increasing demand of storage capacity, the Government propose to construct a godown on the aquired land; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Due to low utilisation of existing storage capacity of 11,000 MTs, and lack of infrastructural facilities, the Katihar Centre was dropped from the Perspective Plan. It has been decided that in cases where land has been acquired by Food Corporation of India (FCI) but construction of godowns has not been considered operationally viable, such land could be transferred/sold to Central Warehousing Corporation so that they could consider construction of godowns and if need be, FCI could also utilise requisite capacity of Central Warehousing Corporation.

[*English*]

FERA Violation

1975. SHRI KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ranbaxy sacks U.K subsidiary brass for financial Bungling" appearing in Economic Times dated April 24, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the matter had been referred to FERA and CBI for investigation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The news-item which had actually appeared in the Economic Times dated April 23, 2001 has come to the notice of Ministry of Finance.

(b) to (d) Based on SEBI's Interim Report, the details are being called for by the Enforcement Directorate from Financial Institutions/Brokers.

Installation of New Sugar Factory

1976. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the distance criteria adopted by the Government to install new sugar factory;

(b) whether due to this criteria it is difficult to set up new sugar mill in particular area;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend this norms; 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) and (b) In order to avoid unhealthy competition among sugar factories to procure sugarcane, a minimum distance of 15 Kms. is required to be observed between an existing sugar mill and a new sugar mill as per the Press Note No. 12 (1998 Series) dated 31st August, 1998, of the Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Industry.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to amend this norm.

(d) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Loans Through NABARD for Irrigation Projects

1977. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise amount of loan sanctioned by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for irrigation projects during the last three years;

(b) the terms and conditions for the above mentioned loan; and

(c) the extent to which the above mentioned loan is going to fulfil the requirements of irrigation projects of various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The State-wise details of loans sanctioned to State Governments under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for irrigation projects during the last three years are given in Statement-I. Further, NABARD also extends refinance support to banks against their onlending to agricultre including minor

irrigation activities. The State-wise details of NABARD assistance in this regard are given in Statement-II.

(b) The general terms and conditions for RIDF loan for the irrigation projects are given in Statement-III. The terms and conditions of sanction under refinance support for minor irrigation activities are given in Statement-IV.

(c) The details of the number of total projects sanctioned under RIDF and the potential created in the irrigation sector during the last three years are indicated below:

Year	No. of Projects	Potential Created (In Hectares)
1998-99	438	405572
1999-2000	101736	850802
2000-2001	26215	437077

The refinancing of the minor irrigation projects have resulted in increase in command area under irrigation with a consequent increase in production, income and employment.

Statement-I

State-wise details of loans sanctioned by NABARD under RIDF for irrigation projects during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11982.22	16861.12	14951.39
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.08	14837.32	0.00
4.	Bihar	11600.02	9642.61	1479.00
5.	Goa	467.67	—	501.70
6.	Gujarat	10788.38	3452.17	24170.67
7.	Haryana	3425.80	9906.72	1280.14
8.	Himachal Pradesh	704.91	2811.27	2730.67
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2538.76	149.19	1227.42
10.	Karnataka	2041.83	102.60	4722.62
11.	Kerala	1323.37	1480.35	4698.67
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14179.14	11210.48	21109.72
13.	Maharashtra	10047.53	0.00	17538.66
14.	Manipur	—	—	833.05
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	262.64
16.	Mizoram	—	364.42	0.00
17.	Nagaland	0.00	382.30	112.90
18.	Orissa	8941.95	7101.21	5953.88
19.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	13135.78	6925.32	12525.89

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	2751.91	3720.46
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	2650.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1017.35	14538.00	2819.58
25.	West Bengal	174.35	4739.53	843.11
	Total	92369.00	107256.56	124132.17

Statement-II

State-wise details of refinance disbursed by NABARD for minor irrigation purposes to all agencies during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A & N Islands	3	4	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10526	9783	9458
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4.	Assam	1	9	9
5.	Bihar	1	58	3
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
7.	D & N Haveli	0	0	3
8.	Goa	26	52	79
9.	Gujarat	1139	2156	3153
10.	Haryana	3399	3758	3466
11.	Himachal Pradesh	236	381	575
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	7	7
13.	Karnataka	6479	5159	5913
14.	Kerala	1530	2270	1852
15.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1493	2362	3304
17.	Maharashtra	5896	9029	11188
18.	Manipur	0	0	0
19.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
20.	Mizoram	0	5	3
21.	Nagaland	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
22.	NCT of Delhi	0	0	0
23.	Orissa	273	138	176
24.	Pondicherry	47	29	44
25.	Punjab	4007	3426	3070
26.	Rajasthan	6358	5912	7889
27.	Sikkim	0	0	0
28.	Tamil Nadu	886	1466	2191
29.	Tripura	0	8	1
30.	Uttar Pradesh	11699	15391	9794
31.	West Bengal	382	379	475
	Total	54383	61783	62607

Statement-III

General terms and conditions of Loan sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

1. The activities presently prioritized include Medium and Minor Irrigation, Soil Conservation/ watershed management, flood protection/ drainage, Rural Roads/Bridges, Rural Market yards/godowns/integrated market yards, Integrated cold chains, Fish jetties, System improvement in power sector, Mini-hydel projects, Buildings for primary schools, Drinking water supply, Buildings for primary health centers, etc.

2. The phasing period of completion is a maximum of three years i.e. upto 31 March 2003.

3. The loan would be restricted to the balance cost of the project subject to a ceiling of 90% of the latest estimated cost.

4. Priority would be given to ongoing projects. In case of new projects, only short duration which could be completed within 3 years would be considered.

5. The rate of interest would be 11.5% per annum payable every quarter.

6. Each drawal would be treated as a separate loan and would be repayable in 7 years with 2 years grace period i.e. each drawal would be required to be repaid in five equal annual instalments commencing from 36th month.

7. Finance Department of the State Government would continue to be the nodal department for documentation, drawal of fund, etc.

8. NABARD would release the sanctioned amount on the reimbursement basis.

9. The loan under RIDF would be released against the mandate to be executed by the State Government and registered with RBI authorizing the latter to debit the Government's account and pass on the amount to NABARD in case of default in payment of interest and/or repayment of principal by the State Government.

Statement-IV

Terms and conditions of sanction under refinance support by NABARD under minor irrigation

1. The refinance under minor irrigation sector is provided under automatic refinance facility to banks for refinance limit upto Rs. 15 lakh where the total project outlay does not exceed Rs. 25 lakhs in white block areas. For the scheme exceeding the above limit as also in grey/dark areas, the refinance is sanctioned by NABARD on schematic basis under prior sanction to banks. Banks are given freedom to fix the unit cost of the project based on the merit and local conditions subject to compliance with viability and bankability norms.

2. The rate of interest on refinance under investment

credit is available at concessional rates to the financing institutions as given under:

Size of Limit	Commercial Banks Refinance	Regional Rural Banks Refinance	Cooperative Banks Refinance
Upto Rs. 25,000/-	8.5	7.5	7.0
Over Rs. 25,000/- and upto Rs. 2 lakhs	8.5	8.5	8.5
Over Rs. 2 lakhs	8.5	8.5	8.5

3. The rate of interest charged by the financing bank on the ultimate borrowers is as per directives issued by RBI from time to time.

4. The quantum of refinance is 90% of bank loan. However, for State Cooperative Agricultural Rural Development Banks, the quantum if 95%.

5. The Lift Irrigation Schemes where the total financial outlay does not exceed Rs. 5 lakhs have been included under automatic refinance facility – farm sector in order to speed up credit facilities to the farmers.

6. In case of Drip and sprinkler irrigation where subsidy is available, banks have been advised to extend credit including subsidy, subject to techno financial viability of the investments. NABARD on its part also extends refinance on the basis of bank loan and the subsidy to banks and adjusts the subsidy as and when received from the Government.

7. In certain states where self financing scheme is available for energisation of pumpsets, NABARD has decided to include such outright payments made by farmers to State Electricity Boards for instant energisation as an item of investment cost.

[*English*]

Impact and Outcome of Sugar Agreements

1978. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been approached by developing nations for the supply of sugar from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken some steps to supply sugar to the foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the various international sugar agreements signed by the Union Government has affected the domestic sugar industry;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the roles played by India in the International Sugar Organisations (ISO) and in the International Sugar Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) As per information of the Department of Commerce, Government of Maldives had requested for supply of 10,000 MTs of sugar, among other items, from India for the year 2001 in terms of Article IX of the Trade Agreement signed between the two countries on March 31, 1981. The High Commission of India, Male has been advised to issue border permits valid up to 31st December 2001 in favour of the Maldivian parties authorized by Government of Maldives to import 10,000 MTs of freesale sugar from India.

From October, 2000 to July, 15, 2001 a quantity of about 14.04 lakh tonnes sugar has been released for export to different countries. As on 23.7.2001, as per trade circles a quantity of about 811 lakh tonnes (Provisional) has been exported.

(e) and (f) India is a signatory to the International Sugar Agreement (ISA), 1992 which is currently in force. The objectives of the ISA, 1992 are as follows:

(a) To ensure enhanced international cooperation in connection with world sugar matters and related issues:

(b) To provide a forum for intergovernmental consultations on sugar and on ways to improve the world sugar economy:

(c) To facilitate trade by collecting and providing information on the world sugar market and other sweeteners:

(d) To encourage increased demand for sugar, particularly for non-traditional uses.

The objectives of the ISA, 1992 and the various information provided by the International Sugar Organization, set up under

the International Sugar Agreements, are useful for the domestic sugar industry.

(g) India is a member of the International Sugar Organization and of the International Sugar Council set up under the International Sugar Agreement. Currently for the year 2001, India is the Chairman of the International Sugar Council of the international Sugar Organization. India is also a member o' the Administrative Committee and Market Evaluation. Consumption and Statistics Committee of the International Sugar Organization. India hosted the 19th session of the International Sugar Organization held at New Delhi on 28th to 30th May, 2001.

Export of Cars

1979. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private as well as public sector companies which are exporting cars from India;

(b) the total number of cars exported by each of those companies During each of the last three years; and

(c) the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Value of exports as intimated by Director General of Foreign Trade is approximately Rs. 456 crore for the year 1998-99, Rs. 374 crore for the year 1999-2000 and Rs. 338 crores for the year 2000-2001 (April to January).

Statement

Name of the Company	Number of Cars Exported		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Daewoo Motors (India) Ltd.	0	1,196	1,551
Fiat India Automobiles Ltd.	16	157	0
Ford India Ltd.	0	0	0
General Motors India Ltd.	4	18	81
Hindustan Motors Ltd.	0	0	0
Honda Siel Cars India Ltd.	0	14	14
Hyundai Motor India Ltd.	0	44	5,759
Maruti Udyog Ltd.	23,446	20,943	15,025
Merceedes Benz India Ltd.	494	292	0
Pal – Peugeot Ltd.	0	0	0
Premier Automobiles Ltd.	0	0	0
Telco	1,508	607	483
Total Passenger Car	25,468	23,271	22,913

Credit to Women

1980. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently organized a seminar on "Credit flow to women";

(b) if so, the matter discussed in seminar and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the system available with Government to ensure that women get an adequate percentage of credit from all banks;

(d) whether banks do not maintain and implement such policies; and

(e) if so, the penal action initiated against banks for such violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. A Seminar on "Credit Flow to Women" was organized by the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division) on 30th June, 2001.

(b) to (e) A number of issues were discussed in the Seminar which includes, inter alia, (1) 14-Point Action Plan for Strengthening of Credit Delivery to Women (2) issues emanating from the presentations of Working Groups formed on the following topics viz.

(i) Credit to Women for Productive Ventures – Role of Entrepreneurship Development, access to technology, counseling and guidance, linkages and marketing,

(ii) Role of specialized bank branches in enhancing credit flow to women,

(iii) Enhancing credit flow to women – sensitization of bank staff, publicity campaigns and role of Non-Government Organizations/Self Help Groups; and

(iv) Coverage of women under Government sponsored employment generation and poverty alleviation schemes – problems and remedial measures.

The following main decisions were taken in the Seminar:

(i) The 14-Point Action Plan for strengthening of credit delivery to women should be properly implemented by all public sector banks;

(ii) It was directed that banks should earmark 5 per cent of their net bank credit (NBC) to women within three years, instead of five years as envisaged earlier. This implies that all banks are required to achieve the target of 5 per cent of NBC to women by 31st March, 2004;

(iii) Consultative groups comprising 4-5 women, representing entrepreneurs, social workers, prominent local women etc. should be formed at the branch level. These groups will interact with the bank branch and will serve as a link between the branch and the women of the area. Similar groups are to be formed at the regional and head office for better and more effective interaction;

(iv) Procedural formalities by banks for loans to women should be further simplified.

Accordingly, the public sector banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to take follow up action on the above decisions. They have also been advised to create a separate data base for amounts advanced to women through micro credit, credit to small scale industries, credit to medium and large scale industries, Government sponsored schemes and other different schemes of banks and to submit quarterly reports in the revised format to the RBI with effect from September, 2001.

[*Translation*]

Trade Relation with Pakistan

1981. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to expand/strengthen the trade relations with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter for the expansion of trade with Pakistan has ever been discussed between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the proposals mooted in this regard for 2001-2002 and also for coming years?

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) Presently, there is no bilateral Trade Agreement between India and Pakistan. Both countries are members of World Trade Organisation (WTO) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). As members of WTO, it is obligatory for both India and Pakistan to accord Most Favoured Nations (MFN) treatment to trade with each other. While India is complying with this WTO obligation, Pakistan is adopting a discriminatory treatment to imports from India. Presently, there are only 600 items which Pakistan allows to be imported from India.

In the recent past, there has been no formal institutionalised discussion between India and Pakistan at the bilateral trade forum. However, tariff preferences have been accorded by each to the other under SAPTA negotiation.

(e) It is Government of India's policy to promote trade

with all countries including Pakistan subject to overall relationship. There are no specific proposals in this regard for 2001-2002 and onwards.

[*English*]

Prasar Bharati and Stracon India

1982. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of the agreement relating to the global marketing rights of cricket matches organised by BCCI in India has resulted in some controversy between the Prasar Bharati and the Stracon India;

(b) whether the Stracon India have claimed compensation because of the alleged violation of the terms and conditions of the agreement; and

(c) if so, the amount of compensation claimed and the reaction of the Government alongwith the steps taken or being taken to resolve the controversy?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that with respect to the implementation of the agreement of the global marketing rights of cricket matches organised by the Board of Cricket Control of India (BCCI), M/s Stracon India Ltd. have raised certain issues, which inter-alia, include non-display of URL address on live telecast, spill over of Doordarshan's signal beyond the territory of India during the telecast of India and South Africa series and distribution of decoders in neighbouring countries etc.

(c) M/s Stracon India have claimed compensation of US $ 29,05,831/- and the same is being looked into by Prasar Bharati.

Land Holdings by Tea Growers

1983. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of small tea growers in the country and total land legally under their possession, State-wise;

(b) whether some of them are possessing land more than their permissible limit or they have encroached upon other lands for tea plantation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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) As per the information furnished by the Tea Board there are approximately 96,551 small tea growers in the country as in the year 2000. The land under their possession used for growing tea is approximately 98134 hect. However, the number of small tea growers in the country state-wise who are registered with the Tea Board based on legal ownership/ possession of land and the total land legally under their possession are as follows:

States	No. of small tea growers registered with Tea Board	Land area legally under possession for tea cultivation (hect.)
Assam	812	2863
West Bengal	108	428
Bihar	113	574
Sikkim	105	85
Tripura	217	464
Manipur	1	10
Uttar Pradesh	2	13
Himachal Pradesh	3677	2251
Tamil Nadu	60400	42025
Kerala	5970	4810
Karnataka	15	75
All India	71420	53598

(b) to (d) Small tea growers are registered by Tea Board on the basis of a "No Objection Certificate" issued by the concerned State Government. The "No Objection Certificate" issued by the concerned State indicates the total grant area of the respective tea growers and therefore possession of additional land above the permissible limit or encroachment of any land for tea cultivation by the registered growers does not arise.

Foreign Direct Investment

1984. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian industry has welcomed the

liberalisation move of the Government;

(b) if so, the extent to which the liberalisation move has helped the Indian industry;

(c) whether the foreign investment in all the sectors have been encouraged;

(d) if so, the total foreign investors that have come after this decision; and

(e) the extent to which the easing of FDI norms has helped India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Apex Industry associations have welcomed the liberalisation and have even sought further reforms.

(b) to (e) The process of Liberalisation has been more extensive since 1991. Industrial Licensing stands abolished for all the industries, except a few, which are strategically important. Liberalisation was brought in with a view to bring competition and free market, efficient use of scarce resources and ensuring rapid growth. The liberalisation has made the entrepreneurs free to take investment decisions based on their own perception. The economic reforms have also generated considerable interest among foreign investors encouraging them to invest in India.

Since initiation of liberalisation policy till June, 2001, the proposed investment as reflected in Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEMs) stood at Rs. 1,027,491 crore.

During the period from 1991 to May, 2001, 12,842 proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth of Rs. 259,545.3 crore have been cleared. The total inflows amounting to Rs. 96,034.5 crore have been received during the period, showing a steady increase in FDI approvals and realisations during the post liberalisation policy period.

The amount of inflows has supplemented the domestic investment required for achieving a higher level of economic development. FDI benefits domestic industry by providing opportunities for technological up-gradation, access to global managerial skills and practices. It encourages optimal utilisation of human and natural resources, making Indian industry internationally competitive, opening up export markets and access to international quality goods and services.

International Drug Syndicate, London

1985. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Anti-Terrorist Squad of the Gujarat police claimed to have unearthed an international drug syndicate centered in London;

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

(c) the number of persons arrested and the quantity of Narcotics drugs seized from them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curb the Narcotics drugs trade in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) On 29.6.2001, a joint team of Narcotics Control Bureau, Ahmedabad Zonal Unit and Anti Terrorist Squad of Gujarat intercepted a truck near Ahmedabad. The search of the truck resulted in the seizure of 4 packets of heroin weighing 4.114 kg. Four persons including the truck driver were arrested in this connection. Interrogation of the accused revealed that they had earlier delivered heroin to a resident of Bhruch, Gujarat. The search by NCB officers at Bhruch residence of the person to whom earlier delivery was made led to recovery of three packets of Brown Sugar weighing 3.056 kg., a sum of Rs. 117500/- in cash, one pass port and some incriminating documents.

(d) Government of India has already taken a number of significant steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs and also training dog handlers of Myanmar.

Advice of Canadian Companies for FCI

1986. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and Food Corporation of India have decided to take advice and expertise from Canadian companies for solving problems relating to warehousing and movement of foodgrains across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the development made in the negotiations so far?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Committee to Amalgamate Coffee, Rubber and Spices Boards

1987. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have appointed any Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P.P. Prabhu to amalgamate Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee;

(e) the details of recommendations out of them accepted by the Government;

(f) the action taken by the Government to revamp the functioning of these boards on the basis of recommendations; and

(g) the details of the performance of the Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board during the last three years separately?

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 (f) No, Sir. The Government had appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri P.P. Prabhu to study the functioning of Tea Board, Rubber Board, Spices Board, Coffee Board, Marine Products Export Development Authority and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Government. The recommendations include rationalization and reformulation of existing schemes, promotion of interest of the small growers, reduction in membership and manpower of the Boards, enhancing of financial powers, strengthening of research activities with periodical evaluation, privatization of domestic sales outlets, closing of Tea Board's foreign offices, withdrawing from control activities etc. The Committee has also suggested introduction of a Price Insurance Scheme for some commodities and a Price Stabilization Fund to benefit the growers. These recommendations are being examined in consultation with the Commodity Boards.

(g) The details of performance of Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board during the last three years are as under:

Coffee:

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)	Exports (in lakh tonnes)	Productivity (kg/ha)
1997-98	2.28	1.79	799
1998-99	2.65	2.12	877
1999-2000	2.92	2.45	947

Rubber:

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)	Exports (in tonnes)	Productivity (kg/ha)
1997-98	5.84	1415	1549
1998-99	6.05	1840	1563
1999-2000	6.22	5989	1576

Major Spices:

Major Spices	Export (in Rs. crores)			Productivity (in kg per hect.)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Turmeric	83.06	124.55	104.60	3931	3721	4052
Pepper	496.36	638.11	864.97	316	316	303
Coriander	64.35	45.89	25.84	514	556	578
Garlic	7.97	7.41	9.38	4452	4632	4169
Cardamom	25.31	37.12	43.11	123	106	128
Chillies	158.90	216.61	233.94	1035	1171	1112

Export of Wheat

1988. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of wheat has been made during last three years;

(b) if so, quantum of export, country-wise and year-wise alongwith price in each case;

(c) whether the Government propose to make available export quality wheat to some States and Union Territories at export price in case when such requests are received; and

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

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

(b) Information in this respect is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Government is already providing wheat at Rs. 4150/- per MT (same price for export till 31.3.2001, which has since been enhanced to Rs. 4300/- per MT since April 2001) to BPL population of this country. The Government has also decided to give foodgrains at BPL rates for (i) welfare institutions catering to the needs of destitute men, women and children at the rate of 5 kg per head per month and (ii) for all welfare schemes of Government of India including "Food for Work" Programme. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana has also been launched which provides wheat to the poorest of the poor families at Rs. 2/- per kg.

Private Banking Industry

1989. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the private banking industry to take on the social and rural responsibilities in their banking operation alongwith public banking system operating in social cooperative and rural sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their *modus operandi;* and

(c) the details of private banks operational in various states and their sphere of activities in which they have been allowed to operate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) According to the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the private sector banks are also required to observe priority sector lending target of 40 per cent of net bank credit, of which 18 per cent has been stipulated for agricultural sector and 10 per cent for the weaker sections. These guidelines also stipulate that the new banks in the private sector will also be required to open 25 per cent of their branches in rural areas and semi-urban areas. The private sector banks are, by and large, able to achieve their priority sector lending target, though there are some shortfalls in lending to agricultural and weaker sections. The private sector banks, like the public sector banks, also provide loans to eligible borrowers under various Government sponsored schemes such as Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) as well as the Differential Rates of Interest Scheme (DRIS). The local area banks in the private sector have also been established with a view to providing institutional mechanism for promoting rural saving as well as the provision of credit for viable activities in the rural areas. These banks extend credit to agriculture and allied activities, SSI, agro-industrial activities, trading activities and non-farm sector. The local area banks are also required to observe priority sector lending targets at 40 per cent of their advances, besides lending at least 10 per cent of their advances to the weaker sections.

The names of the private sector banks and local area banks operational in various States is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Private Sector Banks

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank
1	2
1.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.,
2.	Benaras State Bank Ltd.,
3.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd., Madras
4.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd., Trichur
5.	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd., Trichur
6.	Federal Bank Ltd., Alwaye
7.	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd., Srinagar
8.	Karnataka Bank Ltd., Mangalore
9.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Karur

1	2
10.	City Union Bank Ltd., Kumbakonam
11.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd., Karur
12.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd., Kaloor
13.	Nainital Bank Ltd., Nainital
14.	Nedungadi Bank Ltd., Calicut
15.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd., Kolhapur
16.	Sangli Bank Ltd., Sangli
17.	South Indian Bank Ltd., Trichur
18.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., Tuticorin
19.	United Western Bank Ltd., Satara
20.	Vysya Bank Ltd., Bangalore
21.	SBI Commercial and International Bank Ltd., Mumbai
22.	Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd., Kurundwad
23.	UTI Bank Ltd., CO, Mumbai
24.	Indusind Bank Ltd., Regd. Off, Pune
25.	ICICI Banking Corporation Ltd., Vadodara
26.	Global Trust Bank Ltd., Secunderabad
27.	Centurion Bank Ltd., Panaji
28.	HDFC Bank Ltd., Mumbai
29.	Development Credit Bank Ltd., Mumbai
30.	Bank of Punjab Ltd., Chandigarh
31.	IDBI Bank Ltd., Regd. Off. Indore
	Local Area Banks
1.	Coastal Local Area Bank Ltd.,
2.	Capital Local Area Bank Ltd.,
3.	South Gujarat Local Area Bank Ltd.,
4.	Vinayak Local Area Bank Ltd.,
5.	Krishna Bhima Samruddhi Local Area Bank Ltd.,

Dumping of Newsprint

1990. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the dumping of newsprints in large quantity by USA, Europe, Canada, Russia and the various other countries into India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received regarding dumping of newsprint during the last one year;

(d) the time taken to dispose of these complaints;

(e) the impact of dumping of newsprint on the production of domestic units; and

(f) the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to make anti-dumping measures more sterner and stricter?

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) The Designated Authority had initiated investigations on import of Newsprint from Canada, USA and Russia on 20th December 1996 on the basis of fully documented petition filed by the domestic industry, with prima-facie evidence of dumping, injury and causal link. The Designated Authority recommended imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty on 19th March 1998, which was, however, not imposed. The domestic industry has not filed any petition in the prescribed proforma to the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) during the last one year to enable the Designated Authority to initiate fresh investigations for imposing Anti-Dumping Duty on import of Newsprint.

(f) Anti-Dumping investigations are conducted in accordance with our National Law as enshrined in Sections 9 A, 9 B & 9 C of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995, which are in consonance with the WTO provisions.

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 expeditiously 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. DGAD is also coordinating through DGFT officials in port offices to sensitise and familiarise people with the Anti-Dumping procedures. Thus all efforts are being made to provide relief to the domestic industry where it is due and to the extent possible given the existing set of rules and regulations.

National Quality Campaign

1991. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of organizations, especially

Government departments, who have not yet contributed to National Quality Campaign;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure timely contribution for National Quality Campaign; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Department of Telecommunication is the only Government Department which has not released its contribution towards the National Quality Campaign. Release of such contribution is periodically reviewed. Secretary General, Quality Council of India and this Department have taken up the matter with Department of Telecommunication for early release of funds.

Facilities for Export of Sea-Food and Marine Products

1992. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to adopt single stop facilities for sea-food export and marine products in order to meet the increasing demand of Indian sea-food from United States of America, European Union and Japan; 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

IRDA Norms for the New Entrants

1993. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has relaxed the exposure norms for new entrants and provided greater flexibility for investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be arise out of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, IRDA had issued IRDA (Investment) Regulations, 2000 in August, 2000 a copy of which has been laid on the Table of the House on 28.11 2000.These regulations contained instructions regarding exposure/prudential norms and the parameters within which placement of term loan etc. has to be done. IRDA has informed that they have subsequently received representations from the insurance companies seeking relaxation in the applicability of these regulations. Finding merit in their representations, some of the provisions of the August, 2000 regulations have been modified by IRDA and notified in the Gazette of India of May 31, 2001. A copy of this amendment Notification is being laid on the Table of the House in the current Session.

(c) IRDA has informed that the guided investments in Central Government and State Government securities and investment in social and rural sectors and infrastructure are preserved in the regulations. Further, the regulations ensure that the accountability of the insurers are established. In the present scenario, the regulations would enable the insurance companies to get maximum returns for the policy holders and the investments are done properly.

Export of Wheat at Subsidised Rates

1994. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell wheat for export at a highly subsidised rates because traders have offered more prices per tonne in the latest tender;

(b) if so, whether the Commerce Ministry have advised the Ministry of Food that a special low price for export would be WTP-incompatible under WTO;

(c) if so, whether under the WTO, no Government can sell a commodity for export at prices lower than those for the domestic market;

(d) whether according to the reports, more than 3.5 lakh tonne is still stocked at ports awaiting shipment;

(e) if so, whether the Government have taken any firm policy regarding export of wheat;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, by what time it is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The price of wheat for export has to be competitive with the international price to facilitate export of wheat. FCI has been permitted to offer wheat for

export at a price not less that the CIP of wheat for the BPL category.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) a quantity of 1.85 lakh tonnes of wheat is lying in port godowns for export purposes.

(e) to (g) As per the EXIM Policy, export of wheat is allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by DGFT and issue of Registration cum Allocation Certificates (RCACs) by APEDA. For the year 2001-02, an export ceiling of 5 million MTs of wheat has been announced.

EDI in Insurance Sector

1995. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the companies registered under IRDA Act, so far to start insurance business in the country; and

(b) the Foreign Direct Investment involved in the business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) IRDA has informed that 7 life insurance companies and 5 General Insurance companies have been granted registration to commence business in India.

(b) Foreign Direct investment as paid up capital in 11 Indian insurance companies is Rs 359.15 crores.

Rate of Advertisements

1996. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of producers who occupy sponsored prime time on DD have either wound up or have given notice to DD of their intention to withdraw;

(b) if so, the reaction of Doordarshan to this trend;

(c) whether the TV producers have complained that DD has been out priced itself from the market rates;

(d) whether DD has taken any realistic measure of the worth of their prime time of advertising rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that Doordarshan has invited proposals for fresh programmes of various genres to fill up the slots.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Prasar Bharati have intimated that Doordarshan's rate card has been revised to bring it in tune with current competitive market scenario.

(f) Does not arise.

Amendment of Consumer Protection Act, 1986

1997. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the practice of putting the label of maximum price to be charged by the manufacturers on their products had worked against consumer' interests because the retailers are using it as the minimum price of selling the product which is nothing but cheating and anti-consumer practice; and

(b) if so, the actions proposed by the Government to curb such anti-consumer practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 require declaration of retail sale price of the package in the form "Maximum retail price... inclusive of all taxes" (MRP). The declaration of MRP on the package has to be made by the manufacturer or packer of the commodity. The Rules have penal provisions which prevent retail dealers from selling the packaged commodity at a price higher than the declared MRP. However, the actual sale price may be less than MRP depending on various factors such as transportation involved, local taxes, competition etc.

[*Translation*]

Rajbhasha/Official Language Hindi

1998. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes formulated for speedy implementation of official language policy by his Ministry;

(b) whether the same programme of progressive use of Hindi is repeated time and again since the last three decades;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) For implementation of the Official Language Policy, the Department of Official Language, Ministry of House Affairs, issues an Annual Programme every year in which targets are fixed for promoting the progressive use of Hindi. These targets are enhanced from time to time by the Department of Official Language. The targets fixed in the Annual Programme are complied with by this Ministry as far as possible.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Value Added Tax System

1999. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to appoint a Committee of the State Finance Secretaries and Union Finance Ministry officials to work out a formula to compensate the States of revenue losses incurred on account of introduction of value added tax system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the committee is likely to submit its report?

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

(b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Revenue) with the following Members has been constituted:

(i) Finance Secretary, Gujarat

(ii) Revenue Secretary, Andhra Pradesh

(iii) Finance Secretary, Maharashtra

(iv) Finance Secretary, West Bengal

(v) Finance Secretary, National Capital Territory of Delhi

(vi) Finance Secretary, Uttar Pradesh

(vii) Advisor, Planning Commission

(viii) Economic Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs

(ix) Joint Secretary (Narcotics Control Bureau and Administration), Department of Revenue

(x) Joint Secretary (Tax Research Unit), Central Board of Excise and Customs

(xi) Deputy Secretary (Budget), Department of Economic Affairs

(xii) Director (Sales-tax), Department of Revenue

The Committee is to develop clear and measurable criteria for judging revenue loss, if any due to introduction of VAT and is to decide about the manner of compensation as well as quantum of compensation.

(c) 30th September, 2001.

Export Fraud

2000. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item titled "8 Government banks under cloud for export fraud to Russia" appearing in the Indian Express dated July 13, 2001;

(b) if so, the names of Government banks involved in the export fraud and quantum of money involved therein;

(c) whether once again RBI has failed to discharge its duty to detect the export fraud going on in collusion with eight Government banks;

(d) whether the Government have identified the bank officials who are responsible for the said fraud; and

(e) if so, the action taken against each one?

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

Request of A.P. Government for Paddy Procurement

2001. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

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

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have requested the Union Government to enhance the procurement of paddy limit by another ten lakh metric tonnes from the fifty five lakh metric tonnes at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have considered the request of the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in order to provide relief to the farmers, Government of A.P. requested to enhance the initial procurement target of levy rice from 55 lakh tonnes to 65 lakh tonnes and subsequently to 70 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the farmers interest, the Government of India has agreed to the request of the State Government and enhanced the target of procurement of levy rice to 70 lakh tonnes.

(e) In view of reply to parts (c) and (d) above, question does not arise.

Public Sector Insurance Companies

2002. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Insurance Companies would be withdrawn from the North East, Kashmir, North Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa; and

(b) if so, the reasons for withdrawal of such companies from the States and territories referred to above?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Assistance for Growth Centre, Raichur

2003. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government have released only Rs. 8.60 crore as assistance for Growth Centre at Raichur, Karnataka,

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government to release the balance amount so that the project could be completed in scheduled time; and

(c) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No, Sir. Full amount of Central assistance of Rs. 10 crore has been released to the State Government of Karnataka for the Raichur Growth Centre.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

AIR, Narbal Srinagar

2004. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 5055 on 20th April, 2001 regarding disciplinary proceedings against AIR engineer and to state:

(a) whether the inquiry against the Chief Engineer level II of AIR's Civil Construction Wing in respect of alleged irregularities in the Works relating to 2 x 500 KVA DG SET AT Narbal, Srinagar has been examined; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the respect so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The inquiry against the Chief Engineer Level II of AIR's Civil Construction Wing is being processed in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965.

Import/Export with China and Pakistan

2005. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the items/products that India has been "importing" normally from Pakistan and China;

(b) the items/products that India has been "Exporting" to Pakistan and China; and

(c) the details of trade performance with these countries during the last two years?

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) India imported fruits and nuts excluding cashew nuts and other items including pulses, sugar and spices from Pakistan worth Rs. 295.59 crores in 1999-2000 and Rs. 299.45 crores in 2000-2001. From China our imports included coal, electronic goods, organic and inorganic chemicals, silk, medicines and pharmaceutical products, fertilizers and

machinery etc. worth Rs. 5575.64 crores in 1999-2000 and Rs. 6706.34 crores in 2000-2001.

India exported sugar, inorganic and organic chemicals, oil meals, plastic and linoleum products, dyes, rubber and spices to Pakistan worth Rs. 402.76 crores in 1999-2000 and Rs. 848.41 crores in 2000-2001. Our exports to China mainly included iron and other ores and minerals, marine products, plastic and linoleum product, cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups, inorganic, organic and agro chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals etc. worth Rs. 2334.56 crores in 1999-2000 and Rs. 3788.32 crores in 2000-2001.

Export Oriented Unit of Oil Refinery at Kakinada Port

2006. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an export oriented unit of oil refinery at Kakinada port by the Petro Energy Products Company Limited at a revised cost of Rs. 2,652 crore;

(b) if so, whether the project was originally approved in June, 1994 at a cost of Rs. 500 crore only; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay resulting in more than five fold escalation in its cost?

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 does not propose to set up an oil refinery under the EOU Scheme. However, M/s petro Energy Products Company Limited was granted LOI in June, 1994 to set up an oil refinery unit under the EOU Scheme at Karaikal in the Union Territory of Pondicherry with an investment of Rs. 500.25 crores. As the company could not implement the proposal it sought and was granted extension of the validity of the approval from time to time. The last extension was granted on 16.8.2000 extending the validity of the approval upto 27.6.2003. Further, on the request of the unit, Government has also approved the change of location from Karaikal, Pondicherry to Kakinada Port (Peddapuram- R.B. Patnam, East Godavari) in Andhra Pradesh on 16.8.2000. Recently, Government has on 12.6.2001 also approved the company's proposal to enhance the project cost to Rs. 2652 crores and restructure the foreign equity participation to 95% of the total equity.

Refined Oil Companies

2007. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

(a) whether domestic refined oil companies are facing stiff competition from refined oil companies from Nepal and Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of domestic refined oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Import of edible oils, crude or refined, except coconut oil is under OGL. With effect from 1.3.2001, the duty on crude edible oils except crude soyabean oil has been raised to 75%. In case of crude soyabean oil, the duty is 45% due to WTO binding. The duty on refined edible oils, except Soyabean Oil, is 85% basic plus 4% Special Additional Duty (SAD). In case of soyabean oil, the duty (basic) is 45% due to WTO binding plus 4% SAD. However, import of refined edible oils and vanaspati from Nepal is allowed duty free, under the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade. Therefore, the Indian refined edible oil industry and vanaspati industry face stiff competition from refined edible oil and vanaspati imports from Nepal.

(c) In order to harmonise the interests of the oilseed growers, the consumers and the domestic refined oil and vanaspati industry, the steps taken by the Government include the following:

(i) Import duty on refined oils has been raised to 85% (basic) and 45% (basic) on soyabean oil (due to WTO binding) effective from 1.3.2001.

(ii) Duty on Crude Edible Oils has been kept low as compared to refined oils to enable refined oil manufacturing units to compete with others.

(iii) Use of 25% indigenous oils has been made mandatory in the manufacture of vanaspati.

Impact of WTO Agreement

2008. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has sought India's help in joining the WTO by November, 2001;

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

(c) whether China is also having reservations about the adverse impact of the WTO agreement on agricultural sector in the country;

(d) whether India has approached the countries having reservations about the adverse impact of WTO agreement on agriculture; and

(e) if so, the response of other countries 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) In the various bilateral meetings between our delegation and the Chinese delegation held in the context of China's accession to WTO, the Chinese side have requested for and have also acknowledged receiving our support for the early accession of China to WTO.

(c) While Media reports have mentioned reservations about the adverse impact of WTO agreement on the agriculture sector of China, no official statement about this from the Chinese Government has come to the notice of Government.

(d) and (e) As part of the ongoing negotiations under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, India along with many other developing countries have highlighted the fact that the anticipated benefits of liberalization in agriculture have not materialized for them because of the continuation of trade distorting subsidies by many of the developed countries and have, therefore, demanded substantial reductions in trade distorting domestic support, substantial reductions in tariffs and elimination of export subsidies by the developed countries and sufficient flexibility to the developing countries to take care of these food security and livelihood concerns. In this regard, India besides submitting detailed proposals in the areas of market access, domestic support, export competition and food security, has also co-sponsored two proposals on "Market Access" and "Export Credits" along with other developing countries. While the proposal on "Market Access" was cosponsored by India along with Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri lanka, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Haiti, the proposal on "Export Credit" was cosponsored along with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Richa, Guatemala and Malaysia.

Eleventh Finance Commission Recommendation on Royalty

2009. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken the recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission regarding revision of royalty on minerals, coal, oil and natural gas into consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same; and

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

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

(b) to (d) The periodicity of revision of royalty on minerals is governed by Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. According to this Act, the Central Government may revise the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral with effect from such date as may be specified provided that such revision shall not be made more than once during any period of three years.

There is no proposal under consideration of Government for entrusting the task of making recommendations for revision of royalty rates on minerals to an independent body. However, independent Study Groups comprising the representatives of States, Central Ministries/Departments concerned, the industry and technical organisations are constituted to make recommendations on the rates of royalty on minerals. The existing system is fair and transparent and meets the objectives of the recommendations made by the EFC.

Royalty on Crude Oil and Natural Gas is governed by the provisions of Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959 framed there under, as amended from time to time. With a view to evolve a new scheme of royalty on crude oil applicable with effect from 01.04.1998, a Committee has been constituted by the Government.

[*Translation*]

Machines to Identify Fake Note

2010. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary machines are not available in the Indian Banks to identify the fake currency notes;

(b) whether the Government propose to make available such machines in most of the banks in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which such machines are likely to be made available?

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

higher denomination notes of Rs. 500/- and Rs. 1000/- with Mahatma Gandhi Watermark containing special features can be verified with the help of the Ultra Violet Lamps, most of the other bank notes have to be verified for their genuineness only by human examination with reference to the quality of paper, watermark, security thread and printing features etc.

(b) and (c) While sixty per cent bank branches have been provided with Ultra Violet Lamps particularly covering their currency chest and other heavy cash handling branches, remaining branches are in the process of installing such Lamps.

(d) The Reserve Bank of India has been directed to ensure installation of Ultra Violet Lamps in all bank branches in the country by December, 31st 2001.

[*English*]

Export Orders from Australia

2011. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the BHEL has achieved a major break through in securing a export order from Australia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of engineering goods to Australia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BHEL has received an order for supply and providing technical assistance for installation of 3 x 123.4 MW Gas Turbine Generating units and the electrical and mechanical auxiliaries, from a subsidiary company of AES, USA for their project at Stonehaven in Australia.

(c) The contract is for US dollars 59.4 million (equivalent to Rs. 278 crores).

(d) An exclusive INDIATECH Exhibition is to be organized in March, 2002 in Sydney, Australia by the Engineering Export Promotion Council with the support of the Department of Commerce under the Market Development Assistance Scheme. This is expected to give significant boost to the efforts for increasing export of engineering goods to Australia by providing an opportunity to the participating companies to display their products to the prospective buyers.

[*Translation*]

Disinvestment in Telephone Sector

2012. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to carry out disinvestment in Videsh Sanchar Nigam, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and rationale behind this move; and

(c) the time by which the above process is likely to be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 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) The Government had in July, 1999 accorded approval to the disinvestment of upto 19 million of Government's shares in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) based on the advice of the Disinvestment Commission to bring down the equity in the company to 51% through GDR route and offerings in the domestic market. However, on account of adverse market conditions, this GDR issue could not take place.

The Government has decided, in February 2001, to retain 26% equity in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and to disinvest 25% equity capital through strategic sale and issue of 1.97% of equity capital in favour of employees of the company. The decision is in accordance with the declared policy of the Government that the Government will, in generality of cases, reduce its equity to 26% or below in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) operating in non-strategic areas. In the case of VSNL, Government had also announced the withdrawal of the company's monopoly over international long distance telephony from April 2002 instead of April 2004 announced earlier. This necessitated in the urgency to prepare VSNL for the impending competition in the sector.

