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Friday, March 23, 2001
Chaitra 2, 1923 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Friday, March 23, 2001/Chaitra 2, 1923 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

1100 hours

At this stage, Shri K.H. Muniyappa and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. Today is the martyrs' day.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Even on the last day also you are not willing to cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 noon.

1102 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Implementation of National Textile Policy-2000

*361. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan formulated by the Government to effectively implement the announced National Textile Policy-2000;

(b) whether the Government have mobilised funds to implement the said textile policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the details of works for which the said funds are meant for?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The National Textile Policy 2000 (NTxP 2000) aims at strengthening the textile industry to make it globally competitive, and for this purpose lays down objectives and specific targets, and defines the thrust areas for focussed attention. It proposes measures and programs for facilitating and promoting, *inter alia*, technological upgradation of all manufacturing segments of the industry; increase in the raw material base; improvement in productivity and quality; value added production in the handloom industry; and modernisation of the weak areas of weaving, processing and garment making.

Some programs have already been started and some measures taken in implementation of the Policy; others are proposed to be taken up in the coming year and in the 10th Plan. Those already launched include, mainly, the Technological Mission on Cotton (TMC) to bring about increased yield and productivity of the raw material and improved quality of its processing; the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, to sustain and strengthen the traditional knowledge, skill and capabilities of the handloom sector; and the Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS) to mobilise investment in state-of-the-art manufacturing capability.

The programs proposed to be initiated in 2001-2002 include the Jute Technology Mission, Setting up of Integrated Apparel Parks, Development of Infrastructural Facilities in the predominantly Textile and Apparel Export Oriented Areas; a Programme for Modernisation of Weaving Capacities; and action for Promoting the Setting up of Modern Processing Houses. Adequate provision has been made in the Annual Plan 2001-2002 of the Ministry of Textiles for starting these Schemes.

Fiscal concessions have been announced in the Budget for 2001-2002 such as a raise in the rate of depreciation of machinery covered under TUFS to 50%, and reduction in customs duty on critical textile machinery with no indigenous angle. The Provision in the Plan Budget for 2001-2002 has been enhanced to Rs. 650 crore, which includes Rs. 200 crore for TUFS and Rs. 25 crore for the TMC. The dereservation of the garment sector has also been announced. These measures are expected to attract increasing investment to mobilise funds from the private sector.

[English]

Report of Consultant Committee on CPSU

*362. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of Consultant Committee on Central Power Sector Undertakings was received long back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of recommendations accepted by the Government;

(d) the number of recommendations not accepted along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the progress made in implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) The Disinvestment Commission after considering various aspects of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) recommended that no disinvestment be taken up for the present. The Commission, however, recommended that these organizations should study the alternatives for restructuring together with managerial restructuring before embarking on the process of disinvestment.

M/s. ICICI and SBI Capital Markets were engaged as consultants to study the financial engineering of the Central Power Sector Undertakings with a view to enabling them to leverage larger resources for investment. Thereafter M/s. ICICI and SBI Cap have further been engaged to undertake a joint study to suggest an appropriate model of restructuring for both NTPC and PGCIL. The report of the consultants is yet to be received by the Government.

(b) to (e) In view of the above, does not arise.

Ballistic Missile with Pak

*363. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has prepared a new short-range ballistic missile with a range of 300 km. and speed of 106 km. per minute, which can hit its target in a little over 3 minutes;

(b) whether through this missile, Pakistan could be able to hit a number of Indian cities; and

(c) if so, the preventive measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Pakistan is in possession of 84 M 11 missiles, of Chinese origin with a range of 300 km. This missile is designated HATF-II by Pakistan. There have also been reports in Pak media about the impending test firing of Haider-I missile which has a range of 300 km and speed of 100 km per minute. However, the speed mentioned in the press reports appear to be highly exaggerated as these speeds, till date, have been achieved only in experimental vehicles.

Government has taken adequate measures to counter this or other such developments.

Foreign Direct Investment in Tourism Sector

*364. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount received by the Government as foreign direct investment in the tourism sector during each of the last three years and the probable amount expected for 2001-2002;

(b) the names of projects in the country running with cent per cent funding by foreign direct investment, location-wise;

(c) whether the present allocation for tourism is sufficient to meet the growing demand for investments and also to achieve the target of tourism during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to meet the growing demand for funds in the tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The total amount received by the Government as Foreign Direct Investment in the Tourism sector during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 is Rs. 39.95 crores, Rs. 40.54 crores and Rs. 52.40 crores respectively. In the event of further liberalization in the policy in order to promote 100% FDI through the automatic route of RBI, coming through, the overall FDI investments in the country are likely to rise even further during the year 2001-2002.

(b) A list of Foreign Direct Investment projects with cent per cent funding in the tourism sector location-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir. It is a fact that the allocation is insufficient.

(d) Efforts to involve private sector in external publicity and joint promotion and in maintenance of monuments etc. have been made in addition to encouraging private investment in infrastructure projects.

Statement

List of FDI Projects in the country with cent percent funding in the Tourism Sector location-wise

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Location
1	2	3
1.	Santoch India Operations Pvt. Ltd., Belgium	Mumbai
2.	Cardamom Tours (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Dindigul, Tamil Nadu
3.	Oasis Divers (Canada)	Andaman & Nicobar
4.	Gallery Hotels (I) Pvt. Ltd., France	Pondicherry
5.	Pupmemickel Health Food Private, Germany	Goa
6.	Morgan Foundation E.V., Germany	Pondicherry
7.	Peter & Friends Classic Adventur, Germany	Goa
8.	Juergen Sirobel, Germany	Goa
9.	Ilia Adaneff, Germany	Anantappur (A.P.)
10.	M/s Pizza Hut International, Hongkong	Delhi
11.	Holiday Inn (Asia Pacific) Ltd., Hongkong	New Delhi
12.	Roat Moreno, Italy	U.P.
13.	Maitreyi Resorts Private Ltd., Italy	Coimbatore (T.N.)
14.	Keiichi Imamoto, Japan	New Delhi
15.	Hanyang India Private Ltd., South Korea	Chennai
16.	Kyungbokgong Hotel Private Ltd., South Korea	Chennai
17.	Mariott Hotels Inc., Mauritius	Not Indicated
18.	MM Hotels Private Ltd., Mauritius	Mumbai
19.	Seajuli Property & Viniyog Ltd., Mauritius	Mumbai
20.	Club Corporation of America, Mauritius	Not indicated
21.	Provender Ltd., Mauritius	Goa
22.	GPS Investments Ltd., Mauritius	Chennai
23.	GPS Investments Ltd., Mauritius	Jalpur
24.	GPS Investments Ltd., Mauritius	Kerala
25.	GPS Investments Ltd., Mauritius	Mumbai
26.	ATD India Holdings Ltd., Mauritius	Mumbai
27.	International Web Travel Private Ltd., Mauritius	New Delhi
28.	Hi Hotels India Pvt. Ltd. (New York)	Not Indicated
29.	Golden Falcon Hotels India Private, (NRI)	Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
30.	M/s Crescent Auto Rental Service, Dubai	Chennai
31.	Jaamba Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., U.S.A.	Bangalore
32.	Rendezvous Restaurants Pvt. Ltd., Australia	Bangalore
33.	Hi Hotels India Pvt. Ltd., Holland	Not Indicated
34.	Hotel Properties Ltd., Singapore	Not indicated
35.	M/s Total Integrated Design India, Singapore	Delhi
36.	Komala's Restaurants (P) Ltd., Singapore	Chennai
37.	Star Cruise Pvt. Ltd., Singapore	Mumbai
38.	M/s Sotc Kuoni Travel Corporation, Switzerland	Mumbai
39.	Instone India Pvt. Ltd., U.K.	Not Indicated
40.	Ian West, U.K.	Kangra (Himachal Pradesh)
41.	Martin Howard Associates Ltd., U.K.	Not Indicated
42.	Mod Apparels Pvt. Ltd., U.K.	New Delhi
43.	Warner Brother International The, U.S.A.	Not Indicated
44.	World Recreation Centre Inc. USA	Delhi
45.	REZ Solutions Inc., U.S.A.	Not Indicated
46.	Nataraj Ramaiah, U.S.A.	Chennai
47.	Mc Donalds India Pvt. Ltd. U.S.A.	New Delhi
48.	Casto Travel, Inc. U.S.A.	New Delhi
49.	Arirang Hotels P. Ltd.	Tamil Nadu

Source : FIPB

[Translation]

Black Marketing of Rail Tickets

*365. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the passengers are facing a lot of inconvenience in getting rail tickets due to the complicity between railway officials and touts engaged in black marketing of rail tickets;

(b) if so, the number of raids conducted in each zone, during the last three years and the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive the existing provisions to check the illegal reservation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Some cases have come to notice. The number of raids

conducted on each Zonal Railway during the last three years is as under:–

Railway	Number of raids conducted		
	1998	1999	2000
Central	3932	3360	2729
Eastern	1904	2071	2573
Northern	1579	1321	1626
North Eastern	2146	2735	3230
Northeast Frontier	794	946	1082
Southern	8369	8821	8971
South Central	5032	4743	3999
South Eastern	1725	1748	1695
Western	6358	6504	6485
Total	31839	32249	32390

As a result of these checks, 8505 persons have been apprehended for various irregularities and action taken under provisions of law. The various instructions and procedures laid down for checking the illegal reservations are enforced without any let up. Review of these procedures is a continuous process and necessary action is taken as and when required such as improved monitoring systems on the working of the staff, queue formation, test checks on the tickets purchased, *decoy* checks, etc.

Jubilee Petrol Pump Scheme

*366. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Willl the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various oil companies had incurred losses worth several lakhs in the purchase of land for jubilee petrol pumps in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for launching of the "Jubilee Petrol Pump" scheme by the Government; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty of such losses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Oil Companies have reported they have not incurred any loss in the purchase of land for Jubilee Retail Outlets (JROs).

The Scheme for setting up Jubilee Retail Outlets on highways was launched with a view to fulfilling the demand of travellers like tourists and truckers for fuels along with multiple associated facilities. In lieu of the Jubilee Retail Outlet Scheme, on reconsideration, it has been decided in November, 2000 to integrate and incease number of regular retail outlets with minimum basic facilities.

[English]

Fast Track De-Registration Scheme

*367. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private and public limited companies that had applied for de-registration under fast track de-registration scheme;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment about the money advanced by Banks/ Financial Institutions/Private parties to these companies;

(c) if so, the provisions made to recover the amount from these deregistered companies; and

(d) the manner in which the interest of small share-holders will be protected in public limited companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) There is no provision for de-registration of companies under the Companies Act, 1956. However, there is a provision for striking off names of defunct companies from the Register under section 560 of the Companies Act, 1956. Under the Fast Track Section 560 Scheme, 16,416 companies applied under Scheme (14871 Private Limited Companies and 1545 Public Limited Companies).

(b) to (d) No, Sir. This was never envisaged in the Scheme of things. However, in the form prescribed for seeking striking off names under the Scheme the companies were required to file a certificate from the statutory auditor that the company has no dues to the Banks/Financial Institutions. Affidavits have been taken from the directors seeking striking off names of the companies that they would be jointly and severally liable for any dues which may come to light after submission of the application under the Scheme. In the case of the defunct public limited companies where there are no assets and the companies are not doing any business the question of protection of small shareholders does not arise.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities in Trains

*368. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started providing medical facilities in all the long distance trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d): One hundred and sixty two long distance trains have been identified for provision of enhanced medical aid in the form of Augmented First Aid Boxes containing a wider range of medicines and required resuscitative equipment. So far 86 trains have been provided with Augmented First Aid Boxes. The front line staff are also being trained in First Aid and given a refresher training as per a schedule to be repeated periodically.

Guarantee to Enron

*369. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to various reports appearing in newspapers regarding guarantee to Enron;

(b) if so, whether the CEA had examined the feasibility of MoU signed between the Enron and the Government of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the World Bank had pointed out adverse impact of the agreement on economy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for development of the Dabhol power project was signed on 20.6.1992 between the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB), Enron Power Corporation and General Electric Corporation. MoUs are not required to be examined by Central Electricity Authority (CEA). However, CEA accorded techno-economic clearance (TEC) to the Dabhol project on 26.11.1993.

(d) and (e) The World Bank had informed during April-July, 1993, that they could not finance the project due to the following reasons:

- The project is too large for baseload operations in MSEB system.
- This is not part of the least cost sequence for Maharashtra Power Development.

Considering the above observations of the World Bank, the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) delinked Phase-I from Phase-II in October, 1993 and the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was signed accordingly. The TEC accorded by CEA has also stipulated that Phase-II of the project could start only after the GOM/MSEB ensured absorption of the entire power within Maharashtra system or by entering into agreements with entities outside Maharashtra. The Negotiating Group/Expert Commitee constituted by GOM during 1995-96 observed that load studies of MSEB indicated the need of additional energy for MSEB and, therefore, the Committee recommended acceptance of 90% load factor for the entire project since MSEB would have the advantage of additional energy at reduced rate. After considering recommendations of the Negotiating Group/Expert Committee, the GOM decided to go ahead with the implementation of Phase-II.

[English]

New Textile Policy

*370. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether new textile policy has failed to provide the remedial measures for removing the quantitative restrictions under the Multi-Fibre-Agreement;

(b) whether it has also failed in restructuring as well as in technology upgradation for achieving the healthy target;

(c) whether new policy provides adequate safeguards and steps to meet the competition in the world;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) the impact of the General Budget 2001-2002 on the textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

The gradual removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) and lowering of import duties are part of an international obligation, which India as a member of the WTO has to fulfil.

The National Textile Policy 2000 (NTxP 2000) announced by the Government on 2.11.2000 aims to strengthen the industry and prepare it to face global competition with confidence. Among its important objectives is the facilitation and promotion in the textile industry of technological upgradation; increase in quality and productivity; strengthening of the raw material base; modernisation of the weak areas of processing, weaving and garment making. Some measures to pursue these objectives have already been launched, such as the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for attracting investment for modernisation of the industry; the Cotton Technology Mission for improving yield, productivity and quality of cotton; and the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana for strengthening the traditional skills and capabilities of the handloom sector. The garment sector has been dereserved. A Textile package has been announced in the budget for 2001-2002 with new schemes and programmes for promoting investment and growth in the weaving and garment making sectors. Fiscal concessions have also been given which are expected to increase investment in technology upgradation in the sector.

The Budget for 2001-2002 has been generally welcomed as being conducive to growth.

Loss to NTPC

*371. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been incurring a huge loss and likely to incur further loss in the coming years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) No, Sir. NTPC has been making profits since it started commercial operation of its first unit in 1982. It is not likely to incur any net losses in coming years as per current estimates.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, does not arise.

Development of Fatehpur Sikri as Heritage City

*372. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Fatehpur Sikri as a heritage city as suggested by the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Supreme Court has directed the ASI to come up with a proposal for developing Fatehpur Sikri as a heritage city in consultation with the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. Preparatory action has been initiated in the matter.

Setting up of Cells in High Courts

*373. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the High Courts to set up a cell in their courts to hasten the disposal of pending cases;

(b) if so, whether all the High Courts in the country have set up such cell to dispose of pending cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) wether any time frame has been fixed to clear the pending cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 1071 of 2001, has suggested, "It is

worth considering whether a cell can be set up in each of such High Courts where the piles of backlog are a stirring problem, to pick out such cases to be brought to the notice of the Chief Justice of High Court concerned so that he could take appropriate steps in the matter."

Thus, it is for the High Courts to take neccesary action.

(d) and (e) No time frame can be fixed to clear the pending cases.

Subletting of Quarters in Red Fort

*374. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many quarters inside the Red Fort have been sublet by the Army to the civilians as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated December 26, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether subletting of quarters by Army officials have caused serious concern on the security aspect in the Fort; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No Government quarter inside the Red Fort has been sublet by the Army.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Surprise checks are organised to ensure that the Government quarters, there, are not sublet.

[Translation]

Target for Power Generation

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual electricity consumption rate of the country in forthcoming years is estimated to be 8%;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and whether the Government have set any target for increasing the rate of annual power generation after estimating the extent of shortage of supply in comparison to demand of electricity;

(c) if so, the target set for increasing the rate of annual power generation in the forthcoming years; and

(d) the plan of the Government to meet this target?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (d) The 16th Electric Power Survey of the Central Electricity Authority has estimated the annual energy consumption for India from 1999-2000 to 2004-05 as under:

Period	Energy consumption in MUs	Increase over last year
1999-2000	358202.82	-
2000-01	382974.45	6.8%
2001-02	409809.05	7.0%
2002-03	438037.02	6.8%
2003-04	467758.81	6.7%
2004-05	499103.41	6.7%

It has been estimated that to meet full demand for power in the country by 2012, the energy requirement would be, 9,75,222 MU and the peak demand would be of the order of 1,57,107 MW. To meet this demand, an additional capacity of approximately 1,00,000 MW needs to be set up by the end of 11th Five Year Plan (2011-12). A list of projects having a total capacity of about 1,06,000 MW have been tentatively identified by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for the 10th and 11th Plan periods.

Separately, to improve availability of power and generation capacity and to make optimal use of the available power resources in the country, the following measures have been taken:

(i) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme.

(ii) Liberalization of investment procedures.

(iii) Promotion of measures for energy conservation and demand side management.

(iv) Renovation and modernisation of existing old generating units.

(v) Disbursement of loans by Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under the Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP).

(vi) Promotion of inter-state and inter-regional power transfers.

(vii) Augmentation of transmission, transformation capacity in the power system and installation of shunt capacitors to improve the voltage.

(viii) Reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

For strengthening the sub-transmission and distribution systems and also for assisting Renovation and Modernisation programmes, the Government has initiated the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) this year with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 1000 crore.

The Government has also initiated and evolved a national consensus on power sector reforms to improve the financial health of the power utilities in the States. A Conference of Chief Ministers and State Power Ministers on Power Sector reforms was held in New Delhi on 3rd March, 2001 which adopted various resolutions to accelerate reforms and to restore the financial health of the State power utilities.

[English]

Productivity of Shipping Terminals

*376. SHRI A. BHAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed by the Government to improve the productivity of shipping terminals at various ports;

(b) whether cargo is left waiting on the docks for lack of early shipment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the extent to which the productivity has been improved at various ports in 1999-2000;

(e) whether additional capacity would also help in clearing the cargo at ports; and

(f) the steps being taken up the Government to bring higher productivity at all shipping terminals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Broadly, the productivity of various ports includes less pre-berthing detention and turn-round time of vessels and increased output per ship berthday. Government has been taking various efforts to achieve better productivity levels such as delegation of enhanced financial powers to ports, acquisition of better equipments, revision of datum and productivity norms and modernization of the ports.

(b) Normally, if cargo is left waiting in the port/docks, the delay is usually for reasons beyond the port management's control.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The performance of major ports is measured in terms of certain selected indicators like average pre-berthing waiting time, average turn-round time and output of ship berthday. The following table indicates the performance of the ports on the basis of these selected indicators during the last three years.

Sr. No.	Indicator	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Provisional)
1.	Average pre-berthing waiting time (days)	2.3'	2.0	1.8
2.	Average Turn-Round time	6.3	5.7	4.7
3.	Output per ship berth day (in tones)	4912	5167	5337

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Some of the steps being taken by the Government to bring higher productivity and quick management decisions are:

(i) The port trusts have been delegated enhanced financial power to approve new schemes costing Rs. 50 crores and a replacement scheme costing upto Rs. 100 crores. This will expedite approval and implementation of various port development projects.

(ii) Procedure for disposal of obsolete, unserviceable equipment and floatilla has been streamlined.

(iii) Procedures for acquisition of equipment/floating craft by Major Ports have been simplified.

(iv) Revision of datum, productivity norms and uneconomic practices to improve labour productivity.

(v) Establishment of electronic Data Interchange in selected ports for improving management and operations.

(vi) Structural re-organisation of Major Ports through corporatisation.

(vii) Collaboration with foreign ports and related agencies for better management and operational techniques under joint venture participation policy announced by the Government.

(viii) Encouragement of BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) projects through Private Sector participation and development of various cargo handling facilities.

Import of Silk Yarn and Silk Products

*377 SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of silk yarn and other silk products imported during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether there is a demand to impose ban on such imports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The figures as available on total quantity of silk yarn and other silk products imported during the last three years and during the current year are given below:

Qty. in tonnes

Year	Imports of			
	Raw Silk	Silk Yarn Dupion	Spun Silk Yarn	Noil Yarn
1997-98	2346	373	31	161
1998-99(P)	2854	492	19	26
1999-2000(P)	6936	768	26	39
2000-2001(P)	3266 (April-Nov.)	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available

Source : DGCIS, Calcutta

(b) and (c) Representations have been received not to permit import of silk except under Duty Exemption Scheme (DES). Due to non-availability of adequate quantity of superior quality silk in the country, raw silk import is permitted under DES with export obligation, and under Special Import Licence (SIL) with the condition that CIF value of the surrendered SIL is five times the value of imported items. As imports help, not only in meeting requirements of quality silk not indigenously available, but also in filling the demand-supply gap, there has been no negative impact on the domestic sericulture sector

Inquiry Commission on Train Accidents

*378. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of enquiry commissions set up to enquire into the causes of train accidents during the last three years;

(b) the findings of each of the enquiry commission;

(c) whether the Government have implemented all these recommendations so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, recommendation-wise, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Three Inquiry Commissions were set up to inquire into the causes of train accidents during the period 1998-99 to 2000-01 (upto 28.2.2001). The details of these train accidents are as follows:

Year	Date of Occurrence	Place	Casualties		Cause
			Killed	Injured	
1998-99	26.11.1998	Khanna-Chawapail	212	138	Under Investigation
1999-2000	02.8.1999	Gaisal	286	359	Finalised
2000-2001 upto 28.2.2001	02.12.2000	Sarai Banjara-Sadoogarh	45	149	Under Investigation

Details of the above accidents are given in the enclosed statement

Garg Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice G.C. Garg set up to enquire into Khanna-Chawapail accident has not submitted its report so far. The Judicial inquiry into the Khanna accident is in progress. Ray Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice G.N. Ray set up to enquire into the Gaisal tragedy has recently submitted its final report which is under examination. As per the findings of the Ray Commission, Gaisal accident occurred due to "Failure of Railway Staff"

The recently tragedy at Sarai Banjara-Sadoogarh will be enquired into by a Judicial Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice S. Saghir Ahmed. The notification of Judicial commission for Sadhoogarh accident has been issued.

Concerned departments have been asked to study recommendations made by Ray Commission. Accepted recommendations would be implemented to avoid such recurrence.

Statement

	Particulars of Accidents	Cause
1.	Collision of 2903 Up Golden Temple Mail and 3152 Dn. Jammu Tawi Express between Khanna-Chawapail section of Ambala Division of Northern Railway on 26.11.1998.	Under investigation by Garg Commission.
2.	Collision of 5610 Up Awadh-Assam Express and 4056 Dn. Brahamputra Mail at Gaisal Station of Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway on 02.8.1999.	Failure of Railway Staff.
3.	Collision of derailed Dn. Ajitwal-New Bongaigaon Foodgrain Special Goods train and 3005 Up Howrah-Amritsar Mail between Sarai Banjara-Sadhoogarh section of Ambala Division of Northern Railway on 02.12.2000.	Judicial Commission set up.

Effect of Excise Duty Hike on Domestic Textile Industry

*379. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Minister has called a meeting of the representatives of domestic textile industry to assess the likely impact of recent hike in excise duty on branded and trade name garments;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) the extent to which the garments industry is likely to be affected due to recent hike in excise duty; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to safeguard and encourage the garments industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Many segments of the industry have represented against the proposal, in the budget 2001-2002, to introduce a 16% excise duty on registered branded garments.

(d) To encourage the garment industry, the Government has announced a 'Textile Package' in the budget 2001-2002, which includes, *inter-alia*, setting up of Integrated Apparel Parks, development of Infrastructural facilities in predoninantly textile and approved export oriented areas.

Financial Crisis

*380. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways are facing financial crisis for the past many years;

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

(c) the percentage of passenger fares and freight rates hiked during the last three years;

(d) whether the passenger services are being heavily cross subsidised by freight services;

(e) if so, whether the freight traffic which is the breadwinner of Indian Railways is being diverted to other modes of transportation; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to eliminate the freight services from subsiding the passenger services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) In recent years, after implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the increase in Railways' expenditure has been far more than the increase in its earnings. Consequently, the internal generation of resources to finance Railways' plan has reduced drastically. The Railways could sustain the minimum level of Plan activities only by drawing down heavily from the Railway Reserve Funds during the period from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and by deferring a part of dividend payment thereafter.

(c) Fare and freight rates increases during the last three years vary for different classes and commodities depending upon the lead. However, the average overall

increases in fares and freight proposed in the budget estimates of the last three years are as under:

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Passenger	6%	2%	-
Goods	-	3%	2%

(d) to (f) A degree of cross-subsidisation exists in most industries and Indian Railways are not an exception. As far as Indian Railways are concerned, along with its commercial operations, it is also required to discharge various social responsibilities. In view of the socio-enonomic objective of the Government, increases in passenger fares have been restrained. For similar reasons, certain freight commodities are transported below cost. The element of cross-subsidisation on freight traffic is a contributory factor for the falling market share of Railway transport in freight movement. Sustained action has been taken to reduce the cross-subsidisation. In the last three years, Railways have only nominally increased the freight rates, averaging two to three per cent as against an increase of approximately 9% in input costs. Measures have also been taken to reduce the losses in passenger services by increasing revenues from passenger traffic through better asset utilisation, cost control and by promoting higher rate of growth in passengers.

Pre-mature Repayment to the Investor

*381. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of financial institutions such as IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, UTI have unilaterally called for pre-mature repayment to the investors;

(b) if so, the details of such financial institutions;

(c) whether the Government have looked into this matter and propose to stop these companies from indulging in such unhealty practices in violation of their initial contract;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the other measures Government propose in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Some of the financial institutions like IDBI, ICICI, IFCI and UTI have opted for premature redemption in accordance with the terms of the issues an given in the respective prospectus.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Financial institutions have exercised option for premature redemption which is in accordance with the terms contained in the issue document and there is no violation of the terms of the contract by the financial institutions. The main business of an FI is to on-lend the money borrowed by it and realise appropriate margin out of the spread between the borrowing and lending rates. When a bond is issued with a put and call option, the issuer as well as the investor has a right to pre-maturely redeem the bonds on the pre-determined dates.

Investment Limit on New Car Manufacturers

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

(a) whether the Government have decided not to impose any minimum investment limit of new passenger car manufacturers planning to enter into the market after lifting quantitative restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to give major incentives to alternative fuel and components to help in containing increasing emission level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other safeguards being taken by the Government to save the automobile industry after lifting the quantitative restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) The Auto Policy is under formulation and it will be announced once it is finalized.

Incentives to Value Added Goods

*383. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value addition of rubberwood in India and the action taken by the Government for the manufacture of value added goods;

(b) the total exports of rubberwood and other value added goods in terms of quantity and rupee during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of the incentives given for value added goods;

(d) whether the Government are planning to have specific initiatives for value added agricultural exports in the forthcoming Exim policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FII's in Capital Market

*384. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to boost the depressed capital market sentiments, Government have increased the investment limit to 49 per cent for foreign institutional investors from the existing level of 40 per cent of paid up capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas where this limit is likely to be increased; and

(d) the extent to which the capital market is likely to be benefited by increasing this limit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) Pursuant to the announcement made in the Budget Speech 2001-2002, amendments have been made in FEMA Regulation by RBI on 2nd March, 2001 and the guidelines issued by the Government on 8th March, 2001 to enhance the aggregate ceiling for portfolio investment by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) from 40% to 49% of the issued and paid up capital of an Indian Company under the special procedures requiring special resolution by the General Body and approval by the Board of Directors of the Company.

The enhanced portfolio investment ceilings would be available to individual companies exercising such an option within the overall FII portfolio investment policy. This is intended to increase foreign portfolio investments into India thereby enhancing the depth of the Capital Market.

Investment in PSUs

*385. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested by the Government in Public Sector Undertakings in various States during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government keeps in mind the industrial backward areas while deciding an investment in the industrial sector;

(c) if so, the ratio of the amount invested in public sector in Kerala as per the total investment in the country;

(d) whether this ratio is below the national average;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) As per available information from the Central Public Sector Undertakings, the State-wise additional investment made by the Government including Central & State Governments in these enterprises as per their Registered Office figures during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (f) As on 31.3.2000, the total investment made in 240 Central Public Sector Undertakings was Rs. 252554 crores out of which Rs. 2254 crores were made in 5 CPSUs located in Kerala. The investment in Kerala was 0.89% of the total investment. The selection of site for a central investment in guided by economic principles to provide the best economic advantage in the form of lowest cost of production, assured source of raw materials, infrastructural facilities and sustained operation. Hence, development of industrially backward area is not the only objective of the central investment in commercial enterprises particularly in the context of economic liberalization.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

Name of State/Union Territory	Investment during		
	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	1275	29	-
Assam	-	20	29
Bihar	106	127	96
Haryana	61	66	50
Himachal Pradesh	613	914	796
Karnataka	376	-	21
Kerala	74	38	32
Madhya Pradesh	15	14	13
Maharashtra	401	102	131
Meghalaya	609	894	202
Orissa	-	-	53
Punjab	-	1	43
Rajasthan	32	3	2
Tamil Nadu	131	14	25
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	139
West Bengal	746	-	1039
Delhi	4299	2896	4490
Goa	-	-	3

[Translation]

Impact of Tenth Finance Commission

*386. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the burden of administrative expenditure on economy of various backward and underdeveloped States has increased due to implementation of the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission;

(b) whether the developmental works of the States have been affected adversely due to increase in the administrative expenditure; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the economy of such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The burden of administrative expenditure on economy of various backward and underdeveloped States has not increased due to implementation of the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. Under the award of the Eleventh Finance Commission there has been an increase in devolution from the Centre to the States from Rs. 226,643.30 crores in the Tenth Finance Commission period to Rs. 434,905.40 crores in the Eleventh Finance Commission.

Revival of Cement Corporation of India Ltd.

*387. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report prepared by two experts on revival of CCI has been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government on this report;

(c) whether any other option for the revival of CCI besides this, is under consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) is under reference to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and has been declared sick. In pursuance to BIFR's directions given on 28.7.2000, Government has considered the feasibility of CCI's revival and conveyed its stand to BIFR that the feasibility of outright sale of all units of the company, individually or collectively, may be considered. The revival scheme prepared by the two experts is more or less similar to the plan already considered by the Government. BIFR is considering various options regarding the future of the company. BIFR is a quasi judicial body.

[English]

India Millennium Deposit Scheme

*388. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Millennium Deposit Scheme was launched by State Bank of India for Non-Resident Indians and overseas corporate bodies on October, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof and sectors in which SBI has invested the money collected through this scheme;

(c) whether SBI have also decided to utilize the deposit in investment in Government securities and advances to infrastructure sector; and

(d) if so, the investments made in these sectors so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A sum of Rs. 25,716 crore was collected through India Millennium Deposit Scheme. The amount mobilised has been deployed in Government securities and infrastructure sector, etc. as under:

(i) Amount invested in Government Securities	Rs. 10,286 crore
(ii) Amount lent to collecting Banks as per arrangements	Rs. 12,023 crore
(iii) Amount used for financing projects	Rs. 3,407 crore

Evasion of Excise Duty

*389. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian owned companies in Nepal engaged in pharmaceuticals;

(b) whether there is a large scale excise duty evasion on the part of these companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The details are as under:

1. Concept Pharmaceuticals Nepal Ltd., Makwanpur, Nepal-Financial collaboration.

2. Dabur Nepal Pvt. Ltd., Parsa, Nepal-Financial collaboration.

3. Chaudri Elder Laboratories P. Ltd., Sunsari, Nepal-Financial collaboration.

4. J.J. Pharmaceuticals, Nepalgunj, Nepal-Financial collaboration.

(b) and (c) Nepal being another country (foreign territory) the question of levy of Central Excise duty under Central Excise Act, 1944 on goods manufactured by these companies as well as evasion thereof does not arise.

Setting up of Vegetarian Restaurants in Western Countries

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian vegetarian snacks are becoming more and more attractive in western countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have thought about any plan to export such snacks to these countries;

(c) whether the Government propose to involve businessmen in setting up chains of vegetarian restaurants in western countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export of ready to cook products and snacks are already being undertaken to various markets including USA, UK and other European countries.

(c) and (d) The private sector is free to set up restaurant chains abroad. The Government has no specific proposals to involve businessmen in setting up chains of vegetarian restaurants in western countries.

Regulation of Insurance Sector

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the final report of advisory group on insurance regulation;

(b) if so, the recommendations made in the report, and

(c) the action likely to be taken by Government on these recommendations?

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

(b) The Advisory Group on Insurance Regulation was constituted by the Standing Committee on International Financial Standards and Codes of Reserve Bank of India. Its mandate was "...to chalk out a course of action to achieve the best practice..." in the field of insurance regulation in India. The Advisory Group has reported that the Regulations framed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) are, by and large, in consonance with international standards.

(c) The recommendations which are advisory in nature would be kept in view by the IRDA for framing further regulation under the IRDA Act, 1999.

Grant of Loans to Farmers

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

(a) whether the Government are not entertaining the loan applications of sugarcane growing farmers directly and they have to route the application through sugar mills;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide speedy loans to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The question presumably relates to grant of loans to farmers from the Sugar Development Fund.

The Sugar Development Fund has been constituted under the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982, which seeks to provide for the financing of activities for development of sugar industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Central Government sanctions loans from the Sugar Development Fund to sugar undertakings for the development of sugarcane in their respective areas.

There is a multi-agency network consisting of Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperatives to provide timely credit to the farmers.

[Translation]

Foreign Bank Branches

*393 SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details in regard to branches of the foreign banks opened in the country during the year 2000 and 2001, till date;

(b) whether the Government propose to encourage opening of more branches of the foreign banks in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard so far; and

(d) the extent up to which these banks are helping to promote trade and industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that seven branches of foreign banks were opened in the country in the calendar year 2000 and six branches of foreign banks opened in the country during January and February 2001, the details of which are given below:

Year 2000

Name of the bank	Location of branch
1. Citibank N.A.	Mumbai, New Delhi, Ahmedabad Baroda, Jaipur
2. Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corpn.	Ahmedabad
3. Standard Chartered Bank	Ahmedabad
Year 2001 (up to February 2001)	
1. Citibank N.A.	Coimbatore, Ludhiana
2. Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corpn.	Chandigarh
3. ABN Amro Bank	Hyderabad, Calcutta
4. Bank of Nova Scotia	Hyderabad

(b) and (c) RBI has reported that requests received from foreign banks for opening branches in India are considered keeping in view (i) the financial soundness of the bank, (ii) international and home country ranking, (iii) rating, (iv) international presence, (v) economic and political relations between the two countries, and (vi) the bank should be under consolidated supervision of the home country regulator. The requests are considered also keeping in view the overall commitment to World Trade Organisation, to issue 12 branch licenses to the foreign banks every year.

(d) The foreign banks are making loans and advances to trade and industry. The total advances of foreign banks were Rs. 35,617 crores as on 31st March, 2000 against Rs. 29,507 crores as on 31st March, 1999, showing an increase of 20.71 per cent. About 75 per cent of these advances are to sectors which mainly represent trade and industry other than exports.

Non-Banking Companies

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

(a) the number of non-banking financial companies operating in the country, State-wise,

(b) the number of persons who deposited money in these companies during the last three years along with the total deposited amount, State-wise,

(c) the number out of the above companies which had disappeared with the deposits;

(d) the action taken by the Government against such non-banking financial companies; and

(e) the steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) State-wise data on the number of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in India as on 1.1.2000 as determined in terms of the number of applications for Certificate of Registration (COR) submitted by such companies to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given in the statement-I.

(b) As per the report received from RBI the number of deposit accounts and the amount of public deposits mobilized as on 31.3.1998 and 31.3.1999 as furnished by NBFCs in their annual return are given as under.

Year Ended	No. of deposit accounts	No. of reporting companies in category 'A'*	Amount of public deposits mobilized (Rs. in crore)
31.3.1998	1,03,67,221	1288	7903.20
31.3.1999	71,15,300	899	3732.16

*Deposits accepting companies.

Statewise break up of deposits is not available with RBI. Figures for the year ending 31.3.2000 are under compilation by RBI.

(c) From February 25, 2000 onwards the Reserve Bank is advising the names of all vanishing NBFCs (NBFCs, which are not traceable at their registered address or where letters sent to the NBFCs have been returned undelivered) to the State Governments concerned for appropriate action. The names of vanishing NBFCs advised to the respective State Goverments as readily available are given in the statement-II.

(d) RBI advises the names of such companies to concemed State Governments for appropriate criminal action, apart from taking action under the provisions of Reserve Bank of India Act.

(e) Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes *inter-alia* compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. Goverment has introduced "Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000" in the Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2000. The Bill has been referred to Standing Committee on Finance by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Statement-I

Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in India as on 1-1-2000

State/Union Territory	Number of NBFCs as on 1.1.2000
Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1,481
Karnataka	624
Madhya Pradesh	588
Orissa	62
West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	12,852
Punjab & Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh	1,667
Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	2,646
North Eastern States	272
Andhra Pradesh	1,524
Rajasthan	614
Jammu & Kashmir	149
Uttar Pradesh	1,475
Maharashtra & Goa	5,090
Delhi & Haryana	7,397
Bihar	507
Kerala, Lakshdweep	451
All India	37,399

Statement-II

NBFCs not traceable at addresses available with the Department referred to respective State Governments

Bhubaneswar Region

1. Allwin Finance & Housing Finance Ltd., Balasore
2. City Investment & Finance Ltd., Bhubaneswar
3. Samaleswari General Finance & Investment Ltd., Sambalpur
4. Super Finance Development Ltd., Sankalpa Finance & Investment Ltd., Cuttack
5. Sankalpa Finance & Investment Ltd., Keonjhar
6. Milan India Investment, Cuttack
7. Capital Chamber Financials Ltd., Cuttack

8. Memorial Agro Projects Ltd., Sambalpur
9. Jiban Bikas General Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
10. Sevak Finance & Investment (P) Ltd.

Guwahati Region

11. Assam Albatross Estate & Finance Ltd., Karimganj
12. Bohagi Finance & Investment Ltd., Guwahati
13. Indo Prabhat Investment Ltd.
14. Kolong Valley Finance & Investment (P) Ltd., Nagaon
15. Karbi Trade Industries Pvt. Ltd., Tinsukia
16. Kumeru Finance & Investment (P) Ltd., Guwahati
17. Maharathi Finance & Hire Purchase (P) Ltd., Nagaon
18. Karmabhumi General & Housing Finance Ltd., Kamrup
19. Benison Finance Ltd., Guwahati
20. ABB Securites & Finance Ltd., Guwahati
21. Ratnayogi Finance & Trading Pvt. Ltd., Nagaon
22. Puberun Finance Private Ltd., Nagaon
23. Panchasheel Investment & Fintrade Pvt. Ltd., Nagaon

Bhopal Region

24. Miraje Exim & Finvest Ltd., Bhopal
25. Nirpeksha Home Finance Ltd., Bhopal
26. Ocean Fintrate (P) Ltd., Bhopal
27. Regency Fintrade Pvt. Ltd., Bhopal
28. Saikrupa Finlease Ltd., Bhopal
29. Image Finvest Pvt. Ltd., Indore
30. Kshipra Lease & Financial Pvt. Ltd., Indore
31. Minto Yester Finance & Invest. P. Ltd., Indore
32. Nasa Finance Pvt. Ltd., Indore
33. Para Finance Pvt. Ltd., Indore
34. Pick Gain Finsec Pvt. Ltd., Indore
35. Priyanka Fincap Pvt. Ltd., Indore
36. Raap Finsec Pvt. Ltd., Indore
37. Saodar Inv. & Finance Co. Ltd. 10, Paldanaka, Indore
38. Stein Finance Pvt. Ltd., Indore
39. Sul Finsec Pvt. Ltd., Indore
40. Sushmita Finsec Pvt. Ltd., Indore
41. Torential Finsec Pvt. Ltd., Indore
42. Viners Finvest (I) Ltd., Indore
43. Padmavati Holdings Ltd., Ujjain
44. Sun Money Care Give & Take Money P Ltd., Ujjain
45. Jai Lahari Finance P. Ltd., Raipur
46. Mahanadi Farms & Fin. & Leasing P. Ltd., Raipur
47. Shyambaba Finance P. Ltd., Raipur
48. Maihar Comml. & Finance Co. Ltd., Bilaspur
49. Jan Bhakti Finance Leasing & Housing Ltd., Jabalpur
50. Madhya Kshetra Leasing Ltd., Jabalpur
51. Malwa Fincap Ltd., Guna (MP)
52. Sifco Finvest Ltd., Gwalior
53. Taran Angad Leasing P. Ltd., Gwalior
54. Sagar Finsec Ltd., Sagar
55. Mahakali Gen. Fin. & Leasing P. Ltd., Bhopal
56. Senatorial India Leasing & Fin. Ltd., Bhopal
57. ITL Finvest Ltd., Indore
58. Sukhmani Investment Pvt. Ltd., Indore
59. Yard Securities Pvt. Ltd., Indore
60. Sonali Resources P. Ltd., Gwalior
61. Straightway Marketing P. Ltd., Katni-483 501
62. Anjuli Finsec (P) Ltd., Indore
63. Anmol Investment P. Ltd., Indore
64. Bhagyarekha Capital Market (P) Ltd., Indore
65. Bhojpur Finvest (P) Ltd., Indore
66. Commando Securities (P) Ltd., Bhopal
67. Gunjan Leasing & Hire Purchase (I) Ltd., Bhopal
68. Jatanshree Fin. & Const. Co. P. Ltd., Bhopal
69. Bibi Bhaniji Fin. (P) Ltd., Jabalpur
70. Kiran Prabha Holdings Private Limited, Indore
71. Linkers Securities Limited, Bhopal
72. Shagun Leasing Limited, Jabalpur
73. New Royal Prompt-Investment & Leasing Ltd., Jabalpur
74. Om Samaradhi Leasing & Housing Finance Ltd., Jabalpur
75. Gondwana Finance (India) Limited, Jabalpur-482 002
76. Canon Capital & Leasing (I) Limited, Bhopal

Thiruvananthapuram Region

77. Al-Bakhiyath Finance Agency Pvt. Ltd., Mulakuzha P.O.
78. Ashtami Kuries And Loans Pvt. Ltd., Guruvayoor
79. Choolayil Finance And Investment Company Ltd., Varkala
80. Great Oriental Securities Pvt. Ltd., Ernakulam
81. Guruvayoor Kuries And Loans Pvt. Ltd., Guruvayoor
82. Harisree Finance [P] Ltd., Ernakulam
83. Hero's Wing General Finance And Investment Co., Thrissur
84. Instrumental Finance [P] Ltd., Kochi
85. Intelligent Investment & Finance Co. India Ltd., Senapathy
86. Jayson Chits And Finance [P] Ltd., Kozhikode
87. Kavery Leasing & Hire Purchase Co. [P] Ltd., Ernakulam
88. Krishnaprasadam Chits And Finance Pvt. Ltd., Guruvayoor
89. Lalasree Business Credits Pvt. Ltd, Kannur
90. Link India Capital And Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., Kochi
91. Maxwealth Leasing And Finance India Ltd., Mannuthy
92. Midland Hire Purchase And Leasing Company, Kollam
93. Mohta Caustics & Chemicals Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram
94. Moonnupeedika Chits And Finance (P) Ltd., Perinjanam
95. Nazrani Savings Private Ltd., Alaphuza
96. Nri Nidhi Company Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram
97. Pampakuda Kuries And Investments Pvt. Ltd., Ernakulam
98. Periyar Finance Private Ltd, Kollam
99. Premium Hire Purchase [P] Ltd., Kunnakulam
100. Random Chits And Financiers (P) Ltd., Ernakulam
101. Value Invest Ltd., Kochi
102. World Line Kuries & Loans Pvt. Ltd., Kunnakulam

Ahmedabad Region

103. Aarvi Financial Services P. Ltd.
104. Ace Credits P. Ltd.
105. Agrawal Finstocks P. Ltd.
106. Ajbagajab Investment P. Ltd.
107. Ajwa Finance Ltd.
108. Akropan Finance Ltd.
109. Ami Padma Finmark Ltd.
110. Anar Fin Engineers P. Ltd.
111. Arrow Securities Ltd.
112. Arshan Trading & Investments Pvt. Ltd.
113. Arunodaya Credit & Holding Investment P. Ltd.
114. Ashok Finstock Ltd.
115. Atlas Lease And Finance Ltd.
116. Bagrecha Finance And Investment P Ltd.
117. Bearing Finance P. Ltd.
118. Bhanushali Finance Ltd.
119. Bhatia Finstock Ltd.
120. Bolt Consultants P. Ltd.
121. Chandresh Finance Ltd.
122. Chini Leasing And Finance P. Ltd.
123. Churuwala Investment And Finance P. Ltd.
124. Citilink Finsec Ltd.
125. Cordial Investment P. Ltd.
126. Creative Finstock P. Ltd. (Junagadh)
127. Dayal Finance And Investment Company P. Ltd.
128. Deepak Finstock P. Ltd.
129. Dev Capital Venture (India) Ltd.
130. Dhanlaxmi Caplease Ltd.
131. Dhanna Finstock P. Ltd.
132. Dinar Securities Pvt. Ltd.
133. Earnmore Fiscal Services P. Ltd.
134. Elaar Investment P. Ltd.
135. Fadia Finmark P. Ltd.
136. Forpee Fincap (India) Ltd.
137. Freight Financing Company P. Ltd.
138. Ganipitak Yakshraj Caplease Ltd.

Calcutta Region

139. Apanjan Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
140. Assurance Savings & Investment (I) Ltd.

141. Alokmala Savings & Investment Co. (P) Ltd.
142. Amiabl Savings & Credit Ltd.
143. Argosy Finance & Industrial Investment (I) Ltd.
144. Ashajyoti Finance Company (I) Ltd.
145. Biswabharati Investment Co. Ltd.
146. Biswajoee Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
147. Britex Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
148. Banyan Small Savings & Investment (I) Ltd.
149. Buoyant Housing Finance & Investment Ltd.
150. Carryon Savings & Investment Ltd.
151. Chance Savings Co. Ltd.
152. Fastland Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
153. Dependable Savings & Finance Co. Ltd.
154. Elite Life Finance & Credit (I) Co. Ltd.
155. Dinkal Finance & Hire Purchase Co. Ltd.
156. Falta Savings & Investment Co. Ltd.
157 Favourable Finance & Investment Co. (I) Ltd.
158. Granry Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
159. Dox Finance Ltd.
160. Future Life Finco & Investment Ltd.
161. Green Banyan Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
162. Chirantani Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
163. Artech Housing Dev. Finance Investment Co. (P) Ltd.
164. Contai Finance & Hire Purchase (P) Ltd.
165. Dunhil Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
166. Gaonliya Savings & Investment Ltd.
167. Happy Life Small Savings & Investment Ltd.
168. Chancellor Housing Dev. Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
169. Chaitanya Credit & Finance Ltd.
170. Chartered General Finance & Investment Ltd.
171. Celebrate Small Savings & Investment (I) Ltd.
172. Annuity Savings & Investment (I) Ltd.
173. Adwitiya Savings & Credit Co. (I) Ltd.
174. Abiskar Small Investment Co. (P) Ltd.
175. Debdut Savings & Investment Co. Ltd.
176. Emm DEE General Finance & Savings Ltd.
177. Faithful Savings & Investment Ltd.
178. Fecond Life Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
179. Fiona Investment Ltd.
180. Inland Finance & Small Investment (P) Ltd.
181. Agradoot Credit & Finvest Ltd.
182. Catchy Savings & Finance Ltd.
183. Legend Finance & Agricultural Investment (I) Ltd.
184. Limbo Housing Credit (I) Ltd.
185. Lokadarshi Savings & Finance (I) Ltd.
186. Lucky Savings & Credit Co. (P) Ltd.
187. Matangini Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
188. Meliorate Finance & Investment Ltd.
189. Monali Finance & Investment (P) Ltd.
190. Nabarashmi Investment & Commercial (I) Ltd.
191. Overman Investment Co. Ltd.
192. Parrot Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
193. Parrot Savings & Industrial Investment Ltd.
194. People's Own General Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
195. Plover General Finance & Investment (I) Ltd
196. Prantik Small Savings (I) Ltd.
197. Navkiran Savings & Investment Ltd
198. New Life Finance & Investment Ltd.
199. Renaissace Small Savings & Investment Ltd.
200. R F D Capital Investment Ltd.
201. Pratidin Credit (P) Ltd.
202. Priya General Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
203. Proper Life Finance & Investment Ltd.
204. The Gold Rush Savings & Finance Co. Ltd.
205. The Reliance Credit Ltd.
206. Jilex Finance & Investment Ltd.
207. Jeewika Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
208. Johura Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
209. Joy India Savings & Investment Co. Ltd.
210. Juvenile Savings & Credit Pvt. Ltd.
211. DNS Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
212. Casion Leasing & Finance (I) Ltd.

213. Bright Future Finance & Investment Ltd.

214. Vicar General Finance Co. Ltd.

215. P.G. Finance & Investments (I) Pvt. Ltd.

216. Regional Small Savings & Investment Ltd.

217. Minerva Finance (I) Ltd.

218. Asia Pacific Financial Services Ltd.

219. Satadal Savings & Investment (I) Ltd.

Guwahati

220. Anurag Entrade India Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

221. Asha Entrade Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

222. Balaji Securities Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

223. Ess Gee Tradefin Private Ltd., Guwahati

224. Lee Gem Fintrade Private Ltd., Nagaon

225. Lokapriya Finance & Industrial Investment, Guwahati

226. Leopard Finance (India) Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

227. Lucent India Finance & Investment (P) Ltd., Nagaon

228. Flagship Securities Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

229 Kamakhya Leafin Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

230. Krishna Hire Purchase Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

231. Q.B. Finance & Investment (P), Shillong

232. Sterling Services Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

233. Sysa Hire-Purchase & Marketing Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

234. Shubham Commercials (P) Ltd., Guwahati

[English]

World Bank Loan to IDBI

*395 SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has decided to obtain soft loans from World Bank to fund infrastructure projects in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Industrial Development Bank of India is also exploring other options including tax-free bonds to mop up cheaper funds;

(c) if so, the extent to which IDBI has obtained soft loans from the World Bank; and

(d) the extent to which IDBI has been able to provide loans for the infrastructure projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. IDBI has not approached the World Bank for any soft loans to fund infrastructure projects in the country.

(b) As part of its effort towards mobilisation of cheaper resource, IDBI is exploring various options including availability of tax-free bonds.

(c) IDBI has not obtained any soft loans from World Bank.

(d) IDBI has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 41241 crore and disbursed Rs. 16895 crore cumulatively, as on March 31, 2000 to infrastructure projects in the country.

[Translation]

Export of Wheat

*396. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to export wheat and rice at a lesser rate than their economic cost;

(b) if so, the quantum of wheat and rice agreed to be exported during the current year till February, 2001;

(c) the rates at which the wheat and rice are to be exported as per the agreement, quantum-wise; and

(d) the total amount of financial loss likely to be suffered due to the said export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) In November 2000, Government had decided to export 20 lakh M.Ts of wheat, to begin with, during the current financial year. Subsequently, in December 2000, Government decided to export 20 lakh M.Ts. of rice also upto 31.3.2001.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is making available wheat for the purpose of export @ Rs. 4150 per M.T. The rate at which rice is being offered by the FCI for the purpose of export is Rs. 6750 per M.T.

(d) There is a difference between the Economic Cost and the Issue Price for export. However, in view of the fact that the stocks available in the Central Pool are far in excess of the buffer norms, and that the Rabi

procurement in the current year may exceed last year's record procurement of wheat, this loss would be considerably offset by savings in the carrying cost of wheat and rice in the years to come.

[English]

New Policy Measures for Industrial Sector

*397. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering initiating new policy measures to bring an upturn in the industrial sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in this connection, the Group of Ministers recently discussed the problems being faced by the industry in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Group of Ministers reviewed sectoral foreign investment cap, so that the suggested policy measures could be promptly implemented; and

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (b) Government has already initiated several policy measures to bring an upturn in industrial sector. Some of the important initiatives are given below:

- Basis custom duty in case of raw materials and intermediate goods has been reduced.
- Budgetary provisions under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme have been raised to speed up the modernization of textile mills.
- Interest rate on savings has been reduced by one to one and a half percent.
- De-reservation of fourteen SSI items related to leather goods, shoes and toys.
- Further reforms in financial and capital markets.
- Repeal of SICA and amendment of Companies Act announced.
- To bring in labour flexibility, amendment of Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act announced.
- Tax holiday for infrastructure sector announced.

(c) to (e) The Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted to review existing sectoral policies and sectoral equity caps and decide necessary changes for FDI and investment by NRIs/OCBs. Some of the policy initiatives taken by the Government are: (i) Removal of cap on foreign investment in the Power sector; (ii) Upto 100% FDI permitted for Business to Business e-commerce and oil refining under automatic route; (iii) FDI upto 100% allowed in all manufacturing activities in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) except a few activities involving national security and social angle; (iv) FDI upto 100% for Internet Service Providers (without gateways), infrastructure providers providing dark fibers (category I), electronic mail and voice mail.

Boards of Public Sector Banks

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to bar employees of public sector banks from joining bank boards as shareholders' representatives, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) Clause 10 of Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes, 1970/1980 which deals with the disqualification of Directors on the Boards of Nationalised Banks has been amended in December, 2000 providing that if a person holds any office of profit under any nationalised bank or State Bank of India constituted under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955, or any subsidiary bank as defined in section 3 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, except for holding the post of a whole time director, including the Managing Director and director nominated under clauses (e) and (f) of sub-section 3 of Section 9 of the said Act he shall not be qualified to be a director on the Board of the Bank. An employee of a nationalised bank if he is shareholder shall not be eligible for nomination as director on the board of Public Sector Banks.