As of now, there is no decision for disinvestment in Bharat

Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and for further disinvestment in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

(c) The process of disinvestment in VSNL has been taken up but not yet completed.

[*English*]

Norms for Issuance of Advance Licences

2013. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

SHRI RAJESH VERMA:

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

(a) the policy of the Government for issue of Duty Free Advance Licence where input-output norms are fixed;

(b) whether the office of the Director General, Foreign Trade in New Delhi insist on minimum 33% value addition, whereas its office in Mumbai are issuing Advance Licence at positive value addition only; and

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

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) The Policy of the Government for issue of Duty Free Advance Licence where input-output norms are fixed is outlined in Chapter-7 of the Export Import Policy for 1997-2002, in terms of which such licences are required to be issued with a positive value addition. However, for exports for which payments are not received in freely convertible currency (App. 39 of Hand Book of Procedures) value addition required is 33% or the percentage of value addition indicated in the Hand Book (Vol. II), whichever is higher. All Regional Licencing authorities are required to follow the above provisions.

Bankruptcy Code

2014. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a comprehensive Corporate bankruptcy Code;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On the basis of the recommendations of the "High Level Committee on Law relating to Insolvency and Winding up of Companies" and after taking into consideration the views of the Group of Ministers (GoM), the introduction of a Bill, namely the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2001 is at an advance stage. The important recommendations made by High Level committee on Law relating to Insolvency and Winding up of Companies are as under:

- A National Tribunal be set up under Article 323 B of the Constitution. Power and jurisdiction presently exercised by Company Law Board/ BIFR/AAIFR/High Courts be entrusted to the Tribunal.
- SICA be repealed.
- Voluntary winding of companies be encouraged.
- Companies with minimum capital of Rs. 10 lakh only to submit winding up petitions.
- Debt default to creditors exceeding Rs. 1 lakh and erosion or 50% of net worth be the basis of voluntary winding and for revival of companies to the National Tribunal.
- Claims of employees and secured creditors of company are ranked pari-passu.
- Officers of the Official Liquidators be strengthened and modernized.
- A Fund for revival, rehabilitation of companies and preservation/protection of the assets of companies be created under the control of Central Government.
- Winding up steps be completed within time frame of two years.
- Professionals be appointed as Liquidators, Government to prepare a panel of such professionals for their deployment.

Low Quality of Vanaspati Vegetable Oil

2015. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether out 2454 samples of Vanaspati vegetable oil drawn from manufacturing units in the country during 2000-2001, 78 samples were not found conforming to the standards of quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of manufacturers to whom show cause notice were issued and number out of them against whom action was initiated;

(d) whether the study undertaken by Nutritional Monitoring Bureau indicated that the Vitamin A deficiency in India is below WHO cut-off level of 0.5 per cent;

(e) if so, whether some samples failed in respect of melting point and deficiency of vitamin A; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details with regard to the number of units against whom action has been initiated are as under:

No. of Samples Failed	No. of Units Concerned	Action Initiated
41	6	Referred to the concerned State Governments for Prosecution.
28	15	Warning issued to the units concerned to be careful in future.
3	1	Samples of new applicant collected for analysis from trial production and accordingly advised to take corrective measures.
6	1	Based on the reply from the unit, detailed report has been sought from the officer concerned.
78	23	

(d) The surveys carried out by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) in 1996-1997 in rural areas in 8 States Viz. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Orissa indicate that the prevalence of Bitot Spots, an accepted objective sign of Vitamin A deficiency is 0.8% in the preschool children.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The action has been initiated against the defaulting Units, as mentioned in reply to part (a), (b) and (c).

[*Translation*]

Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana

2016. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youths who have applied for loans under the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana during the last three years in Jharkhand;

(b) the target fixed by each Bank for providing loans under this scheme and the actual amount sanctioned and disbursed by the banks during the above period and the number of youths benefited from it;

(c) the number of applications, which are pending till date in Bihar and Jharkhand and the reasons for delay in sanctioning the loans; and

(d) the steps taken to simplify the loan sanctioning procedure and to resolve the difficulties being faced by the youths in obtaining loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, the target fixed by each bank for providing loans under Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY), number of unemployed youths applied for loans under PMRY, No. of beneficiaries, amount sanctioned and disbursed by the Scheduled Commercial Banks during the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (provisional) in the State of Bihar including Jharkhand state is indicated in the enclosed Statement-I, II, III. The separate figures for newly created Jharkhand state are not available with the RBI.

(c) Till date 3257 applications are pending under PMRY in Bihar (including Jharkhand State). The reasons for delay in sanction of loan include borrowers not able to obtain licence/power connection in time to commence the activity, unable to secure premises, delay in completion of pre-requisite formalities for sanction of loan and inadequate training facilities.

(d) Government and RBI has taken the following steps to facilitate obtention of loan under PMRY.

(i) Newly married women are exempted from fulfilling residential criteria instead husbands residency criteria is applied to the in-laws of married beneficiaries under PMRY.

(ii) Limit for obtention of collateral security has been enhanced to Rs. 5 lakhs in tiny sector.

(iii) Ration card has been accepted as proof of residence.

(iv) Family income ceiling has been enhanced to Rs. 40,000/- per annum.

Statement-I

The target, amount sanctioned and disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks in Bihar including Jharkhand under PMRY during 1998-99

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the Bank	Target	No. of Applications received	Total loan Sanctioned		Total loan Disbursed	
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	6245	8880	3368	2783.00	2088	1555.00
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	80	87	33	27.23	33	26.58
Allahabad Bank	1488	1677	777	651.00	624	492.50
Andhra Bank	18	36	6	5.40		
Bank of Baroda	640	706	344	280.00	292	231.00
Bank of India	2064	2906	1215	1005.00	1172	947.00
Canara Bank	745	932	385	185.61	293	172.93
Central Bank of India	2521	3126	1468	1196.00	1280	986.27
Corporation Bank	21	31	8	6.35	5	3.25
Dena Bank	68	48	12	10.25	12	10.25
Indian Bank	144	179	58	46.13	47	35.94
Indian Overseas Bank	98	234	101	83.89	62	44.54
Oriental Bank of Commerce	11	66	32	31.49	32	28.90
Punjab National Bank	3197	3339	1812	1721.26	1433	1175.02
Punjab & Sind Bank	67	103	33	26.15	24	21.84
Syndicate Bank	156	241	81	16.73	35	22.61
Union Bank of India	584	527	366	303.36	308	242.98
United Bank of India	815	459	140	106.07	109	80.67
UCO Bank	1245	1279	553	521.00	460	368.00
Vijaya Bank	64	104	55	45.39	50	43.53
Federal Bank Limited	20	15	5	5.00	5	5.00
Total of Public & Private Sector Banks	20291	24975	10852	9056.31	8364	6493.81

Statement-II

The target, amount sanctioned and disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks in Bihar including Jharkhand under PMRY during 1999-2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the Bank	Target	No. of Applications received	Total loan Sanctioned		Total loan Disbursed	
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	6640	7365	3579	3099.00	2402	1855.00
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	62	108	39	37.63	34	32.07
State Bank of Patiala	4	2				
Allahabad Bank	1582	1157	656	629.00	532	411.10
Andhra Bank						
Bank of Baroda	680	528	364	287.00	256	215.00
Bank of India	2097	2170	1154	966.00	811	685.00
Canara Bank	792	1132	649	572.56	305	193.64
Central Bank of India	2680	1528	1260	1116.46	1060	855.22
Corporation Bank	21	36	5	3.50	3	2.50
Dena Bank	68	68	3	2.75	3	2.75
Indian Bank	148	157	46	38.51	44	35.93
Indian Overseas Bank	104	163	71	57.84	42	26.87
Oriental Bank of Commerce	26	48	20	15.56	20	15.56
Punjab National Bank	3400	1779	1642	1530.78	1302	1093.57
Punjab & Sind Bank	67	87	12	10.00	6	4.00
Syndicate Bank	255	101	113	71.94	63	49.94
Union Bank of India	624	520	359	320.83	329	271.06
United Bank of India	670	450	223	183.92	153	125.05
UCO Bank	1324	578	483	479.00	321	277.56
Vijaya Bank	68	101	60	54.62	60	52.99
Federal Bank Limited	16	7	7	6.55	7	6.43
Total of Public & Private Sector Banks	21328	19385	10745	9483.45	7753	6208.24

Statement-III

The target, amount sanctioned and disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks in Bihar including Jharkhand under PMRY during 2000-01

Name of the Bank	Target	No. of Applications received	Total loan Sanctioned		Total loan Disbursed	
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	6665	6795	3596	3166.00	2385	1873.00
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	57	110	43	40.09	28	24.34
Allahabad Bank	1592	1655	648	424.00	424	370.20
Andhra Bank	19	24	5	4.37		
Bank of Baroda	690	676	297	262.00	175	118.00
Bank of India	1930	2870	1253	1147.00	602	454.00
Canara Bank	802	1174	673	422.32	270	247.32
Central Bank of India	2718	2088	1230	1353.89	800	636.24
Corporation Bank	21	35	9	6.26	7	5.26
Dena Bank	68	36	11	9.00	11	9.00
Indian Bank	153	167	72	59.46	41	27.35
Indian Overseas Bank	101	232	95	72.54	63	48.59
Oriental Bank of Commerce	22	47	14	11.62	8	6.87
Punjab National Bank	3415	2554	1785	1659.45	852	732.89
Punjab & Sind Bank	77	23	7	6.93	5	5.73
Syndicate Bank	166	261	107	88.64	57	39.82
Union Bank of India	621	704	352	319.67	174	204.06
United Bank of India	676	416	127	106.36	116	86.15
UCO Bank	1324	646	131	125.00	114	104.43
Vijaya Bank	68	75	32	27.92	24	19.16
Federal Bank Limited	12	18	4	3.50	3	2.63
Total of Public & Private Sector Banks	21197	21106	10491	9316.19	6159	5015.04

[*English*]

World Bank Loan

2017. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan taken by the Government from World Bank during each of the last three years;

(b) the purpose for which the loan has been taken; and

(c) the details of loans disbursed during the above period, State-wise?

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

Agreements signed during 1998-99 to 2000-01 with World Bank and disbursements during 1998-99 to 2000-01

(data provisional)

Sl.No.	Project Description	State	Amount	Disbursed During		
			USD Million	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1998-99, LOANS						
1.	National Agriculture Technology Project	Central	196.200	0.000	0.000	0.000
2.	UP Diversified Agriculture Support Project	UP	128.500	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring	AP	543.200	32.384	40.184	44.032
4.	Andhra Pradesh Power Sector	AP	210.000	10.169	45.228	40.895
5.	Kerala Forestry Project	Kerala	28.800	2.817	3.483	4.235
6.	Orissa Health Systems Dev. Project	Orissa	76.400	2.583	0.467	2.013
7.	Rural Women's Development Project	Bihar	19.500	0.000	1.219	0.348
8.	Maharastra Health System Development Project	Maharashtra	134.000	2.254	0.090	0.946
9.	UP Sodic Land-II Project	UP	194.100	0.000	5.505	14.081
1999-2000, LOANS						
1.	Integrated Watershed Development	Multi-States (J&K, Karnataka)	135.000	0.000	0.850	0.000
2.	Second Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project	T.N	105.000	0.000	14.496	48.375
3.	Rajasthan District Primary Education	Rajasthan	81.900	0.000	2.533	2.788
4.	Women & Child Development Project	Multi-States (Kerala, Rajasthan)	289.250	0.000	7.229	19.320
5.	National HIV/AIDS Control Project	Rajasthan	194.750	0.000	3.637	28.163
6.	UP III D.P.E.P	UP	182.400	0.000	0.000	17.720
2000-01, LOANS						
1.	UP Fiscal Reform and Public Sector Restr. Prog.	UP	251.270	0.000	0.000	126.270
2.	UP Power Sector Restructuring Project	UP	150.000	0.000	0.000	13.947
3.	India Renewable Energy Dev. Projects	Central	130.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
4.	3rd National Highway	Central	516.000	0.000	0.000	30.160
5.	Telecom Sector Reforms Tech. Assistance Project	Central	62.000	0.000	0.000	3.620
6.	Gujarat Highway Project	Gujarat	381.000	0.000	0.000	33.000
7.	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project	Rajasthan	180.000	0.000	0.000	15.000
8.	Technical Assistance for Economic Reform Project	Central	45.000	0.000	0.000	1.169
9.	Immunization Strengthening	Central	142.600	0.000	0.000	22.964
10.	UP Health System Dev. Prog.	UP	110.000	0.000	0.000	2.254

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	AP District Poverty Initiatives Project	AP	111.000	0.000	0.000	3.227
12.	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project	Rajasthan	100.000	0.000	0.000	2.878
13.	Third Technicial Education Project	Central	64.900	0.000	0.000	2.151
14.	MP District Poverty Initiatives Project	MP	110.010	0.000	0.000	2.718
15	Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Kerala	65.500	0.000	0.000	1.575

Protection to Indian Trademark

2018. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on "protecting trademark in India and abroad" organized by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the department of industrial policy and promotion recently;

(b) if so, the details of participants and suggestions made by them; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government on the basis of said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organisation and FICCI, organized two national seminars in Mumbai and in New Delhi on "Protecting your trade marks in India and abroad" on 17-18 July, 2001 and 19-20 July, 2001 respectively.

(b) and (c) The seminars were attended by academicians, trade mark attorneys/advocates and industry representatives. The seminars covered various issues concerning the New Trade Marks Act, 1999, procedures thereunder and facilitative treaties for international protection of trademarks. This included protection of trademarks on the internet, resolution of issues relating to domain names, trademark licensing and the protection of geographical indications. The focus of the seminars was to generate awareness relating to protection of Intellectual Property Rights among the users.

Distribution of Subsidised Foodgrains

2019. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether the State Governments have failed to distribute foodgrains to the people living below the poverty line, which are supplied to them at highly subsidised prices by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the foodgrains allotted to States especially in Bihar for distribution to the people living below poverty line have been freely sold in the open markets;

(d) whether the Union Government are aware of this fact;

(e) whether the Government propose to investigate the matter and take further action in the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon to stop this sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The lifting of foodgrains and its distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) depends on several factors such as parity between the issue prices of foodgrains under TPDS and the open market prices, availability of foodgrains in the open market, purchasing power of the consumers belonging to the BPL category eating habits, etc. The State-wise details of the quantities of foodgrains (rice and wheat) allotted for the families living Below Poverty Line (BPL), quantities lifted and the percentage of lifting during 2000-2001 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (f) A complaint was received from Shri Ram Chander Paswan, Member of Parliament (MP) from Lok Sabha, regarding black marketing of foodgrains allotted for BPL families in Birol, Roshda, and Darbhanga districts in Bihar by Manager of State Food Corporation and some dealers. Since the State Food Corporation comes under the purview of the State Government, Bihar Government was requested to investigate the matter and apprise the MP and the Department of Food and Public Distribution of the action taken in the matter.

Statement

State-wise details of quantities of foodgrains allotted for BPL families, lifted & lifting % during 2000-2001 (April, 2000 to March, 2001)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Rice			Wheat		
		Allocation	Lifting	Lifting%	Allocation	Lifting	Lifting%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1316.648	923.047	70.11	0.000	0.000	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.384	15.828	86.10	1.840	0.278	15.11
3.	Assam	457.428	374.143	81.79	0.000	0.000	0.00
4.	Bihar	750.840	131.445	17.51	1126.260	428.651	38.06
5.	Chhattisgarh	99.228	76.400	76.99	28.428	2.555	8.99
6.	Delhi	0.000	0.000	0.00	24.540	10.501	42.79
7.	Goa	6.230	1.483	23.80	2.874	0.361	12.56
8.	Gujarat	343.526	113.962	33.17	565.287	284.423	50.31
9.	Haryana	0.000	1.640	0.00	175.918	47.763	27.15
10.	Himachal Pradesh	34.947	21.755	62.25	67.369	24.700	36.66
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.800	64.649	57.31	35.520	5.993	64.73
12.	Jharkhand	73.800	14.150	19.17	110.700	72.526	65.52
13.	Karnataka	568.272	527.845	92.89	142.068	135.560	95.42
14.	Kerala	365.144	417.011	114.20	0.000	0.000	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	468.496	278.330	59.41	665.612	277.928	41.76
16.	Maharashtra	521.504	341.107	65.41	968.580	619.256	63.93
17.	Manipur	31.214	18.670	59.81	0.000	0.000	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	34.354	30.106	87.63	0.000	0.003	0.00
19.	Mizoram	13.940	13.938	99.98	0.000	0.000	0.00
20.	Nagaland	18.480	17.944	97.10	4.560	3.043	66.73
21.	Orissa	949.922	659.580	69.44	102.300	0.000	0.00
22.	Punjab	16.800	0.364	2.17	89.436	10.756	12.03
23.	Rajasthan	23.595	1.141	4.84	850.575	321.592	37.81
24.	Sikkim	8.916	5.875	65.89	0.000	0.000	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	1121.664	1131.124	100.84	0.000	0.000	0.00
26.	Tripura	55.450	53.567	96.60	0.000	0.000	0.00
27.	Uttranchal	22.172	0.000	0.00	11.840	0.000	0.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	741.628	320.906	43.27	1537.660	887.713	57.73
29.	West Bengal	676.064	305.853	45.24	577.496	493.111	85.39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30.	A & N Islands	3.604	3.020	83.79	1.680	1.737	103.39
31.	Chandigarh	0.480	0.000	0.00	3.838	0.000	0.00
32.	D & N Haveli	2.899	2.078	71.68	0.725	0.364	50.20
33.	Daman & Diu	0.532	0.211	39.65	0.268	0.014	5.22
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.000	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	17.088	7.510	43.95	0.000	0.000	0.00
	Total	8876.049	5874.682	66.19	7095.374	3645.828	981.487

NB : Allocation figures include additional allocations made at BPL rates for calamity relief, etc.

Customs Raid on Smuggled Cigarettes

2020. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any raids have been conducted by the Customs and Excise Department against contraband cigarettes (smuggled), across the country during last six months;

(b) if so, the details regarding the places of raids, the quantity and market value of cigarettes seized; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to prevent such smuggling activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. All India raids were conducted by the Customs and Central Excise Department in coordination with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on 29.5.2001.

(b) A total quantity of 8855 cartons and 41627 packets, totally valued at Rs. 14.69 lakhs (approx.), have been seized during raids conducted by Customs and Central Excise Commissionerates at Jamshedpur, Amritsar, Delhi, West Bengal, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Lucknow, Raipur, Mumbai, tiruchirapalli, Pune, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Hyderabad, Bhopal and Indore.

(c) Field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have been alerted to intensify measures to check smuggling of cigarettes as well as other contraband goods into the country.

[*Translation*]

Losses to Cooperative Banks

2021. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of cooperative banks in the country which have the status of scheduled banks;

(b) the names of such banks which are making losses;

(c) the losses suffered by these banks during each of the last three years;

(d) the reasons for their losses; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve their performance?

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

[*English*]

Purchases by the Directorate of Field Publicity

2022. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 6179 regarding purchases by the Directorate of Field Publicity on the April 27, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the required information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The matter is still under examination. In view of large number of records and, if necessary, persons to be examined, it is not feasible to indicate a time frame at this stage.

Investment by PSUs in UTI

2023. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) the PSUs which have invested the money in US-64 and have been sick at the time of disinvestment;

(b) the reasons for pumping the money into US-64;

(c) the total money pumped into US-64;

(d) the details of estimated return realized by these PSUs, PSUs-wise;

(e) whether an enquiry has been conducted into the whole affair;

(f) in so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (g) The information is being collected.

Rice in Godowns of FCI

2024. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether eight thousand metric tonnes of 'Arwa' rice and three thousand metric tonnes of 'Usna' rice are lying in godowns of the Food Corporation of India at Katihar in Bihar for more than last one and half year;

(b) whether the rice stored there is rotting in the absence of proper upkeeping ;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has taken steps to protect the stock of rice from rotting; 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) A quantity of 10800 MT of boiled rice is only available in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) depot at Katihar as on 30th June, 2001. The age-wise break up of the stock is as under:

upto 1 year old	1-2 years old	Total
10391 MT	409 MT	10,800 MT

No raw rice was available at this depot on this date.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The FCI undertakes storage of foodgrains in scientifically build godowns and in a scientific manner. The quality and condition of stocks in monitored by undertaking periodic inspections at regular intervals. Necessary, prophylactic and curative disinfestation treatments are undertaken for preservation of the foodgrain stocks.

Programme Advisory Committee

2025. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Programme Advisory Committee on Doordarshan and Akashvani have not been constituted in Ahmadnagar (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, the reasons for delay and the time by which those Committees is likely to be constituted;

(c) whether the Government have received any applications for the membership of these Committees; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per the existing guidelines, the Local Radio Station and Low Power Transmitter, at Ahmadnagar, do not qualify to have Programme Advisory Committees.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Disinvestment of PSUs

2026. SHRI P. D. ELANGOVAN:

SHRI SURESH KURUP:

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the PSUs disinvested so far since the introduction of the disinvestment policy;

(b) the total amount realized through disinvestment year-wise and PSU-wise during the said period;

(c) the purpose for which the said amount utilized;

(d) whether the Government propose to issue a white paper on disinvestment policy; and

(e) if so, by when?

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 PENSION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) A statement indicating year-wise PSU-wise details of amount realized through disinvestment since 1991-1992 to 2000-2001 is enclosed.

(c) The disinvestment proceeds have been deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India like other receipts of Government of India. The expenditures out of the Consolidated Fund of India include outlays for infrastructure sector, restructuring of Public sector enterprises, social sectors like education, health and family welfare etc. The expenditure incurred for these purposes was much higher than the receipts from disinvstment. In his budget speech for the year 2001-2002, the Finance Minister has announced that receipts from disinvestment will be used for providing restructuring assistance to PSUs, safety net to workers, reduction of debt burden as also for social and infrastructure sectors.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. A white Paper is intended to contain information or Government's proposals on an issue, or an event. The Disinvestment Policy of the Government has been announced from time to time in the Parliament during the Budget speeches. Different aspects of the disinvestment policy have been debated at length in both the Houses of Parliament during Budget Debates or at the time of motions like short duration discussions, calling attention motion etc. The Government also clarified various issues relating to disinvestment policy through the replies to the Parliament question in both the Houses. The disinvestment policy is, therefore, clearly and unambiguously stated. A manual titled "Disinvestment: Policy and procedures" has been published providing all necessary details and this has been distributed to, amount others, all the Members of Parliament.

Statement

Year wise PSUs-wise details of amount realized through disinvestment since 1991-92

S.N.	Name of the Company	Amount in Crore of Rupees								
		1991-92	1992-93	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andrew Yule	—	—	—	—					
2.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	—	—	48.270						
3.	Bharat Electronic Ltd.	—	—	47.169						
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	—	8.21	301.336						
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd	—	331.18	—						
6.	Bongigaon Refineries & Petrochem Ltd.	—	45.40	—						148.80
7.	CMC Ltd.	—	—	—						
8.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	—	—	—						659.10
9.	Dredging Corp. of India Ltd.	—	—	—						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.	Fertilisers & Chem. (Travancore) Ltd.	—	1.30	—						
11.	HMT Ltd.	—	23.38	—						
12.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	—	—	—						
13.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	—	8.07	—						
14.	Hindustan Organic Chem. Ltd.	—	—	—						
15.	Hindustan Petroleum Ltd.	—	331.85	563.111						
16.	Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.	—	—							
17.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	—	81.55							
18.	Indian Petrochemicals Corp. Ltd.	—	—							
19.	Indian Railway Contt. Company Ltd.	—	—							
20.	Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.	—	15.63							
21.	Madras Refineries Ltd. (Chennai Petroleum Corp. Ltd.)	—	—							509.33
22.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	—	—	1322.168	135.899		910.00			
23.	Minerals & Metals Trading Corp. Ltd.	—	—							
24.	National Aluminium Ltd.	—	244.20	0.096						
25.	National Fertilisers Ltd.	—	0.72	0.283						
26.	National Mineral Development Corp. Ltd.	—	17.88							
27.	Neyveli Lignite Corp.	—	70.43							
28.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd.	—	30.36							
29.	Shipping Corp. of India Ltd.	—	—	28.076						
30.	State Trading Corp.	—	2.25							
31.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	—	700.10	22.661	13.303					
32.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	—	—			379.67		783.68	75.00	
33.	Container Corp. of India	—	—	99.714	14.118			221.65		
34.	Indian Oil Corp. Ltd.	—	—	1033.646				1208.96	162.79	
35.	Oil and Natural Gas Corp.	—	—	1051.516	5.156			2484.96	296.48	
36.	Engineers India Ltd.	—	—	67.527						
37.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	—	—	194.120				671.86	945.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
38.	India Tourism Dev. Corp.	—	—	51.985						
39.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Comp. Ltd.	—	—	11.399						
40.	Modern Food Industries Ltd.								105.45	
41.	BALCO (Financial restructring)/Disinvestment								244.52	551.50
	Total	3038.00	1912.51	4843.077	168.476	379.67	910.00	5371.11	1829.24	1868.73

...as in 91-92 the shares were sold in bundles the amount realized PSU wise is not available.

Diversification by MMTC

2027. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) has diversified/expanded its activities; and

(b) if so, the areas in which MMTC has expanded/ diversified its activities during last three years?

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. MMTC has expanded/diversified its activities during the last three years in Minerals and Precious Metals trade and also in new areas such as Coal and Hydrocarbon import and Agro Trade.

Import of Palm Oil

2028. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been importing palm oil from Malaysia;

(b) whether the Malaysian Government have urged upon the Government of India to consider reducing the duty on palm oil so as to bring it at par with the duty on soya oil;

(c) if so, the prevailing rates of duties on the palm oil and the soya oil separately and the reasons for differential rates;

(d) whether both these commodities are imported from the different countries and if so, the sources of their and the quantity imported during the last two years from each country; and

(e) whether the Government propose to review the import duty structure on these two commodities and if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The custom duty on Crude Palm Oil and Crude Soyabean Oil is 75% and 45% respectively. The custom duty on R.B.D. Palmolein and Refined Soyabean Oil is 85% and 45%, respectively. Special Additional Duty (SAD) is levied on import of refined oils at the rate of 4%. The lower duty on soyabean oil is due to WTO binding.

(d) Yes, Sir. County-wise details of import of these oils during the last two years are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) In order to harmonise the interests of domestic oilseeds growers, consumers and processors and to regulate large import of edible oils to the extent possible, the duty structure on edible oils is revised from time to time.

Statement

Articles	Countries	Quantity (in Kgs)	
		April' 1999 to March' 2000	April' 2000 to February' 2001
1	2	3	4
Soyabean Crude Oil W/N Degummed	Argentina	12710325	152095758
	Indonesia	1500000	–
	Brazil	–	19712000

1	2	3	4
	Italy	–	250000
	Malaysia	–	2251456
	South Africa	2000000	7500000
	Thailand	–	4298344
	USA	–	6189230
Other Soyabean Oil and its Fractions	Argentina	300201752	254923878
	Brazil	183374683	40082000
	Canada	23000	–
	German F Rep	2123000	–
	Denmark	–	20000
	Indonesia	1000000	–
	Malaysia	266390	1465
	Netherland	6500000	500000
	Saudi Arab	2700000	–
	Korea RP	–	1000
	South Africa	12103322	20396050
	Switzerland	–	20000
	Thailand	–	250000
	USA	75322785	40290462
Crude Palm Oil and its Fractions	Indonesia	64093405	578454865
	Argentina	–	250000
	Malaysia	31322326	231074979
	Thailand	2044256	17296520
	Chinese Taipei	–	500000
	German F Rep	–	1000000
	Italy	–	1000000
	Singapore	–	3743311
	South Africa	–	500000
	USA	–	2462000
Refined Palm Oil and its Fractions	Australia	750000	750000
	Argentina	–	6849000
	Brazil	500000	–
	Canada	750000	–

1	2	3	4
	China P RP	499000	700000
	German F Rep	250000	–
	Indonesia	646088692	592151555
	Japan	6481000	–
	Malaysia	2090565965	1236654554
	Netherland	1000000	4829000
	Singapore	11093890	1521712
	Thailand	500000	6462500
	Ukraine	1098000	–
	USA	11392724	500000

Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (D.G.F.T.)

Plans to Lower the Promoter's Stake by the Private Banks

2029. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has asked four new private banks – IDBI Bank, Indusind Bank, ICICI Bank and UTI Bank – to submit their respective plans to lower the promoter's stake;

(b) if so, the extent to which these four banks have submitted their plans; and

(c) to what extent RBI has examined them?

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

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that these banks are working on the proposal in this regard and the firm and final plan from them are awaited by RBI.

Hawala Racket in Ahmedabad

2030. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enforcement Directorate had busted hawala racket in Ahmedabad recently;

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

(c) the seizure made and persons arrested in this regard; and

(d) the details of companies and persons involved and the further action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) The Ahmedabad Zonal Office of the Enforcement Directorate had seized Indian currency, gold biscuits, silver bars, diamonds and jewellery worth Rs. 3.35 crores from a luggage van attached with Ashram Express. It is suspected to be a hawala racket and the matter is being investigated under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. However, no one has been arrested as there is no such provision under the said Act.

(d) The Luggage Van was on lease from Northern Railways to M/S. J.S. Gurjar and Partners, Ahmedabad. Further investigation into the matter is being made and appropriate action under law will be taken on conclusion of the investigation.

Corruption in FCI

2031. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be please to state:

(a) whether some cases of collusion between grain merchants and officials of Food Corporation of India in the purchase and sale of Jawar has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the loss suffered by the FCI because of such

collusion alongwith the details of corrective action initiated by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Impact of Black Money in Indian Economy

2032. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amount of black money in the country;

(b) the details of economic effects of black money in Indian economy;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to prevent flow of black money; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) According to a study made at the instance of this Ministry, by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) in 1983-84, the estimated undisclosed money was between Rs. 31584 crores and Rs. 36786 crores. No subsequent Study has been conducted at the instance of this Ministry.

(b) In the NIPFP's study some of the economic consequences of black money have been mentioned as mis-information about the actual state of the economy, loss of revenue, adverse implication for resource allocation, income distribution and monetary policy, etc.

(c) and (d) Necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures are continuously taken to prevent the generation and flow of black money. Rates of taxation have been progressively rationalized. Various provisions in the Income Tax Act, like compulsory maintenance/audit of accounts in appropriate cases under sections 44AA/44AB, restrictions on cash transactions under sections 40A (3), 269SS, 269T, pre-emptive purchase of properties and penalties/prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters, are aimed at preventing generation and flow of black money. Searches and surveys in appropriate cases are continuously undertaken to unearth the black money. General information is also gathered by the Central Information Branches of the Income Tax Department about various financial transactions. Simplifications of procedures for filing returns and for making payment of taxes are also directed towards greater compliance by the tax payers, which will be an anti-dote to tax evasion.

Branches of Coffee Board

2033. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Coffee sold by the Coffee Board per year;

(b) whether Coffee Board is considering to extend its sales service network; and

(c) if so, the state-wise names of the new areas where Coffee Board intends to establish its new branches during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A quantity of about 150 MTs of Coffee is sold by the Coffee Board through its promotional outlets annually.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

National Patents Office

2034. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to set up National Patents Office;

(b) if so, whether the said office has been set up;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the said office likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (e) The Government has sanctioned a project for the modernisation of

Patent Offices, including the setting up of a National Patent Office. However, due to orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata, it has not been possible to set up the National Patent Office. At this stage, the Government has taken up modernisation of its Patent Offices located at New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai. The first such modernised office, at New Delhi, has been made operational on 25 July, 2001.

Anti-Dumping on Agriculture Products

2035. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to bring the agriculture products under the ambit of anti-dumping;

(b) whether a special cell is proposed to be set up in the Anti-Dumping Directorate for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps being taken in this regard; and

(e) the details of other steps taken or proposed to be taken to ward of the likely adverse effects of import of agriculture products?

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) Anti-dumping measures are initiated and decided in accordance with our national law as enshrined in Section 9A, 9B and 9C of Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995. Anti-Dumping cases are initiated by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) when the domestic industry files a fully documented petition to the Designated Authority with prima-facie evidence of dumping, injury and causal link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury. Agriculture products are very much within the ambit of Anti-Dumping measures and that there is no need or proposal to set up any special cell. Like in the case of any raw material, intermediate or consumer goods, Anti-Dumping action can be initiated on agriculture imports on the basis of a fully documented petition with sufficient evidence of dumping, injury and causal link. The domestic industry has not filed any petition in the prescribed proforma to the DGAD to enable the Designated Authority to initiate investigations for imposing Anti-Dumping Duty on import of Agriculture products.

(e) Some of the measures taken by the Government to combat the threat of dumping 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) Safeguard action is being taken to curb any surge in imports.

(iii) A Standing Group has been constituted for tracking, collating and analysing data on sensitive items, which are of importance to the public. The Government is monitoring import of 300 sensitive items.

(iv) 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.

(v) 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).

(vi) 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.

Steps to Increase Trade with Australia

2036. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the bilateral trade and normalisation of ties with Australia; 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. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to increase bilateral trade with friendly countries including Australia. Steps taken in this direction include regular inter-action to review trade related matters under the institutional mechanism of Joint Ministerial Commission headed by Commerce and Industry Minister, and setting up of a Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals, etc. These are supplemented by regular meetings of India-Australia Joint Business Council at the trade and industry level.

Credit Rating Agencies

2037. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rating symbols cause confusion in market" appearig in Financial Express dated March 31, 2001;

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

(c) whether the Government have any control on the credit rating agencies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government that such type of confusions is not created in market in future?

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

Report on Investor Protection

2038. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report on investor protection has called for a clear shift in SEBI's role as a regulator;

(b) if so, whether under the present circumstances, SEBI cannot restrict itself to being an off-the-field regulator and instead it should be an on-and-off-the-field regulator on the lines of the Securities and Exchange Commission of the US;

(c) if so, the other recommendations made; and

(d) to what extent the role of SEBI has been formulated?

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 (SEBI) should be both "an on-and-off" the field regulator.

(c) Other recommendations include, empowerment of SEBI to conduct inquiry and investigation, to search, seize and attach properties and for prosecution, establishment of Special Courts to try financial fraud.

(d) Government expects to propose legislative changes in the SEBI Act to, inter-alia, strengthen provisions for the protection of investors.

FDI in Insurance Sector

2039. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to review the foreign direct investment restriction in insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign direct investment involved in this business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) At present foreign equity participation up to 26% is permitted in insurance sector on the automatic route subject to necessary licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority. After opening up this sector to FDI in October, 2000, foreign direct investment amounting to Rs. 250 crore approximately has been received in this sector. There is no proposal under consideration for review of the present equity cap on foreign investment in insurance sector.

Movement of Foodgrains by FCI

2040. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

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

(a) whether bad management and faulty planning has led Food Corporation of India to needlessly move foodgrains over long distances and pile up losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of foodgrains moved during last two years;

(c) whether FCI is operating on the old basis and without any resource to the most efficient method of moving foodgrains;

(d) whether efforts have been made to move foograins and procure foodgrains with economy;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government are considering movement, handling and storage of foodgrains through private sector participation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above. However, movement of foodgrains during the last two years on FCI account is shown below:

Years	Movement
1999-2000	221.9 lakh MTs
2000-2001	161.6 lakh MTs

(c) to (e) No, Sir. FCI plans and moves foodgrains taking into account the logistics and operational needs as well as the overall requirements of foodgrains management. All out efforts have been made to move foodgrains and procure foodgrains with economy. The details of foodgrains procurement and movement are shown in the enclosed statement.

(f) Yes, Sir. Government of India has notified on 4 July, 2000 a national policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains.

(g) The above mentioned envisages harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign. The policy also envisages creation and operation of conventional storage capacity by the private sector for storage of foodgrains of the FCI on "Build-Own-Operate" (BOO) basis.

Statement

The details of foodgrains procurement and movement during the last two years

(Provisional)

(Fig. in Lakh tonnes)

Year	Procurement		Movement	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
1999-2000	141.44	172.73	124.31	97.59
2000-2001	163.56	184.05	68.62	92.99

[*Translation*]

Boards of Banks

2041. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector banks in which new boards have been constituted and the number of banks in which old boards still exists;

(b) the date from which new boards of banks have been constituted and the tenure thereof; and

(c) the norms on which the bank boards have been constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Vacancies on the Board of public sector banks comprising whole-time directors and part-time non-official directors are filled up from time to time as and when they arise as per the provisions of Section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980. No nationalised bank is presently functioning with Old Board because all the part-time non-official directors on the Board of Nationalised Banks have ceased to be directors on the boards of the banks after amendment of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme 1970/1980 in January, 2000.

35 new part-time non-official directors have been appointed on the boards of public sector banks. Action has been initiated to fill up the remaining vacancies also.

[*English*]

Amendment in Central Sales Tax Act

2042. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to amend the Central Sales Tax Act with a view to move on to Value Added Tax System for the entire country from April, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government are also considering on common business identifier for VAT to check tax evasion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Sir, on the basis of recommendation of the Empowered Committee of State Finanace Ministers, the Union Government has decided to amend some of the Sections of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 with a view to facilitate introduction of VAT by the States.

(c) and (d) On the recommendations of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, States/Union Territories have agreed to use PAN with suitable modifications as the common business identifier for VAT.

Maintenance Grants

2043. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government to provide two per cent of export value of the goods exported from EPIP as a maintenanace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the period for which maintenanace grant to Karnataka has not been released by the Union Government alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which this grant likely to be released by the Union Government?

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) An amount of Rs. 81.00 lakhs had been released to the Government of Karnataka as maintenance grant for the years 1998 and 1999, on the basis of the proposals received from them. For release of the maintenance grant for the subsequent year, a proposal alongwith prescribed documents is awaited from the State Government.

[*Translation*]

CBI Raids at the Residence of Former Chairman, UTI

2044. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI raids were conducted at the office and residential premises of the former Chairman of the UTI and other concerned persons recently in connection with US-64 scam;

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

(c) the details of movable, immovable property, cash, documents and some incriminating documents etc. seized during the raids; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against each and every person involved in the said scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. According to CBI, raids were conducted in connection with purchase of shares of M/s. Cyberspace Infosys Limited by UTI.

(b) Details are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Details are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Investigation is in progress. Appropriate action will be taken in due course on completion of investigation.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	C.No and date of registration and name of the IO	FIR named accused	Allegations in brief, sections of law and amount involved	Place of search, name of the person whose premises were searched, whether residential or official premises (All searches were conducted on 20-21/07/2001)
1.	RCBE12001E0003 dated 18/07/2001 **Name of the IO:** Shri Virendra Singh, SP	(1) M/s Cyberspace Ltd. (Private company) (2) Shri Arvind M. Johari (Private person) Arrested on 24/07/2001 and remanded to PC till 02/08/2001 (3) Shri P.S. Subramanyam (Ex-Chairman, UTI) Arrested on 21/07/2001 and remanded to PC till 03/08/2001 (4) Shri M.M. Kapur, (Executive Director, UTI) Arrested on 21/07/2001 and remanded to PC till 03/08/2001 (5) Shri S.K. Basu (Executive Director, UTI) Arrested on 21/07/2001 and remanded to PC till 03/08/2001 (6) Shri. Prema Madhu Prasad (General Manager, UTI) Not arrested (7) Other unknown private persons and other unknown officials of UTI. Shri. Rakesh Mehta Broker, - Not named in FIR - Arrested on 21/07/2001 and remanded to PC till 03/08/2001	The accused persons are alleged to have entered into a criminal conspiracy amongst themselves and with other unknown persons, the object of which was to cause wrongful loss of approximately Rs. 32 crores to UTI. In pursuance of the said criminal conspiracy, the top executives of UTI decided to subscribe to 3,45,000 shares of M/s Cyberspace Infosys Ltd. at exhorbitant price of Rs. 930/- per share against expert professional advice of their own research cell and Fund Managers of UTI. The amount received from UTI was diverted by M/s Cyberspace Infosys Ltd. and its directors for purposes other than for which it was solicited from UTI. Due to dishonest business practices, BSE has suspended trading in shares of M/s Cyberspace Infosys Ltd. Thus the criminal conspiracy, as aforesaid, resulted in wrongful loss of Rs. 32.08 crores to UTI and corresponding wrongful gain to accused persons. *Sections of Law:* 120-B IPC r/w Sec. 409 & 420 IPC and Sec. 13(c) r/w 13(1)(c) & 13(1)(d) of PC Act, 1988 and u/s 409 & 420 IPC and Sec. 13(2) r/w 13(1)(c) & 13(1)(d) of PC Act, 1988. ***Ammount involved:*** Rs. 32.08 crores.	(i) *Resiential premises* of Shri P.S. Subramanyam, Ex-Chairman, Unit Trust of India at 181, Maker Tower-A, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai-5. (ii) *Residential premises* of Shri M.M. Kapur, Executive Director, Unit Trust of India at 134, B-Twin Towers, Savarker Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-25. (iii) *Residential premises* of Shri S.K. Basu, Executive Director, Unit Trust of India at 13-A, Peregrini Bldg., Prabhadevi, Mumbai. (iv) *Residential premises* of Smt. Prema Madhu Prasad, General Manager, Unit Trust of India at 122-B, Twin Towers, Savarkar Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-25. (v) *Residential premises* of Shri Rakesh G. Mehta at G-7, Alt View, S.K. Barodawala Marg, Mumbai-26. (vi) Office premises of Shri Rakesh G. Mehta Director of M/s. Reinaissance Securities Ltd. at 24, Nanabhai Chambers, 3rd floor, Rustum Siddhwa, Marg, Mumbai-1. (vii) *Office premises* of Shri M.M. Kapur, ED, UTI, at UTI Building, Marine Lines, Mumbai. (viii) *Office premises* of Shri S.K. Basu, ED, UTI, at UTI Building, Marine Lines, Mumbai. (ix) *Office premises* of Smt. Prema Madhu Prasad, GM, UTI, at UTI Building, Marine Lines, Mumbai. (x) Bank Locker No. 272 of Smt. Nandini Basu, wife of Shri S.K. Basu, ED, UTI, maintained with SBI, Peddar Road, Mumbai. (xi) Bank Locker No. 2160 of Smt. Nidhi Mehta, wife of Shri Rakesh Mehta at ANZ Grindlays Bank, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Details of places searched	Details of movable property	Details of immovable property	Cash	Documents
A	(i) Residential premises of Shri P.S. Subramaniam, Ex-Chairman, UTI, at 181, Maker Tower 'A', Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai-400005	Share certificates and FDRs worth Rs. 26,44,763/-	Nil	Nil	Certain documents have been seized and are under scrutiny.
B	(i) Residential premises of Shri M.M. Kapur, ED, UTI, at 134-B, Twin Towers, Sawarkar Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025. (ii) Office premises of Shri M.M. Kapur, ED, UTI, at UTI Building, Marine Lines, Mumbai-400020.	FDRs worth Rs. 50,000/-	Nil	Nil	Certain documents have been seized and are under scrutiny.
C	(i) Residential premises of Shri S.K. Basu, ED, UTI, at 13-A, Peregrine Building, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025 (ii) Bank Locker No. 272 of Smt. Nandini Basu, wife of Shri S.K. Basu, ED, UTI, maintained with SBI, Pedder Road Branch, Mumbai. (iii) Office premises of Shri S.K. Basu, ED, UTI, at UTI Building, Marine Lines, Mumbai-400020.	FDRs, Kisan Vikas Patras, National Savings Certificates, UTI Bonds and IDBI Bonds worth Rs. 14,48,988/-	Nil	**Foreign currency** (1) UK £ - 1,025/- (2) Iranian Rials - 20,000/- (3) French Francs - 1,050/- (4) HK $ - 20/- (5) Singapore $ - 10/- (6) Australian $ - 25/- (7) Travellers cheques - 70 £ (American Express) (8) UAE Dirhams - 5/- (9) Mauritius currency - 125/- (10) US $ - 3,704/-	Certain documents have been seized and are under scrutiny.
D	(i) Residential premises of Smt. Prema Madhu Prasad, GM, UTI, at 122-B, Twin Towers, Sawarkar Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025. (ii) Office premises of Smt. Prema Madhu Prasad, GM, UTI, at UTI Building, Marine Lines, Mumbai-400020.	Nil	Nil	**Foreign currency** (1) US $ - 3,598/- (2) UK £ - 480/-	Certain documents have been seized and are under scrutiny.
E	(i) Residential premises of Shri Rakesh G. Mehta at G-7, Alt View, S.K. Barodawalla Marg, Mumbai-400026. (ii) Office premises of Shri Rakesh G. Mehta, Director of M/s Rennaisance Securities Ltd., at 24, Nanabhai Chambers, 3rd floor, Rustom Sidhwa Marg, Mumbai-400001. (iii) Bank Locker No. 2160 of Smt. Nidhi Mehta, wife of Shri Rakesh Mehta at ANZ Grindlays Bank, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Certain documents have been seized and are under scrutiny.

[*English*]

Bank Branches

2045. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

DR. S. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission to SBI, Bank of India and other banks to set up branches in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the number of branches for which clearance has been given so far and the countries where such new branches are to be opened;

(c) whether most of these banks have also sought permission to close many branches in India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure the branches of these banks are not closed down in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which is the competent authority to permit Indian banks to open their branches in foreign countries, grants such permission after consultation with the Government of India. The details of the branches of the Indian banks abroad, bank-wise and country-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Under the liberalized policy, the banks are allowed to close their loss making branches without prior approval of the RBI, subject to certain conditions. As a part of their rationalization/restructuring process, some of the public sector banks have closed/merged their branches at certain centres. According to the information available with RBI, the public sector banks have closed/merged 105 branches during the year 1999-2000.

Statement

Country-wise branches of Indian Banks at Overseas Centres as on 1st April 2001

Name of the	Nationalised Banks						Private Banks			
Country	SBI	BOI	BOB	Ind Bank	IOB	UCO	Canara Bank	Syndicate Bank	Bharat Overseas Bank	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sri Lanka	2	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	6
United Kingdom	3	6	7	–	–	–	1	1	–	18
United State of America	5	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	8
Japan	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
Maldive Islands	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
West Germany	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Bangladesh	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Bahama Island (Nassau)	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Bahrain	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Balgium	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Singapore	1	1	–	1	1	2	–	–	–	6
Hongkong	1	2	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	7
Cayman Islands	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
France	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Channel Islands	–	1	–	–	–		–	–	–	1
Fiji Islands	–	–	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	9
Kenya	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Mauritius	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	8
United Arab Emirates	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
Seychelles	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
South Africa	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
South Korea	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Sultanate of Oman	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Thailand	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Total	22	18	38	3	6	4	1	1	1	94

Weak Banks

2046. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one more schedule cooperative bank named Visnagar Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited has been declared/classified as a 'weak' bank by the RBI recently;

(b) if so, the reasons for classifying the bank as a 'weak' bank giving the reasons for erosion of net owned fund of the bank by 85.8 per cent;

(c) the other scheduled banks that have been declared as 'weak' banks by the RBI; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to tighten control over the functioning of the banks by the RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Visnagar Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Visnagar (Gujarat) has been classified as 'weak' on 7 May, 2001 as per its extant norms for classification of urban cooperative banks as 'weak'. The statutory inspection of the bank carried out with reference to its financial position as on 31 March 2000 has revealed erosion in the realizable value of the bank's assets, high level of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), insufficient provisioning towards NPAs, frauds, etc., low profitability on account of reliance on high cost deposits an low yield on assets rendering the bank 'weak' as per extant norms.

(c) As on date, apart from the Visnagar Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd., seven other urban co-operative banks have been classified as 'weak' as per the extant norms. These are: Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd., Pune, Sangli Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Sangli, The Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank of Goa Ltd., Mapusa, The Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ahmedabad; Vasavi Co-operative Bank Ltd., Hyderabad; and Charotar Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Anand.

(d) With a view to strengthen and streamline the operations/functioning of urban co-operative banks, RBI has announced certain measures which include, inter-alia, prohibition of keeping deposits with other urban co-operative banks; restricting borrowings from call money market to 2% of its deposits at the end of the previous financial year; increasing the component of investment in Government securities for SLR purposes; prohibition for lending directly or indirectly against security of shares either to individuals or any other entity; introduction of off-site surveillance system for scheduled urban co-operative banks, etc.

Reduction in Prices of Wheat and Rice for BPL

2047. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to further reduce the prices of rice and wheat sold for the people Below Poverty Line (BPL);

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the distribution of rice and wheat to the BPL people at the reduced rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during 2000-2001, the Government reduced the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice for BPL families with effect from 25.7.2000. The CIPs were reduced from Rs. 450/-per quintal of wheat to Rs. 415/- per quintal, and that for rice from Rs. 590/- to Rs. 565/- per quintal. With the increase in Minimum Support Prices, the CIPs of rice should have been increased with effect from 1.10.2000 and for wheat with effect from 1.4.2001. However, the CIPs of wheat and rice for BPL families have been retained at the same level fixed in July, 2001, which are about 48% of the present economic cost of wheat and rice.

(c) The State Government have been informed about the reduced prices for necessary action from their end.

NABARD Loan for Sheep Breeders Cooperative Societies

2048. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has refused to sanction loan to Sheep Breeders Cooperative Societies functioning in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to give financial assistance to these societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) National Bank for Agriculture of Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has not received any proposal seeking refinance support from banks for onlending to sheep breeder co-operative societies functioning in Andhra Pradesh.

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

(c) NABARD extends refinance support to banks for onlending to sheep breeders co-operative societies as and when proposals are received from them. Further NABARD has also taken steps to discuss the issue of credit flow with the banks, Deptt. of Animal Husbandry and District Collectors and explore possibility of preparing an integrated sheep development scheme including fodder and silvipasture development for implementation by banks with credit support in Andhra Pradesh.

Uniform Rate of Sales Tax on Drugs

2049. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

SHRI RAJESH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has circulated uniform floor rate of sales tax on 19 August, 2000 where bulk drugs are categorized at 4 per cent sales tax;

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

(c) whether this uniform rate of sales tax for bulk drugs has not been implemented by various States leading to imbalances in industrial production of bulk drugs in other States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rectify this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers set up to monitor implementation of the decision regarding uniform floor rates of sales-tax has placed bulk drugs under 4% category.

(c) and (d) Most of the States have already implemented the decision regarding uniform floor rates of sales-tax. It was, however, decided in the Conference of Chief Ministers/Finance Ministers of States held on 5. 7. 2001 that the Government of India would be taking steps to withhold Central assistance and grants to States/UTs not complying with this decision by 31. 7. 2001.

Quality Control of Sugar

2050. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of decrease in the samples of sugar tested, the number of samples failed from 1998 to 2000 has increased from 121 to 124;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of sugar factories, which were given warning letters for non-compliance of required standard of sugar;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Government are not giving adequate attention to the quality control of sugar resulting in poor demand of Indian sugar in the world market; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality control of sugar in the country to get adequate export orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The number of samples drawn, number of samples failed and number of warning letters issued during the seasons 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were as under:

S.No.	Season (Oct.-Sept.)	Number of sample drawn	Number of sample failed	Number of warning letter issued
1.	1998-99	843	121	33
2.	1999-2000	518	124	24

(d) and (e) The Government has taken the following measures for improving the quality of sugar:

(i) A Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Director (Sugar) has been constituted to study various clarification processes adopted by Indian sugar factories and consider the feasibility of introducing any other process with a view to producing better quality sugar equivalent to refined sugar. The report of the Sub-Committee is expected to be received by December, 2001.

(ii) Loans from the sugar Development Fund (SDF) are being given to sugar factories for modernisation/upgradation of technology involving process change for producing quality sugar.

Comptroller and Auditor General of India Audit of Organisation

2051. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are organisations/institutions whose accounts are not audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India although the annual budget of such organisations are voted by Parliament every year; and

(b) if so, the names of such organisations/institutions and the reasons for not auditing their accounts through Comptroller and Auditor General of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The details of provisions relating to audit of all expenditure and receipts from and into the Consolidated Fund of India are contained in Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971. The main provisions are contained in section 13 of the Act viz. CAG shall audit (a) all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India; (b) all transactions of Union and States relating to Contingencies Fund and Public Accounts, (c) all trading manufacturing profit and loss account and balance sheet and other subsidiary accounts kept in any Department of the Union, section 14 viz. audit of receipts and expenditure of bodies/authorities substantially financed by the Union viz. (i) where grant or loan to a body/ authority from Consolidated Fund of India is not less than Rs. 25 Lakhs and (ii) where the amount of such grant or loan is not less than 75% of the total expenditure of that body/authority and section 15 viz with the previous approval of the President, Comptroller and Auditor General of India also conducts audit of all receipt and expenditure of a body or authority where the grants or loans to such body or authority from the Consolidated Fund of India is not less than Rs. 1 crore.

(b) In view of (a) does not arise.

Production in Sick PSU's

2052. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the production of ailing public sector units and make them profitable before putting them up for sale;

(b) if so, the details of such ailing PSUs which will be made profitable during the current financial year;

(c) the total investment to be made in such PSUs; and

(d) the target set for the increasing the production of sick PSUs in the current plan period.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The Government's policy towards public sector as enunciated in the Budget Speech for the year 2000-01 is to:

- Restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs.
- Close down PSUs which can not be revived
- Bring down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26% or lower, if necessary; and

– Fully protect the interests of workers

Sick PSUs are referred under SICA to BIFR – a quasi-judicial body. Presently, 66 PSUs are under reference to BIFR. Since rehabilitation is undertaken after the BIFR sanctions a revival package, it is difficult to set a target.

[*Translation*]

Diversion of Subsidised Commodities of FCI

2053. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4241 regarding diversion of PDS items on December 15, 2000 and state:

(a) the action taken against those 23 private individuals six employees of the State Government and five of the Food Corporation of India found guilty of diversion of subsidised commodities of the Food Corporation of India as per the CBI report; and

(b) if no action has been taken so far the reasons for delay therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Sanction for prosecution against 5 FCI officials has been accorded in January/February 2000. The prosecution case has been filed by the CBI against them in the Court of Special Judge for CBI cases at Gangtok. It has been reported that when these officials appeared for the hearing before the court on 19.2.2001 these officials and others accused were remanded to judicial custody. However, the FCI officials have since been released on bail in April/May, 2001.

[*English*]

Shortfall in Central Excise Collection

2054. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lifting of quantity restrictions on trade, the customs revenue collection have been adversely affected during first two months of April and May of current financial year in comparison of the same period of the last year; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

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

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

Ban on Pakistan Sugar

2055. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of Pakistan banning the import of Indian sugar, India also proposes to ban the import of Pakistan sugar; and

(b) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Suggestion of Shunu Sen Committee

2056. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shunu Sen Committee has suggested that officers belonging to outside cadres like Central Secretariat Service/Central Secretariat Stenographer Services and Indian Information Service be removed from Prasar Bharati Corporation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided, to post the employees belonging to the original cadres of AIR/DD in place of the officers belonging to other cadres by removing them from Prasar Bharati; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and if not the reasons for continuing the appointment/posting of the employees belonging to other cadres in the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. The Shunu Sen Committee has recommended that the practice of deputations from the Government to Prasar Bharati should be stopped, and that any Government employee selected to Prasar Bharati should be required to resign from Government Service within a maximum period of six months after joining.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Disturbance in DD Channels

2057. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned "DD ke teen channel teen ghanta thapp raha, koi karyawahi nahi" appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara dated April 13, 2001;

(b) if so, the duration of the above disruption indicating the reasons therefor;

(c) the officers held responsible in this regard and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There was a news item with the said caption in the Rashtriya Sahara newspaper of 13th May, 2001.

(b) Transmission of three Satellite TV channels of Doordarshan, viz. DD-Sports, DD-World, and DD-News, was disrupted for about 1 hour 35 minutes on 17th April, 2001 due to burning of a power supply change-over switch.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that since the disruption was not due to negligence by staff, no action against any staff member is envisaged. However, all the staff members have been instructed be extra alert in future.

[English]

Kodaikanal Radio Station

2058. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) when Kodaikanal Radio Station in Tamil Nadu has been become fully operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sanctioned strength of staff of the station, category-wise;

(d) the strength of actually posted staff as of now, category-wise;

(e) whether Kodaikanal Station is mostly relaying the programmes of Madurai Station;

(f) if so, whether it is due to lack of sufficient funds; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate staff and funds to make in independently operational?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) AIR, Kodaikanal with 2 x 5 KW FM Transmitter was commissioned into regular service on 1.7.2000. The Radio Station is broadcasting two transmissions for a total transmission time of 5 hrs. and 55 minutes. The main language of broadcast is Tamil.

(c) and (d) A total of 3 posts viz. 2 Technician and 1 Helper have been sanctioned for AIR, Kodaikanal. Presently nine personnel (Station Engineer-1, Asstt. Station Engineer-1, Asstt. Station Director-1, Programme Executive-1, Transmission executive-1, Sr. Engineering Asst.-2, Engineering Assistant-2) are posted there by redeployment from other stations.

(e) No, Sir. The hours of relayed programme is only 90 minutes per day.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Export of Foodgrain Stock as Cattle Feed

2059. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the All India Agricultural Workers Union (AIAWU) has pointed out that while 40 million tonnes of foodgrains remained unsold in the FCI godowns and the Union Government are trying to export these stock as cattle-feed to create room to acquire surplus stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to dispose of surplus stock of foodgrains in FCI godowns?

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) The steps taken to dispose are:

(1) Enhanced allocation of foodgrains for BPL families.

(2) Supply of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes.

(3) Open sale of wheat at reduced prices.

(4) Reductions in Central Issue Prices for APL families.

(5) Export of wheat and rice.

(6) Free of cost allocation to drought affected states for employment generation programmes.

(7) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme has been

launched to supply rice and wheat at Rs. 3/- and Rs. 2/- per Kg respectively to the poorest of the poor families.

Employees Stock Option Scheme

2060. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether companies giving shares to their employees are being brought under "Employees Stock Option Scheme";

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

(c) the formula for issuing of shares to employees and basis to determine the number of shares to be allotted to each employee?

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

Launch of Educational F. M. Radio Network

2061. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start the educational FM radio network in the country;

(b) if so, the cities identified for this pupose; and

(c) the time by which it would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been granted licences for operating FM Educational Channel in 40 centres as per details given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) To begin with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has initiated action to commission GYAN VANI stations at Lucknow, Coimbatore and Visakhapatnam by end of 2001.

Statement

S.No.	Centre
1	2
1.	Calcutta
2.	Chennai
3.	Delhi
4.	Mumbai
5.	Ahemadabad
6.	Bangalore
7.	Hyderabad
8.	Indore
9.	Lucknow
10.	Pune
11.	Visakhapatnam
12.	Agra
13.	Allahabad
14.	Aurangabad
15.	Bhopal
16.	Bhubaneshwar
17.	Chandigarh
18.	Cochin
19.	Coimbatore
20.	Cuttack
21.	Guwahati
22.	Jabalpur
23.	Jaipur
24.	Jallandhar
25.	Jamnagar
26.	Kanpur
27.	Ludhiana
28.	Madurai
29.	Mysore
30.	Nagpur
31.	Panaji
32.	Patna
33.	Raipur
34.	Rajkot
35.	Shillong

1	2
36.	Srinagar
37.	Trichy
38.	Tirunelveli
39.	Trivandrum
40.	Varanasi

Problems of Rubber Planters in Kerala

2062. PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK:

SHRI SURESH KURUP:

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

(a) whether the rubber planters in Kerala are facing crisis with declining prices and surplus production and are unable to recover ever cost of production;

(b) whether under the compelled circumstances these planters are shifting to other crops; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Due to decline in the consumption of Natural Rubber and recession in the consuming industry, the rubber growers are not getting the price for Natural Rubber which they were getting 2-3 years before. The price of Natural Rubber moves in tandem with international prices. However, most of the time the domestic prices of Natural Rubber are higher than the international prices. Presently the price of Natural Rubber in the domestic market is ruling around Rs. 34 per kg.

(b) No instance of shifting from rubber to other crops, due to decline in the prices of rubber, has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Expenditure on Tours by Officials of ITPO

2063. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in Delhi edition of Hindi Dainik "Rashtriya Sahara" dated 16 June, 2001 under the caption "Sair Sapate Per Lakhon Ura Rahen Hain ITPO Ke Afsar";

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

(c) the number of officers of ITPO who went on foreign tours during 1999-2000 and till June 2001;

(d) the year-wise, details of the expenditure incurred on the foreign tours; and

(e) the effective steps that the Government have taken to save crores of rupees of the country by putting a ban on foreign tours of the officers of this organisation?

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. As the premier trade promotion agency of the Government of India, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), undertakes various trade promotion activities abroad such as organisation of exclusive Indian Trade Shows, participation in general/specialized commodity fairs, Buyer Seller Meets, Contact promotion Programmes, Product Promotion Programmes, Catalogue shows, Market Surveys etc., ITPO organised 59 events abroad in 1999-2000, 56 events in 2000-2001 and 13 events in the first quarter of the current financial year. These programmes are arranged after approval of the Exhibition Advisory Committee in the Department of Commerce. It becomes necessary to depute minimum required number of officials to manage various organizational activities connected with the events i.e. supervision of construction/ decoration, arranging timely clearance of exhibits and their display in the Pavilion, coordinating visits of the buyers and their meetings with the Indian counterparts.

(c) and (d) The number of officers deputed abroad and the expenditure incurred for the above events is as under:

Year	No. of Officials deputed	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
1999-2000	103	296 11
2000-2001	109	418.35 (Provisional)
1.4.2001 to 30.6.2001	19	53.95 (Provisional)

The expenditure is incurred on various items namely; to and fro air fare, per diem allowance, accommodation, conveyance, telephone and other miscellaneous items.

(e) Travelling abroad by officials of ITPO is essential to fulfil the aims and objectives for which the organization has been set up. There is no proposal to ban their foreign tours which are undertaken in furtherance of the objectives of the organisation. However, ITPO endeavours to depute minimum number of officials for each event with a view to economising on expenditure.

[*English*]

Poor Quality of PDS Items

2064. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 1992-99 poor quality of commodities were distributed to consumers through Public Distribution System which were not fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the grading of commodities that were distributed through PDS;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide best quality of commodities/grains to consumers through PDS;

(d) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding selling of poor quality of food grains through PDS during last year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only good quality foodgrains conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) norms were issued to the States and Union Territories for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes of the Government.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are distributed:

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UTs to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Government/UTs that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UTs and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops for the benefit of consumers.

(iv) The officers of the State Government's and the Ministry pay surprise checks of the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

(v) The officers of the Department designated as 'Area Officers' for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.

(d) Eight complaints were received by the Ministry from different State Governments during 2000-2001 about supply of poor quality foodgrains.

(e) The matter was immediately taken up with FCI, and necessary instructions were issued to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains conforming to the norms laid down by the Government and PFA standards.

Allocation of Foodgrain to Orissa

2065. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of foodgrain made to Orissa out of the Central pool during 2000-2001;

(b) whether there is a growing demand to enhance the allocation of rice and wheat to that State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to enhance the allocation of foodgrains in the financial year 2001-2002, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Allocation of foodgrains made to Orissa during 2000-2001 from the Central Pool for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and for calamity relief is as under:

(in tonnes)

Rice	Wheat	Total
9,94,562	1,02,300	10,96,862

(b) No demand from the State Government has been received for enhancement of allocation to Orissa.

(c) Does not arise.

Gross Domestic Products

2066. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been wide changes in the contribution of various sources in the Gross Domestic Product of the country after adopting the policy of globalisation and liberalisation;

(b) if so, whether the above changes have resulted in new job avenues in new industries whereas job opportunities in conventional industries have declined; and

(c) if so, the Government's reaction in this regard and new proposals, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) As per the data available from the Central Statistical Organisation, the share of agriculture and allied sector in GDP declined from 31 per cent in 1993-94 to 24 per cent in 2000-2001 (revised estimates); the share of Industry (comprising mining & quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply and construction) in the GDP edged up from 26.3 per cent in 1993-94 to 27.0 per cent in 2000-01 and; that of Services (comprising trade, hotels, transport and communications, financing, insurance, real estate and business services, community, social and personal services) increased from 42.8 per cent in 1993-94 to 49.0 per cent in 2000-01. During the period 1994-2000, the growth profile of employment has undergone some change. While there has been a deceleration in annual growth in employment in the agriculture, mining and quarrying and electricity, gas and water supply sectors, a significant increase in annual growth in employment has been posted in construction, trade and other services sectors. The trends in the economy are closely monitored and under constant review and appropriate decisions taken in the light of emerging trends. The various measures contained in the Budget are expected to promote industrial investment in labour intensive and export oriented activities providing for renewed industrial growth, while at the same time safeguarding the interest of workers.

[*Translation*]

Order of H.E.C. Ltd.

2067. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the H.E.C. Limited has held discussion with several undertakings and Ministries to get the purchase orders;

(b) if so, the Undertakings and Ministries with which discussion has been held during the last two years; and

(c) the value of the purchase other it has received during the last two years and the increase registered in the purchase orders of the company in terms of percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHABHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The undertakings with which HEC has held discussions are Steel Authority of India Limited, Coal India Limited, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, National Aluminium Company, Nilanchal Ispat Nigam Limited and National Thermal Power Corporation. The Ministries with which HEC has held discussions are Railways, Defence, Coal, Steel, Mines and Power.

(c) The value of orders, HEC has received are Rs. 158.17 crore during 1999-2000 and Rs. 196.67 crore during 2000-2001. The value of orders received during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 represent decline of 50.83% and 38.86% respectively over the value of orders received during 1998-99.

Fixation of Sugar Quota

2068. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government fix the quota of sugar for the purpose of sale;

(b) if so, whether the Government have laid down any standing rules and norms to fix the above quota;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government can enhance or reduce this quota;

(e) if so, the quantum of sugar quota fixed for sale during each month from January, 2001 to June, 2001; and

(f) the months in which prices of sugar went up due to uncertainty in the fixation of quantum of sugar quota?

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

(b) and (c) Monthly quota of levy sugar meant for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS) is being allotted at a fixed norm of 500 gms. per capita per month to BPL families in all States/UTs except in North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories where the levy sugar is supplied to the entire population at a norm of allocation of 700 gms. per capita per month. However, there are certain States/UTs viz Andaman

and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, where the levy sugar is being allotted at a higher rate due to special circumstances prevailing there.

As regards the freesale quota, it is announced on quarterly basis. The quantum of monthly freesale quota is decided having regard to production, stocks, requirement, availability of alternative sweetening agents like Gur and Khandsari etc., price trend etc.

(d) and (e) Once the levy sugar quota is fixed on certain norms, no change is made till there is a change in the policy regarding distribution of levy sugar. As regards freesale sugar, the monthly quota as already announced is not reduced. However, if there is any abnormal increase in prices in the open market, Government of India can always make an additional release(s) to bring the prices under control. Besides, advance releases of freesale sugar, subject to adjustment and levy obligations at certain percentages are also made to needy sugar factories for the purpose of payment of cane price dues/arrears, etc. Government also allows, as temporary relief, converting unlifted levy sugar stocks for long period into freesale sugar without reducing the levy obligations.

The details of the levy and freesale quota released during each month from January 2001 to June, 2001 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) Monthly freesale quotas of sugar have been announced timely and hence there was no uncertainty in fixation of monthly freesale quota. Moreover, the prices of freesale sugar have remained more or less steady during January to June, 2001.

Statement

Quantum of Sugar Quota Released for Sale from January to June 2001

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Month	Freesale sugar	Levy sugar
January, 2001	8.25 + 0.02*	4.25
February, 2001	8.50 + 0.03*	4.21
March, 2001	9.00 + 0.26*	2.18
April, 2001	10.50 + 0.45* + 0.21**	2.18
May, 2001	11.00 + 0.39* + 0.22**	2.19
June, 2001	10.50 + 0.02*	2.19

* Release of advance freesale sugar

** Conversion of unlifted levy sugar of long period into freesale sugar.

Blackmarketing of CNG Engines

2069. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether CNG engines are being sold in the black market in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have been taken any steps so far to check it;

(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) to (d) Vehicle manufacturers approved by The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) alone are fitting CNG engines on diesel vehicles manufactured by them. CNG engines are not otherwise available in the market.

CNG kits are however being fitted by manufacturers as well as approved workshops for petrol driven vehicles. While reportedly there is no shortage of CNG Kits, there appears to be some shortage of CNG cylinders which are imported.

As per available information no complaint appears to have been received regarding black marketing of CNG engines or kits in the country.

[*English*]

Financial Crunch

2070. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR:

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States facing financial crunch and the steps taken by the Government to improve their position;

(b) the amount of funds provided by the Union Government to each State Government to tackle the situation alongwith the names of these States; and

(c) the guidelines issued by the Government to help the States to tackle the financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Because of rising mismatch between receipt and expenditure, some States have experienced periodic Ways and Means related financial problems. To enable such States to deal with the situation, there is an agreement between the States and Reserve Bank of India to provide Ways and Means support.

The Financial Management of he States is primarily the responsibility of the State Government and it is for the respective State Government to initiate remedial action. However, in order to alleviate the mismatch in the States, cash flows, the Government of India releases plan assistance, share in central taxes and small savings loans in advance depending on the need and request of the State Government. In addition to Ways and Means support by Reserve Bank of India, Central Government also provides Ways and Means advance to States.

Pursuant to the recommendation of Eleventh Finance Commission, a scheme for the State Fiscal Reforms Facility has been drawn up. Under the scheme, States have been encouraged to draw a monitorable fiscal reforms programme aimed at improving their financial position in the medium term.

Closing Down the Units of Burn Standard

2071. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the refractories of Lalkuthi, Raniganj and Durgapur units of Burn Standard have been closed;

(b) if so, whether any proposal from the Government of West Bengal has been received by Union Government to take over the lands of its units on one rupee lease agreement to provide the job to the workers of its units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, a request has been received from the West Bengal Government to permit lease of Lalkuthi Works on nominal lease rental to an Industrial Cooperative of Ex BSCL workers. The Ministry has conveyed its willingness to consider transfer of the unit directly to the Government of West Bengal on 'as is where is' basis which could thereafter formulate the modalities of passing on the management of the unit to the Workers' Cooperative.

Tax on Consumption of Meat

2072. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to levy tax on sale/consumption of meat in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received suggestions in this regard from Non-Governmental Organisations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Sales-tax is a State subject as per Entry 54 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, and therefore, the State Governments alone have the power to levy tax on sale.

Privatisation of HMT

2073. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several units of HMT Ltd. are making loss at present;

(b) if so, the details of HMT units which are making losses at present;

(c) whether the Government propose to privatize the HMT Ltd; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the following units of HMT Limited are making losses as per the provisional results for the year 2000-01.

1. Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore
2. Precision Machinery Division, Bangalore
3. Machine Tools Division, Pinjore
4. Machine Tools Division, Lalamassery
5. Machine Tools Division, Hyderabad
6. Machine Tools Division, Ajmer
7. Central Reconditioning Division, Bangalore
8. Machine Tools Marketing Division, Bangalore
9. Watch Factory, Bangalore
10. Watch Factory, Tumkur
11. Watch Factory, Ranibagh
12. Watch Case Division, Bangalore
13. Watch Marketing Division, Bangalore
14. Watch Factory, Srinagar.

(c) and (d) Government have taken an in principle decision to disinvest in Watch Subsidiary, Machine Tools Subsidiary and the Tractor Division of HMT Ltd.

The Bound Action Plan for Recovery of Taxes

2074. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1324 dated March 2, regarding time bound action plan for recovery of taxes and state:

(a) the prescribed procedure under the law for the recovery of outstanding demands;

(b) the numbers of cases in which appeals has been filed in superior courts against the stays;

(c) whether there is any proposal of the Government to move Supreme Court for vacation of all stays against recovery of taxes; and

(d) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Guidelines for Export of Consumer Goods

2075. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

DR. ASHOK PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government have issued new guidelines for export of consumer products under which it has been made mandatory to display the 'Made in India' logo on the packets of products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which said guidelines would come into effect?

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) No, Sir. The display of "Made in India" logo on the packets of Consumer Products has not been made mandatory for exports. However, in cases where exporters want to avail the facility of Paragraph 14.4 of the EXIM Policy for waiver of value cap under the Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme (DEPB), the display/embossing of "Brand name" and the "Made in India" logo on the packets of products in mandatory. With effect from 1.4.2001, this benefit is available for export of "Consumer Goods" only in terms of Policy Circular No. 1 dated 3.5.2001 issued in this regard.

Rotting of Wheat in FCI Godowns

2076. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat worth Rs. 36 crore purchased from farmers of Hoshangabad district and some quantity from Punjab has rotten in godowns of FCI in Itarasi;

(b) whether 2 lakh tonnes of wheat worth Rs. 185 crore was also in rotten; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government have fixed the responsibility for rotting of foodgrains produced by hard work of farmers and labourers?

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

(b) Out of the total stocks of 327.06 lakh tons of foodgrains available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), only 1.82 lakh tons are damaged, which works out to 0.55%.

(c) Inspite of various steps taken for maintenance and preservation of foodgrains, some damage to the foodgrains stock takes place due to long storage periods as well as due to natural calamities such as flood, cyclone etc. Such damaged stocks retrieved after segregation/salvaging, which are unfit for human consumption, are disposed off as fit for cattle feed, industrial use, manure and dumping etc.

(d) As most of the foodgrains were damaged due to natural calamities and not due to human negligence, fixing the responsibility on the staff for all cases does not arise. However, wherever stocks are damaged due to negligence etc., of the officers, the FCI takes action as per their prescribed procedure.

[English]

Levy Sugar Prices

2077. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have notified the levy sugar prices for the years 1974-75 to 1979-80 sugar season on April 13, 1999 as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, the method adopted by the Government to claim the differential amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has further refixed the levy sugar prices for 1974-75 (12.7.75) to 1979-80 sugar seasons vide notifications dated 13.4.99.

(b) The payment of levy sugar price differentials on account of further refixation of levy sugar prices as notified on 13.4.99 is under consideration of the Government.

Warehousing Corporation (Amendment) Bill

2078. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the introduction of the Warehousing Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2001 and also to appoint its own officials as directors on State Warehousing Corporation Boards;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposed amendment;

(c) whether this amendment will allow the Warehousing Corporation to acquire and build godowns and warehouses outside the country also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the burden on warehousing in India will be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) The Union Government has approved the introduction of the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2001 and the same has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 30.7.2001. The proposed amendment, if carried out, will:

(i) enable the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to set up warehouses abroad and also to enter into joint ventures;

(ii) empower the CWC to nominate its officers on the Board of the State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs);

(iii) empower the State Governments to appoint/ remove Chairman and Managing Director of the SWCs without the approval of the CWC; and

(iv) empower the SWCs to acquire and build godowns and warehouses without the approval of the CWC.

(e) Setting up of warehouses abroad, is a diversifying activity of the CWC. It will have no effect on its warehousing activities in India.

Export of Wheat

2079. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat exports dipped by over 40 per cent in April, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Indian wheat does not meet the milling specifications causing reduction in wheat exports;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith other reasons for decline;

(d) the total wheat so far exported to the various countries upto May, 2001, alongwith rates at which it is exported and target for the current year;

(e) the steps taken to export the wheat of good quality and achieve the target;

(f) whether the Union Government also propose to export wheat and rice through exporters; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Indian wheat has been accepted in 15 countries.

(d) 2368037 MTs of wheat has been exported from the Central Pool to various countries upto 31.05.2001. FCI was permitted to offer wheat for export to PSUs/Agencies @ Rs. 4150/- per MT upto 31.03.2001 and @ Rs. 4300/-per MT thereafter. A quantity of 50 lakh MTs (to begin with) has been fixed for export from the Central Pool for 2001-2002.

(e) The quality of foodgrains exported depends on the specifications laid down by the importing countries. The wheat offered by the FCI is from the stocks procured under MSP. The exporting Agencies have been given the facility of identifying stocks which they intended to export. FCI has been instructed to set up cleaning facilities at Kandla or any other port from which export takes place.

(f) and (g) Wheat and rice are being offered from the Central Pool for export to all parties now. Details of wheat export are mentioned in reply to part (d) above. 30 lakh MTs of rice is

being offered from the Central Pool for export@ Rs. 5650/- per MT and Rs. 6000/- per MT for raw and parboiled varieties respectively for the year 2001-2002 to PSUs/private parties.

Capacity of Central Warehousing

2080. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total capacity of each Central Warehousing Corporation godowns;

(b) the total capacity utilisation of each godown, region-wse;

(c) the reasons for under utilisation, if any; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the utilisation of these godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) is operating a total capacity of 85.69 lakh MT at 467 warehouses in the country as on 30.6.2001. The overall utilization of the capacity is 92% as on 30.6.2001. The regionwise/warehouse-wise capacity and its utilization is indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The overall utilization of 92% is satisfactory. The lower utilization at some of the warehouses is due to local demand/conditions.

(d) To increase the utilization of such godowns, the steps are taken for diversification of activities and to attract business from nearby potential areas.

Statement

Storage capacity (in MTs) of the Central Warehousig Corporation and its utilisation as on 30.6.2001.