(b) The entry of bank employees as shareholder directors on the bank's board was defeating the purpose of allowing participation on public shareholder directors in the management of the Banks and leading to unhealthy environment in banks and among shareholders. The amendment in the Scheme has been carried out to avoid conflict of interest and duty and in public interest

Anti-dumping Duty on Indian Tea by Egypt

*399. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Egypt has imposed 30 per cent import duty on Indian Tea against 3 per cent levied for Kenyan Tea;

(b) if so, whether export of tea to Egypt has come down during the last three years as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Egyptian Government;

(e) if so, the response of Egyptian Government thereto; and

(f) the further steps being taken by the Government to increase the percentage of Tea export to Egypt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) The general rate of import duty on import of bulk and packet teas into Egypt including India is 30%. Egypt is a member of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and therefore extends concession on import duty to other member countries including Kenya. The rate of concession extended to Kenya on tea is 90% thereby bringing the effective rate of import duty on Kenyan tea into Egypt to 3%. As a result, Indian tea prices in Egypt is at a disadvantage and our export of tea to Egypt has declined. Export of tea to Egypt during the last three years was as follows:

Year	Quantity (mn. kgs)	Value (Rs./Crs.)
1998	6.65	52.32
1999	1.25	9.79
2000	0.87	4.04

(d) to (f) Government/Tea Board had requested the Egyptian authorities to extend similar concessions as being given to Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) member countries to India as well. However, this was not agreed to by Egypt. Alternatively, it has been suggested that a basket of commodities including tea, may be identified on which import duty could be reduced by both the countries.

Basmati Export hit by DGFT Policy

*400. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shipments of bulk rice have been slowed down to a trickle as the Directorate of Foreign Trade refuses to allow duty drawback under DEPB as reported in 'Economic Times' dated December 1, 2000, under the caption "Basmati Exports hit by DGFT Policy";

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the contents of the report;

(c) if so, whether the exporters were greatly hit by this decision; and

(d) if so, the steps being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) The data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGC&IS), Kolkata, does not show any decrease in export of Basmati rice as stated in the newspaper report. In fact there has been an increase both in value and quantity terms for the period April-December 2000 (the latest period for which data is available) over the corresponding period of the previous year. In April-December 2000, the export of Basmati rice was 6,38,434 tonnes worth Rs. 1,58,377.64 lakhs, whereas in April-December 1999 it was 4,38,913 tonnes worth Rs. 1,28,203.27 lakhs.

The report in the Economic Times of 1.12.2000 states that the exporters of Basmati rice were getting the DEPB benefit at the rate 2% on the use of plastic packaging material. Denial of this benefit is alleged have hurt the rice exporters.

For the use of plastic or paper (or any combination thereof) as a packaging material, exporters including rice exporters, are granted 2% DEPB credit to neutralise the impact of customs duties sufferred on the import of such material. For any other material (other than paper or plastic) this rate is 1%. These rates have not been withdrawn and are available to all exporters including rice exporters when they export their goods in packaged form. However, it was noticed at some ports that the rice exporters were using plastic materials for lining the inner walls of the containers. This material is discarded at the port of discharge and the rice is re-packed before it reaches the consumer. The inter-ministerial DEPB Committee (having representatives from different Ministries including Revenue and other Technical

Ministries) deliberated on the matter and came to the conclusion that this could not be treated as exports in packaged form. However, the rice exports would continue to get this benefit if rice is exported in standard bags.

Shooting at Naval Chief's Residence

3743. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the incident of shooting on December 1, 2000 at the Naval Chief's residence by the security guard, a situation has arisen that no personnel with disturbed frame of mind be entrusted the task of protecting our nation's most important dignitaries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The shooting incident is a matter of serious concern. A Board of Inquiry was constituted by the Naval Headquarters to look into the security lapse and to recommend measures. Based on the recommendations of this Board, security arrangements of the Chief of Naval Staff have been improved. Measures are already in force for proper screening, selection and training of sailors deputed for the security of the Chief of Naval Staff.

Status of Indian Air Force

3744. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will become the first country to have the Sukhoi Su-30 MKI, two-seater multi-purpose fighter, the Russo-Indian Variant;

(b) if so, the details thereabout along with the features of the Su-27UB and the Su-30 aircraft; and

(c) the extent to which our pilots have become familiar with its flights and other techniques?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Su-27 UB is the trainer version of the Su-27 aircraft and has Russian avionics. The Su-30 MKI aircraft, though a derivative of the Su-27, is a twin seater with canards and thrust vectoring. This aircraft has state of the art avionics suite of Western origin. The Su-30 aircraft is a multi purpose 'Air Superiority fighter'.

(c) The IAF has operationalised this aircraft and has evolved tractics to employ it in the existing operational scenario.

Production of Jute

3745. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jute growers registered with the Jute Corporation of India (JCI), State-wise;

(b) whether a large quantity of Jute is being produced by growers who are not registered with JCI;

(c) if so, the reasons for their non-registration;

(d) the estimated quantity of Jute being produced by these unregistered jute growers in different States during each of the last three years, till date; and

(e) the estimate being made by the Government about the quality of jute being produced by each of such growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There is no system of registration of Jute growers by Jute Corporation of India (JCI). Jute is produced by farmers without any requirement of registration.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Investment by Private Companies in Waterways

3746. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to attract the private companies to invest in the Inland waterways sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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 SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Govt. has already formulated a policy package which among other measures has provisions to attract private sector to invest in the Inland Waterways sector. The policy package envisages enlarging the role of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to enter into commercial/joint ventures to encourage investment in this sector subject to financial exposure of the

Government being limited to equity participation, policy guidelines for private sector participation subject to the actual capital subsidy with a ceiling of 40% for BOT project being worked out on case-to-case basis, grant of 100% tax exemption to be given to investors for five years and 30% in the next five years to be availed of within a period of 20 years as in the case of national highways, the rate of depreciation for all vessels ordinarily operating on Inland Waterways to be fixed at 20% to bring them on par with ocean going vessel, introduction of vessel building subsidy of 30% for inland water vessels built in Indian Shipyards and discontinuation of the present Loan Interest Subsidy Scheme and levying minimum Waterways. In order to enable IWAI to enter into commercial/joint ventures, an amendment to the IWAI Act, 1985 is proposed which is likely to be introduced in the Parliament during the current session. As soon as the Bill is passed and assented to by the President further action to implement the measure will be taken. The other measures are at different stages of required preliminary action.

[Translation]

Tourism Development Fund

3747. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sought approval of Planning Commission to create Tourism Development fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the approval is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The proposal of setting up of Tourism Development Fund is under the consideration of the Government.

[English]

Status of Defence Civilians under Army Act

3748. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Civilians are covered under the Army Act, 1950;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Defence Civilians are liable for 'Field Service Duty'; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) The following categories of the Defence Civilians are subject to the Army Act, 1950:

(i) In terms of Section 2 (1) (i) Army Act, 1950 persons, not otherwise subject to military law, who, on active service, in camp, on the march or at any frontier post specified by the Central Government by notification in this behalf, are employed by or are in the service of, or are followers of, or accompany any portion of, the regular Army would be subject to Army Act.

Thus, subjection of civilians, to the Army Act, is limited to the fulfilment of the conditions prescribed in Section 2 (1) (i).

(ii) Civilians in the establishments of Assam Rifles, Civil General Transport Company, and General Reserve Engineering Force are subject to the Army Act, at all times. As per the provisions of Section 4 of the Army Act, the said Act has been applied to them.

2. Defence Civilians are liable for field service duty in accordance with Civilians in Defence Services (Field Service Liability) Rules, 1957. The category of persons mentioned in Section 2 (1) (l) of the Army Act, though, non-combatants, are integral to the Armed Forces and would be liable for field service duty, if the need arises.

Enquiry Report on Khanna Rail Accident

3749. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4067 on December 14, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the Commission has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) if not, the time by which the Commission is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Report of Garg Commission appointed under Chairmanship of Justice G.C. Garg to inquire into the cause of the accident is still awaited.

(c) and (d) The Commission has been requested to complete its work at the earliest.

Facilities at Jubilee Petrol Pumps

3750. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has started providing new facilities at Jubliee Petrol pumps through different oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of jubilee petroi pumps started providing services to the people; and

(d) the time by which the remaining jubilee petrol pumps will start providing services to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Scheme of Jubilee Retail Outlets (JROs) was launched with a view to fulfilling the demand of travellers like tourists and truckers for fuels along with multiple associated facilities. At present, there are 208 JROs in operation in the country.

The scheme for setting up further JROs has been discontinued by the Government.

Crash of Defence Planes by Bird Hit

3751. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MIGs lost in accidents due to bird hit since their induction;

(b) whether the Government are aware that birds hover near airports due to filth, meat pieces and other items of food;

(c) whether rule 81B of Aircraft Act, 1934 has been implemented in all air force fields;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent illegal slaughter of animals within a radius of 10 km. from airfields, specially Hindon Airport?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Sixty seven series aircraft have been lost in Category-I accidents due to Bird Hit till 15th March, 2001.

(b) to (e) The Government are aware of the problems of birds, hovering near the airports and have been taking steps to implement anti-bird measure programme at all Air Force Stations, including Air Force Station, Hindon.

The Government have introduced an amendment to the Aircraft Act, 1934 in 1988, making it a punishable offence to throw garbage or flay dead animals, open slaughter houses or carcass disposal plants within 10 km. radius of airfields. This is being implemented Within the Air Force bases, all round vegetation clearance has been undertaken on regular basis. Besides this, other Ministries *viz.* Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Urban Development are also implementing action plans for sanitising areas around the airfields. Further, the High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA), constituted under the Chairmanship of Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri, to analyse the cause of accidents, has, *inter alia*, made certain recommendations on environmental aspects, in its report, submitted in September, 1997, which are being implemented.

[Translation]

Setting up of Laboratories for Testing Petroleum Products

3752. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up laboratories in various parts of the country to carry out testing of diesel/petrol/kerosene; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government has already notified a large number of laboratories for testing of Petroleum Product Samples *vide* Schedule III of Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation & Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 1998 published as GSR 772 (E) in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 28th December, 1998. These laboratories are authorised to test samples of all Petroleum Products.

Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in Rajasthan

3753. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received for opening petrol pumps and LPG agencies in Rajasthan,

(b) the number of petrol pumps allotted by Oil Selection Boards in Rajasthan till date; and

(c) the future plans of the oil companies to set up retail pumps/LPG agencies in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Requests are received from different parts of the country, including Rajasthan, for opening of retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships. Periodic surveys are conducted by the Oil Companies for identifying locations feasible for setting up retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships. The locations found feasible are included in the Marketing Plans.

In order to meet the increased demand, in addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 19 locations for retail outlet dealerships and 29 locations for LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plans for 1999-2000 for Rajasthan.

As on 31.1.2001, there were 1096 retail outlets in operation in Rajasthan. These include dealerships operated by dealers selected by the erstwhile Oil Selection Boards/Dealer Selection Boards.

[English]

Foreign Investment in Development of Non-Conventional Energy

3754. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from foreign companies to invest in the field of development of Non-conventional Energy during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has cleared some proposals in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the areas identified therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the details of foreign companies already involved in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) During the last three years Foreign Investment Promotion Board, Government of India approved nine proposals for foreign investment in the non-conventional energy sector. The proposals have direct foreign investment component of about Rs. 344 crore. It include Rs. 24 crore in wind energy area, Rs. 29 crore in solar PU, Rs. 175 crore in waste to energy and the balance for general renewable energy areas. The details of the proposal approved are given at statement-I.

(d) In addition to the proposals approved during last three years, FIPB had approved twelve proposals during 1994-95 to 1996-97. The details are given at statement-II. Besides there are technological cooperation projects also, which do not require any approval from Government. Such technological cooperation is mainly in the areas of solar energy, wind energy and new technologies.

Statement-I

Foreign investment proposals approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board in renewable energy during last three years

Programme	Collaboration		Total cost (Foreign Equity)	Objective & States where projects are proposed to be set up	Year
	Indian	Foreign			
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Wind Energy:					
(i)	Enercon Wind Farm India Ltd.	-do-	Rs. 30 crore (74%)	The proposal is for setting up of independent wind farm in States of Karnataka. No progress has been made.	2000-2001
(ii)	Pioneer Wincon Ltd.	Wincon A/s Denmark	Rs. 4.00 crore (30%)	The proposal is for manufacturing of wind operated electricity generator in the State of Tamil Nadu. The company is engaged in manufacturing.	1999-2000

1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Solar Photovoltaic:					
(i)	M/s Global Energy Enterprises India Pvt. Ltd.	M/s Plum Street Enterprise Inc. USA.	Rs. 4.00 crore (100%)	The proposal is for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in India which will identify and develop business opportunities in Indian Energy Sector and also to provide technical and managerial solutions for Indian Energy Sector. The activities also include manufacturing, designing, developing, installing, exporting, selling non-conventional energy systems particularly Solar photovoltaic cells and modules and providing technological and managerial solutions in the related fields including generation and distribution of Solar Energy. Factory has been set up in Gurgaon, Haryana.	1998-99
(ii)	Solar Electric Power Company Ltd.	Solar Electric Light Fund & M/s E & Co.	Rs. 3.80 crore (100%)	The proposal is for promotion of Solar Lighting Systems in rural areas of Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh. The foreign equity has been utilised and the project is in progress.	1997-98
(iii)	Royal Dutch/Shell Group C/o Dua Associates, New Delhi	Royal Dutch/ Shell UK	Rs. 9.87 crore (100%)	The proposal is for manufacturing of SPV systems, packaging, distribution and after sales service of SPV energy systems. The company is setting market outlets in different parts of India.	1998-99
(iv)	Mahrishi Solar New Delhi	Mahrishi Technology CorpnBV Netherland	Rs. 10.60 crore (99%)	The proposal is for upgradation of solar technology in India. Production facility has been set up in Andhra Pradesh and commercial production is in progress.	1999-2000
(v)	M/s STECA India Solar Pvt. Ltd.	M/s Helix Solarelektronik Gmbh& Mr. Cavstar Michelson	Rs. 20 Lakh (100%)	The proposal is for planning, design and engineering of solar energy system and products in the State of Tamil Nadu. No progress has been made.	1999-2000
3. Municipal Solid Waste into Energy:					
(i)	—	Super Stone Inc. C/o Super Stone Inc. 17W, 45th Street sorte, 304, New York NY 10036	Rs. 175 crores (100%)	The proposal is for setting up of a project for conversion of 1500 TPD municipal solid waste into 35000 gallons of ethanol per day in the State of Maharashtra. No progress has been made.	1997-98
4. General					
(i)	—	M/s Guascor S.A., Spain	US$ 26 million (100%)	The proposal envisages establishment of a wholly owned subsidiary in India. The activities include setting up, developing, owning and operating micro energy power plants up to 25 MW *inter-alia* using renewable energy sources to provide engineering, start up, operation and management, equipment procurement and consultancy services and also to act as a holding company to make downstream investments in joint venture projects in the power sector with Indian partners. The company has identified potential projects for Biogas from landfills, rice husk gasification, minihydel and cogeneration in different States of the country. No progress has been made	1998-99

Statement-II

Foreign investment proposals approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board during 1994-95 to 1996-97

Programme	Collaboration		Total cost (Foreign Equity)	Objective & States where projects are proposed to be set up	Year
	Indian	Foreign			
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Wind Energy:					
(i)	LM Glass Fibre (I) Ltd.	LM Glass Fibre Denmark & The Industrialisation Fund for developing Countrying (IFU), Denmark	Rs. 12.60 crores (75%)	Production of blades for Wind Electric generators in the State of Karnataka.	1995-96
(ii)	Aban Loyd Chiles Offshore Ltd., Chennai.	Subsidiary of Kenetech, USA.	Rs. 3.15 crores 100% equity owned Indian subsidiary.	Assembly & construction of Wind Power projects in the State of Tamil Nadu.	1995-96
(iii)	Enercon (India) Ltd.	Enercon GMBH Germany.	Rs. 1.26 crores (56%)	Manufacturing of Wind operated generators in Daman & Diu.	1995-96
(iv)	M/s Micon	M/s Micon, Denmark	Rs. 10 crores 100% equity	For assembling & constructing Wind Turbine in the State of Tamil Nadu.	1996-97
2. Solar Photovoltaic:					
(i)	Solar Tech. India Ltd.	Hileos Italy	Rs. 56.00 lakhs (40%)	Manufacture of Silicon Wafers in the State of Rajasthan.	1995-96
(ii)	Eco Solar Systems India Pvt., Pune	Mr. Conard Jauslin etl. Switzerland	Rs. 65.00 lakhs (14%)	Establishment of manufacturing facility for alternate material Solar Cell in the State of Maharashtra.	1995-96
(iii)	Arvind Micro Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	Sun Power Technik Gmbh, Germany	Rs. 1.00 crore (25%)	To set up a unit for manufacturing of Power conditioning equipments and instrumentation for Solar Photovoltaic and other non-conventional energy applications in Distt. Rangareddy in the State of Andhra Pradesh.	1995-96
(iv)	Solar Electric Power Company Ltd.	Solar Electric Light Fund & M/s E&Co.	Rs. 10 lakhs (60%)	Promotion of Solar Lighting Systems in rural areas of Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh.	1996-97
3. Battery Operated Vehicles :					
	Pearless Developers Ltd., Calcutta.	Frazer Nesh, U.K.	Rs. 20 crores (18%)	Manufacture of Solar Passenger transport vehicle powered by batteries and supplemented Photovoltaic charging in the State of West Bengal.	1994-95

1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Cogeneration Plant with woody Biomass:					
	M/s Desi Power Orchha Pvt. Ltd.	M/s Frend Switzerland	Rs. 21.9 lakhs (49.2%)	Setting up of decentralised cogeneration power plant of 125 KVA on Wood Biomass Gasifier captive requirements of paper units and other rural units in Togram, Distt., Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh.	1996-97
5. Municipal Solid Waste into energy:					
(i)	M/s Future Fuels Engg. India Pvt. Ltd., Kalyan City, Maharashtra.	M/s Eco Technology JVVOY, Finland	Rs. 2.91 crores (51%)	For manufacture of Municipal Solid Waste treatment plants in the State of Maharashtra.	1996-97
(ii)	M/s WAS (I) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.	Mr. Jaishankar Menon Germany.	Rs. 25 lakh (51%)	For providing technology, supply, erection of equipment of non-conventional energy system & waste management.	1996-97

Modernisation of MIGs

3755. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement/contract for modernisation/upgradation of MIG-25, MIG-21 and MIG-27;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of aircraft proposed to be upgraded alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to develop the upgraded technology indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Contract for upgradation of 125 MIG-21 Bis aircraft was signed. Two aircraft have been upgraded in Russia and balance 123 MIG-21 Bis aircraft are being upgraded at the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), Nasik. There is no plan to upgrade MIG-25 aircraft. The task of upgrading 40 numbers of MIG-27 aircraft is being undertaken by HAL, Nasik.

(d) HAL, have set up two centres for undertaking upgradation of aircraft at Bangalore and Nasik.

[Translation]

Employees on Deputation in RITES

3756. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of surplus staff in RITES Limited as on February 1, 2001 and the number out of them belong to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) whether RITES have followed the guidelines issued by the Government while surplusing the SC/ST employees;

(c) if so, the number of employees taken on deputation during the last three years in the same post and discipline, in which regular employees are available is surplus; and

(d) the steps taken to repatriate the deputationist and to accommodate the surplus regular employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No staff has been declared surplus in RITES.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Consultancy by D.R.D.O. for Rehabilitation of Disabled in Kerala

3757. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Kerala to obtain consultancy on the project for rehabilitation of disabled by the Defence Research and Development Organization; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Kerala Government proposes to set up a centre with state-of-the-art facilities for production of various aids for the physically disabled, possibly utilizing some technologies developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation. In this connection, a draft Memorandum of Understanding, received from M/s KELTRON in January 2001, is under examination.

[Translation]

Outstanding Electricity Bill

3758. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of electricity bills of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board outstanding against the Union Government and its undertakings–Railways Traction, Cement Corporation of India, National Textile Corporation, BALCO, Nepa Mill; and

(b) whether keeping in view the power crisis in Madhya Pradesh, the Union Government would issue directives to its undertakings to pay the electricity bills of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) According to the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB), the amount of electricity bills outstanding of MPEB against the Union Government and its undertakings are as under:

		Arrears as on 31.1.2001 (Amount in Rs.)
(i)	Railway traction	227.40
(ii)	Cement Corporation of India	237.94
(iii)	National Textile Corporation	42.64
(iv)	BALCO	4.17
(v)	NEPA Mills	15.11
(vi)	Others (Coal mines, Bhilai Steel Plants etc.)	257.86
	Total	785.12

(b) It was *inter alia* resolved in the conference of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3rd March, 2001 that an Expert Group be set up to recommend one time settlement of all power sector past dues to CPSUs and dues from CPSUs to State Power Utilities. The Ministry of Power has constituted the Expert Group on 5.3.2001.

Complaints against Judges

3759. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received against judges of Supreme Court, High Courts and Lower Courts during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to evolve a mechanism for speedy disposal of complaints received against judges;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the authorities with whom complaints can be lodged against the judges and the manner in which these complaints are to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The issue of Judicial Accountability was discussed at the Conference of Chief Justices held in 1990 and on the basis of the broad consensus emerging out of the deliberations, the Chief Justice of India summed up the position as follows:

> "The Chief Justice of the High Court has the competence to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of his court and when he receives any he would look into it for finding out if it deserves to be closely looked into. Where he is satisfied that the matter requires to be examined, he shall have facts ascertained in such manner as he considers appropriate keeping the nature of allegations in view and if he is of the opinion that the matter is such that it should be reported to the Chief Justice of India, he shall do so.
>
> The Chief Justice of India shall act in a similar manner in regard to complaints relating to conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and in regard to conduct of Chief Justices of the High Courts.
>
> On the basis of the facts ascertained, the Chief Justice of the High Court or the Supreme Court, as the case may be shall take such appropriate action as may be considered proper, keeping the interests of the judiciary as the paramount consideration."

2. The complaints received against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are dealt with in the manner indicated above.

2.1 It is, however, not possible to indicate the number of complaints received against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

3. The subject matter regarding corruption in lower Judiciary is the concern of the respective State Governments and the High Courts in accordance with the provisions of article 235 of the Constitution of India.

[English]

Electrification of Railway Stations in North East Frontier Railway

3760. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2199 dated March 9, 2000 regarding lack of basic amenities on North East Frontier Railway and state:

(a) the details of stations provided with electricity and other facilities during 2000-2001 so far and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(b) the number of railway stations in the North Eastern region which are not eligible for electrification, station-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Details are given in statement-I.

(b) In the Northeastern region, 58 Railway stations are not eligible for electrification. Details are given in statement-II.

Statement-I

A.1 Details of stations provided with electrification during 2000-01:

Sl. No.	Name of the Station Electrified
1	Bagetar

A.2 Details of stations provided with other facilities during 2000-01:

Sl. No.	Name of the station provided with other facilities
1.	Haibargaon
2.	Damchara
3.	Mahur
4.	Dibrugarh Town
5.	New Tinsukia
6.	Guwahati
7.	Barpeta Road
8.	Kokrajhar
9.	Baihata
10.	Tinsukia
11.	Bhojo
12.	Bhairabi
13.	Karimganj
14.	Sri Rampur
15.	New Bongaigaon
16.	Bongaigaon
17.	Sorupeta
18.	Patiladah
19.	Patshala
20.	Tihu
21.	Nalbari
22.	Sorbhog
23.	Rangapara
24.	New Misamari
25.	North Lakshmipur
26.	Silapathar
27.	Gogamukh
28.	Murkong Selek
29.	Harmoti
30.	Lumding
31.	Jorhat
32.	Chaparmukh
33.	Silchar
34.	Badarpur
35.	Dharamnagar
36.	Dimapur
37.	New Alipurduar

Sl. No.	Name of the station provided with other facilities
38.	New Cooch Behar
39.	New Jalpaiguri
40.	Darjeeling
41.	Jalpaiguri
42.	Raiganj
43.	Jalpaiguri Road
44.	New Mainaguri
45.	Dhupguri
46.	Falakata
47.	Cooch Behar
48.	New Baneswar
49.	Kamakhyaguri
50.	Jorai
51.	Alipurduar Junction
52	Malbazar
53.	Baradhigi
54.	Neora Naddi
55.	Lataguri
56.	Domohani
57	Mainaguri Road
58.	Bhotpatti
59.	Changrabhandha
60.	Katihar
61.	Kishanganj
62.	Forbeshganj
63.	Salmari

A.3 Details of expenditure incurred during 2001-01 on electrification and other facilities:

Expenditure on Electrical works	Expenditure on Civil works	Total Expenditure
Rs. 58 lakhs	Rs. 578 lakhs	Rs. 636 lakhs

Statement-II

Division-wise details of Railway stations which do not qualify for electrification

Division	Section	No. of station
Katihar	Barsoi-Radhikapur	4
	New Jalpaiguri-Malda Town	4
	Katihar-Jogbani	3
	Raninagar Jalpaiguri-Haldibari	1
	Katihar-Siliguri Jn.	2
	Siliguri in Darjeeling	1
	Kumedpur-Katihar	1
	Katihar-Teznarayanpur	2
	Kishanganj Jn-Katihar	1
	New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj Jn.	1
	Total	20
Alipurduar	Alipurduar Jn-Bamanhat	2
	North Lakhimpur-Murkong Selek	12
	Rangapara-Tezpur	1
	New Bongaigaon-Jogighopa	5
	Fakiragram Jn-Dhubri	1
	Rangapara-North Lakhimpur	1
	Rangiya Jn-New Bongaigaon	2
	Damohani-New Mal Jn.	2
	Total	26
Lumbding	Rangiya-Guwahati	1
	Lumbding-Badarpur	1
	Dullabcherra-Dharmanagar	1
	Guwahati-Lumbding	1
	Katakhal Jn-Bhairabi	2
	Total	6
Tinsukia	Farkating Jn-Mariani Jn.	3
	Dibrugarh Town-Farkating	2
	Tinsukia-Mariani	1
	Total	6
	Grand Total	58

Agitation by S.C. Association against HAL Management

3761. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Hyderabad Division (Avionics) Scheduled Caste Association launched an agitation from February 27, 2001 against the management for non-implementation of constitutional provisions for welfare of SC/ST employees;

(b) the main demands put forth by them; and

(c) the action initiated to resolve the crisis and meet the genuine demands of Scheduled Caste employees?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) HAL SC Welfare Association, Hyderabad Division has launched an agitation over the following demands:–

(i) Reservation in promotion to posts in Scale-10;

(ii) Promotion of Radio Wirers/Mechanics belonging to 11th, 12th and 13th Batches of Radio Wirers on par with those belonging to 10th Batch;

(iii) Filling up of backlog in Recruitment and Promotion; and

(iv) Regularisation of Casual & Contract Employees.

HAL management has considered the demands and has indicated the following position:

(i) The scale of pay in Scale-10 is given to the employees in Scale-9 on time scale basis, that is on completion of the prescribed span of service, and reservation rules are not applicable for this.

(ii) While the Radio wirers in the 10th batch were promoted against available vacancies based on seniority subject to fitness/suitability, those in 11th to 13th batches were promoted to higher scale of pay under Time Scale Promotion Scheme in the absence of vacancies in higher wage groups. No discriminatory method of vacancy based promotion for non-SC/ST and Time Scale promotion for SC/ST candidates has been adopted.

(iii) There is no backlog in promotion to posts in Grades-I and II. The backlog in recruitment is 1 ST in Grade-I and 3 STs in Grade-II. HAL have taken steps to reserve 1 post of Assistant Security Officer in Grade-I to STs. The backlog in Grade-II can be made good on fresh recruitment only.

(iv) The SC contract labourers are engaged not by HAL but by contractors who have contract for specific jobs. As regards SC Casual labourers, they have to wait their turn till vacancies arise for regularisation.

The Management of HAL has conveyed to the representatives of the Association to call off the agitation, as no injustice has been done to the SC/ST employees of Hyderabad Division.

Setting up of LPG Bottling Plants by NRIs/ Foreign Companies

3762. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposal from individuals, Non-Resident Indians and Foreign Companies for setting up of LPG bottling plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) to (c) Under Parallel Marketing Scheme, approval from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the setting up of LPG bottling plants by the private parties including Non-Resident Indians (NRI) and Foreign Companies is not required.

Facilities provided by Mughalsarai Division in Bihar

3763. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Mughalsarai Rail Mandal Ka Adikansh Hisaa Bihar mein, Suvidhaan Uttar Pradesh Ko" appearing in the 'Hindustan', Patna, dated December 11, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of points brought out in the news-item and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to provide better facilities to the residents of the area falling in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh?

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

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Hydro Electric Project in Orissa

3764. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp decline in the production of Hydro Power in Orissa during the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to give more funds to the State for Hydro-electricity projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The hydel generation in Orissa during financial year 2000-2001 (upto February 2001) was 4279 Million Units (MU) as against the generation of 4113 MU during the corresponding period of 1999-2000 representing an increase of 4%.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cases of Senior Citizens

3765. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 3811 on August 17, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The information received from the Supreme Court of India and ten High Courts is as per Statement enclosed and requisite information from other High Courts is still awaited.

(c) The information had to be collected from various High Courts. The remaining High Courts have been reminded to furnish the information expeditiously.

Statement

Supreme Court of India — The Supreme Court has expressed its inability to furnish the exact number of cases pending in the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court Registry has been issued instructions to make efforts to identify the matters relating to older persons and get them disposed of on priority basis.

High Courts

Name of the High Court	No. of Cases pending in High Courts & Subordinate Courts (in August 2000)	Further details
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	35,878 (In District/Subordinate Courts of Andhra Pradesh as on 1.7.2000)	A total No. of 48,737 cases of senior citizens have been identified, out of which 13,167 cases have been disposed of and in 10,854 cases the trial is in advanced stage.
2. Calcutta	10,853 (In Distt. Courts)	The High Court has issued orders to take up these cases on priority basis. 2091 cases of senior citizens were taken up for hearing.
3. Gauhati	617	The High Court have issued instructions to all outlying Benches of the High Court and the Subordinate Courts under the jurisdiction of Gauhati High Court to dispose of cases in which persons above 65 years of age are involved on priority basis.
4. Himachal Pradesh	725 (District & Subordinate Courts only)	The High Court has issued instructions to all the Subordinate Courts in the State of H.P. to take up the cases of the persons above the age of 65 years on priority basis.
5. Jammu and Kashmir	1631	The High Court has directed all Subordinate Courts to dispose of speedily cases involving persons above 65 years of age

1	2	3
6. Kerala	31586 (as on 1.4.2000 in District & Subordinate Courts only)	The High Court has issued instructions to subordinate courts to dispose of cases of senior citizens on priority basis. Such cases are being periodically monitored by the High Court.
7. Madhya Pradesh	8635 (In High Court only)	The High Court is following the order of the Chief Justice of India in this regard.
8. Orissa	No record available	However, cases filed on behalf of the senior citizens, pensioners and retired Government servants are being taken up on priority basis, if prayers are made.
9. Patna	10077(In District/Subordinate Courts as on 1.1.2000)	The High Court has directed the Judicial Officers to identify the cases involving older persons more particularly those who are more than 65 years old, and dispose of the cases on priority basis during the year 1999 and these officers who dispose of such cases should be given extra credit of 10% of the units for final disposal of cases in normal course.
10. Punjab & Haryana	8033 (In District/ Subordinate Courts of Punjab, Haryana and UT of Chandigarh)	The High Court has issued necessary instructions to all the District and Session Judges to identify and dispose of cases in which persons above 65 years of age are involved on priority basis.

Gauge Conversion of Miraj-Latur Rail Line

3766. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion of Miraj-Latur railway line in Maharashtra is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the time by which this project was approved and the funds allocated/released for the project along with the cost of the project;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of this project; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The project was sanctioned in 1993-94. The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 329 crores. The total funds so far allocated upto 2000-2001 for this work since its sanction is Rs.105.30 crores. An outlay of Rs. 20 crores has been proposed during 2001-2002.

(c) and (d) The work is being progressed in a phased manner as per availability of resources.

RPG Enterprises

3767. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "RPG Enterprises a class in case of squandering investors money" appearing in the 'Observer' dated 30-08-2000;

(b) if so, whether the RPG Life Sciences has squandered investors money;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total money involved therein; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the company?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) No information is available regarding squandering of investors money by M/s RPG Life Sciences. However, it is seen from the Balance Sheet of M/s RPG Life Science as at 31-03-2000 that the following investments have been made by the company in M/s Instant Trading & Investment Company Ltd.

	Rs. is Lacs
1. Investment in Equity	1007.63
2. Zero Coupon Fully Convertible Debenture	506.45
3. Interest Free Loan	3787.59

M/s Instant Trading & Investment Company Ltd. has invested the following amounts in M/s Ceat Financial Services Ltd. as on 31-03-2000.

	Rs. in Lacs
1. Investment in Equity	51.49
2. Zero coupon Non-convertible Debenture	3133.58
3. Advance against share application	2641.00
4. Application towards Debenture	1280.00

(d) Inspection under Section 209A of the Companies Act 1956 has been ordered in respect of all the three companies.

Tehri Dam Project

3768. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some scientists have expressed that high structures of Tehri Dam Project are not safe in Himalaya being located in seismic zone; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Government had considered indepth the seismic safety of the Tehri Dam and the detailed seismology studies carried out by the Geological Survey of India. Department of Earthquake Engineering of the Roorkee University and the Russian experts assisted by National Geo-Physical Research Institute, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology for determining the safe height of Tehri Dam, before according approval to the implementation of the Tehri Dam and Hydro-electric Power Project (1000 MW) in March, 1994.

In view of the continuing concern relating to seismic safety of the Tehri Dam, a Group of Experts was constituted in June, 1996 to further examine the issue of seismic safety of Tehri Dam. This Group in its report concluded that the design of the dam was safe to withstand the Maximum Credible Earthquake.

Baffle Range

3769. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had asked the army authorities to identify places for Baffle Ranges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Indian Soldiers on UN Peace Keeping Missions

3770. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Defence personnel who lost their lives serving the U.N. Peace Keeping Missions;

(b) whether their dependents have been given benefits at par with other service dependents who lost their lives in various wars protecting Indian Borders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Till date, a total of 96 personnel, including 11 Officers, 4 JCOs and 81 Other Ranks have lost their lives while serving in U.N. Peace Keeping Missions.

(b) and (c) Indian armed forces personnel killed or disabled in U.N. Peace Keeping Missions abroad are entitled to liberalised pensionary benefits at par with personnel killed or disabled in war or war-like operations Compensation in respect of personnel who die or are disabled while serving in U.N. Missions, is claimed from the United Nations.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Kurukshetra as International Tourism Point

3771. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are formulating any project to develop Kurukshetra from its international tourism point of view; and

(b) if so, the details of the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Development of tourist/pilgrim centres is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them. During the year 1998-99 a project for integrated development of Kurukshetra with Central assistance component of Rs. 48.00 lakhs was sanctioned. Utilisation Certificate for 1st instalment of Rs. 24.00 lakhs has not been received from the State Government.

Blank Paper Tickets

3772. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether blank tickets are issued by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of the blank tickets in terms of rupees issued alongwith the rules governing this clause during the last two years, month-wise; and

(d) the objective behind issuance of blank tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There is no concept of blank tickets in railways. However Railways issue Blank paper tickets in lieu of pre printed tickets.

(b) to (d) A stock blank paper tickets are issued to stations. These are serially number money value books. In the event of a station running out of printed card tickets, etc or where it is necessary to issue group tickets the blank paper tickets are filled in with appropriate details and issued. The blank paper tickets, so issued, are accounted for fully as for printed card tickets.

[English]

Import of Unwanted Defence Equipments

3773. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether equipment imported at a cost of Rs. 2.60 cr. for evaluation of trajectory of weapon released from aircraft had never been utilised for its intended role ever since their receipt;

(b) if so, the logic behind purchasing the same; and

(c) the steps taken to check wasteful spendings of the public revenue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Cases Pending in Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

3774. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal;

(b) the number of such cases which have been pending for the last 3 years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the number of Tribunals to reduce the number of pending cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The number of cases pending with the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal as on 1st March, 2001 is 2,44,320.

(b) The number of cases pending with the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal during the past three years was as under:

Year	Pendency
1997-98	299978
1998-99	300597
1999-2000	262652

(c) to (e) No, Sir. In order to reduce the number of pending cases with the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, the Government has sanctioned 15 additional benches of the Tribunal with effect from 1st April, 1997.

Foreign Bank Loans to Power Sector

3775. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign banks express their inability to finance mega power projects as reported in 'Indian Express' dated February 21, 2001;

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

(c) the efforts/steps likely to be taken by the Government to improve the situation in this regard so that foreign banks are able to invest in power sector in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) In a meeting of some Investment bankers, a view was expressed that termination guarantees by the Government of India will improve the bank ability of mega projects, keeping in view the poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards.

(c) The Government is considering a new payment security mechanism for large power purchase systems and support to the Power Trading Corporation for purchase of power from large power projects in the private sector. The details of the mechanism are being worked out in consultation with the concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India and financial institutions.

Gangavaram/Kakinada Sea Port Project

3776. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the Gangavaram sea port project and Kakinada International sea port project at present;

(b) whether the Government have any plan to expedite these projects;

(c) if so, the funds allocated for these projects, project-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) Gangavaram and Kakinada are minor ports in Andhra Pradesh and as per the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for construction/ development of minor ports lies entirely with the State Government concerned.

[Translation]

Ship Acquisition Programme

3777. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has decided to reduce the number of its ship acquisition programme during the Ninth Plan;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has decided to focus its activities on new areas also; and

(e) if so, the areas identified by the Shipping Corporation of India so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)'s Tonnage Acquisition Programme in the beginning of 9th Plan envisaged acquisition of 53 vessels aggregating 23.84 lakhs DWT. However SCI has been able to acquire only 4 vessels aggregating 1.29 lakhs DWT till 31.3.2000. SCI in March, 2000, has revised their vessel acquisition programme and plan to acquire 21 vessels aggregating 16.85 lakhs DWT during the remaining period of 9th Plan period. The main reasons for non-achievement of target are as under:

(i) Continued recession in the international freight market.

(ii) Change in the trade pattern while the projects were in the pipeline.

(iii) Dufficulties in raising large amounts of ECB (External Commercial Borrowings).

(iv) Non-availability of appropriate second-hand vessels as per SCI's requirement.

(v) Procedural issues which affected approval of projects.

(vi) Limited financial powers of SCI Board.

(c) Government have granted in February, 2000 'Mini Ratna' status to SCI as a consequence of which SCI will be able to exercise enhanced financial powers, improve its performance and acquire more vessels during the balance period of 9th Plan, based on the anticipated business opportunities as well as SCI's immediate requirements. The SCI have also placed orders for the construction of 8 vessels during the current year.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, SCI has diversified its activities to include Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Transportation and has already embarked on a joint venture with Mitsui OSK, Japan and Enron for LNG Transportation for Dabhol Power project. This is a new activity with lot of potential for SCI.

Rehabilitation Scheme by NTPC, Sipat

3778. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC, Sipat has submitted rehabilitation scheme for old age as per the agreement;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP) for the Project Affected Persons (PPAs) of Sipat project of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), approved by the District Collector, has no separate scheme for the old age.

(b) The rehabilitation provisions in the RAP were prepared by NTPC through an extensive consultative process involving the affected people, heads of the Panchayats of affected villages, people's representatives and District Administration. The final RAP, prepared through such consultative process and approved by District Collector, contains specific provisions for rehabilitation of all PAPs irrespective of whether PAPs are of old age or not.

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

[English]

Reaction of Government on Consultation Papers

3779. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central and State Governments have decided to place their view points before the Constitution Review Commission on the consultation papers issued to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) (a) to (c) The Constitution Review Commission also sent the consultation papers, released by it for public debate, to various Ministers/ Departments of the Central Government and all State Governments and Union territory Administrations. So far, three Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and two State Governments have sent their response to the Commission.

Rural Electrification Corporation Projects

3780. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the projects of Rural Electrification Corporation particularly for the electrification of the tribal districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of fund granted during the last three years; and

(c) the number of blocks, villages benefited through this project during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) The Government of India has constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to review the existing schemes relating to electrification of tribal villages, dalit bastis and benefiting other weaker sections and suggest modifications for accelerating the pace of rural electrification in the country

(b) and (c) The details of loan assistance sanctioned for projects in tribal areas and villages electrified (tribal) during the last three years under REC schemes are as under.

Year	Loan amount sanctioned (Rs. lakhs)	Tribal Villages reported as electrified (Nos.)
1997-98	528	179
1998-99	2864	162
1999-2000	1900 (ST loans)	250

[Translation]

Expansion of Rural Energy Scheme

3781. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the expansion of the Rural Electrification Scheme in Madhya Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard; and

(c) the number of persons likely to be benefited in Madhya Pradesh by this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) As reported by the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB), the targets fixed for the rural electrification in Madhya Pradesh during the Ninth Plan period (1997-2002) are given below:

Year	Villages	Pumps	SC Bastis	Hamlets
1997-98	350	12,000	500	500
1998-99	350	12,000	500	500
1999-2000	350	12,000	500	500
2000-2001	350	12,000	500	500
2001-2002	350	12,000	500	500
Total	1,750	60,000	2,500	2,500

(b) The estimated expenditure incurred during the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-2002) up to January, 2001 is Rs. 623.65 crores.

(c) MPEB has further informed that 2.305 lakhs rural population have been benefited by electrification of villages in Madhya Pradesh during the said plan period upto January, 2001.

[English]

Doubling of Kochi-Kayamkulam Rail Line

3782. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government to shift the doubling of railway line from Kochi to Kayamkulam *via* Alappuzha instead of original proposal *via* Kottayam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete electrification of railway line from Kochi to Trivandrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Electrification of Ernakulam-Cochin Harbour Terminus is a part of Electrification Project of Erode-Ernakulam-Cochin. Electrification upto Ernakulam has already been completed. Work between Ernakulam and Cochin Harbour Terminus could not be taken up due to non-clearance from Naval authorities. The electrification of Ernakulam-Trivandrum section is sanctioned as a separate work. The preparatory work for this section has started. This work is targeted to be completed by March, 2004.

Recruitment Policy for Store Keepers/Clerical Staff in Defence

3783. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the store keeping and clerical staff in Defence are recruited locally through the regional employment exchanges and are promoted in due course of time to supervisory staff and officers;

(b) whether the nature of their function and the impact of their performance on the management of sophisticated and expensive equipment makes it necessary that the intake standards of personnel should be reviewed;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to review the recruitment policy of the store keeping and clerical staff as well as their promotion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) . (a) Yes, Sir. Consistent with the provisions of the recruitment rules, posts of Storekeeping and Clerical grades at entry level in Service Headquarters and Inter-Service Organisation are filled up by transfer, promotion and direct recruitment. Direct Recruitment is made, locally, through Employment Exchanges and advertisement in Employment News etc. Incumbents to such posts are promoted to higher grades in due course, as per the service rules.

(b) to (d) A large number of formations, working under the Ministry of Defence, do not feel the need for reviewing the recruitment policy for the Store keeping

and the Clerical staff. The Ministry is, therefore, not generally inclined to review the recruitment policy for these Cadres. However, two proposals, received from the Ordnance Factory Board and the Naval HQrs, seeking the qualifications for posts in these cadres to be raised, are being examined.

Dealership of Petrol to Close Relative

3784. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether the policy of the Government is not to provide dealership of petrol/diesel outlet to close relative of a person who already have such dealerships; and

(b) if so, the action taken against such persons who got such dealerships after concealing the facts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As per the guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products, no person shall be awarded a new dealership/distributorship if he/she or any of his/her close relatives (including step relatives), as given below, already holds a Letter of Intent or dealership/distributorship of any oil company

Other than Physically Handicapped persons (PH) category	Physically Handicapped persons (PH) category
(a) Spouse	(a) Spouse
(b) Father/Mother	(b) Father/Mother
(c) Brother/Brother's wife (Not applicable for women applicants)	(c) Son/daughter-in-law
(d) Son/Daughter-in-law	

(b) If any case is established wherein the allottee/ dealer select has concealed the fact that his close relatives (as per the policy guidelines) are already having dealerships/distributorships of any oil company in the country, immediate action is taken to withdraw the LOI issued or terminate the dealership/distributorship in line with the policy guidelines.

LPG Pipeline from Daman

3785. SHRI DAHYA BHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LPG pipeline is passing from a very short distant from Daman;

(b) whether the Government propose to connect Daman with this LPG pipeline to supply LPG to households and industries in Daman;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the proposed LPG pipeline is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Tenth Triennial

3786. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether by opening Tenth Triennial India has become the first Mirror or World Art trends in the 21st century as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 23, 2001 under the caption, "first mega event of the year begins";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of countries participated in this event and the number of Indian artists selected for this purpose;

(d) whether the Government have announced some awards in this event;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any artist on the art of Mughal times has been awarded;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the total expenditure incurred on this event?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir Lalit Kala Akademi organized the tenth Triennale India, an International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, which was inaugurated in January, 2001. Twenty-eight countries including India participated in the exhibition. Works of thirty-seven Indian artists were also selected for this exhibition.

(d) and (e) The Lalit Kala Akademi on the basis of the recommendations of the International Jury gave

awards to 9 artists during the 10th Triennale India. Out of this two were Indian artists and the remaining seven were from various foreign countries.

(f) and (g) Since the Triennale India is an International Exhibition of contemporary art, the question of art work relating to the Mughal period winning the award does not arise.

(h) The expenditure on Tenth Triennale India so far is Rs. 32.27 lakhs.

Posting of Officers in Foreign Countries

3787. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officers have been posted in foreign countries for promoting tourism;

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

(c) whether some officers have been posted in foreign countries in total violation of laid down rules and guidelines; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) The country-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir. Officers of the Department of Tourism are posted in Government of India Tourist Offices abroad on the basis of guidelines framed by the Department for this purpose.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The details of Posts abroad country-wise

S.No.	Name of the Country	No. of Officers (India Based)
1	2	3
1.	Australia	3
2.	Singapore	2
3.	Germany	3
4.	France	3
5.	Moscow	1
6.	Netherlands	2
7.	Italy	1
8.	Spain	1
9.	Swedan	1
10.	Israel	1
11.	USA	5
12.	Argentina	1
13.	Canada	2
14.	Dubai	2
15.	South Africa	1
16.	Japan	2
17.	London	3

Effect of Naphtha on Price of Power

3788. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need for reducing the excise and customs duties on Naphtha to enable Power Projects like Kayamkulam to bring down the price of power to an affordable level;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) to (c) Representations have been received from some of the promoters of private sector power projects based on naphtha as well as from some State Governments, etc. requesting for waiver of customs and excise duties on naphtha used for power generation. The matter is under consideration.

[Translation]

Railway Sales Agencies Abroad

3789. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the general sales agencies are engaged by the Railways abroad to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the number of agencies engaged by the Railways during the last one year, country-wise;

(c) whether any guidelines have been laid down for engaging such agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the profits earned by the Railways through these agents annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, no such agency has been engaged in any country during the last one year.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The guidelines for engaging General Sales Agents (GSAs) abroad for sale of Indrail Passes provide for minimum experience of five years in running a travel agency, recognition by the National Tourism Organisation or the National Association of Travel Agents of the country of accreditation, financial soundness of the Travel Agency, etc. The sale of Indrail Passes through General Sales Agents abroad is a facility to attract the inbound tourists and thereby earn foreign exchange for the country. There is no profit motive. General Sales Agents remit the sale proceeds of Indrail Passes to the Indian Railways after deducting their commission. The foreign exchange earnings during the current financial year (April 2000 to December 2000) from the sale of Indrail tickets have been US $ 4,05,386.

[Translation]

Private Participation in Petroleum and Gas Sector

3790. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating participation of the private companies in the petroleum and natural gas sector;

(b) if so, the names of the private companies entered into this sector; and

(c) the likely effect on the public sector oil companies after the entry of private companies in the sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of the joint ventures already in operation and also those under implementation in the oil sector in India are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Private sector participation creates a competitive atmosphere in the sector and is generally in the interest of the consumers.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Joint Venture	Promoters	Business
1	2	3	4
1.	Indo-Mobil Limited	IOC and Mobil Petroleum Co. Inc	To Import, Blend and Market Mobil Brand Lubricants.
2.	AVI-Oil India Limited	IOC, Balmer Lawrie and NYCO SA, France	For Aviation Lubricants
3	Indian Oil Tanking Ltd. (IOTL)	IOC, IBP and OIL Tanking GMBH Germany	Development of infrastructural Facilities for storage of Petroleum Products
4.	Lubrizol India Limited	IOC and Lubrizol Corporation, USA	Manufacture of Lube additives
5.	Petronet India Limited (PIL)	IOC, BPC, HPC, ICICI, SBI, EOL, ILFS and RPL	Implementation of identified future Product Pipeline Projects
6.	Petronet Vadinar Kandla Limited	IOC, PIL and others	Transportation of Petroleum Products (Vadinar-Kandla)
7	Petronet Chennai Trichy-Madurai Limited	IOC, PIL and Others	For Transportation of Petroleum Products (Chennai-Trichy-Madurai)
8.	Petronet LNG Limited (PLL)	IOC, GAIL, BPC, ONGC and Other Strategic Partners & FIs	Development of facilities for Import and Utilisation of LNG

1	2	3	4
9.	Indian Oil Petronas Limited (IPL)	IOC and Petronas Malaysia	For Setting up of LPG Import facilities at Haldia
10.	Indian Oil Panipat Power Consortium Limited (IPPCL)	IOC and Marubeni Corporation	Setting up of Power Project at Panipat
11.	Indian Oil TCG Petrochem Limited	IOC, The Chatterjee Group (TCG)	To own, Operate and Manage Petrochemical Business
12.	Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)	HPCL and AV Birla Group of Companies	Refining of Crude Oil
13.	Hindustan Colas Ltd. (HINCOL)	HPCL and M/s Colas France	To Produce and Market Bitumen Emulsions
14.	Prize Petroleum Co. Limited (PPL)	HPCL, ICICI, TDICI and HDFC	For Exploration and Exploitation of Hydrocarbons
15.	South Asia LPG Co. Limited (SALPG)	HPCL & M/s Total France	To Construct and LPG Import Terminal at Vishakhapatnam
16.	Petronet Mangalore Hassan Bangalore Limited (PMHBL)	HPCL and Petronet India Limited	Laying of Pipeline from Mangalore to Devangunthi near Bangalore
17.	Petronet CIPL Limited	IOC, PIL, RPL, EOL, BPCL	For Evacuation of Petroleum Products from RPL, EOL and Gujarat Refinery of IOCL
18.	Bharat Oman Refineries Limited (BORL)	BPCL and Oman Oil Company	Setting up a Refinery at Bina (MP)
19.	Bharat Shell Limited (BSL)	BPCL and Shell Overseas Investment BV	To market shell branded Lubricants
20.	Mahanager Gas Limited (MGL)	GAIL and British Gas	Supply of Piped Gas and CNG in Mumbai City
21.	Indraprashtha Gas Limited (IGL)	GAIL, BPCL and Govt. of NCT of Delhi	Supply of Piped Gas and CNG in NCT of Delhi
22.	Balmer Lawrie-Van Leer Limited, Mumbai	Balmer Lawrie (BL) M/s Van Leer Netherlands	Manufacturing of Barrel closures and Fittings
23.	Indian Container Leasing Co. Ltd., Calcutta	BL, ICICI, TDICI, Trans America, USA	To Promote the Concept of Containerisation in the Domestic sector
24.	Cochin Refineries Balmer Lawrie Limited, Cochin	BL, KRL	Production of Poly-ISO-Butene
25.	Balmer Lawrie Freight Containers Limited, Madras	BL, M/s Tectrans, Germany & Okura, Japan	Manufacture and Export of Marine freight Containers at Madras.

Division of Railways

3791. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bharatiye Rail Par Ameriki Company Ki Gidhh Drishti" appearing in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 6, 2001;

(b) whether the World Bank is pressurising the Government to divide the Indian Railways into small companies; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation

3792. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation is responsible for management and upgradation of on-board catering services; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the Corporation has initiated steps to improve catering services?

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

(b) The Corporation has invited expression of interest from the Catering industry for various catering related projects including onboard catering services.

[Translation]

Subsidy to Ginning and Pressing Industry

3793. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy to Ginning and Pressing Industry being run in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V DHANANJAYA KUMAR) (a) to (c) The Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton with objectives of research, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in marketing infrastructure and modernization of ginning & pressing factories. The Mission comprises four Mini Missions; Mini Missions I & II are being implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Ministry of Agriculture; and Mini Missions-III and IV are being implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.

Under Mini Mission-IV, relating to modernization of ginning and pressing factories, capital incentive of 25% of the cost of modernization subject to a ceiling of Rs. 20 lakh per unit is given to the entrepreneur

The State-wise details, upto February, 2001, are as under:

(Rupees in crore)

State	No. of Ginning & Pressing factories sanctioned	Estimated Project cost	Govt. of India's share
Maharashtra	52	53.71	10.70
Gujarat	23	19.77	4.52
Madhya Pradesh	23	23.02	4.39
Karnataka	01	1.26	0.20
Orissa	01	1.37	0.20

[English]

National Gas Grid by GAIL

3794. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has formulated a plan to form National Gas Grid for the entire country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the economic viability of Grid has been examined;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated time to make the Grid functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has conceptualized a broad national gas grid involving laying of additional 6400 kms of high pressure, large diameter trunk pipelines, covering almost all the States.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) Implementation of the gas grid would be done in a phased manner, depending upon the economic viability, availability of gas and materialisation of other competitive gas sources. Therefore, it is not feasible to estimate the time frame for the gas grid at this stage.

Railway Projects in West Bengal

3795. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minister of Railways had laid down foundation stones for 18 railway projects and inaugurated 17 services in West Bengal during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of projects and services have since commenced; and

(c) the time by which the remaining projects and services are likely to start?

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

(b) 14 out of 18 projects and 16 out of 17 services have since commenced.

(c) No time frame has been fixed yet for starting remaining projects and services.

Demand of Bitumen

3796. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply position of bitumen in each State of the country during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Bitumen is a deregulated product and the same is supplied to the State Governments etc. by the oil companies as per demand. No shortage of Bitumen is reported.