Centre	CAPACITY (MT)						
	Const.	Hired.	Open.	Mgmt.	Grand Cap.	Grand Utl	%Utl
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gujarat							
Adalaj-CFS	0	17716	21200	0	38916	16204	42
Ahmedabad-I	29193	0	0	0	29193	22844	78
Ahmedabad-II	0	5104	0	0	5104	6562	129
Anand	4820	0	0	0	4820	4118	85
Ankleshwar	0	1160	0	0	1160	385	33
Baroda ICD	0	4650	11000	0	15650	5025	32
Barodra-I	16650	0	0	0	16650	15949	96
Baroda-II	0	1100	0	0	1100	1251	114
Bhavnagar	14250	0	0	0	14250	14067	99
Hazira	0	0	53800	0	53800	60134	112
Ishanpur	0	8235	0	0	8235	7899	96
Jamnagar	19700	0	0	0	19700	18745	95
Kandla CFS	12500	0	31800	0	44300	21090	48
Kandla-I	5000	0	0	0	5000	6845	137
Kandla-II	27000	0	0	0	27000	17632	65
Nadiad	8500	7500	0	0	16000	16957	106

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pipavav Port	50000	0	0	0	50000	2031	4
Rajkot ICD	0	4431	16250	0	20681	0	0
Rajkot-I	12500	0	0	0	12500	11012	88
Rajkot-II	12500	0	0	0	12500	8866	71
Ranoli-I	0	8567	0	0	8567	7322	85
Ranoli-II (Dashra)	0	7479	0	0	7479	7116	95
Ranoli-III (Karac)	5000	0	26528	0	31528	28106	89
Surat-I	15200	667	0	0	15867	12627	80
Surat-II	5950	0	1500	0	7450	2658	36
Umbergaon	0	0	0	4205	4205	4205	100
Vadod	12500	0	0	0	12500	2754	22
Vapi	0	2748	0	0	2748	196	7
Total	251263	69357	162078	4205	486903	322600	66
Karnataka							
Amrapura/Bellary	0	0	0	22388	22388	22388	100
Bailhongal	0	10386	0	0	10386	7787	75
Bang-I/APMC	25535	0	0	0	25535	25372	99
Bang-V/Layout	0	8954	0	0	8954	5835	65
Bang-VIII/NGEF	0	0	0	1210	1210	1210	100
Bang-X/KRP	0	1363	0	225	1588	455	29
Belgaum	14450	3438	0	0	17888	18583	104
Bidar	0	0	20000	0	20000	20000	100
Chitradurga	0	1824	0	0	1824	0	0
Davangere	21118	23039	0	0	44157	40589	92
Distripark	13400	0	0	0	13400	8676	65
Gadag	23500	13523	0	0	37023	27824	75
Gulberga-I	9780	1377	0	0	11157	9140	82
Gulberga-II	25000	4469	30000	0	59469	63417	107
Hoshehally	0	0	0	478	478	478	100
Hirahally/Tumkur	0	0	22000	1325	23325	22925	98
Hubli	0	12103	0	0	12103	13395	111
K.R. Nagar	0	1396	0	0	1396	188	13
Koppal	0	2150	0	0	2150	1538	72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mandya	0	5042	0	0	5042	6207	123
Mangalore-I	13390	3160	0	0	16550	17641	107
Mangalore-II	14000	0	0	0	14000	11356	81
Mysore	0	0	0	640	640	57	9
Nargund	0	12442	0	0	12442	13621	109
NH-4/Yeswanthapu	0	5816	0	0	5816	5696	98
Sedam	3000	600	0	0	3600	3074	85
Shikaripur	5500	3072	0	0	8572	9465	110
Shimoga	0	9148	0	0	9148	10325	113
Soundatti	5000	7205	0	0	12205	11819	97
Toranagullu	0	0	0	3600	3600	3600	100
Whitefield	0	5900	0	0	5900	7503	127
Total	173673	136407	72000	29866	411946	390164	95
Madhya Pradesh							
Balaghat	10000	4351	0	0	14351	18745	131
Bhind	10000	0	0	0	10000	10463	105
Bhopal-I	40740	0	0	0	40740	41562	102
Bhopal-II	0	3745	0	0	3745	3028	81
Bina	0	1345	0	0	1345	1527	114
Burgawan	0	22152	0	0	22152	41843	189
Burhanpur-I	17200	0	0	0	17200	9830	57
Burhanpur-II	10000	0	0	0	10000	2828	28
Chhatarpur	0	22619	0	0	22619	36028	159
Gwalior	19750	0	0	0	19750	17095	87
Hanumana	0	16877	0	0	16877	26724	158
Indore-I	12500	0	0	0	12500	8856	71
Indore-II	3750	3435	0	0	7185	6346	88
Indore-III	18500	0	0	0	18500	15108	82
Indore-IV	16000	0	0	0	16000	14990	94
Indore-V	20000	6266	0	0	26266	19865	76
Katni	25100	5901	0	0	31001	41150	133
Khandwa-BD	90000	0	0	0	90000	88306	98
Khandwa-II	7367	8688	0	0	16055	9418	59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Maksi	5000	0	20000	0	25000	23325	93
Mallanpur	10000	0	0	0	10000	12152	122
Morena-I	31450	0	0	0	31450	31720	101
Morena-II	32800	860	10000	0	43660	52089	119
Narsinghpur	19100	9563	6500	0	35163	38025	108
Pithampur	5000	0	0	3586	8586	5287	62
Sanwar	7000	0	0	0	7000	3330	48
Satna	0	34144	0	4050	38194	55144	144
Sheopurkalan	21000	0	20000	0	41000	41997	102
Shivpuri	0	11258	0	0	11258	10952	97
Sohagpur	5000	0	0	0	5000	4953	99
Total	437257	151204	56500	7636	652597	692686	106
Chhattisgarh							
Bhatapara-I	23400	0	0	0	23400	28623	122
Bhatapara-II	15000	0	15000	0	30000	31158	104
Bilaspur-I	28000	0	0	0	28000	30789	110
Bilaspur-II	15000	0	9640	0	24640	25882	105
Raigarh-I	11300	12357	0	0	23657	23119	98
Raigarh-II	20000	12450	8400	0	40850	36279	89
Raipur-I	13000	0	0	0	13000	10953	84
Raipur-II	8800	0	0	0	8800	6002	68
Raipur-III	33200	0	0	0	33200	27358	82
Raipur IV CFS	20000	4250	9000	0	33250	28622	86
Total	187700	29057	42040	0	258797	248785	96
Bhubaneshwar							
Orissa							
Bargarh	10100	4250	0	0	14350	16566	115
Berhampore	45000	0	0	0	45000	48010	107
Choudwar	5000	0	0	0	5000	5000	100
Cuttack	16400	0	0	0	16400	14800	90
Jajpur Road	7500	0	0	0	7500	6860	91
Jeypore	10000	1856	0	0	11856	12849	108

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Kesinga	0	7100	0	0	7100	7100	100
Paradeep Port	30000	0	1800	0	31800	2265	7
Rayagada	5000	2500	0	0	7500	7500	100
Sambalpur	7000	2600	0	0	9600	11649	121
Total	136000	18306	1800	0	156106	132599	85
West Bengal							
Agarpara	0	2937	0	0	2937	1272	43
Bagdogra	5000	10423	0	0	15423	9930	64
Baranagar	0	15822	0	0	15822	5936	38
Belda	0	2144	0	0	2144	2519	117
Berhampur	20000	0	0	0	20000	11372	57
Birati	0	5269	0	0	5269	7857	149
Bishnupur	16000	0	0	0	16000	12732	80
Bonhooghly	31666	0	0	0	31666	19671	62
Budge-Budge	0	7500	0	0	7500	7742	103
Burdwan-I	5405	0	0	0	5405	4561	84
Burdwan-II	0	11713	0	0	11713	11266	96
Calcutta-CFS	19730	0	20000	0	39730	29803	75
Calcutta I & E	38902	0	0	0	38902	20701	53
Chandrakona Road	5000	4955	0	0	9955	10340	104
Cooch Behar	6520	0	0	0	6520	3998	61
Durgachak	32400	0	0	0	32400	20052	62
Falta	2000	0	0	0	2000	2000	100
Habra	0	2329	0	0	2329	43	2
Haldia	15000	0	4000	0	19000	2504	13
Kantapukur	0	25151	0	0	25151	15726	63
Kharagpur	29000	0	0	0	29000	23293	80
Lake Depot	0	3675	0	0	3675	2033	55
Maheshtala	0	4825	0	0	4825	3714	77
Majerhat	0	2600	0	0	2600	2600	100
Malda	10000	0	0	0	10000	4376	44
Mallarpur	0	2293	0	0	2293	1816	79
Matigara	5000	0	0	0	5000	0	0
Mogra (Taragaon)	6500	0	0	0	6500	6500	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nimak Mahal Road	0	2576	0	0	2576	1995	77
Panchpara	18120	0	0	0	18120	15011	83
Pandua	5000	4391	0	0	9391	6935	74
Petrapole	0	0	36000	0	36000	26280	73
Raninagar	5000	0	0	0	5000	4962	99
Rishra	0	20000	0	0	20000	5957	30
Sargachi	15000	0	0	0	15000	15000	100
Sarkarpool	0	8334	0	0	8334	675	8
Sarul	26700	0	0	0	26700	47931	180
Serampur	0	5523	0	0	5523	5440	98
Sheoraphully	0	4006	0	0	4006	3861	96
Shyamnagar	0	5348	0	0	5348	2583	48
Strand Bank Road	0	6092	0	0	6092	6559	108
Sukchar	0	8975	0	0	8975	5050	56
Taratolla Road	4183	0	0	0	4183	3983	95
Uluberia	15000	0	0	0	15000	14665	98
Total	337126	166881	60000	0	564007	411244	73
Punjab							
Abohar-I	26000	0	0	0	26000	19525	75
Abohar-II	0	17181	0	0	17181	12235	71
Abohar-III	0	9965	0	0	9965	2806	28
Ajitwal	0	5877	0	0	5877	6129	104
Amritsar	20000	5354	0	0	25354	17847	70
Amritsar ACC	1400	0	0	0	1400	14	1
Amritsar BD	50000	0	5000	0	55000	55049	100
Bhatinda	0	7199	35000	0	42199	42412	101
Bhogpur	14900	0	0	0	14900	12899	87
Chanalon	0	0	8600	0	8600	8600	100
Fazilka-I	11700	3426	0	0	15126	15530	103
Fazilka-II	0	13044	0	0	13044	16306	125
Garshankar	5000	0	9000	0	14000	15262	109
Gurdaspur	7950	4725	0	0	12675	12277	97
Hoshiarpur	15000	378	0	0	15378	12618	82

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Khanna Khurd	0	21100	0	0	21100	18618	88
Ludhiana	13850	23716	0	0	37566	34610	92
Malout	0	6350	0	0	6350	7741	122
Mandi Gobindgarh	0	0	6200	0	6200	6200	100
Mansa	18000	0	0	0	18000	19237	107
Moga-I	16000	23299	0	0	39299	31052	79
Moga-II	76000	3174	5000	0	84174	103187	123
Mohali	2000	0	0	0	2000	194	10
Mour Mandi	0	10847	0	0	10847	9085	84
Muktsar	11250	16864	0	0	28114	24331	87
Nabha	20300	1775	0	0	22075	13007	59
Nabha BD	111700	0	5000	0	116700	128182	110
Pathankot BD	50000	0	25750	0	75750	85427	113
Rajpura	0	15000	0	0	15000	18267	122
Ropar	12700	0	5000	0	17700	20514	116
Sirhind	14700	0	0	0	14700	14388	98
Total	498450	189274	104550	0	792274	783549	99
UT Chandigarh							
Chandigarh	10550	2544	1667	0	14761	13549	92
Total	10550	2544	1667	0	14761	13549	92
Chandigarh							
Jammu & Kashmir							
Bishna	0	6265	0	0	6265	5012	80
Total	0	6265	0	0	6265	5012	80
Tamil Nadu							
Thoothukudi CFS	15000	0	0	0	15000	3045	20
Ambattur	6098	2720	0	0	8818	5459	62
Chidambaram	13500	0	0	0	13500	10867	80
Chromepet	76096	0	2204	0	78300	76978	98
Coimbatore	7500	0	0	0	7500	7783	104
Erode	10360	0	0	0	10360	12727	123
Hosur	10000	0	0	0	10000	8798	88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Kaladipet (Thanga)	0	5772	0	0	5772	2378	41
Kalamandapam	0	14900	0	0	14900	9489	64
Kovalpudur	0	7435	0	0	7435	4860	65
Kumbakonam	8500	0	0	0	8500	7877	93
Madhavaram CFS	10000	0	5000	0	15000	4213	28
Madurai-I	6460	0	0	0	6460	7167	111
Madurai-II	28040	0	0	0	28040	27026	96
Manargudi	50000	0	0	0	50000	50000	100
MEPZ	3000	0	0	0	3000	1475	49
Moolapalayam	12000	0	0	0	12000	14030	117
Nagercoil	14700	0	0	0	14700	14237	97
Royapuram CFS	17500	0	0	0	17500	7225	41
Singanallur ACC &	18280	0	0	0	18280	18387	101
Thanjavar	70000	0	59362	0	29362	135377	105
Tolgate	0	9889	0	0	9889	5915	60
Tondiarpet	0	12729	0	0	12729	4849	38
Trichy	90000	0	0	0	90000	90000	100
Udumalpet	0	3640	0	0	3640	3869	106
Virdhunagar	12900	0	0	0	12900	13251	103
Virugambakam	58020	0	21716	0	79736	73723	92
Total	537954	57085	88282	0	683321	621005	91
Chennai							
Pondicherry							
Pondicherry	7350	0	945	2338	10633	10154	95
Total	7350	0	945	2338	10633	10154	95
Delhi							
Kirti Nagar	19310	0	0	0	19310	17835	91
Nangloi	0	9440	0	0	9440	7889	84
Narela	4800	829	1666	0	7295	6754	93
Okhla-I	5000	0	1166	0	6166	11095	180
Okhla-II	10500	1144	0	0	11644	10381	89
Palam	0	500	0	0	500	500	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Patparganj-ICD	27293	3312	7500	0	38105	63602	167
Pusa	0	2390	0	0	2390	2690	113
R.P. Bagh	36225	0	250	0	36475	29049	80
Safd. Flyover	0	3780	0	0	3780	3953	105
Shahdara	0	1683	0	0	1683	1683	100
Uttamnagar	0	2910	0	0	2910	752	26
Total	103128	25988	10582	0	139698	155983	112
Delhi							
Uttar Pradesh							
Greater Noida DA	0	0	0	17941	17941	17941	100
Loni BD	66000	0	0	0	66000	61566	93
Noida	15000	0	1035	0	16035	16035	100
Noida (NEPZ)	1800	867	0	0	2667	2667	100
Surajpur (UP)-I	10000	0	0	0	10000	10000	100
Total	92800	867	1035	17941	112643	108209	96
Assam							
Dhubri	10100	0	0	0	10100	3266	32
Guwahati	8600	2107	0	0	10707	9615	90
Jorhat-I	10500	0	0	0	10500	1819	17
Jorhat-II	5000	0	0	0	5000	1317	26
Sipajhar	0	0	0	627	627	627	100
Sorbhog	10000	0	0	0	10000	7113	71
Total	44200	2107	0	627	46934	23757	51
Guwahati							
Mizoram							
Aizwal	1500	0	0	0	1500	0	0
Total	1500	0	0	0	1500	0	0
Guwahati							
Nagaland							
Dimapur	13000	0	0	0	13000	12134	93
Total	13000	0	0	0	13000	12134	93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tripura							
Agartala	19250	0	0	0	19250	12391	64
Agartala C.S.	4750	0	0	0	4750	3217	68
Total	24000	0	0	0	24000	15608	65
Andhra Pradesh							
Adilabad	15000	3125	0	0	18125	13363	74
Adoni	22520	0	0	0	22520	21695	96
Ankapally	10000	0	0	0	10000	6889	69
Bodhan	25230	0	0	0	25230	28356	112
Chilkaluripet	0	15200	0	0	15200	14913	98
Chityal	5700	5599	0	0	11299	13659	121
Cuddapah	25300	0	0	0	25300	22841	90
Duggirala	7500	0	0	0	7500	8144	109
Gadwal	0	2070	0	0	2070	1729	84
Gudivada	35000	0	0	0	35000	35601	102
Guntur B.D./Peda	70000	0	0	0	70000	79854	114
Guntur-I	26800	0	0	0	26800	30574	114
IDPL Hyderabad	0	0	0	775	775	0	0
Jangaon	7590	2614	0	0	10204	10064	99
Kaikalur	19000	2800	0	0	21800	29790	137
Kakinada (Toorg)	10000	21362	0	0	31362	31605	101
Karimnagar	25000	0	0	0	25000	40864	163
Kukatpally CFS	11873	1420	21840	1163	36296	5917	16
L.B. Nagar	0	5000	0	0	5000	5000	100
Masulipatnam	38700	0	0	0	38700	59498	154
Medak	11500	0	0	0	11500	13556	118
Mehboobnagar	30319	0	0	0	30319	33010	109
Nacharam (Maulal)	0	4260	0	0	4260	4653	109
Nampally (Hyd-I)	10600	2127	0	0	12727	9851	77
Nandikotkur	5000	0	0	0	5000	5066	101
Nandyal	33700	0	0	0	33700	32183	95
Nellore	48000	0	5000	0	53000	55629	105
Nidamanur	37500	0	0	0	37500	37464	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nirmal	0	1645	0	0	1645	1202	73
Nizamabad	32000	0	0	0	32000	37350	117
Ongole	10000	12258	0	0	22258	25604	115
Rajamundry	34360	0	10000	0	44360	58346	132
Renigunta	20350	0	10000	0	30350	26240	86
Sanathngr-F	11074	0	0	0	11074	9857	89
Sanathngr-Hyd	0	9032	0	2298	11330	16156	143
Sarangpur	38530	0	0	0	38530	38704	100
Sattanapalli	5000	0	0	0	5000	6576	132
Siddipet	14750	3312	0	0	18062	21328	118
Suryapet	50225	0	0	0	50225	60568	121
Tadepalligudem	72000	0	0	0	72000	100603	140
Vadisaleru	0	6504	0	0	6504	8216	126
Vadlamudi	35500	0	0	0	35500	37695	106
Vijaywada BD (Ray)	70000	0	0	0	70000	76586	109
Vijaywada-I (KED)	6000	833	0	0	6833	3500	51
Vijaywada-II (BH)	15000	0	0	0	15000	16907	113
Vizag-I	36330	0	1500	0	37830	16930	45
Vizag-II	30000	0	0	0	30000	12824	43
Warangal	10502	10880	0	0	21382	27822	130
Wyra	0	2166	0	0	2166	1548	71
Zaheerabad	0	0	0	6047	6047	6047	100
Total	1023453	112207	48340	10283	1194283	1262377	106
Jaipur							
Rajasthan							
Alwar	0	1188	0	1412	2600	2218	85
Bhiwadi	0	0	0	230	230	230	100
Bikaner	21600	8792	0	0	30392	37026	122
Hanumangarh	20700	1172	0	0	21872	25223	115
Indergarh	0	2500	0	0	2500	3080	123
Jaipur-I	0	2086	0	2833	4919	3387	69
Jaipur-II	4100	514	7183	0	11797	5271	45
Jalore	0	4092	0	0	4092	83	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jhunjhunu	0	4544	0	0	4544	6193	136
Kota-I	28825	21901	0	2615	53341	52745	99
Kota-II	37670	2503	0	0	40173	41127	102
Kota-ICD	2700	0	6175	0	8875	2128	24
Laxmangarh	0	9041	0	0	9041	12847	142
Merta City	0	6500	0	0	6500	7074	109
Nagaur	0	7401	0	0	7401	5898	80
Ojhada	0	0	0	718	718	718	100
Prithvipura	0	0	0	3824	3824	3824	100
Ramganj Mandi	0	9893	0	0	9893	6901	70
Saloda/G. City	0	5132	0	0	5132	4818	94
Sikar	5000	1630	0	0	6630	7975	120
Srigangangr-I	25200	7000	0	0	32200	29964	93
Srigangangr-II	10000	5000	20000	0	35000	37376	107
Srimadhopur	10000	5000	0	0	15000	17806	118
Surajgarh	0	5000	0	0	5000	5759	115
Udaipur	0	1266	0	0	1266	325	26
Udaipur ICD	3750	0	2000	0	5750	163	3
Total	169545	112155	35358	11632	328690	320159	97
Uttar Pradesh							
Ballia	15000	0	0	0	15000	15700	105
Banda	8500	0	0	0	8500	10978	129
Basti	35000	0	0	0	35000	39584	113
Behraich	11570	1988	0	0	13558	14207	105
Bisalpur	7500	0	0	0	7500	7847	105
Chandausi-I	20640	8540	0	0	29180	23372	80
Chandausi-II	10000	1005	0	0	11005	10552	96
Chirgaon	5000	875	0	0	5875	3525	60
Dadri	19000	0	0	0	19000	20921	110
Dumariyaganj	10000	0	0	0	10000	12150	122
Etawah	20600	0	1340	0	21940	22272	102
Faizabad	7750	10500	0	0	18250	15560	85
Gangoh	0	2780	0	0	2780	2500	90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gauriganj	0	0	0	3587	3587	3587	100
Ghaziabad-I	16920	0	0	0	16920	15998	98
Ghaziabad-II	0	10288	0	0	10288	3822	37
Golagokarnath	15800	0	0	0	15800	16119	102
Gorakhpur	29700	0	0	0	29700	32109	108
HAL Kanpur	0	0	0	129	129	129	100
HAL Lucknow	0	0	0	169	169	169	100
Hardoi	38500	0	0	0	38500	38817	101
Jahangr-I	10000	0	0	0	10000	11316	113
Jahangr-II	10360	0	0	0	10360	12188	118
Jalalabad	0	7500	0	0	7500	9529	127
Jhansi	14600	0	0	0	14600	15522	106
Kanpur	0	4677	0	5296	9973	9479	95
Kanpur ICD	5000	0	5750	0	10750	1059	10
Khatima	6700	5500	0	0	12200	13674	112
Lucknow-I	26400	0	0	0	26400	27436	104
Lucknow-II	7500	988	0	0	8488	14007	165
Mahoba	0	8000	0	0	8000	6983	87
Maunath Bhanjan	0	3590	0	0	3590	4749	132
Muzaffarngr	27450	4543	0	0	31993	29539	92
Muzaffarngr BD	100000	0	20000	0	120000	129380	108
Powayan	0	5000	0	0	5000	4540	91
Pampur	24400	4118	0	0	28518	29841	105
Robertsganj	5000	0	0	0	5000	6903	138
Saharanpur BD	55000	2000	5000	0	62000	69259	112
Saharanpur/ICD	26300	5101	4330	0	35731	27573	77
Sahibabad-I	7500	0	1282	0	8782	6604	75
Sahibabad-II	20200	0	3138	0	23338	21149	91
Shahganj	10000	0	10000	0	20000	19128	96
Shahjahanpur	43200	1500	0	0	44700	47947	107
Shamli	5000	5000	0	0	10000	10843	108
Varanasi-ICD Lucknow	0	673	2870	0	3543	2721	77
Total	676090	94166	53710	9181	833147	841287	101

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Lucknow							
Uttaranchal							
Bazpur	12100	0	0	0	12100	15177	125
Bijnore	21280	0	0	0	21280	18922	89
Jaspur	13200	0	0	0	13200	15194	115
Kashipur-I	11530	0	0	0	11530	12653	110
Kashipur-II	10000	0	0	0	10000	12106	121
Niranjanpur	0	6316	0	0	6316	5792	92
Srinagar	6700	0	0	0	6700	6700	100
Total	74810	6316	0	0	81126	86544	107
Mumbai							
Goa							
Goa	27000	0	0	0	27000	19969	74
Total	27000	0	0	0	27000	19969	74
Maharashtra							
Ahmednagar	0	0	0	655	655	655	100
Akola	27420	0	0	0	27420	24077	88
Ambad-Nasik	10000	0	1930	0	11930	7702	65
Ambernath-I	5000	0	0	1549	6549	6549	100
Ambernath-II	0	0	0	5219	5219	5219	100
Amravati	28920	1015	0	0	29935	27438	92
Anjangaon	0	2194	0	0	2194	1746	80
Bhandup-I(M)	0	4354	0	0	4354	250	6
Bhandup-II(M)	0	1663	24821	0	26484	25501	96
Bhandup-III(M)	0	4180	0	0	4180	155	4
Bhayander	0	2738	0	0	2738	2613	95
Borivili	0	4471	0	0	4471	4471	100
Chikalthana	6122	0	0	0	6122	2715	44
Daryapur	0	1948	0	0	1948	1269	65
Digras	0	961	0	0	961	422	44
Dolvi	0	0	0	123918	123918	123918	100
Donvati (Uttamste)	0	0	0	6242	6242	6242	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gondia	11550	5444	0	0	16994	17033	100
Goregaon	0	8931	3226	0	12157	5073	42
Kajupada	0	9234	0	0	9234	8772	95
Kalamboli	30000	0	61250	0	91250	57619	63
Karanja	0	3452	0	0	3452	2595	75
Khopoli (HICD & MA)	0	0	0	9233	9233	9233	100
Kolhapur-I	11250	9946	0	0	21196	19439	92
Kolhapur-II	20000	0	0	0	20000	20088	100
Lote Parshuram	0	0	0	1195	1195	1195	100
M.S. Jetha(M)	4500	0	0	0	4500	2133	47
MIDC Nagpur (HIN)	0	2965	0	0	2965	2422	82
Miraj	10000	0	0	0	10000	8931	89
Miraj Base Depot	80000	0	0	0	80000	4634	6
Mulund-I	0	16532	0	0	16532	7169	43
Mulund-II	0	5282	0	0	5282	3117	59
Nagpur	14500	6668	0	0	21168	21830	103
Nasik	2500	0	0	0	2500	1954	78
Nasik Road	17160	4505	0	0	21665	17484	81
New Parel	0	1331	0	0	1331	1331	100
Patalganga	0	0	0	1764	1764	1764	100
Pune-I CFS-Kirlo	12500	0	8445	0	20945	14703	70
Sanaswadi-Pune	0	0	0	3996	3996	3996	100
Sangli	16060	0	0	0	16060	11932	74
Seepz-Andh(M)	0	2599	0	0	2599	3202	123
Sukeli	0	0	0	2500	2500	2500	100
Turbhe(M)	0	2674	0	1676	4350	3136	72
TW-I(M)	0	27104	0	0	27104	18545	68
TW-II(M)	0	11300	0	0	11300	6254	55
Vashi(M)	63500	0	79168	0	42668	93373	65
Vashi-II/Mark(M)	0	6398	0	0	6398	6461	101
Wadala(M)	10500	0	2235	0	12735	11556	91
Waluj-I	4947	0	0	0	4947	5987	121
Yeotmal	5000	4946	0	1664	11610	10072	87
Total	391429	152835	181075	159611	884950	646475	73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Navi Mumbai							
Maharashtra							
Buffer Yard	0	0	50000	0	50000	50000	100
Dronagiri	92000	0	68125	0	160125	140808	88
J.N. Port	0	27200	88125	0	115325	88951	77
Total	92000	27200	206250	0	325450	279759	86
Haryana							
Assandh	13333	14610	0	0	27943	33507	120
Bhiwani	0	5486	0	0	5486	5709	104
Charkhi Dadri	11100	2500	0	0	13600	14680	108
Faridabad	0	4750	0	0	4750	4208	89
Ganaur	0	4725	0	0	4725	5595	118
Gurgaon	18000	0	0	0	18000	20802	116
Hissar	28400	0	0	0	28400	26125	92
Indri	15180	12687	0	0	27867	29412	106
Kaithal	0	7466	0	0	7466	8506	114
Kalka	0	2450	0	0	2450	2450	100
Karnal-I	12600	9984	0	0	22584	23325	103
Karnal-II	0	17099	0	0	17099	18654	109
Karnal-III	30000	0	0	0	30000	36429	121
Mandi Adampur	17250	0	0	0	17250	18117	105
Naraingarh	0	5000	0	0	5000	6595	132
Narwana	6000	7933	0	0	13933	12387	89
Pilookhera	0	4760	0	0	4760	4982	105
Sonepat-I	19280	0	0	0	19280	14979	78
Sonepat-II	0	5000	0	0	5000	5991	120
Total	171143	104450	0	0	275593	292453	106
Panchkula							
Himachal Pradesh							
Mandi	2370	0	0	0	2370	1332	56
Solan	3000	0	0	0	3000	3000	100
Total	5370	0	0	0	5370	4332	81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bihar							
Darbhanga	7500	2475	0	0	9975	7609	76
Dehri On Sone	0	6217	0	0	6217	5017	81
Fatuha	4500	0	0	0	4500	2797	62
Katihar	8000	4263	0	0	12263	7753	63
Kishanganj	12000	0	0	0	12000	11786	98
Mohania	3750	0	0	0	3750	3635	97
Mokhameh	5000	0	0	0	5000	5521	110
Monghyr	8000	0	0	0	8000	6743	84
Musallapur	7487	0	0	0	7487	6982	93
Nokha	4300	0	0	0	4300	4300	100
Patahi	0	7350	0	0	7350	525	7
Patna	6500	4016	0	0	10516	6747	64
Samstipur	17650	0	0	0	17650	17174	97
Total	84687	24321	0	0	109008	86589	79
Patna							
Jharkhand							
Hazaribagh	15300	0	0	0	15300	13937	91
Jamshedpur	4000	1000	0	0	5000	4737	95
Ranchi	14650	0	0	0	14650	14749	101
Total	33950	1000	0	0	34950	33423	96
Kerala							
Cochin-I	12250	0	0	0	12250	11770	96
Cochin-II	5030	0	0	0	5030	3829	76
Ernakulam	14065	0	0	0	14065	11446	81
Kakkanad	15000	0	0	0	15000	0	0
Kozhikode	12254	0	0	0	12254	12604	103
Trichur	25000	0	0	0	25000	25309	101
Trivandrum	10000	0	0	0	10000	11070	111
Total	93599	0	0	0	93599	76028	81
*Grand Total	5699027	1489992	1126212	253320	8568551	7896433	92

Total No. of warehouses : 467

Allotment of PAN Number

2081. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Income Tax assessees circle-wise in the country particularly in Karnataka Circle;

(b out of which, how many of them have been given PAN so far;

(c) whether it come to the notice of the Government that there is a delay in settling refund and redressing the grievances of the assessees; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to provide PAN to all Income Tax assessees and to streamline the refund and grievance systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total number of Income Tax assessees in the country is 2,46,04,621 as on 31.5.2001. The number of assessees in Karnataka and Goa region as on 30.6.2001 is 13,03,563.

(b) The Income Tax department has received a total 2,10,72,032 applications for allotment of Permanent Account Numbers - out of which 2,07,03,081 applications have been processed upto 30th June, 2001 and 1,93,70,807 Permanent Account Numbers have been allotted.

The total number of PAN applications received in Karnataka and Goa region are 9,60,948 out of which PAN has been allotted in 9,06,608 cases.

(c) All possible steps whenever delay in refunds are noticed are taken for early issue of refunds and redressing various grievances of the assessees.

(d) Facility of across the counter allotment of PAN from any Personal Computer connected on the network has been put in use in 36 cities. All the computer centres of the Department have been asked to make all out efforts for expeditious allotment of PAN and issue of PAN card to the applicants.

Direct Tax Collection

2082. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more people would be brought into the tax bracket by reducing exempted category of individuals and moderate level of tax rates;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the role played by the Settlement Commission in arriving fair and just settlement of income-tax disputes has resulted in realisation of substantial revenue; and

(c) if so, to what extent the direct tax collection has increased during the last fiscal year particularly the corporate tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Income-tax Act does not specify any category of individuals who are exempted from tax. However, certain types of income are exempt from tax. Reducing the number of such exempted types of incomes could result in more people coming into the tax bracket and also increase the tax collection. Further, moderate level of tax rates tend to increase the level of voluntary compliance by encouraging people to pay taxes. This is evidenced by substantial increase in the number of taxpayers and the higher level of tax collection in the last three years.

(b) The revenue realised through the machinery of Settlement Commission does not make much of impact on the overall revenue collection.

(c) Although there is an overall increase of 20.11% in direct tax collection (16.16% in the case of Corporate tax) during the last fiscal year (2000-2001) compared to the previous year, this increase is not attributable/related to settlement of disputes through the Settlement Commission.

Reduction in Quota of Kerosene

2083. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to revise the criteria for allotment of kerosene oil for East and North-Eastern region and rural areas of the country in view of the fact that kerosene oil is an essential item and an integral part of their lives;

(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) Kerosene Oil for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is allocated to different States/UTs by the Central Government by following a uniform criteria. The manner of distribution of kerosene oil to the beneficiaries within the State/UT is decided by the concerned State/UT Administration. There is no proposal to revise the criteria of allocation of kerosene oil for East and North Eastern region or any other part of the country.

Removal of Export Restrictions of Agricultural Products

2084. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to lift the restrictions on export of some agricultural products including wheat, onions and pulses in the wake of dismantling of quantitative restrictions on imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such products;

(c) whether a decision to remove export restrictions has already been taken in principle by his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the time by which said restrictions are likely to be lifted?

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 Government has been following a consistent policy of liberalization of trade and removal of restrictions on export and import items since 1991. The Government has already removed quantitative restrictions on export of sugar. Wheat products have also been allowed for export without any quantitative ceilings for the current year, 2001-2002. However, in respect of other agricultural items, Government has not taken any decision so far for removing existing restrictions on export thereof.

Policy to Promote Agricultural Exports

2085. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to promote the agricultural exports, the Government are preparing a new policy, which proposes providing farmers the latest bio-technology and extensive market intelligence, greater support under the WTO-compatible green and amber boxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy envisages close cooperation between the departments of Commerce, Agriculture and Bio-technology;

(d) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which this policy is likely to be finalised and implemented?

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 (f) It is Government's constant endeavour to boost exports of Indian agricultural products through all possible means, including through transfer of available technology, information and inputs to the farmers. Research and development activity to enhance productivity and reduce costs in the agricultural sector is an important aspect of this export promotion effort. In this context, there is close coordination between various Departments and Ministries, including between the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture and Biotechnology.

Revenue Deficit

2086. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue deficit has been increasing steadily since 1979-80;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the actual revenue deficit of 2000-2001 and whether the same outstripped the Budget Estimates of 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the revenue deficit of the last three years;

(f) the main factors responsible for the revenue deficit and steps taken by the Government to overcome the same;

(g) the measures taken by the Government to recover the dues pending against big corporate houses in respect of income tax, excise duty, customs duty, bank loans (NPAs) etc; and

(h) the total amount of these dues as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The revenue deficit has been increasing in absolute terms since 1981-82 due to increase in interest payments, subsidies, defence, police, pay and allowances and pensions.

(c) and (d) The revenue deficit in 2000-2001 (provisional) was Rs 81,708 crore (3.7% of GDP) against the budgeted amount of Rs. 77,425 crore (3.6% of GDP).

(e) The revenue deficit in last three years was as under:

1998-1999	Rs. 66976 crore (3.8% of GDP)
1999-2000	Rs. 67596 crore (3.5% of GDP)
2000-2001 (provisional)	Rs. 81708 crore (3.7% of GDP)

(f) The Government has taken several expenditure management measures viz. zero base budgeting, review of subsidies, review of staffing norms and down-sizing of Government, rationalisation of administered interest rates, etc. Simultaneously, efforts are being made to increase tax collections by deepening of tax reforms an widening of tax base. Government have also introduced a Bill titled "Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill" in Lok Sabha on 21st December, 2000. The Bill provides, interalia, for a legal and institutional framework to eliminate revenue deficit in a given time frame.

(g) and (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. E.P. 2(5)/91-Vol. II in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2001, under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporation Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3875/2001]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Engineering Projects (India) Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3876/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government—(No. 6 of 2001)—(Post and Telecommunications) for the year ended the 31st March, 2000, under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3877/2001]

(2) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Postal Services) for the year 1999-2000 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3878/2001]

(3) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Telecommunication Services) for the year 1999-2000 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3879/2001]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 16 of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972:

(i) S.O. 333 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2001 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 926 (E) dated the 16th October, 2000.

(ii) S.O. 334 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2001 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 927 (E) dated the 16th October, 2000.

(iii) S.O. 335 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2001 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 928 (E) dated the 16th October, 2000.

(iv) S.O. 336(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2001 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 929(E) dated the 16th October, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3880/2001]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :—

(i) The Bill of Entry (Forms) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 403(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) The Shipping Bill and Bill of Export (Form)

Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 404(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) G.S.R. 536(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of the Notification No. 7/2001-Cus., dated the 27th January, 2001 upto 31st March, 2002.

(iv) G.S.R. 546(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of the Notification No. 39/96-Cus. dated the 23rd July, 1996 upto 31st July, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3881/2001]

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

(i) G.S.R. 537(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorantum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on seamless pipes and tubes of specified grades originating in or exported from Russia, Romania, Austria and Czech Republic and imported into India.

(ii) G.S.R. 542(E) publised in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on 2-Methyl (5) Nitro Imidazole, commonly known as 2-MNI, originating in or exported from China.

(iii) G.S.R. 545(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisionally, anti-dumping duty on ferro silicon originating in or exported from Ukraine and imported into India as recommended by the Designated Authority.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3882/2001]

(7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 533(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/99-Service Tax dated the 9th April, 1999, under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3883/2001]

(8) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation for the year ended the 31st March, 2001, under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed the Library. See No. LT 3884/2001]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

(i) G.S.R. 538(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of the Notification No. 43/2000-CE upto the 31st July, 2003.

(ii) G.S.R. 539(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the scope of exemption from excise duty to industries located in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3885/2001]

12.00½ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—LAID

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 2th August, 2001."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Trade Union (Amendment) Bill, 2001, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 2nd August, 2001.

12.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

STUDY TOUR REPORTS

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Study Tour Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Public Undertakings on:

(1) Paradeep Phosphate Limited; and

(2) Oil India Limited.

12.02 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 6th August, 2001 will consist of:

1. Further consideration and passing of the Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

2. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 and consideration and passing of the Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

3. Consideration and passing of the Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Repeal Bill, 2001.

4. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Food Corporations (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 and consideration and passing of the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

5. Further consideration and passing of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 2000 as reported by Joint Committee.

6. Consideration and passing of the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2000, as passed by the Rajya Sabha.

7. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:

   (i) The Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 as reported by joint Committee.

   (ii) The Energy Conservation Bill, 2000.

   (iii) The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2001.

   (iv) The Advocates' Welfare Fund Bill, 2001.

8. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by the Rajya Sabha:

   (i) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

   (ii) The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

   The North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): You are very optimistic.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I can reorder it once I announce it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA): Sir, with reference to the statement made by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister today announcing the business during the ensuing week, I would like to submit the following two subjects for discussion in the House:

1. Drought situation in the State of Karnataka and other parts of the country:

2. Union Government's decision for clearance to three projects of Andhra Pradesh, *i.e.*, Pulichintala, Srisailam Right Bank Canal and Bheema Lift Irrigation projects which is causing great problems to the Karnataka State.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (GHOSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following two items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to bring in the Constitution (Amendment) Bill to alter the Supreme Courts's verdict." No reservation beyond 50 percent ceiling", an impediment in providing reservation to the most backwards on the basis of their population."

2. Need to bring in the Constitution Amendment Bill to amend the section 125 of the Cr.P.C. to provide sustenance allowance to the women who are married by the married person through deceit being declared null and void.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in that week's agenda:

1. Need to amend the Central Forest Act, 1980.

2. The Union Government should give its share of rupees fifteen crores to the Maharashtra Government which has started a 'Shibiri Mahamandal' to provide financial assistance to the educated tribal youths.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Request for reconstruction and maintenance of the newly constructed railway bridge over Damodar river near Jaridih Sagar in Bokaro district (Jharkhand).

2. Request for setting up a paper mill in Topchanch and Tundi blocks of Dhanbad district and Pirtad and Dumari blocks of Girdih district.

[*English*]

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (TIRUCHENDUR): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to expedite completion of atomic power plant at Koodan Kulam in Tamil Nadu in view of acute shortage of power in Tamil Nadu by ensuring minimum dislocation to the inhabitants and adequate compensation to those who are dislocated.

2. Need to introduce a train between Kanyakumari and New Delhi *via* Tirunelveli and Madurai so as to cater to the needs of people living in Southern districts of Tamil Nadu in particular and other regions as a whole and to promote tourism.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The national Library at Kolkata is one of the oldest and most prestigious store of knowledge and information in the country. Lakhs of valuable books and documents are preserved there and used by thousands of research scholars and students. But due to want of adequate funds, there is no proper maintenance, improvement and development. I request the Government to provide more funds to this Library.

2. Public Distribution System is going to be affected. This will cause greatest harm to the common people, who depend on this for their survival by getting essential commodities on reasonable rate. Most of the State Governments are opposed to weaken the PDS. This should be strengthened in the national interest.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to provide more funds to complete the construction work of laying rail line to connect Pushkar with Ajmer in a time bound manner as was announced at the time of presenting rail budget two years back.

2. Need to popularise and put Ajmer and Pushkar on the world tourism map and to enhance necessary in facilities there.

[*English*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. In the light of the sensational robbery of Rs. 2 crore by the Guards of the ICICI Bank having criminal background, deployment of Guards by Banks, financial institutions, Government/ public undertakings, etc., requires immediate review for eliminating the suspicious and corrupt elements.

2. There have been reports of drug abuse among Indian sports-persons. In view of poor performance of our sports-persons in the international games, there is an immediate need to check this menace to secure better results in the forthcoming Afro-Asian Games.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (BALAGHAT): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to renovate 90 years old Jamunia reservoir and right bank canal of Dhuti dam in Balaghat district on urgent basis.

2. Need to construct the bridge over Baun Thadi river to connect Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and to construct a bridge over Chandan river connecting Arambha Attari by the rural development minority.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to construct huge bridges over Lakhunder river and Nainavad nullah between Shajapur Maxi on Agra-Mumbai National Highway No. 3 passing through my constituency in Madhya Pradesh and to construct an over bridge at railway crossing near Maxi railway station and to construct a bye-pass in Shajapur.

2. Need to open a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Shajapur district of Madhya Pradesh.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour' and Shri Adhir Chowdhary would speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Adhir Chowdhary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing your own Member to speak.

(Interruptions)

12.11 hrs.

RE: CONSTITUTION OF JPC ON ISSUES RELATING TO UTI'S US-64 SCHEME

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, cutting across party lines, there was a widespread demand to protect the interest of small investors numbering more than two crore who have invested in US-64 Scheme. Sir, the entire Opposition unitedly demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee to go into the entire matter of US-64 Scheme. It should also look how to protect the interest of the small investors in future with all certainty and should also find out the culprits impartially and book them... *(Interruptions)*. Sir, we all raised this issue but we could not get any response till now.

Sir, on behalf of small investors, I would again plead that let the Government graciously accept a Joint Parliamentary Committee on the US-64 Scheme to look into the matter and also to decide in their terms of reference how to protect the interest of the small investors. This demand is not by 'a' or 'b'. It is a demand of the people outside Parliament. This demand can only meet an objective angle of the entire episode. It has been demonstrated by the Opposition, media, and the people outside. I think, the Government may kindly look into it and give a quick response to this matter so that this matter could be taken care of by Parliament itself.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Goyalji, you will also be called. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, there is no dispute on any side on the seriousness of the situation. Even the hon. Minister has said that this is a serious matter. The question has been whether the Minister of Finance or the Ministry has been responsible or not. But nobody was disputing the seriousness of the issue... *(Interruptions)*.

In this regard, what we request is that some method has to be found out to look into it and some resolution has to be there... *(Interruptions)*. Even Shri Kirit Somaiya was talking in my favour.

MR. SPEAKER: But one thing is clear. I think, everybody is seriously interested in disturbing the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is unfortunate that sometimes it happens. But, Sir, I would request the Government and I would particularly appeal to you that considering the seriousness of the matter, you would kindly intervene in this matter so that the issues can be looked into properly.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Sir, to resolve this deadlock, I would suggest you to intervene and call a meeting. It is because everyone is interested in probing this. As the hon. Shri Somnath Chatterjee said, Shri Kirit Somaiya has also mentioned this. Everyone is keen that this should be probed. Sir, 20 million small and middle class investors are involved.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi had stated tomorrow that he did not want to do any politics instead he wanted to talk about the losses suffered by the small investors. After all the opposition Members had spoken, the Finance Minister stood to speak but the opposition Members did not allow him to speak. What would they tell the country about their conduct as the arguments of the Finance Minister should also come forth. I too, wanted to listen. Shri Scindia as well as Shri Dasmunsi

[Shri Vijay Goel]

had already spoken. When the Finance Minister started his reply, he only stated not to respond to the abusive language then what is wrong in it. Just on such trivial issue the entire country was deprived of as to what the Finance Minister wanted to say in his defence...*(Interruptions)* Whether or not you would allow the Government to clarify on certain issues?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the concern expressed by the entire House to protect the small investors, even investigating UTI's investment in stock market and suggesting remedial measures. So, from the Government side also, we share this concern and there is no dispute on this concern that we should try to protect the small investors and also look into if UTI has done something wrong in investing in the stock market. Therefore, we are not opposed to it.

The position today is that we are aware that there is a JPC of this very hon. Parliament under the Chairmanship of hon. Member, Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi which is looking into the whole stock market happenings. Its terms of reference are not unilateral terms of reference. These terms of reference were brought with the consensus of the House. It is not that the Government has written it. We have consulted the Leaders, have drawn it and then the House has passed it. Under these terms of reference, there is a mention of even protecting small investors. There is a mention of going into the stock market happenings. So, the concerns of the Members can be addressed by the present Joint Parliamentary Committee...*(Interruptions)* The present Joint Parliamentary Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Tripathi can investigate it. I do not want to say more than this because there is a Committee. We should not discuss as to what the Committee should think and should not think.

My request to you would be, as suggested by the Deputy-Leader from the principal Opposition Party, to call a meeting of Leaders of political parties because we cannot interfere into the working of Joint Parliamentary Committee. As the custodian of this House, you can call a meeting of Members, Leaders of Opposition Parties and from the Government side; you may also call the hon. Chairman of the present JPC and first see whether the concerns are addressed by the Committee or not. If you yourself come to the conclusion that the Committee can handle the concerns of Members, then, I think, the issue would be over to everybody's satisfaction. If the Committee comes to the conclusion that it cannot handle it and we need some amendments in the terms of reference, only then, we could come back to the House. So, my suggestion to you would be to act accordingly...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We have got certain apprehensions and doubts about it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: As I said, doubts cannot be debated on the floor of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We can have a meeting in my Chamber.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am only submitting to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that I fully share the concern and opionion expressed by him. We have a very competent and distinguished Chairman of the JPC, Shri Tripathi. But rightly or wrongly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are going to decide about it in my Chamber. And again you are going into the details of it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Chairman did say that there is no scope to discuss UTI mutual funds...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, do not go into the details. We will discuss these things in the Leaders' meeting. We will decide the matter in my Chamber.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: We can have a meeting in my Chamber and we will decide about it there. I am calling a meeting.

(Interruptions)

12.20 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, the situation is volatile and grave in Kashmir Valley. It deserves the highest attention of this country. On the same analogy, we cannot remain self-content with the recent developments along the Indo-Bangladesh border. As you know, India shares a long and porous border with Bangladesh as per the Radcliffe dispensation. It has become a safe conduit for

* Not Recorded

arms smuggling, drug trafficking and a safe route for infiltration of militant elements.

Given the geo-static and geo-political perspective of the border, we have to be very sincere and serious about the recent happenings along the border. The Pakistani elements in Bangaladesh's Army are rearing their ugly faces threatening to long standing Indo-Bangladesh friendship. On 15th April, the hostile posture of te Bangladesh's Army was demonstrated at village Pyrdiah in Meghalaya. The BDR men outnumbered the Indian BSF presonnel and asked them to evacuate that village. In a quick succession, on 18th Aprill, the BDR personnel overpowered our BSF personnel in Boraibori village and sixteen BSF personnel were captured and brutally butchered in a deliberate and cold blooded way. It is astonishing to note that this Government only paid lip service to these happenings. The Chief of BDR, Mr. Fazlur Rehman, dared to say in Dhaka that, "We have completed mission of restoring territory and sovereignty and did not have to fire a single shot in achieving it.

I would request the nationalist elements in the treasury benches to share my concern because those sixteen BSF personnel are our brothers and friends. They have lost their lives in order to protect the borders of India. But this Government has not even come out with a statement. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister concerned to issue a statement because the situation is becomming more grave. We cannot let the 4,000 kilometers of border between India and Bangladesh unprotected. It went unnoticed by you. If these perpetrators again indulge in this kind of activities, then such incidents will take place again. This is a serious matter. Nationalist elements in treasury benches must take note of it. I urge upon the Government to issue a statement because it concerns our security and it also concerns the Army and BSF personnel. If we are not sincere to them, then it would affect their morale.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, I fully share the concern expressed by our hon. colleague on the problem of Indo-Bangladesh border. I fully suport whatever he has stated. I would like to add a point to what he has stated. To protect such a long border, we need 34 battalions of BSF. But only 21 battalions of BSF personnel are doing the job now. Due to that a large part of the border remain unprotected. As the hon. Member has stated, it is being used by smugglers, terrorists etc.

So, if we want to effectively protect that, we need 34 battalions of BSF in the entire border area. So, at least 14 more battalions of BSF should be sanctioned. I would request the Government that it should give adequate number of Border Security Force personnel to protect the border properly ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have received notices for 'Zero Hour' from Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Arun Kumar and Shri Raghunath Jha, Members of Parliament, regarding the assault on Shrimati Renu Kumari on 8th July, 2001 in Khagaria of Bihar. I am calling for a factual report from the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have received a notice of question of privilege from Shri Prahlad Singh Patel. I have called for a factual note in the matter from the Ministry of Home Affairs. I will take a decision in the matter after considering the facts furnished by the Home Ministry.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, let us know the contents of the notice. Otherwise, we do not know what is your announcement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already read it out. It is about the assault on an hon. Member Shrimati Renu Kumari.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (ETAWAH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention towards a very important issue pertaining to my parliamentary constituency of Etawah. The water table in Chakarnagar, Maheva, Ajitmal and Etawah development blocks of my constituency has fallen shortly. I would like to request the Rural Development Minister to instal at least five Government tubewells in these blocks so that crisis of water is solved in these blocks for farmers.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, there is a long-standing demand of the employees of the Regional Rural Banks for extension of the Sixth Tripartite Wage Settlement to them. After the judgement of the Supreme Court, that has been extended to the employees. But the judgement has not been implemented fully. This has been implemented in respect of the employees of the banks which are earning profits. About the employees of the loss-making Rural Banks, their wages have not been revised at par with the employees of the nationalised banks. When the National Industrial Tribunal gave its judgement five years back, that was the judgement for implementation of equal pay for equal work to all the employees. It was not stated there that the employees of the loss-making units would not be paid at par with the employees of the nationalised banks.

Out of the 156 RRBs, only a few are incurring losses. So,

I urge upon the Government to implement the Supreme Court order not only in respect of the profit-making banks but also in respect of the employees of all the Regional Rural Banks.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, lakhs of Delhities have suffered due to heavy load shedding during peak of summer i.e. May-June. Now even in the months of July-August heavy load shedding is being effected for 18 to 20 hours altogether. Kids are crying. The rehabilitation settlements, villages and colonies under the east Delhi Parliamentary constituency are the worst affected due to heavy load shedding and people are crying due to heat. Despite lodging complaints repeatedly attention is not being paid. Old transformers have not been replaced. The Delhi Government have totally failed in improving the electricity supply in Delhi. Lakhs of Delhities are crying.

. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to demand that necessary steps should be taken to improve the supply position of electricity in Delhi so that people could get some respire from heat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court has issued orders to convert all the commercial vehicles into C.N.G. mode up to 31st March, 2001 in Delhi but the Delhi Government have requested the Supreme Court to extend further this deadline. Accordingly this deadline has been extended upto 30th September, 2001. Due to shortage of CNG in Delhi strike was resorted to under the auspices of the federation of transporters. Till now only forty percent vehicles are running on CNG fuel. Now it has been said that all the vehicles will run on CNG fuel from 1st October, 2001 but the situation has become grave due to shortage of CNG. Vehicles remain standing in queue for ten to twelve hours for refilling of CNG. If the vehicles of the persons who have spent considerable amount on conversion of their vehicles into CNG mode or spent Rs. 10 to 15 lakh on purchasing a CNG bus remain standing on road, the situation becomes gave.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the transporters have said if the position in regard to CNG supply is not improved then they will go for *gherao* of all the members of Parliament from Delhi and demonstration will be resorted to against them. Therefore, I request the Government to pay attention on this immediately.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there has been a Bhojpuri poet namely Shri Bhikhari Thakur. He said: 'Hukumat Ke Hathi', Ke Dou Dant, Khay Ke Dusar, Dikhay ke Dusar,' A Committee has been set up for allotment of Petrol pumps but gross irregularities are being committed in it due to the policy of pick and choose. I have got the entire list pertaining to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana which shows how the committee has committed irregularities by resorting to policy of pick and choose. Petrol pumps have been allotted to the persons belonging to BJP and Samata Party after taking a bribe of rupees ten lakh from them...*(Interruptions)* I directly allege the Government for this and demand that the Government should conduct an inquiry into the irregularities committed in it. *(Interruptions)* There has been nepotism in it. The hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should pay attention to it. There is information that Rs. 10 lakh has been taken as bribe for alloting the petrol pump...*(Interruptions)* These petrol pumps have been allotted to people belonging to the BJP...*(Interruptions)* The list pertaining to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana bas been published in the newspapers. An inquiry should be conducted to ascertain as to why the incidents of bribery and irregularities are taking place. This matter should be taken to the court and the persons responsible for this should be arrested.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is being said from the treasury benches that not only the Members of the BJP but the Members of the RJD also are involved in it...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no; nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot compel him to give any response.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, due to imposition of ban on export of onion it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 200 to 300 per quintal. At this rate the farmers are not getting even the cost price due to which the farmers have become weak economically and socially and a sense of revolt is developing amongst them. Onion has been put in the list of essential commodities but the Union Government have not given support price for it. Sir, through you, I request the Union Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Commerce and Industry of lift ban imposed on export of onion

* Not Recorded

as early as possible and support price of Rs. 700 per quintal for onion should be declared. This is my humble request.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Rural Development under the Pardhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana has fixed the target to connect the villages having population up to one thousand by 2003 and the villages having population upto five hundred by 2007 with tarred roads. The Government have also allocated funds to various states under the said scheme. During the last session in this very House when a number of Members of the Parliament complained to the Minister of Rural Development Shri Venkaiah Naidu that the State Government are not functioning according to the norms fixed under the said scheme, he had assured the House that he would convene an all party meeting in this regard to do away with the deadlock. Sir, through this House I would like to tell that the Minister of Rural Development Shri Venkaiah Naidu has not fulfilled his assurance given in the House. Sir, I would like to draw your attention particularly towards the situation prevailing in Uttar Pradesh. The funds allocated under the said scheme to Uttar Pradesh have been misutilised by diverting the same to other heads. Sir, through this House I would like to demand from the Minister of the Parliamentary Affairs that he should direct the Minister of Rural Development to ask the Uttar Pradesh Government to furnish a report in regard to name of the places where work has been executed by it under the said scheme and the amount spent there on. On the basis of the definite information available with me I tell you that till date even not an inch of road has been constructed in the State under the said scheme...*(Interruptions)* The Government of Uttar Pradesh intends to utilise the fund meant for the scheme for political purposes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH (MACHHLISHAHAR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here and he should respond to it as this issue is related to the House.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri C.N. Singh, I have not given you the floor.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, resume your seat. Do not disturb like this.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as this issue is related to the House so the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should respond to it.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh I cannot compel the Minister to respond.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, from the democratic alliance myself and from my party Shri Abdullah Kutti; from Samajwadi Party Shri S.P. Singh Vaghel and from the R.S.P. Shri Niren Burman have visited the Asind town in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not be impatient, I will call you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: What happened there. The Gujjar community owns a land there where a temple had been built. The temple belonged to 11th century and some three-four feet inside the temple there was a wall of a Mazaar (grave) which belonged to the Muslims. A new temple was constructed in front of it. Urs is celebrated on that Mazaar every year, and on this occasion the tent was put on fire. On 27th the wall was demolished since there was no police posted there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Radha Mohan Singh.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, let me speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not deliver a speech here. You should come up with what you want the Government to do in regard to the issue you want to raise during the zero hour.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: The wall was demolished there. That place belonged to the Gujjars. It has been encroached upon by them. A peace committee has been constituted to restore possession of that land. But if they do not return that land, anything can happen there. It is a very important question...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record. There is a limit.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not an hour for speach making.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, I told you that you have to call the attention of the Government to the issue. You are not to make a speech here. This is 'Zero Hour'.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (MOTIHARI): Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker Sir, the Government of India has been running several schemes known as Centrally sponsored schemes during the last few years. While launching its Employment Assurance Scheme the Union Government had categorically mentioned in its guidelines that the action plan of these schemes shall be prepared by the Panchayat Samitis. Wherever Zila Parishads have been constituted, these scheme will be discussed at Zila Parishad level and priority will be fixed accordingly. It has been categorically stated in those guidelines that the DRDA which is a technical body will be headed by the elected heads of the Zila Parishad. Similarly, the New guidelines for the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana contain 10 points and in point 5 and 9 it has been mentioned that these will first be discussed in the Panchayat Samiti of the block and thereafter the final decision thereon shall be taken in the Zila Parishad. But a loot in the name of these schemes has been going on in Bihar. Shri Raghuvansh ji apprised the State Government of this situation by convening press conference at least four times during the last year. Today, while 8400 Panchayats, 519 Panchayat Samitis and 37 Zila Parishads have been constituted in Bihar and whereas the guidelines issued therefor categorically provide information regarding the setting up of Zila Parishads and Panchayats Samitis and that the schemes shall be selected by these committees but these directives and guidelines are being ignored in Bihar. Sir, the list which should have been prepared for Antyodaya Scheme has not been prepared so far in Bihar. The Government of Bihar has failed to lift the foodgrains allocated under the Mid-day meal and Annapurna Schemes. I would request the Union Government to look into this matter and compel the Government of Bihar in order to ensure the compliance of the guidelines issued by it...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair, there is a very long list of Members.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Let Promodji say something about this matter...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot compel the hon. Minister. I have called the name of Dr. Pandeya.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Radha Mohan Singh, you have already placed the issue before the House, I cannot compel the hon. Minister to respond. Now, please take your seat. I have called the name of Dr. Pandeya.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The State Government is not following the directives of the Union Government. Therefore, the question is raised and the Union Government is urged to gather information in this regard and take necessary action so that the directives of the Union Government are complied with.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please cooperate with me, I have called Dr. Pandeya to speak.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Directives are issued from here but the same are not followed there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your name is not here. Please take your seat.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It is a question of our State.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It could be a question of your State but I can not compel the hon'ble Minister to respond.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I do not want to speak about one particular State but the Centrally sponsored schemes should be implemented in all the States and I understand that the Centre constantly monitors it.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the power connection of one of the Units of Cement corporation of India located in Nayagaon of Neemach was cut off owing to an outstanding amount of Rs. 13 crore against that factory and today a proposal has come from the Centre for selling it in private hands. This is what we have heard. An amount to the tune of Rs. 50 crores has been spent on that factory in approximately three years but power could not be supplied there. The power backup is there through generator sets, expenditure is being incurred on salaries. Other expenditures are also being incurred, no decision is being taken. I urge upon the Minister of Industry to settle the dispute between the Electricity board and the factory by making payment of an outstanding amount of Rs. 13 crores so that the labourers can be benefited by reviving the profit earning unit otherwise I believe crores of rupees are wasted there.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Hon'ble

Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister and the House to a very vital and critical problem. There is a canal in Rajasthan known by the name of Rajasthan canal or Indira Gandhi canal. It extends upto the border of Pakistan. Not only Rajasthan but the entire country will be benefited when it is completed. An amount to the tune of Rs. 61 crore is given every year by the Union Government to the Government of Rajasthan for this canal, but it was not given this year. The State Government may have failed to submit the account which could have stopped the release of fund by the Union Government, but through you I would urge upon the Union Government that the immediate construction of this canal is absolutely necessary. Therefore, the Union Government should immediately release Rs. 61 crore to the Rajasthan Government. It will not only ensure progress in Rajasthan but the entire country will prosper. It extends upto the border of Pakistan.

The people will be able to settle across the canal and our country and the region will accrue benefits. Therefore, I would once again urge upon the Union Government to immediately release Rs. 61 crore. Thank you.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (ARRAH): Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Railways to a very vital and critical problem faced by the public in my constituency Arrah. There is a commercial centre named Behata in my constituency Arrah in Bihar where there are several big and small industries with high density of population. The Express trains passing through this place like Magadh Express, Patna-Surat, Patna-Madras and North-East etc. do not halt at Behata station due to which the labourers going to other regions of the country for work face a lot of inconvenience. Through you I would urge upon the Minister of Railways to issue orders to the Railways Department to give halt for trains like North-East, Poorva Express, Magadh Express, Patna-Surat and Patna-Madras at Behata Railway station.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (JAMMU): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very vital issue at present in the House. I would like to submit that the census conducted in Jammu and Kashmir was grounded in lies. Census is the basis of a country's political and economic planning. But the figures which were given in the census of Jammu and Kashmir are fictitious. The polutation of Jummu and Kashmir regions is reported to be 43 lakhs and 54 lakhs respectively which is not factual.

Sir, we have two parliamentary constituencies in Jammu region and three in Kashmir region. The population of both the Parliamentary constituencies of Jammu region and of the three parliamentary constituencies of Kashmir region is reported to be 24 lakh 64 thousand and 24 lakh and some 10 thousand respectively. It means that the census report is not counter checked where as voter list is checked by the political parties every year. Therefore, voter list is more authentic. If the voter list of Jammu is longer it means the population is more. The voters who have migrated from Kashmir and settled in Jammu are about 5-6 lakhs whereas they are still on the voters' list for Srinagar which should be removed from there. In addition to this, the people who have migrated from Pakistan and settled in Jammu also figure around 1.5 lakh. If we go through such a voter list and the actual facts then the population of Jammu should have been 10.5 lakh more than the population shown...*(Interruptions)* Instead of that Srinagar has been shown with the additional population of 10.5 lakhs and this is not correct.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Sharmaji, just tell us, what you want from the Government of India.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to say that the census which has been conducted is wrong and devoid of actual facts. Therefore, I request the Government that a census should again be conducted there in its supervision so that the facts should come up...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, the nursing graduates of our country, seeking jobs in the US hospitals, have to pass an examination called CGFNS, that is, Commission of Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools. The nearest centres of this examination are in Colombo and Bangkok.

Every year, thousands of our graduates appear for this examination and they have to spend a minimum of Rs. 50,000 to go either to Colombo or to Bangkok. The US agency conducting this examination had approached our Government earlier but the permission was denied. Now, there are about 10,000 vacancies in the United States of America for nursing jobs and we have plenty of trained personnel here. We cannot provide jobs to all of them here.

So, my request to the Government is to consider sanctioning of a centre either in Cochin, because most of the applicants are from Kerala, or in any other metropolitan centre of our country.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government, through you, that of late, there has been sharp increase in espionage activities by Pakistan in the borders areas of

Rajasthan. Earlier, they used to send tigers, birds into India with wireless sets fixed on their legs thus they tried to push infiltrators. Now an effort to spread terror in BSF posts along the border is being made through sending sparking lights and beams from special cameras fitted on reconnaissance planes at night and simultaneously the espionage work is also being done. Their purpose is to sniff at security activities, collect information regarding security measures being adopted by the BSF and to look for passage for infiltrators and drugs. I urge upon the Government, through you, our position is not that strong in border areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat as it is in Kashmir and Punjab and therefore, there is a need to pay attention and observe full vigilance towards it.

[*English*]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, most of the districts in Karnataka are hit by severe drought due to failure of monsoon. Coastal districts and Kodagu have received some rains and all other districts of the State are facing the uphill task of fetching fodder and sowing the seeds again. In fact, the situation is so grave that the people from the affected areas have started migrating to the neighbouring States like Goa and Maharashtra.

The gravity of the situation is reflected in the fact that an all-party delegation from Karnataka is planning to meet the Centre in early August 2001. A central team has already visited the affected areas of Karnataka.

The State Government has released an amount of Rs. 73 crore as a compensation for crop loss to the affected farmers. This amount is very meagre looking at the huge losses incurred by the farmers. The Centre has allocated Rs. 350 crore under the Calamity Relief Fund.

I, therefore, demand the Centre to release, at least, Rs. 350 crore to provide relief to the farmers and declare Karnataka as a drought affected State without any further delay.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given to me. I would like to raise a matter regarding the need to extend the trains up to Calicut in Kerala. After the tragic railway accident recently in Kerala, the train services are affected and no train via Mangalore through Konkan route is running after the accident. It has been reported in the Press that train services will be started in the last week of September only. The passengers are put to various difficulties as a result of this kind of delay. Goods movement is also affected adversely.

In these circumastances, I would request the hon. Railway Minister and the Government to take immediate measures to run trains up to Calicut in Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the House a very important matter regarding the development of Kerala. There is a long-standing demand for sanction from the Centre in respect of Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric Project. It is long pending, and the Kerala Government is highly pressing for sanction. Due to some reason or the other, it was not sanctioned till date. If sanction is given, the power position in the State will be very much improved.

For that purpose, I request the Central Government to clear the Project without further delay. Otherwise, we will be hampering the progress of the State. The State Government is also unanimous, and they are bringing the matter to the attention of the Central Government. So, I would again request the Central Government to sanction the Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric Project, which is of vital importance to the development of Kerala, without any further delay.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (MURENA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House, through you, towards atrocities being committed by the Police against farmers in Madhya Pradesh. On 10th of July, in Sagadour village of Joron Assembly Constituency, the local S.H.O. killed a person who was grazing the cattle. not only this, a fake case was registered implicating his 73 years old father under section 307. Apart from that 14 years old son and a brother of the deceased who was ploughing the fields at that time have also been implicated in fake case whereas these people had gone there to express their grief. His family is on the verge of starvation. They have got only one Bigha land. No action has been taken against that S.H.O. till date and the local S.P. has not withdrawn the cases lodged under the section 307 against the members of family of deceased and no compensation has been given to them. Such atrocities have been committed against farmers on earlier occasions also. Similarly, 19 farmers were killed in Multai. In this case, the local Superintendent of Police is trying his best to protect the guilty S.H.O. In general, any person can go to a Thana and get his complaint registered but the S.P., Murena has not lodged cases against the main accused of this incident. I request an immediate action in this regard and a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh should be given by the Madhya Pradesh Government to the wife of the deceased, Shri Baijnath Kushwaha. She has six children and therefore she should be given a government job to enable her to bring up her children.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Bishnoiji, your notice has been received at 10.20 A.M., even then I am allowing you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (JODHPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for this. I want to raise an important issue in this House. The Government of India are celebrating this year as a year of non-violence. On 6th of April, it was birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have made a provision for spending Rs. 100 crore to celebrate this year as a year of non-violence. The State Government are also spending some amount accordingly in the year of non-violence. But when I was lodged in a Government guest house, I saw non-vegetarian food was being served there whereas we are abserving this year as a year of non-violence. I have written a letter in this regard to the President, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers of States and Governors that it is not good to serve non-vegetarian food in the Government guest houses when the Government is observing this year as a year of non-violence and the Union Government alongwith State Governments are spending money for this purpose. I want to requst through you, that at least this year when we are celebrating this year as year of non-violence on the occasion of birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira, non-vegetarian food should not be served in any guest house or circuit house as we have lost 3500 wild species from earth.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then ajourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.11 hrs.

[*English*]

The Lok Sabha Re-assembled after Lunch at Eleven Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

INTER-STATE WATER DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now continue with the discussion which was going on, on the Inter-State Water disputes (Amendment) Bill.

We have only 28 minutes left for discussion on this Bill...*(Interruptions)* I am just pointing out to the House the facts. Two hours' time was allotted for discussion on this Bill. There are 28 minutes left for the discussion. It is for the House to decide what it wants to do.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was on his feet. He may resume his speech.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Madam Chairperson, the discussion is going on on the 'Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill'. The Government have claimed that there has been a law of 1956 in this regard but this Amendment Bill has been brought according to the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. Government have claimed that this Bill will help in resolving the water dispute among various States over sharing of river water.

Madam Chairperson, two third of the earth is covered by water and the remaining is land. Out of that 97 per-cent water is salty and saline. Only three per-cent water is potable which consists of river water and water collected from rain. There are disputes over these waters. There has been incidents of blood shedding over river water which have flown into the sea as history tells us. The Government have claimed that such disputes could be resolved by this Bill. There are certain international rivers which originate from Himalayas. If we begin with Uttar Pradesh then there is Karnali, Saryu river, in Bihar there are Kamlabagan, Bhutahi, Bagmati, Gandak and Kosi rivers. Tista and Brahmaputra are international rivers. Some of the rivers come from Bangladesh. During summer, we get less water when it is needed the most but during rainy season rivers are overflowing. Because of this some states are affected by floods and suffer huge losses. There have been disputes for many years over water of international rivers. A barrage at Nanthur and a dam Karmaiya has been built over river Bagmati, that means at one place water is being collected and at the other it is being distributed. During the summer water is kept but during rainy season it is released. Therefore, all rivers originating from Himalayas submerge all areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The flood in these international rivers cause heavy damages.

Madam Chairperson, our mythology tells us, that initially Bhagirath had made efforts in this regard and urged upon Brahmaji. Thereafter he had called upon Lord Shiva to prevent wastage of water flowing from the Ganga and then Lord Shiva withheld the Ganga water in his long tresses. I would like to ask the Government as to whether this Bill is capable enough to prevent the wastage of water just as Lord Shiva did in the past? No, it is not. That is why an international agreement should be reached. An issue relating to water between India and Nepal is raised. This issue should be resolved. Shri Karpoori Thakur was a socialist leader and he was also a freedom fighter. He always used to say that unless there is an international agreement between Nepal and India, the border areas of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh would continue to be divastated due to floods. The Union Government should therefore clarify if it would

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

reach an agreement in this regard because the State Governments do not have a right to do so. This responsibility rests with the department of foreign affairs. The Minister of Water Resources is also present here. It is his responsibility to see as to when such an agreement is struck. A dam can be constructed there and the flood water can be used to generate hydropower.

Madam Chairperson, I would also like to know from the Government as to whether such passing of this Bill would help to stop the wastage of water of international rivers. What is the Government's plan in this regard? I would like to know whether officers and engineers have been consulted in this regard? What is the complete plan of the Government in this regard?

Madam Chairperson, now I would like to raise the issue of international water dispute. The river Ganga originates from the Himalayas and flowing from Haridwar and then crossing through Bihar and Bengal it falls into the ocean from Farakka. An agreement with Bangladesh was reached in relation to Farakka, but Bihar was kept out of the Agreement. In the context of this Bill I would like to raise the question that the water of the river Ganga which is holy 'clean' and pure about which it has been said. We live in the country where the Ganga flows and hence whether it will be on the right side to have any dispute over this river. The fact remains that there is a dispute among states for sharing of river water and that there are also incidents of land erosion due to floods. There are cases where this river divides two states and due to erosion of land there is protection of one side of the river while there is no protection to the other side. This gives birth to dispute between the two states. I would like to ask whether any provision has been made in this Bill to resolve such disputes? I think that no such provision had been made in this Bill. I would like to submit that there must be such a provision in the Bill to resolve such type of disputes and to ensure protection to the two States from the situation of floods. Had there been such a provision, there would not have been incidents of land erosion in Buxar and Sahebganj areas of Bihar and houses would not have been destroyed and the poor people would not have been forced to rehabilitate themselves.

There is a dispute regarding Ganga river and similarly there is a Kaveri river dispute among Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Likewise there are disputes concerning other rivers also which at times lead to conflicts between the two States. Thus there is a provision in the Interstate Water Dispute Bill to set up a tribunal so that disputes are resolved within the time-limit otherwise they remain pending for years together. Therefore, I expect that a comprehensive Bill in this regard should be brought in so that the damage and the loss caused by the international rivers may be halted and disputes are resolved. Besides, there are cases where rivers cross from one state to another. So the disputes arising out of this should also be resolved.

Madam Chairperson, lastly I would like to submit to the Government that water of rivers which is going waste can be utilised in a better way. However, we can utilise the same. Our country has the potential to generate lakhs of Megawatt of electricity. But hydro-power generation is being neglected due to Government policy. Water of rivers is also wasted due to this and the desired benefit is not achieved. I would therefore like to request to the Government to give top priority to the hydro-power generation. Particularly in North-Eastern States, there is a potentiality to generate lakh of megawatt of electricity, the rivers in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have enough potentiality to generate power. Water of these rivers eminates from the Himalaya and it falls down which can be tapped for generation of hydro-electricity by constructing small dams at different places. This sector should be given top priority and it should be ensured that hydropower is generated upto the maximum level.

Madam Chairperson, protection from flood and ensuing potable water are the main issues. We get drinking water from flooded rivers. People use this water as drinking water after purify it. There should be a proper management in this regard.

However, priority should be on hydro-power generation, protection from floods, sanitation and ensuring drinking water facility. Flood water can be used in four ways and I hope that these things will be ensured by the International Water Dispute Bill. There should be a provision in this Bill that the people of flood affected areas get protection and water of those natural rivers is properly utilised. With these words I conclude and expect that the hon. Minister would do some arrangements to check the erosion of land in one lakh acre of land belonging to my area and I do expect that he would also think about Gandak and Kosi rivers as to how these rivers can serve the interest of the people properly.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Madam Chairperson, I would just like to convey one point, through you, to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. We are very keen that this legislation is passed today. As we could not transact any Government business for the last few days, we would like to cooperate with you. There are two or three important speakers to participate in this debate. They may not be given much time. If you can close this debate by 3 p.m. and the hon. Minister can reply before the Private Members' Business begins, then we can pass this Bill today itself. This is my request through you to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What does the Government have to say on this request?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I have nothing to say. This is a very small Bill going on for the last two to three days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a small but every State seems to have a stake in whatever they want to say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Three-fourths of the earth is water. My only request to you is that reply and passing of the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, we will pass it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Bill may be passed today...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Speaker had a meeting with the Leaders of all political parties and he will make an announcement at 2.30 p.m. about the decision taken regarding the demand of a JPC.

I would request the Members to be brief because of the decision taken that the Bill has to be passed today.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to today's Revised List of Business, we have to take up Private Members' Business at 3.00 p.m. because there is a Half-an-hour Discussion at 5.30 p.m. So, we are starting it at 3.00 p.m.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If the House agrees, the half-an-hour discussion can be taken up at 6.00 p.m.

Shri Adhir Chowdhary in whose name the Half-an-hour Discussion is listed today, is also ready for the extension.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Mr. Chaiman, I agree with the proposal of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that the sense of the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If that is the sense of the House, so be it.

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR): Madam Chairperson, we are holding discussions on a very important Bill. It takes a long time to resolve the river water dispute pertaining to different States whether it is tried to be resolved by some tribunal or an arbitration. Since the process is long so at times it creates tension and bitterness among the States and many a time the matter is referred to the High Courts or the Supreme Court and consequently the benefit of river water is not taken. The disolute may be pertaining to Haryana-Rajasthan-Tamil Nadu-Kerala-Pondicherry or may be it between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan there is also such a dispute between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Gandhi Sagar dam was constructed in Madhya Pradesh and after that its water reached to Madhya Pradesh crossing through Rajasthan. But, now the situation is that Madhya Pradesh is not getting its share of water since the people of Rajasthan use this water by damaging the canals in the mid and on the contrary the people of Madhya Pradesh who were displaced are still searching shelters even after 40-45 years. They have got no benefits and their grivances are not properly addressed to. The issue was also referred to the Arbitration but of no use.

The present Act was enacted in 1956 under Article 262 of the constitution. The matter was deliberated upon several times. When the Sarkaria Commission considered this matter, it stated that the matter should be reconsidered and that it should be so ammeded that it did not take much time in pronouncement of decisions and the maximum time limit should be reduced to three years for pronouncement of decisions. In the present Bill it has been sought to fix the time limit and it has been provided in it that the panchat or the tribunal to be set up for this purpose should have the responsibility to take decisions by seeking mutual agreement.

We are well aware that water is a national property. Even the Prime Minister had stated while expressing his views during the meeting on management of water resources whether any new hypothesis could be evolved, or there could be fresh thoughts in this regard and moreover he indicated that some decision had to be taken after serious delibrations about it. Now a new situation has been created between Orissa and Chhattisgarh a newly created State but a dispute has been created between the two States owing to the sharing of water of Indrawati river which flows between the two States. In this regard the suggestion that has been given to create a central water tribunal is I think very apt and if we pursue it we shall definitely be able to give it the real shape. Water in the form of flood creates havoc on the one hand while on the other hand when it is collected by way of constructing dams and when it is used in a limited way, we get green states like Punjab and Haryana which become highest foodgrain producing states. So water resources should be utilised in a proper way.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

Madam Chairperson, whether it is a dispute between Kaveri-Krishna or it is a question of linking Ganga-Kaveri this question of linking the Ganga and Kavery was sought long back. It is a long planning and costly too involving millions of rupees. However, there is a vision behind it as to how one area can be linked with the other. Similarly, there is Kshipra, Chambal and Narmada rivers in Madhya Pradesh. The Narmada can be linked with the Kshipra and the Kshipra can be linked with the Chambal and this will be beneficial for the entire region of Madhya Bharat and Malwa and this can also be beneficial for Rajasthan. These are some projects which should be properly implemented.

Madam Chairperson, sometimes these projects are not properly implemented. Sometimes, construction of dams in pursuance of these projects create disputes. Sometimes, there is a dispute owing to the height of the dam and owing to other issues. There are demonstrations regarding the Narmada Sarovar Project, matters are being referred to the Supreme Court. On the one hand there is a demand to reduce the height of the dam while on the other hand logic is being constantly given to raise the height of the dam, while the water of the river keeps flowing. Madhya Pradesh is likely to get benefits from the Narmada Sarovar and Gujarat is likely to get more benefits from it. It will turn into the life line of Gujarat.

Madam Chairperson, as I have said the people of different States view this according to their own interests and consider it accordingly. There are certain things which should be completed within the timelimit, but they are not being completed. Whether it is Ban Sagar Project or other Projects of Madhya Pradesh, they are not yielding any benefits in spite of the fact that crores of rupees have been spent on them. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to consider about these projects properly so that crores of rupees being spent on them may yield benefits in favour of the country because projects cost is constantly escalating since the disputes are not resolved. On the one hand cost is escalating due to disputes and on the other hand the persons being displaced are also not being benefited.

14.32 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that this Bill is too brief to settle the river water dispute, though it is essential, it should be passed. Therefore, I would like to request all the hon'ble Members that this is a harmless Bill which will be quite helpful in settling the river water disputes and as a result we will be able not only to complete the schemes in time but the various States of the country would be able to get the due benefit also.

14.33 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Consideration of Issues Relating to UTI's US-64 Scheme by 'JPC on Stock Market Scam & Matters Relating Thereto'

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I had called a meeting of the leaders of different parties in my chamber today to discuss the matter relating to UTI. The Chairman of the JPC on Stock Market Scam and Matters Relating Thereto was also present. After hearing the views of all parties, particularly the statement of the Chairman, it was decided that all issues relating to UTI including the issues discussed in the House would be considered by the JPC. The JPC will now proceed accordingly.

14.34 hrs.

INTER-STATE WATER DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL— CONTD.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are debating the interstate water dispute amendment Bill 2001 which has been recommended by the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations. The question of water in our country is an important question and in the real sense there is no dearth of water in our country. If at all there is any crisis in the country that is mismanagement. In some parts of our country water is surplus which is not being brought in use and in some parts there is dearth of water. If we provide for storing the water in those parts of the country where it is available in abundance and divert it to the areas where there is dearth of water or the areas hit by drought, I think the water problem in our country will be solved. We have two sources of water i.e. rain and rivers. More than half of the rainy water goes waste in our country that is not brought in use. Same is the story with river water. The water problem is an important problem.

14.35 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

In the name of economic liberalisation efforts were started in nineties for development particularly economic development of the country but factual position is that a common man in the country has suffered a lot after adopting the policy of liberalisation and it has added to the unemployment problem. The Government itself have admitted that if we want to put the country on the path of progress and make it strong economically, agriculture is the only way out. The Government have admitted that in the absence of adequate resources, the development of the country has not been proper. After admitting the inadequacy of resources the Government have created a broad infrastructure for proper development of the country by including the road, port, transportation, power, petroleum, steel and cement etc. in it.

The hon'ble Minister of Water Resources is here. I request him that the country will not progress unless the irrigation is included in the basic infrastructure. We have presented a budget amounting to Rs. 3,75,223 crores. Seventy per cent population of the country is dependent on agriculture and irrigation is the lifeline of agriculture but only Rs. 3,300 crore have been allocated for the agriculture sector, which is less than even one per cent of the budget. Until proper irrigation facilities are created in the country, the farmers of the country can not stand on their own feet. Therefore, it is imperative to accord top priority to irrigation in the basic structure we are creating for development.

In our country about 29 per cent of the land is wasteland. If irrigation facility is created that area of land can be made fertile. No systematic efforts have been made in our country in this direction. As I have already stated that situation in our country is such that loss of worth crores of rupees has been suffered in Orissa due to flood and at the same time crops worth Rs. 6,881 crore have been damaged in Gujarat due to drought. This is the grave situation before the country. I would like that the hon'ble Minister should be very serious about it. The painful aspect is that the national water policy has not been formulated so far. In the month of May a meeting of the Ministers of irrigation of various States and officials of the National Water Research council was convened. There was an agenda for the said meeting and a discussion was also held on the issue of water sharing but concensus could not be arrived at on this issue. Perhaps the Government have set up a committee of the Irrigation Ministers of the States. The said committee has not made any recommendation till date. Various States want adequate share of water. Due attention is not being paid on these issues. You are contemplating to set up a new tribunal. Five tribunals are already there in our country i.e. Godavari water Dispute Tribunal, Krishna-Narmada water Dispute Tribunal, Kaveri, Godavari, Ravi, Beas Water Dispute Tribunal but the fact is that the tribunals are not able to fully satisfy the concerned States because on the issue of water every State is ready to confront with other States. The dispute relating to Satluj-Yamuna Link canal project on completion of which water problem of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi can be solved up to a great extent has been lingering on for the last twenty years but it has not been solved so far. Therefore, there is a need to think over on these matters seriously. No good result can be achieved until time limit is fixed for adjudication by the Tribunal after their formation and States are taken into confidence immediately. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad ji has rightly said that disputes are not only among the States but there are some disputes which have international bearings. The rivers originating from Nepal and flowing through Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar cause devastation every year in these parts of the country. The Government should also take into account the devastation being caused due to flow of the rivers originating in other countries. Sir, through you I would like to request that though it is a good effort but unless various State Governments are taken into confidence and a national water policy is framed, the water problem in the country can not be solved.

I would like to request you if the water problem in the country is not solved there will be devastation in the country and nobody will be able to prevent it.

*SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN): Madam Chairman, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this vital Amendment Bill, the Inter-State Water Dispute (Amendment) Bill, 2001. I express my gratitude to you Madam for permitting me to speak in Kannada, my mother tongue.

Almost all the States in our country are affected by these water disputes. In some States we find severe drought prevailing and on the other hand we find the havoc of floods in some other States. hence there is no equidistribution of water resources. Therefore, naturally there is no uniform development of States. There is an urgent need to bring a national water policy to resolve all the water disputes in the country. The Hon. Minister should bring a comprehensive Bill.

This Amendment Bill has three important aspects. The Centre should have the authority to appoint two or more assessors. The second point is to consider the order of the tribunal equivalent to the Supreme Court order. The third point is to maintain data bank and information system at the national level for each river basin which shall include data regarding

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda]

water resources, land, agriculture and matters relating thereto, as the Central Government may prescribe from time to time.

These water disputes are prevailing for the last two centuries. Some States are using more water than suggested in the Act. The people of the affected States will loose faith in democracy if this attitude continues and the Centre tries to politicalise the issue. Common people are aware of the happenings throughout the country. They have understood their rights and demand their dues. Therefore, the Centre cannot do anything they think right. They should try to know the pulse of the people of all the States.

This Act (1956) provides for the setting up of Tribunals when there are disputes of river waters between States. The Centre has the responsibility to collect all the related information and to pass it on to the Tribunal. The present Government at the Centre is playing tricks in this regard. It is taking sides of some States.

Madras Presidency has always deprived Mysore State from optimum utilisation of water resources. It also did not allow Mysore State to construct any dam. It went on giving one or the other reason.

One agreement was signed between the above two provinces during 1892. This was one-sided agreement. It said that Mysore has to release more water to Madras Presidency. Again another agreement was signed in 1924 between these two provinces. Again it was in favour of Madras Presidency. Later on Allahabad High Court gave a judgement regarding this river water dispute. Unfortunately this judgement was not taken seriously, particularly by Madras Presidency. Now, the Centre has set up tribunal to look into this matter. It has given its interim order stating that Karnataka has to release 205 TMC of water. How can Karnataka release 205 TMC of water if there is no sufficient rainfall in the catchment area? In fact, more water is collected in the Cauveri command area in Karnataka State. Hence, Karnataka has the right to use more water of Cauveri river.

Now, Tamil Nadu, altogether is utilising over 550 TMC of water. The position of Karnataka is not at all satisfactory. The farmers of Cauveri delta in Karnataka have already expressed their dissatisfaction in this matter. There were agitations also by the farmers opposing the interim order of the tribunal.

The same problem prevails with regard to Krishna river water also. Our neighbouring State has started construction of five major projects with the estimated expenditure of ten thousand crores. Strangely, Centre is encouraging this act of our neighbouring State. This is gross violation of the Bachawat Award and the Centre should intervene immediately and stop the construction of these five major river water projects. Our Chief Minister has already met the Hon. Prime Minister to discuss this serious matter. He has expressed his unhappiness about this new development which has taken place in our neighbouring State. The Centre should protect the rights of all States. It is the custodian of Constitution. It has the responsibility of being the guardian to all States. Karnataka is all set to knock at the doors of Supreme Court. The Karnataka Legislative Assembly in its meeting on 25.6.1991 unanimously opposed the interim order of the tribunal as it is against the interest of the people of Karnataka and natural justice. Legislative Assembly opposed the order stating that it does not come under the purview of the Tribunal. It is time to resolve such serious problems to avoid confrontation and to maintain unity and integrity of the country. The State Assembly has appealed to the Centre to bring in appropriate amendments to the 1956 Act to resolve the water disputes amicably and to give proper guidelines to the tribunal.

Sarkaria Commission has also given its suggestions in this regard. Therefore it is very essential for the Centre to see that all the water resources are distributed properly without any prejudice to any State. Then only it is possible for the States to attempt for the all round development.

The Centre is not providing necessary assistance to Karnataka to utilise the Cauvery and Krishna waters. Karnataka is also not getting the required financial assistance from the World Bank. 28 *taluks* of Cauvery command area are reeling under severe drought situation. The people of these *taluks* and cattle do not have water. This is the situation in my State. I therefore urge upon the Hon. Minister to personally study this problem very seriously and to come to the rescue of the people of Karnataka. I request him to bring a comprehensive Bill, and to announce National Water Policy without any further delay.

Madam, I thank you once again and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rajasthan is a backward State. It is a hilly and desert area. At present population-wise and area-wise, Rajasthan is the largest State of the country. However, Rajasthan is being discriminated against. Gadgil Formula states that desert and hilly areas should be given concessions. In spite of all the adverse circumstances, step motherly treatment is being meted out to Rajasthan. You may be surprised to know that Rajasthan is being provided with only one per cent of total river water resources of the country. Rajasthan is a desert area and it seldom gets the sufficient rainfall. This time Barmer and

Jaisalmer areas have received scanty rainfall. In the absence of rainfall, the dams become dry. Therefore, it is requested that adequate supply of river water should be made to Rajasthan. It would certainly help the state which is a prominent one on the map of the country. It has also been stated that the course of river Saraswati, which is extinct, should be developed again and the water of river Ganga will also be given to eastern Rajasthan. All the disputes in this regard would be resolved.