Statement

Bitumen supplied State-wise

(Figures in TMT)

Region/State	1997-98 Supplied	1998-99 Supplied	1999-2000 Supplied
1	2	3	4
Northern			
Chandigarh	5.6	5.3	0.8
Delhi	15.3	21.7	24.8
Haryana	65.5	90.5	121.9
Himachal Pradesh	13.9	29.7	33.8
J&K	16.8	12.2	10.0
Punjab	113.6	126.6	181 1
Rajasthan	127.0	144.4	145.0
Uttar Pradesh	220.9	257.5	276.8
Central Sector	38.2	24.0	33.1
Total	616.8	711.9	827.3
Eastern			
Andaman & Nicobar	2.4	1.4	3.5
Arunachal Pradesh	0.3	1.2	0.9
Assam	21.9	22.5	31.7
Bihar	88.5	136.6	88.0
Manipur	0.0	1.9	0.9
Meghalaya	3.7	2.0	2.4
Mizoram	5.7	0.0	2.5
Nagaland	1.3	1.1	18.3
Orissa	24.3	30.4	50.5
Sikkim	0.1	0.0	0.0
Tripura	4.7	3.7	2.0

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	116.2	139.9	148.2
Central Sector	43.9	30.5	31.3
Total	293.0	371.2	380.2
Western			
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.2	0.5	0.0
Daman & Diu	1.0	0.1	0.0
Goa	5.5	2.8	4.3
Gujarat	221.8	243.6	288.0
Madhya Pradesh	73.8	81.0	78.6
Maharashtra	390.7	397.1	377.0
Central Sector	0.6	0.2	0.0
Total	694.6	725.3	747.9
Southern			
Andhra Pradesh	145.3	141.3	183.0
Karnataka	59.6	42.6	83.4
Kerala	92.9	78.8	103.7
Pondicherry	3.6	0.8	0.0
Tamil Nadu	238.9	293.5	274.5
Central Sector	13.7	0.2	0.0
Total	554.0	557.2	644.6
Grant Total	2158.4	2365.6	2550.0

Allotment of Power from RAPP to Rajasthan

3397. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation has signed an agreement with the Government of Rajasthan for full allocation of power from both RAPP units 3 and 4; and

(b) if so, whether full power from RAPP units are likely to be allocated to Rajasthan with effect from March 1, 2001 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has allocated entire power (220 MW) of RAPP Unit-3 to Rajasthan based on resolution in the meeting of NREB held on 14.10.2000. 85% of the power from Unit-3 has been allocated initially for a period of 3 years which will be reviewed and extended for a further period of 2 years, if required. The remaining 15% unallocated power of Unit-3 has also been allocated to Rajasthan as a special case until further orders. RAPP Unit-4 (220 MW) came into commercial operation in December 2000. For the time being, both of Rajasthan and Haryana have been given 50% allocation each of its output.

Construction of Over-Bridge at Sathyanarayana Peth

3798. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken up the construction of an underbridge or overbridge at Sathyanarayana Peth in Bellary, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to sanction the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A Road Over-Bridge in lieu of existing level crossing at Sathyanarayana Peth between Bellary and Haddinagundu at Km. 209/12-13 has been sanctioned in the Budget of 2000-2001 on cost sharing basis at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.58 crores with Railway's share as Rs 2.82 crores and State Govt.'s share as Rs. 3.76 crores.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Profit Earn by Private Sector

3799. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power generation companies in private and public sectors in the country which have been permitted by the Government to earn 16% profit on their capital cost; and

(b) if not, the percentage of profit they are permitted to earn thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The two part tariff notification issued by the Government of India (GOI) on 30.3.1992 in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 43A of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, allows a return of upto 16% on equity (paid up and subscribed) at normative levels of operation i.e. 68.5% Plant Load Factor (PLF)

to generating companies in the private sector for power projects set up by them. For generation beyond this level, incentive at negotiated rates subject to a ceiling of 0.7% of equity (paid up and subscribed), for each percentage increase in PLF is allowed.

Development of Tourism in Uttaranchal

3800. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourist facilities in Uttar Pradesh have almost come to a halt after the creation of Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Allocation for Renovation of Bridges

3801. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1942 on August 3, 2000 regarding Renovation of Railway bridges and state:

(a) whether there is a gap between the requirement and availability of funds for the renovation of bridges in East Coast Railway which is presently controlled by South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to enhance allocation of funds for the renovation of those bridges keeping in view of their safety aspects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

On-going Projects under Northeast Frontier Railway

3802. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of on-going railway projects under Northeast Frontier Railway along with expenditure incurred thereon and the allocation made therefor during 2001-2002, project-wise;

(b) the details of projects approved during each of the last three years and current year so far alongwith the present status thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the timely completion of these projects to avoid the cost escalation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The details of on-going projects including those approved during the last three years, their present status, expenditure incurred and proposed outlays for 2001-02 are indicated in the statement attached.

(c) Funds and materials as required to suit the targets are being provided. The progress of the works is being monitored regularly.

(d) The completion of these projects would depend upon availability of resources.

Statement

S. No.	Year of Approval	Project	Length (in Km)	State	Expected Cost Rs. in cr.	Expected Expenditure up to Mar. 2001 (in Crs.)	Budget Outlay 2001-02 (in Crs.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Status of on-going Railway Projects under North East Frontier Railway								
Plan: A New Lines								
1.	1983-84	Jogighopa-Guwahati	142	Assam	677.1	523	15	The work has been completed and commissioned on 15.4.1998.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	1984-85	Eklakhi-Balurghat @	87	WB	226.2	89.2	50	First block section from Eklakhi to Gazol (14 km) has been completed. 80% of earthwork has also been completed from Gazol to Buniadpur (km 14 to 28). Work on minor bridges in this stretch is nearing completion. Land acquisition of 80 kms stretch has been completed. Balance land for about 7 kms stretch is likely to be acquired shortly. Tenders for earthwork and bridges (28 km to 45 km stretch) have been finalised. Gazol to Buniyadpur (14 km) is targeted for completion during the 2001-02. New work from Gazol to Itahar (31 km) included in the Budget 2001-02 as a material modification.
3.	1992-93	Dudhnoi-Depa	15.5	Assam & Meghalaya	22.33	1.82	0.1	This work was sanctioned in 1992-93. However, Meghalaya Govt. has not made available the land so far for this project due to resistance from local people. However, papers for land acquisition have been submitted in July 1997. However, the land is yet to be acquired by the Govt. of Meghalaya. Work on this project would be taken up only after the land becomes available and will be completed within 2 years of land being made available.
4.	1996-97	Harmuti-Itanagar	33	Assam & Arunachal Pradesh	156	10.0	5	This work has been frozen at the request of State Govt. who now want an alternative alignment from Halem to Itanagar for which a survey has been sanctioned.
5.	1996-97	Kumarghat-Agartala	109	Tripura	825	104	40	Land acquisition is in progress. A total of about 1950 acres of land, including forest land, is to be acquired for the project. Out of this possession of 1300 acres of land has already been taken. The work for construction of staff quarters at Agartala is in progress. Earthwork and minor bridges in a stretch of 40 km from Agartala and 20 km from Kumarghat is in progress. 52 lac cum earthwork have been completed and 25 minor bridges have also been completed between Agartala and Jirania and

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								Kumarghat-Manu section. Contracts for all major bridges in Agartala-Jirania and Kumarghat-Manu section have been awarded and work is in progress. Since the line has now to be constructed as BG, a fresh final location survey has been taken up through RITES in the ghat sections and the report is expected to completed shortly. Work will be started on the rest of the section after the alignment is finalised and land becomes available.
6.	1997-98	Bogibeel bridge**	46	Assam	1000	10	14.9	Final location survey has been completed and alignment marked on the ground. Detailed report and estimate of the project has been submitted by RITES. CCEA's clearance in principle has also been obtained. Sharing of cost for rail cum road bridge has been decided to be on same principle as for Jogighopa bridge. RITES have completed the field survey, geo-technical investigations, seismic studies etc. studies in respect of hydraulic model, traffic, design of bridge, protection works etc. are in progress. The report is expected later this year. Work will be started once the survey including model studies is completed and alignment is fixed and final clearances of CCEA is obtained.
7.	1997-98	Diphu-Karong PH I	123	Assam & Nagaland	1600	25.3	5	This work has been frozen since Govt. of Manipur has suggested to have Jiribam-Imphal as a alternative alignment to this work, for which proposal to take up survey is under consideration of the Board.
8.	2000-01	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa	245	WB & Assam	733	6	20	Part Detailed estimate for Final location survey has been sanctioned and FLS has been taken up. Survey works in the first 2 block sections (28 km) from New Maynaguri end has been commenced departmentally.
Plan: B Gauge Conversion								
1.	1992-93	New Guwahati-Lumding	209	Assam	194.1	192	1.61	Work has been completed and commissioned.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	1993-94	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers @	628	Assam	738.5	687	2.	The work of main line from Lumding to Dibrugarh, Tinsukhia-Lekhapani and branch lines from Furkating to Mariani and Simalguri-Moranhat has been completed. Gauge Conversion work on Amguri-Tuli and Makum-Dangari is in progress and will be completed in 2001-02.
3.	1996-97	Lumding-Silchar with MM to extension from Badarpur to Bhariagram		Assam	696	69.8	40	Final location survey completed except some geotechnical investigations which are in progress. Preparation of land acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. RITES have already completed the paper alignment for entire length and staking of the alignment has been completed in 150 km. Earthwork and bridges are now in progress between Lumding and Silchar in 90 km length (40 km from Lumding end and 50 km from Silcher end.) 40% of the earth-work in this 90 km length has been completed, and 60 minor bridges out of 138 in this length have also been completed. Work of Silchar-Jiribam gauge conversion is being carried out as a material modification of this work. Work of gauge conversion of Badarpur to Baraigram (44 km) included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification.
4.	1997-98	Katakhal-Bairabhi	84	Assam 200 & Mizoram	0.1		5	Requisite clearances have since been received. Preliminary arrangements are being made for starting the work.
5.	1997-98	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon	280	Assam 535.9 and WB	129		80	The work is in very good progress and is being accorded high priority. It is planned to be completed by Dec. 2003 subject to availability of resources.
6.	1997-98	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar-Radhikapur)**	108	Bihar` 257	10		15	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained. The gauge conversion of Katihar Radhikapur will be taken up as a material modification to main work.
Plan: C Doubling								
1.	1990-91	Kishanganj-Dalkolha	28	WB 49.42	47.4		1	Full section now has been completed. Targeted work of Kanki-Dalkhola (14 kms) of this year, have been completed and commissioned on 16.1.2001.

Babri Masjid Demolition Case

3803. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Allahabad High Court has set aside a decision by the special CBI court to frame charges in the Babri Masjid demolition cases against eight of the 49 accused including three Union Ministers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the pronouncement of the High Court Verdict on such a procedural lapse of more than seven years of delay?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Hon'ble High Court in its judgement has held that the Notification dated 8th October, 1993 amending the earlier notification dated 9th September, 1993 is illegal. Without jurisdiction and violative of the provisions of Section 11 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 as well as Section 21 of the General Clauses Act, 1897. Since the former was not issues in consultation with the High Court.

(c) The judgement of the Hon'ble High Court concerns the State of U.P. and the Govt. of India has no concern with the judgement. However, the Hon'ble High Court has observed that the mistake in issuing the notification is curable and it is open for the State Govt. to cure legal infirmity.

[Translation]

Reserves of Oil and Gas in Maharashtra

3804. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL.
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where petroleum and natural gas is reported to have been found in the country including Maharashtra especially areas predominantly inhabited by tribal and dalits during the last three years and till date;

(b) the places where petroleum and natural gas has been found in the areas predominantly tribal and dalits in other State alongwith details of agencies engaged in the oil exploration;

(c) the total amount spent so far on these projects and the progress made so far;

(d) the details of future plans in this regard and estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up a public sector undertaking of oil in Pandharpur of Maharashtra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Recruitment of Sportsmen in Army

3805. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Services Sports Control Board ever had submitted any proposal for launching a special recruitment drive for sportsmen in the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, whether such proposals have been considered and action taken to strengthen the sports of our country at the behest of Defence;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal of recruitment of outstanding sportsmen in the Armed Forces directly as JCOs, and equivalent, has been submitted by Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) to the Principal Personnel Officers Committee (PPOC). The proposal in being examined.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

3806. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway lines converted so far, zone-wise;

(b) the details of progress made so far regarding completion of on-going gauge conversion of railway lines, project-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon so far alongwith the estimated cost thereof, project-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated to each project during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Zone-wise length of Railway lines converted since Project Unigauge was launched on 01.4.1992 are as under :

Zone	Length (in Kms)
Central Railway	150
Eastern Railway	Nil
Northern Railway	1572
North Eastern Railway	964
Northeast Frontier Railway	836
Southern Railway	2346
South Central Railway	1539
South Eastern Railway	278
Western Railway	1104
Total	8789

(b) to (d) The details of progress made regarding on-going gauge conversion works, expenditure incurred thereon, cost of the project and funds allocated during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Ongoing Gauge Conversion works

(Rs. in Crs.)

Rly.	Project	Cost	Outlay 99-2000	Outlay 2000-01	Expected Exp. up to Mar. 2001	Outlay 2001-02	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CR							
	Miraj-Latur	329	46.5	15.00	105.3	20	The work is being progressed in phases. In the first phase, Gauge coversion work from Kuruduwadi to Pandharpur (52 km) has been completed. Residual works in the section are in progress. On Latur Road-Latur (42 km) earthwork and major and minor bridges have been completed. Ballast collection is nearing completion. Work on Kurduwadi-Latur (143 km) has been taken up between Khurduwadi and Yedshi (113 km) section. 29 out of 173 minor bridges and 5 out of 8 major bridges have been. No work on Osmanabad diversion (30 km) has been taken up. Miraj Pandharpur (137 km) ph IV work will be taken up as last phase of the project.
NER							
	Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow Ph I**	48	0.001	0.10	0	1	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Samastipur-Khagaria**	70	0.001	0.10	0	5	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
	Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	335.77	10	8.00	8.55	10	Jayanagar-Dharbanga is to be done in first phase. Work is in progress. Earthwork for 32 km completed. Tenders for earthwork and ballast supply have been finalised. For Ph. II work from Darbhanga to Narkatiaganj : Tenders for earthwork are under finalisation. Recently material modification for gauge conversion of Narkatiaganj-Bhikanatori branch line has been sanctioned as a part of this project. Railway asked to submit material modification estimate accordingly.
	Mansi-Saharsa incl. MM for extension upto Dauram Madhepur	89.49	10	3.00	23.51	3	Work is in progress. Earthwork has been completed in 29.17 km. 9 out of 13 minor bridges completed. 1 major bridge out of 10 completed. 2 bridges on Bagmati river are in progress. Tender for 2 major bridges on river Kosi (Br. No 44,45) are under finalisation. Open line is constructing 2 important bridges. Completion of these bridges would take 2-3 years period. Work of extension from Saharsa to Dauram Madhepur GC (21 km) included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification. The work would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
	Hajipur-Bachwara	75.56	1	3.00	74.33	0.1	Work completed & commissioned. Shortfall in ballast is being made good. Work of LWR has been completed.
	Mathura-Achnera	33.67	0.001	1.00	0.1	2	It is planned to do this work alongwith Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura.
	Khadda-Gorakhpur	102.49	2.5	1.00	93.49	9	The work has been completed. Residual work of increasing ballast cushion and LWR conversion is expected to be completed shortly.
	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura-Bareilly incl. MM for extension from Bareilly to Lalkuan	609.04	26	26.00	52.44	26	Work is planned to be completed in 4 phases : Phase-I : Kanpur Farukhabad (140 km). Earthwork is nearing completion and 103 out of 169 minor bridges have been completed. Work is in progress in 2 out of 5 major bridges. Ph. II Farukhabad-Kasganj (108 km) Earthwork and bridges have been taken up. Ph. III Kasganj-Mathura (105 km) : No work has been taken up in this stretch so far. Ph. IV Kasganj-Bareilly (107 km) : Earthwork and bridges are in progress.
	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand Nagar Nautanwa**	250	0.001	0.10	0	1	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
	Indara-Phephana	35	1	0.10	34.48	0.1	The work has been completed and commissioned.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar	67.87	1.5	3.00	61.88	5	The work has been completed and commissioned. Residual work of increasing ballast cushion and LWR conversion is expected to be completed shortly.
	Samastipur-Darbhanga	41.54	-	0.10	37.88	0.1	Work completed and commissioned.
	Kashipur-Lalkuan	58.89	20	9.98	55.43	2	The work has been completed and commissioned.
	Chhapra-Aunrihar	170.93	1	0.10	169.91	0.1	Work completed and commissioned.
	Muzaffarpur-Raxaul (Raxaul-Birganj)	121.86	4	2.00	121.76	0.1	The work has been completed and commissioned. The work for Birganj to Raxaul (5 km) which is sanctioned as a material modification has also been completed.
	Kaptanganj-Thave-Sivan-Chhapra**	268	0.001	0.10	0	1.1	The work will be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained.
NFR							
	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar-Radhikapur)**	257	0.0001	10.00	10	15	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained. The gauge conversion of Katihar Radhikapur will be taken up as a material modification to main work.
	Lumding-Silchar with MM to extension from Badarpur to Bhariagram	696	40	40.00	69.77	40	Final location survey completed except some geotechnical investigations which are in progress. Preparation of land acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. RITES have already completed the paper alignment for entire length and staking of the alignment has been completed in 150 km. Earthwork and bridges are now in progress between Lumding and Silchar in 90 km length (40 km from Lumding end and 50 km from Silchar end). 40% of the earthwork in this 90 km length has been completed, and 60 minor bridges out of 138 in this length have also been completed. Work of Silchar-Jiribaim gauge conversion is being carried out as a material modification of this work. Work of gauge conversion of Badarpur to Baraigram (44 km) included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification.
	New Guwahati-Lumding	194.1	0.0001	0.20	192.49	1.61	Work has been completed and commissioned.
	Katakhal-Bairabhi	200	2	0.10	0.1	5	Requisite clearances have since been received. Preliminary arrangements are being made for starting the work.
	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon	535.88	69	80.00	128.74	80	The work is in very good progress and is being accorded high priority. It is planned to be completed by Dec. 2003 subject to availability of resources.
	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers@	738.54	2	10.00	687.34	2	The work of main line from Lumding to Dibrugarh, Tinsukhia-Lekhapani and branch lines from Furkating to Mariani and Simalguri-Moranhat has been completed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							Gauge Conversion work on Amguri-Tuli and Makum-Dangari is in progress and will be completed in 2001-02.
NR							
	Bhildi-Samdri	244.92	5	5.50	3.69	4.5	This work was sanctioned in 1990-91 as a part of Kandla-Bhatinda rail link. The work have been recently defrozen. Funds have been allotted. Preliminary arrangements are being made to take up the work.
	Luni-Barmer-Munabao@	283.94	30	25.00	42.14	25.4	Earthwork between Luni-Samdari (50 km) has been completed and is in progress between Samdhari and Barmer. 61 minor bridges out of 104 have also been completed and 4 out of 9 major bridges also completed. Ballast collection is in progress. 2.1 lakh cum out of 6.25 lakh cum ballast has been received. It is proposed to take up work in phases from Luni to Samdari, Samdari to Jasai and then Jasai onward. The work will be completed in the next 3 years as per availability of resources.
	Luni-Marwar & Jodhpur-Luni	118.77	2	0.10	111.76	0.6	The work has been completed. Financial adjustments are being made. The residual work of block proving with axle counters is in progress and will be completed in 2001-02.
	Sriganganagar-Sarupsar**	68.71	0.001	0.10	0.08	0.1	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
	Rewari-Sadulpur** including MM from Sadulpur-Hissar	282.76	0.001	0.10	0.01	2	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained. New work from Sadulpur to Hissar GC included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification.
	Phulera-Jodhpur-Pipar Road-Bilara	21.46	1	0.10	0	0.1	The work from Phulera-Jodhpur has been completed and commissioned. The rest of section from Pipar Road to Bilara has been sanctioned as a Material Modification. Due to low operational priority and very light traffic on Pipar Road-Bilara section, work is temporarily pended and will be progressed as per availability of resources.
SCR							
	Guntur-Guntakal and Guntakal-Kalluru @ New line from Pendakallu of Gooty	516.09	10	10.50	440.05	20	Guntur to Guntakal completed. In Guntakal-Kalluru modification to alignment and gradients are being worked out. Now with the sanction of Dharmavaram-Pakala, for which CCEA clearance is yet to be obtained, gauge conversion of Guntakal-Pakala would be done in one phase. Work is in good progress on new line portion from Pendekallu-Gooty and work will be completed in 2001-02, subject to availability of resources.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Secunderabad-Mudkhed & Jankhampet-Bodhan	287.83	20	20.00	35	19.87	The work has been taken up in first phase from Mudkhed-Nizamabad (96 km). Supply of ballast 1,50,650 cum out of 2,34,000 cum has been collected at site. On Mudkhed-Nizamabad section, earthwork in seven reaches has been completed and in balance 13 reaches works are in progress. Work has also been taken up in the remaining sections. The possibility of getting private funding for part of the work is being explored, with a view to expedite its completion.
	Mudkhed-Adilabad	170.51	1	2.00	37.6	20	The work has been taken up under BOLT scheme. Agency has not been able to progress the work due to financing problems. Agency has tied up with M/s HUDCO for financing. In case finances are made available project is expected to be completed in 18 months time.
	Solapur-Gadag	263.91	7	10.00	130.04	10	The work is being done in phases. The work on Solapur-Hotgi and Hotgi to Bijapur has been completed. Work is in progress on rest of section from Bijapur to Gadag which will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Funding through KRIDES is being tried with a view to expedite early completion of this work.
	Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	173.5	20	12.00	41.69	20	Out of 19 major bridges, 15 have been completed and 4 are in progress. Earthwork and ballast supply is also in progress (60%) in the entire section. Work is proceeding well and will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
	Akola-Purma	228	-	10.00	10	10	Final Location Survey is in progress. Arrangements are being made to take up earthwork and bridges in first section from Purna to Hingoli (95 km)
	Secunderabad-Dronachellam	351.05	5	5.00	334.45	0.55	The work has been completed.
	Dharmavaram-Pakala**	251.22	0.001	0.10	0.1	1	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
SER							
	Gondia-Chandafort	242.82	6	1.26	242.32	0.1	The work has been completed. Financial adjustments are being made.
	Naupada-Gunupur**	66.35	0.0001	5.10	5.14	0.1	CCEA clearance not yet received. The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
	Rupsa-Bangariposi	80	14	1.00	9 64	4	Earthwork and bridges are in progress on the entire length. Work upto cess level has been comleted in the first two sections from km 0 to 51 km. Rest of section is in progress. Precast box segments for minor bridges from Rupsa to Baripada (51 km) has been completed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	185.31	10	3.00	15.97	4	The earthwork and minor bridges have been taken up on the Phase-I Ranchi-Lohardaga section. Work of 14 arch bridges & casting RCC Box is in progress. Tenders have been awarded for one major bridge and are being called for the remaining 3 major bridges. Tori-Lohardaga (New Line) :- Final Location Survey has been completed.
	Bankura-Damodar River Project including MM for extension of New line from Bowaichandi to Khanna	266.23	5	40.00	40.45	50	Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges have been finalised from km 0.6 to 57.1 and have been invited for the rest of the section. Extension of new line work from Bowaichandi to Khana (22 km) included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification.
	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	386.3	22	16.80	16.02	15	Final location survey from Gondia to Balaghat including Balaghat-Katangi has been completed including geo-technical investigations of major bridges. The survey between Balaghat-Jabalpur is in progress. Land has been acquired upto Balaghat Formation work, bridge work and ballast supply are in progress between Gondia and Balaghat.
SR							
	Dindigul-Trichy	131.07	9	5.50	95.85	0.5	The work has been completed and commissioned.
	Trichy-Manmadurai	175	-	7.00	4	10	New work included in the Budget 2000-01 Detailed planning has been taken up.
	Cuddalore-Salem via Vriddhachalam**@	198.68	0.0005	1.00	1	6	The work would be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.
	Yelahanka-Chickballapur and Kolar-Bangarpet	57.54	2	0.10	57.44	0.1	The work sanctioned has been completed and commissioned.
	Yashwantpur-Salem	176.29	2.99	0.10	175.34	0.5	Work has been completed. Section from Banyapannahalli to Salem has been commissioned. However Banyapannahalli-Yashwantpur is not getting commissioned due to public agitation to get ROB at Hebbal and Lingraypuram. State Govt. is being approached for its early commissioning.
	Thanjavur-Villupuram main line**	331	10	10.00	6.03	10	The work would be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances.
	Madurai-Rameswaram	240	5	5.00	5.39	10	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Earthwork and bridges have been taken up. No target date has yet been fixed.
	Villupuram-Pondicherry	30	0.0005	1.000.	9	5	The necessary clearances have been obtained. Preliminary arrangements are being made for starting the work.
	Tiruchchirappali-Nagore-Karaikal	146.11	2	3.00	81.23	13	The section from Trichy to Thanjavur (50 km) has been completed and commissioned. Work on rest of the section is in progress. No target date has been fixed. Nagpattinam-Vallankani has been

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							sanctioned as a material modification to this work but alignment is under modification in consultation with State Govt.
	Chennai Beach-Tiruchchirappali and Arakonnam-Chengalpattu	696.83	67.5	35.50	409.52	0.5	Work has been completed and commissioned. However, 12 crossing stations remain to be provided of which 5 will be completed in 2000-01 and the rest in 2001-02.
	Villupuram-Katpadi	175	-	5.00	2.23	5	FLS is in progress. Detailed planning has been taken up.
	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Trichendur & Tenkasi-Virudhnagar	327.61	10	15.00	21.97	20	In Virudhnagar-Tenkasi and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur, bridge work and earthwork has been taken up. Final location survey has been taken up in the ghat section between Punalpur and Tenkasi to ease gradient and curves to suit BG. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
	Mysore-Chamarajangar**	175	0.001	0.10	0.01	1	This work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
	Mysore-Hassan	193.99	10	10.00	184.39	0.5	The work has been completed except on Lakshman Tirtha bridge, which is being built on a diversion. The bridge will be completed by March, 2001.
	Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore	325.98	28	26.00	136.38	58.1	Arsikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur has been completed & commissioned Earthwork bridges, ballast collection on the rest of the section are in progress. Formation is ready between Mangalore and Kabakaputtur (44 km) and Kabakaputtur to Subramanya Road will be completed this year. Lowering of tunnels and widening of bank in ghat section has been taken up together with geonet treatment to prevent slip and slope failure in ghat section. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Funding through KRDC is being tried to expedite the completion of the work.
	Bangalore-Hubli-Birur-Shimoga	427.7	3	2.00	397.66	0.5	The work on the line from Bangalore-Hubli & between Birur & Shimoga has been completed. Work is in progress on Shimoga-Talguppa. Earthwork has been taken up from Shimoga-Kamsi (25 km) and Sagara-Talguppa (15 km) where progress is 90%. This section has light traffic and work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
WR							
	Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad @	632.38	39	15.00	618.85	13.5	Work has been completed and commissioned. Residual works are in progress.
	Ajmer-Udaipur Chittaurgarh including MM for extn from Udaipur to Umra	294.69	25	10.00	19.18	15	The work is progress between Udaipur and Chittaurgarh in first phase 4.57 lac cum of Earthwork has been completed out of 17.41 lac cum,

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							substructure of 86 minor bridges have been completed and other 12 bridges out of the total 202 minor bridges is in progress. Out of total of 8 major bridges, one has been completed in all respect and substructure of 4 more bridges have been completed. No target date has yet been fixed. New work from Udaipur to Umra (11 km) included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification.
	Agra-Bandikui	178.03	10	9.09	20.6	10	Earthwork and bridges are in progress. 60 minor bridges out of 193 nos, substructure of 4 major bridges out of 9 nos, and 8 minor bridges have been completed and 1.3 lacs cum earthwork out of 3.07 lac cum has been completed. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
	Bhildi (Mehsana-Patan)-Viramgam @	134.75	7	6.90	15.4	15	Mehsana-Patan MG section has been restored. Tenders for Earthwork, minor & major bridges have been awarded. Substructure of all 3 major bridges and all 77 minor bridges have been completed. 78000 out of 1.12 lakh cum earthwork has also been completed. The target for completion of this work has not yet been fixed. Work on new line for Patan-Bhildi is frozen.
	Dharangadhara-Kuda siding	10.17	1	0.01	0.01	2	This work is being done on 1/3rd cost sharing basis with co-sharers are Ministry of Railways. Gujarat Government and the Ministry of Industry. Earthwork has been completed and full ballast supply has been taken. Second hand Rails are being arranged from CR. The co-sharers have deposited their full shares. Work is expected to be completed during 2001-02.
	Surendernagar-Bhavnagar-Rajula-Mahuwa with the extn. upto Pipavav of Sihor-Palitana @	441.63	30	40.00	46.66	34.4	The work is in good progress. 57 major bridges out of total 59 major bridges and 264 minor bridges out of 280 minor bridges is in progress. Out of total 25.11 lac cum of earthwork contracts for 9.37 lac cum of earthwork have been awarded. Substructures of 185 minor, 54 major and 6.27 lac cum of earthwork has been completed. Papers for Land Acquisition for New line portion from Rajula city to Pipavav have been submitted to State Govt. The formation and bridge work are in good progress. Track, signalling work etc. are to be done by an SPV consisting of Ministry of Railways and GPPL. MOU has been signed. Further follow up action is being taken. Target date is Dec 2002. Surender Nagar-Dharangadhara GC has been sanctioned as a material modification.
	Wankaner-Malia Miyana	100.85	35	30.00	88.42	5.5	The work is in good progress. The first phase from Maliya Mayana to Navlakhi via Dahinsara has been completed and opened for traffic on 30.9.1999. Mega block for the project has started. Track linking has been completed. Work on the rest of section is targeted for completion during 2001-02.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Gandhidham-Bhuj	50.75	20	20.00	43.32	1	The work has been completed.
	Rajkot-Veraval including MM for extension from Wansjalia to Jetalsar	291.61	3	10.00	25.58	20	Earthwork, minor bridges and strengthening of major bridges have been taken up and are in progress. 2.82 lacs cum earthwork out of 4.71 lacs cum, substructure of 27 major bridges out of 32 major bridges, 136 minor bridges out of total 156 nos. and 1.38 lacs cum of Ballast out of 3.94 lacs cum have been completed. Contracts for superstructure of all Bridges has been awarded and is in progress. The work is expected to be completed during the coming years as per availability of resources. New work from Jetalser to Wansjaliya (90 km) included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification.
	Gandhidham-Palanpur	370.74	10	3.00	0.05	15	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Preparation of plans and estimate has been taken up.

[English]

Accessibility of Monuments for Physically Handicapped Persons/Tourists

3807. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH:

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

(a) the name of A.S.I. monuments accessible to physically handicapped persons/tourists;

(b) the type of facilites being provided there and proposed to be upgraded in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has decided to provide ramps for them in this regard;

(d) if so, the name of monuments in which the A.S.I. propose to provide the said facility; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure that the ramps and other structures created for the purposes of accessibility should not affect the sanctity of the monument or appear to destroy its visual appeal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) 16 World Heritage Monuments & 18 other monuments as per Annexure-I has been identified for upgradation of tourist facilities equipped with specially designed toilet approachable by a wheel chair in addition to a separate path-way at the entrance gate to facilitate entry of physically handicapped visitors on wheel chairs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are given as per list in the statement enclosed.

(e) While providing these facilities to the physically handicapped visitors on centrally protected monuments, it will be ensured that these do not disturb the aesthetics of the monument.

Statement

List of Centrally protected monuments identified for upgradation

Sl.No.	Name of the Monument/Site	State
	List of World Heritage Monuments	
1.	Taj Mahal	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Agra Fort	Uttar Pradesh
3.	Fatehpur Sikri	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra
5.	Ellora Caves	Maharashtra
6.	Elephanta Caves	Maharashtra
7.	Group of Monuments at Hampi	Karnataka
8.	Group of Monuments at Pattadakkal	Karnataka
9.	Sun Temple at Konark	Orissa
10.	Group of Monuments at Khajuraho	Madhya Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of the Monument/Site	State
11.	Group of Monuments at Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh
12.	Churches & Convents of Goa	Daman
13.	Brihadiswara Temple at Thajavur	Tamil Nadu
14.	Group of Monuments, Mamallapuram	Tamil Nadu
15.	Qutab Minar	Delhi
16.	Humayun's tomb	Delhi
List of other Monuments		
1.	Golconda Fort	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Group of Monuments, Sibsagar	Assam
3.	Remains of Bhishmak Nagar	Arunachal Pradesh
4.	Nalanda	Bihar
5.	Red Fort	Delhi
6.	Fort & Churches	Daman
7.	Rani-ki-Vav, Patan	Gujarat
8.	Sheikh Chillis Tomb, Distt. Kurukshetra	Haryana
9.	Kangra Fort, Kangra	Himachal Pradesh
10.	Hemis Gampa	Jammu & Kashmir
11.	Bekal Fort	Kerala
12.	Temple of Vishnu, Bishnupur	Manipur
13.	Stone Memorial of Narting	Meghalaya
14.	Dimapur Fort	Nagaland
15.	Mughal Sarai Dakhni, Distt. Jalandhar	Punjab
16.	Chittorgarh Fort	Rajasthan
17.	Unakoti	Tripura
18.	Hazarduari Palace, Murshidabad	West Bengal

Share of Power Generation through Wind Power

3808. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of power generated through wind power in Maharashtra during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 upto January;

(b) the details of share of power generations by the Government and Private Sector therein;

(c) whether the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has played any role in the generation of power through wind power in Maharashtra during the said period;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor with measures to be taken to involve this agency in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Year-wise share of wind power capacity addition in Maharashtra by Government and Private Sector Projects is given below :

Year	Govt. projects (MW)	Private sector projects (MW)	Total (MW)
1998-99	1.84	21.46	23.30
1999-2000	-	50.30	50.30
2000-01 (upto Jan. 01)	-	77.50	77.50

(c) and (d) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency have financed 25 projects aggregating to 47 MW capacity in Maharashtra during the last three years. The total loan amount is Rs. 164 crores. Year-wise details are given below :

Year	Aggregate capacity (MW)
1998-99	20.06
1999-2000	12.67
2000-01	14.57

(e) Does not arise.

Accident at Turbo-Generation Gas Chamber

3809. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an accident occurred at Turbo-Generation Gas Chamber killing a person and injuring others at NTPC Talcher Super Thermal recently;

(b) if so, the number of officials of NTPC were apprehended by police for this incident;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the incident being probed departmentally; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to avoid such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) An accident had occurred at NTPC's Talcher Super Thermal Station on 27.1.2001 in which one person was killed and another was injured.

(b) Five officials of NTPC were booked by the police on 28.1.2001 as a result of the fatal accident.

(c) The name of the NTPC employees apprehended by police are :

Shri B.B. Tripathy, Sr. Supdt.

Shri C. Sarkar, Supdt.

Shri U.A. Panigrahi, Dy. Supdt.

Shri G.K. Kundu, Sr. Engineer

Shri P.K. Nanda, Supervisor

(d) A Departmental Enquiry has been ordered by Executive Director (Eastern Region).

(e) The steps/instructions issued by the project to avoid recurrence of such accidents in Turbo-Generator Gas Chamber are as under :

(i) Purity of Carbondioxide (CO_2) in Hydrogen (H_2) to be maintained at 98% as against the 95% recommended by the manufacturer. After attaining 98% purity of CO_2, three consecutive readings to be taken at interval of every one hour before allowing any one to work.

(ii) CO_2 percentage shown in online meter to be counterchecked using ORSAT apparatus.

(iii) The use of personal protective safety appliances has been further enforced.

[Translation]

Train Accidents on Surat/Bhusawal Rail Line

3810. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents/derailments occurred in the Surat/Bhusawal route in the Western Railway during the last three years;

(b) the total loss suffered by the railways in all these accidents;

(c) whether inquiries have been conducted into all these accidents; and

(d) if so, the details of all the inquiry reports, accident-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) There were 11 consequential train accidents/derailments in the Surat/Bhusawal route of Western Railway during the last three years i.e. 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

(b) Cost of damage to Railway property in the above accidents amounted to Rs. 16.35 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir. Each and every accident was inquired into either by a Committee of Railway Officials or by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, depending upon the seriousness of the accident.

(d) As per findings of inquiries, out of 11 accidents, 8 were due to failure of railway staff, 1 accident was due to equipment failure, 1 accident was due to miscreant activity and the cause of 1 accident could not be established.

[English]

V.R.S. in ITDC

3811. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE

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

(a) the details of procedures followed by the Government regarding VRS in ITDC;

(b) the details of facilities available to employees opting for VRS;

(c) whether the number of days salary fixed for payment under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been substantially reduced in case of hotels;

(d) whether any negotiations have been carried out with the representative of unions of the workers in this regard;

(e) if so, their response thereto and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) and (b) ITDC has framed VRS for its employees based on the revised VRS Circulated by the Department of Public Enterprises for implementation in Public Sector Enterprises *vide* their

OM No. 2(32)/97-DPE(WC) dated 0.5.05.2000. Under the VRS adopted by ITDC the following facilities shall be available to the employees opting for its :

- Compensation/ex-gratia equivalent to salary (Basic Pay + DA) of 35 days for every completed year of service and 25 days for the balance of service left until superannuation subject to applicable ceilings.

- One/Three months notice pay as per service conditions subject to remaining service until superannuation.

- Besides employees seeking VRS are also entitled for terminal benefits *viz.* Provident Fund, Gratuity, Bonus, Leave Encashment, Travelling Allowance for final settlement.

(c) No Sir. ITDC has formulated only one common scheme as stated above.

(d) to (f) The scheme offered is as per guidelines of Government in this regard. The question of negotiations on this therefore does not arise.

Gas Flaring in Ankleshwar Area in Gujarat

3812. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different stations within Ankleshwar area in Gujarat where gas is being flared;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof;

(c) the loss of revenue to ONGC/GAIL as a result thereof;

(d) whether GAIL and ONGC have refused to market the flared gas and the reasons for the refusal;

(e) whether the gas cannot be supplied to the consumer "as is where is basis" so that they shall find a remedy as how to make use of the same; and

(f) if so, the alternatives which considers fit to find remedies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has estimated a notional loss of about Rs. 23.5 lakh per day on account of flaring of gas in Ankleshwar area in Gujarat, during the current year 2000-01 (April 2000 to January 2001).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) ONGC has been empowered by the Government to market gas upto one lakh cubic metre per day from isolated/marginal fields in Gujarat. They have already started supplying low pressure gas to few consumers in Ankleshwar area under direct market scheme on "as is where is" basis.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Field-wise natural gas production, utilization and flaring in Ankleshwar area

(million std cubic metre per day)

Sl. No.	Field	Production	Utilization (Sale and Internal use)	Flaring	Percentage of utilization %
1.	Ankleshwar	0.088 + 0.311*	0.286	0.113	71.8
2.	Motwan + Sisodara + Kudara	0.054	0.044	0.010	81.5
3.	Andada	0.00004	0.00004	0.000	100.0
4.	Kosamba	0.008	0.0075	0.0005	94.0
5.	Kim	0.011	0.004	0.007	36.5
6.	Olpad	0.014	0.014	0.000	100.0
7.	Gandhar + Dahej	5.772	4.843	0.929	84.1
8.	Nada	0.069	0.058	0.012	83.4
9.	Palej	0.001	0.001	0.000	100.0
10.	Dabka + Jambusar	0.078	0.072	0.006	92.7
11.	Gajera	0.036	0.036	000	100.0

*Gas transferred from Hazira to Ankleshwar

Regularisation of Contract Workers

3813. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that hundred of workers are working on contract basis in Parcel and Goods Sections for the years together without break;

(b) if so, whether these workers have not been made permanent despite their appeal and representations to the competent Authority; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to regularise these contract labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Handling of goods and parcels is an off-line activity for the Railways with fluctuations in traffic levels. For operational convenience as well as in the interest of economy, this work is outsourced through handling contractors with preference being given to cooperative societies of labourers. The contractor employs the required number of labourers to carry out the contract. These labourers work entirely under the contractor. Railways bear no responsibility for their continued engagement or their regularisation in railway service.

[Translation]

Sanctions on Handicraft Industry of U.P.

3814. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether America has imposed some sanctions on handicraft Industry of Uttar Pradesh on the pretext of labour interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the handicraft industry of the State has been ruined due to these sanctions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies in Gujarat

3815. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for allotment of LPG, Petrol, Kerosene and Diesel outlets pending at present in Gujarat;

(b) the time by which the applications are pending alongwith the reasons for their pendency; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to dispose of the pending case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) As on 31.1.2001, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have pending proposals for setting up of LPG distributorships at 155 locations, 68 locations for Retail Outlet dealerships and 8 locations for Keorsene dealerships in the State of Gujarat. The Government have constituted two Dealer Selection Boards (DSB) for the selection of dealers/distributors for the aforesaid locations and the process of selection is at various stages.

Diesel Flash Point

3816. SHRI SURESH PASI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the countries in the world have Flash Point of Diesel at more than 60°C including such neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore;

(b) if so, the standard specification of diesel in India which was earlier more than 66°C and has been revised downward from time to time to the present level to include some other components into diesel and thereby increase in production of diesel, and

(c) the reasons to maintain high flash point of diesel which endangers public life and property encourages adulteration and causes revenue loss to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) No, Sir. The flash point specification of diesel in major advanced countries like USA, Canada, European Union,

Japan are 38°C/55°C, 40°C, 55°C and 50°C minimum respectively. In the neighbouring countries also there is a vide variation in this specification.

(b) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) the apex national body, which finalises the specifications for various petroleum products including diesel had first fixed the flash point of diesel at 55°C minimum in 1959 (IS:1460). It was revised in 1974 from 55°C to 38°C for taking into consideration the high requirement of diesel and the supply and demand pattern of middle distillate. The flash point was revised to 32°C minimum in 1985. In December, 2000 it has been revised to 35°C minimum.

(c) The present specification of flash point of diesel at 35°C minimum is not high. This specification neither increases safety hazard nor encourages adulteration.

Projects for Development of Port Trust

3817. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any projects to develop port trust in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds allocated and spent for such project;

(c) whether the Government have constituted any committee to look into the affairs of the part trust in the process of cargo handling;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of cargo handled and the income generated during the last three years in the major port trust in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Infrastructure development/modernisation of Major Ports is an on-going continuous process. There are two Major Port Trusts in Tamil Nadu at Chennai and Tuticorin. During the current year 2000-2001, the approved plan outlay for development schemes of Chennai Port Trust and Tuticorin Port Trust is Rs. 228.50 crores and Rs. 72.60 crores respectively. The anticipated utilisation of plan outlay by Chennai Port Trust is Rs. 183.76 crores and by Tuticorn Port Trust is Rs. 26.26 crores.

A third Major Port in the State of Tamil Nadu at Ennore, 25 Kms. North of Chennai has also been substantially completed with a total estimated cost of Rs. 1058.52 crores. Ennore Port is operational from 1st February, 2001.

(c) and (d) No Committee has been constituted by the Government in the recent past to look into the affairs of Port Trusts in the process of cargo handling.

(e) Details of cargo handled and the operating surplus generated by Major Ports during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Major Ports - Traffic handled (in million tonnes) and operating surplus (Rupees in crores) during the last three years)

Sl. No.	Name of Port	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Traffic	Operating Surplus	Traffic	Operating Surplus	Traffic	Operating Surplus
1.	Calcutta (incl. Haldia)	28.16	275.56	29.38	242.61	31.02	206.15
2.	Paradip	13.30	73.41	13.11	59.36	13.64	61.07
3.	Vizag	36.01	95.82	35.65	92.50	39.51	105.53
4.	Chennai	35.53	101.86	35.20	94.78	37.44	71.76
5.	Tuticorin	9.98	38.08	10.15	40.79	9.99	37.89
6.	Cochin	12.32	44.19	12.67	33.41	12.80	33.16
7.	New Mangalore	15.28	71.94	14.21	72.41	17.60	76.50
8.	Mormugao	21.18	27.16	18.02	20.47	18.23	30.32
9.	JL Nehru	8.90	150.34	11.72	196.22	14.98	140.18
10.	Mumbai	32.10	211.15	30.97	172.91	30.41	109.89
11.	Kandla	38.90	100.95	40.64	146.02	46.30	98.77
	Total	251.66	1190.46	251.72	1171.48	271.92	971.22

[Translation]

Allocation of Natural Gas to Rajasthan

3818. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan have urged the Union Government for the allocation of 14.60 MMCMD natural gas for the State on account of its being a backward State from industrial point of view;

(b) if so, the project for which natural gas is required in the State;

(c) whether HBJ pipeline is crossing through the State of Rajasthan;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Rajasthan has been requesting to the Union Government for allocation of natural gas; and

(e) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the State Government of Rajasthan had requested for allocation of additional natural gas for the expansion of gas based power project at Ramgarh. In addition to the existing allocation of 0.55 million standard cubic meter per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas, the gas available in the Oil India Limited fields at Dandewala/Tanot has been allocated to the Rajasthan State Electricity Board for supply to the Ramgarh Power Project.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Natural Gas to an extent of 3.504 MMSCMD is being supplied by Gas Authority of India Limited from the HBJ Pipeline System to NTPC Power Project, Anta; Chambal Fertilizers; Gadepan; and Samcor Glass, Kota in Rajasthan.

[English]

Augmentation of Ports Capacity

3819. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for augmentation of ports capacity during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans;

(b) the extent to which the target has been achieved; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve productivity of the terminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) During the 8th Plan Period (1992-97), against planned capacity addition of 67.86 Million Tonnes (MT), the actual capacity added was 45.98 MT taking the total capacity of Major Ports from 169.23 MT as on 31.3.1992 to 215 MT as on 31.3.1997. The total capacity of Major Ports was subsequently reassessed as 219.55 MT as on 31.3.1997, taking into account increased productivity, favourable cargo mix etc. During 9th Plan (1997-2002), against planned capacity addition of 159 MT through various spill over schemes of 8th Plan and new schemes of 9th Plan, a total of 157 MT capacity is expected to be added in Major Ports.

(c) The development programme being undertaken at present lay emphasis on the following aspects, aiming at enhancing standards of the Indian Major Ports and their productivity :

- Construction and equipping new Berths
- Acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment to match the emerging Cargo Mix
- Establishment of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
- Setting up of Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS)
- Labour Training and Welfare
- Increased role of Private Sector
- Corporatisation of Major Ports

[Translation]

No Room Position

3820. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tickets for East and North East bound trains originating from Delhi/New Delhi are not available even in the waiting list one-two days prior to departure of the concerned trains;

(b) if so, whether it is very cumbersome to obtain a ticket in "No room" position in case of non-availability of ticket in the waiting list;

(c) whether the Government propose to simplify the existing rules for issuing a ticket in the waiting list in case of "No room" position and to increase the number or East and North East bound trains originating from Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The Advance Reservation Period in long distance Mail/Express train is 60 days. Confirmed/Waiting list tickets in all trains including East and North East bound trains originating from Delhi/New Delhi are normally available even up to the day of departure of the train except during peak rush period like summer vacation, Pooja holidays, Christmas and festival etc.

(b) Waiting list limits have been kept at sufficiently high level to keep passengers on waiting list. Once the prescribed waiting list limit is reached, the computer stops issuing waiting list ticket and displays "No Room". After "No Room" issuing of ticket is not going to serve any purpose as the chances of getting this ticket confirmed will be almost nil. However, in exceptional cases waiting list limit is extended after "No Room" position with the specific approval of the competent authority in this regard.

(c) and (d) The existing Waiting list limits are liberal and allow booking on Waiting list to a sufficiently large number. However, it is not feasible to keep unlimited number of persons on waiting list. As regards increasing the number of trains, the details are as under :

The following trains will be introduced to East and North East directions from Delhi during 2001-2002 as announced in the Railway Budget :

1. Weekly Rajdhani Express between New Delhi & Ranchi/Hatia via Gaya;

2. Bi-weekly Express between New Delhi and Gorakhpur;

3. Increase in frequency of New Delhi-Sealdah Rajdhani Express from 2 days to 4 days a week; and

4. Extension of New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Bi-weekly Express upto Dibrugarh Town on one day.

In addition, the following Specials are also being run to clear the extra Summer rush :

1. Weekly Express between New Delhi & Guwahati from 14.04.2001 to 12.06.2001;

2. Bil-weekly Express between New Delhi & Barauni from 10.04.2001 to 04.07.2001; and

3. Daily Express between New Delhi & Howrah from 29.4.2001 to 17.6.2001.

[English]

Proposal for Koshi Hydel Power Station

3821. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether both the units of the Koshi Hydel Power Station are functioning;

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

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) According to information given by the Bihar State Electricity Board, Units 2 and 3 (out of 4 units of 5 MW each) of Kosi Hydel Power Station are available for power generation. During the period April, 2000-February, 2001 generation at this power station has been 4 MU against a programme of 9 MU.

(c) No proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar for Renovation and Modernisation and Updating of Kosi Hydro Power Station.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Earning through Cement and Foodgrains

3822. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of certain products such as cement and foodgrains earned by railways has come down over the years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Railways to improve the percentage of their share in freight carriage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. There has been decline in Railways share of freight traffic over the years in respect of a few commodities including cement and foodgrains.

(b) As various modes of transport do develop in course of economic development of the economy, relative share of rail transport does tend to decline. However, a study conducted by Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) in 1997, shows that for traffic moving beyond 300 kms. for which rail mode is ideally suited, Railways share was 65%.

In absolute terms also, Railways' traffic has grown steadily over the years, from a level of 73.2 MT in 1950-51 to 456.3 MT in 1999-2000–more than six-fold increase.

(c) Achieving a high rate of growth has been Railways objective. Various steps taken to put the Railways on a high growth path include strengthening high density corridors, modernising various traffic facilities and terminals, upgradation of technology, providing multi-modal infrastructure to capture non-bulk piecemeal goods traffic through Container Corporation of India Limited, simplification of rules relating to sidings, setting up warehousing facilities near Railway terminals, setting up of multi purpose private terminals, development of customer specific new wagons, better customer interaction, Volume Discount Scheme for incremental traffic, extending the new concept of Roll-on-Roll-off freight movement in trucks to provide door to door collection and delivery service, leasing of brake vans/parcel vans, Millennium Parcel Express between metros, launching computer based Freight Operation Information System to obtain operational information on real-time basis and provide the same to customers, etc.

Judicial Reforms

3823. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the decision of the Courts against the accused/litigants are delayed due to filing of plea after plea and by getting stay orders from the Courts as reported in the *Times of India* dated February 12, 2001; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to find out the ways to deal with such type of shortcomings in legal system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both Government and Judiciary are concerned with the delays in delivery of justice. Admission of pleas and grant of stay orders are matters which relate to judicial functions of judges, and Government normally does not direcly intervene in such matters.

However, the Department of Justice has taken some initiatives this year for reducing delays in the judicial system. These include Setting up of Fast Track Courts for expediting the disposal of long pending cases, priority being given to cases involving undertrials in jails and all Sessions cases pending for two years or more. A number of other steps are being taken to streamline the judicial system of the country which is an on-going and continuous process. Steps are being taken to simplify the procedures and speed up the disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. Keeping this in view, the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1994 has been moved in Parliament. The Law Commission, in its 154th Report has also made a number of recommendations on the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973. Steps have been taken by the High Courts and subordinate courts to reduce and control arrears of cases pursuant to the recommendations of the Malimath Committee. Other steps include increase in the number of posts of judges/ judicial officers, establishment of Special courts/tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. Efforts are also being made for improvement in the infrastructure of all courts including the District courts through extensive use of information technology.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary is being implemented from 1993-94 under which an amount of Rs. 407.69 crore has been released till January, 2001.

Private Sector Participation in Maintenance of Monuments

3824. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

(a) whether as part of its efforts to provide public utility services the ASI signed a MoU with the Sulabh international;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of sites selected for the purpose, State/location-wise;

(d) the time frame fixed for its completion,

(e) whether ASI monuments are now open for the private sector to contribute to their development; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MoU has been signed between ASI and Sulabh Indian International for providing public utility services at selected monuments. The funding for construction in each case will come from donors.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) As this is a donor specific programme no time frame can be fixed.

(e) and (f) Under the National Culture Fund, individuals, public and private sector can make specific contribution to the upgradation of tourist facilities, environmental development and structural conservation of monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Statement

Viable sites for providing tourists infrastructure facilities by Archaeological Survey of India – Sulabh Shouchalay

S.No.	Name of State	Name of Monument/Locality
1.	Andhra Pradesh	a) Lepakshi Temple, District Hindupur
		b) Nagarjunakonda, District Guntur
		c) Rock-cut caves, Undavelli
		d) Golconda Fort for Museum Complex
		e) Amaravati, Guntur
2.	Bihar	a) Nalanda
3.	Haryana	a) Sheikhchili Tomb, Kurukshetra
4.	Himachal Pradesh	a) Kangra Fort, Kangra
		b) Nurpur Fort, Nurpur
5.	Karnataka	a) Gol-Gumbaz, Bijapur
		b) Rock-cut Caves at Badami
		c) Group of Monuments at Pattadakal
		d) Great Durga Temple, Aihole, Bijapur
		e) Monuments at Aihole
		f) Group of Monuments at Hampi
6.	Maharashtra	a) Ajanta Caves
		b) Ellora Caves
		c) Daulatabad Fort
		d) Elephanta Caves
		e) Kanheri Caves
7.	Orissa	a) Raja Rani Complex, Bhubaneshwar
		b) Konark Temple, Konark
8.	Punjab	a) Dakhni Sarai, Jalandhar District
		b) Sanghol, District Fatehgarh Sahib
9.	Rajasthan	a) Ranthambore Fort, Distt. Sawai Madhopur
10.	Tamil Nadu	a) Mahabalipuram, Chingleput District
		b) Gingee Fort, Gingee
		c) Brihadishwara Temple, Thanjavur
11.	Uttar Pradesh	a) Taj Mahal, Agra
		b) Fatehpur Sikri, Agra District
		c) Bara Imambara, Lucknow
12.	West Bengal	a) Ras Mancha, Jor Bangla Temple, Bishnupur
		b) Hazarduari Palace, Murshidabad
		c) Raja Palace, Cooch Behar
		d) Gour Pandua, Malda District

Disposal of Waste in Energy Project

3825. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the status of various projects which have been awarded by various Government bodies of State at Municipal level for energy projects from disposal of waste;

(b) whether many of such projects have not taken off and has blocked entry of new economical environment friendly technologies;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this matter; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The status of 19 projects on Energy Recovery from Municipal Solid Waste so far awarded by various Urban Local Bodies and State Governments in different States, under National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban and Industrial Wastes, is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Two projects, one each in Vijayawada and Chennai, could not take off as the promoters backed out. However, these projects have not blocked entry of new economical environment friendly technologies as several new projects have been developed and two projects are under execution as given in the Annexure.