My submission is that various parts of Rajasthan are deprived of water. Ganga water has not been made available to Rajasthan. The agreement regarding Ravi-Beas water has not been implemented as the dispute is still continuing among Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. This dispute could neither be settled during the rein of the former Chief Minister, Shri Berosingh Shekhavat ji, or the present Chief Minister, Shri Ashok Gehlot. They both made some efforts in this regard but the Ravi-Beas water dispute is still unresolved. Similarly, the matter regarding the Ropar-Harikesh-Kiratpur Head works is also pending. My submission is that Rajasthan canal is a prominent canal flowing between India and Pakistan. There people including agriculturists, non-agriculturists and soldiers, as it is a border area, can be settled. The Rajasthan Government was getting an assistance of Rs. 60 crore from the central Government to complete the Rajasthan canal, but now that has been discontinued. The Rajasthan canal project is a big project. However, I fail to understand the mistake committed by Rajasthan due to which the funds have been stopped. I had taken up the matter with the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and the Minister of Water Resources of Rajasthan. They have denied any wrong being committed on their part. So, why that assistance has been discontinued. Precisely, I would like to submit that injustice is being done to Rajasthan. Adequate supply of water should be made to Rajasthan considering its vast area and population. Some water from other rivers like Ravi-Beas should be channelised to the rivers of Rajasthan. Only in this way justice can be done to Rajasthan.

I just want to request you that Rajasthan should get adequate waer and this problem should be considered on priority basis. Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Respected Madam, I will restrict myself to one point, that is, the Sarkaria Commission Report is the inspiration based on which this Bill has come before this august Parliament.

15.00 hrs.

The title of the Sarkaria Commission Report says, 'Optimum utilisation of water resources and need for comprehensive planning'. They have made six recommendations. Out of those six recommendations, five were before us as amendments. But a very important recommendation has been made in para 17.6.02:

> "The Inter-State Water Disputes Act should be amended to empower the Union Government to appoint a tribunal *suo motu* if necessary when it is satisfied that such a dispute exists in fact."

This is a very important recommendation on the basis of the experience we have come across in the past about eight decades since the Government of India Act, 1919, where for the first time irrigation has been placed as a subject of the Provinces, a reserved subject. It were obligatory on the part of every Province and Princely State to get the prior approval of the Secretary of State before executing any irrigation project on an inter-State river.

Subsequently, in 1935, when the Government of India Act, 1919 was repealed and replaced by the Government of India Act, 1935, it totally altered the earlier law and brought irrigation under 'transferred subject' within the sole legislative jurisdiction of the Provinces and Princely States. Actually, the appellate jurisdiction alone was given to the Governor-General but the subsequent events happened in the various Provinces and Princely States have brought it to a stage where there should be somebody to arbiter and somebody to look into it. Somebody should be superior so that they can decide over the inter-State river water sharing problems.

I would like to quote a provision under article 262 of the Constitution. Article 262 (1) says:

> "Parliament may, by law, provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution or control of the waters of or in any Inter-State River or valley."

In the same way, we have got the powers of the Central Government that are given at entry No. 56 of List I of Schedule VII of the Constitution of India. It says:

> "Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control is declared by Parliament, by law, to be expedient in the public interest."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam, what about Private Members' Business?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was decided earlier that Private Members' Business would start at 3.30 p.m. and go on up to six o'clock, when the Half-an-Hour Discussion would be taken up.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: These provisions enable the Constitution-makers to give more power to the Central Government. This is why, the Sarkaria Commission has also made vast recommendations and substantiated and justified why this sort of a *suo motu* power should be given to the Central Government.

In our practical experience, we have seen that whenever there is an Inter-State Tribunal constituted, there is a lot of agitation in one State or the other. Then, the Union Government alone can interfere and settle the disputes. Otherwise, the disputes would remain forever, leaving a bad taste among the neighbours, because originally we were ruled by kings and princes and we are still having that type of a mindset when we talk about inter-State problems.

When it comes to space, it is free. There is no territorial dispute over space. In the case of sea also, except for certain areas, other areas are common. Why should rivers not be taken as common areas? Why could these resources not be divided amongst the people of India without any discrimination or territorial problems? Therefore, I request the hon. Minister that the Government should have a thinking to bring about this recommendation into effect when we want to have a federal set up. The States should also come forward to have this type of an arbitrator.

Then only the problems can be solved because this Bill has given a very good thing, that is, time limit is given for every report to be submitted within three years and extended period of one year. But at the same time, this sort of *suo motu* position should be there. Then only the Union Government can settle disputes when the disputes can be raised beyond geographical and territorial limitations.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA): Madam, Private Members Business was to be taken up at 3 O' clock and it is 3 O' clock now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were not present in the House. With the consensus of the House the time for Private Members Business has been fixed for 3.30 P.M.

[*English*]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Respected Madam Chairperson, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to only one problem. River Subarnarekha goes through three States, namely, Bihar - now Jharkhand - West Bengal and Orissa. For augmentation of irrigation facilities and water resources, various projects have been proposed over Subarnarekha. My point is that for the augmentation of water resources in Bihar and Orissa, the Central loan assistance has been granted under World Bank scheme, but for the West Bengal part of river, it has not yet been done so far as Central assistance is concerned.

The West Bengal Government had initiated to execute the proposal, but due to lack of adequate money, the progress of this project could not be possible. So far as I know, the West Bengal Government has proposed for Central assistance under AIBP, for completion of this project. I think, to complete this project, around Rs. 600 crore are required. The proposal is sent to the Government. I would like to request the Union Government to grant it so that the project can be implemented within the stipulated period.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri K.P. Singh Deo. You should complete in five minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Madam, I will take only three minutes.

I would like to compliment the Minister, who is from my State also, for bringing this amendment, although my friend Shri J.S. Brar does not agree with me. It is a question too late but too little. The objects and reasons for bringing this Bill refer to the Sarkaria Commission. It is only going to give effect to the data bank. As has been said so articulately by all sections of the House, starting from the southern tip Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh right up to Kashmir and starting from Alamatti, if you go through all rivers, Beas, Brahamani, Cauveri–it will be all the 26 alphabets of English language–in the last 50 years, we have not been able to sort out problems which are contentious, which are vexatious as well as complicated.

This is also what the Sarkaria Commission has stated, observed or concluded, and it has been reported. You cannot just have the data bank because the vote bank has prevented it for the last 53 years. I do not know whether this National Democratic Alliance, which has so many representatives from the States, is going to achieve anything excepting giving lip sympathy on this.

In spite of the Tribunals, which have been set up under the original Act of 1956 as well as the amended Act in 1986, they have neglected the main thing, that is, looking after the river basins. Today, the fact is that India has not husbanded its water resources. In fact, one of the former Attorney Generals has said:

> "The result has been that India has failed to develop its water resources through integrated river basin development, and incessant conflicts over rivers

between States have become common. Even disputes settled by awards of Inter-State Tribunals have now revived."

Even the Supreme Court's jugement, which sought to equate the Tribunal's judgement with that of the Supreme Court, has not seen the light of the day because of political movements and manipulations or whatever may be the reason. Your intention is to give the Tribunal's judgment the same status as that of the Supreme Court's judgement. However, even the Supreme Court's judgement has not seen the light of the day. What is required is not only a data bank, but an institutional arrangement because water is a national resource. The States are too poor, too impoverished. Take for instance, your and my own home States Orissa. Successive years of droughts, cyclones, floods, hailstorms have broken the backbone.

Yesterday, I had an Unstarred Question, which the hon. Minister of State for Railways had replied. Last year, they were very kind enough to give Rs. 110 crore for the Rengali Project. It started with an estimate of Rs. 273 crore, and now it has gone up to an astronomical figure of Rs. 3,000 crore or something. In spite of giving Rs. 110 crore, only 60 per cent of work has been completed. It is a truncated canal and not a fully canal. We had the severest drought this year in Orissa, but not a drop of water could be given because they could not cross three railway lines, that is, Talcher-Sambalpur, and Talcher-Puri. It is because somebody forgot to take permission in the last 20 years. The answer given yesterday was that, "The Orissa Government has not been able to pay six crores of rupees to cross those railway lines".

"Water, water everywhere,

all the boards did sink;

water, water everywhere,

but not a drop to drink."

Our farmers did not get a drop of water this year, though plenty of water is available.

Madam, the recent floods in Orissa bear testimony to the fact that two-thirds of the water of Mahanadi, Brahmini and Subarnarekha rivers which originate in Madhya Pradesh comes from outside Orissa. The river waters flow into Orissa, and there is no way of controlling them. Therefore, this institutional approach of river basin development or a river board is required, which is part of the law. Under the original Act, the Centre can do this. There will be conflicting requirements and interests between States. I agree with Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar because Punjab has its interests. However, we are the sufferers because no action has been taken by the Central Government so far. After a long, long time, Orissa has its own man as the Cabinet Minister in the Ministry of Water Resources. I am sure, Orissa will get its due along with other States like West Bengal and Bihar. We have all common rivers. Similar is the case with Krishna-Godavari basin.

With the completion of the Indravati Project, today there are no more starvation deaths in Kalahandi. Now, they are exporting *Basmati*. However, this Indravati Project took 30 years. Shri P.K. Deo, former M.P., pleaded for 28 years in this House, that is, right from 1952. Ultimately, he got it. In 1977, Shri Morarji Desai went and laid the foundation-stone. Now, the Indravati Project is complete. If it takes 20 or 30 years, one whole generation will be wiped out. Therefore, now that the Constitution is being reviewed, I would appeal that let this be referred to them to see how it can be implemented quickly and completed in time. It should not remain as a pious hope, as has been brought about by this Amendment Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Brar, I can only allow you to ask two questions if you have to. It is because the Minister would require 15 minutes to reply to the debate. I am allowing you to ask just two questions.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Madam, I will take only half a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot ignore Punjab. It is the 'rice bowl' of India.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT): The spirit of the Water Dispute (Amendment) Bill seems to have its foundation in the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. As we poor folks understand, the spirit of the Sarkaria Commission was to grant more powers to the States and not take away the powers that are already vested with the States. I would like to give an example here. I have full sympathy with my senior colleague Shri K.P. Singh Deo and his State, Orissa in this matter.

Madam, there were four Tribunals which gave Awards given for Punjab on river water disputes. But not a single Award has been implemented uptill now. For example, the Indira Gandhi Award of 1976, then the Rajiv–Longowal Accord and then the Reddy Tribunal. But the problems have remained the same. I would like to remind the hon. Minister here that in the year 1994, when Shri V.C. Shukla was the Minister for Water Resources, there was a debate on water resources during the discussion on the Demands for Grants of that Ministry. It was a very interesting debate. I would like the hon. Minister to go through that debate. Many Members participated in that debate and they represented the views of their respective States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the question.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Madam, the present Chief Ministers of the States of Punjab and Haryana, Shri Prakash Singh Badal and Shri Omprakash Chautala had always been accusing the Congress saying that the Congress Party did not settle the dispute. Now, they are very good friends. I would like to know, when the hon. Minister replies to the debat, what were the views of these two Chief Ministers regarding the construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna link canal. Did they have similar views on the subject or they had differing view points on the subject?

Madam, the second point is that I understand that irrigation and hydel issues are State subjects under item 17 of the State List further under article 162 and 246 (iii) of our Constitution. It says that the full and exclusive Legislative and Executive powers lie with the State.

Madam, there are good amendments in this Bill, like the data bank collection and such other things. But I would like to remind the hon. Minister that while he brings in this amendment, he should not curtail the powers of the States. The States should be taken into confidence, otherwise this problem will again come up and it would remain a jinxed problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Brar, I am sorry, I had to rush you. It is because we have to pass this Bill by 3.30 p.m. today.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): Madam, I am very much thankful to all the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion on this amendment Bill and made their contributions with suggestions.

Madam, so far as the tenor of the Bill is concerned, almost all the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion have supported this measure. In fact, they have urged upon the Government to implement the Awards and also to have a National Water Policy. Some of the hon. Members have found fault with the Government saying that there was no National Water Policy. I would like to remind them that there is a National Water Policy in existence since 1987. The present NDA Government is trying to improve upon some of the missing links so that the National Water Policy can be more meaningful and the water that goes waste could be saved for the benefit of the country as a whole.

In regard to the point on Sarkaria Commission's recommendations, I have earlier stated in my introductory speech that this Bill is primarily intended to implement those recommendations. Hon. Member Shri Natchiappan questioned as to why the Government is not thinking of setting up tribunals *suo motu*. As I have stated earlier, this Bill is being brought forward mainly to implement the Inter-State Council's recommendations. Whatever was agreed upon in the Inter-States Council is sought to be implemented through this Bill. Establishment of tribunals *suo motu* has not been agreed to in the Inter-State Council and, therefore, it has not been included in the Bill. I would have been very happy if this provision could have been included in the Bill since it would certainly give power to the Central Government to set up *suo motu* this kind of tribunals, so that they can adjudicate inter-State water disputes.

Hon. Member, Shri Brar has expressed certain apprehensions. No doubt, the Sarkaria Commission was set up to go into Centre-State relationship. But these recommendations have been incorporated in Sarkaria Commission Report and almost all the States have agreed with them in the Inter-State Council. That is the reason why this Bill has been brought forward.

So far as the dispute on Sutluj-Yamuna Link Canal is concerned, we are having continuous interaction with the Government of both the States, Haryana and Punjab. In fact, more than once the two Chief Ministers have met me and I have held discussions with them. They are trying to resolve this issue amicably. I am also trying my best to resolve this long-pending dispute amicably. By achieving a consensus on all the contentious issues between the two States, this inter-State dispute can be resolved. I think this will happen very soon since both the Chief Ministers are very much eager to have this dispute resolved.

I am also happy that the Members who have participated in the debate here are very much eager that these tribunals which would be set up should give timely awards. The whole intention of this Bill is to get timely awards. That is why we have provided timeframes in the Bill itself. When a particular State Government requests the Central Government for constitution of a tribunal, the Central Government will constitute it within one year. The tribunals are given a timeframe of three years for passing the award. During the period of three years the tribunal can look into the dispute and can give its award within three years. If there is any difficulty and if the tribunal requires more time, the Central Government can extend the period by another two years. So, we are providing time limits for adjudication of inter-State water disputes. I think the hon. Members will appreciate the fact that the Government is eager and equally concerned to solve these disputes in the interest of not only the States but also the entire nation.

Madam Chairperson, we have also provided here another very important clause which is very unique in character. The decision of the Tribunal, after its publication in the official gazette by the Central Government under Section 1, shall have the same power as an order or decree of the Supreme Court. This is very much needed. I think, all the hon. Members would appreciate it.

I do not wish to take more time of the hon. House. I, therefore, once again appeal to all the hon. Members as also the hon. Chairperson that this Bill may be passed. Thank you.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM): Madam, the hon. Minister has not answered my query which I raised while in my speach. It was about clause 9A (2) which empowers the Central Government to have its own machinery to verify the data. My point is that the data cannot be verified about water. Water by nature is dynamic. Once at a particular point when the water flows, the data is taken. It cannot be verified at a subsequent period of time. That is infructuous. It cannot be implementable.

So, why does he have a clause which is not at all recommended by the Sarkaria Commission? It is a new insertion. My argument is that it will pose a problem.

So, the hon. Minister should state whether he is going to have this clause 9A(2). What is the purpose of having it when it is not going to be implemented at all? It is impractical.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Madam, yes, certainly he raised it during his speech. I forgot to answer it earlier. In this regard, my submission is that unless the data is available with the Central Government, if cannot be done. Once the data is available with the Central Government, they can analyse it and they can also provide this data to the Tribunal itself to give the award on time, otherwise verification by the Tribunal itself will be time consuming one.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Minister, you do it. You cannot verify it. That is what I am trying to say. You have your own data, you have your own point and you make your own assessment. But you cannot verify the data taken by the States... ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, we cannot have a question-answer session here. The hon. Minister has answered in general terms.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Madam, I could say this much that there is no need of any apprehension of this kind at all. We all are eager to treat water as a national asset. We should use it so quickly that all the people of this country get benefit of it.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: I am in full agreement with his amendments except this clause 9A(2). I endorse his views and welcome this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every question cannot be answered in such a short period of time.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Madam, the hon. Minister has not answered the questions raised by Shri K.P. Singh Deo.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Shri K.P. Singh Deo is a very good friend of mine. Both of us hail from the same State. You need not worry. We can discuss among ourselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, both of you can have dinner and get your points sorted out!

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adotpted.

clause 2 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT): I just want to tell him one thing. .... *(Interruptions)*

MR.CHAIRMAN: No. You may please sit with him and talk to him. ..... *(Interruptions)* No. This cannot go on. Shri Brar, you can sit with him and talk to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Bill is passed and the matter is over. I cannot allow.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Please do not break the tradition of the House. No reply can come from the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. This cannot go on record. I am sorry. Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: It cannot go on record. Shri Brar, nothing is going on record. There can be no answer from the hon. Minister.

*(Interruptions)**

15.30 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Adequate Funds for Completion of All Pending Projects—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Private Member's Business. Shri Ramanand Singh was speaking; he may resume his speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA): Madam, Chairperson, I had presented this resolution on March 2, 2001 but on that day I got only 3 minutes to express my views and thereafter the House was adjourned. Therefore, I repeat my resolution for the convenience of the hon. Members who would like to speak on the resolution.

15.31 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, I had moved a resolution that the Government should formulate a Programme for the timely and speedy completion of all the pending projects for which adequate funds should be provided. The Government should also ensure that new schemes should not be launched till adequate funds are available so that they could be completed in time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after independence development of the country was initiated in a planned manner under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Under Five Year Plans for the development of the entire country the Central Government formulated several schemes and State-wise plans were also formulated. However, I am sorry to say that 10th Five Year Plan is underway but still the works pertaining to Ist Five Year Plan have not been completed. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the incomplete irrigation project started in Bhander in district Bhind. Similarly, several shcemes are pending in various parts of the country in the field of irrigation, electricity, railway, information and broadcasting, coal or steel and energy sector. Cost escalation of all these projects has taken place.

Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that the ministers lay the foundation stones of various schemes in haste which are later on abandoned. The schemes never take off and the foundation stones vanish.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very sorry to point out that at a time when such an important subject is being discussed in the House by bringing a Private Member's Resolution, no Minister except Shri Arun Shourieji, whom I consider a very efficient Minister, is present in the House. However, I had hoped that the Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources, Minister of Railways and other Ministers would be present in the House and would solve various problems being raised by the Members through this resolution, but it was not so.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am constrained to say that this Government is also functioning and performing on the lines of the previous Government. This trend should be changed and a time bound programme should be prepared in which priority list for finishing various pending project as per their duration of pendency should be drawn up.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask as to whether the change in Government leads to the change in projects but unfortunately the same is happening. A Government come and it announces the new projects and the other one come and announces it new set of programmes without completing the pending projects and programmes which were started during the regime of the previous Governments. In March 1997, Morarji Desaiji was the Prime Minister and Prof. Madhu Dandvate was the Minister of Railways in his Government. The Prime Minister Morarji Bhai, under the Joint Irrigation project for three States, laid the foundation stone of a scheme in 1979 in Satna district.

He said that the Scheme with an estimated cost of 600 crore will be completed in six year. Today I am very sorry to say that this Bensagar project is still pending despite the passage of 23 years since its foundation stone were laid. Somewhere the canals have not been dug, on other hand either Bihar or U.P. are denying to provide funds and the Chief Minister of

* Not recorded

Madhya Pradesh somehow is managing to give salaries. Last time, when we met the Prime Minister, he exhorted the Chief Minister of all the three States to ensure the completion of work in their States. However, the canals are not being dug now. Probably it may take another 20-25 years to complete the work on canals. The cost of their construction has escalated from 3200 crore rupees to 6500 crore rupees. Owing to the rise in cost of core material like steel, cement and labour, this construction cost has increased.

Shri Yamuna Prasad Sastri was the M.P. from my constituency in 1978. He urged upon to conduct a survey of railway line between Lalitpur and Singrauli to enlist those areas where no rail line existed. Prof. Dandvate got the survey work completed in 1978-79 but work worth even a single penny did not take place until hon. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and his Government came to power. Last year Minister Kumari Uma Bharati, the MP's from Madhya Pradesh submitted to the Prime Minister and then he made available five crore rupees for laying the foundation stone at Khajuraho. However, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Railways as to how much time will it take to complete this project is the money is made available at the rate of rupees five crore per annum for a project of Rs. 900 crore. I would like to submit that the Government should try to complete the projects within the stipulated time period.

When State reorganisation commission was constituted in 1956 and it submitted the new map of Madhya Pradesh to the then Prime Minister of India hon. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, he was not at all happy to see the map covering vast area yet without the solid infrastructure of rail and road transport. He asked the Commission to make recommendations for improving the network of rail and road transport. Responding to this call, the Commission made specific recommendation to the effect of formulating a phased development programme for developing the rail and road transport network in the State. I am very sorry to say that not a single railway line has been laid in the State despite the passage of 45 years since the recommendations were made by the State Reorganisation Commission. Today even the Delhi-Rajhara railway line has remained a dream only. The iron ore for Bhilai steel plant which comes from Bailadila is transported in trucks for there is no railway line connecting Bailadila, Jagdalpur and Chhattisgarh. When will it be constructed? Chhattisgarh has been carved out of Madhya Pradesh. Still we have a sentimental attachment with it. I have been a part of the Government as well as on MLA from that region. Chhattisgarh which was a part of our State is an extremely backward region. I would like to know as to what the Government are doing for the development of this region. By when the work of converting metre gauge Chhindwarh line into broad gauge is likely to start? After all why the Ministry of Railways have been neglecting Madhya Pradesh. Though Mamataji made a huge allocations for Bengal in her rail budget yet her party lost the elections in Bengal. She never paid any heed to what we said and totally neglected Madhya Pradesh in regard to the railway development. However, I would like to know from Shri Nitish Kumarji as to whether the Government intend to improve the condition of railway in Madhya Pradesh? The construction of underbridge is going on in Satna for the last five years. This year three boys drowned in there during rainy season. Last year, during the reply of a question, it was told that the work of this underbridge will be completed by December, 2000. I did not give the Notice of the breach of privilege for I am a part of the Government. As a rule notice should be given against such inefficient Minister who do not fulfil their commitment. I am very sorry to say that the Minister of this Government have the same attitude of Congress Minister as that of the extending excuses and delaying the matter. The hon. Prime Minister is very much perturbed over it. I hope that the Minister will try to mend his manner and will pay attention towards these projects. The Central Forest Act, 1980 is proving as a major hindrance in the path of implementing the irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh. The Minister of Environment and Forest could not but help ruing over his fate for months when he was arrested but when we try to bring his attention towards the issue we raise, he does not pay any heed towards it.

250 medium irrigation project of Madhya Pradesh are lying pending in his central office due to the Central Forest Act, 1980 and crores of rupees of the Madhya Pradesh Government invested in these projects have gone a begging. There is no coordination among the Department of Irrigation, Department of Forest and the Ministry of Environment owing to the Forest conservation Act, 1980. The Minister of these departments neither sit together nor convene any meeting of the concerned States to resolve the differences. I would like to know as to what the Government are contemplating in this regard? The Adivasi of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have been meted with worst treatment since when they took possession of the land. When I was the Minister of Forests of Madhya Pradesh, I orderd to grant on lease the land area worth 20 lakh area of land to the landless in1977-78, but in the name of Forest Conservation Act, these orders were withdrawn. The Adivasi of Madhya Pradesh like Bheel, Bilal, Kaul, Gond. Bainga are suffering a lot for even the forest employees want their work of crop as bribe. They have been pressing them to give as much as fifty per cent of their produce and no one is listening to their woes. Adivasis are being looted in the name of Forest Conservation Act. Adivasis are ruined lot and their children are being deprived of their bread. The Schemes and projects are

[Shri Ramanand Singh]

lying pending due to Central Forest Act. The projects like Sunaheri Jalasagar Yojana at Juna, Patha Reservoir Scheme at Panna, Putbindhar Reservation Scheme at Sivani, Jalma-Udgen Irrigation project in district Shivpuri, Sultanpuri Reservoir Scheme at district Khargoun, Bijasen Scheme of Khergaon district, Bengi Project in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh, Bhairon Reservoir Scheme in district Raipur an P.V. 103 Scheme in Bastar district, to name a few of them, are lying pending. However, the Union Minister of Forest and environment has no other job to do except lamenting over his arrest. If these forest Minister of constituents parties do not act properly, how can the Government function well. Shourieji, I would like to submit to you that you should note my message to convey it to these Minister who do not even bother to reply our letters even once. It is found that Minister is not available anytime for they are always engaged in doing some-thing insignificant or the other. In such a situation, to whom should we approach. This thing should be done away with. Similarly, hon. Shourieji, I would like to seek your assurance for the timely completion of the Bansagar Dam Project, the foundation stone of which was laid by Prime Minister Morarji Desai and was announced that it would be completed within six years but has not been completed even after 23 years. You must also give assurance to the effect that the making of the Executive Committee of this project of which the Minister and officers of three States are the Members should take place in your presence. Why this project has not been completed even after so much time has elapsed. What are the hindrances in the way of completing this project? You can pass the buck by saying that it is the responsibility of the State. 20-25 years have passed since the completion of Bargi Dam at Narmada but the area in the left vicinity of this dam is being irrigated. During the Chief Ministership of Shri Shyamacharanji some influential people made the canal route diverted to take it to Narsingh, Hoshangabad, instead of Panna, Rewa and Satna which is the least irrigated area of Madhya Pradesh. Only 18 per cent land area of Madhya Pradesh including only 3 per cent area of Vidhyachal is irrigated. I would like to submit to the hon. Shourie to convey to the Minister of irrigation for making a time bound programme for the completion of work for digging up canal for ensuring the irrigation facilities to the area right to the Bargi Dam. I would also urge upon hon. Shourie to arrange for the Central assistance for the completion of this project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ramanand Singhji, you please conclude now. Your 25 minutes are over. If you want to avail the cooperation of other Member also then you must conclude.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: You, give me a little more time, I am just concluding. Several Minister of Telecommunications have assumed and relinquished charge. A long back, some scheme was launched under which it was provided that if 15 persons from a village deposit security amount then telephone connections will be given to them in the villages. There are more then 500 such villages in Madhya Pradesh where the people had submitted the money and over 10 years have passed since then but neither their money has been returned back nor any telephone connections have been provided to them.

I deposited the money on behalf of the people of my village, however, the Minister of Communications says that now the rule has changed and instead of 15, 50 persons per village are required to deposit money. I would like to say that when the Government have accepted the money as per the previous regulation, then it is bound to fulfil the commitment made at that time. Neither there is railways nor there are roads in Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Minister of M.P. has constructed a Committee under his Chairmanship for utilising the grants being given under the Prime Minister rural Road Scheme. Shourieji I would like to thank you that you have decided to constitute a second Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the State. The Chief Minister may nominate the persons of his choice in the Committee and thus there is a greater possibility of misappropriation of funds. Nowhere in the country can one see worse roads than Madhya Pradesh because no road has been repaired in M.P. during the last eight years. Hence, I would like to request you to once review this Prime Minister Rural Road Scheme. The Union Minister of Rural Development should visit the State for reviewing the scheme and he should hold a meeting in which the MPs of the State should also be invited. Nobody bothers to seek the opinion of the MPs and they who have the backing of so vast a majority are being taken for granted. The Centre is providing the funds and the Chief Minister is acting in an arbitrary manner...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you conclude, please.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: I am just concluding. Similarly Madhya Pradesh is very much neglected in matter of electricity. The state is in the grip of a grave electricity crisis since the carving out of Chhattisgarh from it. The electricity is not being supplied even for an hour in the villages. People are being charged at the rate of 350 rupees every five horse power. Now, I would like to tell you the names of those power projects of the State which are lying pending before the Centre for clearance. These include the Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Project of 500 MW capacity at Umaria pending for the technical and financial clearance of the Central Electricity Authority, many projects of Narmada Hydro Electricity Development Corporation, Government of Madhya Pradesh undertaking like Onkareshwar project of an estimated capacity of 1000 MW in which the

development work of approximately 520 MW is still pending. I submit to the hon. Minister to clear these projects expeditiously so that development of Madhya Pradesh may take place. I would like to conclude by thanking you for giving me time to speak and once again reminding the Governments that it should make arrangements for completing the pending projects and funding the new projects in Madhya Pradesh so that its development could be ensured.

[*English*]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity afforded to me. When I stand here to speak on the Resolution tabled by Shri Ramanand Singh, I would like to differ on some points. It is not because of the financial pattern or lack of funds that the projects are languishing. There are many factors for which the projects are languishing. Take the case of irrigation projects. Funds are being provided. In some cases it is 75:25 or 80:20 State-Centre ratio. Due to fiscal mismanagement of the States, the funds that are being given by the Centre to the States are being ploughed into Ways and Means Advance to run the day-to-day affairs of the State Governments. As a result, the cost overrun and time overrun goes up. Once the time overrun goes up, naturally the costover run also goes up. If you kindly see the statistics provided by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, you will find that the cost overrun and time overrun is quite heavy in a number of irrigation projects.

In some cases, it has been more than hundred per cent cost over-run. Take the case of the Haldia Refinery Project. It had a cost over-run of 180 per cent. Now it is a frozen project. Whom to blame? Is it the State or is it the Centre to blame? Or, are the implementing agencies that are taking up those projects that are to blame? Whenever projects are taken up, they have to take into consideration many factors.

In this connection, I would like to give you instances from the Annual Report of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. Certain projects were to be implemented from 1997. It is in respect of the Ninth Plan Period from 1997 to 2002. Against the plan outlay of Rs. 11,013 crore, in the first phase, Rs. 800 crore was the budgetary support and Rs. 127 crore was the external aid, funding from different funding agencies and by way of the Resurgent Bonds were about Rs. 10,000 crore. But once we take up the project, we have a very big ideal before us. A goal is kept. A target is kept. But to achieve the target, funds have to be provided. The Government of India has been providing funds. So, in 1997-98, Rs. 1,728 crore was provided; in 1998-99, Rs. 2200 crore was provided; in 1999-2000, Rs. 1,828 crore was provided. So, funding has been quite good so far as Government of India's funding is concerned. What about the bonds or the IEBR funding for taking up the Fertilizer Plants or taking up other works related to a fertilizer Plant?

Take, for example, the Madras Fertilizer Plant wh[illegible]n they have indicated that the requirement is Rs. 601.43 crore in the year 1998 for revamping that Fertilizer Plant. Whether that Fertilizer Plant has been able to garner such amount of funds to take up the project is to be thought of. Whenever we think of taking up a project, it is necessary to see whether funds can be organised in a different manner from different places. Where funding has been done, the institution itself has failed.

Take the case of NALCO in my State NALCO has funds. But it has not been able to take up the work immediately because of the lethargy at different stages. NALCO was started in 1981. It is almost a blue-chip Government Corporation. Here, I am talking of the expansion of bauxite mines and aluminium refinery at Dhamanjodi with an addition of 2.5 lakh MT per annum which has been planned. It is supposed to be completed by March, 2001. Fund is not the constraint. The constraint is that of the executing agency itself. Cost is not the constraint. The cost is the same. The estimated cost was about Rs. 1670 crore and it is likely that it would go up to Rs. 1664 crore. It is nothing. It is a marginal thing. But only 80 per cent of the work has been completed till now although it is supposed to have been completed by March, 2001.

Take the case of another project of the NALCO plant at Angul. It is about expansion of the captive aluminium smelter and captive power plant. Our Member of Parliament from Dhenkanal, Shri K.P. Singh Deo, is there. He could lend his ears to me. It is to cost about Rs. 2061.99 crore. Such a sluggish way of working is going on there that only Rs. 114 crore has been spent till now. It is not known how and when this captive aluminium smelter and captive plant would come up. We are not to blame the Central Government. We are to blame, as I said earlier, the agencies which are executing the work. I am sorry to say–the hon. Minister is sitting here–that some sort of harnessing is not being done at the Central level. Of course, control is required for those executing agencies which are taking up these works.

Accountability is necessary for Haldia Fertilizer plant, which has become a frozen plant, with so much of money going down the gutters. Are we not to say that some people should be made responsible and that heads should roll? Once the Central Government comes down heavily, I think, others would not be able to do anything and they would do the work.

Take the case of the North-East. The Central Government has created a Noth-Eastern Council (NEC) by an enactment by Parliament. What is that NEC doing? I had been to the North-East a few months back and the work that is being done is not

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

properly supervised by the NEC officials, although a Secretary level officer is available in the NEC headquarters in Shillong. The Government is giving non-lapsable funds for the NEC. The good thing is that the Government is giving non-lapsable funds. The NEC cannot keep it for years together without spending it. Funds are available. If they do not spend, again the cost overrun will go up because of the time overrun.

Take Sikkim for example. I had been to Sikkim also. Hydro electricity projects can come up with almost Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 crore. Take the case of Jammu and Kashmir. Hydro electricity projects can come up to produce two or five or ten megawatts of electricity. All these things have been taken into account when investigations and survey work were done. But different agencies are lagging behind. One such agency could be the Environment Ministry, as if forestry is be-all and end-all for human beings living there. We are not thinking of progress for the human beings who are living below the the poverty line in India; we are not thinking of the people who require energy; and we are not thinking of the people who require water for irrigating their fields, only because certain fads are there that environment will get polluted and denudation would take place. But we should not take it to the extreme. We are taking it to the extreme in different places. The State Governments are responsible for that matter also.

I will give an instance of my State itself. Although it is a minor irrigation project, I will give the instance as to how the State Governments also are not keeping in view the realities therein. Supposing a small patch of forest land is to be taken away for a minor irrigation project, they are not able to give another patch of land nearby to start a forest.

In my constituency, there are four or five tribal blocks. The tribals live there. A tribal does not have a land *patta*. He does not have land document. They say that unless you show the land document, we will not give you land for cultivation. How does the man stay? He is staying there for centuries together. In that minor irrigation project of my constituency, out of Rs. 8 crore, Rs. 4 crore have been spent. But is had to be kept *in abeyance* because the displaced persons could not be provided land and shelter.

Take the case of Chitrakunda project. ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly give me some time. These are things, I think, the hon. Members should also know. What difficulties are we facing? It is not only funding pattern, but we are also facing other difficulties. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Kindly give me five-six minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only two minutes.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Two minutes is too less.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So many Members are also there to participate.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: It is regarding Machkund project in Orissa. In 1955, tribals were displaced. In 1965, again same tribals were displaced from Chitrakunda. For the third time, the same tribals were displaced from Sileru Dam project in Andhra Pradesh. My friend, Shri Yerrannaidu is not here. If he was present here, he would be able to bear me out. If you displace people thrice during their lifetime, what do you expect from them? You expect revolt, dislike of the administration and naturally obstruction at every stage of the project work. These are the things which should be taken into account when we are thinking of projects.

I will give you a few instances in my State. Since Mr. Chairman does not like that I should extend my speech itself, I will give the instance of Rengali Dam project. Shri K.P. Singh Deo was just mentioning about it. This project was started in 1973. Till date, it has not been completed. It is still in a moribund stage.

16.00 hrs.

We have to take water and give it to the people in the fields. If the canals have not been completed, what is the use of having a major irrigation project? What do we do with the water if we are not able to give it to the people? As I was saying, it is in a moribund stage because the Central Government and the State Government did not have proper coordination to ensure that water was sent to the fields. The aquisition of land has not been completed for some time.

There are similar problems with the doubling of railway line projects in Orissa. There is the doubling of Nergundi-Talcher railway line in Shri K.P. Singh Deo's constituency. It took years to get the land acquired; hardly 21 acres of land were to be acquired, but it took years. Naturally, the cost overrun is going up and the doubling of the railway line between Nergundi and Talcher is stalled. There is the same kind of problems with Paradip-Raghunathpur-Rahma doubling project. It is taking years for issuing of a simple notification by the State Government to allow construction of a bridge by the Railways. I do not know for what purpose it is being stalled or whether the motivating force is not there to ensre that the notification is issued and for the simple reason of non-issuing of notification, so many projects are being stalled for years together.

Sir, I have not mentioned about the Namrup Fertiliser Project in the North-East. It is pending for years now. The original

estimate of this project was Rs. 350 crore, but till now Rs. 449 crore has been spent, but again it will take another Rs. 100 crore to complete it. Why is it happening like this? I hope the hon. Minister will be able to take some steps to ensure that all the people who are working there are made accountable.

Sir, in my humble opinion, five important principles should be kept in mind for early completion of projects.

First, land acquisition process should be completed quickly. Secondly, the share of the Centre and the State should be decided upon. If the State is not having funds, the Centre can give a loan and the work should be completed, but it has to be ensured that the State does not plough the Central share into different activities like giving pay and allowances to their staff.

Thirdly, in irrigation works, environmental clearance should be taken first before funds are released and the environmental people should not be a stumbling block for development work. Fourthly, rehabilitation of displaced persons is very important. Whenever an irrigation project is taken up, naturally the tribal people will be displaced because we are taking up the project in the forest areas and only the tribal people live in the forest areas. So, we have to take into account their requirements. Then, at the end, the fifth requirement is that funds must be given regularly.

I think, if we keep these five salient principles in mind and implement the projects accordingly, it would be possible to complete the projects within the stipulated period.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Resolution because it gives a new hope for the pending projects. We are having a lot of abandoned projects, neglected projects, still-born projects etc. These are all projects which need the attention of the Government, especially the Union Government.

Sometimes, we start projects based on the demands made by popular lobbying and pressure built up by a group of people. But subsequently, due to certain difficulties at the ground level, the execution of such projects is delayed. Sometimes, the State Government or the agencies which are executing the projects are diverting the funds. I would like to mention certain things which are the usual reasons for delay in the implementation of projects.

These are diversion of the fund, misuse of the fund, cost escalation, local disputes, court intervention, natural calamities, mismanagement, mal-administration and lethargic attitude of the agencies, especially the agencies which have benefited earlier. But subsequently, they divert the funds for some other purpose, they are the State Governments, district authorities and local authorities. Therefore, these things should be regulated then and there by a proper monitoring machinery.

I can very easily say that in my constituency, Sivaganga, and the neighbouring constituency, Ramanathapuram, people in the coastal area were having water problems. Then, the Rajiv Gandhi Water Mission had invested a lot of money for two projects: one for desalination of the seawater and another for a comprehensive project for getting water from the ground water stream. Both the schemes were halfway. These were left in the lurch because the State Government had changed. The State Government was not interested in them. Five years had lapsed. Now, the new State Government has come. They have shown some anxiety. But they could not get the funds. When they sought help from the Central Government and the Central Government would say that the project is already in a dead position. Therefore, they cannot help them. But, at the same time, the people are suffering. Therefore, there should be a monitoring agency. They should clearly monitor it. What I want to submit is that normally we go by statistics or reports. We do not have a physical verification as to whether a project has been completed or not. Therefore, it is very easy for the people, who have diverted the money, to say that the completion of the project is over because they will report it to the Government. We do not have powers with the State Government to pull them up and ask why they have not used the fund properly. That is the position. If we go further, they would say that the Union Government is interfering. That is why the relationship between the State Government and the Central Government should be in a partnership way and not in a way of taking away the funds and misusing them.

I can give you another example about the projects of the Union Government. We can very easily take the Railways. We will give a project to the Railways. For example, we were urging upon them for gauge conversion of the Tiruchchirappalli-Rameswaram line. The Railway Board has allowed it by giving a token grant of Rs. 5 crore. This system of token grant should be abolished. If you want to give, do it systematically, say, within five years. If you are going to finish that project, you allocate Rs. 270 crore dividing it in five years. Firstly, give priority that way. Otherwise, if you give a token grant of Rs. 5 crore, then, next year, we would be shouting in the Parliament, and getting Rs. 10 crore as another token grant. This way, when are we going to reach the target of Rs. 270 crore? In the meantime, the cost escalation would be catching up. Nobody can meet that expenditure. But it is a profitable area, that is, Tiruchchirappalli-Karaikudi-Manamadhurai-Rameswaram. That project is very profitable because from Chennai to Rameswaram, that is the only link. The Sethu Express and the Rameswaram Express are going there. But that was abandoned due to non-availability of funds.

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister that a very good Bill, namely, the Fiscal Responsibility Bill, is being presented in the Parliament for budget provision. I would like to submit that there should be some provision. When a budgetary allocation is made, please see whether a previous project has been completed or not in that particular State or under that particular Head. If it has not been completed, priority should be fixed for that purpose. Then only, a new project should be announced. Otherwise, the new project could be shelved till that is completed. That type of responsibility should be fixed whenever the Budgets are placed before the Parliament or in the Assembly.

I would also like to submit that a statutory obligation should be there complete it. Then only, they should go for the next one. Now, we are controlled by the official orders. The executive orders can be monitored very easily. The funds can be diverted. There were many rumours that the Railway Department has been diverting the funds from my constituency for some other project.

I cannot verify it. If there is a statutory obligation, then I can seek remedy. I can go for a legal remedy. I can say, 'As there is a statutory obligation, this project should be properly implemented. Only then, the Railway Department should go to the next project'. Therefore, there should be a statutory obligation in regard to projects where funding is given.