(d) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have requested all the States and Union Territories to announce conducive policies for setting up of Waste-to-Energy projects. Besides, Seminars and Business Meets are organised to create increased awareness. Fiscal and financial support is provided for setting up of the projects.

Statement

Status of Projects on Energy Recovery from Municipal Solid Waste awarded by various Civic Authorities in different Cities

S.No.	City	Capacity	Status
1.	Chennai	5.00 MW	Project sanctioned in Aug. 1996 was cancelled in Nov. 1997 in the absence of any physical progress/withdrawal of land allotment by State Government.
2.	Vijayawada	16 tonnes per day fuel pellets	The project sanctioned in March 1998 was cancelled in Aug. 1999 as the promoter backed out/reported financial crisis.
3.	Nagpur	4.00 MW	Under installation.
4.	Hyderabad	210 tonnes per day fuel pellets	Under installation. One line of 105 TPD completed.
5.	Lucknow	5.00 MW	Financial tie ups completed. Preliminary site investigation and in-house engineering taken up.
6.	Chennai	14.85 MW	MoU signed with Chennai Municipal Corporation. Necessary agreements with the State Government are under finalization.
7.	Bhopal	10.80 MW	Letter of Intent issued by the concerned urban local body. Other tie-ups in progress.
8.	Mumbai	10.00 MW	-do-
9.	Mumbai	10.00 MW	-do-
10.	Mumbai	10.00 MW	-do-
11.	Pune	4.00 MW	-do-
12.	Kalyan	3.00 MW	-do-
13.	Delhi	9.60 MW	-do-
14.	Ghaziabad	5.00 MW	-do-
15.	Kanpur	21.6 MW	-do-
16.	Bareilly	5.40 MW	-do-
17.	Meerut	10.80 MW	-do-
18.	Vijayawada	6.00 MW	-do-
19.	Hyderabad	11.00 MW	-do-

Textile Package

3826. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a textile package as part of the Union Budget for 2001-2002 as a continuation of the textile policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OI TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A textile package was announced in the Union Budget for 2001-2002. It included :

1. A scheme for setting up Integrated Apparel Parks to enable the dereserved readymade garment industry to set up modern units with the best infrastructure. A budget provision of Rs. 10 crore has been provided for the year 2001-2002;

2. A strong and modern weaving sector, critical for a strong garment industry, with at least 50,000 new shuttleless looms and with the modernisation of 2.5 lakh plain looms to automatic looms by 2004, through funding from the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS);

3. Enhancement of allocation under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme to Rs. 200 crore from the present Rs. 50 crore;

4 Enhancement of Provision for Technology Mission on Cotton to Rs. 25 crore from Rs. 15 crore; and

5. Substantial increase in the budget allocation for the Ministry of Textiles from Rs. 457 crore in 2000-2001 to 650 crore in 2001-2002.

Increase of Allocation of Power for Rajasthan

3827. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether RAPP Unit-I has been put under prolonged shutdown since September, 2000 for a period of at least three months resulting in loss of generation of about 35 lac units per day to Rajasthan;

(b) whether due to deficient rains resulting in lower availability of water in the reservoirs of the BBMB complex the availability of power from this source is likely to be lower by approximately 15 lac units per day; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Unit-I (100 MW) of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station has been taken under shutdown from 26th September, 2000 for annual maintenance for partial replacement of coolant channels. During the shutdown, light water leak was detected in its north end shield. Rectification work is in progress and the unit is expected by mid May, 2001. Before shut down, this unit was generating about 86 MUs per month.

(b) and (c) The reservoir levels of Bhakra and Pong in 2000-2001 were lowest during the last seven years and ten years respectively. The monsoon rainfall in the country during 2000-2001 was 93% of normal as per Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). During April 2000-February 2001, there was overall shortfall of 3.2% in hydel generation from the Hydro Electric Stations of BBMB.

[Translation]

Nuclear Power Plants

3828. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Narmada, Tapti or Chambal Valley are also quake prone;

(b) if so, whether the Government are making efforts to cater to the increasing need of electricity in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) BIS earthquake Code IS:1893-1994 divides the country into five seismic zones. Zone I is least earthquake prone while Zone V is most earthquake prone. As per the BIS code, Chambal Valley falls in Zones I&II. The Narmada and Tapti Valleys lie mostly in Zone III while some portion of these valleys fall in Zone I&II.

(b) and (c) Madhya Pradesh has been allocated 1116 MW from Central Sector power stations in the Western Region. Besides the firm allocation, MP has also been allocated 246 MW from the unallocated quota of Central Sector stations in the Western Region and also 250-300 MW from the unallocated quota of Central Sector stations in the Eastern Region. Other measures taken to improve the availability of power in Madhya Pradesh include (i) maximizing the generation from the existing capacity (ii) Renovation & Modernisation and uprating of existing old power plants (iii) reduction in T&D losses (iv) capacity addition, etc.

Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in J&K

3829. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new diesel petrol pumps and LPG outlets proposed to be opened in Jammu and Kashmir during the current year; and

(b) the number of LPG agencies functioning in Jammu and Kashmir at present, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) In addition to the pending locations from the previous Marketing Plans, 3 locations each for retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plans for the year 1999-2000 for the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the Oil Companies for selection of dealers/distributors through the Dealer Selection Boards as per prescribed procedure. It generally takes 6-12 months from the date of interview for the commissioning of dealerships/distributorships.

As on 31.1.2001, there were 106 LPG distributorships in operation in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

[English]

Naphtha to Lanco Kondapalli Power Limited

3830. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any plans to supply Naphtha on reduced cost to Lanco Kondapalli Power Limited;

(b) if so, whether IOCL has agreed to supply Naphtha on reduced cost to ENRON and whether similar instructions would be issued to HPCL to supply Naphtha to LKPL at reduced cost;

(c) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Pipeline from Cochin to Kochi Refineries Limited

3831. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pipelines are being laid from Cochin to Kochi Refineries Limited for taking Natural Gas or other material;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work has been tendered and if so, the details of the contract and the stage of the work thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal for taking fuel to KRL at a lower cost and in a larger quantity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL) has made a proposal of Expansion-cum-Modernisation of their refinery. The project facilities include setting up of a Single Buoy Mooring (S.B.M.) for the receipt of crude oil. The S.B.M. facilities consist of the S.B.M. proper along with the sub sea pipeline. The estimated cost of the facilities is Rs. 258 crore. The estimated benefits are significant reduction in the transportation cost of crude oil. Expansion-cum-Modernisation Project of KRL is under consideration of the Government for grant of investment clearance.

Proposal for Development of Waterways on Tizu River

3832. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop inland waterways on Tizu river; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the other measures being taken to develop economic relations between Nagaland and Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Major Waterways in the country are being taken up for declaration as National Waterways and subsequent development thereof for navigation and shipping purposes by the Inland Waterways Authority of India whereas the minor rivers are being developed by

the respective State Governments. However, the Central Government assists the State Governments in the development of such rivers by extending assistance on 50:50 basis under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

The State Govt. of Nagaland has proposed a scheme for conducting Hydrographic Survey and Geo technical investigation for the feasibility of inland water transport along Tizu river for promotion of Indo-Myanmar Border trade under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The scheme is under examination with Inland Waterways Authority of India.

It is the Govt. policy to pursue cooperation with neighbouring countries for promotion of Cross-border trade, tourism and economic development in border areas through establishment of infrastructural linkage.

ONGC's Tenders

3833. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tenders valuing more than one crore were awarded on nomination basis in ONGC during the last three years;

(b) whether the tenders awarded on nominations were according to rules and regulations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Funds for On-going Projects

3834. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a tremendous resource crunch in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details of quantum of funds available and the details of requirement of funds to complete the on-going projects;

(c) whether no new project is being taken up by the Government for want of funds; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by the Government to mobilize resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Funds are not a constraint for the proposed Plan schemes in the Central sector. However, in order to supplement the resources of the public sector in the field of power, the Government opened the sector for private sector participation in 1991 by amending the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. While the response of the private sector to the policy of the Government has been encouraging, private sector participation has not been forthcoming to the extent that was expected. This was primarily due to the poor financial health of the State Electricity Board.

Nevertheless, new projects are being taken up progressively both in the public and private sectors. The balance requirement of funds, as compiled by CEA, for ongoing power projects in the public sector, both at the Centre and the States is estimated at approximately Rs. 42,000 crore. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has estimated that in order to have power on demand by the year 2012, an additional capacity of 1,00,000 MW would be required in the next 10-12 years. The CEA have already identified a list of tentative projects aggregating to a total capacity of 1,06,000 MW which can be commissioned. For mobilization of resources and other issues, the Government has set up a Working Group for power sector for the 10th Five Year Plan. The Working Group will be making a detailed estimate of the requirement of funds for the power sector including its sourcing.

Delimitation of Constituencies

3835. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Delimitation Commission is appointed after every 10 years to rationalize the equal representation in constituencies;

(b) if so, when the Delimitation Commission has become due;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained that there is a large number of migration from South to North as a result of which the population in North specially around NCR have immensely increased and a Member of Parliament represent 15 to 30 lacs voters in constituencies of NCR;

(d) whether the Government are reconsidering its decision and fix delimitation of constituencies by appointing a Delimitation Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) An authority as may be determined by Parliament by law for readjustment of the constituencies, as provided in articles 82 and 170 (3) of the Constitution is appointed upon completion of each census. However, at present, there is a constitutional embargo on undertaking readjustment of territorial constituencies which may lapse on the publication of figures of current decennial population census unless such enbargo is extended further.

(c) to (e) In the year 1972, a Delimitation Commission was constituted pursuant to the enactment of the Delimitation Act, 1972 which based its report on the readjustment of territorial constituencies on the figures of the 1971 census. Thereafter, a constitutional embargo was imposed by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976. Based on the consensus arrived at in a meeting of political parties held on 13.5.2000, the Government decided to extend the aforesaid embargo up to the year 2026 as a motivational measure to enable State Governments to pursue the agenda of population stabilisation. To give effect to this decision, the Government has introduced the Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha on 27.11.2000 which seeks to extend the aforesaid constitutional embargo on undertaking readjustment of the constituencies up to the year 2026 as also to undertake readjustment and rationalization of electoral constituencies, including those reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, based on the population census for the year 1991, without altering the number of seats allocated to the States in the legislative bodies. The measure is aimed at correcting the population imbalance among various constituencies caused due to the uneven growth/migration of population. The Bill has been referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report. After enactment of the said Bill, another Bill may be required for constituting the Delimitation Commission.

Payments to Labour Contractors for Operation of Coco Retail Outlets

3836. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil corporations specially HPCL has started giving lump-sum payment to labour contractors for operation of CoCo retail outlets which takes care of contractor's remuneration, conveyance, security, stock loss and payment to labourers as per Minimum Wage Act;

(b) whether the said policy is applicable for all the oil corporations;

(c) whether all the working capital required for such Jubilee and CoCo pumps are arranged by the oil corporations; and

(d) if so, the details of new policy is this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Oil Marketing Companies including the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have a common policy for making lumpsum payments to the labour contractors for the operation of COCO retail outlets. This takes care of the contractor's remuneration, conveyance, stock loss, payment to labourers as per the Minimum Wages Act and security.

(c) and (d) The matter relating to working capital for Jubilee Retail Outlets and COCO retail outlets depends on the policy of the concerned Oil Company.

[Translation]

World Heritage Status to Indian Cultural Sites

3837. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the eleven proposal of Indian Cultural or Natural sites submitted to UNESCO none has been included in the World Heritage list;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any formal information from UNESCO regarding short-comings in the nomination sent by India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) As the UNESCO are in the process of revising the schedule for examining nominations for World Heritage Sites, the consideration of submitted proposal has been deferred In the meantime the World Heritage Bureau of UNESCO has advised reformation of the proposals in a revised format. Preparatory assistance from the UNESCO is forthcoming for the purpose.

[English]

Encroachment/Unauthorised Construction In Monuments of Orrisa

3838. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of centrally protected ancient monuments in Orissa where encroachment/unauthorised construction has taken place; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to clear of these monuments from encroachments/unauthorised construction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) In Orissa, encroachment/unauthorised construction have been reported on 11 centrally protected monuments which are listed as statement.

(b) Invariably the assistance of the State Government and the local authorities is sought to help in removing the encroachment/unauthorised construction and appropriate legal action is initiated wherever necessary.

Statement

Details of Encroachments of the Monuments of Bhubaneshwar Circle in Orissa

Sl. No.	Name of the Monument
1.	Excavated Buddhist Site at Lalitgiri
2.	Buddhist Site at Udaigiri
3.	Barabati Fort, Cuttack
4.	Ashokan Rock Edict, Jauguda
5.	Sun Temple, Konark
6.	Ancient Site, Haripurgarh
7	Khandagiri and Udaigiri, Bhubaneshwar
8.	Vaital Deul & Sisireswar Temple, Bhubaneshwar
9.	Lord Lingaraj Temple, Bhubaneshwar
10.	Ananta Vasudev Temple, Bhubaneshwar
11.	Papanasini Tank, Bhubaneshwar

Sarapadi Power Project

3839. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has decided to start work on Sarapadi Power Project;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has also considered a guarantee for loan to be raised from an Australian company with the help of Power Finance Corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

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

Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies and CNG Outlets in Karnataka

3840. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies allotted in Karnataka during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the number of CNG outlets opened in the urban areas of the State during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more CNG outlets in the urban areas of Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) During the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto January 2001), 26 retail outlet dealerships and 65 LPG distributorships have been allotted in Karnataka

(b) No CNG outlet has been opened in the State of Karnataka during the said period.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Exploration of Oil in North-Eastern Region

3841. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exploration work for hydrocarbons have been carried out in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura States of North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the outcome in each State;

(c) whether full scale exploration and production of hydrocarbons would be carried out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Exploration work for hydrocarbons has been carried out by the two National Oil Companies (NOCs) *viz.* Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL), in the North-Eastern Region. Based on the exploratory efforts as on 1.4.2000 ONGC has established 633.89 MMT and 41.28 MMT of in-place hydrocarbons in the States of Assam and Tripura, respectively. Similarly, OIL had established 774.22 MMT and 39.83 MMT of in-place hydrocarbons, as on 1.4.2000, in the States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, respectively.

(c) and (d) As far as the two NOCs are concerned exploration and production operations have been carried out as per the IX Plan projections. The details of seismic surveys, exploratory drilling and production of crude oil during the last three years, i.e. April, 1997 to March, 2000, by the NOCs are given below:

Item	Achievement during 1.4.1997 to 31.3.2000	
	ONGC	OIL
Seismic		
2D	2055 GLK	1203.82 GLK
3D	5038 GLK	500.01 Sq. Km.
No. of exploratory wells	60 Nos.	29 Nos.
Crude oil production	5.602 MMT	9.671 MMT

So far as Private/JV operators are concerned, contracts have been signed for three blocks in North-Eastern States, *viz.* AAP-ON-94/1 (Assam and Arunachal Pradesh), CR-ON-90/1 (Assam & Mizoram) and AA-ON/7 (Assam & Nagaland). Exploration work has just commenced in the block AAP-ON-94/1, while in the other two blocks, the exploration work is yet to start.

LNG Terminal Project at Kakinada

3842. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Willl the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Memorandum of Understanding for new projects worth Rs. 35000 crore was signed during the CII seventh partnership summit by the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether these projects include hydrocarbons LNG terminal project being set up at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether a detailed project report has been discussed in the month of February, 2001; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision for implementation of this project is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Kakinada Indian Oil LNG Consortium (KIOLC) led by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Andhra Pradesh during CII Seventh Partnership Summit of January 10, 2001 for new projects including setting up of liquefied natural gas (LNG) project at Kakinada Deep Water Port

(c) A preliminary discussion on the project report has been held with the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Ist week of March, 2001.

(d) The project is estimated to be completed by August, 2005 subject to feasibility and economic viability of each of the components.

Construction of Foot Over-Bridges in Mumbai

3843. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foot over-bridges at different railway stations in Mumbai sanctioned, work completed, works going on and work to be commenced during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total cost involved in these projects;

(c) whether accidents take place on crossing the lines due to non-availability of foot over-bridges in different railway stations;

(d) whether the Government propose to construct some more foot over-bridges in these stations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Details of Foot Over-Bridges sanctioned at different Railway stations in Mumbai during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the position thereof are as under:

Years	Works Sanctioned	Works Completed	Works in Progress	To be Commenced
1998-1999	1	-	1	-
1999-2000	6	2	2	2
2000-2001	3	3	-	-

(b) Total cost involved in these projects is Rs. 7.96 crore.

(c) All stations in Mumbai are provided with Foot Over-Bridges/Subways. Accidents take place, only when people/passengers attempt to cross the railway tracks unauthorisedly.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) List of Foot Over-Bridges proposed for construction in Mumbai area in future is given as under:

S.No.	Name of Station	Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Vangani	35.17
2.	Dockyard	31.94
3.	Cotton Green	30.38
4.	Dombivli	281.00
5.	Ghatkopar	231.00
6.	Matunga Road	25.15
7.	Bandra (Extension of existing FOB)	48.02
8.	Andheri (Extension of existing FOB)	73.19

Gas Deposits in North-Eastern States

3844. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total estimated potential of gas deposits in the North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) the amount of potential tapped so far;

(c) whether any new deposits have been found in the region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the plans drawn to tap the full resources in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The estimated gas-in-place reserves in the North-Eastern States, State-wise, as on 1.4.2000, are given below :

State	National Oil Companies (NOCs) (BCM)	Private/Joint Venture Companies (JV) (BCM)
Assam	318.48	—
Arunachal Pradesh	4.90	0.77
Nagaland	2.68	—
Tripura	41.28	—

BCM : Billion Cubic Metres

(b) While the cumulative gas production by NOCs, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), from the fields in North-Eastern States as on 1.4.2000 is 61.63 BCM, JV/Private Companies have produced 0.048 BCM of gas from their fields in the region.

(c) and (d) As a result of the exploratory efforts, number of discoveries have been made by the NOCs, during the IX Plan period, in the States of Assam and Tripura. This has led to an accretion of gas (free)-in-place of 3.983 BCM by ONGC and about 6.1 BCM of gas-in-place by OIL in their operational areas in Tripura and Assam, respectively.

(e) As per the Long Term Gas Production profile, ONGC's gas poroduction during the terminal year of IX Plan, i.e., 2001-02, is expected to be around 1.608 Million Standard Cubic Metre per day (MMSCMD) in Assam and 1.075 MMSCMD in Tripura. OIL envisages gas production of around 4.46 MMSCMD and 0.06 MMSCMD from the States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, respectively, during this year.

Purchase of Computers by A.H.Q.

3845. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar have supplied some Compaq brand computers in January, 2001 and also in September, 2000 to DGQA and ADG

IT/AHQ at a higher price than the market, ranging between thirty to forty thousand rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) A number of computer companies or their authorized dealers are registered with the Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and the NCCF. These agencies supply computers to Government departments at prices approved by Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF. As per Government orders on the subject, procurement of stationery and other items, including computers, are required to be made from Kendriya Bhandar/Super Bazar/ NCCF. ADG IT/AHQ have procured 20 computers from M/s NCCF in seven lots in September, 2000 and January 2001 at the then approved rates. DGQA have not procured any 'Compaq' brand computer during this period. Therefore, the question of supply of computers at higher price than the market does not arise.

IOCL Investment on Social Sector Activities

3846. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has expended huge sums on social activities in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether huge sum of money has been spent on drinking water schemes in coastal areas;

(c) whether IOCL also propose to take up such work in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the criteria to be fulfilled by Panchayats to avail of Indian Oil Corporation's funding on social activities; and

(e) the channel through which applications can be channelled to IOCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has spent an amount of Rs. 4.80 crores on community development activities in Mumbai in the current financial year, i.e., 2000-2001, till now. This includes an expenditure of Rs. 4.78 crores incurred towards laying a drinking water pipeline across Manori-Creek near Mumbai.

(c) and (d) The IOC is already undertaking community development activities including projects for clean drinking water in different States. Such projects are implemented under the Corporation's policy for donations/contributions and community development activities. As per the policy, more emphasis is laid on clean drinking water and health & medical care under community development activities.

(e) The IOC undertakes community development activities in different parts of the country where it has its establishments, in consultation with the concerned local authorities.

Responsibilities of Officers Deputed on CoCo Petrol Pumps

3847. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the detailed responsibilities of resident officers deputed on Company owned Company operated (CoCo) petrol pumps;

(b) whether the labour contractors appointed on such retail outlets are not required to invest any amount on working capital on such retail outlets;

(c) whether the Oil Corporations have made some insurance arrangements etc. of cash, stocks and other properties of such petrol pumps to avoid losses due to fire, accidents and dacoities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The responsibilities of the 'Resident Manager' posted at a COCO retail outlet include responsibilities indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) The labour contractors appointed for COCO retail outlets are not required to make any investment towards working capital.

(c) and (d) The Oil Companies have made arrangements for insurance to cover the risk on account of fire, accidents, dacoities, etc. as per the policy of the concerned Oil Company.

Statement

Responsibilities of 'Resident Manager' posted at COCO RO

1. Procurement, storage and handling of products, including indenting, receipt, sale, etc.
2. Ensuring quality and quantity of product being sold at the RO by :
   - Checking quantity, density, furfural test etc. at the time of receipt.
   - Drawl of sample from the TT as per procedure.
   - Checking delivery of dispensing units, density, etc. on a daily basis and maintenance of necessary records.
3. Observance of statutory rules and regulations including obtaining/renewal of requisite licenses.
4. Promoting sales from the COCO ROs.
5. Supervising the functioning of Job Contractor by :
   - Ensuring adequate manpower is provided.
   - Safety regulations are being followed.
   - Cleanliness and housekeeping being kept.
   - Periodical reconciliation of stock loss and ensuring recovery if the same is beyond limits.
   - Ensuring that the contractor fulfils the contractual obligations and observes necessary rules and procedures as per the Agreement.
6. Depositing the daily sale proceeds in the collection account in case of Job Contractor receiving supplies against Bank Guarantee.
7. Ensuring maintenance of necessary records and accounts including Bulk Stock ledger, AC-3/4, Daily collection reports, cash memos, bank reconciliation statements etc. and furnishing the desired reports to Divisional/State/Regional Offices.
8. Supervision of operation of convenience store at the COCO RO.
9. Handling/submission of imprest.
10. Payment of bills related to telephone, electricity, water etc.
11. Any assignment/activity assigned by Divisional Office from time to time.

Non-Payment of Deposits by Escorts Finance

3848. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints against Escorts Finance Ltd., Faridabad/New Delhi for non-payment of interest on deposits and non-refund of the principal amounts to Depositors during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the said company for such malpractices and to safeguard the interests of the Depositors so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The affairs of the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are regulated by Reserve Bank of India. The Company Law Board has been given powers to pass orders, under Section 45QA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, where there is default by NBFCs in repayment of deposits. In case of non-compliance of CLB orders, the RBI has been authorised to take penal action against NBFCs under section 58E of the RBI Act.

In the last three years no complaint against M/s. Escorts Finance Limited has been received in the Company Law Board.

Air Force Constructions near Tughalakabad

3849. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reported Air Force constructions near Tughlakabad which are being availed of by the public;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted to find out the truth; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Air Force Station, Tughlakabad had undertaken constructions of Service Married Quarters for its personnel, but the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) pointed out in November, 2000 that some buildings are coming up within the prohibited distance of 100 metres from Ghiasuddin's Tomb. The construction site was.

therefore, relocated, leaving the required margin. Besides this, Air Force Authorities have also applied to ASI for grant of No Objection Certificate for constructions in the regulated area, falling beyond 100 metres and upto 300 metres.

[Translation]

Maintenance Equipment for Helicopters

3850. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether delay in sanction of maintenance equipment for enlarged sphere of operations of Helicopters 'A' restricted their availability and affected the main role of aircraft carrier; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same and the steps taken to accord sanction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a), question does not arise.

[English]

Cultivation on Defence Land

3851. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in contravention of the Government orders, an Air Force unit got defence land cultivated by private persons/ex-land owners and an amount of Rs. 69.29 lakh earned therefrom during 1988-97 and wrongly credited to non-public fund; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter and to fix accountability in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) At Air Force Station, Halwara, cultivation of defence land was undertaken through ex-land owners, employed as security cleared labour and not by private parties, in accordance with the then existing instructions. Even after the policy of the cultivation of the defence land was revised in December, 1995, the Air Force Station, Halwara continued to cultivate the said land through ex-land owners and deposited an amount of Rs. 23.11 lakh to the Public fund, and Rs. 69.29 lakh to the Non-Public fund, out of the total profit of Rs. 93.00 lakh.

(b) The matter has been pointed out by Audit Authorities in the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG)'s Report No. 18 of 2000, which is under examination.

Complaint against Television Networks

3852. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MRTP Commission received some complaints against the television networks for overcharging subscribers in the garb of pay channels.

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The MRTP Commission, which is a quasi-judicial body, has reported that it had received the following complaints against television networks alleging adoption of trade practices resulting in manipulation of prices etc. :

(i) *RTPE. 02/2001* : This is an application/ complaint filed by Shri Nirmal Jain against Indusind Media & Communication Ltd. and six other television networks under section 12-A and 10(a)(i) of the MRTP Act, 1969. It has been 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.

Notice under Section 10(a)(i) and 12-A of the Act has been issued to seven respondents namely Indusind Medias & Communication Ltd., News Television (India) Ltd., Sony Entertainment Television (India) Ltd., Turner International (India) Pvt. Ltd., Discovery Communications India Ltd., ESPN Software India Ltd. & Modi Entertainment Network Ltd. The matter is sub-judice before the Commission.

(ii) *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 the Act. 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.

Notice under Section 10(a)(i) and 12-A has been issued to the respondents namely Star TV and News Television (India) Ltd. The matter is sub-judice before the Commission.

(iii) *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 the Act. It is alleged that the respondents are increasing the subscriber fees frequently and arbitrarily, resorting to discriminatory prices and similar other restrictive and unfair practices.

Notice under Section 10(a)(i) and 12-A has been issued to the respondents namely Star TV and News Television (India) Ltd. The matter is sub-judice before the Commission.

(iv) *RTPE 76/1998* : This is a complaint by Indusind Media & 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 the prices arbitrarily and indulging in various restrictive and monopolistic trade practices.

The matter is sub-judice before the Commission.

Capacity of Major Ports

3853. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity of major ports in the country, port-wise;

(b) the total percentage of their capacity being utilised;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the capacity and basic facilities at these ports;

(d) whether the foreign investors are encouraged by the announcement of new port policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) A statement indicating capacity of Major Ports (port-wise) as on 31.3.2000 and the percentage utilisation of capacity is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir. Infrastructure development/modernisation of Major Ports is an on-going continuous process. During the Ninth Plan, capacity yielding new schemes aggregating a capacity of 122 Million Tonnes have been identified and these schemes are at various stages of implementation.

(d) to (e) There is no policy known as "New Port Policy". However, Major Ports were opened to private sector participation including foreign investment in October, 1996.

Statement

Capacity of Major Ports and its utilisation in percentage

Sl. No.	Name of Major Port	Capacity as on 31.3.2000 (in million tonnes)	Percentage utilisation of capacity on the basis of traffic handled during 1999-2000
1(a).	Calcutta	8.30	124
1(b).	Haldia	28.70	72
2.	Paradip	12.85	106
3.	Visakhapatnam	30.80	128
4.	Chennai	27.62	135
5.	Tuticorin	12.50	80
6.	Cochin	13.45	95
7.	New Managalore	20.25	87
8.	Mormugao	19.48	93
9.	Jawaharlal Nehru	14.60	103
10.	Mumbai	30.50	99
11.	Kandla	39.00	118
	Total	258.05	105

[Translation]

Monument of Dr. Ambedkar

3854. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a monument of the Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on the Chaitanya Bhumi in Mumbai on the lines of the Rajghat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government have decided to set up a Memorial for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Maharashtra. The modalities are being worked out.

Viability Study of NTC Mills

3855. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have completed the viability study of all the units of NTC mills;

(b) if so, the names of units revived/closed so far or proposed to be revived/closed along with the amount incurred thereon, unit-wise and mill-wise;

(c) the details of V.R.S. option available to employees of closed units and the number of workers benefited from it along with the expenditure incurred thereon, till date, unit/mill-wise;

(d) the profit earned and loss suffered by each NTC mill during 2000-2001, State-wise; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government for the revival of NTC mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Techno-economic viability studies of NTC mills in 8 subsidiaries have been completed by Textile Research Associations and the same have been submitted to Operating Agencies. Based on the Draft Revival Schemes prepared by Operating Agencies, BIFR has to approve the mills to be revived and to be closed.

(c) An attractive VRS/VSS scheme, adding HRA in computation of benefits under VRS in addition to those prescribed in Department of Public Enterprises O.M. No. 2(32)/97-DPE (WC) dated 5.5.2000, has been approved for being offered to the workers of units proposed to be closed.

(d) The profit earned and loss suffered by each NTC mill during 2000-2001 would be compiled only after March, 2001.

(e) The Government has approved the following broad approach for all the mills of the eight sick subsidiaries of NTC :

(i) There will be a unit by unit assessment to decide whether a unit is revivable or non-revivable.

(ii) All revivable units will be revived.

(iii) Non-revivable units will be closed and attractive VRS option(s) will be made available to the employees.

Government had also provided a budgetary support of Rs. 410 Crores in 2001 (till date) for meeting the shortfall in wages and salaries.

[English]

Development of Railway Stations

3856. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the norms prescribed for converting a railway station into a model railway station;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations regarding expansion/modernization of railway stations;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the names of the railway stations developed as model stations, State-wise alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon and facilities provided at these stations;

(e) the names of the railway stations identified for development as model stations, State-wise alongwith facilities proposed to be developed; and

(f) the funds allocated thereof or during the last three years and proposed for 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Initially, the criteria adopted was to select one important station on each division. Later on, other stations which were considered essential for upgradation of passenger amenities were also selected. Finally, all the 'A' class stations have been included alongwith some other stations serving special local needs.

(b) Representations are received for expansion/ modernization of railway stations from time to time.

(c) Expansion/modernization of railway stations is a continuous process and works are undertaken depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities.

(d) and (e) 210 stations have so far been selected as model stations, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement. The thrust areas identified for the model stations are as under

i) Provision of Standardised Signages, National Train Enquiry System, Automatic Vending Machines, Modular Catering Stalls and Self Printing Ticket Machines;

ii) Improvement in Waiting Rooms, Retiring Rooms, Booking Offices and toilets;

iii) Development of the Circulating Area;

iv) Making good the deficiencies of infrastructure facilities/passenger amenities;

v) Extension of Foot Over-Bridge upto circulating area; and

vi) Computerisation of complaints.

(f) There is no specific allocation of funds for each model station as the facilities specified are for improvement in customer interface systems. The Railways are authorised to spend money for the purpose of providing upgraded passenger amenities out of the total allocation of funds under the Plan Head "Passengers and other Railway Users Amenities" and "Computerisation".

Statement

List of 210 Stations Selected as 'Model Stations' for Provision of Upgraded passenger amenities 'State-wise'

State	Names of Stations
Assam	Dibrugarh (NFR), Guwahati (NFR), Jorhat Town (NFR), Kamakhya (NFR), Kokrajhar (NFR), Lumding (NFR), New Bongaigaon (NFR), New Tinsukia (NFR), Silchar (NFR) (9)
Andhra Pradesh	Guntakal (SCR), Guntur (SCR), Hyderabad (SCR), Kacheguda (SCR), Kakinada (SCR), Nellore (SCR), Rajahmundry (SCR), Secunderabad (SCR), Tirupati (SCR), Vijayawada (SCR), Visakhapatnam (SER), Warangal (SCR) (12)
Bihar	Barauni (NER), Bhagalpur (ER), Chhapra (NER), Danapur (ER), Darbhanga (NER), Gaya (ER), Hajipur Jn. (NER), Katihar (NFR), Mokama (ER), Motihari (NER), Muzaffarpur (NER), Nalanda (ER), Patna Jn. (ER), Samastipur (NER), Siwan Jn. (NER), Sonpur (NER) (16)
Chandigarh	Chandigarh (NR) (1)
Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur (SER), Durg (SER), Raipur (SER) (3)
Delhi	Delhi (NR), H. Nizamuddin (NR), New Delhi (NR) (3)
Gujarat	Ahmedabad (WR), Bharuch (WR), Bhavnagar (WR), Dwarka (WR), Gandhidham Jn. (WR), Rajkot (WR), Surat (WR), Vadodara (WR), Valsad (WR), Vapi (WR) (10)
Goa	Madgaon (SCR), Vasco-de-gama (SCR) (2)
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla (NR) (1)
Haryana	Ambala Cantt. (NR), Faridabad (CR), Hissar (NR), Kalka (NR), Rewari (NR) (5)
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu Tawi (NR), Kathua (NR) (2)
Jharkhand	Chakradharpur (SER), Dhanbad (ER), Jasidih (ER), Madhupur (ER), Ranchi (SER), Tatanagar (SER) (6)
Karnataka	Bangalore Cantt. (SR), Gulbarga (CR), Hospet Jn. (SCR), Hubli Jn. (SCR), Mangalore (SR), Mysore (SR), Raichur (SCR), Shimoga (SR) (8)
Kerala	Alwaye (SR), Calicut (SR), Cannanore (SR), Chengannaur (SR), Ernakulam Jn. (SR), Kottayam (SR), Palghat Jn. (SR), Quilon Jn. (SR), Trichur (SR), Trivandrum Central (SR) (10)
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal (CR), Gwalior (CR), Habibganj (CR), Indore (WR), Jabalpur (CR), Katni Jn. (CR), Ratlam (WR), Satna (CR), Ujjain (WR) (9)
Maharashtra	Akola Jn. (CR), Bandra Terminus (WR), Bhusaval (CR), Chandrapur (CR), Dadar (CR), Dadar (WR), Kalyan (CR), Kurla (CR), Mumbai CST (CR), Mumbai Central (WR), Nagpur (CR), Nanded (SCR), Nasik Road (CR), Pune (CR), Solapur (CR), Thane (CR), Wardha (CR) (17)
Nagaland	Dimapur (NFR) (1)
Orissa	Badakhandita (SER), Balasore (SER), Brahampur (SER), Bhubaneswar (SER), Byree (SER), Cuttack (SER), Dhenkanal (SER), Golanthra (SER), Jajpur-Keonjhar Road (SER), Kapilas Road (SER), Khurda Road (SER), Puri (SER), Rahama (SER), Rourkela (SER), Sambalpur (SER), Surla Road (SER) (16)

Inauguration of Ennore Port

3857. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ennore Port has been inaugurated;

(b) if so, the details of its cargo traffic handling capacity; and

(c) the functions and jurisdiction of the port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Two coal berths with 16 million tonnes capacity have been constructed to import thermal coal for Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. The port will be managed by a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956.

[Translation]

Exploration of Gas and OIL in Rajasthan

3858. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements made in the field of exploration and drilling of petroleum and natural gas in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether the reserves of oil and gas are found in the Thar desert along the border;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to promote exploration and drilling of oil in new areas of the Thar desert in Rajasthan;

(d) the areas in Rajasthan awarded to the companies for oil exploration under the new policy alongwith the names of such companies, location-wise;

(e) whether the drilling has since been commenced; and

(f) if so, the details of progress made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The achievements made in exploration and production of hydrocarbons in Rajasthan by the two National Oil Companies *viz.* Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and the private/Joint Venture Companies in the last three years i.e. 1997-2000 are given below :

By ONGC : During the period, a total of 1203 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of 2D seismic data was acquired and five exploratory wells and one development well were drilled, of which three wells were gas bearing.

By OIL : During the period, four exploratory wells and three development wells were drilled, of which three wells were gas bearing.

By Private/Joint Venture Companies : During the period a total of 1410 Line Kilometre of 2D seismic survey was carried out and two exploratory wells were drilled, of which one discovered oil. The discovery, however, is not considered commercial by the contractor on a "stand-alone basis"

(b) Exploratory efforts put in by the two NOCs *viz.* ONGC and OIL, have resulted in establishment of in-place hydrocarbons to the tune 11.34 BCM of gas and 14.6 MMT of heavy oil in Rajasthan.

(c) During the terminal two years of IX Plan, i.e. 2000-01 and 2001-02, ONGC plans to acquire 400 GLK of seismic data and drill one development well in Rajasthan. In the current year OIL has drilled one exploratory well which was proved to be gas bearing. Moreover, as part of its policy to augment the exploratory efforts in the State, the Government of India has offered four blocks in the first round and one block in the second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) for bidding in the State of Rajasthan

(d) No block has been awarded to companies under NELP in the State of Rajasthan so far.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Visit of Foreign Tourists

3859. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

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

(a) the names of countries from which the tourists visiting India have increased during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the names of the countries from which lesser number of tourists visited India during the said period;

(c) whether any special measures have been taken to encourage tourists from these countries to visit India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The increase/decrease in percentage of tourist arrivals to India during 1998, 1999 and 2000 (January to September) from the countries from where significant number of tourists visit India is indicated at enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Government of India Tourist Offices located overseas are engaged in many promotional activities to encourage and attract more foreign tourists to India which include advertising in print media and on internet, brochure support, joint promotion programmes with travel industry, participation in travel fairs, organising seminars, workshops, India-programmes, organisation of audio-visual shows, etc.

Statement

Growth Rate (percentage) of Tourist arrivals over the Corresponding period of the Previous Year

Sl. No.	Country	1998	1999	2000 (January-September)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	U.S.A.	+0.2	+3.0	+20.9
2.	Canada	+2.0	+3.5	+32.0
3.	Australia	+14.1	+26.4	+30.3
4.	Israel	+4.7	+11.0	+3.3
5.	Korea (South)	+6.0	+17.6	+9.0
6.	Germany	-11.3	-9.5	-0.1
7.	Japan	-10.2	-11.4	-5.2
8.	Nepal	-11.5	-32.3	-2.9
9.	United Kingdom	+1.6	-8.3	-3.3
10	Sri Lanka	-3.1	+1.5	+5.8
11.	France	+7.1	-12.3	+4.6
12.	Singapore	+4.5	-1.9	-8.5
13.	Malaysia	-21.4	+10.8	+7.6
14.	Italy	+0.4	-6.3	+5.2
15.	Netherlands	+20.9	-10.0	-4.8
16.	Switzerland	+5.2	+4.4	-6.3
17.	Belgium	+5.2	+11.8	-5.3
18.	South Africa	-8.2	+17.2	+8.9
19.	Spain	+10.5	-6.4	-4.6
20.	Sweden	-1.1	+16.2	-9.6
21.	Kenya	+13.4	-1.4	-3.8
22.	Austria	+11.3	+4.6	-15.3
23.	New Zealand	+29.0	+24.5	-23.0
24.	U.A.E.	-24.4	+11.9	+27.6
25.	Mauritius	+18.4	+20.9	-10.8

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps to Kargil War Widows/Families

3860. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether under a special scheme the Government had allotted LPG/Petrol-Diesel and Kerosene outlets to the dependents/next of kin of the Kargil martyrs;

(b) if so, the total number of persons recommended by the Ministry of Defence and the number of persons allotted such outlets as on 31st December, 2000 and the number of persons yet to be allotted; and

(c) the time by which the remaining persons are likely to be allotted the distributorship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Government have formulated a Special Scheme for allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships to widows/next of kin of Defence personnel killed in action in 'OP Vijay' (Kargil). Allotments under this Scheme are made on the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence and after feasibility studies of the locations are made by the Oil Companies.

The Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence have so far recommended the names of 446 persons for allotment under this Scheme, of which the case of one person has been kept in abeyance on the advice of the DGR. Allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships to 416 persons has been approved by the Government so far.

[English]

Conference on Energy Utilisation in Mumbai

3861. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Conference was organised in Mumbai by International Institute for sustainable future on sustainable energy utilisation during August, 2000;

(b) the number of experts from abroad participated in this Conference;

(c) the main points discussed at the Conference and recommendations emerging therefrom; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the International Institute for Sustainable Future nearly 45 energy experts and 3000 participants from different parts of the world attended for Conference.

(c) The main points discussed in the Conference include :

- Energy development and environmental crisis.
- Cost of clean energy development and its long term benefits.
- Strategic plans for global sustainable energy and environment development.
- Fossil fuels and climate change.
- New and renewable energy solutions.
- Advanced technologies to reduce environmental impact of energy production through fossil fuels.
- Distributed energy technologies.
- Potentials of renewable energy development in the Developing World, particularly India.
- Sustainable transport development.
- Energy efficiency in building systems.
- Rural Energy Development.
- The Conference was concluded by the release of the Mumbai Declaration, a copy of which is enclosed as statement.

(d) The proceedings of the Conference have not been received in the Ministry of Power.

Statement

The Mumbai Declaration

I

- It is generally well recognized that humanity faces two major crises of worsening energy situation and increasing degradation of environment.
- It is clear that a great deal of destruction of the environment is directly related to the production, transportation and consumption of finite non-renewable resources like fossil fuel.
- Of the 6.1 billion people, 4.9 billion people living in the development world face unprecedented problems of declining energy resources.
- At least 2 billion people in the south are energy refugees surviving on firewood, which consumes large amounts of the lifetime of women in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- At the same time, the forest and tree covers in these parts of the world are depleting very fast driving these people to the edge of the precipice.

II

- Recognizing that the global situation concerning fossil fuel are shrinking and that nuclear power is being denounced by a majority of nations and people.
- Knowing that the present devastation of the global and local environments is already making the lives of millions of people intolerable.
- Believing that the present situation cannot continue for a long period of time.
- We have prepared this Mumbai Declaration at the end of the international conference on Sustainable Energy & Environment.
- The Declaration, at the outset, emphasizes that the path for humanity in the 21st century for sustainable development is to tap the renewable resources first in the developing countries and in time the world over.
- Already, many countries and organization have undertaken the task of developing biogas plants, solar energy systems-photovoltaic and other simple solar systems such as solar cookers, dryers, etc.

— There are innumerable other energy resources being developed worldwide such as biogas plants and wind farms, etc.

— There is a great deal of research and development necessary for the area of solar power satellite and lunar power satellites.

— The other renewable resources of energy include geothermal, tidal, etc.

III

— Therefore, we recommend global and national policies concerning renewable energy developments while at the same time ensure the environmental protection.

— For this purpose, vast investments in all these related areas should be necessary in the United Nations, other international agencies, government, business and industries.

— There should be a people's movement for the development of small and sustainable energy development projects.

— The most important item related to renewable energy is to mobilize the people of the world for energy conservation, energy efficiency and utilization of all energy forms by setting up priorities.

Ultimately, it is the last 30% of the people of the planet who should be protected from the energy deprivation.

Conclusion

For several centuries now the number of people living as energy refugees has been escalating geometrically. Recognizing that energy is the key to survival, development and progress, it is the fundamental responsibility of humanity to move towards large scale development of renewable energy resources all over the planet in every country. The situation is grim and pathetic and if the trends continue at the present rate of decline, we shall face a disaster of an unprecedented order. Therefore, we owe a responsibility not only to present generation but for many generations to come. Let the dreams of our children be realized by committing ourselves to the cause of the development of sustainable energy so that long after we are gone, we leave behind a good life for all those who will traverse this beautiful earth.

Private Participation in Development of New Ports

3862. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to share private participation in the development of new ports in the country;

(b) if so, whether the medium and minor ports would be developed in such a way so as to make them major ports; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the private participation in the development of new ports would improve efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Fare Concessions

3863. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of concessions available to various categories in Railfare; and

(b) the number of persons who availed the concessions during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) The information is not maintained.

Statement

Details of concession in rail fare admissible at present to various categories are detailed below

Category of Persons	Element of Concession			
	Single Journey Tickets		Season Tickets	
	First	Second/ Sleeper	First	Second
1 2	3	4	5	6
1. Orthopaedically Handicapped/Paraplegic persons alongwith an escort (for both)—travelling for any purpose.	75% in II, SL, I, AC CC & AC 3-T and 50% in AC 2-T and AC I.		50%	50%
2. Blind persons travelling alone or with an escort (for both)—travelling for any purpose.	75%	75%	50%	50%
3. Mentally retarded persons travelling with an escort (for both)—travelling for any purpose.	75%	75%	50%	50%
4. Deaf & Dumb persons (both afflictions together in the same person)-travelling for any purpose.	50%	50%	50%	50%
5. Cancer patients travelling alone or with an escort (for both)-for treatment/periodic check-up.	75%	75%	—	—
6. T.B./Lupas Valgaris patients travelling alone or with an escort (for both)-for treatment/periodic check-up.	75%	75%	—	—
7. Non-infectious Leprosy patients-for treatment/periodic check-up.	75%	75%	—	—
8. Thalassemia patients travelling alone or with an escort (for both)—for treatment/periodic check-up.	75%	75%	—	—
9. Heart patients travelling alone or with an escort for heart surgery (for both)	75%	75%	—	—
10. Ostomy patients-travelling for any purpose.	—	—	50%	50%
11. Sr. Citizens of minimum 65 years in the case of men and 60 years in the case of women.-travelling for any purpose.	30% in all classes and Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains		—	—
12. Recipients of President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, after attaining the age of 60 years-travelling for any purpose.	30% in all classes and Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains.		—	—
13. Shram Awardees-Industrial Workers awarded the Prime Minister's Shram Award for Productivity and Innovation.-travelling for any purpose.	—	75%	—	—
14. National Awardee Teachers-Teachers honoured with National Award by the President of India for exemplary service in the field of education.-travelling for any purpose.	—	50%	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Either of parents accompanying the Child Recipients of National Bravery Award.-travelling for any purpose.	—	50%	—	—
16.	War Widows.-travelling for any purpose.	—	75%	—	—
17.	Widows of I.P.K.F. Personnel killed in action in Sri Lanka.-travelling for any purpose.	—	75%	—	—
18.	Widows of Policemen killed in action against Terrorists and Extremists.-travelling for any purpose.	—	75%	—	—
19.	Widows of Martyrs of Operation Vijay in Kargil in 1999.-travelling for any purpose.	—	75%	—	—
20.	Bonafide students :				
	(i) upto the age of 25 years and	—	50%	50%	50%
	(ii) upto the age of 27 years in the case of SC/ST students.	—	75%	75%	75%
	- for going to hometown and educational tours.				
21.	Foreign students studying in India-travelling to attend camps/seminars organised by Govt. of India and also visit to places of historical & other importance during vacations.	—	50%	—	—
22.	Research scholars upto the age of 35 years-for journeys in connection with research work.	—	50%	—	—
23.	Youths attending National Integration Camps of :				
	(a) National Youth Project	—	50%	—	—
	(b) Manav Uththan Sewa Samiti	—	40%	—	—
24.	Students and non-students participating in Work Camps.	—	25%	—	—
25.	Unemployed youths appearing in interviews for jobs in PSUs.	—	50%	—	—
26.	Cadets and Marine Engineers apprentices undergoing Navigational/Engineering training for Mercantile Marine-for travel between home and training ship.	—	50%	—	—
27.	Bharat Scouts & Guides-for scouting duty.	—	50%	—	—
28.	Teachers of Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools-for educational tours.	—	25%	—	—
29.	Kisans and Industrial Labourers -for visit to agricultural/Industrial exhibitions.	—	25%	—	—
30.	Kisans travelling by Govt. sponsored Special trains.	—	33%	—	—
31.	Delegates for attending Annual Conferences of : (i) Bharat Krishak Samaj and (ii) Sarvodaya Samaj, Wardha.	—	50%	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Delegates attending Annual Conferences of certain All India bodies of social/cultural/educational importance.	—	25%	—	—
33.	Nurses & Midwives-for leave and duty	—	25%	—	—
34.	Members of St. John Ambulance Brigade and Relief Welfare Ambulance Corps, Calcutta-for ambulance camps/competitions.	—	25%	—	—
35.	Bharat Sewa Dal, Bangalore-for attending camps/meetings/ rallies/trekking programmes.	—	25%	—	—
36.	Volunteers of Service Civil International-for social service.	—	25%	—	—
37.	Artistes-for performance.	50%	75%	—	—
38.	Sportsmen participating in :				
	(i) All India and State tournaments	50%	75%	—	—
	(ii) National tournaments	75%	75%	—	—
39.	Persons taking part in Mountaineering Expeditions organised by IMF.	50%	75%		
40.	Press Correspondents accredited to the Headquarters of Government of India/State Governments/Union Territories/Districts for press work.	Coupon books valid for tickets of all classes, at 50% concession for journeys upto 30,000 Kms per annum.	—	—	
41.	Persons with income less than Rs. 400 p.m. working in unorganised sectors-for journeys upto maximum 100 Kms.	—	—	—	Rs. 15

Impact of Hike in Freight on Petroleum Products

3864. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is considering to set up a Committee to assess the impact of hike in freight charges by Railways on petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the prices of petroleum products in view of the hike in freight charges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken as yet.

Offer of Oilfields in Assam to Joint Venture Projects

3865. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to offer some of the blocks of oilfields of oilfields in Assam to joint venture projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign investment is being invited in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) In the second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), one block in the State of Assam, namely AS-ONN-2000/1, measuring approximately 6215 sq. km. has been offered for bidding for exploration of oil and gas. Under the NELP, which aims at attracting larger investment from private parties, the public sector and private companies including foreign companies are free to bid either singly or in association with other companies through an unincorporated or incorporated joint venture.

Growth of Oil Sector

3866. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) has any role to fulfil in the stable growth of the oil sector;

(b) if so, the role of the OIDB in guiding, assisting and formulating policies for a healthy petroleum sector;

(c) whether the OIDB has taken any steps to make full utilisation of the refinery capacity in the country;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to ensure that the OIDB becomes a pro-active mechanism to contribute positively to the Oil economy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Under Section 6(1) of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, and the Rules made thereunder, the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) shall render in such manner to such extent and on such terms and conditions as it may deem fit, financial and other assistance for promotion of all such measures which are in its opinion conducive to the development of oil industry. It has been playing this role. Assistance is extended by the OIDB in the form of loans and grants for activities, such as prospecting, production, refining, etc. It also provides such inputs and assistance to Government as are needed for policy formulation and implementation.

Recruitments in Bhakra Beas Managing Board

3867. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ad-hoc recruitments in Bhakra Beas Managing Board for different categories have been done during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criterion adopted therefor, category-wise; and

(c) if not, whether the Government are considering for ad-hoc recruitments in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) set up under the provisions of Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 (Act No. 31 of 1966) discharges functions of administration, operation and maintenance of Bhakra Nangal and Beas Project works assigned to it under the Act for which staff is provided by the Partner States/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) on transfer basis. In the event of the inability of the concerned Partner States/SEBs to provide the requisite staff, direct recruitment is resorted to by the BBMB through the Centralized Staff Selection Committee as provided for in the BBMB Class-III & Class-IV Employees' (Recruitment & Conditions of Service) Regulations, 1994. It has been intimated by the BBMB that no adhoc recruitments for different categories of staff were resorted to during the last three years nor is there any proposal to make any adhoc recruitments in the future.

Exploration in Barmer District of Western Rajasthan

3868. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that during exploration at GUDA-B in Barmer district of Western Rajasthan, good quality oil was found which is spread over an area of 4000 sq. km.;

(b) whether initial test showed that this well can produce 2,000 barrels of oil per day;

(c) if so, whether the oil struck in GUDA-B is suitable for aviation purpose which is being imported by us by investing a huge foreign exchange;

(d) whether the existing refineries in the country do not have necessary facilities for refining good quality crude oil struck in Western Rajasthan;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to establish a refinery at Barmer; and

(f) if so, the time by which the final decision to establish refinery is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Good quality oil (38° API) was struck at well No. Guda # 2 in an exploration block RJ-ON-90/1 in Barmer district of Rajasthan. Interpretation of the present data indicates the reservoir to be of limited extent.

(b) During testing the well flowed oil at the rate of about 2070 barrels per day.

(c) The well produce crude oil whereas, aviation fuel is a refined petroleum product.

(d) As on date, the discovery is not considered commercial on a "stand-alone basis".

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Construction of Shimoga-Davangere Rail Line

3869. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to conduct survey for laying of new railway line between Shimoga and Davangere *via* Honnali and Harihara;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the result of the survey; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government on the basis of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Involvement of Touts in Army Recruitment in J & K

3870. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that touts are wooing rural youths in Jammu and Kashmir offering them soldiers' jobs for a price ranging from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 40,000 which is taken in advance of the army recruitment rallies held in various parts of the State from time to time as reported in the *Times of India* January 13, 2001; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) (a) Government is aware of the report.

(b) Army has been educating the candidates, their parents and guardians not to fall prey to touts. Media is also approached, from time to time, to educate the youths on this issue.

Under a new recruitment procedure made applicable with effect from 1st April, 1998, all recruitment is carried out by open recruitment rallies. The local Branch Recruiting Office does not form part of the recruitment team, which conducts the recruitment rallies. Recruitment team is detailed from other Branch Recruiting Offices. Independent members are detailed to oversee each stage of the recruitment process. The system is fair, open and transparent.

[Translation]

Pending Projects of Maharashtra

3871. SHRI UTTAM RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of pending Railway projects of Maharashtra as on date alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There are no projects pending commencement in the State of Maharashtra as on date. All projects are in different stages of implementation.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Duplication of Valuable Items in National Museum

3872. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many valuable items in the National Museum in New Delhi have been replaced with duplicates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have constituted any Committee to probe into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the finding of the Committee and the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government has set up a Physical Verification Committee in 1996 for verification of art objects of National Museum. Based on a Public Interest Litigation filed in 1997 before it, the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi had directed that the reports of this Committee may be submitted to it regularly. Thus, the Hon'ble High Court is monitoring this aspect closely and regularly. The reports of the Physical Verification Committee are being submitted to the Hon'ble Court regularly and in fact, recently in December, 2000 the Court has disposed of the above petition.

[Translation]

Funds Sanctioned by Rural Electrification Corporation

3873. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned 146 crore rupees for rural electrification projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount sanctioned for each project, State-wise; and

(c) the time limit fixed for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 4678.20 crore during 1999-2000 for various types of rural electrification schemes sponsored by State Electricity Boards/State Governments. State-wise details indicating loan amount sanctioned are given in the enclosed statement. The schemes sanctioned are scheduled for completion in a period of two to three years.

Statement

State-wise projects sanctioned by REC during 1999-2000

S. No.	States	No. of Projects	Loan Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	105	44726
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	33	3014
3.	Assam	—	—
4.	Bihar	0	0
5.	Delhi	0	0
6.	Goa	4	229
7.	Gujarat	50	35415
8.	Haryana	75	21131
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17	12261
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	17	8914
11.	Karnataka	169	51531
12.	Kerala	146	38894
13.	Madhya Pradesh	98	11399
14.	Maharashtra	214	53167
15.	Manipur	13	4187
16.	Meghalaya+	—	10000
17.	Mizoram	3	801
18.	Nagaland	—	—
19.	Orissa	—	1900
20.	Punjab	57	48459
21.	Rajasthan	131	51936
22.	Sikkim	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	149	30110
24.	Tripura	12	2025
25.	Uttar Pradesh	86	37723
26.	West Bengal	—	—
	Total	1379	467820

+NEEPCO

NTPC

3874. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has questioned the authenticity of the estimates regarding cost of the big projects prepared by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the estimates prepared by the Government are not being considered justified by the NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Power Projects Executed by NTPC and NHPC

3875. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several power projects sanctioned to be executed by NTPC and NHPC are not being executed due to land acquisition not being done by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of pending projects, State-wise and the year of its approval;

(c) whether the Government propose to drop some of such projects; and

(d) if so, the details with justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in views of (a) above.

[Translation]

New Market for Garment Export

3876. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Apparel Export Promotion Council explored any new market in the world for exporting the readymade garments;

(b) if so, the names thereof and the value of the readymade garments exported to these markets;

(c) whether this Council helps only a few selected exporters; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) India's ready-made garments are exported to more than hundred countries of the world. However, member countries of the European Union and USA are the major markets for India's apparel products. The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has been undertaking export promotion events like participation in overseas exhibitions/fairs, organising BSMs abroad, sponsoring trade delegations with a view to consolidating and the existing markets and exploring new markets. The details of promotional events undertaken by the Council in the year 2000-01 are given below :

(i) Buyer Seller Meet in Netherlands, UK & France during June 2000.

(ii) Buyer Seller Meet in USA & Canada during October 2000.

(iii) Buyer Seller Meet in Chile, Brazil & Venezuela during March 2001.

(iv) Buyer Seller meet in Australia & New Zealand during February 2001.

(v) WWD Magic Fair, Las Vegas, USA during August 2000.

(vi) Hong Kong Fashion Week, Hong Kong during July 2000 and January 2001.

(b) The value-wise exports statistics to these countries are given below

(Value in US $ Million)

Countries	Exports in 2000
USA	2064.00
Canada	259.00
Netherlands	249.06
UK	432.06
France	408.37
Chile	211.12
Brazil	8.77
Venezuela	5.64
Australia	50.54
New Zealand	12.34
Hong Kong	14.40

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Council helps all Registered Exporters who are members of the Council as it is open for all member exporters to participate. The Council brings out advertisements in the Newspapers and AEPC Fortnightly Magazines, giving the details about these events and hence gives all members of the Council an opportunity to participate in these events. The participation in the Councils export Promotion Activities are on first-cum-first served basis.

[English]

Highest Power Tariff to Industry

3877. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power tariff to industry is the highest in the world;

(b) if so, the details of power tariff to industry per unit in Western, Northern, Eastern and Southern Parts of India;

(c) whether due to the highest tariff, the industries are gradually changing over to captive generation; and

(d) if so, the growth of energy consumption during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The industrial tariff in India is comparatively high as against that in other countries.

(b) The details of tariffs charged from industries by various States in the country is given in statement-I

(c) One of the reasons for setting up Captive Power Plants is the high industrial tariff of the grid. Other reasons are need for continuous, uninterrupted and quality power supply.

(d) The growth of energy consumption during the last three years is given in statement-II.

Statement-I

(Rates in Paise/Kwh)

Estimated Average Rates of Electricity (As on 15/03/2001)

S. No.	Name of Utility	Tariff effective from	Small Industry 10 HP, 25% LF (1361 Kwh/ Month)	Medium Industry 50KW, 40% LF (14600 Kwh/ Month)	Large Industry 1000KW, 65%LF 474500 Kwh/ Month)	Heavy Industry (11KV) 10000 KW, 60% LF (4380000 Kwh/ Month)	Heavy Industry (33KV) 15000 KW, 50%LF (5475000 Kwh/ Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh (APTRAN)	04-06-2000	414.69	439.88	438.15	491.05	501.39
2.	Assam	01-09-98	284.26 U 139.76 R	321.60	352.79	365.71	373.72
3.	Bihar	01-07-93	157.09	140.54	211.99	214.58	212.07
4.	Gujarat	22-12-2000	606.65	665.44 F	718.68	758.96	770.10
5.	Haryana	01-01-2001	461.00	461.00	444.00	444.00	432.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	01-05-2000	222.00	247.00	272.00	272.00	268.25
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	01-04-99	164.70	164.70	164.70	164.70	—
8.	Karnataka	21-12-2000	341.32	406.65	446.65	459.17	467.44
9.	Kerala	01-02-98	177.57	171.64	182.97	186.00	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Madhya Pradesh	01-03-99	227.60	396.20	434.59	437.71	427.23
11.	Maharashtra	01-05-2000	335.23	360.53	429.85	436.36	—
12.	Meghalaya	01-09-96	149.49	168.43	156.07	157.83	—
13.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	01-12-98	245.00	290.00	325.02	333.73	344.64
14.	Punjab	29-07-98	240.00	258.00	290.00	290.00	281.75
15.	Rajasthan	01-11-99	339.00	372.00	395.00	395.00	393.06
16.	Tamil Nadu	07-01-2000	234.53				
	Chennai Metro Area			416.42	406.55	420.30	418.27
	Non-Metro Area			405.92	396.05	409.80	407.77
17.	Uttar Pradesh	09-08-2000	411.04	409.16	431.23	433.92	419.30
18.	West Bengal	26-01-99	336.56 U 313.57 R	407.46	377.48	370.73	370.37
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	01-03-93	185.00	195.00	250.00	250.00	—
20.	Goa	01-03-99	225.00	286.85	337.79	348.52	354.64
21.	Manipur	18-03-2000	162.20	222.20	213.18	213.36	215.43
22.	Mizoram	01-03-2000	242.65	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
23.	Nagaland	01-12-95	250.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	—
24.	Sikkim	01-05-99	201.63	135.12	149.44	151.21	—
25.	Tripura	01-04-99	140.00	190.00	—	—	0.00
26.	A & N Islands	01-04-98	215.30	228.63	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	01-02-2001	278.00	318.00	371.00	371.00	360.20
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01-02-87	170.10	170.36	180.86	181.85	—
29.	Daman & Diu	01-04-98	210.00	224.18	234.35	236.06	—
30.	Delhi	01-04-97	362.88	362.88	401.93	405.18	404.50
	(NDMC)	01-04-97	381.82	381.82	—	—	
31.	Lakshadweep	01-04-2000	450.00	450.00	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	01-06-2000	188.36	193.92	235.93	244.78	—
33.	Ahmedabad Elec. Co.	26-02-98	355.74	386.98	405.79	409.12	—
34.	Calcutta (CESC)	20-10-98	377.01	425.50	424.12	427.14	422.80
35.	D.V.C.	01-09-2000					
	(a) Bihar Area		—	—	296.72	304.63	311.19
	(b) WB Area	—	—	—	312.68	321.19	328.24
36.	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	10-02-95	223.93	273.38	262.40	264.62	-
37.	Mumbai	15-07-97	674.30	725.90	426.04 E	429.65 E	-
	(B.E.S.T.)	01-10-98	578.41	540.23	394.52	385.51	
	(B.S.E.S)	01-12-98	397.74	397.74	363.60	367.24	376.73
	(TATA's)						

U-URBAN R-RURAL E-Exclusive of Reactive Energy Charge @ 98 paise/kwh

F-Exclusive of Reactive Energy Charge @ 10 paise/kwh

The above statement has been prepared on the basis of rates of Electricity Tariff, Electricity Duty and F.C.A as reported to F.S & A. Division, CEA upto 23-02-2001.

Statement-II

Increase in Power Consumption in individual category of consumer

Category of consumer	1996-97			1997-98			1998-99		
	Quantum GWH	% to total	% increase over Previous Year	Quantum GWH	% to total	% increase over Previous Year	Quantum GWH	% to total	% increase over Previous Year
Domestic	55266.54	19.72	6.83	60346.21	20.33	9.19	66190.22	21.19	9.68
Commercial	17519.38	6.25	3.08	19367.51	6.53	10.55	20015.86	6.41	3.35
Industrial	104164.65	37.18	0.50	104925.97	35.36	0.73	106032.65	33.94	1.05
Public Lighting	2473.37	0.88	11.26	2673.28	0.90	8.08	2825.40	0.90	5.69
Railways	6594.21	2.35	5.96	6944.28	2.34	5.31	7269.27	2.33	4.68
Agriculture	84018.95	29.99	2.0	91241.56	30.75	8.60	97595.78	31.14	6.96
Public Water Works & Sewage Pumping	5569.17	1.99	5.52	6083.51	2.05	9.24	6578.83	2.10	8.14
Miscellaneous	4599.91	1.64	10.85	5166.60	1.74	12.32	5893.41	1.89	14.07
Total	280206.18	100.00	1.25	296748.92	100.00	5.90	312401.42	100.00	5.27

Joint Venture Projects in Petroleum and Oil Sector

3878. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government's proposal to start joint venture projects in the petroleum and oil sector in collaboration with private sector and foreign companies or Multi National Companies as the strategic partners has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof regarding the financial inputs and estimated production in terms of quantity and value;

(c) whether the Government are expecting high gain from the Joint Venture Projects with the MNCs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have favoured the Reliance Groups and made Enron to pullout of the Panna Mukta Oil fields for joint venture; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Gas for Methane Oil Projects in Rajasthan

3879. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has urged the Union Government for allocating gas for Methane Oil Project;

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

(c) whether the glass container project based on silica sand available in Rajasthan has been identified and the quantity of gas required for this glass container plant;

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Union Government for the allocation of gas for the said project; and

(e) the time by which the demand is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Modernisation of Hydel and Thermal Power Plant

3880. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the renovation and modernisation programme for hydel as well as Thermal Power Plants;

(b) whether this programme has helped in generation of additional power during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Renovation & Modernisation (R&M) and Life Extension (LE) of the existing old power stations has been recognised as one of the most cost effective options to achieve additional generation due to its short gestation period and low cost. The Government of India (GOI) recognised the importance of R&M way back in 1984 and a Centrally sponsored R&M Programme was launched in the year 1984 for R&M of 34 thermal power stations covering 163 thermal units in the country. GOI sanctioned a Central loan assistance of Rs. 500 crores and the programme was completed in the year 1992 resulting in an additional generation of about 10,000 Million Units per annum.

During the 8th Plan, R&M programme for 44 thermal power stations comprising 198 Units was taken up in the year 1990-91 at an estimated cost of Rs. 2383 crores. The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) was assigned to provide loan assistance to the State Electricity Board's (SEBs) for the R&M works. However, by the end of 8th Plab about 5% of the works could be completed mainly due to weak financial position of SEBs. After partial completion of the works, an additional generation of 5000 MUs/year has been achieved. Similarly, during the 9th Plan programme, 191 units (25856 MW) are covered under R&M and 42 units (3091 MW) are planned for life extension at 56 power stations. These works are at various stages of implementation. After completion of the programme, an additional generation of 11,000 MUs/year is expected to be achieved.

Similarly, during the 8th Plan, 8 hydro RM&U schemes were completed resulting into a benefit of additional generation of 559 MUs. During the 9th Plan, 15 schemes have so far been completed with an expected benefit of 2783 MUs.

Closure of Barauni Thermal Power Station

3881. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the closure of Barauni Thermal Power Station Unit No. 4 and 5 since 1995-96;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide full protection to the Unit Nos. 6 and 7 of the said station which are the units of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL);

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government so far in this regard; and

(f) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Unit Nos. 4&5 each of 50 MW capacity of the Barauni thermal power station are under shut down since 24.4.1996 and 16.3.1995 respectively.

(b) to (f) Unit Nos. 6&7 of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) make are being operated by the Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB). In order to improve the performance of the existing thermal power stations in Bihar, BSEB had formulated a proposal for undertaking R&M of Patratu, Barauni and Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Stations (TPS) in 1997-98 for raising loans from the Power Finance Corporation (PFC). This proposal was discussed with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and in view of the large requirement of funds for R&M of all the thermal power stations, it was decided by BSEB to first undertake R&M works on units 6&10 of Patratu TPS only. Although an amount of Rs. 76 crores

was sanctioned by PFC in December, 1999 for R&M of Patratu TPS, no funds could be released by PFC to BSEB due to non-execution of loan agreement by BSEB/Bihar Government with PFC.

In order to supplement the efforts of SEBs for R&M of existing generating plants, the Government of India have sanctioned a scheme called Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) under which funds would be provided to the SEBs in the form of grant and loans for carrying out R&M of power stations including strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system, energy auditing and metering. To provide funds under this scheme, the States are required to undertake power reforms. A proposal for R&M of Barauni TPS (Units 4,5&6) under APDP with an estimated cost of Rs. 48.50 crores has been received from BSEB. However, as BSEB is not presently fulfilling the requirement of APDP, the proposal could not be considered for financing under APDP during the year 2000-01. PFC will also be financing the R&M scheme, provided the necessary conditions of PFC are fulfilled by BSEB/Bihar Government.

Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana

3882. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana" introduced in April, 2000 for the promotion of handloom sector has been implemented; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance given under the scheme to each State so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The scheme was launched with detailed guidelines on 30th August, 2000. Under this scheme, so far, Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 858.81 lakhs have been released to the Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Tamil Nadu.

Mismanagement in Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts

3883. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken action against the trust controlling the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) for changing the trust deed that converted its present chairperson into a chairperson for life;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed for the Government control in promotion of cultural activities in the institution without private interference?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) On the basis of legal advice, the Government reconstituted the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts on 7th January, 2000 by retiring 12 Trustees whose terms had expired under the provisions of the Trust Deed and nominating 12 new Trustees in their place. Further Government also filled vacancies of three Trustees who had earlier resigned or passed away. The reconstituted Trust has already elected Dr. L.M. Singhvi as the President of the Trust. By reconstituting the IGNCA Trust, the Government has ensured that the Trust functions in accordance with the original Trust Deed of March 1987.

[Translation]

Doubling of Patna-Gaya Rail Line

3884. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to complete the doubling of Patna-Gaya rail line;

(b) the length of section between Patna and Gaya rail line doubled alongwith expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(c) the length of remaining section where the doubling is yet to take place alongwith the reasons for not doubling the same sections; and

(d) the time by which the remaining portion is likely to be completed alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) to (c) Doubling of 29.52 km from Patna to Taregna on Patna-Gaya section has been sanctioned in phases. The doubling work from Patna to Parsabazar (6.2 km) has been completed and an expenditure of Rs. 13.10 cr. has been incurred upto 31.12.2000. Work is in progress in Parsabazar-Punpun-Taregna (23.31 km) section. The work will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. An outlay of Rs. 7.10 cr. has been proposed during the year 2000-02.

(d) The length of the remaining section form Taregna to Gaya where doubling has not yet been sanctioned is 62 km. Doubling of single line sections is taken up when

their carrying capacity is saturated. The traffic on the remaining portions of Patna-Gaya section has not yet reached the level to justify their doubling, which will be considered once the traffic warrants the same, subject to availability of resources.

[English]

LPG Subsidy

3885. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private sector LPG Companies have urged the Government to push through the 1997 policy of phasing out the LPG subsidy so that they can compete with the Public Sector Oil Companies in the domestic market;

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

(c) the details of losses suffered by the Government on account of subsidy on LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the Government resolution of November, 1997 on the phased dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism, domestic LPG will carry subsidy to the extent of 15% of import parity price and sudsidy will be met from the fiscal budget. No decision has been taken as yet in regard to allowing the private marketeers to sell the subsidized domestic LPG. The amount of subsidy on domestic LPG, based on February, 2001 tariff adjusted import parity refinery gate prices, is Rs. 152.50 per cylinder.

[Translation]

Antiquities from Britain

3886. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharhut under Satna district of Madhya Pradesh was full of Buddhist area antiquities;

(b) whether the Government are aware that valuable antiquities of Bharhut were taken to London (Britain) during British period which are still in its museum of England;

(c) whether some antiquities of Bharhut have also been kept in museum of Calcutta and Allahabad;

(d) whether the Government are taking steps to bring Buddhist ara antiquities back from London and also from museums of Calcutta and Allahabad back to Bharhut so that it regains its old glory; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Government do not have verifiable information in this regard.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government do not have any proposal in this regard.

(e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Restructuring of Shipping Corporation of India

3887. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tonnage capacity of the Shipping Corporation of India would be enhanced, and

(d) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) had been taking necessary steps for replacement of old tonnage and acquisition of new tonnage, as per the trend in the trade from time to time.

(d) During the balance period of the 9th Plan period, SCI has plans to acquire/place order for 1 (one) Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC), 2 (two) LR-II size tankers, 2 (two) Capesize bulk carriers, 2 (two) acid/chemical carriers apart from the tonnage already on order.

Amount Spent on Workshops

3888. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board is unaware of staff strength and vacancies in various workshops;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Board been providing effective administrative control over the functioning of these workshops;

(c) whether an amount of nearly Rs. 200 crore was originally sanctioned for five workshops which was cut to Rs. 43 cr. in 1995-96 but the Ministry had spent only a sum of Rs. 1.79 cr. on three workshops; and

(d) if so, the reasons for bringing down Rs. 200 cr. to Rs. 1.79 cr. and its effect on planning and modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The status of sanctioned staff strength of the workshops is maintained in the board's office. However, as far as the arising of vacancies and their filling up, depending upon the workload, is concerned the same is a continuous process and its regular monitoring is done.

(b) The functioning of workshops is monitored by the Railway Board regularly with regard to various performance indices. Necessary guidance and directives are issued from time to time to ensure performance of the desired level both qualitatively and quantitatively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In view of the ongoing gauge conversion projects, modernisation planning of workshops was reviewed and the strategy of converting the MG workshops to BG workshops was adopted thereby ensuring utilisation of the existing infrastructure to a large extent. The expenditure of Rs. 1.79 cr. was incurred till 31st March, 1996 against the revised sanctioned cost of Rs. 43.38 cr. However, as on now the entire expenditure of Rs. 43.38 cr. has heen incurred and the infrastructure facilities as planned have already been created.

Stationing of Army Units in Forts

3889. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is militarily expedient to station garrisons in historical sites like Red Fort, Agra Fort etc. and deny the citizens from viewing their heritage;

(b) whether there is a proposal to vacate such historical sites and leave their total care to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which Army propose to vacate such sites; and

(d) the reasons for continued army presence in historical sites?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) It is necessary at times to station garrisons in some forts. However, restrictions on entry of public to these sites, for security reasons, are only limited to some portions.

(b) and (c) Wherever feasible, important portions of historical value in these sites have been handed over to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

(d) Presence of Army in certain forts has been there traditionally. Moving the Army out of these forts would entail a huge expenditure to the exchequer, in terms of cost of land and construction of infrastructure, required to relocate the troops.

Termination of Dealerships

3890. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed termination of dealers after considering the reply of dealers in response to show cause notice;

(b) the appellate authority against the termination orders issued by the GM/ED of Oil Corporations;

(c) whether there is a provision of recovering the suspected/doubtful proven adulterated petrol and HSD by the oil corporations for upgrading these products after resisting of same depots/terminals in case of termination of some dealership;

(d) whether this provision is followed up by the oil corporations strictly to avoid the selling of adulterated products in the market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Government has directed oil companies from time to time to take action against retail outlet dealers under the dealership agreement who are found indulging in malpractices/irregularities.

(b) A dealer who is aggrieved by the termination of his dealership can invoke the provision contained in the dealership agreement for arbitration.

(c) to (e) In case of proven adulteration, the product (MS/HSD) is taken back by the Oil Company to the nearest locations where separately storage facilities for handling such adulterated products are available. The product will be corrected in consultation with the Quality Control Department of the region. The entire expenses towards transportation, pumping of the product, tank cleaning, incidental charges etc. will be borne by the dealer. In case, where the product is upgraded to MS or downgraded to HSD, the dealer will be paid an amount equivalent to the cost of HSD. In case where the product is downgraded to other than HSD, the dealer will be paid an amount equivalent to the cost of the downgraded product. The credit will, however, be given only for the quantity actually upgraded/downgraded. Any loss etc. will be borne by the dealer.

Enactment of New Laws for Match Fixing

3891. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2976 on December 7, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following factual information has been received by this Ministry.

'Since "Sports" is under Entry 33 of List II-State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, the Legislative powers and concomitant executive powers under Article 162 vests in the States. Therefore, the nebulous position of law in match fixing case has to be legislatively examined by the State Governments'

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of Power Projects in Bawana

3892. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether proposal for two power projects for Bawana-I and Bawana-II to be set up with the combined capacity of 1100 MW have been shelved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the delay in the implementation of these projects will hamper the shifting of industries to Bawana; and

(d) if not, the manner by which the power requirements of the industrial units is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Delhi Vidyut Board has informed that the immediate power requirement of industrial units to be shifted to Bawana is proposed to be met through 100 MVA-220/66KV power transformer being installed at 400 KV Bawana Sub-Station, which will supply the power to 66 KV Phoot Khurd S/Stn. through 66 KV double circuit transmission line. The load of the peripheral service of 11 KV network will be met from 66 KV/11 KV transformer being installed at Phoot Khurd S/Stn. Nine 66 KV/11 KV S/Stn. along with two 220 KV/66 KV S/Stn. and associated transmission line and 11 KV networks are being erected in this area. 220 KV S/Stn., will get the feed from 220 KV D/C tower line from Bawana 400 KV S/Stn. to Narela 220 KV S/Stn., which will be looped in and looped out at these two 220 KV S/Stns. This line is capable of transmitting approximately 400 MW power. The work of 66 KV and 11 KV network has already been taken in hand and is in the stage of planning/tendering. The power requirement will be met from the Northern Grid

Transmission Lines in Karnataka by PGC

3893. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited propose to strengthen the transmission lines to bring power to Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India are considering to establish more sub-stations in Karnataka to strengthen the transmission in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has taken up a 2000 MW HVDC bipole from Talcher (Orissa) to Kolar (Karnataka) for supply of power to different States of Southern Region including Karnataka. PGCIL is also constructing 3860 ckt. Kms of 400 kv AC transmission lines in the region which would help Karnataka to receive more power in a reliable manner.

(c) and (d) PGCIL has taken up/planned two 400/ 220 kv sub-stations at Kolar (500 MVA transformation capacity) and Hiriyur (315 MVA transformation capacity) in Karnataka to improve the power situation in the State.

Commissioning of Sub-Station of Visakhapatnam

3894. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation planned to commission 400 KV sub-station at Visakhapatnam during 2001;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of expenditure to be involved; and

(c) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Central Electricity Authority had techno-economically cleared the transmission system associated with Vizag & Simhadri TPS in Andhra Pradesh in December, 1996. The estimated cost of Vizag Sub-station is Rs. 6886.64 lakhs and the Sub-station is likely to be completed by December, 2001 by APTRANSCO.

LPG Bottling Plants in Maharashtra

3895. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ratio of the LPG bottling plants in Maharashtra is minimum as compared with the other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to set up more bottling plants in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) LPG Bottling Plants are set up on the basis of techno-economic feasibility after taking into consideration the demand potential of packed LPG. At present, the total installed bottling capacity in the Maharashtra State is 816 TMTPA which is adequate to meet the packed LPG demand in the State. In order to meet the future packed LPG demand, plans have been drawn by Oil Industry to augment the LPG bottling capacity in the State of Maharashtra upto 1140 TMTPA by 1.4.2002.

Filling up of Vacancies

3896. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a large number of vacancies lying unfilled in workshops of Railways even the workers are sitting idle after phasing out all the Steam Engines as reported in the *Times of India* dated March 2, 2001 under the captioned vacancies abound in Railways, workers idle;

(b) if so, the reasons for not fulfilling vacancies from the workers who are sitting idle;

(c) whether there is any plan of the Railways to modernize the workshops where Steam Engines were produced/repaired;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in modernizing these workshops; and

(e) the efforts being made by Railways to fill up the vacancies in time, utilize the manpower and modernize the workshops in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Arising of vacancies due to superannuation and other reasons and their filling up is a continuous process in the

workshops of various Zonal Railways. With the phasing out of steam engines the surplus maintenance staff has been redeployed over the years in overhauling of diesel locos, electric locos, electrical multiple units, diesel multiple units, tower wagons and so on. Further with implementation of enhanced incentive rates based on the 5th Pay Commission scales productivity improvement of the level of 12% was negotiated with recognized labour and accordingly the allowed timings were suitably revised downwards in respect of activities covered by incentive scheme. Staff rendered surplus as a result of this have also been generally redeployed.

(b) Workers rendered surplus have been deployed to the maximum possible extent depending upon the vacancies available category-wise and grade-wise. Necessary training to the staff is also imparted for redeployment wherever require.

(c) Modernisation/upgradation of facilities in the workshops where steam engines were earlier repaired has already been done to undertake repairs of new design of rolling stock. As far as production of steam engines is concerned the activity was being undertaken in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works is now engaged in manufacture of electric locomotives.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Arising of vacancies and their filling up is a ongoing process. Depending upon the workload to be discharged by the workshops the vacancies are being filled up. Modernisation/upgradation of facilities is also being done/planned from time to time keeping of course in view the traffic requirements as also the fund availability.

Purchase of Sick Plants by NTPC

3897. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NTPC has agreed to buy sick and inefficient thermal plants from State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, whether NTPC has identified such sick plants for purchase;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether NTPC proposes to re-design and make such plants operationally efficient; and

(e) it so, the details of plants of NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) NTPC has taken over three power stations from SEBs of UP and Orissa against settlement of old outstanding dues. The details of thermal plants taken over by NTPC in past are as under :

Name of Power Station	Capacity MW	Date of takeover	Taken over from
Unchahar Thermal Power Station	420	13.2 1992	U.P.
Talcher Thermal Power Station	460	03.06.1995	Orissa
Tanda Thermal Power Station	440	14.01.2000	U.P.

BSEB has recently offered their old power station for transfer to NTPC against their outstanding dues.

(d) NTPC after taking over of such plants, carries out intensive studies and based on the results carries out Renovation and Modernisation (R & M) to make them operationally efficient and improve the performance of the plants. The performance of stations taken over by NTPC before and after carrying out engineering, short term/long term Renovation and Modernisation works are as under :

Sl. No.	Station	PLF(%) before take over	PLF(%) for 2000-01 (upto Feb 2001) (after take over)
1.	Unchahar Thermal Power Station	20.77%	86.50%
2.	Talcher Thermal Power Station	18%	62%
3.	Tanda Thermal Power Station	19.8%	29.4%

(e) The R&M plans of NTPC in respect of aforesaid stations are given below :

Sl.No.	Station	Location	No. of R&M Schemes	Status
1.	Talcher Thermal Power Station	Orissa	72 (Phase-I)	R&M works in progress and expected to be completed by March 2001.
			30 (Phase-II)	R&M works in progress and expected to be completed by March 2004.
2.	Tanda Thermal Power Station	Uttar Pradesh	R&M works under finalisation	Short term works has been taken up partly during 2000-01 and rest of R&M works will be finalised and the same are expected to be completed by 2005-06.

Premature Refreshing of Sonar Cable during Sea Operations

3898. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether failure of Naval Headquarters to investigate into premature refreshing of Sonar Cable during sea operations and using the Cable after expiry of its life resulted in loss of Sonar Dome;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incident;

(c) whether the matter has been enquired into to fix the responsibility on guilty officials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Electronics end of the Towed Sonar was lost from an Indian Naval Ship in September, 1998. A Board of Inquiry concluded that the loss was due to localised corrosion at the joints of the towing cables. This finding was also endorsed by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). Necessary corrective measures have been implemented to prevent occurrence of corrosion by use of improved protective material to the cable as recommended by the OEM. The system of periodical inspection to check corrosion has also been instituted.

Uneconomical Rates of DGOF

3899. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, in 1990 on inventory management revealed that the lead time taken by DGOF and PSUs has a direct bearing on the levels of stock holdings and the rates of DGOF have been unacceptably higher than the rates quoted by private sector; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Government are not aware of any such study conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

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

[Translation]

Setting up of Bio-Gas Plants

3900. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of bio-gas plants set up by the Government in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the details in regard to setting up of bio-gas plants, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any scheme to set up more bio-gas plants in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Information on the total number of biogas plants set up during each of the last three years under the Central Sector Schemes–National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD), which caters to family type biogas plants and community, Institutional of Night-soil based Biogas Plants (CBP/IBP/NBP) Programme is mentioned below :

Scheme	No. of plants set up during last three years		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
NPBD	1.75 lakh	1.50 lakh	1.69 lakh
CBP/IBP/NBP Programmes	258	314	403

(b) State-wise details of cumulative total number of biogas plants set up so far are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Both NPBD and CBP/IBP/NBP Programme have been continued during 2000-2001 with a physical target of setting up of 1.80 lakh more family type and 400 more community/institutional/night-soil based biogas plants, respectively. These schemes provide for central subsidy on capital cost of plants; turn-key job fee with three years' free maintenance warranty; training courses for masons, fabricators and users; State level Biogas Development and Training Centres; publicity and extension support, etc.

Statement

Cumulative total number of biogas plants set up so far in different States since the inception of the National Project on Biogas Development, which caters to family type plants and Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants (CBP/IBP/NBP) Programme

(Number of plants)

State/Union Territory	Family type plants	Community, institutional and night-soil based plants
Andhra Pradesh	301135	109
Assam	47935	2
Bihar	118948	39
Gujarat	336881	147
Haryana	41427	48
Himachal Pradesh	43106	7
Jammu & Kashmir	1962	4
Karnataka	476646	51
Kerala	73680	62
Madhya Pradesh	186078	116
Maharashtra	658060	431
Meghalaya	1579	2
Orissa	167203	33
Punjab	61580	626
Rajasthan	65611	64
Tamil Nadu	197833	215
Uttar Pradesh	352028	1243
West Bengal	182871	51
Other States and Union Territories	15596	95
Total	3330159	3345

Losses to Tourism Industry due to Disturbance in J&K

3901. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

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

(a) the extent of loss to the tourism industry due to disturbances in Jammu & Kashmir; and

(b) the measures being taken to revive the tourism industry in order to restore its previous status and importance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No recent survey has been conducted to asses the loss to the tourism industry due to disturbances in Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) Measures being taken for revival of tourism in the State include proposed waiver of loans alongwith interest outstanding as on 31.08.1997 to various registered tourism based units and advancing of soft loans to specified segments of tourism industry by the State Government. Details of financial assistance extended by Department of Tourism, Government of India to Jammu & Kashmir for Developing Tourism infrastructure etc. are as under :

Year	No. of Projects	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	10	293.35
1998-99	6	192.85
1999-2000	16	306 43

[English]

Electricity Board for Gulbarga Region

3902. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has decided to constitute a separate electricity board for Karnataka-Hyderabad region as a step to develop Gulbarga region;

(b) if so, whether both the States have agreed to co-operate to develop Gulbarga region;

(c) whether more than 65,000 applications are pending for pump-sets and 1,25,000 houses for power connection in Gulbarga region; and

(d) the extent to which the Government likely to meet the demands of Gulbarga region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the Government of Karnataka.

Railways Earning

3903. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earning of Railways is less than the budget project during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the percentage of earning during the current financial year as compared to the last year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the earning of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The earnings to end of February, 2001 at Rs. 31816 crores are less by Rs. 179 crores as compared to the proportionate target based on the Revised Estimates. These are 89.6% of the R.E. target against 90.1% achieved last year.

(c) Various steps initiated by the Railways to increase earnings includes:

- Comprehensive delegation of powers to zonal and divisional railways to sharpen customer interface and to make appropriate marketing strategies to capture more traffic from core sector and others.
- Volume discount scheme for certain commodities.
- Two points rake loading facilities for nominated stations.
- Commercial incentives and guaranteed transit time service.
- Special Parcel trains between important stations and trading centres and leasing of SLRs of passenger trains.
- Deployment of information technology to improve customer interface.
- Mobilisation of revenues through non-traditional sources namely, leasing of 'right of way' for laying of Optic Fibre Cables, commercial utilisation of Railway land and air space and commercial publicity on rolling stock and station buildings.
- Drive for realisation of outstanding dues.
- Improved assets utilisation.

Central Finance Assistance Scheme for Tourism Projects

3904. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to handover Central Assistance Funds directly to the State Government Tourism Corporations instead of the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up a task force to reformulate the guidelines of the Central Finance assistance scheme for tourism projects;

(c) if so, whether the task force has since submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the task force and the steps taken to speed up the implementation of tourism projects;

(e) the extent to which the scheme of providing funds directly to the tourism corporation is going to encourage various tourism projects; and

(f) if not, the time by which the task force is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Department of Tourism releases funds to the State Government Tourism Corporations on the recommendations of the State Governments for specified projects prioritised every year in consultation with them.

(b) to (d) Review of Guidelines by the Department is an ongoing process.

(e) and (f) The funds are allocated to the executing agencies i.e. State Tourism Development Corporations in order to overcome the difficulty of unnecessary delay in executing the projects on time.

Extension of External Market Assistance Scheme for Jute Bags

3905. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have extended External Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme for jute goods for one year w.e.f. April 1, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rate of assistance has been reduced by half across the board for the eight eligible categories of jute goods export items; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The External Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme, which is being implemented by Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC) has been extended by the Government for a period of one year w.e.f. April 1, 2001. The details of the scheme are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The rates of assistance have been reduced to 50% of the rates approved for the year 2000-2001 for all the eligible categories of jute goods export items. This step has been taken keeping in view the increasing EMA liability and the available resources under the existing structure of Cess and grant received by the Jute Manufactures Development Council.

Statement

Jute Goods eligible under EMA Scheme

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Rate of EMA w.e.f. 01.04.2001 on F.O.B. value realised
1.	Jute or Jute blended/union fabrics (FOB above Rs. 50,000/ton)	5% (subject to maximum ceiling of Rs. 5000/ton)
2.	Jute/Blended/Union carpets/ mats/mattings	5%
3.	a) Jute yarn/jute blended/ covered yarn (decitex not exceeding 20000)	2.5%
	b) Cordage, cable, Rope & Twine of jute (decitex exceeding 20000)	2.5%
4.	Jute handicrafts	5%
5.	Jute wall hangings	5%
6.	Jute or jute blended garments and made ups	5%
7.	Foodgrade Jute Products	5%
8.	Geo Textile	2.5%

Delay in Implementation of Major Oil Projects

3906. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of some of the major oil projects have been delayed;

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

(c) the original estimated cost of those projects; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) to (c) A statement giving details of major projects, *inter-alia*, costing more than Rs. 100 cores, where there has been some delay in implementation, the reasons for such delay and the original estimated cost of those projects, is enclosed.

(d) Steps taken to expedite the implementation of such projects, *inter alia*, include the following :

(i) Regular review of such projects by the Government;

(ii) Meeting with defaulting vendors/contractors at various levels;

(iii) Depending upon the need, work off loaded and new/additional agencies inducted;

(iv) Empowered committee system formed for some fast track projects to minimize order/contract processing time.

(v) Special rain protection arrangement done for sustained work during monsoon;

(vi) Special chasers for movement of heavy consignments delayed;

(vii) Wherever required, imported material are air freighted;

(viii) Extended working hours at construction site resorted to;

(ix) Cases taken up with State Governments for their assistance whenever required;

(x) Formation of Core Management Team for implementation of projects;

(xi) Delegation of adequate financial and administrative powers to field level executives;

(xii) Strengthening of the overall monitoring system.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Public Sector Undertaking implementing the Project	Cost sanctioned (Rs. in crores)	Delay (in Months)	Reasons for delay
1.	Paradip Refinery Project Abhayachandrapur	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	8270.00	17	Withdrawal by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation from the project.
2.	Central India Refinery, Bina	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	5277.00	63	Delay in environmental clearance and delay in decision from Oman Oil for equity in project participation.
3.	Insitu Combustion Balol (Main)	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation	118.49	50	Delay due to non-adherence of delivery schedule by M/s BHPV, completion of main turn-key work by M/s SPIC-SMO, award of contract for modification work and delay in land acquisition for upgradation/ modification of GSS installation.
4.	Catalytic Dewaxing Unit, Haldia	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	422.00	3	Delay in environmental clearance and process package.
5.*	Integrated Paraxylene, PTA, Panipat	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	4228.00		Delay in environmental clearance.
6.*	Panipat Refinery Expansion Project	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	3365.00		Delay in environmental clearance.
7.*	Residue Upgradation, Gujarat Refinery	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	4392.00		Delay in environmental clearance.

* These projects were approved by Indian Oil Corporation for implementation subject to environmental clearance which has not been received so far.

Setting up of Bio-Gas Power Plants

3907. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up three Bio-gas power plants in Haryana; and

(b) if so, the details regarding these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of Haryana have short-listed three companies for preparation of Feasibility Reports for setting up of three power plants based on municipal solid waste. One of these plants, proposed for the city of Ambala, envisages generation of power through biogas technology. The estimated capacity of this plant is Mega Watt at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crore.

Modern Communication Facilities

3908. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways have not channelised sufficient funds for state-of-the-art radio communications to increase safety in trains;

(b) if so, the investment required to have modern communication facilities in trains;

(c) whether any interim steps could be taken to use the existing cellular network;

(d) if not, the basic reasons for the lethargy exhibited by railways in meeting such needs;

(e) whether any talks has been held with cellular companies to provide hand-held communication sets on reasonable basis to the train staff; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a), (b) and (d) Indian Railways have provided Walkie-Talkie sets to Drivers & Guards of all trains for communication between Driver & Guard in case of emergencies. For safety of train operations, a dedicated communication system for train operations with continuous coverage along railway track is desirable.

Indian Railways have therefore, decided to provide Mobile Train Radio Communication Systems progressively on important routes for communication between Driver, Guard, Station Master & Control Offices for increasing safety in train operations.

Works for provision of Mobile Train Radio Communication Systems have been sanctioned for 2224 Rkms at an estimated cost of Rs. 133.75 crores during 2000-2001.

(c), (e) and (f) The public cellular network at present does not have coverage on continuous sections of railway track. It is also not technically suitable for train operations as train operation requires a continuous dedicated communication system for ensuring safety. Therefore, no talks were held with cellular operators for providing communication for train operation purpose.

[Translation]

Power Projects in Jharkhand

3909. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up power plants in Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Various proposals for setting up of power plants in the Jharkhand area were received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from the erstwhile Bihar Government and Independent Power Producers. The details of the CEA cleared schemes/under execution as on date are given below :

Name of the Project	Installed Capacity (MW)
TEC Cleared/Under execution	
Chandil LBC, State Sector	2×4
North Koel, State Sector	2×12
Tenughat TPP St. II State Sector	3×210
Jojobera TPP, Private Sector	2×120

In addition the Government is proposing to set up two mega power projects, namely, 1000 MW Maithon Project as a joint venture between DVC & BSES, and 1980 MW Karanpura Project by NTPC in Jharkhand.

Petrol Pumps Allotted to SCs/STs

3910. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps being run by Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi;

(b) the number of petrol pumps transferred to other persons from the quota allocated to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes;

(c) whether the Government propose to enquire into the matter; and

(d) if so, the time by which unauthorised persons are to be identified and their allotments would be cancelled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The number of retail outlets belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal), Haryana and Delhi as on 31.1.2001, is given below

	Number of retail outlets belonging to SC/ST	
	SC	ST
Uttar Pradesh	233	1
Haryana	62	Nil
Delhi	11	3

The retail outlet dealerships reserved for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are allotted to the persons belonging to these categories.

[English]

Defence Clearance to Hydro Power Projects

3911. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects of National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) awaiting clearance from Defence Ministry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No such project has been awaiting clearance from Defence Ministry

(b) Does not arise.

Excavation of Historical Sites in Tamil Nadu

3912. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the ASI to excavate the Iron Age burial sites (Megalithic) and early historic sites in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether ASI has not taken any steps so far to excavate any of the Megalithic burial sites in Tamil Nadu.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the ASI has published any excavation report on the excavation of Megalithic burial sites after Sanur excavations;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the disposal of the artefacts brought to light during Sanur excavations and other megalithic excavations?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Details are given in enclosed statement.

(f) The material from Sanur is available in the Central Antiquity Collection, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi and those from the Megalithic Sites of Amirthamangalam, Kunnattur, T. Kallupatti, Mottur, Kambaramedu and Auroville are stored in the Chennai Circle office of ASI.

Statement

The Megalithic monuments and urn-burials which *inter alia* represent the early Historical period in south India were noticed quite early and dealt with in detail by James Fergusson in 1872. Alexander Rea of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conducted excavation at Adichannallur in Tinnevelly District between 1889 and 1905 and at Perumbair from 1904 to 1908. Later, several ASI and other archaeologists explored extensively in Tamil Nadu. The ASI took up in right earnest the scientific exploration of the Megalithic sites particularly in south India after 1944. The ASI has since excavated between 1950 and 1984-85 ten Megalithic sites in Tamil Nadu and the details thereof are tubulated below :

Sl. No.	Name of site	District	Year(s) of excavation	Published in IAR*/AI**
1	Sanur	Chingleput	1950 and 1952	AI, 15
2.	Amirthamangalam	Chingleput	1954-55	IAR 1954-55 & AI, 22
3.	Kannattur	Chingleput	1955-56, 1956-57 & 1957-58	IAR 1955-56, 1956-57 & 1957-58
4.	Paiyampalli	North Arcot	1964-65 & 1967-68	IAR 1964-65 & 1967-68
5.	Perur	Coimbatore	1970-71	IAR 1970-71
6.	Sittannavasal	Pudukkottai	1975-76	IAR 1975-76 AI, 4;
7	T. Kallupatti	Madurai	1976-77 & 1979-80	IAR 1976-77 & 1979-80
8	Mottur	North Arcot	1978-79	IAR 1978-79
9.	Kambaramedu	Thanjavur	1982-83	IAR 1982-83
10.	Auroville	South Arcot	1984-85	IAR 1984-85

Note * IAR (Indian Archaeology—A Review)
**AI (Ancient India)

Railway Recruitment Boards

3913. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of guidelines laid down for the selection of Member of the Railway Recruitment Boards; and

(b) the names of the Members selected for different Railway Recruitment Boards constituted during each of the last three years, Board-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There is no post of Member in Railway Recruitment Boards. Railway Recruitment Boards comprise of a Chairman, a Member Secretary and/or an Assistant Secretary. Appointments are made to these posts in accordance with the Railway Recruitment Board (Chairmen, Member Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2000 notified on 13.11.2000 in the Gazette of India (Part-II-Section 3-Sub-Section (i)).

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Lalitpur-Singrauli Rail Line

3914. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the length of Lalitpur-Singrauli railway line;

(b) the estimated cost of this railway line;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on the construction of the said railway line; and

(d) the time by which the said railway line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho is one project under plan head New Line. Total length is 541 km.

(b) Rs. 925 crores.

(c) An amount of Rs. 0.51 cr. has been spent during 1999-2000 and an amount of Rs. 5 cr. has been provided during current year.

(d) No target date has yet been fixed.

[English]

Ordnance Inventory

3915. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is no longer relevant to procure items from centralised agencies taking into consideration the present state of our industrial development and indigenous availability of a larger proportion of items in the Ordnance inventories; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to set the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Procurement through centralised agencies is still relevant because of a large number of items being procured through captive Defence Industries. Centralised purchase provides price advantage due to bulk purchases made by the centralised agencies. Besides, quality is also assured due to various monitoring agencies of the Government like DGQA.

However, based on the Annual Provision Review (APR) of each year, a list is drawn up and circulated to various Regional Ordnance Depots for local procurement of items whose demand is limited. At present the AHQ has identified 896 items for local procurement. This list is reviewed every year and items are added/deleted depending upon the annual requirement.

Private Security Guards

3916. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government hire private security agency for guarding the 'restricted area';

(b) if so, the number of private security guards hired in Delhi along with the reasons for hiring them during the last one year;

(c) if not, the action initiated against the officials of DRDO Delhi for hiring services of private security agency,

(d) whether senior Army officials are allowed to carry classified documents at homes; and

(e) if so, the details of the relevant rules?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Forty three security guards, have been hired, including twenty five by DRDO, during the current year to perform security duties only in non-strategic and non-sensitive areas.

(c) Services of private security agencies are hired due to scarcity of DSC platoons. Hence the question of taking action does not arise.

(d) and (e) Under the existing rules, classified documents/files classified as Secret/Confidential are not permitted to be taken home by any officer below the rank of Joint Secretary or equivalent. Similarly, officers below the rank of Additional Secretary or equivalent are not authorized to carry Top Secret Documents/Files to their residences.

Composite Complex for N.C.C.

3917. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to identify and allot land for setting up of a composite complex for National Cadet Corps;

(b) if so, whether any land has since been identified by the States for setting up of the proposed complex particularly in Bangalore; and

(c) if so, the amount proposed to be provided by the Government for setting up of the said complex in States particularly in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Joint State Representatives and Deputy Directors General NCC Conference held on 13th November, 2000 recommended setting up of National Cadet Corps complexes, in which the State Governments will earmark land for these complexes. No land has so far been identified for setting up the proposed complex at Bangalore by the State Government.

Cases of Liquidation

3918. SHRI ADHIR CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time limit has been prescribed for official liquidator to take possession of the assets of the concerned company and settle the claims of different claimants against the company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases pending with each official liquidator at Mumbai High Court and the time by when the oldest case is pending with each of the official liquidator; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken for early disposal of all pending cases of liquidation of companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Official Liquidator is required to take possession of the assets forthwith in terms of Court Order. Subject to the directions of the Court, the Official Liquidator shall fix a certain day on or before which the creditors of the Company are to prove their claims. After admitting the claims, the Official Liquidator settles the list of Creditors and submits the same for approval before the Hon'ble Court in terms of the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959.

(c) 658 Companies are in liquidation with the Office of Official Liquidator, Mumbai who is assisted by one Deputy Official Liquidator (Technical) and one Deputy Director (Technical).

(d) The Government appointed a High level Committee on Law relating to Insolvency and Winding up of Companies under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi, (Retd.) Judge Supreme Court to *inter-alia* study this aspect. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government. On the basis of the recommendations of the Committee and after taking into consideration the views of the Group of Ministers (GOM), the introduction of the Bill is at an advance stage.

Recruitment of Son of Suspected ISI Agent

3919. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7051 on May 11, 2000 and state :

(a) the outcome of the enquiry conducted by Army Headquarter in this regard; and

(b) the follow up action in the matter after the receipt of the enquiry report to safeguard the National Security interest?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Upon investigation it was found that only one person, Shri Mohd. Hasim, appointed as Electrician in 505 Army Base Workshop, in February, 2000, had a direct link with a person involved with ISI Agents. Army

Headquarters have terminated the services of Shri Mohd. Hasim on 8.9.2000. Further, all units/establishments have been instructed to carry out detailed verification prior to recruiting individuals.

Corruption and Irregularities in Sports Department

3920. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details and irregularities cases in Sports Department come to the notice of the Government;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) During the last three years, a few cases of alleged irregularities pertaining to misuse of sports complex, acceptance of invalid sports certificates, improper conduct of trials for selection, fielding of non-railway candidate in Inter-Railway Sports Meet, etc. have been received. Appropriate action has been initiated on these complaints.

Oil Terminal at Masulipatnam in A.P.

3921. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has any plan to install an Oil Terminal at Masulipatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been done in this regard;

(c) if so, the route and destination of the pipeline from the Oil Terminal at Masulipatnam Port;

(d) the proposed cost of the Terminal and pipeline, and

(e) the schedule time for the completion of this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Foreign Assistance with Hydro Electric Projects

3922. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of hydro-electric projects being constructed with the foreign assistance in the country, State-wise;

(b) the present status of each of these projects, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to complete these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The details of hydro-electric projects being constructed with foreign assistance are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Hydro-Electric Projects with Foreign Assistance

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ State/ Installed Capacity [MW]	Original Commissioning Schedule	Latest Commissioning Schedule	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Nathpa Jhakri [NJPC] Himachal Pradesh 6×250	1996-97	2003-04	The construction equipments suffered severe damage due to flash floods. Diversion Tunnel has been filled with debris and boulders. Cleaning and restoration work is in progress. HRT heading excavation has been completed and 90% benching excavation has been completed. 10% invert and 30% overt concreting has been completed.

1	2	3	4	5
				Works of the dam, tunnels, desilting chambers, etc. are programmed for completion by 7/2003 so as to ensure water availability by 3/2003 for commissioning of project by 12/2003. Erection of TG equipments for Units I-VI is at various stages.
2.	Dulhasti NHPC J&K 3×130 MW	1994-95	2003-04	Diversion Tunnel completed. Works of Dam, Desilting Basin, HRT, PH and Tail Race Tunnel are in progress. 60% excavation completed in U/S HRT. Erection of 130T capacity EOT crane completed. Excavation for pressure shaft, expansion gallery, surge tank and draft tubes completed. 51.07% erection and 94% supply of hydro electro-mechnical equipment has been completed. Erection of TG equipment 67.12% completed. Overall spillway HM works 95% completed.
3.	Chamera St. II NHPC Himachal Pradesh 3×100	10th Plan	10th Plan 2004-05	Diversion tunnel excavation [heading] completed. Adit-I & II excavation to HRT completed. Excavation of HRT 51% and TRT excavation 55% completed.
4.	Dhauliganga-I NHPC Uttar Pradesh 4×70	1998-99	2004-05	Forest and defence land acquired. Private land is under acquisition. All major works awarded. 75% progress on widening of Tanakpur Tawaghat Road achieved. Heading excavation of diversion tunnel [753 m] daylighted on 12.2.2000 and benching excavation is also completed. In power house excavation of ventilation tunnel completed and main access tunnel is in progress. Excavation of Adit-2 to HRT is in progress.
5	Tuirial NEEPCO Mizoram 2×30	2005-07	2005-07	Pre-construction & infrastructural works are in progress. Technical offer for the review consultant awarded. Project area and some submergence area land acquired. Package-wise specification preparation has been started. Tenders issued for all the major packages.
6.	Ghatghar PSS Maharashtra 2×125	1995-96	2004-05	Works of approach tunnel to TRT, Approach tunnel, Link tunnel, Verification tunnel, Construction of adit, Central drift to machine Hall and Transformer Hall completed. Excavation of TRT completed and for Tail surge is in progress. Excavation of Pressure shaft is also in progress. Civil works of PH Complex, upper intake structure of cable tunnel awarded. TG sets ordered.
7.	Srisailam LBPH Andhra Pradesh 6×150	1993-95	2000-02	Excavation of PH cavern & pressure shaft tunnel completed. 99% excavation work of HRT completed. TRT & surge chamber excavation completed. Concreting to the tune of 86% in HRT 93% in TRT and 99% in Surge Chamber completed. Unit-1 : Unit Erection almost completed. Alignment and boxing up expected shortly. Unit-2 : Welding of spiral case segment completed. Inlet valve pressure tested & lowered.

1	2	3	4	5
				Unit-3 : Welding of inlet to penstock is in progress. Inlet valve lowered. Units-4,5&6 : Erection of pier nose liner completed. Concreting is in progress. Inlet valves for units 4,5& 6 installed.
8.	Purulia PSS West Bengal 4×255	2002-03	2004-06	Infrastructural works in progress. Techno-commercial evaluation completed. Evaluation of price part for Hydro-Mech. Equipment completed. Matter subjudice-unsuccessful parties have approached the Court.

Report of Group of Ministers on National Security

3923. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Group of Ministers was appointed to suggest some radical changes in the existing establishment by integrating service headquarters with the Defence Ministry;

(b) is so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said group has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by it;

(e) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented;

(f) the major changes proposed to be made in the three Defence Headquarters by implementing these recommendations; and

(g) the fields where these changes are likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) comprising Raksha Mantri, the External Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister on 17th April, 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and, in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (g) Since the GoM's Report is yet to be accepted by the Government, it is not possible to give details

Ordnance Factory at Rajgir, Bihar

3924. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an ordance factory is proposed to be set up at Rajgir in Bihar;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) the time by which the factory is likely to be operational; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that local people get priority in employment there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sanction for setting up of the factory was accorded by the Government on 26th February 1999. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared. The process of acquisition of land through the Government of Bihar for the proposed project has commenced

(c) The factory is likely to start production from 2004-2005.

(d) Recruitment of manpower for the proposed Ordnance Factory in Rajgir, Bihar will be done as per Government rules/regulations and procedures for different categories/posts. Priority in recruitment will be given to displaced persons subject to their possessing of requisite qualification and availability of vacancies.