Secondly, a committee for collection of data should be constituted immediately in order to find out as to what are the projects left out in the middle; how much money had been spent on them; how much money we need; why they were in the lurch; and how we can rejuvenate them. That type of data should be collected. After that, we have to regulate them.

Thirdly, I would like to submit what involvement of the beneficiaries in that area should be there. Take for example, a railway project. There will be some industries, traders, tourist agencies, tourist departments, and banks and financial institutions. These people cannot be included in that project. They should also participate in one way or the other so that the completion of the project is made fruitful for the purpose of the people. The hard-earned money and taxpayers' money should not be diverted like this and should not be wasted like this.

Therefore, I support this Resolution. I feel that this Resolution will be taken in a proper sense and it will be acted upon.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, the hon. Member Shri Ramanand Singh has advocated for the allocation of adequate funds for the time-bound completion of all pending projects.

With regard to his opinion, I would just like to read out two or three sentences from the Mid-term Appraisal Report of the Ninth Five Year Plan given by the Planning commission. It says:

> "That availability of funds can at best be necessary but not sufficient condition to tackle poverty and backwardness. C & AG has also highlighted the inability o the Union Ministries to control the execution of the schemes and the indifferent attitude of the State Governments. The capacity for monitoring is limited and often does not exist. Monitoring is confined to the release of funds provided in the Budget without any reference to effective utilisation and quality of output."

I would also like to cite two or three examples from the Report given by the Ministry of Programme Implementation. One is with regard to modernisation of mints at Hyderabad, Mumbai and Calcutta. In March 1989, the estimated cost was Rs. 118.28 crore. Now, it has gone up to Rs. 348.8 crore. With regard to the Department of Power, the estimated cost of the Naphtha Jagri Transmission system, which was initiated in April 1989, was Rs. 889.95 crore. Now, it has gone up to Rs. 1,561.63 crore. It is going on like this. I do not want to give you these details because everybody is aware of them.

After our Government came to power, a White Paper on Railway Projects was published in 1998. In the details it had been mentioned that the projects were included in the Railway projects without the requisite project clearance, that means, without the clearance of the Expenditure Board, without the clearance of the CCEA and without the clearance of the Planning Commission. Then, they had also given another list– List of works included in the successive Railway Budget without the completion of survey. They had announced the projects even without survey.

[*English*]

When we went to the North-Eastern Railway, one of our hon. Members asked the General Manager why they had removed one of the foundation stone from the site. The General Manager said that if they had not removed the foundation stone, somebody else would have taken it away and so they had kept it in safe custody so that if ever the project was going to be implemented, it would be fixed again.

Let us now take the example of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. It is already delayed by one year and the cost overrun is Rs. 900 crore. For each day's delay, it costs the project an additional Rs. 2.5 crore. This is the position.

We are already having projects that have cost us more than Rs. 100 crore. We are having a total number of 188 such projects. Out of them, 67 projects have undergone cost overruns. What are the reasons for cost overruns? These are the projects that cover the core sector: the power sector, roads, irrigation, shipping and ports. The reasons for cost overruns are: non-availability of land, financial constrainsts, engineering and the release of drawings and absence of inter-sectoral linkages just as there is no linkage between water, power, fuel etc. sectors. Then, there are law and order problems and reasons beyond the control of the project authorities. There are also delays by the contractors and suppliers and the problem of non-awarding of contracts. These are the basic reasons for which these projects are being delayed.

I would not go into the delays in various projects. Everybody knows that because of the delays, there are time and cost overruns. I would only give the hon. Minister some suggestions on how these could be done away with.

First, projects should be approved with assured availability of infrastructure like water, power, communication and rail and road links for transportation of heavy equipment and material. The hon. Minister Shri Arun Shourie was telling us how each Ministry would monitor its projects. They are also having the flash report system of monitoring. They have also one Project Monitoring Division and a Task Force. To see whether they work as expected of them is my first suggestion.

My second suggestion is that there should be a mechanism in the administrative Ministries to help resolve problems in contract management and other intricate issues in the way of implementation.

Thirdly, our prioritisation of projects should be on the basis of availability of funds and criticality of the project. For instance, in Orissa, I find in every village two or three incomplete houses. When I asked about what those buildings were, they said that these were community buildings. When I asked why they were incomplete, they said that when the Congress MLA was there, he gave Rs. 20,000 or so and they built it up to that level; later, when the Janata Dal MLA came, he said he would not touch it because it was started by a Congress MLA. So , in the name of the Janata Dal MLA, there is going to be another incomplete house. When, at a later stage, a BJP candidate becomes the MLA, he would not touch both the incomplete houses built by the Congress and the Janata Dal MLAs. But whose money is it? It is the money of the country. We have borrowed it from outside and are paying a heavy interest every year, but we are wasting it. We do not have prioritisation. We do not know what to do with this money. We are simply going to spread thin all this money in many different projects.

Sir, my third proposition is about improvement of flow of information with the introduction of online computerised monitoring system through the Internet. This is to improve information flow from the project authorities because mostly the project authorities delay the flow of information. Then, sometimes, no information comes from the project authorities. The Ministry should see that information flows, and that too through the information technology system, to ensure implementation of the projects on schedule and to do away with the problems encountered by the project authorities. That is the most important thing. Then, they should take it up to the right persons above, who should see that the difficulties are removed.

Now, I will just give some suggestions. You take the example of rehabilitation. Recently, I had been to Malaysia and China. I met a friend who belongs to Bangkok. He said that they were just going to demolish some of their buildings. I asked him why they were demolishing them. He told that a road would be constructed. Then, I asked him whether their people did not object to it and what was the compensation they would be giving to them. He said that they were giving the compensation as per today's value and they were giving it within seven days.

Hon. Anadi Sahu mentioned about Rengali Project. It started in 1973 and till now, full compensation has not been given and no rehabilitation has been done. Most of the rehabilitation projects have not been taken up. This is the reason for which people do not have faith in the Government. They say that the Government will give compensation as per the rate which existed about 30 years back. Why should anybody take it? India is not a Communist country. The land here does not belong to the Government; it belongs to the people. So, you will have to give them adequate compensation quickly. So, the mindset of the Government of India should change. I would appeal to the hon. Minister, Shri Arun Shourie that he should bring about the change in this regard.

Finally, I would speak briefly with regard to MPLADS. In the MPLADS also, we are spreading it so thinly that so many projects are there, we are just recommending money and these are not being implemented. Sometimes, there are political differences of opinion. If the State Government belongs to a different party, they do not allow implementation of the project. But my suggestion to the hon. Minister for Programme Implementation is that he should have a dialogue with the State Governments and he should see to it that everybody comes to the conclusion that the responsibility should lie with executing authority and if they do not complete the work, then they should be held accountable and responsible.

With these words, I conclude my speech by saying that it is monitoring which is most important and not supply of funds. Supply of funds is an important factor, but that is not the factor.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Hon. Chairman Sir, we have a very learned Minister for Programme Implementation. So, I can take the liberty for I think he will understand most of what I will be putting in a nutshell, in a few lines, a few points.

First of all, I find that planning in India is not in a very healthy condition as of today. I find all the MPs across the country complaining about housing problems, irrigation problems and so many other problems, and the net result is that we are all a very discontented lot. I do not think a Minister can help in a day. He has just appeared on the scene a few months ago. So, what we have stored up in the last so many years, he just cannot redress them immediately, but I must say one thing that when we are going into the planning of this country's' progress, development and other factors, the main thing is that we have far too many schemes in this country, to many schemes in too many Departments, and all of them are overlapping one another. The main idea of these schemes is to bring a lot of comforts to the common man, but on the countrary, all these various schemes have been either a money-making game or they have been schemes which have been shelved over the years and have been redundant. In respect of the new schemes which are coming up, people in this country are not aware as to how best they can utilise these schemes and the beneficiaries of these schemes do not know the schemes which the Government of India has formulated for them.

Therefore, Mr. Minister, I feel that all these very enormous schemes that we have in this country can be compressed and made into a comprehensive few schemes for the benefit of the common man. This is, I think, a very important thing. Every time I attend meetings of the Standing Committee or the Consultative Committee, we talk of a lot of schemes like children's welfare etc., but nothing is reaching the grass roots.

As far as my constituency is concerned, Aurangabad in Bihar, my people are not aware as to what are the schemes that can be benefited from. Therefore, some kind of publicity material should be circulated to the various districts where these schemes are taking place or the schemes are being implemented.

The other point is about the schemes that have been left incomplete over the years and new projects have been taken up. A glaring example of this is a project that we have in Bihar. In 1989, some schemes were conceptualised when the Congress was in Government under Rajivji. We had a Super Thermal Power Station which was coming up in my parliamentary constituency of Naveen Nagar in Central Bihar. The feasibility and all other requisites for this Thermal Power Station had already been taken into account. The Cabinet had passed the Bill in Bihar. Then it came on to the national scene. When the NDA came to power, our hon. Minister, who has headed a few Ministries like Agriculture and now back to Railways, suddenly thought that the Super Thermal Power Station is in an area which is not governed or which is not being represented by a Member of Parliament from his Party and, therefore, the entire Project has been shelved, and put into the cold storage when it was ready to take off. Immediately, he asked the Prime Minister to inaugurate a particular project in his constituency, which is Barh parliamentary constituency in Bihar. Now, it will take at least six to eight years before this project can go through because the fact is that they do not have water, railhead, roadbed, coal, human resources and other elements required for a thermal power station in his constituency. Since we did not happen to be a part of NDA or we were not part of the NDA Government, he quietly and very comfortably made the Prime Minister inaugurate that project. I think this is very unfair. As the Members of the Treasury Benches and as the Government in power, they should rise above these petty politics and bring into focus real projects that are necessary and required for Bihar, such as the Super Thermal Power Project which is in Naveen Nagar, Aurangabad, Bihar.

The third important point is about the irrigation. Whenever we talk about Bihar, we pity Bihar. Either people laugh at it or they are very cynical about it, not realising that Bihar is one of the richest States as far as human resources are concerned and as far as its contribution to national politics is concerned. This Bihar is in a pathetic plight. I would not like to go into political leadership and whatever happened. As of today, it is the responsibility of the Government in power to take care of this State. After the bifurcation, Bihar is left with very little natural resources. In fact, we have a few natural resources which when harnessed could yield results. Bihar is known to be having drought conditions; they are known to be having flood conditions. Both of these can be regulated and properly harnessed so that Bihar will neither have flood conditions nor will they have drought conditions.

We have projects like the Damodar Valley Project which was launched years ago. We have the Subarnarekha, and we have a very important project known as the North Koel Canal Project. This Project will be supplying water to almost half of Bihar, definitely the whole of Central Bihar. Sir, I would request the Minister to ensure that whatever funds required at the State level or at the Central level, they should put in their best foot forward to see that this North Koel Project is brought through.

Fourthly, I would talk about lack of funds. I have spoken to the hon. Minister, when we were having a huge war in this House, regarding allocation of five crores or two crores of

rupees. The Minister had to explain his inability to give us more than two crores of rupees.

But even this Rs. 2 crore has become, I think, a hot bed of corruption. It is because the States where the rate of illiteracy is high and where the people are not aware, these LAD funds are being misused.

Sir, the hon. Member from the other side has said as to how monitoring of the projects is important. I feel that for this Rs. 3 crore that an member of Parliament gets, the powers of the Members of Parliament should be made clear whether we have a right over that money finally or not. It is because once the money goes to the district administration, that is to the District Magistrate of that area, *via* the State Governments, it becomes the property of the district administration. Now, it is at his or her mercy that we have to operate. So, whatever development programmes or projects that we want to put into our constituencies, it is *via* media which, I think, is not fair. Therefore, either there should be a nodal agency to monitor the work that is being carried out in these districts or some amount of powers should be given to the Member of Parliament to see that the District Magistrate consults the Member of Parliament and carries on the activity of his or her choice. Finally, the monitoring of work, cost over-run and everything come in the lap of the Member of Parliament and after say, three years or four years, whenever the tenure of the MP ends, the people of the constituency say that the MP has not done anything for them.

Sir, my Parliamentary constituency was not represented by the Congress Party for the last nine years. Representatives of various other parties represented this constituency for short periods and as a result of this, the constituency has been bereft of any progress for the last nine years. As of today I am finding it very difficult to carry on the work in the zone for the simple reason that our powers are not defined. Therefore, the LAD funds are also to be taken into account and a direction should be given as to what exactly we should do with the administration part of it.

Sir, these are the four points that I wanted to submit. Thank you very much for giving me the time to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (SAMASTIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Member Shri Ramanand Singh ji who has moved a motion regarding pending projects.

Sir, 54 years have passed since India became free and Nine Five Year Plans have rolled down and Tenth Five Year Plan is going on, yet we cry that the projects are not completed in time. If we look at the plans minutely, right from First Five Year Plan we have followed foreign pattern such as Russian or American. Though we copied foreigners, but we could not copy intelligently and that is why the situation deteriorated. Sir, we have been getting power. Today, the situation is such that there are no medicines in hospitals, no means of irrigation in fields, no jobs to youth and no proper education in schools and yet we have entered Tenth Five Years Plan. Plans are formulated to lure the people and not for welfare of the public. It is because a single party could not form the Government and several parties united and formed coalition Government and even today coalition Government is in power. Leaders are there and the policies have been framed but their intention is not fair that is why the situation gets messy.

I hail from Bihar. Shrimati Shyama Singh was telling about pitiable condition of Bihar. She further added that since Jharkhand has been carved out of Bihar, Bihar is left only with floods and drought. All the rivers of Northern Bihar are in ebullition and rivers of Nepal have created this situation. Alien water causes havoc on our soil and we say that the welfare of the people will be done by the State Government. If the Central Government saves us from foreign agression and when water from some other country causes flood on our territory it is said that it is the responsibility of State Government to react in such an event.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have raised this issue several times in the Parliament right from Ninth Lok Sabha till date. And I suggested that the Government should negotiate this issue with the Government of Nepal and sort out this problem. But no plan has been formulated in this regard. And if you look at the progress made with regard to the plans formulated for North Bihar you would be very sad.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, once a journalist in Russia asked Lenin as to what was the difference between Russia and Soviet Union. The reply was–Russia plus electricity equal to Soviet Union. There is a great shortage of electricity in Bihar. During 1977-78, it was decided to set up five units of Kanti Thermal Power at Muzzafarpur, but only two units could be set up and rest of the three are pending. No project is completed on time which leads to cost escalation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, to connect Bihar by railway line foundation stone was laid for construction of a railway bridge over river Ganga near Patna but work has not yet started. Now come to the issue of land survey. A building has been constructed at Hazipur for opening Zonal Office at Railways. But, so far no official has been posted though crores of rupees were spent on this project and thus in absence of any official the work is at stand still. First of all a plan was formulated to extend Gandak river near Nepal border for the purpose of

[Shri Manjay Lal]

irrigation. Under that scheme several banglows were constructed, flower pots were decorated but Gandak canal could not be extended and that project was never completed, the funds were diverted for other purposes. Even construction material was shifted to other places.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after separation of Jharkhand from Bihar, if no mega project is sanctioned for Northern region of Bihar, Bihar would be ruined. North Bihar has adequate rainfall. In addition, there is wide network of small or big rivers and the people are labourers, the land is fertile, but this all is of no use in absence of proper arrangements for irrigation. If proper irrigation facilities are provided in North Bihar, it can produce so much foodgrains that can be sufficient not only for Bihar but for entire country as well.

Mr. Chairman, Sir I support the resolution moved by Bhai Ramanand ji that the plans for any particular area should be formulated keeping in mind the conditions and requirement of that area. If we copy without applying our mind properly, it will be of no use and the country will become poorer and our economy will dwindle. With these words, I thank you very much.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to use the language used by Bhai Ramanand ji in the resolution moved by him but since hon. Minister is present here, I would like to make a humble request that the amount of two crore rupees provided annually to us under MPLAD Scheme is not adequate. I have made a special mention of Rajasthan because every Legislator in Rajasthan get more than that is given to us, i.e. he gets 65 lakh rupees. We carry out development work in our constituency out of two crore rupees provided by the Central Government. There are eight Vidhan Sabha segments in my Lok Sabha constituency. Thus if the amount of two crore rupees is divided into eight segments, per segment it works out to 25 lakh rupees, whereas a Legislator in Rajasthan get 65 lakh rupees. The Legislator utilises. This fund for development of roads, schools and other public works in his constituency. Construction of a road in a city like Jaipur is a costly affair. Four and a half segments out of eight are in rural areas. Therefore, I feel that by paying us two crore rupees you have downgraded us before MLA's in Rajasthan. I may allocate one or two lakh rupees for a development work in any particular area, whereas the local legislator affords to allocate five lakh rupees easily.

I feel the condition of MP's pitiable in comparison to MLA's in Rajasthan. You may conduct your party meeting and decide therein, it is well within your powers to enhance this amount and make it at least five crore rupees. Otherwise, I request you to take there two crore rupees back and provide it to someone else. By the grace of God if I win election, it is alright or I will get my pension and sit quietly at home with the resentment that it was due to unadequate amount of two crore rupees that I had to suffer...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bhargava ji, this resolution is related to requirement of funds to complete pending projects.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I am referring to the some projects which are not completed because of paucity of funds. School buildings and roads are incomplete. The condition of schools is deplorable. Some schools are without rooms and some have no boundary walls. Incomplete projects cannot be completed within 2 crore rupees. I would like to tell that the Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Ashok Gehlot has allocated 65 lakh rupees to each Legislator for repair of 250 kms. Length of State roads which are in dilapidated condition. He authorised the MLA's to get the damaged roads repaired. Each Parliamentary Constituency in Rajasthan comprises of eight Vidhan Sabha constituencies which include rural areas also. Therefore, I humbly request the Government to enhance the said fund.

Eight Five Year Plans have already been completed and Ninth Plan is half way through I know foundation-stones were laid and removed later on. The Chief Minister in power lays foundation stone for a project and when next Chief Minister assumes the office he lays another stone. I feel pending projects have not been taken up properly.

A Banas Scheme relating to supply of drinking water of Jaipur was proposed to be introduced but has not been implemented even till now. Blue print for the plan was prepared but the plan could not be implemented because of financial constraints. But the present Prime Minister had assured that the Government would give priority to provide drinking water. Today, the people in Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan crave for water. Water is supplied only once a day. I feel ashamed when I find people taking water from the tap in the streets and we boast that our Ninth Five Year Plan is half way through, through the digit 'Nine' is auspicious. The number of my scooter and the car also is Nine. You have allotted me the Division No. III, that is also auspicious but this number is not bearing fruits here. Funds should be provided to complete Banas Project in Rajasthan when Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was Minister of Railways, he had declared during his visit to Jaipur that a Railway Zonal Office would be opened in Jaipur. The Government of Rajasthan made efforts in this direction and provided 17.44 hectare land for this purpose to the Railways...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bhargava ji, please speak on the resolution.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, fortunately hon. Minister is sitting here therefore, I would like to draw attention of the Minister towards the fact that if more funds are allocated it would be beneficial for us. If the Government allocate funds it would be good enough, if they do not, still it would be good enough.

Mr Chairman, Sir, Shri Ramanand ji was enraged while speaking but I would like to request you in a subdued tone. The Government provided land at cheaper rates for construction of quarters. But, neither the Zonal Office was opened at Jaipur nor the people were provided land for living. Please ensure that some thing is done in this regard. I would like to raise the issue relating to Bandikue-Agra rail track. Though the President of Pakistan visited Agra and he was scheduled to visit Jaipur but only God knows why he could not come to Jaipur. Because of financial constraints Agra-Jaipur track is lying incomplete. If a person desires to visit Agra from Jaipur, which is just 150 kms. Away, he would have to go via Swaimadhopur. The cost of Agra-Bandikue track has escalated to 178 crore rupees. Because of financial crunch the project has been incomplete and the Government of India allocate 10 crore rupees every year. But 10 crore rupees are like a drop in the ocean. In comparison to estimated cost of 178 crore rupees, ten crore rupees are too meagre. You as well as hon. Minister of Railways is kind enough and both of you are famous for your kindness, hence please make efforts to get Agra-Bandikue track completed expeditiously. Diggi line is also incomplete and same is the case with Kotputli-Jaipur line. In absence of adequate funds these projects are not possible to be completed. Therefore, I humbly request the Government to allocate funds for this purpose.

Jalmahal Scheme in Jaipur city is also incomplete. The Government are adopting different criteria for rehabilitation of people in unauthorised colonies. The person who wants to develop an unauthorised colony in a planned manner would get funds but if a person want to let an unauthorised colony develop the way it has taken shape will not get funds. Please change this criteria. Plots have been allotted to the people in an area of one thousand five hundred hectare of agricultural land in Jaipur city but there is no money to construct the roads. Though the Government spends large amount on construction of long and wide enough roads in Jaipur but the Government have no funds for construction of roads in unauthorised colonies and in the area where people have constructed their houses on agriculture land. You should ponder over it. The Government have conceptualised an ambitious plan named Heritage city for which the Government is going to negotiate with the World Bank for a loan of rupees 170 crore. The Government have no funds to construct a dam in Jaipur city. The rate of electricity tariff in Jaipur is 3 rupees per unit and I understand that nowhere in India the electricity tariffs are so high. The Government of Rajasthan propose to construct rope ways in Nahargarh, Aamer and Galata but paucity of funds is the main constraint. You may have seen people spending five to ten rupees on swing to have 'darshan' of Srimata, but we have no money to construct rope ways. We have no funds to undertake metro rail project in Jaipur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bhargavaji, this resolution is regarding the pending projects so you speak on this topic only.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Sir, in a nut-shell, I urge hon. Minister to have pity on Rajasthan and my parliamentary constituency especially and release more funds for Rajasthan so that the pending projects can be completed. Since you are kind enough, so you would definitely allocate more funds to Rajasthan so that we can survive before our MLA's. MLAs getting 65 lakh rupees and MP's getting rupees 25 lakh per Assembly constituency out of total allocation of two crore rupees are not enough. Therefore, I urge upon you to increase funds under MPLAD scheme.

I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (GHOSI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of an important resolution moved by Shri Ramanand Singh with regard to allocating adequate funds for the completion of pending projects.

A number of hon. Members have given details of various pending projects in the country. A number of projects are lying incomplete due to paucity of funds. Government should note that projects are formulated and implemented in the country aiming at some definite objects in large public interest. I would like to quote a few examples. A project of Union Government was proposed in 1993 in my parliamentary constituency, Mau, Uttar Pradesh. It was called National Sugarcane and Sugar Technology Institute. Its objectives were explained by the Government in its reply given on 20.4.2000 to unstarred question number 4281. The reply also says that establishment of National Sugarcane and Sugar Technology Institute is under consideration of the Government. Government of India had taken the decision to establish the above mentioned institution in Mau in 1993 with a view to provide scientific advice to sugarcane growers and sugar mill owners of the backward regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. This region was lagging behind other regions of the country in the field of sugarcane and sugar technology because of the non-availability of technology and the lack of its transfer. The reply was given on April 20, 2000. I want to know whether the objectives, with which

[Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan]

the project was proposed and was to be completed in 2000-01 and funds for the same were also allocated have been achieved or whether they are no longer considered relevant? It is the hard earned money of the public which was used in the institution. It has been allowed to be in a confused state just after one year. Between 1993-94 and 2000-01 an estimated expenditure of Rs. 15.78 crores has been made. An year ago, expenditure on it was put at Rs. 50 crores and now it is being put at Rs. 15.78 crore. The scheme is almost completed. It has been stated that the process of recruitment is going on. The process of recruitment of Lab Assistant was on, interviews were already held, building and equipments were also complete, but all of a sudden, after eight years, the central monitoring group of Finance Ministry, in its meeting held on January, 27, 2000 observed that National Sugarcane and Sugar Technology Institute has not yet developed as a full fledged institution. It is not proper to say so after the completion of interviews for recruitment. Farmers were made destitutes after displacing them from hundreds of acres of land. Enforcing projects for public interest is a painful process. Fifty crore rupees were spent on hundreds of acres of land and farmers were displaced in the name of national interest. But now, another plea is being giving to transfer the assets of National Sugarcane and Sugar Technology Institute to the Central agency. I want to point out its impropriety, since the objectives are still unmet, farmers have been displaced and the unemployed who had toiled for its interview are frustrated. I think that after the completion of work, political considerations prevailed. The Institute is needed there, but it is being abrogated simply because it was created by another party and now the Government have changed. Political motives are being considered supreme. Such projects where as much as fifty crore rupees have already been spent, should be started after allocating more funds. I once again support the resolution moved with the aim of implementing pending projects, wherein hard earned money of the people is invested, with the allocation of more funds. I support this resolution.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (BALAGHAT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank Shri Ramanand Singh for raising an important issue in the House. I am of the view that the entire House as well as the Government should consider it. Fifty years since our independence and also since we became republic, we have to do introspection on a few issues and should move towards physical realities.

The issue before us is really important. My spiritual guru, whom I revere, had asked me about the fundamental principle of epoch change is it "Mool Sudhara" (basic reforms) or "Bhul Sudhara" (rectifying mistakes)? I kept quiet for first ten minutes. I was elected to Ninth Lok Sabha at a very young age. Since then I have been thinking about the answer without success. We are discussing the Tenth Five Year Plan, the completion of incomplete projects, but in my opinion, the very question is wrong. It is our misfortune and we should consider that we are compelled to answer every question that is put to us. Right answer cannot be given to a wrong question. The only answer to the question is that basic reforms and rectifying mistakes both are the essential components of any change. But then, we are in a blind race.

Before my coming in the Ninth Lok Sabha, a number of plans had been formulated, about which I had no knowledge, since at that time, I was too young. I was aware that I am joining a blind race. At that time also my guru had warned me against it. My views may appear escapist to some of you but it is a fact that we should, at the end of Tenth Five Year Plan introspect about our achievements, gains, if we have had any. We start one scheme after another and if that, too, fails, we start experimenting afresh. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a workshop on rural development held in Hyderabad in which 28 MPs representing all political parties participated. I was also a participant. We were discussing whether it is possible to fix a time frame for the development of the country in the same manner we fix time frame for Private Member's Bill? For that, we need consider only two things–our priorities and the reasons of their not being attended to. Our aims for the First Five Year Plan have remained unfulfilled even when the Tenth Five Year Plan is about to complete. Here I would like to quote a statement of one of my friends who is no more. He had once written it in a letter. When half of the requirements of a person and a society are met, its difficulties are doubled. I don't want to quote here the history of thousands of years. Fifty years have passed since we attained independence, and I definitely congratulate the Government and the bureaucracy for some of our achievements. But we should ponder over the reasons of our failures. Ill-informed as I am, I have noted a few reasons. First is that the formulation of plans is immaculate but their implementation is erroneous. This is true everywhere whatever be the states or the Governments. Our implementation is faulty. Normally we accuse the other side for failure but it is the implementation aspect which needs improvement. We have not yet discovered an effective method of improving it. If we look at the schemes of the centre, we find that States frequently change it. There is no time limit for utilisation of funds. Union Government have virtually no control over the funds and so, it is not possible to complete the schemes within a time frame. If we have to complete a project, it has to be discussed meaningfully in the House, it does not matter if it takes a few months. Keeping in view the Centre-State relations

and our multiparty system, we have to bring such a legislation as would enable the utilisation of funds and tendency of changing the scheme could be curbed. Whatever loan is provided, is not spent on the item it is meant for. I would like to quote an example. Bargi dam on river Narmada is the largest dam in my State. It is the second largest Dam in free India after Bhakra-Nangal.

17.00 hrs.

Now it has been replaced by Sardar Sarovar. This dam has also been mentioned by Shri Ramanand Singh. The work on dam started in 1972 and was to be completed by 1982. Its original cost was put at Rs. 624 crore which has now spiralled to Rs. 4000 crore. Its water was to be diverted to a canal on its right, but it has not reached the canal, which is 12 Km long and is dead and dry. Ramanand Singh ji, I was born in Narsinghpur district and also represent it. In fact, it is the most fertile land in Asia, but water has not reached there. It has not reached even Paragotegaon tehsil. The useful life of the dam is about to end. The rate of siltation in Narmada is very high in plain areas but no one has kept this fact in view. Age was determined on the basis of average rate of siltation. Last time drought had occurred there, Government had said clearly that either electricity could be generated there or irrigation could be done. Now the situation is that nobody is getting water from the dam and the land of the farmers has been consumed by that dam.

As has been already stated, the dam could either provide electricity or water for irrigation but not both. But farmers need both electricity and water for irrigation. Which is not possible. And the cost has gone up by more than ten times. The second example is about the region I represent. I raised this issue today itself through my submission on Jamania reservoir. This earthen dam is 92 years old and it does not have channel gates. In the year 1977, when Janata Party was in power in Madhya Pradesh, the range was increased by two feet to discharge water from west weir. A 92 year old earthern dam in which no cement, has been used is irrigating 650 hectares. No proposal with regard to its improvement has gone beyond C.E., whereas it is irrigating more than its capacity. You will not find another such dam in the world. The command area of other dams, in the course of their construction decreases while the dam I am referring to, is actually increasing its command area. But this very fact is coming in the way of its improvement. I fail to understand this approach and to me, this explains the inefficacy of our dams. This is the reason of our schemes not achieving their aims. When I was elected to Ninth Lok Sabha, I had the opportunity to deliver my maiden speech on Forest Act, 1980. I am also a Member of the relevant standing committee and now I have heard that it is going to be reviewed.

Sir, my constituency is naxalite affected area. I am referring to Balaghat. It is such a district of Madhya Pradesh where 48% of the land is under irrigation. We have forest resources, land resources and the facility of irrigation, but the menace of naxalism is also on us. Similiarly forest laws are also obstructing our development. Tribals don't get lease. What I want to say is that there is no point in abandoning schemes which were launched before the promulgation of Forest Act, 1980. Legislations with the purpose of restricting water and other pollutions will continue to be made, and I don't think that it is prudent to abandon on going schemes on this basis. This step is not in any way in national interest. I request for its reconsideraton. I would also like to say that it is not in national interest that the implementation of the schemes suffer simply because the centre and the state is ruled by two different political parties. We have to consider that we had to spend thousands of crores of rupees to provide relief to the people at the time of calamities like flood, drought or earthquake.

17.04 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

These calamities have resulted in loss of life and property. If we are asked to evaluate this with our progress then latter will apear very small. We have to admit that our development is, in fact, replacement of one stupidity with another. The House will have to think over it. I go through the reports of Planning Commission, which sees the evolution of plans in terms of population size. After fifty years, national yardsticks for development have changed dramatically. There are places with no roads and object poverty. Whether such places would get priority. My region is in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh where naxal activities are common. It is obstructing the development there. Though the sentiments of the people have been exploited there, but yet no work is being done. Therefore, we have to think over it. Our thinking is narrow, since we think in provincial terms. We are just not interested in closing gap among our constituency, district and State We are not interested in development. Ataiji came to power, about fifty years after our independence. He floated the idea of 'Golden Quadrilateral' of highways. Same can be done in railways, too. It can reduce the distance between north and souch but we do not discuss it. In my State, Jabalpur-Gandia line is pending. It is being said that the line is economically non-viable. I do not demand on a issue limited to my constituency alone, but I do ask for a discussion on the ways to reduce the distance between north and south.

Sir, we also need to review our schemes in view of our changing geographical and social patterns. The shcemes with similar objectives, but run by different Ministries and Departments should be integrated. They should be implemented

[Shri Prahlad Singh Patel]

in a proper manner. For example, Ministry of Environment and Forests looks after water conservation. This work is also in the purview of Rural Development, Tribal Affairs and Water conservation. A few NGOs are also working in this field. I have heard that the Ministry of Rural Development implements 270 schemes. They should be amalgamated and reduced in such a manner as would result in reduction of expenditure.

Sir, finally I would request the Government to move the resolution in the House and a detailed discussion on it. Discussion should be held with regard to our achievements of 50 years as well as on the ways to complete the schemes. The resolution has been moved by Shri Ramanand Singh ji. To review our performance in the last 50 years, Government should move a resolution to stop the practice of speaking in narrow terms in the House. We should not speak just for our constituency, and for ouselves. It may restrict development at some places in the short term, but in the long term it would help stop the practice of speaking in narrow terms. I thank Shri Ramanand Singh ji for bringing the resolution at an appropriate time and I also thank Mr. Deputy-Speaker. I demand the Government to move this resolution on its own and conduct discussion on it so that we can rectify our mistakes and proceed on the way to success.

*SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank my esteemed colleague Shri Ramanand Singh who has moved this resolution on the need to provide adequate fund for the completion of all pending projects and I also thank the Chair for the opportunity given to speak on this motion. On behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam I would like to put forth my views. While extending my support to this motion, I feel proud to second this motion as it seeks to complete all the pending projects within a stipulated period. The motion also impresses upon the Government to provide adequate funds for the completion before taking up any new project or scheme.

It is 54 years now and even after so many years in our independent India there are many projects left abandoned or shelved or awaiting completion. I would like to make it clear that even projects that were commenced with fanfare have been left incomplete and it is needless to mention about announced projects gathering dust due to non-allocation of funds.

Announcements are made about new projects and schemes in every Budget. I would like to impress upon the Government that an assessment and review of the ongoing schemes must be made before submitting Budget every year. If need be adequate funds must be provided to complete the schemes or projects taken up already and are progressing. Otherwise there is no point in coming out with new projects every year whenever Budget is presented.

As part of Budget preparation, an exercise must be carried out to evaluate the progress of ongoing projects. A thorough study on the completion of every project must be made. We must see whether the stipulated time limit has been met, whether there is any cost-over run, whether there is any need for additional funds to be pumped in and whether it could be given further priority over other projects drawn up.

I would like to point out in this august House that we may not be faced with a situation as we face today wherein we find several projects are pending for long for want of funds mostly due to cost escalation arising out of unforeseen things.

It is only because such a study is not properly done before the presentation of every Budget, we find several incomplete projects remain pending with an alarming increase in their number all over the country. When they are ignored in the subsequent Budget and if adequate funds are not provided for their completion it only adds up to the burden on the exchequer.

Every plan scheme and project must be weighed with the background information as to how many people would benefit out of that project and how many among them would be the beneficiaries from the poorer sections of the society. The extent of area that would get the benefits of the plan projects must be taken into consideration. I hope everyone would agree with me that these aspects must be gone into before the inclusion of projects in the Budgetary announcements. If they are done that way how come there are delays and cost over-runs that hamper the completion of projects. Deadlines must be scrupulously met.

When it comes to allocation of funds even if they are huge, they may not help completion of projects in time if such funds are not released in time. Time management in releasing funds is also crucial.

We must ensure a monitoring mechanism to ensure fund flow. There are several Centrally funded schemes and projects announced in our Budgets every year. There are some States which divert such funds to other projects leaving aside the projects they are meant for. Even plan-expenditure funds are freezed at the intervention of courts in certain cases. This also causes cost over run in projects that are pending. Natural calamities also come in the way of the completion of projects. In some cases the delay in the execution of assigned work by the contractors also delay the works from being given shape within a stipulated time. Our failure to supervise and monitor

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

the implementation and the progress of various projects is the main cause for delays and resultant pending-tags.

Law and order situation in some States causes hurdles to the completion of projects. Thus there are many reasons that cause delay in the completion of several well-meaning projects. The spokes put in the progression of projects are both natural and man-made and are often unforeseen. Timely measures and timely release of funds are essential to create a conducive atmosphere for the completion of projects.

Even when funds are allocated for the completion of projects, they get derailed when there is change in focus of attention due to the change in Government. We witness this in several States and local administration bodies. Law and order problems also hamper and delay the projects from their being completed on time.

The ever-increasing number of pending projects also includes as its cause the friction in the Centre-State relations. If good relations are not maintained definitely they come in the way of the fund flow that causes delay.

Let's take the funds earmarked for the Members' of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. Every Member is entitled to handle projects and schemes worth two crores of rupees. In Tamil Nadu, our leader and former Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi had allotted Rs. 77 lakh to every Assembly constituency. Every MLA in Tamil Nadu got a sanctioning limit up to Rs. 77 lakh. It was also stipulated that at least Rs. 12 lakh would be earmarked by every MLA for improving infrastructure facility for educational institutions and projects related to education. Every Lok Sabha constituency consists of six Assembly constituencies but Lok Sabha MP gets only Rs. 2 crore.

When an MLA is provided with Rs. 77 lakh, what an MP gets is comparatively less and it amounts to just Rs. 2 crore. We have been taking up with the Union Government to enhance this amount but it is unfortunate that no favourable decision has been taken in this regard. Even after several members insisted on this demand is this august House many times, the Government has not come forward to consider the just demand. No reason has been explained and no raise has been effected as yet. Hence I urge upon the Government to increase this amount. MPLADS Committee constituted by this House had also recommended that there must be an upward revision. I understand the Hon'ble Speaker is also well disposed towards this move. But the Government is yet to take a positive decision on this demand. I am afraid the Minister concerned does not seem to be concerned. At the same time we find Government funds are left unspent in some departments while pending projects face the crisis of paucity of funds. Proper management and proper utilisation are lacking on one side and the pressing needs are hitting the pending and ongoing projects on the other side. I am afraid the Minister is unnecessarily earning a bad name by not increasing the fund allocation for MPLADS. Hon. Minister for Programme Implementation is an able and dynamic Minister. He has the capacity and the capability to earn a good name for the Government as of himself. I would like to raise a question as to why the MPLADs funds cannot be increased to Rs. 5 crore per member. The Government may ponder over this.

When we shift our attention to Railways, we find about a hundred projects are kept pending. Pending projects and their crying needs are not attended to. Adequate funds are not made available to them. Leaving them aside, new projects and schemes are announced in every Budget that follows one another with new proposals every time. I would like to reiterate again the need to take into account every phase and fate of ongoing and pending projects whenever the Budget exercise is initiated. Completion of pending projects must be the main thrust of the Budgets presented. This would ensure better governance and good administration.

I would like to point out particularly in Tamil Nadu the pending Railway projects like:

(i) Villupuram – Thanjavur Gauge Conversion

(ii) Tiruchi – Rameswaram Gauge Conversion

(iii) Villupuram – Katpadi Gauge Conversion and

(iv) Cuddalore – Salem Gauge Conversion.

Several such schemes are pending for want of funds. Such schemes must be announed only when amounts ae allocated. Otherwise they merely remain on paper after being publicised. In order to complete these projects within a stipulated time, Railways must be provided with adequate funds by the Planning Commission.

I also want to impress upon the States and emphasise the need to maintain cordial Centre-State relations. I am the fifth Member from my Cuddalore Lok Sabha constituency. All my predecessors have been taking up with all the previous Governments the need to construct a Railway over bridge in Cuddalore. The problems faced by the public are mounting up. Finally it ws taken up by the Centre at a time when I also started taking up the matter with the Railways. But the present Government in Tamil Nadu has caused hindrance to the project that has come at least now belatedly. They say that they could not provide land needed for the project that will benefit the entire population of my constituency. Their plea is that roads could

[Shri Adhi Sankar]

not be spared. The fact remains that the project aims at easing road congestion. Even when adequate funds are provided to complete certain projects, hitches like this could be caused if there is a ruptured Centre-State relations. I would like to point out that cordial relations between the Union and States in the interest of the people of respective States and in the interest of fulfilling the aspirations of the people thereby meeting their long pending demands and attending to their felt needs.

Taking up the additional stages of Bhakra-Nangal dam, the dream project of late Jawaharlal Nehru is pending still. Cooum river project, the one visualised on by late 'Anna' is pending. Long insisted Sethu-Samudram project, the dream of Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi and the modernisation of Cauvery river water system are all pending. I urge upon the Union Government to allocate funds for these and other pending projects in Tamil Nadu.

Pattabiram-Thiru Nindravur 4-track railway line project to be taken up by Railways and Chingleput-Madurai 4-lane super highway project to be taken up by the Surface Transport Ministry are pending for long even after their being announced long back. I am pained to point out that funds have not been allocated for these already cleared projects. I urge upon the Union Government to look into this and provide adequate funds.

Extension work at Cuddalore Harbour in my constituency was to be taken up under Small Ports Development project. Cuddalore along with the bigger Tuticorin Port was to be extended. Announcements in the regard came from the Centre. But the funds are not forthcoming. Hence the extension work remains pending.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Adhi Sankar, how long will you take to complete?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: In 2 minutes Sir.

Likewise, Jayamkondam Thermal Coal Mining Project that comes under my constituency needs to be funded by the Union Government and the pending project must have adequate funds to take off.

There are several projects connected with health, medicine, education, agriculture, mining, railways, rural development, science and technology, information technology, that are lying pending in my constituency in particular and in Tamil Nadu in general. All these pending projects must get adequate funds and I request Hon. Minister to look into it.

Natural calamities and disasters pose a big problem and they hit hard the projects that are going on. They affect several projects even after their completion if not causing delays. There are several projects in my constituency that need enough funds to have cyclone forewarning centres and relief centres. I urge upon the Minister to allocate funds for these pending projects. Because prevention of damage due to natural disaster could save the public from the loss of life and property.