[Translation]

Operational Cost of Diesel/Electric Rail Engines

3925. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative operational cost per kilometre of Diesel and Electric Rail engines at present;

(b) the length of Railway tracks electrified during each of the last three years till December 31, 2000;

(c) the details of the rail routes to be electrified during the remaining period of the Ninth-Five Year Plan; and

(d) the length of railway tracks proposed to be electrified during the Tenth Five-Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Comparative operational cost of running trains by different modes of traction is expressed in terms of the line haul cost. The line haul cost of passenger and goods services for diesel and electric traction (BG) in terms of Rupees per thousand Gross Tonne Kilometres for the year 1998-99 (latest figures available) are as under :

Rupees per thousand Gross Tonne Kilometres

Type of traffic	Diesel	Electric
Passenger	129.78	137.20
Goods	76.49	75.86

(b) The length of railway tracks electrified (route kilometres) during each of the last three years are as under :

Year	Railway track electrified
1997-98	445
1998-99	617
1999-2000	405
2000-2001 (Upto 31.12.2000)	88

(c) During the remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the following railway routes are planned to be electrified :

S.No.	Section	Railway
1.	Danapur-Dildarnagar (Balance portion of Sitarampur-Mughalsarai Project)	Eastern
2.	Kusunda-Jamuniatand (Complete Project)	Eastern
3.	Kita-Bondamunda (Balance portion of Bokaro-Barsuan/Kiriburu Project)	South Eastern
4.	Bakhrabad-Bhubaneshwar-Berhampur (Balance portion of East Coast Line)	South Eastern
5.	Tambaram-Chengalpattu and Chengalpattu-Arakkonam (Part of Tambaram-Villupuram Project)	Southern
6.	Roopnagar-Nangaldam (Balance portion of Sirhind-Nangaldam Route)	Northern
7.	Chalthan-Navapur (Part of Udhna-Jalgaon Project)	Western

(d) Not yet fixed.

[English]

Installed Capacity of Gersoppa Hydel Project

3926. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Power Corporation has got the first 60 MW unit of the Rs. 500 crore Gersoppa Hydel Project;

(b) if so, whether this unit has already started supplying power to the State Grid;

(c) if so, whether the total installed capacity of Gersoppa Hydel Project is 240 MWs; and

(d) if so, the extent to which this will help the State in meeting the power demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The total installed capacity of Gersoppa Hydro Project under execution by Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. is 4×60=240 MW. Its 1st Unit of 60 MW has been commissioned on 20.2.2001 at an estimated cost of Rs. 420 crores.

(d) The power supply position of Karnataka during the period April, 2000 to February, 2001 was as under :

	Energy [MUs]	Peak [MWs]
Requirement	27127	4690
Availability	24717	4371
Shortage	2410	319

Private Investment in Railway Projects

3927. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited investors in their capital intensive and long gestation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response received from the private investors;

(d) whether the Government have taken any fresh initiative to make own your wagon and BOLT schemes more investor friendly and successful;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the performance of these schemes has been reviewed recently;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the details of investments made by the corporate/ private/PSUs under these schemes so far and expected investments during the current year?

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

(b) to (h) The Government have launched several schemes to attract private sector investment in Railway sector.

1. OYWS (Own Your Wagon Scheme). The Own Your Wagon Scheme was introduced by Indian Railways in 1992 to invite private participation in ownership of railway wagons to augment the rollingstock and supplement the resources of the Railways.

2. The Build Own Lease Transfer (BOLT) scheme was launched in 1994 with a view to encouraging private sector participation in Railway infrastructure.

3. Participation in Gauge Conversion, New Line and Rail Infrastructure development Projects under a suitable framework.

Monitoring and reviewing of these schemes is a continuous process. The Own Your Wagon Scheme has been modified recently by linking the payment of lease charges with prime lending rate and corporate tax and depreciation benefits.

A number of major companies belonging to Core Sectors i.e. Oil, Cement, Power Production, Fertilizer, Steel, etc. have already participated in the OYWS scheme Upto January, 2001 wagons involving investment of Rs. 1081.61 crores approx. have been received out of orders worth Rs. 1112.80 crores. A Joint Working Group has been formed to look after grievances of the existing customers.

Investment made so far in the BOLT scheme is Rs. 15 crore approx and no investment is expected during the current year Certain modifications to the existing BOLT scheme are under the examination of Ministry of Law

Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd. has shown keen interest in participating in a Joint Venture with Ministry of Railways by contributing 50% equity to fund a project of providing BG connectivity to the Port of Pipavav costing Rs. 294 crores 2/3rd of the project cost is proposed to be funded by equity and the other 1/3rd by debt to be raised by the Joint Venture company to be formed Gujarat Adani Port Ltd. has also shown interest in building a 53 kms. long line on its own from the port of Mundra to Adipur on Gandhidham-Bhuj line.

Governments of Karnataka and A P have signed MOUs with Ministry of Railways to set up Joint Venture companies to facilitate speedy completion of certain identified projects in their respective States. The Joint Venture companies once formed may enlist participation of private sector if necessary and feasible

Track Fracture in Amritsar-Ambala Rail Track

3928. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the total length of Rail track between Amritsar and Ambala;

(b) the number of instances of track fractures confirmed on this rail track alongwith the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the Railways are unable to detect and prevent accidents from track fractures in any part of the country; and

(d) is so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) UP Line 249 km. DN line 249 Km.

(b) 17 track fractures have been confirmed on Amritsar-Ambala rail track during 2000-2001 (up to Feb. '2001). 9 cases occurred due to weld failures and 8 cases were due to rail failures.

(c) and (d) Indian Railways are carrying out Ultrasonic testing of rails in service to detect and remove in time the defective rails and welds that have potential to propagate in to rail or weld failures. The Ultrasonic testing of rails on Indian Railways has been made more intense and is under continuous improvement. Indian Railways are keeping abresh of modern technology in this regard. However, it is not possible to pre-empt all rail/weld failures by this method or any other method. Occurrence of rail and weld failures as also some derailments due to them is a global phenomenon.

LPG through Mobile LPG filling Vans in Rural Areas

3929 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide LPG through mobile LPG filling vans in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that LPG distributors in the rural areas are charging more than the actual rate of LPG cylinder; and

(d) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government against such LPG distributors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are operating LPG Rural Marketing Vehicle (RMV) on experimental basis at Tanjore (Tamil Nadu), Allahabad (U.P.), Sangrur (Punjab) and skid mounted facility at Deodhar in Gujarat.

(c) and (d) The rates chargeable are fixed on Oil Industry basis for all the markets including rural areas. However, for a location that is outside the marketing operation of distributor, additional transportation cost as approved by District Administration is recovered from the customers. Whenever any instance of over-charging by an LPG distributor comes to the notice of the Government/Oil Companies, necessary action is taken in terms of Distributorship Agreement.

[Translation]

Appointment of Ticket Agents

3930. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited applications for appointment of rail ticket agents in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these agents are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Non-Utilization of Photo Interpretation Centre by Navy

3931. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Navy has not undertaken photo *recce* missions since August 1995 and the equipment costing Rs. 16.65 crore procured for the purpose and Photo Interpretation Centre established at a cost of Rs. 40 lakh remained unutilised;

(b) if so, the logic behind purchasing the equipments and setting up of the Centre;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed and the guilty persons brought to book;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Visits by A.D.G. ASI

3932. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Additional Director General, ASI, has made many foreign visits during the last three years;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on such foreign visits;

(c) whether the ADG, ASI, has submitted the reports pertaining to his each foreign visit and particularly for his visits to Switzerland in connection with matters relating to antiquities;

(d) if so, the outcome of his visits; and

(e) the reasons for choosing him by the ASI to visit Switzerland in connection with matters relating to antiquities in place of Director for antiquity?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The decision to depute the ADG, ASI was made by the competent authority.

Statement

Sl. No.	Country Visited	Year	Expenditure Incurred (in Rs.)	Purpose of the Visits	Outcome	Whether Report Submitted
1.	France	1998	83,787/-**	To attend UNESCO meeting to discuss a draft Convention for protection of under Water Cultural Heritage.	The deliberations were inconclusive.	Yes.
2	Switzerland	1999	2,04,046/-*	In connection with an on-going court case in the Canton Court of Geneva regarding antiquities.	The case is subjudice.	Yes.
3.	Singapore	1999	Paid by organiser	To attend an exposition of Lord Buddha's sacred relics from Mulaganda Kuti Vihara, Sarnath in Singapore.	Generation of goodwill.	Yes.
4.	China	2000	84,003/-**	As part of the Government of India delegation to sign the India-China Cultural Exchange Programme.	To generate cooperation and goodwill.	Yes.
5.	France	2000	1,57,868/-**	To attend the UNESCO meeting to discuss a draft Convention for the protection of Under Water Cultural Heritage.	The deliberations were inconclusive.	Yes.

** As per the information supplied by the concerned Indian Mission/Embassy.

Cancellation of Jubilee Petrol Pump Scheme

3933. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of discrepancies have been pointed out by the Central Agencies in the allotment of petrol pumps under the Jubilee Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the petrol pumps cancelled under the scheme;

(c) whether recoveries have been made from the persons to whom petrol pumps were allotted;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the time by which recoveries are likely to be made; and

(f) the action taken against the persons responsible for allotment of such petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (f) As per the existing policy, Jubilee Retail Outlets (JROs) are operated by the concerned Oil Marketing Company itself on 'Company Owned Company Operated (COCO)' basis. An Officer of the Company is over-all in charge of the JRO. Labour assistance to the Company's Officer is provided by a labour contractor.

[Translation]

Share of Madhya Pradesh in Hirakund-Orissa

3934. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of share of Madhya Pradesh in Hirakund Hydro Power Project (Orissa);

(b) whether compensation is being paid in lieu of not supplying its share of power to Madhya Pradesh by the Government of Orissa; and

(c) if not, the amount outstanding along with the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The share of Madhya Pradesh in Hirakund Hydel Power Project (installed capacity 270 MW) is 5 MW. According to available information, Orissa is neither supplying the share of 5 MW power of Madhya Pradesh nor paying compensation for utilisation of this share. As per information received from MPEB, the total outstanding against the Orissa State Electricity Board (now GRIDCO) as on February 2001 is Rs. 65.92 crores (provisionally). This is a bilateral issue on which the two States are holding discussions for resolving the matter.

[English]

Claims against Western Paques India Ltd.

3935 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an official liquidator had been appointed in Mumbai High Court to take possession of the assets of M/s. Western Paques (India) Limited and settle the claims of different claimants against the company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present position of settlement of claims of various claimants; and

(d) the time by which the claims are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) By an Order dated 7.8.1997, the Official Liquidator attached to the High Court, Bombay had been appointed as Provisional liquidator of M/s. Western Paques (India) Limited with usual powers under the Companies Act, 1956. Subsequently, by an Order dated 13.1.1999, the said company was ordered to be wound up and the Official Liquidator has been appointed as Liquidator of the said Company. The claims shall be invited/settled in terms of Section 529 to 530 of the Companies Act, 1956 read with the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959 when the funds are available on realisation.

Sanction of Dual Operation of Retail Outlets

3936. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) the number of dual operation of retail outlets of petroleum products sanctioned/approved by the Government during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has recently directed oil PSUs to close the dual operations of retail outlets which are maintaining supplies under the Civil Court directions;

(c) if so, whether oil corporations propose to undertake responsibilities for non-compliance of directives issued by the Government; and

(d) if so, whether the Government has recently re-introduced the policy of partial re-instatement of the said scheme and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Government have directed the Oil Marketing Companies on 18.10.2000 to stop dual operation of retail outlets. Accordingly, these companies have stopped dual operation of all retail outlets except two which are run on 'dual operation basis' because of courts' orders.

As per present policy, the partial resitement of retail outlets is permitted subject to certain conditions.

Manufacturing of Submarines

3937. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has decided to manufacture 24 "Hunter" and "Killer" submarines as part of efforts to make underwater, surface and air wings of the Navy more potent by equipping them with long-range missiles;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard with France and Russia;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the process of manufacturing 24 "Hunter" and "Killer" submarines is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Government have approved a long term perspective plan for construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. Requisite technical assistance is being sought for our indigenous submarine building programme. No final decision has, however, been taken in the matter, as yet.

Inventory Holdings

3938. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of possible causes for unbalanced inventory holdings and the measures taken to overcome them;

(b) whether substantial public funds have been locked up in these unbalanced inventory holdings;

(c) the reasons of keeping obsolescence stores; and

(d) the reasons for not remaining constantly vigilant and reviewing inventory control and monitoring the wastage?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India's (CAG's) report on 'Review of Inventory Management in Ordnance Services' published under reference of Union Government (Defence Services) No. 7-A of 2000. The report of CAG of India was prepared after Director General of Audit Defence Services had conducted a study on this subject during 1999 & 2000 when its team visited five Central Ordnance Depots (CODs) *viz* at Agra, Delhi Cantonment, Jabalpur, Kanpur and Central Armoured Fighting Vehicle Depot (CAFVD) Kirkee.

The aim of the study was to carry out a special review of the inventory management policies, practices and procedures, with a view to suggesting measures to improve management of inventory held by the Central Ordnance Depots. Accordingly, a number of recommendations, have been made in the report, for consideration and implementation by the Army Ordnance Corps, in particular, as also other connected organizations like Department of Defence Production & Supplies, Directorate General of Quality Assurance and Directorate of Standardization as well as the Government.

As stated in the Defence Services Report, 2000, tabled in Parliament on 22nd December, 2000, possible causes for imbalance in inventory holdings have been indicated as:

(i) Incorrect Forecasting of Requirements

(ii) Faulty Scales

(iii) Multiple Procurement Agencies

(iv) Avoidable Delays

Based on this, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has made a number of recommendations most of which have been accepted by Government and are being implemented in a phased manner.

Tourist Centres

3939. SHRI C.N. SINGH
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY

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

(a) the number of tourist centres at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any scheme pertaining to modernisation and expansion of these centres in the country during the current financial year and Ninth Five Year Plan is under the consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (c) Identification and development of centres of tourist interest in the various States/UTs is primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments/UT Administra-

tions. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance to them for specific projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations every year depending upon the merit, interse priority of the proposals and availability of budget.

Detection of Track Fracture

3940. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have detected track fractures by using magnifying glasses;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that expensive machinery and equipment for detection of track fracture is lying un-used;

(c) if so, the reasons for not using modern methods for detection of track faults; and

(d) the most affected areas regarding track fractures during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 so far, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. This method is also used for detection of rail fractures in fish plated portion of rails.

(b) No, Sir. The machinery is being used intensively for testing of rails and welds as per laid down schedules.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The details are as follows :

Zonal Railway	Most affected section in 1999-2000	Most affected section in 2000-2001 (up to Jan.)
Central	Lonavala-Pune	Lonavala-Pune
Eastern	Jhajha-Patna-Mugal Sarai	Jhajha-Patna-Mugal Sarai
Northern	Moradabad-Gaziabad	Moradabad-Ghaziabad
North-Eastern	Katihar-Barauni	Katihar-Barauni
North-East Frontier	Guwahati-Malda	Guwahati-Malda
Southern	Chennai-Arkonam	Chennai-Arkonam
South Central	Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam	Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam
South Eastern	Raipur-Bilaspur	Raipur-Bilaspur
Western	Udhna-Jalgaon	Madar-Palanpur

Production Sharing Contracts of Oilfields

3941. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have agreed production sharing contracts for 11 discovered oilfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating States or off-shore locations;

(c) the objective of production sharing of already discovered oilfields;

(d) the annual production of oil from these 11 oilfields starting from 2001-02;

(e) whether most of these 11 oilfields are of low potential; and

(f) if so, the total estimated size of the 11 discoveries where production sharing agreements are in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Out of eleven small sized discovered fields awarded for private participation, Government have signed Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for nine fields on 23.02.2001. The State-wise details of these nine fields are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The decision of offer these oil/gas fields for private participation was taken due to the following reasons :

(i) small reserves of the fields

(ii) considerable investment required

(iii) augmentation of production

(iv) tiding over the resource crunch and

(v) application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) techniques.

(d) to (f) Incremental production from these fields is dependent upon the future development programmes and the size of reserves of the fields.

Statement

List of 9 fields for which Production Sharing Contracts were signed on 23.02.2001

S.No.	Fields	State
1.	North Balol	Gujarat
2.	Kanawara	-do-
3.	Allora	-do-
4.	Unawa	-do-
5.	North Kathana	-do-
6.	Dholasan	-do-
7.	Sanganpur	-do-
8.	Modhera	-do-
9.	Amguri	Assam

Handloom Development Schemes

3942. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are providing financial assistance to the State Governments for the development and promotion of Handloom Industry under various Centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, whether in order to provide relief to handloom weavers; a New Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers was introduced during 1997-98;

(c) whether not a single penny has been given to the State of Maharashtra and Karnataka under this scheme so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether these States have also not been given any financial assistance under another scheme called 'Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme' which was introduced during 1995-96;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government extends financial assistance to various State Governments under welfare & developmental Schemes for the benefit of handloom weavers of which a scheme called the New Insurance Scheme was also introduced in the financial year 1997-98.

(c) to (g) The State Governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka have not sent any proposals under the New Insurance Scheme or Scheme for Development of Exportable Products and Marketing to the Central Government. Financial assistance can be considered upon the receipt of viable proposals from these States.

Purchase of Stationery by Defence

3943. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether JS (Trg) & CAO sent a rate enquiry in the recent past to the Kendriya Bhandar and NCCFI for the supply of 15000 reams of A-4 size photostat paper 'Geteway' Brand valuing at nearly Rs. 18 lakhs without mentioning the specification of the paper;

(b) if so, the steps taken to enquire into the matter and bring the guilty officials to book and stop asking items by brand names and not by specifications; and

(c) the reasons for not purchasing the paper at rate contract from DGS&D?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF are the only three approved agencies for local purchase of stationery by Central Government Departments located at Delhi/New Delhi.

CBI Inquiry against ASI Officials

3944. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the CBI has registered cases against some of the officials of ASI, Bangalore Circle, and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The CBI has registered a case on 30-04-1998 against the following officials of the Bangalore Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India for embezzlement of funds and corruption :

1. Shri K.P. Poonacha, formerly Superintending Archaeologist

2. Shri C. Rangappa, Assistant Superintending Archaeological Engineer

3. Shri H.S. Rudrappa, Junior Accounts Officer

The matter is under investigation.

Investors Grievance Forum

3945. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Investors' Grievance Forum (IGF) Mumbai is providing free service in the redressal of grievances to small investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his department is providing any help to the forum in redressing the grievances of small investors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to help the forum in its task to redress the grievances of small investors?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) No information in regard to the activities of the Investors' Grievances Forum (IGF) is available with the Department as it is not registered under the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) to (e) Department has extended the possible assistance to the Forum, by taking up the complaints, sent by it, with the companies for redressal.

Indo-German Security Dialogue

3946. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Indo-German Security Dialogue' appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 27, 2001;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed on defence co-operation between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the German has agreed to lift the sanctions which were imposed after the Pokhran nuclear tests in 1998; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to ease the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The German Defence Minister and his delegation visited India in February, 2001. Delegation level talks were held between the German and the Indian delegations in which the security concerns of both the countries were discussed. No agreement was, however, signed on defence co-operation between the two countries. During the discussions, various areas of concern to Indian defence industries and R&D organisations were covered.

[Translation]

Desert Triangle of Rajasthan

3947. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of districts under desert triangle of Rajasthan;

(b) the facilities being provided by the Government to the tourists in those districts;

(c) whether the Government are aware that this area has become more important for tourist due to earthquake; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to attract more tourists in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bikaner-Barmer is an identified travel circuit which is also known as 'desert triangle of Rajasthan'.

(b) Details of infrastructure projects sanctioned by Department of Tourism, Government of India, in this area during the IX Plan period are as under :

Year	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	2	22.17
1998-99	3	53.20
1999-2000	-	-
2000-2001	1	40.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Publicity, conservation work at important monuments, creation of tourist infrastructure and organisation of fairs and festivals etc. are aimed at attracting more tourists to Rajasthan.

Earthquake Resistant Power Sub-Stations

3948. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct earthquake resistant power sub-stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) India has been divided into 5 Seismic Zones depending upon the intensity of occurrence of the earthquake. There is a provision in relevant Indian standards for designing of earthquake resistant power sub-stations and transmission lines. The transmission lines and substation are designed and maintained by Power Grid Corporation of India as per relevant Indian standards, and can withstand earthquake.

Bungling in Construction of 800 KV Anpara Unnao Line

3949. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether bungling of crores of rupees has occurred in the construction of 800 KV Anpara Unnao line;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government agency in this regard;

(c) if so, the results thereof;

(d) whether any legal action has been taken against the guilty officers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected from Government of UP/ UPPCL and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Theft of Signalling Equipment

3950. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether signalling equipment is being damaged and stolen in some section of rail track in South Central Railway;

(b) is so, whether the security personnel of South Central Railway studied the potential spots for such activity;

(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent such activities;

(d) whether any patrol along the rail track was initiated; and

(e) the steps taken to check theft in South Central Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The potential spots are Godamgura Railway Station, Wirrur-Makudi, Manikgarh-Ghatchandur, Bellampali Railway Station, Aurangabad, Uppalwai, Safilguda, Indalwai, Pune-Miraj, Manubolu, Venkatachalam-Vedayapalem.

(c) and (d) RPF Staff are being deployed for short term patrols and static pickets at the vulnerable spots to prevent such incidents.

(e) The following steps are being taken to prevent and detect theft of signalling equipment along with rail track over South Central Railway

(i) All Post and Out Post Incharges have been instructed to collect crime Intelligence pertaining to the theft of signal equipment.

(ii) Special watch is being kept on ex-convicts and old S&T offenders

(iii) Whenever any such case is reported special teams are formed to work out the case and to ensure speedy recovery of stolen Railway Property.

(iv) Static Pickets are posted at way-side stations for guarding purpose.

[Translation]

Railway Reservoirs Damaged by Earthquake

3951. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of Railway reservoirs in Western Railway had developed cracks resulting heavy seepage due to the earthquakes occurred in Gujarat on January 26, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to repair those reservoirs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Road Transport

3952. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding the reasons for preferring road transport even though the travelling by rail is cheaper and environment friendly;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES), a PSU under the Ministry of Railways has in 1996 carried out a study on decline in the share of Indian Railways in total land traffic.

(b) and (c) The report brought out that the decline in Railways share was on account of demand exceeding available capacity. In order to augment capacity, Railways have introduced new services progressively on various routes and accommodation has been augmented on several existing services.

Review of Private Sector Power Projects

3953. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the pace of implementation of approved power projects by private sector in the States;

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

(c) whether the proposal of providing financial assistance/loan for power projects to some undertakings has been rejected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Private sector power projects accorded techno-economic clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) are regularly monitored and meetings in this regard are convened from time to time by the CEA as well as the Ministry of Power. A list each of the private power projects accorded TEC, which have been commissioned and those which are under construction, is enclosed as statement-I & II.

(c) and (d) As per available information, out of the 57 private power projects so far accorded TEC by the CEA, only 17 projects have so far achieved financial closure. The foremost reasons for failure to tie-up finances are poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs), low confidence of lenders in SEBs and lack of adequate security arrangements with SEBs.

A list of the 40 TEC projects which have not been able to achieve financial closure is enclosed as statement-III.

Statement-I

Private Power Projects accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority which have been fully commissioned

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
	Gujarat	
1.	Paguthan CCGT (M/s Gujarat Power Gen Energy Corporation Limited)	654.7
2.	Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Ltd.)	515.0
3.	Baroda CCGT (M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Limited)	167.0
4.	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Limited)	250.0
	Maharashtra	
5.	Dabhol CCGT-Phase-I (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.)	740

1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
6.	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries Limited)	216
7.	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Specturam Power Generation Limited)	208
8.	Kondapally CCGT (Lanco Kondapally Power Corpn. Ltd.)	350
Karnataka		
9.	Toranagallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel Power Company Limited)	260
Tamil Nadu		
10.	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi Power Corporation Limited)	200
11.	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s. Samalpatti Power Company Pvt. Ltd.)	105 66
	Total	3666 36

Partially commissioned projects (Capacity commissioned) :

1. Jojobera TPS (M/s. Jamshedpur Power Co. Ltd.), Bihar 120 MW

Statement-II

Private Power Projects accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority which have achieved financial closure and are under construction

S.No.	Name of Project	Cap. (MW)	State	Promoter
Private Power Projects				
*	Dabhol CCGT-Phase II	1440	Maharashtra	M/s. Dabhol Power Company
1@	Jojobera TPP	240	Bihar	M/s. Jamshedpur Power Company
2	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT	330.5	Tamil Nadu	M/s. PPN Power Generating Company
3	Neyveli TPP	250	Tamil Nadu	M/s. ST/CMS Electric Company
4.	Malana HEP	86	H.P.	M/s. Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills Limited
5	Samayanallur DGPP	106	Tamil Nadu	M/s. Balaji Power Corporation Private Limited
6	Baspa HEP	300	H.P.	M/s Jaiprakash Hydro Power Ltd (JHPL).
		1312.5		

* Single TEC given to Dabhol Phase I (Commissioned) and Phase II (under construction)

@ 120 MW already commissioned.

Statement-III

Private Power Projects which have been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority and have not yet achieved closure

S.No.	Name of the Project	Cap (MW)
1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh		
1.	Vishnuprayag HEP (M/s. JPIL)	400
2.	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers)	567
3.	Srinagar HEP (M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.)	330
Rajasthan		
4.	Dholpur CCGT (M/s. RPG Dholpur Power Co. Ltd.)	702.7
5.	Barsingsar TPP (M/s. Hindustan Vidyut Corporation Ltd.)	500
Madhya Pradesh		
6.	Maheshwar HEP (M/s. S. Kumars Ltd.)	400
7.	Korba (East) TPP (M/s. Daewoo Power)	1070
8.	Bina TPP (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	578
9.	Narsinghpur CCPP (M/s. GBL Power)	166
10.	Korba (West) Extn. (M/s ITPL)	420
11.	Guna CCGT (M/s. STI Power India Ltd.)	330
12.	Pench TPP (M/s. Pench Power Ltd.)	500

1	2	3
13.	Bhilai TPP (M/s. Bhilai Power Supply Comp.)	574
14.	Raigarh TPP (M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.)	550
15.	Bhander CCGT (M/s. Bhander Power Ltd.)	342
16.	Pithampur DGPP (M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.)	119.7
17.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.)	118.63
18.	Khandwa CCGT (M/s. Madhya Bharat Energy Corp. Ltd.)	171.17
Gujarat		
19.	Jamnagar TPP (M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.)	500.00
Maharashtra		
20.	Bhadravati TPS (M/s. Central India Power)	1072
21.	Patalganga CCGT (M/s. Reliance Patalganga Power)	447.1
Andhra Pradesh		
22.	Vizag TPS (M/s. HNPCL)	1040
23.	Ramagundam Extn. (M/s. BPL Group)	520
24.	Krishnapatnam B TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.)	520
25.	Vemagiri CCGT (Ispat Power Limited)-on ICB route	492
Karnataka		
26.	Mangalore TPS (M/s. Cogentrix)	1013.2
27.	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.)	1015
28.	Bangalore CCPP (M/s. Peenya Power)	107.6
Tamil Nadu		
29.	North Madras TPS-II (M/s. Videocon Power)	1050
30.	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s. SPIC)	525
31.	North Madras TPP (M/s. Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited)	525
32.	Cuddalore TPP (M/s. Cuddalore Power Company)	1320
33.	Vembar CCGT (M/s. Indian Power Projects Limited)	1873
Kerala		
34.	Vypeen CCGT (M/s. Siasin Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	679.2
35.	Kannur CCGT (M/s. Kannur Power Projects Ltd.)	513
Orissa		
36.	Ib Valley TPS (Units 5 & 6) (AES Ib Valley Cor.)	500
37.	Duburi TPP Units 1 & 2 (Kalinga Power Corporation)	500
West Bengal		
38.	Balagarh TPS (M/s. Balagarh Power Com.)	500
39.	Bakreshwar TPP (Bakreshwar Power Gen. Co. Ltd.)	420
40.	Gouripore TPP (Gouripore Power Company)	150

[Translation]

Criminalisation of Politics

3954. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :
SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any note from the Chief Election Commissioner on the issue of efforts to stop criminalisation of politics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any reply has since been sent to the Chief Election Commissioner in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The Election Commission of India has been writing to the Government from time to time on various aspects of reform of electoral laws. In the recent past, the Government has received two letters dated 15.7.1998 and 22.11.1999 from the Chief Election Commissioner conveying *inter alia* its suggestions on the subject of checking the criminalisation of politics and recommending strengthening of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by providing that any person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for six months or more should be debarred from contesting elections for a period totalling the sentence imposed plus an additional six years. He has further suggested that any person accused of any offence punishable with imprisonment for five years or more should be disqualified after the competent court has framed charges against him.

In this connection, it may be stated that while the Government has formally acknowledged these letters of the Chief Election Commissioner, it has been in constant touch with the Commission on every step taken by it towards the reform of electoral laws in view of the fact that the Election Commission being in overall charge of conduct of elections and associated with/aware of the nitty-gritty of election procedure/practices and problems/difficulties associated with them, its views/ suggestions in this regard would be of great importance/ use. The Government has also before it the recommendations made by various other bodies/individuals like the Dinesh Goswami Committee, the Indrajit Gupta Committee, the Law Commission of India, etc. and various proposals based on their recommendations including those of the Election Commission of India are required to discussed with the political parties at the appropriate time and concretized. The process of reform of electoral laws is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties, which is a time consuming process and, therefore, no time frame can be suggested in this regard. The Government, however, intends to continue interaction with the political parties on various proposals to carry forward the process of electoral reforms.

[English]

Extra Bogies for Army Jawans

3955. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the army jawans are facing hardships for their journey due to shortage of coaches and heavy rush in trains;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide extra bogies for the army at Jammu railway station;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Some difficulties are faced by the passengers including Army Jawans during vacations and peak rush of traffic.

(b) to (d) Special trains are run and loads of trains augmented subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification.

State Funding of Election

3956. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendations made by the Indrajit Gupta Committee on Election reform;

(b) whether the Government have examined the feasibility of state funding of elections;

(c) if so, whether the Government have sought views from the various States, Ministries and Experts in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) (a) to (e) A Statement containing the gist of the recommendations of the Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee) is enclosed. In this connection, it may be stated that the comments/views of the State Governments/Union territory Administrations and different concerned Ministries/Departments in the Central Government and the Election Commission of India on these recommendations have been solicited and many of them have not so far given their response in this regard. On receipt of their comments/views, these may be discussed with the political parties as part of the process of reform of electoral laws at an appropriate time. The reform of electoral laws is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties, which is a time consuming process and, therefore, no time frame for taking a decision/action on the issue can be suggested in this regard. Government, however, intends to continue interaction with the political parties in this regard.

Statement

Gist of Recommendations of Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee)

1. State Funding of Elections The Committee has recommended, to begin with, only partial State assistance, in kind only in the form of certain facilities, to recognized political parties in a way that it provides them relief not only in carrying out their electoral activities and meeting partly the cost of essential items of electioneering campaigns of their candidates, but also helps them partially in the current administration of their day to day functioning during non-election period Gradually, more and more of their expenses' burden can be progressively shifted to the State so that ultimately all of their legitimate expenses become a charge on the State. In this respect, the Committee has recommended creation of a separate Election Fund to which the Central Government may contribute at the rate of Rs. 10/- per elector i.e. about Rs. 600/- crores annually. The State Governments also, all taken together, may contribute proportionately Rs. 600/- crores annually to the Fund.

In its report, the Committee has also specified the nature of facilities to be provided to the recognized political parties and their candidates at State cost. These include:

(I) For recognized political parties :

(i) Suitable rent-free accommodation for its headquarter.

(ii) One rent-free telephone, with STD facility with a specified number of telephone calls over and above the free calls permitted to any subscriber.

(iii) Sufficient free air time on the State owned media; certain additional time on the basis of votes polled; permission to use the allotted time for their propaganda in the manner they like and not necessarily for speeches alone.

(iv) Regulation of private channels for fair and balanced presentation of the views of all parties.

(II) For Candidates of recognized Parties :

(i) Specified quantity of petrol/diesel.

(ii) Specified quantity of paper for printing.

(iii) Postal stamps of a certain specified amount.

(iv) Five copies of electoral rolls in addition to the copies of the rolls presently being provided as per rules.

(v) For an assembly election, one set of loudspeakers and for a parliamentary election, one set of loudspeakers for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six such sets.

(vi) For an assembly election, one telephone with a specified number of free calls, and for a parliamentary election, at the rate of one telephone for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six telephones.

(vii) On the day of poll, some minimum arrangements may be made for the candidates' camps at each polling station.

(viii) Supply of refreshments and food packets to the counting agents inside the counting hall.

2. Maintenance of Accounts by Political Parties and Audit thereof:

(i) Political parties should compulsorily submit their annual accounts regularly to the Income Tax Authorities showing all details of their receipts and expenditure.

(ii) No political party which has failed to submit its annual return for the previous assessment year under the Income Tax Act should be eligible for any State funding.

(iii) The Chartered Accountant may be selected by the political party itself. The Income Tax authorities will, however, be free to have a further check by their own agencies of returns submitted by parties.

(iv) Each party receiving State subsidy should also file a complete account of its election expenditure during an election to the Election Commission in the format prescribed by the Commission.

(v) All subscriptions, donations received by a party above the amount of Rs. 10,000/- should be by means of a cheque/bank draft and should be mentioned in party accounts.

3. Ban on donation by Companies to political parties:

The question whether there should be any ban on donations by companies and corporate bodies for political purposes may be decided by the Government and Parliament in their collective wisdom. Ban on donations by Government Companies for political purposes should continue.

4. Inclusion of expenses of political parties in the Election expenses of candidates for the purpose of ceiling on Election expenses:

The question whether election expenses of political parties and other bodies or associations and individuals be included or not in the accounts of election expenses of candidates may be decided by the Government/ Parliament in their collective wisdom. However, apparent contradiction between the provistions of Section 77(1), Explanation 1 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 and Section 171H of Indian Penal Code needs to be resolved as the former permits political parties and all other bodies or associations or individuals to make election expenses for any candidate without his authorization whereas the latter prohibits it.

5. Empowering of the Election Commission of India to fix ceiling on Election expenses before every general election.

Periodic revision of election expenses may continue to be done by the Central Government in consultation with the Election Commission of India as at present.

[Translation]

Allotment of Kerosene to States

3957. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its report sent to the Government has raised an objection that more allotment of kerosene was made to

the economically rich States in comparison to economically weaker States during the recent years and stated that equal criteria was not adopted while making per capita annual allotment;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure equal allotment of kerosene to all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis i.e. last year's allocation plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level based on the principle of giving higher increase to the States with lower per capita availability so as to reduce inter-State disparity.

[English]

Computerisation in Office of Registrar of Companies

3958. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to computerise all the offices of Registrar of Companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the offices of the Registrar of Companies are likely to be made paper less initially?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The computerisation of the offices of the Registrar of Companies is an ongoing process. The functions of Name approval and the Receipt Counters at the offices of Registrars of Companies have already been computerised.

(c) The offices of Registrar of Companies will use less paper as computerisation progresses.

CBI Cases against Oil Companies

3959. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case against some officials of the IOC, IBP, HPCL, BPCC and Gujarat State Sales Tax Department and 13 private firms for causing a huge revenue loss between 1997 and 2000;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the details of persons involved therein;

(c) the modus operandi adopted in this regard;

(d) whether the inquiry has since been completed,

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the departmental action taken against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat has registered a case against unknown officials of the IOC, IBP, HPCL, BPCL and Gujarat Sales Tax Department and 13 other private parties.

(d) to (f) The Central Bureau of Investigation has not yet completed the investigation.

Oilfields Acquired by Reliance Petroleum

3960. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Company has acquired some oilfields explored and drilled by the ONGC.

(b) if so, the number of such potential fields offered to Reliance Petroleum Company and how much surface area it covers in each State, State-wise.

(c) whether the extraction of oil out of the above fields have since been started or not, and

(d) if so, the output of oil per day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government have signed Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) with the consortium of M/s Enron Oil & Gas India Ltd. (EOGIL) and M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) for development and production of oil and gas from two oil and gas fields, namely Panna & Mukta field and Mid & South Tapti field of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC). Both these fields are situated in Western Offshore and cover 1207 sq. km and 1471 sq. km respectively. The share of ONGC, EOGIL and RIL in these fields is 40%, 30% and 30% respectively.

(c) and (d) The average daily production of oil/ condensate and gas during the month of February, 2001 from these fields are as under :

Name of field	Oil (TPD)*	Gas (MMSCMD)**	Condensate (TPD)*
Panna & Mukta Oil field	4167	2.7	-
Mid & South Tapti gas fields	-	5.51	275

* TPD–Tonnes Per Day

** MMSCMD - Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Foreign Funds

3961. DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount received from foreign countries for power projects in the country during the last three years and in current year upto February, 2001; and

(b) the amount out of it spent out and the balance amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Funds committed for a project are released in phases depending upon expenditure requirements. The details of utilization of external assistance received for power projects in the country during the last three years and in current year upto January, 2001 and the balance amount are given below :

Year	Revised Estimate (Rs. Crore)	Actual Utilization (Rs. Crore)	Balance amount (Rs. Crore)
1997-98	4372.85	3868.21	504.64
1998-99	4004.00	4012.09	(-) 8.09
1999-2000	3138.58	3242.94	(-) 104.36
2000-2001 (Upto Jan. 2001)	3753.60	1845.19	1908.41

Selection Procedure for Petroleum Dealers

3962. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given directions to the public sector oil companies for making the selection procedure for the petroleum dealers transparent and for adopting uniform procedure in this regard; and

(b) if so, the amendments proposed to be made by the Government in the selection procedure and the manner in which it is proposed to be made transparent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) and (b) Recently, the Government have revised the guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products, to provide for a transparent, uniform, fair and faster procedure for selection. In order to make selection of dealers/distributors, the Government have constituted 59 new Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) all over the country with the following composition :

(i) A retired judge of a High Court/Retired District Judge/Retired Additional District Judge. —Chairman

(ii) An Officer of the concerned Oil Company not below the rank of Deputy General Manager or Chief Manager, depending on availability. —Member

(iii) An Officer of another Oil Company not below the rank of Deputy General Manager or Chief Manager depending on availability. —Member

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products through advertisements. After scrutiny of the applications, candidates found eligible are interviewed by the DSBs for selection on merit.

[English]

Sale of Lubricants at Cheaper Rates

3963. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5017 on December 21, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the oil corporations are selling lubricants to their lube distributor and exclusive show rooms on cheaper rates as compared to the outlet dealers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the present dealer's commission structure does not provide any provision for dealers remuneration;

(d) if so, whether the profits of free trade products can be deducted out of the cost break-up of products covered under APM; and

(e) the time by which the system is likely to be made applicable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Lubricants are decontrolled products. The prices of lubricants for different market segments like distributors, retail outlets dealers are fixed by the oil companies depending upon the individual marketing strategy. The basic price invoiced for lube distributors and retail oulet dealers of Indian Oil Corporation are same. However, the lube distributors are given marginally higher incentive to compete in the open market. The price of IBP Co. Ltd. to its lube distributors is lower as compared to the price for retail outlets dealers. The billing price of lubricants to lube distributors and retail outlet dealers of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is identical. However various incentive and sales promotion schemes are offered to different channels from time to time. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited sells lubricants to its retail outlet dealers at company's basic selling price whereas lubricants are supplied to lube distributors at discount to the basic selling price

(c) to (e) Like prices of lubricants, oil companies administer the dealers' commission for sale of lubricants. Government does not go into the pricing of lubes.

IOCL Equity in HPCL Sponsored Mangalore-Bangalore Pipeline

3964. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has sought 26 per cent equity in the Hindustan Petro Chemical Limited sponsored Mangalore-Bangalore pipeline;

(b) if so, the details of special incentive for Indian Oil Corporation Limited in seeking this equity;

(c) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has sufficient funds for the investment purpose; and

(d) if so, the surplus funds available with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited with various Banks and financial institutions as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) . (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) had conveyed their interest for picking up 26 percent equity in Petronet MHB Limited, a joint venture company promoted by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Petronet India Limited (PIL) for construction and operation of Mangalore-Hassan-Bangalore Pipeline.

IOCL being in the business of refineries, pipelines & marketing and having 50.6 percent market share in Southern Region, it is considered beneficial to IOCL to have the equity in this pipeline.

PIL Board, however, did not approve participation of IOCL in Petronet MHB Limited.

Fire in Shramjeevi Express

3965. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Train coaches catch fire" appearing in the 'Hindu' dated February 27, 2001;

(b) if so, the number of passengers killed and injured therein alongwith the compensation paid to each of them;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

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

(b) No passenger was killed or injured in this accident. As no claim has been filed by any claimant in Railway Claims Tribunal, so far, hence, no compensation has been paid.

(c) to (e) This accident is being inquired into by the Commisssioner of Railway Safety/Northern Circle and final report is awaited

Import of Diamond from Congo

3966. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to buy diamond from Congo for polishing and cutting;

(b) whether any contract has been made by the Government with Congo in this regard;

(c) if not, whether the Government are considering to eliminate the middlemen system from this trade; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) The Government of India have been encouraging the efforts of Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), a representative autonomous body of trade, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to directly import rough diamonds from the diamond mining countries. The GJEPC had sent a 9 member delegation to the Democratic Republic of Congo, to explore the possibilities of purchase of rough diamonds by directly participating in the tenders as are floated by Societe Minere de Bakwanga (MIBA).

[Translation]

Pension Fund

3967 SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dave Committee's suggestion for setting up a pension fund for the unorganised sector 'Project Oasis' is under the Government's consideration; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision would be taken on this?

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

(b) Discussions are going on to decide on the operational framework of the scheme in which several agencies are involved. It will, therefore, take some time for taking a final decision.

[English]

Economic Growth

3968. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CII has supported the idea that an 8 to 10 per cent growth is sustainable;

(b) if so, whether the CII has analysed the situation and suggested that it is time to move the focus away from short-term indicators to a medium and long-term outlook, looking beyond April, 2001;

(c) if so, whether these decisions have made industry confident that the economy would witness a GDP growth of 9 to 10 per cent over the next decade, and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has stated that 8 percent per annum gross domestic product (GDP) growth is within reach and can be sustained. CII has listed 24 reasons for this medium term forecast, looking beyond 2001. Further CII's analysis shows that GDP can actually grow at 10 percent annually if the reform agenda is implemented faster than expected. The suggestions and recommendations received from various organisations and the trends in the economy are kept in view while framing economic policies. The Planning Commission has just initiated the exercises for formulating the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). Alternative growth scenarios are being examined as a part of these exercises.

Export to Latin American Countries

3969. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's exports to Latin American countries has witnessed a 42 percent growth during the first quarter of this fiscal year;

(b) if so, whether the efforts of the Government to enhance trade with Latin American countries have resulted in sharp increase in India's exports to the region;

(c) if so, the extent to which the Government are confident to imporve the position further;

(d) the total imports and exports from Latin American during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(e) the extent to which these figures were more in comparison the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The export may increase substantially during the fiscal year 2001-2002.

(d) Total imports & exports from Latin America during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(in US $ million)

Year	Imports	Exports
1999-2000 (April-March)	863.64	693.75
2000-2001 (April-October)	410.78	525.30

(e) Comparison on Year-to-Year Basis for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(in US $ million)

Year	Export	Change	Import	Change
1998-99 (April-March)	611.31	-	730.69	-
1999-2000 (April-March)	693.75	(+)82.44	863.64	(+)132.95
1999-2000 (April-Oct.)	389.96	-	557.04	-
2000-2001 (April-Oct.)	525.30	(+)135.34	410.78	(-)146.26

Vacant Posts in State Bank of Indore

3970. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of Head Clerks converted into Special Assistants by the State Bank of Indore so far, branch-wise;

(b) the number of posts of Head Clerks not converted so far;

(c) the reasons for not converting these posts till now;

(d) whether it is a fact that the bank has issued circular letter on 14th December, 2000 and some employees of the bank had submitted their options for conversion has not been considered till now;

(e) if so, the reasons for delay to accept their requests for conversion; and

(f) by when their options for conversion into Special Assistants are likely to be considered by the bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) State Bank of Indore has reported that 254 posts of Head Clerks have been converted into Special Assistants in different branches/offices of the bank since 1992-93. However, six posts of Head Clerks have not been converted to Special Assistants.

(c) The bank has not converted these posts as out of 6 persons, 4 have not opted for conversion and in remaining two cases one is ineligible and in one case a disciplinary case is pending.

(d) Yes, Sir. The option received from 7 eligible Head Clerks have been accepted.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

White Paper on Indian Film Industry

3971. SHRI N.N. KRISHANADAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the name of the film financiers and producers in the country and income tax collected from them during each of the last three years;

(b) the modus operandi adopted to enmass such huge wealth;

(c) whether the Government are considering to bring out a White Paper of Indian Film Industry since the industry is controlled by Mafia dons and black money holders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

Companies Referred to BIFR

3972. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government to consider the revival proposal for Keltron Rectifiers Limited and Keltron Power Devices Limited and remove them from the purview of BIFR;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

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

Grant to NGOs

3973. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Economic Affairs released a sum of Rs. 1 crore prematurely to a Non-Governmental Organisation in November, 1994;

(b) if so, the details of NGO alongwith reasons for releasing the amount prematurely and is there any proposal to investigate the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to ensure that henceforth no amount is released prematurely to any NGO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) A grant of Rs. 30.00 lakhs was released in September, 1994 to Acharyakul, an organisation established by Vinobaji, for meeting part of expenditure on activities relating to economic development of backward areas through guidance, training and other help in connection with celebrating 125th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji, Birth Centenary of Vinobaji and Golden Jubilee of Independence during 1994-97. It was decided at that time to make a provision of Rs. 1.00 crore as grant to Acharyakul for the next two years.

A further grant of Rs. 1.00 crore was released to Acharyakul in Nov., 1994 (in addition to Rs. 30.00 lakhs released in Sept., 1994). The grants in aid were released, *inter alia*, keeping in view the theme of Gandhian Economics and Economic Development of backward areas through guidance, training and other help.

[Translation]

Credit Deposit Ratio of Regional Rural Banks

3974. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the credit deposit ratio of each Regional Rural Bank of the country during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by these banks to provide adequate loans for implementation of various development projects particularly in the field of agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The credit deposit ratio of each Regional Rural Bank (RRB) during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The RRBs as an integral part of the rural credit delivery system, are meeting all genuine credit requirements of the borrowers in their respective areas of operations. The total disbursement by RRBs has improved from Rs. 2316 crore in 1994-95 to Rs. 6938 crore in 1999-2000. The RRBs have been providing production as well as investment credit for agriculture and allied activities. They are also playing a crucial role through an innovative credit delivery mechanism by promoting the concept of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and linking them with bank credit, provision of agriculture crop loans through Kisan Credit Cards etc. The RRBs are also providing loans for rural industries, artisans, retail trade/business, small transport operation, professional/self-employed persons, consumption and other purposes in rural areas. The RRBs have been actively participating in various Government sponsored programmes *viz.* poverty alleviation, employment generation etc..

Statement

CD Ratio of Regional Rural Banks during the Period 1998-2000

S. No.	Name of RRB	CD Ratio as on 31 March, 1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Haryana Ksh. Gramin Bank	50.5	49.2	48.2
2.	Gurgaon Gramin Bank	40.2	41.7	40.9
3.	Hissar-Sirsa Ksh. Gramin Bank	64.4	68.0	70.0
4.	Ambala Kurukshetra Gramin Bank	61.8	65.5	66.8
5.	Himachal Gramin Bank	22.6	21.9	23.8
6.	Parvatiya Gramin Bank	29.2	23.9	24.2
7.	Jammu Rural Bank	22.4	20.7	19.1
8.	Ellaqui Dehati Bank	30.8	16.7	14.4
9.	Kamraj Rural Bank	20.0	19.6	16.9
10.	Shivalik Ksh. Gramin Bank	30.9	29.2	27.5
11.	Kapurthala-Feroezpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	50.2	42.7	37.9

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Gurdaspur-Amritsar Ksh. Gramin Bank	40.0	32.9	29.2
13.	Malwa Gramin Bank	61.1	59.2	58.4
14.	Faridkot Bhatinda Ksh. Gramin Bank	54.6	60.6	58.6
15.	Jaipur Nagaur Anchlik Gramin Bank	23.4	23.2	29.4
16.	Marwar Gramin Bank	32.9	32.8	33.2
17.	Shekhawati Gramin Bank	48.9	42.0	36.7
18.	Marudhar Ksh. Gramin Bank	30.6	34.5	39.8
19.	Alwar-Bharatpur Anchlik Gramin Bank	37.1	39.7	46.8
20.	Aravali Ksh. Gramin Bank	50.2	50.0	49.1
21.	Hadoti Ksh. Gramin Bank	44.9	45.8	45.7
22.	Mewar Anchlik Gramin Bank	28.4	28.4	31.0
23.	Thar Anchlik Gramin Bank	40.2	40.2	45.7
24.	Bundi-Chittorgarh Ksh. Gramin Bank	59.7	61.6	61.7
25.	Bhilwara-Ajmer Ksh. Gramin Bank	68.6	57.7	60.8
26.	Dungarpur-Banswara Ksh. Gramin Bank	40.7	42.2	42.9
27.	Sriganganagar Ksh. Gramin Bank	52.2	54.8	54.4
28.	Bikaner Ksh. Gramin Bank	57.1	57.3	73.2
29.	Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank	85.9	99.0	111.9
30.	Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank	44.8	39.0	33.5
31.	Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank	18.5	17.3	16.7
32.	Cachar Gramin Bank	25.5	22.4	23.9
33.	Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank	36.7	30.3	28.3
34.	Subansiri Gaonlia Bank	24.8	20.7	18.4
35.	Manipur Rural Bank	46.7	43.2	34.5
36.	Khasi Jaintia Rural Bank	27.3	28.5	26.9
37.	Mizoram Rural Bank	33.5	28.9	34.8
38.	Nagaland Rural Bank	27.4	37.8	30.3
39.	Tripura Gramin Bank	46.7	38.3	32.6
40.	Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank	35.5	34.8	30.8
41	Champaran Ksh. Gramin Bank	28.2	25.1	25.0
42.	Magadh Gramin Bank	30.8	27.4	24.3
43.	Kosi Ksh. Gramin Bank	32.2	29.5	21.1
44.	Vaisali Ksh. Gramin Bank	36.7	24.6	17.8
45.	Monghyr Ksh. Gramin Bank	31.3	23.4	22.3
46.	Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank	24.7	24.5	24.6
47.	Madhubani Ksh. Gramin Bank	32.1	24.4	17.8
48.	Nalanda Gramin Bank	34.6	27.9	21.3
49.	Singhbhum Ksh. Gramin Bank	30.3	24.5	22.7
50.	Mithila Ksh. Gramin Bank	29.4	18.3	15.3
51.	Samastipur Ksh. Gramin Bank	22.5	21.3	21.2
52.	Palamau Ksh. Gramin Bank	33.4	31.3	31.7
53.	Ranchi Ksh. Gramin Bank	29.4	29.3	28.8
54.	Gopalganj Ksh. Gramin Bank	21.6	17.5	14.0
55.	Saran Ksh. Gramin Bank	31.1	27.0	26.4
56.	Siwan Ksh. Gramin Bank	20.2	18.2	17.1
57.	Giridih Ksh. Gramin Bank	31.2	28.8	31.4
58.	Hajaribagh Ksh. Gramin Bank	21.9	21.8	21.6
59.	Patliputra Gramin Bank	28.1	28.0	26.3
60.	Bhagalpur Banka Ksh. Gramin Bank	49.6	43.7	35.3
61.	Begusarai Ksh. Gramin Bank	24.5	18.5	19.4
62.	Puri Gramin Bank	48.6	54.5	59.8
63.	Bolangir Anchlik Gramin Bank	46.2	41.9	39.3
64.	Cuttack Gramin Bank	58.9	47.1	46.4
65.	Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank	67.2	69.7	66.4
66.	Kalahandi Anchlik Gramin Bank	67.3	59.7	64.4
67.	Baitarani Gramin Bank	43.2	40.7	41.4
68.	Balasore Gramin Bank	64.1	53.8	34.9
69.	Rushikulya Gramin Bank	50.5	42.7	41.0
70.	Dhenkanal Gramin Bank	75.3	71.3	70.8
71.	Gaur Gramin Bank	44.7	42.5	38.2
72.	Mallabhum Gramin Bank	34.2	33.9	34.7
73.	Mayurakshi Gramin Bank	37.5	37.1	33.0
74.	Uttar Banga Ksh. Gramin Bank	44.6	39.5	38.9
75.	Nadia Gramin Bank	37.2	36.4	30.9
76.	Sagar Gramin Bank	26.5	23.1	21.5
77.	Bardhaman Gramin Bank	31.6	27.9	28.8
78.	Howrah Gramin Bank	27.5	26.5	25.5
79.	Murshidabad Gramin Bank	35.3	32.5	34.0
80.	Kshetriya Gramin Bank Hosangabad	52.5	52.3	49.0
81.	Bilaspur-Raipur Ksh. Gramin Bank	30.0	32.7	28.1
82.	Rewa-Sidhi Gramin Bank	33.8	28.3	25.7
83.	Bundelkhand Ksh. Gramin Bank	29.5	25.8	26.7

1	2	3	4	5
84.	Sharda Gramin Bank	28.4	28.0	25.3
85.	Surguja Ksh. Gramin Bank	22.7	24.2	21.6
86.	Bastar Ksh. Gramin Bank	26.4	26.5	25.0
87.	Durg-Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank	40.3	39.9	33.8
88.	Jhabua-Guna Ksh. Gramin Bank	48.5	52.1	52.8
89.	Raigarh Ksh. Gramin Bank	24.2	24.2	23.2
90.	Shivpuri-Guna Ksh. Gramin Bank	30.4	31.5	32.1
91.	Damoh-Panna-Sagar Ksh. Gramin Bank	21.3	21.6	22.2
92.	Dewash-Shajapur Ksh. Gramin Bank	33.3	43.1	44.3
93.	Nimar Ksh. Gramin Bank	45.8	44.2	40.6
94.	Mandla-Balaghat Ksh. Gramin Bank	22.9	21.1	22.8
95.	Chhindwara-Seoni Ksh. Gramin Bank	33.6	33.9	36.3
96.	Rajgarh-Sehore Ksh. Gramin Bank	39.7	44.6	41.9
97.	Shahdol Ksh. Gramin Bank	20.6	19.7	20.2
98.	Ratlam-Mandsaur Ksh. Gramin Bank	40.2	38.2	33.2
99.	Chambal Ksh. Gramin Bank	46.7	37.6	43.0
100.	Kahakaushal Ksh. Gramin Bank	30.0	21.7	22.4
101.	Indore-Ujjain Ksh. Gramin Bank	51.9	55.0	51.7
102.	Gwalior-Datia Ksh. Gramin Bank	48.4	42.7	41.1
103.	Vidisha-Bhopal Ksh. Gramin Bank	52.6	48.9	51.8
104.	Prathama Bank	53.4	53.0	50.4
105.	Gorakhpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	29.2	28.3	30.1
106.	Samyut Ksh. Gramin Bank	16.1	12.2	12.6
107.	Barabanki Gramin Bank	20.9	21.8	21.9
108.	Raebareli Ksh. Gramin Bank	23.8	20.5	21.3
109.	Farrukhabad Gramin Bank	30.2	27.0	28.1
110.	Bhagirath Gramin Bank	19.1	19.3	18.2
111.	Ballia Ksh. Gramin Bank	34.3	30.9	27.7
112.	Sultanpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	36.8	36.8	34.8
113.	Avadh Gramin Bank	23.4	23.5	23.8
114.	Kanpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	33.6	32.0	31.1
115.	Srawasti Gramin Bank	41.1	42.7	43.5
116.	Etawah Ksh. Gramin Bank	54.6	43.5	32.6
117.	Kisan Gramin Bank	36.2	36.4	34.3
118.	Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank	53.2	51.0	46.9
119.	Kashi Gramin Bank	35.1	30.6	28.2
120.	Basti Gramin Bank	29.8	29.8	28.3
121.	Allahabad Ksh. Gramin Bank	30.9	25.9	23.8
122.	Pratapgarh Ksh. Gramin Bank	24.9	22.5	21.0
123.	Faizabad Ksh. Gramin Bank	25.0	22.0	23.7
124.	Fatehpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	28.2	27.7	28.6
125.	Bareilly Ksh. Gramin Bank	27.1	31.4	33.0
126.	Devipatan Ksh. Gramin Bank	20.9	19.4	18.7
127.	Aligarh Ksh. Gramin Bank	43.7	42.4	40.1
128.	Tulsi Gramin Bank	39.9	38.4	37.2
129.	Etah Gramin Bank	53.1	51.5	46.0
130.	Gomti Gramin Bank	34.8	32.9	30.1
131.	Chhatrasal Gramin Bank	35.3	36.1	33.2
132.	Ranilakshmi Bai Ksh. Gramin Bank	38.0	39.5	34.4
133.	Vidur Gramin Bank	25.9	26.5	27.8
134.	Shahjahanpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	40.6	45.2	48.3
135.	Nainital-Almora Ksh. Gramin Bank	43.5	41.8	45.7
136.	Vindhyavasini Gramin Bank	50.4	45.6	47.7
137.	Sarayu Gramin Bank	28.2	32.0	35.9
138.	Jamuna Gramin Bank	52.9	43.9	40.5
139.	Muzaffarnagar Ksh. Gramin Bank	29.3	31.8	31.4
140.	Pithoragarh Ksh. Gramin Bank	29.5	26.2	26.4
141.	Ganga-Yamuna Gramin Bank	34.7	30.4	29.0
142.	Alaknanda Gramin Bank	22.0	21.5	23.1
143.	Hindon Gramin Bank	27.9	30.3	29.5
144.	Kutch Gramin Bank	32.7	36.6	36.7
145.	Jamnagar Gramin Bank	50.7	51.6	59.9
146.	Banaskantha-Mehsana Gramin Bank	46.4	46.7	50.5
147.	Panchmahal Gramin Bank	62.0	56.8	56.8
148.	Surender Nagar Bhav Nagar Gr. Bank	46.4	55.0	60.8
149.	Valsad-Dangs Gramin Bank	43.8	39.9	40.3
150.	Surat-Bharuch Gramin Bank	72.7	75.5	69.2
151.	Sabarkantha-Gandhinagar Gr. Bank	38.6	39.6	34.0
152.	Junagadh-Amreli Gramin Bank	45.9	47.0	49.4
153.	Marathwada Gramin Bank	55.8	56.0	49.4
154.	Aurangabad-Jalna Gramin Bank	68.0	70.5	71.8
155.	Chandrapur-Gadchiroli Gramin Bank	37.8	36.5	35.5

1	2	3	4	5
156.	Akola Gramin Bank	62.0	38.1	45.9
157.	Ratnagiri-Sindhudurga Gramin Bank	51.3	50.1	48.1
158.	Solapur Gramin Bank	74.5	78.4	88.4
159.	Bhandara Gramin Bank	45.4	45.7	42.6
160.	Yavatmal Gramin Bank	41.7	41.8	37.2
161.	Buldhana Gramin Bank	91.2	81.5	78.7
162.	Thane Gramin Bank	21.4	13.8	11.8
163.	Nagarjuna Grameen Bank	52.2	49.2	50.9
164.	Rayalseema Grameen Bank	85.7	79.9	71.5
165.	Sri Visakha Grameen Bank	52.1	50.4	51.8
166.	Sree Anantha Grameen Bank	85.1	70.1	74.4
167	Shri Venketeshwara Grameen Bank	83.6	75.1	73.8
168.	Sri Saraswathi Grameen Bank	47.4	46.5	45.4
169.	Sangameshwra Grameen Bank	70.1	78.0	74.9
170.	Manjira Grameen Bank	94.7	88.6	85.5
171.	Pinakini Grameen Bank	85.3	73.1	72.6
172.	Kakathiya Grameen Bank	83.2	72.9	71.0
173.	Chaitanya Grameen Bank	60.5	67.1	61.9
174.	Shri Sathavahana Grameen Bank	67.8	67.0	61.6
175.	Golconda Grameen Bank	45.7	47.6	46.8
176.	Sri Rama Grameen Bank	83.3	69.1	64.2
177.	Kanakadurga Grameen Bank	87.7	82.0	75.3
178.	Godavari Grameen Bank	108.1	91.8	74.7
179.	Tungabhadra Gramin Bank	91.9	89.7	91.9
180.	Malaprabha Gramin Bank	95.5	81.8	79.4
181.	Cauvery Gramin Bank	85.8	93.2	81.7
182.	Krishna Gramin Bank	88.9	87.2	81.8
183.	Chitradurga Gramin Bank	90.6	78.4	81.9
184.	Kalpatharu Gramin Bank	65.7	60.4	62.9
185.	Kolar Gramin Bank	80.3	71.7	69.3
186.	Bijapur Gramin Bank	92.9	80.3	79.2
187.	Chikmagalur-Kodagu Gramin Bank	94.1	93.6	85.0
188.	Sahyadri Gramin Bank	89.9	75.7	75.2
189.	Netravati Gramin Bank	75.5	77.8	82.8
190.	Varada Gramin Bank	97.0	103.1	105.0
191.	Visveshwaraya Gramin Bank	72.6	69.7	72.0
192.	South Malabar Gramin Bank	123.8	120.2	115.0
193.	North Malabar Gramin Bank	130.6	118.8	118.7
194.	Pandyan Gramin Bank	69.0	61.2	56.8
195.	Adhiyaman Gramin Bank	86.1	80.1	76.1
196.	Vallalar Gramin Bank	86.5	83.2	70.5
	Total	44.4	42.0	40.9

[English]

Export Import of Telecom Equipments

3975. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had collected the reliable data on prices on switching equipments for Public Switching Telecom Network (PSTN) products in various countries before allowing trade in telecom switching equipments by the multinational companies,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the details of import and export of telecom equipments during the last three years, item-wise, value-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the fresh steps taken/proposed by the Government to promote the export of telecom equipments from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Import of electronic public switching including SPC type but excluding EPABX/ EPAX/key telephone system as classified under Exim Code No. 85173000.50 of ITC (HS) classification of Export and Import items has been free since prior to 1.4.1996. Import of other type of electronic public switching systems was made free with effect from 1.4.1999.

(c) The requisite information is given in enclosed statement.

(d) Exports of these products are entitled to duty neutralisation/remission under various Export Promotion Schemes in the EXIM Policy.

Statement

Import/Export of Telecom Equipments

(Value Rs. Lakhs)

Items	Imports			Exports		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (Upto Oct. 2000)	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (Upto Oct. 2000)
Push Button Type	51.56	321.89	853.69	919.13	575.85	231.34
Rotary Dial Type	-	3.48	0.80	-	0.02	-
Cordless	1374.76	1469.58	438.79	32.11	12.39	17.86
Others	1195.87	1092.78	956.94	268.49	89.33	99.80
Other telephone sets & Videophone	683.43	2208.64	1086.92	227.39	99.39	125.39
Fascimile machine (Fax)	4476.00	4154.54	2318.56	28.06	0.23	19.01
Teleprinters	1.50	118.21	25.95	7.52	35.22	16.29
Stroager Exchange	381.07	3349.26	2910.79	19.76	78.87	123.36
Cross bar Exchange	1.78	-	7.85	-	1.47	-
Electronic Switching incl. SPC Type	2753.77	676.64	1425.21	329.62	434.37	4.99
EPABX/EPAX/Intercom	1196.44	1706.16	180.54	174.14	238.96	70.99
Date Communication equipment including interface/multiplexers	2830.47	3660.11	491.71	260.72	547.38	70.14
Others	4311.04	7132.53	3624.26	582.37	960.32	481.74
PLCC equipment	229.07	431.33	10873.27	244.70	84.58	37.79
Voice frequency Telegraphy	6.89	144.02	77.43	0.52	3.87	0.33
Modems (modulators-demodulators)	3792.73	5601.62	3546.44	42.67	158.13	239.98
Others	5737.34	3074.25	6072.10	275.88	160.96	406.20
Other Apparatus	2822.94	2320.77	2951.49	603.43	331.38	98.34
Parts of Telephonic/Telegraphic apparatus	14883.04	33782.61	18315.33	1532.44	2156.94	1817.50
Total	46730.00	71248.42	56158.37	5548.95	5969.65	3861.05

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

United India Insurance Company Limited

3976. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5248 on December 22, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the information has been collected by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay and the time when it is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The United India Insurance Company Limited is yet to furnish complete information in respect of Unstarred Question No. 5248. On receipt of the information from the Company, the same will be compiled and laid on the Table of the House.

Realistic Exchange Rate Management Policy

3977. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to formulate a realistic exchange rate management policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The day-to-day movements in exchange rates are largely determined by demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market in India and are also influenced to some extent by the developments in international currency markets. The developments in the financial markets in India and abroad are monitored closely both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and appropriate measures are taken, when necessary, to reduce excessive volatility in the exchange rate, prevent the emergence of destabilizing speculative activities, develop orderly foreign exchange market conditions and to help maintain adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

Cost of Production of Tea

3978. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN
SHRI M.K. SUBBA

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

(a) the average cost of production of tea in different States alongwith the labour cost;

(b) the difference between the average cost of production of tea in India and those of the neighbouring countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and China; and

(c) the comparative cost of imported tea from these countries and others alongwith the custom duty thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The average cost of production of tea and labour cost in major tea producing States in given below :

Cost of Production (Rs./kg)

Districts/States	Cost of Production		Cost of Labour*
	Minimum	Maximum	
Assam Valley	54.00	67.00	34.10
Cachar	49.00	59.00	29.35
Dooars	53.00	63.00	31.80
Terai	53.00	62.00	31.80
Darjeeling	130.00	170.00	31.80
Tripura	44.00	50.00	Not available
Tamil Nadu	---	64.20	62.63
Kerala	---	71.70	64.19
Karnataka	---	42.61	56.25

* Denotes daily wages only. Apart from this, the labourers are entitled for plucking incentives and other benefits like housing, medical facilities, subsidized food, educational benefits etc.

(b) The cost of production of tea in India is higher than those in other tea producing countries including Sri Lanka. The cost of production of tea in North India is US $ 1.62 per kg and in South India it is US $ 1.48 per kg whereas in Sri Lanka it is US $ 1.46 per kg. While the difference between average cost of production of Sri Lankan tea and tea produced in North India is US $ 0.16 per kg., the same in the case of tea produced in South India is US $ 0.02 per kg. Figures on cost of production of tea in Bangladesh and China are not available.

(c) The unit price (CIF) of tea imported from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China and other countries for the period April-November, 2000 are as follows:

Name of the Country	Unit CIF Value (Rs./kg.)
Sri Lanka	84.25
Bangladesh	47.58
China	166.00
U.K.	91.46
Belgium	82.19
France	124.02
USA	63.10
UAE	25.25
Iran	30.62
Turkey	36.06
Singapore	179.93
Indonesia	59.44
Vietnam	51.07
Kenya	101.29
West Africa	83.90
Malawi	54.35
South Africa	49.70
New Guinea	51.41

For import of tea from any country including Sri Lanka, the basic customs duty is 70% plus additional duties. However, for import of tea from Sri Lanka under the Free Trade Agreement, the applicable custom duty is 7.5% for an allocated annual quota of 15 m.kgs.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals of Maharashtra

3979. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some projects of Maharashtra Government are pending for approval with this Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date since when these projects are under consideration of the Union Government along with the estimated cost thereof;

(d) the time by when these projects are likely to be accorded approval; and

(e) the reasons for delay in according approval to the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No project from Maharashtra Government is pending for grant of Industrial Licence in this Ministry.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Performance of UTI

3980. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of UTI in terms of its achievements vis-a-vis targets set, scheme-wise during the last three years;

(b) the details of plans finalised/under consideration to expand, strengthen, upgrade restructure the organisation in the context of globalisation;

(c) the details of new schemes under formulation and plans for diversification finalised/under consideration; and

(d) the performance review of the operations of UTI abroad alongwith plans for expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The performance of the Unit Trust of India (UTI) vis-a-vis targets, is regularly reviewed by their Board of Trustees.

(b) On the suggestion of the Government, UTI set up a Committee on Corporate Positioning to review its competitive and commercial positioning in the light of financial sector reforms and developments in the mutual fund industry. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

(c) During the next two years, the emphasis will be on developing new markets, both off-shore and rural; segmented marketing & services and individualised service to long-term, high net worth & institutional investors; improved use of technology; empowerment and re-deployment of employees; regular monitoring of asset allocation strategies; entering new businesses like pensions plans IT services and distribution services.

(d) The Net Asset Value of the offshore funds as on June 30, 2000 was Rs. 2,890 crore as against Rs. 1,711 crore as on June 30, 1999. During the year ended 30 June, 2000, two new offshore funds were launched, *viz.* India Infrastructure Fund and India Media, Internet and Communications Fund. UTI has extended its support to the development of Unit Trusts in other emerging economies like Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Egypt. Negotiations with Bangladesh and Tanzania are going on for similar arrangements.

Taxes Paid by Companies

3981. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the corporate tax and other taxes paid by the public sector undertakings and private sector companies for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, separately;

(b) the income tax exclusively paid by salaried persons for the period mentioned above; and

(c) the percentage contribution of salaried persons in total income tax earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Corporation Tax paid by the public sector and private sector companies for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (up to Feb., 2001) are Rs. 24528.87 crores, Rs. 30692.29 crores and Rs. 25061.71 crores respectively No separate statistics of Corporation tax paid by public sector and private sector companies, is maintained. So far as other direct taxes like Wealth Tax and Expenditure Tax are concerned, since these taxes are paid both by Corporate as well as Non-Corporate assessees, the details of such taxes being paid by the companies are not separately maintained.

(b) and (c) The tax deducted at source in respect of salaried persons for the years i.e. 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is Rs. 6440.76 crores and Rs. 9353.55 crores respectively which amounts to 31.82% and 36.46% out of total Income Tax collection (other than Corporation Tax). Such details for the year 2000-2001 are not available at present as it is compiled on closing of the accounts after the end of the financial year.

World Bank Loan for Rural Project

3982. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received World Bank loan for the rural projects of the country; and

(b) if so, the details of these projects along with the financial assistance provided by the World Bank during the current year?

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

(b) The World Bank has approved loans amounting to US$ 387.1 million for four projects during the current year. These are Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project, Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project, Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project and the Kerala Rural Water Supply and Environment Sanitation Project. All the four projects have been declared effective by the World Bank.

Review of Food Procurement Policy

3983. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the policy of food procurement based on the experience of the past ten years,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of innovative and pragmatic policy initiatives taken/proposed in the public interest, and

(d) the details of action plan formulated for the next five years, State-wise for procurement of foodgrains and reducing the administrative storage cost substantially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a High Level Committee to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy for the country has been constituted The Terms of Reference of the said committee include matters relating to Minimum Support Price and price support operations, functioning of Public Distribution System, policy regarding buffer stocks, Open Market Intervention and Export/Import, allocation of foodgrains for rural development programmes and other welfare programmes and FCI related issues, which also include the scope for reduction in the economic cost of foodgrains. The Committee is expected to finalise its report by May, 2001.

Recruitment of Assistants in LIC

3984. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the appointment of 275 candidates were empanelled in assistant cadre on January 27, 1996 by Kolkata Zonal Office for LIC of India–Asansol Division;

(b) whether no recruitment has been made so far against this panel;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when the recruitment of these candidates is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India has intimated that a panel of 275 candidates was prepared in 1996 in Asansol Division. Out of this panel 208 candidates have already been offered regular appointments so far.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The candidates left on the panel would be offered appointments as and when regular vacancies arise strictly as per their ranking in the panel.

[Translation]

Projects under Infrastructural Balance Scheme

3985. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of projects launched under the critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme by the Rajasthan Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan and first three years of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the total amount sanctioned under each project alongwith the amount released by the Union Government for each project;

(c) the progress made so far in respect of each project;

(d) whether the State Government have requested the Union Government to make amendments in the cost of any projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) The Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme became operative only in the last financial year of the Eighth Plan. The details of the projects of Rajasthan Government sanctioned during Ninth Plan are as follows :

Projects	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
Earth Station at Sitapur Jaipur.	150.00	150.00	Completed
Four laning of Dharuhera-Bhiwadi road Alwar	400.00	400.00	Completed
Centre of Development of Stones, Jaipur	300.00	200.00	Under Implementation
X-ray machine, Air Cargo Complex, Jaipur	19.00	19.00	Under Implementation
Electronic weighbridges, Inland Container Depots, Jaipur and Jodhpur	15.00	15.00	Under Implementation

(d) No, sir.

(e) and (f) In view of (d) above, the Questions do not arise.

[English]

LIC Policy Holders

3986. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of policy holders with LIC as on date; and

(b) the various steps taken for growth of its business in view of its competition with private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has intimated that the approximate number of policy holders as on 31.3.2000 is 7.87 Crores.

(b) LIC has taken the following steps for growth of its business :

(i) Improving the quality of service by extensive computerisation of the operations in all 2048 branch offices.

(ii) Simplification of various systems and procedures so that the operations are speeded up.

(iii) Setting up of an elaborate grievance redressal machinery to redress policy holders grievances.

(iv) Improving the quality of human resources in the organisation through training and orientation.

(v) Refining the product lines in tune with the needs of the insuring public.

Food for Work Programme

3987. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) whether the State Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra have requested the Union Government for removal of difficulties experienced, while implementing of Food for Work Programme during the on-going calamities relief measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have also requested the Government that Food for Work Programme may not be restricted to the employment assurance scheme alone;

(d) if so, the guidelines issued by the Union Government regarding implementation of Food for Work Programme;

(e) whether there is any proposal to adopt 1977-78 guidelines for effective implementation of the programme;

(f) if so, the time by which 1977-78 guidelines are likely to be adopted; and

(g) the other measures taken by the Government on the requests of the State Governments?

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

Disinvestment in PSUs

3988. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of public sector undertakings were earmarked for disinvestment over three years ago.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of such public sector undertakings which are targeted for disinvestment in 2001-2002;

(c) whether most of these PSUs are fast losing their market shares;

(d) if so, the value of market shares two years ago and the present value of market shares of these PSUs;

(e) the reasons for not disinvesting their shares.

(f) the total loss suffered due to delay.

(g) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that scripts of the PSUs which are due for disinvestment in future are being manipulated in the capital market and stock exchange, and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to monitor the scripts of PSUs to prevent such manipulation?

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) Typically and annual disinvestment programme is prepared by Government of India every year. However, for various reasons like market conditions, financial performance of the companies under consideration, terms and conditions of sale, interest of the bidders, time taken for due diligence by the interested parties etc. the completion of the disinvestment exercise overshoots the targetted date. This is also due to the fact that Government of India does not disinvest in distress to meet any deadlines. Under the circumstances, the companies earmarked for disinvestment in earlier years are carried over to the next year disinvestment plan.

(b) As announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2001-2002, disinvestment/ strategic sale in 27 companies is expected to be completed during 2001-2002. These companies are 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 Corporation Ltd., Indian Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Minerals and Metals Trading Corpporation Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., State Trading Corporation Ltd., Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., ITDC Joint Ventures, Jessop & Company Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Scooters India Ltd., Tungbhadra Steel Products Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Praga Tools Ltd. & Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd.

Decisions of earlier years for disinvestment of minority stakes in Indian Oil Corporation, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., Gas Authority of India Ltd. & Container Corporation of India Ltd. have not been implemented due to adverse market conditions.

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

(e) The decision for disinvestment and the final implementation of such a decision depend on various factors. The process involves large scale interministerial consultations with the concerned department/ministries and the advice of the professional Advisors. Moreover, for reasons like market conditions, financial performance of the companies under consideration, terms and conditions of sale, interest of bidders, time taken for due diligence by the interested parties etc. the completion of the disinvestment exercise can take longer time than targetted.

(f) The loss of market share of CPSUs normally diminishes their value and the Government therefore, tries to include such CPSUs in the disinvestment plans. Since the value of shares is dependent on many factors, the loss due to reduction in market shares only cannot be assessed.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Government has received some representations from various quarters including some Hon'ble Members of Parliament, drawing the attention towards fall in prices of certain shares and alleging manipulation of share prices. The behaviour of share prices on the stock exchanges is a phenomenon governed by the market forces. However, the Securities Exchange Board of India, the regulator of the stock markets in the country, looks into these issues.

Closure of Mints

3989. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down all the mints in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether substantial quantity of coins are being imported;

(d) if so, the present ratio of imported coins to coins produced in the country;

(e) whether the Government have also announced a VRS for mint employees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) As a short term measure, coins are being imported to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous supply. Between 1997-98 and 1999-2000. 3 billion pieces of coins were imported which bore a ratio of approximately 1 : 2.2 with respect to indigenously produced coins.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

BIS Specifications for Petroleum Products

3990. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether quality of petroleum products is determined as per BIS specifications after following the procedure method of taking samples laid down by the BIS;

(b) whether Essential Commodities Act deals only with the hoarding and blackmarketing of products including petroleum products;

(c) whether there is a common procedure to recover and store the products in separate tanks in case the octane number of HSD and octane number of petrol does not match with the specified number till the final decision; and

(d) if so, the number of samples which have failed in the above mentioned tests during the last two years and the value of products have been recovered and stored in the terminal/depots of the oil corporations, pump-wise and company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Specifications for petroleum products are laid down by BIS.

(b) The Essential Commodities Act covers various commodities declared as essential which *inter alia* includes petroleum products.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected.

Closure of BALCO

3991. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sterlite management recently shut down Bharat Aluminium Company Limited including the sensitive Smelter Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) (a) and (b) No, Sir. The workers of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO)'s plant at Korba had resorted to strike from first shift of 3rd March, 2001. Many appeals were made by the BALCO management to the workers to resume their duties to avoid any loss/damage to the Plant. But the strike continues till date due to which the pot lines of the smelter plant were switched off and irretrievable damage has been caused to the plant. The molten metal has begun solidifying.

(c) Government has been in touch with the State administration for maintenance of law and order and normalcy in the plant. Secretary (Disinvestment) has written to the Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh Government who has intimated that the State Government is very keen to see that the BALCO plant resumes normal production and that it will do its utmost to ensure production in the factory. Minister of State for Disinvestment has also written a letter to the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh explaining the Government stand. The Home Ministry has drawn the attention of the Chhattisgarh Government to the directions given by the Supreme Court and requested it to keep the Government of India apprised of the steps being taken to implement the directions.

Debt on Foreign Countries

3992. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether some foreign countries have to pay huge debt to the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India alongwith interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the principal amount as well as interest amount separately, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some steps to recover the amount of principal and interest and to monitor such debts in future after payment of same by each country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The amounts outstanding are in respect of claims paid by ECGC in rupees on account of exports made from India and in respect of which the exporters failed to realise the proceeds. There is no agreed rate of interest on such outstanding dues. Most of the countries involved are very poor highly indebted counties and are enjoying substantial 'Debt relief' from all developed countries. Details of claims paid by ECGC in rupees and outstanding for recovery country-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The amounts due are in the nature of trade outstanding. ECGC, on its part, is endeavouring to recover as much of the dues as possible through diplomatic channels as well as debt recovery arrangements. In order to resolve the issue of unpaid debt by certain trading partners of India, the Government has constituted a Committee. The Committee has decided to have a detailed data base of debts prepared by the Reserve Bank of India with the assistance of Exim Bank and ECGC country-wise, with a view to having these reconciled with the foreign governments through our Commercial Missions, and exploring the possibility of recovery of debts through various measures like Debt Equity Swap etc., as also for formulating proposals for resolution of debt problem on a country to country basis.

Statement

Claims paid and outstanding for recovery as on 28.2.2001

(Rs. in crores)

Sr.No.	Name of the Country	Outstanding Total Amount
1	2	3
1.	Iraq	481.67
2.	Uganda	57.05
3.	Sudan	34.67
4	Cuba	41.36
5.	Angola	22.66
6.	Tanzania	4.01
7	Mozambique	9.52
8.	Zambia	14.74
9.	Sierraleone	1.50
10.	Vietnam	2.05
11.	Nicaragua	1.07
12.	Ethiopia	23.49
13.	Seychelles	1.61
14.	Egypt	0.12
15.	Ghana	0.04
16.	Guyana	0.30
17.	Malawi	0.03
18.	Romania	0.28
19.	Syria	0.06
20.	Upper Volta	0.17
21.	Venezuela	0.06
22.	Y.A.R.	0.05
23.	Iran	0.06
24.	Kenya	0.02
25.	Libya	0.94
26.	Nigeria	0.07
27.	Saudi Arabia	0.37
	Total	697.97

Functioning of Super Bazars

3993. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the amount allotted to the Super Bazar during each of the last three years as on date;

(b) whether the Government and the National Cooperative Development Corporation have reviewed the functioning of the Super Bazar; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) A sum of Rs. 8 crores was released by the Government as loan to Super Bazar during the current financial year up to 28.2.2001 and no funds were made available during 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The Government has been reviewing the functioning of Super Bazar periodically and necessary suggestions for the improvement of its functioning are being given to the Management of Super Bazar. However, NCDC has not reviewed the functioning of the Super Bazar.

Skilled Labour

3994. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have devised any formula to keep their skilled labour force away from voluntary retirement schemes;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to make fresh recruitment if shortage of skilled workers is felt; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) As on date, there is no proposal under consideration to introduce a modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for Central Government employees in general. As regards employees of Public Sector Undertakings, guidelines on VRS have been issued by the Department of Public Enterprises *vide* their Office Memorandum No. 2(32)/97-DPE(WC) GL-XXII dated 5.5.2000. These empower the management to ensure that VRS is extended primarily to such employees whose services can be dispensed without detriment to the company and that highly skilled qualified workers and staff are not given the option.

(c) and (d) According to the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, no recruitment can be done against vacancies arising under the VRS. However, recruitment in Government departments can be under the relevant rules and instructions in force.

[Translation]

Rate of Interest on Loans to Students

3995. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards Birla-Ambani report regarding providing loans to students at low rates of interest from banks and other financial institutions and to simplify the cumbersome process being adopted by them in providing loans as higher studies are going to be costly in future due to privatization;

(b) if so, the details of other recommendations of this report in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. Government is not aware of such report. However, as per the deliberations in the meeting of the Finance Minister with the Chief Executives of Public Sector Banks at New Delhi on 13th June, 2000 a Study Group was constituted to review the existing educational loan schemes of various banks especially the parameters relating to interest rate, collateral security and repayment terms etc. The study group has since submitted its report. Based on the recommendations of study group, Finance Minister has announced a new comprehensive educational loan scheme in his Budget Speech 2001-2002. The Scheme will cover all courses in schools and colleges in India and abroad. Loans will be available under this scheme up to Rs. 7.5 lakh for studies in India, and Rs. 15 lakh for studies abroad. No collateral or margin will be stipulated for loans up to Rs. 4 lakh and the interest rate will not exceed the Prime Lending Rate (PLR) of the banks. The interest rate will not exceed PLR plus 1 percent for loans above Rs. 4 lakh. The loans to be repaid over a period of 5 to 7 years with provision of grace period.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Grants to the Industrialists

3996. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are contributing one percent grant towards total cost to the industrialist for setting up industry in the most backward areas of Gujarat State;

(b) whether the Government have made such provision in other States of the country,

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government ensure proper utilisation of the grants given; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) (a) to (e) To promote industrialisation of backward area in Gujarat and other States, Government is assisting through Growth Centre Schemes. The Growth Centres are to be endowed with basic infrastructure facilities such as power, water, telecommunications and banking to enable them to attract industries. The Central Government assist the State Governments by contributing upto Rs. 10 crore

by way of equity for each Growth Centre. The balance funds are to be raised by the State Governments and their agencies who implement the projects (inclusive of industrialists). Utilisation of the funds so released is monitored through the normal Government procedures.

[English]

Use of Sub-Standard Stationery in Government Offices

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Poor Stationery obliterating records" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* on February 16, 2001;

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

(c) whether sub-standard stationery is being used in Government offices and whether National Archives have written to all Bureau of Indian Standards approved paper and ink; and

(d) the details of the paper and ink having BIS approval and the reasons for them not being sold to the Government Departments by NCCF and Super Bazar the agencies approved by the Government to sell items to Government Departments?

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

(b) to (d) Since different qualities of paper and varieties of ink are available in the market and all of them may not be of standard quality, the National Archives of India issued circular letters to all the Ministries/Departments of the Govt. of India to use good quality paper and ink as laid down by the Bureau of India standards under the relevant Indian standards for ensuring longevity of public records of permanent nature.

Super Bazar and NCCF supply stationery as per the specifications asked for by indenting departments.

Inquiry against Cricketers

3998. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any former Cricket Captain is under interrogation of the Enforcement Directorate for possession of undisclosed foreign currency in his locker; and

(b) if so, the details of the case and the outcome thereof?

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

(b) A locker was broken by the authorities of the Bombay Gymkhana on 25.9.1999. The traveller's cheques, currency notes of various countries and a few personal effects found in the locker revealed that the locker belonged to Shri Sunil Gavaskar. During the course of investigations carried out so far by the Enforcement Directorate, Shri Gavaskar in his statement admitted that the foreign currency found in the said locker belonged to him. He also claimed that the traveller's cheques found in the locker are part of traveller's cheques of U.S. $ 3000 and U.K. Pound 7500 (equivalent to U.S. $ 15,000) received as allowances for personal expenses from M/s Intex Group of Companies and that the foreign currencies were kept in the locker due to renovation work being carried out at his residence. The remaining currencies found in the locker were claimed to be the unspent amount of foreign exchange availed by him for foreign visits. Apart from the traveller's cheques equivalent to U.S. $ 15,000, Shri Gavaskar has also received U.S.$ 75,000 from M/s Intex Group of Companies as consultancy fees in terms of their agreement dated 10.8.1999.

Privatisation of Provident and Pension Funds

3999. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for privatisation of provident fund and pension funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The private management of pension and provident funds of Central Government employees is under consideration.

[Translation]

Outstanding Excise Duty

4000. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income tax and excise duty exceeding one crore of rupee is outstanding against

each of 2002 and 386 companies respectively as on 30.6.2000 and the date since when it is outstanding alongwith the total amount thereof and the action being taken by the Government to expedite its recovery;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend the relevant laws, so that the appellate tribunals and other courts do not give stay orders and cause unnecessary delay in the recovery;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to make any amendments in the law to speed up recovery and if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Sir, there were 2002 companies and 386 parties/ assessees against whom demand of Income Tax and Central Excise duty of more than one crore each is outstanding. The total amount of income tax outstanding is Rs. 22729 crore on 30.6.2000. The total amount of Central Excise outstanding is Rs. 3343 crore approximately. Since the demands pertain to many years and under many heads like tax, interest, fine, penalty etc. levied at different stages at different times, it is not possible to give the exact period of pendency of the demands.

High priority is given to the work of collection/ reduction of arrears demand and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken to recover the same. Request is also made to the concerned appellate authorities for early disposal of cases, and where the recovery proceedings are stayed by the Courts, steps are initiated to get the stay vacated. Coercive measures also taken in suitable cases for speedy recovery.

(b) to (d) Clause 78 of the Finance Bill, 2001 seeks to amend section 254 of the Income Tax Act to provide that where an order of stay is made by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal in any proceedings relating to an appeal filed by a taxpayer, the Appellate Tribunal shall dispose off the appeal within a period of one-hundred and eighty days from the date of such order granting stay, and if such appeal is not so disposed of, the stay order shall stand vacated after the expiry of the specified period. The proposed amendment will speed up recovery of direct tax arrears by ensuring that unnecessary delay in recovery are not caused by stay orders granted by the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal.

As regards central excise, adequate provisions are available under Central Excise Act and Rules, to recover the arrears, such as–under Section 11, the Central Excise Authorities may deduct such dues out of the money payable to the assessee, attach excisable goods of the assessee and take certificate action. Under Rule 230, goods, plants and machinery of the assessee can be detained for effecting recovery of the tax dues. Section 142 of the Customs Act, 1962 has also been made applicable to central excise cases with effect from 2.9.97, which gives more powers to the Customs/Central Excise Department for recovery of Government dues by attachment of movable/immovable properties, their auction, etc.

[English]

Computerisation of AIR/DD Centres

4001. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT

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

(a) the State-wise number of Radio Stations/ Doordarshan centres functioning at present in the country;

(b) the number of computerised centres of AIR/ Doordarshan are working in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are considering to open more computerised AIR/DD centres in the country,

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise, State-wise particularly AIR, Dhule and Jalgaon of Maharashtra, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) (a) to (e) 131 AIR Stations are already having computer facilities for office work, on line information exchange with zonal offices and headquarters. During the 10th Plan, the Prasar Bharati proposes to computerize all AIR Stations AIR, Jalgaon is already equipped with computer facility along with internet and e-mail and a similar facility is being installed at AIR, Dhule very shortly. None of the Doordarshan Kendras in the country is fully computerized. However, computer based equipments, as well as computers for office works, are available at a large number of Kendras. Computer based equipments and computers for Doordarshan Kendras are being procured and installed from time to time depending upon availability of resources. A scheme for provision of 460 computers with associated equipments for streamlining office work at various DD Stations has been sanctioned recently.

Statewise details of AIR Stations, including those equipped with computer facilities and DD installations presently functioning in the country are given at statements I & II respectively.

Statement-I

S. No.	State	No. of functional Radio Stations	No. of radio stations with computer facility
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	1
3.	Assam	10	5
4.	Bihar	5	2
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	4
6.	Delhi	1	1
7.	Goa	1	1
8.	Gujarat	7	5
9.	Haryana	3	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	6	2
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	5
12.	Jharkhand	5	2
13.	Karnataka	13	9
14.	Kerala	7	5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	14	10
16.	Maharashtra	20	15
17.	Manipur	1	1
18.	Meghalaya	5	1
19.	Mizoram	3	1
20.	Nagaland	4	1
21.	Orissa	11	7
22.	Punjab	3	2
23.	Rajasthan	17	11
24.	Sikkim	1	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	9	8
26.	Tripura	3	1
27.	Uttaranchal	6	1
28.	UP	14	12
29.	West Bengal	5	2
Union Territories			
30.	A & N Islands	1	1
31.	Chandigarh	1	1
32.	Pondicherry	2	2
33.	L & M Island	1	1
34.	Daman & Diu	1	1
	Total	208	131

Statement-II

Doordarshan Network (as on 01.03.2001)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Studios	Primary Coverage (DD1) Trs.					Metro Channel (DD2) Trs.			
			HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Trp	Total	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Assam	3	3	20	1	1	25	2	1	-	3
2.	A.P.	2	8	64	6	1	79	2	3	-	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	3	40	1	45	-	1	-	1
4.	Bihar	2	3	29	-	-	32	1	-	-	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	2	14	6	-	22	1	-	-	1
6.	Goa	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
7.	Gujarat	2	4	60	3	-	67	1	1	-	2
8.	Haryana	-	-	12	-	-	12	-	4	-	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9.	H.P.	1	2	8	32	2	44	1	1	-	2
10.	Jharkhand	2	2	17	1	1	21	1	-	1	2
11.	J & K	2	5	7	38	1	51	2	2	-	4
12.	Kerala	1	3	19	2	-	24	2	2	-	4
13	Karnataka	2	5	44	4	-	53	1	-	-	1
14.	M.P.	3	4	62	4	-	70	2	-	-	2
15.	Meghalya	2	2	2	2	1	7	1	1	-	2
16.	Maharashtra	3	5	77	18	1	101	2	2	-	4
17.	Manipur	1	1	1	5	-	7	-	1	1	2
18.	Mizoram	1	2	-	2	1	5	-	2	-	2
19.	Nagaland	1	2	2	6	1	11	-	2	-	2
20.	Orissa	3	4	60	17	1	82	2	6	2	10
21.	Punjab	1	4	5	-	1	10	-	1	-	1
22.	Rajasthan	1	5	66	17	2	90	2	1	-	3
23.	Sikkim	-	1	-	5	-	6	-	1	-	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	4	40	5	2	51	1	-	-	1
25.	Tripura	1	1	2	1	1	5	1	1	-	2
26.	U.P.	6	8	52	3	1	64	5	7	1	13
27.	Uttaranchal	-	1	13	29	2	45	1	-	-	1
28.	W.B.	3	5	20	3	-	28	2	1	-	3
29.	Delhi	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
30.	A. & N. Islands	1	-	2	10	-	12	-	1	-	1
31.	Daman & Diu	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	0
32.	Pondicherry	1	-	2	2	-	4		1	-	1
33.	L'Dweep Islands	-	-	1	8	-	9	-	-	1	1
34.	Chandigarh	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
35.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	0
	Total	51	89	708	270	21	1088	35	44	6	85

Note : In addition to above transmitters, two LPTs at Delhi for relay of LS & RS proceedings and one HPT each at Srinagar, Calcutta, & Chennai for relay of Regional channel programmes are in operation.

Total No. of transmitters—1178

Amendment in Explosive Rules, 1983

4002. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether licences granted by District Authorities under the provision of Explosive Rules, 1983 are limited for specific jobs;

(b) if so, whether small quarry holders from all over the country have to get the permission from Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Agra for possession of Explosives for mining purposes;

(c) if so, whether these small quarry holders are facing lot of difficulties in obtaining the licences from Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Agra each and every time;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received any proposals from several State Governments including Rajasthan for amendment in certain rules of Explosive Rules, 1983 facilitating blasting in small Mines and Stone Quarries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. District Authorities can issue licences in Form 23 for specific jobs as enumerated in Schedule IV of the Explosives Rules, 1983.

(b) Small quarry owners have to obtain a licence in Form 22 of Explosives Rules, 1983 for possession and use of explosives for mining purposes from the concerned Circle Office of the Department of Explosives in whose jurisdiction the quarry is located. The Jt. Chief Controller of Explosives, Agra has jurisdiction over the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir. For grant of licences, procedures as laid down under Rule 154(4) of the Explosives Rules, 1983 have to be followed and required documents including a "No Objection Certificate" from the District Magistrate have to be furnished for obtaining a licence in Form 22 for possession and use of explosives. If all the documents are in order, a licence is granted and sent for inspection and endorsement to the concerned Sub-Circle Office. The licence comes into force after endorsement by the Inspecting Officer.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise.

Income Tax paid by Workers

4003. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the percentage of workers and employees, out of total labour force, who pay income tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : The information regarding the details of the total labour force, its constituents namely workers and employees and the taxes paid by constituents are not maintained by the Income Tax department.

'Drug Trafficking'

4004. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the alarming increase of drug menace in the country;

(b) it so, whether any special steps have been taken by the Government to contain drug trafficking in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have taken any step in coordinating international agencies to fight against the global drug mafia; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) . (a) Seizure trends do not indicate alarming increase in the drug menace in the country.

(b) and (c) As per the directive principles enshrined in the Constitution, Government of India is committed to curb the menace of drug abuse. For this purpose various statutes have been enacted including NDPS Act and PITNDPS Act which provide for stringent punishment to drug traffickers and death sentences in specific cases of repeated offences. Besides, a large number of enforcement agencies have been empowered to enforce the provisions of NDPS Act. Other significant steps include evolving a policy of payment of rewards to informers and enforcement officers, imparting of training to enforcement officers and extension of financial assistance to the State Governments to set up Special Courts for trying cases booked under the NDPS Act.

(d) and (e) Drug abuse and trafficking is a global problem. Being a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and bilateral agreements with 13 countries, India has put up a joint front with other countries in dealing with drug abuse and drug trafficking in the global context.

Decontrolling of Sugar

4005. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decontrolled the sugar industry;

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

(c) the impact of decontrol on the prices of sugar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government has decided to decontrol the sugar industry in a phased manner. The levy obligation on sugar factories, which was reduced from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 1.1.2000, has been further reduced to 15% w.e.f. 1.2.2001. The aforesaid decision has been taken as a part of Government's decision on phased decontrol of sugar as part of reforms process in the sugar sector and to improve the health of the sugar industry as well as to enable the sugar factories to make timely payment of cane price as also to liquidate the cane price arrears.

(c) and (d) Government has not yet decontrolled the sugar industry. Only levy obligation has been reduced to 15% with effect from 1.2.2001. The monthly release mechanism for release of free sale sugar is continuing. The prices of free sale sugar in the open market depend upon a number of factors. It is not possible to isolate the effect of a single factor on the behaviour of prices. As such, it is not possible to indicate the effect of reduction in the levy obligation to 15% with effect from 1.2.2001 on prices of free sale sugar.

[Translation]

Theft of Foodgrains

4006. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of foodgrains transported by goods train by Food Corporation of India every year;

(b) the quantity and value of foodgrains which had spoiled or have been stolen every year during the transit;

(c) whether the Government have taken several measures to prevent the theft of foodgrains, 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) The quantum of foodgrains transported by goods trains during last few years is shown in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The overall transit losses reported by Food Corporation of India during last few years are shown in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The measures taken by the Govt to prevent theft of foodgrains are briefly summarised in statement-II.

Statement-I

(a) Quantity of FCI Foodgrains transported by goods trains

(Figures in Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Quantity
1996-97	223.61
1997-98	180.61
1998-99	178.97
1999-2000	212.32

(b) Transit losses of FCI foodgrains

Year	Quantity (in Lakh Tonnes)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1996-97	3.45	215.98
1997-98	2.78	192.05
1998-99	2.66	198.00

Statement-II

Measures taken by the Govt. to prevent theft of FCI foodgrains

1. The Ministry of Railways have deployed armed RPF personnel at vulnerable sections to the extent possible. Intensive beat patrolling is also being done by the RPF in yards and other affected areas. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence. Several other measures have also taken by the Railways to prevent theft of the consignments and claims arising therefrom.

2. The Food Corporation of India have also taken several administrative and logistic measures, including tightening of security at FCI depots, induction of CISF at some depots, intensification of surprise checks, including special squad checks at selected rail heads, transshipment and destination points and inspections by senior officers, encouraging machine stitching of bags, regular stock verification and fixation of responsibility for losses.

Export of Foodgrains through Indian Ports

4007. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quanitity of foodgrains exported through Indian Ports during the last two years;

(b) whether the export of foodgrains to foreign countries is delayed; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by the Government to ensure timely export of foodgrains from these ports?

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.

[English]

Exemption of Income Tax to Autonomous Trusts

4008. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to exempt income tax for the donations made to the autonomous trusts;

(b) if so, whether any request pending with the Government to exempt Income Tax for the donations to the Jalanidhi scheme of Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams an autonomous trust of Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir. Under various provisions exemptions are available to such trusts, if conditions therein are specified.

(b) No, Sir. Request is not pending.

(c) Shri Venkateswara Jalanidhi Scheme of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Trust had applied for approval as an eligible project or scheme from the National Committee for Promotion of Social and Economic Welfare for deduction u/s 35AC. Donors to approved institutions u/s 35 AC are eligible to get a 100% deduction of the expenditure incurred by them.

The request for approval has been considered and not approved by the National Committee. The trust applied for the second time but failed to get the approval of the National Committee.

[Translation]

Closure of Bank Branches

4009. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL
SHRI TEJVEER SINGH CHAUDHARY
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has granted permission to UCO Bank to close down its branches in rural and semi-urban areas;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have studied the wide ranging ramifications of the decision especially with regard to public sector banks commitment to the socio-economic fabric of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has permitted UCO Bank for closure of its unviable branches in accordance with the Restructuring Plan drawn up for revival of the bank.

(c) and (d) The restructuring plan includes rationalization of branches particularly in Metropolitan areas by merger or closure to reduce costs without affecting the service to the clientele. As regards rural centers, the banks are required to take due care that the rationalization process do not result in depriving the banking facilities to the public. Reserve Bank of India has also taken into account the available alternate arrangements of banking facilities to the public on account of closure/merger of branches by UCO Bank.

Pay Revision of Employees of Nepa Limited

4010. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sick Public Sector Undertakings can implement the prevailing guidelines relating to pay-revision under the revival package only after getting approval of the BIFR and the Union Government for the purpose;

(b) whether the Nepa Limited Nepa Nagar, Madhya Pradesh had been declared as a sick company since, 1998;

(c) if so, the reasons for implementing the pay revision in some public undertakings, which have been declared sick prior to the Nepa Limited being declared sick; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to remove the said anomaly and to implement the pay-revision in the Nepa Limited due from 1.1.1992 and 1.1.1997 alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) Consequent upon its net worth becoming negative Nepa Ltd. was referred to BIFR and declared a sick company in May, 1998. The extant procedure of the Department of Public Enterprises regarding revision of scales of pay w.e.f. 1.1.97 expects that in respect of sick enterprises referred to BIFR, revision of pay scales would be in accordance with the rehabilitation packages approved or to be approved by the BIFR and after providing for the additional expenditure on account of pay revision in these packages. The requests from individual Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) for wage revision are considered on a case to case basis. The Government have considered the matter for Nepa Ltd. and the employees have been allowed revision of pay at 1992 scales w.e.f. 19.01.2001 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

Procurement of Paddy and Wheat

4011. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) the details of procurement of paddy and wheat in Chhattisgarh by FCI during 2000-2001 till date;

(b) the number of new procurement centres set up after creation of the new State and the expenditure incurred thereon, location-wise;

(c) the surplus stock of foodgrains available in the State at present;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated for procurement of foodgrains in the State of Chhattisgarh in future; 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 5.13 Metric tonnes of paddy has been procured in Chhattisgarh during the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001 by the State Agencies. There in no data of wheat procurement available for the marketing season 2000-2001 as this season commenced on 1.4.2000 and procurement of wheat by the State of Madhya Pradesh ended on 30.6.2000 by which time the new State of Chhattisgarh had not come into existence.

(b) No new purchase centres have been set up.

(c) A quantity of 2 lakh MTs of wheat and 4.09 lakh MTs of rice (boiled) are available in the State at present as surplus stock.

(d) and (e) The State Government has formulated levy rice policy for Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001 It is a voluntary scheme for the rice millers who can give upto 50% of their production of rice under the scheme.

Export of Wheat and Rice

4012. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether FCI has taken the help of private trading agencies for the export of wheat and rice;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the agencies to which wheat and rice had been sold by FCI for export alongwith the quantity and rates thereof; and

(d) the difference in prices of wheat and rice to be sold to private and public agencies for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) While wheat is being made available by FCI at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category, which, at present is Rs. 4150/- PMT for export to PSUs/ Government agencies *viz.* STC, MMTC, PEC, NAFED, NCCF & MARKFED, rice is being made available by FCI to the highest tenderer for export @ Rs. 6750/- PMT. A ceiling of 20 lakh MTs has been fixed for both wheat and rice for export upto 31st March, 2001.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Disinvestment of 27 PSUs

4013. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :
SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make disinvestment in 27 PSUs during the course of year by the FM in his budget speech 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details of these PSUs;

(c) the procedure to be followed for this purpose; and

(d) when it is likely to be done?

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) Yes, Sir. It is expected that strategic disinvestment would be completed during the year 2001-2002 in 27 Public Sector Undertakings and their subsidiaries, *viz.*, Air India, C.M.C., V.S.N.L., Hindustan Copper Ltd.-Phase I, Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., IBP Ltd., Indian Airlines, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., Indian Tourism Development Corporation, Madras Fertilizers Ltd., M.M.T.C., National Fertilizers Ltd., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., S.T.C., Scooters India Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., I.T.D.C. Joint Ventures, Tungbhadra Steel Co. Ltd., Bharat Pumps & Compressors, Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd., Praga Tools Ltd., Napa Ltd. and Jessop & Co.

(c) The procedure followed for disinvestment in PSUs include selection of Advisers through a competitive bidding process, issue of advertisements in leading newspapers inviting Expression of Interest (EoI) offers from interested parties, short-listing of prospective bidders on objective screening in the light of announced criteria/requirements, due diligence of the PSUs by prospective bidders, evaluation of the bids, etc. The final selection of the bids is made keeping in view all relevant factors and issues.

(d) Disinvestment process in these public enterprises is in different stages of implementation. The process is likely to be completed by 31.3.2002.

Return of Fixed Deposit Amount

4014. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that DCM Ltd. have not been paying the fixed deposit money to their depositors for the last two years even months after the deposits have matured;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received and the amount involved; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to compel the company to return the money to the bonafide depositors and investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Department of Company Affairs has received 9 complaints during the last two years for non-payment of deposits by DCM Ltd. The total amount involved is Rs. 2.96 lakhs.

(c) For non-payment of matured deposits, depositors can approach Company Law Board for necessary orders by making an application in the prescribed form with prescribed fee upon which Company Law Board will order repayment. Compliance with Company Law Board's orders is monitored by Registrar of Companies.

Modi Entertainment Network

4015. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan has requisitioned the services of Modi Entertainment Network to monitor the contract of Doordarshan channels by the Cable operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for requisitioning the services of private company;

(d) whether any payment has to be made for providing this service; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that with a view to ensuring distribution of good quality signal of Doordarshan channels through cable network throughout the territory of India and promotion and monitoring of some of its channels, Doordarshan has entered into an agreement with M/s Modi Entertainment Network Ltd. This arrangement has been made as Doordarshan does not have adequate infrastructure to carry out the above task.

(d) and (e) As per the agreement, DD has to pay Rs. 16.66 lakhs per month to M/s Modi Entertainment Network for their services.

Bank of Gujarat Limited

4016. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India issued a licence to Gujarat Government for setting up Bank of Gujarat Limited in the State;

(b) whether the licence has been utilised and bank has been set up;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the period upto which the licence issued by the RBI is likely to remain valid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not issued any licence for setting up Bank of Gujarat Ltd. RBI has further reported that it had issued an "in-principle"approval to Gujarat State Fertilizer Co. Ltd., in January, 1994 to set up a bank to be known as Bank of Gujarat Ltd., which was withdrawn in January, 1999 due to changes in the composition of the promoter group and delay in setting up the Bank.

SEZ at Paradeep

4017. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2144 on December 1, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has identified the prospective sites and submitted the detailed proposal to Union Government for setting up of special economic zone at Paradeep;

(b) if so, whether the Inter-ministrial committee has cleared the proposal; and

(c) if so, the progress in the establishment and functioning of special economic zone at the above mentioned places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) In principle approval has been given for setting up of a Special Economic Zone at Paradeep on the basis of request received from the Government of Orissa. Formal proposal indicating all details of the project is awaited from the State Government.

Complaint against USA in WTO

4018. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether India has lodged a complaint with the WTO against a new US law, that would award the proceeds of anti-dumping sanctions to the affected American industry;

(b) if so, the reaction of the WTO on such complaint;

(c) whether the WTO have been watching the interests of only developed countries and ignoring the economic conditions of developing countries; and

(d) if so, the further reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 21st December, 2000, India along with the European Union, Japan and certain other countries had requested for consultations with the USA under the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organisation against an amendment to the Tariff Act of 1930 with the title "Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000" by the USA. This Act proposes to distribute to the affected domestic producers of the USA, the anti-dumping and countervailing duties imposed and collected on imports from other countries. India and the other co-complainant countries held consultations with the USA under the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organisation on 6th February, 2001.

(c) and (d) The World Trade Organisation (WTO) provides the common institutional framework for the conduct of trade relations among its member countries. India has been actively pursuing the interests of developing countries in this regard and emphasizing the importance of fully taking into account their needs and concerns for promoting their economic development.

[Translation]

Revenue Earned through Foreign T.V. Channels

4019. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign television channel companies in the country are paying only 10 percent revenue since, 1996 till date whereas similar Indian television channel companies are paying 35 percent revenue;

(b) if so, whether the delegation of foreign television channel companies had got the notice of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) regarding increase in revenue from 10 percent to 20 percent in September-October, 2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Central Revenue is outstanding against the Foreign television channel; and

(e) if so, the names of such companies separately alongwith amount of revenue outstanding against each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir. Foreign telecasting companies (FTCs) have been paying tax at the rate applicable to the foreign companies under the Income-tax Act which is presently 48% as against the prescribed rate of 35% for the domestic companies. The above rate of tax is applicable to the income earned by FTCs from the advertising revenue which is computed at 10% of the gross receipts excluding commission paid out as per the guidelines laid down by the circular of Central Board of Direct Taxes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of the outstanding demand of income-tax in respect of the FTCs.