I would request the Hon. Minister Shri Arun Shourie to look into these demands for adequate fund allocation and I am also thanking the mover of this Resolution. With this reiteration that Government must ensure adequate fund allocation for all pending projects, let me conclude.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The time allotted for the subject was two hours. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend it up to 5.45 p.m. I think, we will be in a position to finish it by that time.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The time is extended.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Sir, beauty lies in the beholder's eyes. I am very grateful to Shri Ramanand Singh for bringing forward this very contemporary topic that the Government has failed to bring ever to this House. Like the battlefield of Kurukshetra, when Arjuna in array saw in his presence *Maharathis,* I see Shri Jagmohan, distinguished Governor, distinguished administrator, distinguished MP and distinguished Minister. I see before me an able, capable crusader, a man very powerful with his pen, very powerful with his speech and a very good person, Shri Arun Shourie, whom I have known for a number of years. I see before me a distinguished Police Officer who reached the second highest post in his Service. Had he remained, he would have become DG of Orissa. Now, he is a distinguished parliamentarian. So, with all this background, I am in doubt why things are going haywire. Why did Shri Ramanand Singh have to bring forward this subject?

Everyone knows the name of Peter Drucker, the grand old man of Management. Today, most of the students in the Management Schools read his books and hear his talks. What did Peter Drucker say? I read it in one of the Indian Airlines in-flight magazine, *Swagat:*

> "The best exponent of management is the common Indian housewife."

With limited resources, she keeps the husband happy, the in-laws happy, the children happy, runs a happy home and does not repeat the same vegetable twice in the same week. The

common Indian housewife is the best exponent of management. It is not K.P. Singh Deo who is saying it but Peter Drucker who has said it. It has been published in the Indian Airlines' magazine, *Swagat*.

Now, my distinguished friend, Shri Anadi Sahu, was talking about cost overrun, time overrun and cost escalation.

The Planning Commission evolves, enunciates and formulates the plan, which is approved first by the NDC and then by the Parliament. What I would like to know is that with such a galaxy of talents in Treasury Benches, galaxy of talents in the Planning Commission – one of our most distinguished sons of the soil, who has been an excellent parliamentarian, Minister, Shri K.C. Pant is heading it. Before that there were distinguished people like Shri Jaswant Singh, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, all of them distinguished in their own field – why is it, that over the last 53 years none of the projects has been completed in time and how much is the cumulative loss?

Take, for instance, Bihar. I was a member of the Estimates Committee in 1969. We saw that Kosi and Gandak projects of Bihar had water but there was no canal system and it was a first plan project. Shri Anadi Sahu was referring to Rengali. Rengali Multipurpose Irrigation Project was rated highly by Dr. K.L. Rao, one of the greatest Indian engineers ever to come after Dr. Viswesvaraya. He was a Chief Engineer even in Tennesse Valley Corporation and Shrimati Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone in 1973. It is nearly three decades. It is nowhere near to be completed. From Rs. 273 crore, it has gone to Rs. 3000 crore.

In an answer, Shri Arjun Sethi said that 60 per cent of the canal system is being done but truncated and it has already cost Rs. 1241 crore. This was told to the Estimates Committee of Orissa Assembly. I was present that day when the Estimates Committee visited and God knows how many donkeys' years it is going to take. Maybe I will not see it in my generation.

I was mentioning about Indravati. Shri P.K. Deo, sitting here, was our colleague in 1967. It took 28 years for Shri P.K. Deo, father of Shri B.K. Deo, M.P. and his entire parliamentary career was spent only on one issue, Indravati, which he had started in 1942 as a Maharaja of Kalahandi. It saw the light of the day in 1996. Today, Kalahandi is no more the spectre of famine, distress and starvation and selling of children. They are now exporting Basmati. This is what was told by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, the then Leader of Opposition in 1996, when we were discussing drought. So, it takes 30-40 years for a project. The country does not benefit. But is not there some accountability and responsibility.

The hon. Minister was very kind to lay the CAG report on MPLADS only in the last session. What sordid observations were made by the CAG? It makes everyon's head hang in shame the way the amount of Rs. 2 crore, which is given to each MP for MPLAD, is being mismanaged, misappropriated, diverted without the MP knowing it. But it is the parliamentarians, the MLAs and elected representatives who are held accountable by the people. Each one of us whether from Treasury Benches or Opposition Benches, every five years we have to go and explain ourselves to the people. But the people who are at the implementation level, are never held accountable or responsible.

I will focus on three issues only. First is water. Water is elixir of life. Till today, we have not been able to make it into a national resource, although there have been many debates. I remember when Shri Dinesh Singh, was the Minister, he moved a resolution, but I do not think it was passed. Till now, we are contemplating to make it into a national resource. Anyway, we are found of quoting Justice Sarkaria. We were discussing only this afternoon about the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission. One of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission was to amend the Inter-State Water Disputes Act so that a tribunal award has the same force as the Supreme Court.

The very first line at page 492 refers to Optimum utilisation of water resources and need for comprehensive planning. He has said, "Water is a precious natural resource. No nation can afford to ignore the imperative need for comprehensive planning to secure optimum utilisation of its water resources." He has also mentioned, what the National Commission on Agriculture observed:

> "In view of the inadequacy of water resources to meet the future agricultural and other requirements in many parts of the country, it becomes a matter of great national importance to conserve and utilising it most judicially and economically."

He also emphasised on institutional infrastructure. At the end, he says:

> "There should be a National Water Policy and that Planning and Development of Water Resource also includes inter-basin transfer of water and should be governed by a national perspective."

But who is going to do it? Mr. Minister, being your friend I would want you to be elevated to much more than what you are at the moment. You are not going to be there for all times to come. Somebody else is going to be in your place. Who will implement what Justice Sarkaria had mentioned? So, there is no accountability or responsibility at any level.

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

I mentioned about Rengali. The same is the case about Dadraghati, Hirakud and Ramyal. You name it, and today, there are people who are still not resettled or rehabilitated. Hirakud came up in 1952 by the same Dr. K.L. Rao, who was the Chief Engineer. He had come from Tenesse Valley Corporation as the Chief Engineer of Hirakud. It came up in 1952 and we are now in 2001. People have not yet been rehabilitated. Rengali flows through my constituency. It is half incomplete. There are thousands of people who have not yet been rehabilitated. NALCO, the flagship company of the Ministry of Mines, has given a profit of Rs. 650 crore this year. The Standing Committee of Industries, of whom I am a Member, and Mr. Ramdas Agarwal is the Chairman, visited Koraput and Angul. Still, there are 1357 families, which have been uprooted, have not yet been rehabilitated. Nobody is responsible or accountable.

Only two years back, when Shri Naveen Patnaik was the Minister of Mines and when I asked him, he said that 393 pots of the smelter had cracked. It takes 5,000 degrees of centigrade. It costs the exchequer a sum of Rs. 300 crore. It is there in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Mines. No one has been held responsible. The country has absorbed all these shocks.

You and I have voted the same Mines Ministry Grant. The MPs are held responsible for drought or cyclone or flood or earthquake but the fellows who are there at the ground level are not held responsible. Today, the worst flood of the living memory has gripped Orissa. It is a man made one. I am not saying it. I am no irrigation expert. The Orissa Assembly has debated it only three days back. The Mahanadi and Brahmani are dammed at Hirakud as well as at Rengali. Water was let off. All the gates were let off and for 12 to 13 days, there was a standing water of six to eight feet. There are many Members who are agriculturists here. Can any paddy crop withstand 12 days or 13 days or 15 days of water? Athmallik and Vir Maharajpur Sub-divisions were cut off from everywhere. The only means of communication was from heli-dropping and that was a chicken feed. But I must say that our Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik went to every area and did heli-dropping. So also the Prime Minister went. We are grateful that many of the Ministers including Shri Nitish Kumar went but people, who were marooned for about a week, are starving. Now, that same agricultural land has got at least four to five feet of sand casting. Relief will be over in a few days because our holy Bible is the famine code and the Tenth or the Eleventh Finance Commission Report.

I am glad that the hon. Prime Minister has directed the Planning Commission to take a look as to why Orissa is having these droughts, floods and cyclones year and year again from 1964. Why can you not declare it as a special category State like you have done for Himachal or North-Eastern States?

Now, Parliament is the supreme legislative body. 750 of the cream of the society are supposed to be here. We are supposed to be manifesting the will of the people. We cannot change a little comma from the Tenth Finance Commission. A national disaster could not be called 'a national disaster' and it was called, ' like a national disaster'. Whereas the United Nations could declare the year 1999 as the International Year of Disaster but the Indian Parliament could not, the Indian Government could not because our holy Bible was the Tenth Finance Commission.

Therefore, unless responsibility and accountability is fixed at every level, Parliament will be ritually debating it and every year there is going to be devastation, misery and suffering by the people.

Sir, I come to the second point, that is, Railways, because that is the central subject. This is what my friend, Shri Anadi Sahu, was quoting. This is from the Principal Resident Commissioner of Orissa. This is a brief status paper on Railway projects in Orissa dated 24-7-2001 circulated to all the MPs.

Comming to East Coast Railway, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan on 8-8-1996 eastablished the East Coast Railway. There are six Railway Zones. Only yesterday the answer was given by the Railway Ministry. You will see just like the law of diminishing returns, a diminishing investment of Rs. 41 crore and odd amount is spent on a Railway Zone. First Rs. 50 lakh was given in the year 2000-2001 for the East Coast Railway. This year, in the Railway Budget, how much was given? It was Rs. 10 lakh. Sir, I used to fail in mathematics. I do not know whether Rs. 10 lakh is more or Rs. 50 lakh is more. In the year 2001, the allocation was Rs. 50 lakh and this year it is Rs. 10 lakh.

Coming to Daltari-Banspani project, in the year 1992-93, the cost was estimated at Rs. 595 crore. The expenditure till March 2001 was Rs. 270 crore. This year's allocation is Rs. 50 crore. That means, it will take another six to seven years.

Regarding Lanjigarh-Junagarh Road, it is a 54-kilometre line. The estimated cost is Rs. 119 crore. The expenditure till March 2001 was Rs. 15.81 crore. This year's allocation is Rs. 2 crore.

Khurda Road Bolangir is a 289-kilometre project. The estimated cost is Rs. 355 crore. The year of sanction is 1994-95. The expenditure till March was Rs. 10.8 crore. The allotment this year is Rs. 5 crore. Rs. 10 crore is to be spent on the Built, Operate, Lease and Transfer (BOLT) scheme. So far in India, not a single BOLT scheme has come to the Railways. With

great fanfare we, the Chief Minister, the Union Minister of Railways and all the MPs, made a hell of a *tamasha*. Even I was invited but I could not go.

How long will it take to complete the Haridaspur-Paradeep project? The estimated cost is Rs. 302 crore. This year allotment is Rs. 5 crore and Rs. 15 crore for BOLT. Rs 14.8 crore has been spent. Maybe, it will take 30 years.

Then, I will come to my own constituency project, Angul-Dubri-Sukinda Road B.G. Railway project. It was sanctioned in the year 1997-98. The estimated cost is Rs. 245 crore. This gives 29.37 per cent internal rate of revenue which is the highest in the world. No Railways, whether Canadian, Pacific, Trans-Siberian, Indian Railways, French Railways, British Railways, or German Railways have got such a high rate of return. This has been commended upon by the Chairman of the Planning Commission as well as the Railway Board. The estimated cost is Rs. 245 crore. The expenditure till March 2001 was Rs. 0.48 crore, that means, Rs. 48 lakh. How much is the allocation this year? It is Rs. 5 crore. Rs. 15 crore only has been allotted for BOLT. That means that amount of Rs. 15 crore will never come.

Coming to Rupsa-Bangriposi, 1995 was the year of sanction of this project. The estimated cost is Rs. 80 crore. The expenditure till March, 2001 was Rs. 9.57 crore. The allotment for the current year is Rs. 4 crore.

Naupada-Gunupur project is in Dr. Girdhari and Shrimati Hema Gamang's constituency. The year of sanction of this project is 1997-98. The estimated cost is Rs. 125.43 crore. The expenditure till March, 2001 was Rs. 0.03 crore. The allotment this year is Rs. 10 lakh. So, how will these projects ever be completed? Nobody is held responsible. The MP of that area will be held responsible after five years. The politician will be castigated in the Press for not doing his work. But the people at the ground, cutting edge level, are not responsible at all.

Same was the position of drought and floods in the 1999 cyclone. There were no district level officers in four districts during the 1999 cyclone. This had been debated in Parliament. not a single action has been taken. The senior officer ran away from Orissa to the United States for 21 days. No action was taken. The poor Chief Minister was unceremoniously kicked out. When Shri Deve Gowda went to Bolangir, he found that six out of the 14 BDOs were not in position.

In my own constituency, this time, I had to swim through to Virmaharajpur on the 19th and the 20th of July. There was no Sub-Collector and no BDO for six months. The poor Collector had to send his ADM who also had to come by boat to reach me. We were the first human beings my constituency people saw in those few days. How can we render help to the suffering people? Therefore, project implementation, management and organisation have to be evolved.

During the cyclone, we were discussing disaster management. The main stress was on organisation of human resources and trained manpower, which they have in the Untied States. The United States, every year, has typhoons and hurricanes. They have trained manpower, contingency plans, project management and organisation so that there is a minimal loss of life and minimum suffering to the citizens. Therefore, once again, I thank Shri Ramanand Singh for bringing this Resolution.

There are two suggestions that I want to make. Now that the Constitution Review Committee is looking into and studying the Constitution, let us find out as in the case of the inter-State water disputes, how project implementation and management could be done in a better way where the Centre and the States are involved. The Constitution gives the Centre full powers on certain aspects and residual powers over certain others. The States have the majority of the subjects, which we are discussing here like agriculture, irrigation, etc. We are only taking an overall view of the whole issue and trading charges here. Every day, acrimonious debates are taking place. Every day, temperatures are running high but the crux of the matter is that there is non-implementation. This could also be referred to the Constitution Review Committee and such suggestions as have been brought out by Shri Ramanand Singh and my friend Col. Sona Ram Choudhary could also be considered.

We have amended our Constitution more than ninety times. What prevented us from adding a few municipalities that never existed during the Seventy-fourth Amendment? We included some municipalities during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time. I was a Member and chairman of the Joint Select Committee and we got absolutely unanimous support from this House. I am sure no one would grudge if a State like Orissa or parts of Vidharbha or North Bengal got special category status.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the matter raised in the House is very important. Your are adept in controlling the proceedings of the House. The Hon. Minister of Planning visited Mumbai in the recent past. I extend my thanks to him for appropriating the funds after deep thinking. In fact some works are natural whereas some are the creation of mankind. Man sometimes does not work properly therefore the problems crop up. I met Morarji Bhai and talked to him during his tenure as Prime Minister. It is ironical that we start working on many schemes together, but no one gets completed. I request the Government to pay attention towards this aspect. Five schemes were

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formulated for my constituency, which got completed during the tenure of Shri Morarji Desai. People were highly benefited by these schemes and thus these were utilised and also completed at low cost. Otherwise, it has been observed that a scheme is prepared and the total amount spent on it is estimated at five crore rupees and Rs. 5 lakh are given as token grant. This way, the scheme does not get completed even in ten years, whereas the estimate rises to Rs. Fifty crore from Rs. Five crore. The Department of Planning should, therefore, give proper consideration towards this aspect. It should not approve any scheme under pressure of any Department of the Government or any influential person. It should only give consideration towards timely completion of the scheme.

My second request is that the financial year ends in the month of March. Sir, in Maharashtra we were elected to the Legislative Assembly from the district council and from the Legislative Assembly to the Parliament of India by your blessings. But what we observe is that the funds are received on 29th March and are exhausted on 30th March. How does this happen? How does the scheme work? I had suggested to late Shri Yashwant Rao Chauhan, when he was the Minister in the Ministry of Planning, that the financial year should be extended to 30th June, only then would the things be set right.

I had put many demands of my constituency before the Central Government. I have demanded two railway lines for Maharashtra. Firstly, Manmad-Malegaon-Narnana and Dhulia route and secondly Pipalgaon-Vani rail route. My friend hon. MP Shri Puglia is sitting here. There is no new railway line planned to be laid during the current year. I request that the suggestion of the Government of Maharashtra regarding laying of railway lines should be considered. The Maharashtra Government has sent 65 schemes regarding water and dams to the Union Government, but none has been accorded approval. In fact it is very essential to accord approval to these schemes and I, once again, request the hon. Minister of Planning to take decision after proper thought and may not succumb to anyone's influence or pressure. I also request him to release more funds for the timely completion of the scheme in a well-planned and systematic manner. I am thankful to you for having given me time to speak.

[*English*]

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): Sir, Shri Ramanand Singh has brought a Resolution which is of the highest importance and it has met with unanimous support from all sides. I also share fully the suggestions which have been made by various Members as well as the suggestions contained in the Resolution itself.

Sir, he made three points and other Members have also made them. One is that there should be a programme to speed up implementation of the projects, the completion of the projects. The second one is that funds should be provided for this purpose, and, third that new schemes should not be launched till funds are available in the plans for those programmes.

Sir, many of the points which have been made pertain to specific projects. I will diligently go through the record and make sure that those points are brought to the attention of the State Governments as well as the Centre.

Sir, I will mention only three or four factual points for consideration of the Members. First, we have on our monitor in the Department of Programme Implementation 461 projects. A quarterly review of the implementation status of each of these projects is prepared.

This thick report on each single project, with milestones and the extent to which those milestones have been met every quarter, is not only considered by three or four levels of Government, it is placed in the Library of Parliament also. I would request Members to try and devote some time to see this. It is a mine of information. It says where the bottleneck is. Maybe, with the interest that the Members have in swift completion of those projects, they will be able to bring pressure to bear on the State Governments and on the relevant executing agency, as Shri Sahu was just saying, to expedite the implementation of that project. That is one of my suggestions.

One thing that the survey shows is that funds are not the constraint in implementation. We identify which factor in which project is hampering implementation. It turns out that in these 461 projects, it was only in 48 projects that funds were a constraint. And 41 of these 48 projects are actually in Railways. What Shrimati Shyama Singh said is very important—that we should see our own responsibility. When Railway Budgets are presented, year after year, in the debate that ensues, you will see each Member is asking for a line in his constituency. As the DMK Member rightly said, then the Minister yields and makes a token provision. Shri Giridhari Lal Bhargava put the result well:

[*Translation*]

It is peanuts. Occasionally a sum of Rs. one lakh is sanctioned and sometimes Rs. 10 lakh is sanctioned.

[*English*]

We are responsible for putting pressure for unrealistic inclusions in ministerial schemes.

I will give you an instance: 85 projects of these 461 do not have any date of commissioning at all. Of these 85, 61 projects are only railway lines because Members, over the years, have persuaded successive Ministers of Railways to include their lines. He includes it and puts one lakh there. He knows that it is not going to be taken up. That is one factor that we should keep in mind. It is not the lack of funds.

The second point is that the Government, over the last few years, has been making extra funds available precisely to complete on-going projects which have been lying unfinished for a long time. This is a major consideration with the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs while allocating funds. The general approach, "If this is incomplete, if it requires more funds immediately, give more funds to this project rather than sanction new projects".

Shri Ramanand Singh, Shri Swain and others Members have expressed great concern over irrigation projects which have not been completed. Precisely for that reason, in 1996-97, the Government started the Accelerated Irrigation benefit Programme. This is only for those projects which are incomplete and by a marginal addition the last mile can be completed. This year in the Budget you have Rs. 1,712 crores just for the completion of the last mile. Since 1996-97, Rs. 5,500 crore have been spent in trying to do this, and, as a result of this focus on completing incomplete projects, 7,86,000 hectares of irrigation potential has been created, precisely doing what the hon. Members were suggesting.

Now, as you know, in the Budget that you have approved, a similar programme has been started for power plants. There is now an Accelerated Power Development Programme for which Rs. 1,500 crore have been provided in the Budget this year. As the Finance Minister had announced already, by that time, Memoranda of Understanding had been signed with five State Governments that, the centre would give them funds provided they focus on completing the on-going power projects in their States. I can give several details. A reference has been made to Madhya Pradesh.

Sir, under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme– it is being given funds since 1996-97 – a sum of Rs. 260 crore has been given to that state only to complete the on-going projects.

Sir, the third point is that a number of other measures also have been taken to speed up projects. Government was anticipating the valuable suggestions which have been made by the Members today. I will just enumerate those without going into the details because we have already over-stepped the time limit for discussion here.

Sir, we have found that one of the most frequent causes for delay is the time it takes in acquisition of land. It was being mentioned here that 23 acres of land could not be acquired and what happened to a project as a result of that. So, the Government is now saying that you acquire land, you make provision of infrastructure like water and electricity; you take care of the law and order problems in the area even before the bulk of the funds are available. When the project is cleared in principle, you start this work.

Sir, another point is that we were finding that the officers who were appointed for execution of the projects kept changing. Shri K.P. Singh Deo was mentioning that Ministers keep on changing but so do the officers. For that reason, the Government now insists on appointing a nodal officer for a particular project who is not to be changed for the duration of that project.

Sir, Shri Swain was mentioning that there must be an inter-Ministerial Committee so that when difficulties arise, these can be sorted out quickly. For that purpose, for each Ministry, an empowered Committee has been set up so that whenever difficulties arise,This Committee — it has representatives from other Ministries, from the States and as well as from project authorities — can take a decision itself without circulating files and memoranda amongst the groups.

Sir, I mentioned about the review of these 461 principal projects. These reviews are taken by the Cabinet Secretary. We prepare these detailed documents and they are reviewed by the Cabinet Secretary and Committee of Secretaries and also by the Prime Minister's Office so that if there is any one problem which is coming in the way, intervention can come from the highest level to the Chief Minister and others and corrective steps can be taken.

Sir, one point that has been mentioned by Shri K.P. Singh Deo, Shri Anadi Charan Sahu and many other Members is that of accountability of individual officers.

Sir, I will finish in just two minutes.

Sir, no officer was actually being held responsible for cost or time over-runs. For this purpose, in each of 22 Ministries that are handling many of the projects, a Standing Committee has been constituted to fix the responsibility for cost and time over-runs of projects being handled by that Ministry. It is a rule now that if you come for any revision of costs or outlays to the

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Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, you must attach the report of the Standing Committee which fixed the responsibility on individual officers and also state what action has been taken in respect of that officer.

Sir, it is a fact that, unfortunately — I have myself seen the reports of the Standing Committees — responsibilities are not being fixed on individual officers and for that reason in one of the Cabinet meetings a few weeks ago it was decided that the Cabinet Secretary would focus on this one point — of follow up action on the reports of the Standing Committees.

Sir, I would conclude by mentioning only one point.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the time allotted for discussion is over now and even the extended time is also over. The House would have to take up the Half-an-hour discussion at 6 p.m.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I would conclude in two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The mover of the Resolution also would have to speak after you. So, you can continue next time.

18.00 hrs.

Now the time has to be fixed. It will take at least half an hour more for this Resolution. The time has to be extended now, and then it can continue next time. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this Resolution by half an hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The time for this Resolution is extended by half an hour.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA): Sir, this Resolution has been introduced in the House for consideration after six months. The Hon. Minister would finish his speech within five minutes and the second Resolution would also then be taken up. I would finish my speech after asking one or two questions from the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You should rather feel happy that the hon. Minister would complete answer on your resolution next time and you would also be given a chance to speak.

18.01 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Re: Identification of Backward Areas

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up half-an-hour discussion. Shri Adhir Chowdhary.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, I must appreciate the hon. Minister for having acceded to a half-an-hour discussion, in compliance with the demand of the Members concerned. The question pertained to the backward areas of the country. The question itself had reflected the uneven development and the regional disparities. It is easy to conceive that identification of backward areas will certainly lead to wide-ranging ramifications as far as the financial system, financial governance, etc., are concerned. It has also brought in the broader spectrum of our Constitutional provisions vis-a-vis States.

The Minister, in his statement, stated that 13 Committees have so far been constituted and the latest in that series was the Sharma Committee, which was constituted to identify the backward areas in our country and that no uniform criterion or consensus of States could be evolved. Therefore, the statement clearly substantiates the intricacies and complexities involved in the task of identification of backward areas including the allocation of funds to the concerned areas. We know that decentralised political democracy and fiscal federalism are the two salient features and cornerstones of our Constitution. Again, the 73rd and 74th amendments of our Constitution have given birth to a third tier of democracy associated with devolution of fiscal powers and responsibilities to the grassroots level.

Sir, in the year 1969, first time the formula based Central Assistance Plan was introduced. That formula is known as Gadgil Formula. Then in 1991, this formula was got modified and approved by the NDC. It became known as the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula.

As per the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula, the number of Special Category States is 10 and the allocation for them would be 30 per cent. Remaining 70 per cent would be treated as 100 per cent distributed amount. There are 18 non-Special Category States on the following criteria: population — 60 per cent; per capita income — 25 per cent; 20 per cent for those States whose per capita income is less than the national average; 5 per cent for those States whose per capita income is equal or more than the national average; performance of the States — 7.5 per cent; tax etc, — 2.5 per cent, fiscal management — 2 per cent; population control — one per cent; elimination of female

illiteracy— one per cent; one time completion of externally aided projects — 0.5 per cent; success in land reforms — 0.5 per cent; and special problems — 7.5 per cent.

Sir, I do not know whether this Government is considering to abrogate this Formula. Now, this year's Census Report has come out. The Eleventh Finance Commission's Report has also come out. The Eleventh Finance Commission as well as the earlier Finance Commissions have simply given the impression that their Reports are found to be destined cul-de-sac.

Sir, the Reports of the successive Finance Commissions have become ritual orchestration while both the Centre and the States are heading towards fiscal problems. We cannot deny this.

Sir, over the Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission, various State Governments are very much agitated. They are under the impression that because of their good performance, they are being denied their share in the Central devolution.

I may state that the higher income States, namely, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab and Goa have suffered a loss in devolution of 13.14 per cent in the Tenth Finance Commission and 9.7 per cent in the Eleventh Finance Commission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Chowdhary, this is Half-an-hour discussion. You will have to make a short statement only. That is all.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Even the middle income States, the percentage of share in devolution has gone down, in respect of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In the case of Maharashtra alone, the reduction in devolution from TFC to EFC is Rs. 6920 crore for a five year period. So, the question arises as to why the progressive States are supposed to meet profligacy of the incompetent States. Therefore, before reorganising the States, the Government should consider the financial potentialities and the fiscal health of the concerned States. Only reorganisation of States should not be treated as a panacea for all ills. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right, Shri Chowdhary. This is Half-an-hour discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, I am just starting it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. Half-an-hour discussion means, it should be completed within half-an-hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, this is a very serious question. My State for long has been suffering from arsenic contamination. Nine districts in my State have been affected severely because of arsenic contamination. In pursuance of a direction from the High Court, the Ministry of Environment and Forest had conducted a study, which indicated the severity of this problem. The tolerance limit of arsenic consumption in human body is as merely as 0.05 mg. per litre. In many parts of my State, that level has exceeded and it has now gone up to 0.80 mg. per litre. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Okay, conclude. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, this is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)* Many deaths have been reported from my State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are four other hon. Members; they also will have to ask questions. Please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Many deaths have been reported from my State; and the district that I am representing has the highest incidence of arsenic contamination. Even Kolkatta has been affected by this poison. The silent deaths are spreading to the whole of the State. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to treat this issue as a national threat because arsenic contamination is not only confined to West Bengal alone; but also it has been spreading to other States also.

You are also aware that erosion of Ganga and Padma Rivers has created havoc or has created panic in my State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Okay. Now, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: In one place village Fazlika in my State, the distance between the Ganga and Padma Rivers is reduced to just 1.2 kms. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Okay, you have requested the Minister to treat this as a national issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: The river Ganga is going to circumvent the Farakka Barrage. A day may come when we will see that the Farakka Barrage is standing on a desert land. Is it not a national issue? Therefore, the issue of erosion of the Ganga and Padma Rivers, the issue of floods, the issue of

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

arsenic contamination, etc. are to be considered very seriously.

Sir, already you have had the Census Report, the Eleventh Finance Commission Report, the the Mid-Term Appraisal Report. May I know whether you are going to review the situation in the context of the changed socio-economic dimension and fix a new criteria for identifying backward areas?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already made your point. Now, please do not spoil your case. You have already asked him to treat this issue as a national issue. Now, he has to answer. You have already taken 15 minutes.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech. Sir, I am expecting many things because he is a nice and suave Minister. We are all proud of him and are expecting many things from him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are four more Members who will be asking the questions. This is only a Half-an-Hour Discussion. You are supposed to ask questions only.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, I got the first opportunity to speak in a Half-an-Hour Discussion. That is why, I did not know the nitty-gritty of all this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You should know all these things.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, some points cropped up as a result of the question of identification of the most backward areas in the country. We have evolved some criteria for determining the backward areas, viz., what is the level of education; average per capita income; means of transportation; standard of living; educational, social conditions etc. Backward and prosperous classes are determined on the basis of these criteria. Regarding the extremely backward classes of people, I would like to have clarification on two-three points viz whether any state would be declared backward, or developed on the basis of only some part of such a state being backward or developed! Take the example of the Union Terriroty of Andaman Nicobar or the State of Madhya Pradesh. On the one hand they have developed colonies, while on the other hand there are tribal areas, where still people lead a nomadic life like that of the primitive times. There lifestyles have not changed. In Madhya Pradesh, on the one hand, there is a total urban life with all facilities and on the other, there is not even proper facility of transportation and other facilities in areas like Jhabua and Bastar. I would like to know whether such far flung extremely backward areas or backward areas would be identified on communal, social, educational, residential, environmental basis or on the basis of transportation facilities available there?

I would like to make a mention of Orissa here. Whether you would also include the far-flung area of Kalahandi in the list of extremely backward areas? In fact we shall have to redefine some parts of the country. And we shall have to define the backward, extremely backward, developing or developed regions. Kindly determine these regions keeping the said criteria in mind. Whether you are considering this matter?

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (KEONJHAR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many districts of Orissa are included in the 100 districts that he has made a mention of in the reply of the question. There are many mineral deposits in district Keonjhar of Orissa, still it is treading towards backwardness during the last 50 years. I want to say that there should be good relations between the state and the centre otherwise it hampers works undertaken in such special areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would make efforts for preparing any scheme for such areas in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the basis or criterion on which backward areas of the country have been determined. Such a determination may be from political, natural, economic, educational, social or industrial point of view, but whether the Government had formulated some special scheme for the development of these areas and if so, the outcome thereof? If not, the reasons therefor? What was the motive behind identification of these backward areas?

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister may reply.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (CHANDRAPUR): Sir, I have also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: But your name has not been listed here.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: But I have given notice, Sir, I will take only two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please get me the rule in this regard. I cannot violate the rules. This is Half-an-hour Discussion. Any number of Members may give notice but only four Members from the ballot will be listed. Unfortunately, your name is not in the list. I want to give you a chance to speak but I do not want to violate the rule.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This Half-an-hour Discussion is from 6 to 6.30 p.m.

(Interruptions)

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): Sir, I will just end, and speak specifically to the points that were raised. The first point is, some specific problems have been raised like arsenic poisoning and others. On this point, as I have mentioned in the House during the Question Hour also, I have been repeatedly writing to the Government of West Bengal. It is unfortunate that we have not even received an acknowledgement for over two years. What I will do in this matter is that, instead of just requesting them to do something, I will make sure that we get information on what is happening in the area of arsenic poisoning in these nine districts and I will report to the Members. Shri Dasmunsi has also been very exercised on this matter. I will personally take up the matter with the new Chief Minister and continue with this enquiry. We will make it a special point that when the Chief Minister and his team come for the Annual Plan discussion with the Planning Commission, we will enquire into it very specifically.

The second question that was raised was, whether entire States are declared backward or not. In fact, this is a misconception. The Planning Commission does not go by areas being backward or most backward — because it will set up another race of trying to get each area declared as a backward area. What happens is that certain States have been designated the Special Category States by a set of criteria. They are border States; they are hilly States; they are States with high tribal population and they are bereft of natural resources. They are the North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

There is a proposal now to designate Uttranchal also as a special category State. But this can only be done by the National Development Council — in which the Chief Ministers are present. The proposal will be put to them and then they can decide on this. As was mentioned, in regard to specific areas, there is no specific identification that these areas are backward or most backward. While designing any particular scheme, the ares are identified on the basis of the criteria relevant to that particular scheme. Take for instance the scheme for developing infrastructure in an area. Here, we see which are the areas that are particularly deficient in that kind of infrastrucutre.. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him explain. Then you can seek clarification.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: For instance, for the Border Area Development Plan, Rs. 240 crore was given this year to blocks which have international land borders. They are being given 100 per cent grant for the development of infrastructure and other facilities. In the Tribal Plan, you will see that there are 194 projects. These are set up only in those blocks and in those States where more than fifty per cent of the population consists of Scheduled Tribes. There is also the Modified Area Development Approach.—There are 259 schemes in that. These are taken up in groups of villages with population of 10,000 or more with fifty per cent or more tribal population. Ther are similar criteria for Hill Area Development Plan, for Indira Awas Yojana, for Pradhan Mantri Gramodyog Yojana, for the Desert Development Programme and for the Drought Prone Areas Programme. For each of these criteria are specifically used for identifying the blocks and districts for which allocations under that scheme will go. These are very substantial allocations. For one scheme Rs. 280 crore was provided. For another scheme, Rs. 448 crore have been provided. Backwardness is identified in reference to those particular groups which are target groups and those particular things that have to be developed in that particular area.

A specific question was raised about Orissa as to whether the districts have been identified or not. I think areas such as Orissa would be a focus of attention in the Tenth Plan. In the E.A.S. Sharma Committee Report, four districts of Orissa have been identified as amongst the 100 most backward districts in the country. Special attention has been paid to them. The Prime Minister is personally monitoring these schemes meant for the KBK districts. There used to be three districts in that group. Now, there are eight districts in that. It is a telling instance. We always think of Kalahandi because of famine. That is how it in the newspapers. Actually, it is a rice exporting area. It is one of the best endowed areas in many respects. Due to land structure and other problems, it continues with those poverty pockets.

I would make only two points and then conclude because of shortage of time. The fact of the matter is that there is no shortage of money or outlays. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. If you keep interrupting me, how will I proceed? If I am giving you any wrong information, correct me and bring a Privilege Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Naresh Puglia, when the Minister is not yielding, I cannot allow your expression to go on record. That procedure is there. I will give you a chance to speak.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: In this year alone Rs. one lakh 26 thousand crore have been provided to schemes of this kind. In addition, Rs. 22 thousand crore are being spent on Central schemes which are also going to be implemented in those States, precisely for removing backwardness.

So, it is not the shortage of funds which comes in the way as was being made out in the Question Hour and now also. Similarly, in the name of removing poverty, allocations and expenditures every year exceed Rs. 35,000 crore. If we close all poverty schemes of the States and of all other Governments and just send a money order to the below poverty-line families, each family would get Rs. 7,000-8,000 per year. With that, they could buy three kilos of rice per day and come above the poverty line automatically. So, the essence of the matter as was being emphasised in the previous discussion also is in implementation of the schemes and not in their multiplication. That is the focus that we are trying to give in the Tenth Plan also. Today, there are 256 Centrally-Sponsored Schemes. In a single district like Kanpur, when we contacted the Collector to know how many schemes he is implementing, he took time to count them. It turned out that there were 147 schemes. He was receiving money from 147 schemes for implementing the schemes. That does not include the 200-odd projects which the MPs would give for that particular area. So, I would think that it is not the shortage of funds that comes in the way. It is not the shortage of the number of schemes. ...*(Interruptions)*

Shri Chowdhary was just mentioning the Gadgil Formula. Poverty and backwardness is one of the main criteria of that formula. You know that in the Finance Commission also, poverty is one of the main features that has been used for determining allocations. *Per capita* income accounts for 25 per cent of the allocation under the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula. In the Finance Commission, it accounts for 62.5 per cent of the allocation. Similarly, the Special Category States, they account for only 5 per cent population of the country. They are given 30 per cent of the allocation.

Secondly, the other States are given lower proportion as grant. In the case of Special Category States, 90 per cent of the outlay is given to them as a grant. If after that poverty continues and schemes are not implemented, we should look for the reasons elsewhere. That is what we should focus on.

So, finally, I would urge all our hon. Members that we should join hands and ensure that these enormous resources, which are being spent for removal of poverty, are actually effectively utilised.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): I have only one question to put. What is the parameter or formula adopted for identification of a particular area to apply that scheme? That is my question.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Actually, in answer to the question that was asked, which led to this discussion, a table was annexed in which the criteria for each particular scheme was given for the identification of that particular area. I have that table. It is an annexure to the question that was answered on the 25th. But I will again circulate it to the individual Members about each scheme and each criterion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: For the benefit of the hon. Members, you can do it.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will do that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Chowdhary has asked one question. In view of the dimension of the problem, are you prepared to accept it as a national problem? He has asked that question.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Most certainly. I mean, attending to backwardness and removal of poverty is the central national problem today. It is the focus of all development efforts. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (CHANDRAPUR): He is sitting in the air-conditioned office and talking about the backward areas.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Who?

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Our hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Is my sitting in the air-conditioned office a part of the record? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: I come from the tribal area. My area is totally a Naxalite area. Five States are affected due to Naxalite problem. Where will the poor tribal people go? Other people are having so many schemes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I come from the same tribal area from where you come.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Diversion of funds has become an anathema. So, Mr. Minister, are you going to devise any way to deal with the situation? The State Governments are diverting the funds. But the ultimate sufferers are the common people. So, why should the common people bear the fiscal profligacy of the State Governments and especially in case of West Bengal? What is your reaction?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That is a very important matter.

The agency which looks after the diversion of funds is the

Comptroller and Auditor General. The C & AG has given a very instructive report on West Bengal. I would like to mention two points only. It shows that 95 per cent of the expenditure in West Bengal, including Capital and Plan expenditure, is being used only for current purposes. It is there in the report.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not get perturbed. When you were asking the question, he has to yield. Therefore, I did not allow you. If you want to ask a specific question, as an exceptional case, you can ask the Minister.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The second part of the C & AG's report I mentioned, is the report dealing with the enterprises and so on. In fact, it was completed in 1999 and has yet not been placed in the Assembly there. It is a good idea to request our own colleagues to ask that the report be placed in the Assembly, and you will get the answer about the diversion of funds.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: In reply to a question, in the Rajya Sabha, the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is the difficulty.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: The Government assured the Rajya Sabha that appropriate action would be taken on the diversion of Rs. 45 billion to personal ledger accounts and the amount will also be recouped, the Government promised, after receipt of the final report of the Public Accounts Committee, West Bengal. What is the fate of that assurance, the people of West Bengal are inclined to know?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister has already given a detailed reply.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: What was the fate of this Report? Whether the money has been recouped or not? It has been raised in the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will certainly check on that particular point and get back to the Member on that particular diversion.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: I would like to know from the Minister regarding 100 backward districts. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that 100 backward districts are having maximum forest cover. It is more than 30 per cent. Due to the Forests Conservation Act, not a single project is going to be cleared by the Central Ministry of Environment and Forests. So, I would like to inform you that these six States, namely, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are naxalite-affected States. This is not totally a law and order problem, this is a socio-economic problem. That is why, they have been requesting the Prime Minister and the Planning Ministry that 50 per cent amount should be given by the Central Planning Ministry to the States. Maharashtra Government has asked for Rs. 838 crore. The State is also ready to invest the same amount. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his Minister is going to have consultation with all the six Chief Ministers regarding 50 per cent aid to the naxalite-affected States.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am sorry for that altercation. Earlier, I was just trying to complete a point at that time. I would like to inform the hon. Member that I do not sit all the time in an air-conditioned office.

The point is that this is a matter of direct concern to the Home Minister, as the distinguished Member knows. He has been holding meetings with the Chief Ministers of the States affected by naxalite activities and they are trying to draw up a coordinated plan, including a development plan, not just a law and order Plans for this very purpose.

As far as the first point about the Forest Act is concerned—it is an Act we have passed in this House. The courts have interpreted it and said that it must be enforced. As you know, Sir, it has affected mining and development activities in many areas. Persons like me feel that the Samata judgement should be reviewed.

The hon. Member mentioned about the Chhattisgarh Government. The Government of Chhattisgarh, as you know, have taken a very rigid view, when the Act has not even been notified. Those rules have not been notified in Chhattisgarh but they have raised the issue of the Samata judgement in regard to BALCO disinvestment, just to raise an issue.

Now, they are giving leases in the tribal areas contrary to the judgement. In the Supreme Court, they are taking a view to the effect that no, that judgement should mean 'x', 'y' and 'z' and things cannot happen in Chattisgarh. So, I would plead that if you feel so strongly about the Forests Act, it is an Act of Parliament, if such an important party takes the initiative, I am sure, requisite amendments would be considered.

Secondly, as far as the impact of those judgements is concerned, on development in tribal areas, it just so happens with the Samata judgement because it has been challenged by the Chattisgarh Government, is now before the Supreme Court.

The Government of Chattisgarh has brought up the matter in the Supreme Court in regard to BALCO disinvestment. All of us hope that the Supreme Court would re-examine this matter.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I had mentioned about

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

the Bastar, Jhabua, Chhattisgarh areas of Madhya Pradesh and Andaman-Nicobar as also Orissa, which were backward even fifty years back and have been identified and declared likewise. After continuously spending funds on schemes for these areas for the last fifty years, these still remain extremely backward. Can you please make a review in this regard? *(Interruptions)* There are many other backward areas in the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pandeya ji, you had also visited Lakshadweep. It is also a backward region. Why don't you include it in this list?

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I had visited Lakshadweep and also Andaman. No substantial development has taken place even after fifty years. There is no electricity even today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the reasons for that are well-known, especially to you, as you have been representing Lakshadweep with such great distinction for so many years now. But I will certainly make this point to the Deputy-Chairman and to other colleagues in the Planning Commission so that we can take up this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

18.41 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 6, 2001/Sravana 15, 1923 (Saka).

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