S. No.	Name of the FTC	Assessment year	Outstanding Demand of the Income-tax (Rupees in crores)
1.	Satellite Television Asian Region Advertising Sales BV	1997-98	3.62
2.	Satellite Television Asia Region Ltd.	1995-96	0.06
3.	Set Satellite Singapore Pvt. Ltd.	1996-97	0.15
		1997-98	1.09
4.	Asia Television Network as agent of United	1995-96	0.15
	Telecommunications	1996-97	1.00
5.	M.T.V. Asia LDC	1998-99	0.01

[English]

Evasion of Income Tax by Hotels

4020. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of hotels and restaurants in Delhi have been evading income tax for the last several years;

(b) if so, the action taken against the defaulters; and

(c) the total income tax collected from each hotel located in Delhi during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) There are hundreds of hotels and restaurants in Delhi. Information regarding the income tax evasion and also the income tax paid by each of such hotels and restaurants is not compiled by the Income Tax Department since the Department does not compile business-wise details of tax paid and tax evaded by assessees. However, appropriate action under the Income Tax Law is taken wherever tax evasion is noticed. During the year 2000, Income Tax searches were conducted in the cases of three hotels/restaurants in Delhi.

Non-Payment of Salaries

4021. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact the UCO Bank is not paying salary to its employees for the last two months in various of its branches all over the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps to be taken by the Government to ensure that no Public Sector Bank indulge in such anti-worker activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) UCO Bank has reported that is is regularly paying salary to all staff members. However, for few staff members, salary was withheld at some of the branches due to their constant non-performance based on the principle "No work No pay" after giving due notice. Such salary was released promptly as soon as improvement in performance was observed.

VRS in Andhra Bank

4022. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Bank is undergoing a major organisational change;

(b) if so, whether the bank is going to reduce the number of its zonal offices and branches and introduce voluntary retirement scheme for its officers and staff; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) to (c) Andhra Bank has reported that is has not taken up any major organizational changes. However, it has restructured its zonal offices reducing their number from 27 to 19. The bank has no plans to reduce the number of branches. A Voluntary Retirement Scheme was introduced by the bank in December, 2000 and the same has since been closed on 1.1.2001.

[Translation]

Daltanganj DD Centre/Jharkhand

4023. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Doordarshan in Daltanganj district Palamu of Jharkhand State is not functioning properly;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has reported that the High Power Transmitter of Doordarshan at Daltonganj is functioning normally, and that optimum use is being made of the studio facilities there for origination and telecast of local programmes. However, it has been reported that power supply is unsatisfactory in Daltonganj, and minor interruptions in transmission, of about 2 minutes duration occur each time power supply is switched between mainline supply and supply from the standby diesel generator.

Cases Referred to BIFR

4024. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY
SHRI E.M SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of cases assigned to BIFR since its inception till date, State-wise;

(b) the State-wise number of cases in which this Board has taken a final decision till 28th February, 2001;

(c) the number of cases in respect of which closing down was recommended and the number of cases in respect of which rehabilitation scheme was sanctioned; and

(d) the number of cases of revival in respect of which approval has been accorded by the Government and the number of cases rejected by the Government along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (FIFR) has reported that as on 31.1.2001, 3348 sick industrial companies were registered under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). BIFR has taken decision in respect of 2115 cases and the remaining 1233 cases were pending with the Board at various stages of inquiry. The State-wise break–up of these 3348 cases is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) BIFR has recommended winding up in respect of 835 cases and rehabilitation scheme was sanctioned in 293 cases.

(d) In respect of 548 cases, FIFR had approved/ sanctioned revival/rehabilitation schemes and in 697 cases references were dismissed as non-maintainable. Each case is considered by BIFR, on merits, in accordance with the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Statement

State-wise Status break of sick Industrial Companies registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction as on 31.01.2001

State	Cases Regd.	Scheme sanctioned	Dismissed Non-Maintainable	Declared No Longer sick	Winding up Recommended	Net Worth Turned positive	Draft Scheme circulated	Winding up Notice issued	Under Enquiry	Failed & Re-opened	Stay by AAIFR court	Remanded by AAIFR court
			Disposed					Pending				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Assam	14	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
Andhra Pradesh	359	27	66	42	110	5	6	9	77	9	5	3
Bihar	67	5	15	5	29	1	1	4	4	2	1	1
Chandigarh	8	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1
Dadra Nagar Haveli	6	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Goa	13	2	4	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1
Gujarat	291	26	63	18	81	3	6	9	73	4	4	4
Haryana	119	10	22	13	33	0	0	1	36	1	3	0
Madhya Pradesh	181	14	40	10	55	0	5	4	44	7	1	1
Jharkhand	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	6	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kerala	83	10	22	10	16	0	1	3	13	6	1	1
Karnataka	192	25	41	16	51	0	4	3	46	2	2	2
Maharashtra	605	49	125	52	109	14	16	19	200	9	5	7
Himachal Pradesh	44	5	12	2	19	0	0	1	4	1	0	0
Manipur	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
NCT Delhi	122	4	31	1	9	1	4	0	69	0	2	1
Nagaland	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Orissa	55	8	10	5	9	1	2	5	8	4	3	0
Pondicherry	12	2	3	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Punjab	137	10	26	9	25	0	7	5	44	3	4	4
Rajasthan	139	16	31	6	48	1	1	3	28	1	4	0
Tamil Nadu	307	23	51	26	53	4	11	16	107	7	6	3
Tripura	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	298	20	74	16	100	3	2	8	64	2	4	5
Uttaranchal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
West Bengal	275	32	50	19	77	2	7	4	61	6	13	4
Total	3348	293	697	255	835	35	77	94	896	68	59	39

FERA Cases

4025. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several persons have been acquitted in FERA cases due to negligence and mistake on the part of the Government;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the action being taken in FERA cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Antyodaya Anna Yojna

4026. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Antyodaya Anna Yojna, seems to have overlooked one crucial fact that a major chunk of the "Poorest of the poor" for whom the scheme is meant work on daily wages and not on monthly salaries;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that, they buy food on day to day basis, while under the scheme, foodgrain in bulk would be sold to them on a monthly basis;

(c) if so, whether the scheme does not include distribution of kerosene oil, levy sugar, edible oil and soft coke, which are widely used by the lower income groups; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The requirement of the poor families the majority of whom are wage earner on daily or weekly basis have not been overlooked under the Targeted Public Distribution System (PDS). As many of them cannot afford to purchase the monthly allocations in one instalment, the State Governments/ UT Administrations have been requested to allow them to purchase their monthly quota of foodgrains from the fair price shops in more than one instalment. This facility would cover the one crore poorest of the poor families under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) constituting 15.33% of BPL families under TPDS in the country who are being allocated 25 kg. foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidised rates of Rs. 3 a kg. for rice and Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat.

(c) and (d) It is estimated that 5% of our population are unable to get two square meals a day on a sustained basis throughout the year. Their purchasing power is so low that they are not in a position to buy foodgrains

round the year even at BPL rates. They can be called as hungry. Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been launched to ensure food security for these 'hungry' people in the country and distribution of kerosene oil, levy sugar, edible oil and soft coke has not been included.

[Translation]

Share of EOUs in Export-Import Turnover

4027. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of the Export Oriented Units of each State in the total export-import turnover of the country during the last two years;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by the above units during the above period;

(c) whether these units are receiving several financial concessions from the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the amount of financial concession extended to thern during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The Ministry is not maintaining State-wise details of export-import turn over.

(b) Export Oriented Units (EOUs) earned foreign exchange of Rs. 12058.27 crores during 1998-99 and Rs. 14000 crores (Provisional) during 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) EOUs are entitled for duty free import/ local purchase of machinery, raw material, components and consumables etc. required for export production and refund of Central Sales Tax paid on the purchases made from domestic market. These units also enjoy corporate tax holiday for a maximum period of 10 years. These benefits cannot be quantified in financial terms.

Women Members in Censor Board

4028. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the number of total members and especially women members in the Censor Board presently;

(b) whether the Censor Board is not effective in prohibiting increasing violence and obscenity in films;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are going to take some concrete steps to prohibit violence and obscenity in films; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The present Board of Film Certification has a total of twenty five members out of which twelve are women besides Ms. Asha Parekh, who is the Chairperson of the Board.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The guidelines for certification of films, issued under section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, already discourage presentation of scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner, scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape or molestation and scenes showing avoidable excessive violence in films. Some of the steps taken to ensure strict compliance of these guidelines are :

(i) Provision of 50% of the members of the Examining and Revising Committees to be women to bring greater awareness into the certification process;

(ii) issue of specific clarifications by the Central Board of Film Certification about interpretation of the frequently violated guidelines to ensure proper application of the guidelines; and

(iii) Showing of names of members of the Examining/ Revising Committee and Film Certification Appellate Tribunal, on whose recommendations the film is cleared for public exhibition, on the certificates granted to the film, with a view to introduce greater accountability.

[English]

Levy Sugar Quota of States

4029. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise quota of levy sugar being provided at present by the Union Government in the country;

(b) whether the quota of sugar is provided to States on the basis of 1991 census only;

(c) if not, the norms are being followed in providing sugar to States; and

(d) by when allocation of sugar is likely to be increased on the basis of present population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The State-wise quota of levy sugar being allocated at present by the Union Government is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. With effect from 01.02.2001, the Government is allocating levy sugar under PDS on the basis of projected population as on 1.3.2000. Further, with effect from 01.02.2001, the Government has restricted levy sugar supply under PDS to only BPL families except in case of North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories so as to achieve better targetting in PDS. The minimum per capita norm for allocation has also been enhanced from 425 gms. to 500 gms. per month which would benefit the BPL families.

(d) With effect from 1.2.2001, Government is already allocating levy sugar on the basis of projected population as on 1.3.2000.

Statement

State/UT-wise Levy Sugar Quota
(with effect from 1.2.2001)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Monthly levy quota (MTs)	Annual festival quota (MTs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9690	7614
2.	Bihar	20516	7527
3.	Jharkhand	6948	2551
4.	Chandigarh	62	112
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	48	14
6.	Delhi	2610	2316
7.	Goa	120	150
8.	Gujarat	5841	4878
9.	Haryana	2485	1924
10.	Karnataka	8636	5350
11.	Kerala	4103	3600
12.	Madhya Pradesh	12441	5523
13.	Chhattisgarh	4512	2013
14.	Maharashtra	16792	9014
15.	Orissa	8707	3730
16.	Punjab	1385	2392
17.	Rajasthan	7342	5092
18.	Tamil Nadu	10820	6790
19.	Uttar Pradesh	33013	15154
20.	West Bengal	14087	7796
21.	Daman & Diu	11	12
22.	Pondicherry	243	88
23.	Assam	18337	2896
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	834	94
25.	A & N Islands	389	74
26.	Himachal Pradesh	4698	608
27.	Jammu & Kashmir	6962	868
28.	Lakshadweep	115	22
29.	Manipur	1763	208
30.	Meghalaya	1704	200
31.	Mizoram	666	78
32.	Nagaland	1179	128
33.	Sikkim	391	50
34.	Tripura	264	302
35.	Uttaranchal	6033	782
	Total	216129	99950

[Translation]

Private Insurance Companies In Rural Areas

4030. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed the private insurance companies to pay attention towards the rural areas and farmers;

(b) is so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which people of rural areas can be benefited through private insurance companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) to (c) As per Insurance Regulatory and Development

Authority (Obligations of Insurers to Rural or Social Sectors) Regulations, 2000, as laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 11.8.2000, all insurance companies in public and private sector are obliged to underwrite a part of their insurance business in rural areas. As a consequence there will be increased penetration of insurance activity in rural areas.

[English]

Funding by NABARD in RIDF

4031. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount invested by NABARD in RIDF projects in the State of West Bengal in Ninth Five Year Plan period upto date;

(b) whether there is long delay in implementing projects by NABARD in RIDF in West Bengal;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the steps taken by the NABARD to expedite the implementation of projects in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The amount sanctioned by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) out of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to the State of West Bengal in Ninth Plan period is given below :

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1997-98	173.55
1998-99	214.32
1999-2000	222.29
2000-2001	402.25
Total	1041.41

(b) and (c) NABARD has reported that the projects sanctioned with financial assistance under RIDF are being implemented by State Government departments and Zilla Parishad. Hence delay in implementation by NABARD does not arise. However, as reported by NABARD there is some delay in implementing projects sanctioned under RIDF by the State Government in West Bengal. The reasons for delay, *inter-alia*, are such as delay in communicating the details of sanction of projects to the district implementing agencies, deviations from the sanctioned items of works, land acquisition problem, delay in lending, fund flow problem, budgetary gap for execution of works, delays due to change in implementing agencies, etc.

(d) NABARD has a mechanism for monitoring of RIDF projects sanctioned by it. Lapses identified during monitoring are being taken up in high power committee meetings chaired by State Finance Minister for quick redressal.

[Translation]

Telecast Facility in M.P.

4032. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) the cities/towns in Madhya Pradesh in which telecast facility of Doordarshan/All India Radio Programmes has not been provided so far;

(b) the reasons therefor and the places identified so far for this purpose; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Entire Madhya Pradesh is covered by radio signals, except for a few pockets in the districts of Sheopur, Shivpuri, Shahdol, Sidhi and Guna. Doordarshan coverage is available all over the country, including Madhya Pradesh, in Satellite Mode. However, terrestrial T.V. coverage is presently estimated to be available to about 75.3% population of the State (including the population in fringe areas).

Though, Prasar Bharati does not have a policy to provide Radio/T.V. facilities at cities/town level, it is their constant endeavour to provide Radio/T.V. coverage to hitherto uncovered areas of the country including Madhya Pradesh.

For further expansion of Radio coverage in Madhya Pradesh, Local Radio Stations with 3 KW FM Tr. and 1 KW RM Tr. are being set up at Rajgarh and Mandla respectively and existing 100 KW MW Tr. at Indore is being replaced by new 200 KW MW Tr. For further expansion of TV coverage, 8 transmitter projects for expansion of coverage of primary channel (DD-I) *viz.*

2 High Power Transmitters (HPTs) at Guna and Shahdol, 3 Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) at Bareily, Lakhnadon and Sindhwa, 1 Very Low Power Tr. at Alot (DD-1) and 2 HPTs at Jabalpur and Gwalior for Metro (DD-2) service are presently under implementation.

These projects are at different stages of implementation and are expected to be completed in phases during the next two years.

[English]

Revival of Sick Paper Industries

4033. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY by pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to lay special emphasis on revival of sick paper industries in the country in the light of increased global and domestic demand for paper and related paper products;

(b) whether the Union Government have provided necessary data about the global demand for paper products to paper industries to enable them to produce this value added products to help the growth of industry as well as improve the foreign exchange earnings;

(c) whether the Government have studied the need for modernisation of paper manufacturing units to the global standards; and

(d) if so, the action plan prepared by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Under the existing policy on industrial sickness, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi-judicial body, deals with the problem of sick industrial companies. Revival of sick industrial units is also undertaken by amalgamation/merger of sick units with healthy units and this is encouraged by granting income tax concession, etc. to healthy units, which undertake such amalgamation. The Reserve Bank of India has also issued guidelines to banks and financial institutions for strengthening the monitoring systems and arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage. Government has, however, no proposal under consideration to lay special emphasis on the revival of sick paper industries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Government has received a representation from a Paper Mills Association for creation of Technology/Modernisation Fund to help the paper industry. Government has not taken any decision so far.

Schemes to Improve Export Earnings

4034. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the various State Governments have drawn up schemes to improve the export earnings and urged the Union Government to approve them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken any concrete steps in the past few months to improve the export earnings, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The Central Government is not aware of any schemes drawn up by the State Governments to improve the export earnings. No such proposal has been received.

(c) and (d) Various Schemes have been launched from time to time by the Government for promoting exports which include, amongst others, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme allowing import of Capital goods at concessional / zero duty, Duty Exemption Scheme allowing duty free import of inputs required for export production, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Scheme allowing import and replenishment of the inputs at concessional duty, scheme allowing setting up of various units under EOU/EPZ, and the scheme to recognise established exporters as Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and Super Trading House.

NABARD Funds for Irrigation

4035. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD has provided any funds for irrigation of Orissa during last three years;

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

(c) the projects on which these funds have been spent;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide more funds during 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has sanctioned funds for irrigation purposes in Orissa during the last three years as indicated below :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Disbursed
1997-98	95.49	63.62
1998-99	89.41	34.41
1999-2000	71.01	79.78

Funds disbursed as indicated above are in respect of 2566 projects pertaining to major irrigation, medium irrigation and minor irrigation in the State of Orissa.

(d) and (e) Setting up of RIDF-VII with a corpus of Rs. 5000 crore has been announced in the Union Budget for 2001-02 and the fund is to be utilized by all States/ Union territories in the country. Loan shall be sanctioned on submission of eligible projects by State Government.

Entertainment Tax

4036. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have given permission to State Governments to levy entertainment tax on cable operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which have levied such entertainment tax on cable operators; and

(d) the rate of entertainment tax on cable operators in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) As per Entry 62 of List II (State List) of the 7th Schedule to the Constitution of India, State Governments alone are empowered to levy entertainment tax. Since entertainment tax is a State subject, the question of the Union Government giving permission to the States to levy entertainment tax does not arise.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Insurance Agents

4037. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a college in private sector has been opened recently with a view to impart training to insurance agents;

(b) whether the establishment of such colleges is in accordance with the guidelines of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority;

(c) if so, the names of States where such colleges are proposed to be opened by the Government; and

(d) the concrete steps taken so far by the Government for setting up colleges for insurance agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has prescribed guidelines for grant of accreditation to institutions for imparting training to insurance agents. So far, 67 institutions, which fulfilled the requirements laid down by IRDA, have been granted accreditation by them.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Govt.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Fluctuations in Cost of Sugar

4038. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there were wide fluctuations in handling, administrative and storage charges, carrying cost of buffer stock of sugar going up from Rs. 1.46 crore in 1994-95 to Rs. 177.49 crore in 1997-98;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the cost/fluctuation of charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Central Government having regard to the stock of sugar held with the Sugar undertakings, the prospects of sugar production, the requirement of sugar for consumption with in the country and exports and such other relevant factors as may be considered necessary, may decide that a certain quantity of sugar is required to be maintained as buffer stock by the individual sugar factories. For the period for which the buffer stock is maintained, the Central Government authorises payment of subsidy towards interest, storage and insurance charges in accordance with the terms and the extent provided for in the SDF Rules, 1983. Such payment in respect of interest is made only when the buffer stock has been pledged with a scheduled bank. Further, such payments are made after the sugar mills have preferred claims for the amounts of interest, storage and insurance charges.

In 1994-95, an amount of Rs. 1.46 crores was paid as subsidy on the basis of claims finalized for payment during that year in respect of a buffer stock of 5 lakh tonnes of free sale sugar decided to be held from 1.4.93 to 30.9.93.

A buffer stock was created again from 10.1.96 to 9.7.98 which was as follows–5 lakh MT of free sale sugar from 10.1.96 to 9.1.97 later extended upto 9.7.98 and a buffer of 5 lakh MT of free sale sugar from 1.12.96 to 30.11.97. In 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 177.49 crores was paid as subsidy in respect of the buffer stock so held on basis of claims finalised in the year 1997-98.

These payments were not made for handling and administrative charges and as such the question of wide fluctuations does not arise. The difference in the payments made on buffer subsidy in 1994-95 and 1997-98 is mainly on account of the quantity of buffer stock, the duration for which they were held, and the number of claims settled.

As the buffer stock has been discontinued w.e.f. 9.7.1998, substantially lower subsidy payments have been made in later year.

Disinvestment of Hindustan Copper Ltd.

4039. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state .

(a) whether several trade unions have opposed the first phase of disinvestment of Hindustan Copper Limited;

(b) if so, the main points raised by the trade unions against the disinvestment of HCL; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to have more transparency in the disinvestment process?

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) Yes, Sir. Some unions of workers have represented against the first phase of disinvestment in HCL. The Khetri Tamba Shramik Sangh has *inter-alia* stated that:

(i) Privatised company will not be able to exploit the copper deposits of Khetri.

(ii) The interests and the security of employment of workers will suffer.

(iii) The public will not be able to utilise the hospital facilities of the company etc.

(c) The disinvestment process is carried out in accordance with a prescribed procedure, involving competitive bidding, that ensures complete transparency. The decisions are taken collectively after due consultations with various concerned departments/ Ministries and the management of the company. Meetings are held with the representatives of the workers unions to ascertain their view-points and address their apprehensions. Thus the process of disinvestment is completely transparent and it is reviewed from time to time with a view to refining it further.

Merger of Bank Branches

4040. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether public sector banks have started the process of merging of bank branches following introduction of voluntary retirement scheme for employees; and

(b) if so, the bank-wise, number of branches likely to be merged in each State particularly in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per the existing policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on branch licencing, while closure of a single branch of a bank in a rural area is not allowed, they are permitted to convert the branch into satellite office which functions for 2/3 days in a week so as to provide banking facilities to the customers at that center. With regard to Semi-urban, Urban and Metropolitan centers, banks could take a decision for closure of their branches. While taking such decisions, banks should ensure that the locality/ward is not rendered unbanked due to the closure. After the introduction of the voluntary retirement scheme for their employees, the banks' decisions for closure of the branches in Karnataka or elsewhere would be guided by the above policy.

Procurement of Wheat and Paddy

4041. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have fixed target of procurement of wheat and paddy during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the extent to which the target has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) (a) to (c) As the procurement operations are voluntary in nature, and the farmers have the choice to sell their produce to State Governments/Food Corporation of India or in the open market, as is advantageous to them, no targets are fixed for procurement of wheat and paddy. However, based on the estimated production and availability of wheat and paddy, procurement estimates are given by the State Governments prior to the commencement of each marketing season. The procurement of wheat during the Rabi Marketing Season 2000-2001 has exceeded the previous year's procurement level. As on

28.2.2001, a quantity of 163.55 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured as against 141.43 lakh tonnes procured during last year. As regards rice, procurement is going on and till 18.3.2001, a quantity of 152.33 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured as compared to 136.75 lakh tonnes procured in the corresponding period last year.

Illegal Sugar Sales by Sugar Mills

4042. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints of illegal sugar sales by sugar mills without official release order;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such illegal sales by mills are in addition to the quota issued under a proper release order;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government are constantly monitoring the supply and demand position as well as open market prices;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether there is any proposal under consideration to announce free-sale quota for six months in one stretch; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) Based on the reports received from various quarters regarding sale of sugar in the open market without valid release orders, the Government deputed various officers to verify the position regarding sale and dispatch of sugar by the factories. So far, 12 factories have been found prima-facie violating the release orders and they have been issued show cause notices.

(e) and (f) The Union Government are constantly monitoring the prices of sugar in the open market with a view to maintaining adequate supply of sugar at reasonable prices. The quantum of monthly freesale quota for internal consumption is decided having regard to production, stocks, requirement, availability of other alternative sweetening agents like gur, khandsari etc. and the same is announced on quarterly basis in advance.

(g) and (h) The Union Government in a Press Release on 10.1.001 announced that the releases of monthly freesale sugar would be made in advance on six monthly basis as this will facilitate introduction of futures contract in sugar and thereby ensure certain degree of price stability.

HAM Radios

4043. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of HAM radio transmitters in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to allow more HAM Radio transmitters in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The Department of Telecommunications has informed that there are approximately 15,908 licensed HAM Radio Operators in the country.

(b) and (c) During the times of natural calamities, the HAM operators are permitted to handle third party messages on behalf of State administrations, and no specific permission from Department of Telecommunications is required for such purposes.

Cell to Check Sexual Harassment at Workplaces

4044. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector undertakings have set up complaint cells to check the incident of sexual harassment of women at workplaces;

(b) if so, the details of undertakings, where such cells have not been set up; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure setting up of such cells early in all undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) All Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have been advised through their administrative Ministries, *inter alia*, to create a complaint mechanism by constituting Complaints Committee for redressal of the complaint made by the victim of sexual harassment at workplace in accordance with the direction given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Vishakha and Others vs State of Rajasthan and Others. CPSUs have also been advised to make necessary amendments in their Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules (CDA) on the lines of the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court. Details in this regard are not Centrally maintained, as such matters come under the purview of respective CPSUs

Expert Group for Infrastructure

4045. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted an Expert Group to assess the financial needs for various sectors of infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether the Expert Group has submitted its report;

(c) the total investment required in the country in infrastructure, Sector-wise; and

(d) the details of action plan prepared by the Government to mobilise the resources for the infrastructure sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) An Expert Group on Commercialisation of Infrastructure Projects was set up by the Ministry of Finance in October 1994. The Expert Committee submitted its report to the Government of 22nd June, 1996. As per projections made by the Expert group, total investment required for the Infrastructure Sector would amount to Rs. 4,31,860 crore between 1996-97 to 2000-2001 and about Rs. 7,45,460 crore during 2001-02 to 2005-06. Sectoral breakdown of projected infrastructure investment is summarized below :

(Rs. in crore)

Year	1996-97 to 2000-01	2001-02 to 2005-06
1. Electricity, Gas, Water Supply	211610	338110
2. Railway	48430	77400
3. Other Transport	120990	248750
4. Storage	780	1220
5. Communications	50050	79980
Total	431860	745460

(d) Most of the major recommendations of the Expert Group have been accepted by the Government and appropriate policy measures have been announced.

Non-Payment of Deposits

4046. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI PUSP JAIN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has appointed special officers in some private companies/ private finance companies particularly Krest Finance Limited to take care of the customer's grievances;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount invested by public in these companies as fixed/cumulative deposit and interest thereon has not been repaid by some of these companies even more than two years after maturity; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken for early refund of due amounts of general public as per Company Law Board's orders given in 1998?

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

(b) Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that Special Officers have been appointed on ten companies as per details below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Date of appointment of the Special Officer
1.	Krest Finlease Limited	10.01.2000
2.	Synergy Exchange Limited	(Since resigned on personal grounds)
3.	Sanmac Motor Finance Limited	
4.	MCC Finance Limited	17.05.1999 (Since resigned in view of the winding up of the company)
5.	Shriram Investments Ltd.	10.06.1998
6.	Shriram City Union Finance Ltd.	
7.	Shriram Transport Finance Ltd	
8.	Kirloskar Investments and Finance Ltd.	01.09.1999
9.	Lloyds Finance Limited	01.04.2000
10.	DCM Financial Services Ltd.	12.05.2000

(c) RBI has reported that the amount invested by public in these companies has not been repaid even more than 2 years after maturity except in the case of Shriram Investments Ltd., Shriram City Union Finance Ltd. and Shriram Transport Finance Ltd. which are not in default, while in the case of Lloyds Finance Ltd. the repayments are as per Company Law Board's orders with some delay.

(d) RBI has taken various actions in respect of these companies, such as rejection of company's application for issue of Certificate of Registration, filing of criminal complaints, winding up petition and restructuring of the company etc.

ATMs in Banks

4047. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the branches of nationalised banks, where automatic teller machine facility is available, State-wise, particularly in Lakhimpur Kheri district.

(b) whether the nationalised banks propose to install more automatic teller-machines in near future;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) to (d) As reported by Reserve Bank of India no Public Sector Bank have installed ATM in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh. A statement showing the details of Bank-wise and State-wise position of ATMs is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise and Bank-wise position of ATMs

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Allahabad Bank		Andhra Bank		Bank of Baroda		Bank of India		Bank of Maharashtra		Canara Bank		Central Bank of India		Corporation Bank		Dena Bank		Indian Bank	
		Already Installed	Yet to be installed	Already Installed	Yet to be installed	Already Installed	Yet to be installed	Already Installed	Yet to be installed	Already Installed	Yet to be installed	Already Installed	Yet to be installed	Already Installed	Yet to be installed	Already Installed	Yet to be installed	Already Installed	Yet to be installed	Already Installed	Yet to be installed
1.	Andaman & Nico.	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-	1	9	4	-		1	9	-	1	2	7	2	2		14	-		3	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-
4.	Assam	-	-	-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-				-
5.	Bihar	1	1	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	1	-		-	1	-		-	-
6.	Chandigarh	-	2	-	1	-		1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		1	-		-	1
7.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-		1	3	-	-	-	-	-		-	7	1			1
8.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	4		1	10	-	1	-	2	1		-	10	3		-	4
9.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	-		1	2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-		-			-	-		-	-
12.	Jharkhand	1	-	-		1		-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	
13.	Karnataka		1		-	2		1	9	-	1	7	21	1	2	2	30	-		3	-
14.	Kerala	-	-	-		-		-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	1		-	-
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1	2	-	-	-		-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	1		-	-
16.	Maharashtra	3	4	1	-	13		11	15	10	7	11	12	6	2	6	24	14		13	3
17.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
18.	Meghalaya		-	-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-
19.	Mizoram		-	-	-	-		-		-	-		-	-		-	-	-		-	-
20.	Nagaland	-	-		-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
21.	NCT of Delhi	3	2	-	1	1		4	8	-	1	5	15	1	3	2	20	2		4	2
22.	Orissa	1		-	-	-		-				-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
23.	Pondicherry	-				-			-		-	-	-	-		-	-	-		1	-
24.	Punjab	1		-	-				2	-	-	-	2	-		-	3	-		-	-
25.	Rajasthan				-	-		-	-		-	-	-	-		-		-		-	1
26.	Sikkim		-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-
27.	Tamil Nadu		1		1	3		1	9	-	1	3	19	1	1	-	17	2		16	15
28.	Tripura	-	-		-	-			-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-			
29.	Uttar Pradesh	2	9	-	-	1			3	1			2	1	2		3	1		-	
30.	Uttarakhand		1	-	-			-	-	-		-	-	-			1	-		1	
31.	West Bengal	1	4	1	-	-		1	4	-	-	-	5	1		-	7	1		1	2

40 ATMs are to be installed at various places.

25 ATMs are yet to be installed at various places.

State-wise and Bank-wise position of ATMs

Sl. No	Name of the State	Indian Overseas Bank		Oriental Bank of Commerce		Punjab National Bank		Punjab & Sind Bank		Syndicate Bank		Union Bank of India		United Bank of India		Uco Bank		Vijaya Bank	
		Already installed	Yet to be installed	Already installed	Yet to be installed	Already installed	Yet to be installed	Already installed	Yet to be installed	Already installed	Yet to be installed	Already installed	Yet to be installed	Already installed	Yet to be installed	Already installed	Yet to be installed	Already installed	Yet to be installed
1	Andaman & Nico.	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	2	-		-	3		-	1		-	2	-	-	-	1	-	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-		-	1			-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
4.	Assam	-	-	-		-	1	-		-			-	-	-	-	-	-	
5.	Bihar	-	-	-		-	20	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	
6.	Chandigarh		-	-		2	3	-	-	-		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7.	Goa	-	-	-		-	-		-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
8.	Gujarat	-	1	-		-	7	-	-	1		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
9.	Haryana	1	-	-		1	-	-	-	1		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10.	Himachal Pradesh			-		-	1	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
11.	Jammu & Kashmir		-	-		-	2	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
12	Jharkhand	-				-			-	-				-	-	-	-	-	
13.	Karnataka	1	-		Process is going on	-	5		-	6	Not applicable		-		-	-	1	2	N/A
14	Kerala	1	-				1			-					-	-	-	-	
15	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-		-	6	-		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
16	Maharashtra	3	1	2		6	10	2	-	9		9	-	2	1	4	-	3	
17	Manipur	-	-	-		-	-			-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
18	Meghalaya			-						-				-		-		-	
19	Mizoram			-			-			-		-							
20	Nagaland	-		-		-	-			-				-	-	-			
21	NCT of Delhi	10	7	2		6	14	2		2		1		1	1		1	2	
22	Orissa						1			-									
23	Pondicherry	-	-			-				-				-	-	-	-		
24	Punjab	2	1	1		3	9	1	1	-					-				
25	Rajasthan			1		1	11	-							-			-	
26	Sikkim		-			-	1			-								-	
27	Tamil Nadu	4	8	-		1	6			1					1	-	1	1	
28	Tripura	-		-		-	-			-									
29	Uttar Pradesh	1	2			9	34			-							1	-	
30	Uttarakhand						3		-							-			
31	West Bengal	1	1	-		-	6	-	-	-		-	-	4	-	6	1	-	

Non-Payment of Wages by Super Bazar

4048. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Super Bazar has not paid monthly wages to its employees since last November, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and time by which the arrears of wages would be paid;

(c) whether the Super Bazar is proposed to be privatised or handed-over to some other agency; 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) Super Bazar has informed that the salary to its employees has been paid upto November, 2000. The financial position of Super Bazar is very precarious as it is running in losses. With the decline in sales and profitability, Super Bazar has not been in a position to pay monthly wages to its employees. The management of Super Bazar is making all possible efforts to make payment of salaries as early as possible.

(c) and (d) Super Bazar has its own Board of Directors to decide about the matters relating to business and administration. As per available information, the Board of Directors have no proposal under consideration regarding privatization or handing over of the Super Bazar to any other agency, at present.

Infrastructure Development Schemes

4079. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to allow State Governments to raise tax free bonds to finance urban water supply and other infrastructure development schemes, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a copy of the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Urban Development to raise Tax Free Municipal Bonds to finance urban municipal infrastructure and circulated to all State Governments is enclosed as statement.

Statement

No. K. 014011/41/96-UD.III
Government of India
Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation
(Department of Urban Development)

New Delhi, the February 8, 2001.

Office Memorandum

Subject : Issue of Tax Free Municipal Bonds.

The Central Government has inserted a new clause (vii) to Section 10(15) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 *vide* the Finance Act, 2000, whereby interest income from Bonds issued by local authorities are exempted from income Tax.

2. Guidelines are hereby circulated for issue of Tax Free Municipal Bonds by the local governments/ authorities. It is requested that these Guidelines may be widely circulated, to enable the State/Local Governments concerned to submit proposals to the Central Government i.e. Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation for issue of Tax Free Municipal Bonds.

Sd/-
(S.K. BHATNAGAR)
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All the State Governments/U.T. Governments.
By name to Secretary (Urban Dev.) / Secretary (Local Self Govt.)

Copy to :

1. Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), North Block, New Delhi (Smt. Deepa Krishnan, Director).

2. Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), North Block, New Delhi. Separate copies to Shri Ashok Lavasa, Joint Secretary (ADB&I) and Shri Siddharth Behura, Joint Secretary.

3. Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), North Block, New Delhi (Shri B.S. Bhandari, Director (CM&ECB-I)).

A copy of the Guidelines, duly vetted by the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs (Department of Legal Affairs) is enclosed.

Sd/-
(S.K. BHATNAGAR)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Guidelines for Issue of Tax Free Municipal Bonds

1. Eligible Issuers

The eligible issuers of Tax Free Municipal Bonds shall be :

i. Local-self Governments, other local authorities or public sector companies duly constituted under an Act of Parliament or State Legislature;

ii. Other local authorities constituted under relevant state government statutes like Water Supply and Sewerage Boards/Authorities, which are engaged in provision of any of the eligible purposes as listed under paragraph (2);

iii. Groups of local authorities/governments as defined under Sub-section 1 (i) and (ii) above through a financial intermediary such as a DFI or commercial bank.

iv. Provided the issuers mentioned at Clause (i) and (ii) are covered under the definition of Section 2(36-A) of the Income Tax Act.

Section 2(36-A) of the Income Tax Act reads as under .

"public sector company" means any corporation established by or under any Central, State or Provincial Act or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 ot 1956);

Section 617 of Companies Act reads as under :

For the purposes of this Act, Government company means any company in which not less than fifty-one per cent of the paid up share-capital is held by the Central Government or by any State Government or Governments, or partly by one or more State Governments, and includes a company which is a subsidiary of a Government Company as thus defined.

2. Use of Funds Raised

The funds raised from Tax Free Municipal Bonds shall be used only for capital investments in urban infrastructure for providing one or more of the following :

i. Potable Water Supply;

ii. Sewerage or Sanitation;

iii. Drainage;

iv. Solid Waste Management;

v. Roads, Bridges and Flyovers; and

vi. Urban Transport (if this is a municipal function under respective state legislation)

The capital investments shall be for the following purposes :

(a) setting up of new project(s),

(b) expansion, augmentation or improvements of the existing system.

3. Essential Pre-conditions

A. Project Development

a. The proceeds of the proposed issue shall be clearly earmarked for a defined project or a set of projects;

b. Before the actual issuance of Tax Free Bonds, the following tasks shall be completed .

i. an investment plan for the project components indicating phasing and a financing plan approved by the local authority or the Board of the Agency as the case may be;

ii. identification of the benchmarks for commencement and completion including the milestone dates for all the proposed components under the overall project(s);

iii. Pre-qualification of the bidders for the proposed project should be completed and final tender documents should have been issued to all prequalified bidders,

iv. The land required for the project should be in possession of the issuer and/or the process for land acquisition and other statutory clearances if any should have been initiated.

c. The issuers as specified in paragraph (1) above shall maintain a separate account of the amount raised from the Tax Free Municipal Bond, to be utilised only for the project related expenditure,

d. The issuers shall establish a separate Project Implementation Cell and designate a Project Officer who shall monitor the progress of the project(s) and be responsible for ensuring that

the funds raised through Tax Free Municipal Bonds are utilised only for the project(s) for which the Bonds were issued.

4. Instrument, Maturing and Buy-back

a. The Tax Free Bonds should have a minimum maturity of 5 years. The issuers will have option to offer deep discount bonds or other financial innovations especially to enhance the tenor of the bond.

b. The issuers may have the option for buy-back arrangements of the face value of the bonds from any individual investor after a lock-in period of three years.

5. Nature of Issue and Tax Benefits

a. The choice of raising the amount as a public issue or by private placement or a combination of both types will be left to the issuer;

b Income by way of interest rate upto 10.50 per cent will be entitled to exemption from Income Tax under the Income Tax Act, 1961 without limits.

6. Ceiling on Amount of Tax Free Municipal Bonds for a Project

a. The amount of issue of bonds for the purposes listed under item (2) above will be approved on a case by case basis by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India. The maximum amount of Tax Free Municipal Bonds as a percentage of the total project costs (excluding interest during construction) will be 33.3 percent or Rs. 50 crore whichever is lower;

b. The debt equity ratio for the project shall not exceed 3:1.

B Financial Viability

a. The project(s) shall be financially viable;

b. Financial viability here means that the project(s) should be able to generate a stream of revenue which should be sufficient to finance the project.

c. The issuer shall create an Escrow account for debt servicing of bond proceeds with earmarked revenue. Earmarking of revenue through Escrow mechanism will be monitored by an independent Trustee like the DFIs or the nationalised banks.

C. Other Conditions

a. The issuers will be subject to rules regarding borrowings under respective municipal legislation (as specified 1 (I)) in respective States or other laws relating to total borrowing;

b. i. The issuer shall further undertake to provide an additional debt covenant under which the Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) of at least 1.25 is maintained through out the tenor of the Tax Free Municipal bond.

ii. DSCR is defined as a ratio of net income after meeting all the obligations and liabilities of the Issuer except the long term debt obligations (principal and interest) to long term debt servicing obligations.

iii. For the purpose of estimating net income, the income and expenditure of the entire utility/Corporation may be considered instead of project specific revenues and expenditures.

iv. All State grants or transfers to the issuer should be deposited into the escrow account and the Bond issue must clearly set forth the order of priority according to which the revenue generated by the enterprise will be allocated for various purposes.

v. Estimate of DSCR shall be based on realistic assumptions.

D. Project Account and Monitoring

In case of municipal authorities, the issuers shall at least contribute 20 per cent of the project costs either from internal resources or other grants or a mix of the two.

7. Compulsory Credit Rating

It will be mandatory for the issuer to obtain an investment grade rating from an RBI approved and the reputed credit rating agency before the issuance of the Tax Free Municipal Bonds. The credit rating agency will carry out a due diligence process at the time of award of the initial rating to ensure that all the conditions mentioned in the Guidelines are met and would also monitor the same as part of its surveillance during the tenor of the Tax Free Municipal Bonds.

8. Legal and Administrative Requirement

a. The issuers shall adhere to all other applicable legal and administrative requirements which are in force from time to time;

b. Where a public issue is made, the issuer shall abide by the guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

9. The Competent Authorities to Grant Tax Exemption and Approval

a. The Deptt. of Economic Affairs (DEA) will lay down the quantum of tax free Municipal Bonds to be issued during the financial year and inform the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation (MOUD&PA) of the quantum and any other regional or sectoral restrictions they may prescribe.

b. The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation (MOUD&PA), Government of India shall be the nodal agency for processing the proposal for tax free Municipal Bonds. The MOUD&PA will receive the applications for issue of Municipal Bonds are after processing the same will place before the Committee to be constituted by it having representatives of DEA and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). The Committee will forward its recommendations to the DEA, which will notify the specified Bonds in the Official Gazette with the approval of the Finance Minister.

c. The Municipal Bonds notified by the DEA in the Official Gazette shall be eligible for tax exemption under section 10(15)(vii) of the Income Tax Act.

10. External Monitoring

Within six months of the close of every financial year, the escrow account and the project account will be audited by a firm of Chartered Accountants appointed by the concerned State Urban Development Departments from a panel of Chartered Accountants approved by the C & AG and the fully complied audit report submitted to the MOUD&PA.

11. Listing of Bonds

The Tax-Free bonds may be listed on the Stock Exchange.

Export of Engineering Goods

4050. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of engineering goods exported during last three years;

(b) whether any effort is being made to export good quality of engineering products and to establish brand names in the global market; and

(c) if so, the support extended by the Government to the engineering goods exporters for increasing the production and export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The total value of engineering goods exported during the last three years is as follows

Year	Million US$
1997-98	4603.19
1998-99	4086.18
1990-00	4611.12

Source : EEPC

(b) and (c) The Government encourages manufacturers and exporters to attain internationally accepted standards of quality for their products. To facilitate product upgradation, Government allows import of capital goods and machinery at concessional rate of duty. Under the DEPB Scheme, the Government has withdrawn the restriction of value cap of approved branded products made in India which has helped increase export of those products. Exporters of engineering goods are entitled to avail of benefits under various other schemes like Duty Exemption Scheme, Duty Drawback Scheme, exemption under 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act and Market Development Assistance.

[Translation]

Shifting of Bank Branch

4051. SHRI SUBODH ROY Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the guidelines laid down by the Reserve Bank of India for shifting of a nationalized bank;

(b) whether a report is sought from the local police/ administration about the safety of the bank and the customers;

(c) if so, whether the Nathnagar branch of State Bank of India in Bhagalpur district was shifted against the report of the local police/administration;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct a probe into it; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India permits shifting of branches which are loss making or are affected due to floods, earthquakes, law and order problem, dilapidated premises, etc. However banks are required to ensure that the locality/ward/center is not rendered unbanked due to the shifting.

(b) to (e) Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Lifting the Ban on Import of Cement

4052. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether ban on import of cement has been lifted;

(b) the terms and conditions under which the import of cement would be allowed;

(c) the extent to which the import of cement would stabilize the prices of cement; and

(d) the other efforts being made by the Government to stabilize the cement price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) Import of cement as classified under Exim Code Heading 25.23 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, is free since 1996. Import of 14 specified grades of cement has been made subject to mandatory quality standards *vide* notification no. 44 dated 24.11.2000 alongwith 117 other products. The domestic producers of these grades of cement are already under obligation to comply with these standards. Basic customs duty on import of Portland cement has been reduced from 35% to 25% in the Budget for the year 2001-2002. Since import of cement is free, any private entity can import the product depending on demand, supply and price situation in the domestic vis-a-vis international market.

[English]

Raid on SBI Branch in USA

4053. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation of USA raided the premises of the State Bank of India in USA recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government were intimated in advance about the violation of legal provisions of USA by the State Bank of India;

(d) if so, the steps the Government took to ensure that Government banks working in USA and other countries follow the legal provisions of that country; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty officials, who invited such unpleasant steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) to (e) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that a search was conducted by the US Department of Commerce (USDOC) at its New York Branch on 7th February, 2001. The search related to payments, if any, made on behalf of 'listed entities' in India to exporters in the USA, which are covered by USDOC regulations. 'Listed Entities' are notified from time to time by the Export Administration Department of the USDOC consequent upon the sanctions imposed by the USA in 1998, which include mostly public sector undertakings in defence production and research such as BARC, Atomic Energy Commission, BHEL, ISRO, DRDO etc. SBI has reported that no specific violations of USDOC and Export Administration Department guidelines have been brought to the Bank's notice.

Income Tax paid by Sports Persons

4054. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the estimated income and income tax paid by the cricket, golf, billiards, chess and tennis players during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) Income Tax Department does not maintain separate details of income and income tax paid by golf, billiards, chess and tennis players.

[Translation]

Telecast Facilities in Bihar

4055. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of cities/towns of Bihar where the Broadcasting facilities of Doordarshan/AIR has not been provided so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide Broadcasting facility at these places also;

(c) if so, the places identified for this purpose so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide this facility at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Whereas in respect of radio signals Bihar is fully covered, by population as well as by area, Doordarshan coverage is available all over the country, including Bihar, in satellite mode. However, terrestrial TV coverage is presently estimated to be available to about 93.3% population of the State (including the population in fringe areas).

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati does not have a policy to set up TV Transmitters/Radio Stations at every city/town in a State but it is the constant endeavour to expand the AIR/Doordarshan coverage to uncovered areas of the country. For further expansion of TV coverage in Bihar, the following five transmitter projects *viz.* are presently under implementation :

For DD-I Service - Low Power Transmitters (LPT) at Ramnagar, Kishanganj and Banka

For DD-2 Service - High Power Transmitter at Muzaffarpur and LPT at Gaya.

These projects are at different stages of implementation and all steps are being taken to ensure timely completion of these projects.

[English]

Insurance Claim for Stolen Rice

4056. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned "Bhuj's traders claim insurance for Rs. 1.36 crore worth 'stolen' rice" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated February 26, 2001;

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

(c) if so, whether Government has probed the scam of stolen rice in Bhuj; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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.

Creation of National Safety Commission

4057. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a proposal to create National Safety Commission for consumers;

(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 V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides for the better protection of the interests of the consumers. Proposals are under consideration of Government to amend the Act to augment the provisions relating to the competence of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies set up under the Act to deal with consumer complaints regarding sale of goods or provision of services that are spurious, unsafe or hazardous.

Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme

4058. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the new report in the *Business Standard* under the caption "DEPB" delay hitting exporters FISME, dated 26th December, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the position regarding processing shipments under Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) scheme at other places; and

(d) the details of action taken on the representations received in this regard?

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]

Distribution of Charitable Funds

4059. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently imposed restrictions on the right of distribution of charitable funds by urban co-operative banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations for removal of said restrictions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no restrictions have been imposed on the right of distribution of charitable funds by urban co-operative banks. As per extant instructions, urban co-operative banks are free to make normal donations within the overall ceiling of one percent of the published profit of the previous year. Addition to this, the banks can donate to National Funds and other funds recognized/sponsored by the State/ Central Government. However, during a year, total donations should not exceed two percent of the published profits of the previous year.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, RBI has been receiving representations from certain primary co-operative banks in Maharashtra seeking permission for making large donations. Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Maharashtra has issued circular stating that it is not in the best interest of the depositors/banks to give donations of huge amounts and that too only to one entity year after year and therefore ceiling as stipulated by the RBI i.e. one percent or two percent of published profits of previous year, as the case may be, on individual donations, is considered necessary.

[English]

Unclaimed LIC Policies

4060. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the huge funds belonging to people who did not claim for funds after matured of their policies are lying with LIC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by LIC to find people who did not make claims and return the due funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has intimated that policy claims which remain unsettled are kept in the written back revenue account. The details for the last 5 years are given below:

Year	Amounts written back to Revenue Account (Rs. in crores)	Amounts paid which were written back to Revenue Account (Rs. in crores)	Net unclaimed amount credited to Life Fund Account (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	19.37	7.37	12.00
1996-97	28.31	9.40	18.01
1997-98	31.39	12.05	19.34
1998-99	29.00	13.62	15.38
1999-2000	31.31	12.31	19.00

(c) In order to trace out the policyholder/claimant, a systematic follow up is undertaken by the LIC by sending an ordinary letter in the first instance followed by a reminder and after three months through a Registered letter. In addition field personnel are also put on the job by LIC to trace out the claimants and ascertain their revised residential address, if any. Such claims are kept outstanding in the books of LIC for a period of 5 years. In case, policyholders/claimants are not traceable, the claims are written back to Revenue Account. However, if the policyholder/claimant later on makes a claim, the Corporation settles the same after satisfying itself of its genuineness.

Assistance for Export Related Infrastructure

4061. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for granting assistance to the State Government for creation of export related infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of grants provided to each State during the current financial year; and

(d) the extent to which the share of State Governments has been increased in the total export of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) The Government has formulated a new scheme called the "Scheme for Central Assistance to the States for Developing Export Infrastructure and other allied activities" for granting assistance to the States for boosting exports. The scheme would specifically target activities such as development of cold chains for promoting agro exports, development of complementary infrastructure, creation of new export promotion industrial parks and augmenting facilities in the existing ones, research, development and markeing including development of design centres for State specific ethnic products, development of minor ports and jetties, setting up of common facility centres, common effluent treatment plants for exporting units, production infrastructure in export conclaves, setting up of service and facilitation centres, equity participation in infrastructure projects etc. The present budgetary allocation is Rs. 97 crores which would be distributed amongst States on a pro rata basis in terms of objective criteria of aggregate quantum of exports and the growth rate of exports vis-a-vis the previous year.

Control on Import of Ferro Silicon

4062. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) whether the Government have received a demand from domestic ferro silicon industry to control imports of ferro silicon from Ukraine, Iran, Russia and China;

(b) if so, the quantities of ferro silicon imported from these countries, separately, during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) whether any investigation has been initiated by the Anti-Dumping authority into alleged dumping of ferro silicon from these countries;

(d) if so, whether the investigations have been completed;

(e) if so, the findings thereof; and

(f) the details of steps being taken to control the dumping of ferro silicon from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Anti-Dumping investigation has been initiated against import of Ferro Silicon from Russia & China on 5th June, 2000 and against Ukraine on 9.3.2001 under the provisions of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1955 on the basis of fully documented petitions filed by the domestic industry with sufficient evidence of dumping, injury & casual link. Anti-Dumping investigation against imports of Ferro Silicon from Iran could not be initiated since the imports were di-minimis. The Preliminary Findings have been issued recommending imposition of duty on import of Ferro Silicon from Russia & China on 16.11.2000 and the duty has been imposed on 26.12.2000. There is no quantitative restriction on import of Ferro Silicon into the country. The import data of Ferro Silicon is given below

Quantity (MT)

Country	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000 (Apr.-Oct.)
Russia	2949.8	2514.8	6159.89	1854.96
China	2209	80.29	2675	1362
Iran	142.8	Nil	280	Nil
Ukraine	Nil	20	887.12	1357.85

Source DGCI&S

The normal time limit allowed for conclusion of the Anti-Dumping proceedings and submission of Final Findings is one year from the date of initiation of investigations

Conversion of Class-III Employees of New India Assurance Company

4063. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether New India Assurance Company Limited has converted Class-III employees to Class-II Development Officers in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of candidates interviewed in Delhi the number of candidates converted, criteria of their selection, target fixed for them and the terms and conditions laid down therefor.

(d) whether the United India Insurance Company Limited and National Insurance Company Limited also propose to introduce the scheme of converting Class-III employees to Development Officers on the line of New India Assurance:

(e) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken thereon; and

(f) if not, the reasons for not adopting the policy in United India Assurance and National Insurance Company?

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

Cap Price on Silk Garments

4064. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to fix a cap price on silk garments for exports;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether silk exporters have demanded renewal of Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other decisions taken on silk exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government do not have any proposal to fix a cap price on silk garments for exports. However, the Director General of Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Commerce have notified a value cap on silk garments for the purpose of availment of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) on export of silk garments to guard against availment of unintended benefits by unscrupulous exporters. The value cap on silk garments has been notified as Rs. 750/- per piece.

(c) and (d) No request for renewal of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme has been received by the Government.

(e) The Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in the Ministry of Commerce have also notified value caps for DEPB entitlement against export of silk fabrics and silk made-ups at Rs. 250/- per sq. meter on silk fabric. DGFT have also included export of embroidered silk garments, fabrics and made-ups for entitlement under Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme. These changes have been notified by DGFT on 2.3.2001.

F.M. Channel for Education

4065. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide a separate FM channel for education and also establishing a National Testing Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total outlay of the project;

(c) the time by which it would start functioning; and

(d) to what extent this would be helpful to the people?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) On the basis of an agreement signed between Ministry of I&B and IGNOU, the Government has given permission to IGNOU for operating FM Educational Channel in 40 centres. At present, there is no plan for starting a National Testing Service.

(b) The details of total outlay for the project are being obtained.

(c) As per the agreement, it should be commissioned within 3 years form the date of frequency allocation.

(d) The Gyan Vani FM channel will be covering 4 metro cities and 36 centres and will cover a wide network of distant learners and hitherto unreached population of the country.

Disbursement of Loan by HDFC

4066. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) has made majority loan disbursement in Group-A cities i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata;

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

(c) the steps taken by the bank for providing such loans in other cities also particularly in North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) has reported that it has not made majority of its loan disbursements in Group 'A' cities. The amounts of individual housing loan approved by HDFC during April to December, 2000 in the Group 'A' cities are Mumbai (Rs. 217 crores), New Delhi (Rs. 69 crores), Chennai (Rs. 170 crores), Bangalore (Rs. 79 crores) and Kolkata (Rs. 62 crores) totalling Rs. 597 crores, as against total loan approved by HDFC of Rs. 2580 crores. This constitutes 23% of the total individual loans.

(c) HDFC organizes outreach programmes spread over 80 locations throughout the country which have enabled HDFC to provide loans in over 2,400 cities and towns. As regarding North-Eastern States, HDFC has a full-fledged branch in Guwahati, which conducts outreach programmes in various parts of Assam and also provides loans in other North-Eastern States.

Coffee Plantations In Orissa

4067. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether private sector has been involved in coffee plantation in the country particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the areas in each State where coffee plantation has started in the private sector; and

(c) the annual production of coffee in these areas in each State during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) About 98% of the coffee produced in India is grown in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the entire production in these States is contributed by the individual/company holdings belonging to private sector. In Orissa 460 hectare coffee plantation is in the private sector. Details of the State-wise coffee plantation in the private sector is given below :

State	Holdings	Area in ha.
Karnataka	37300	192500
Kerala	75900	84100
Tamil Nadu	13300	30600
Andhra Pradesh	27900	13200
Orissa	60	460
N.E. States	5715	8641

(c) State-wise annual production of coffee in private sector holdings during the last three years has been as under :

State	1998-99 (in MT)	1999-2000 (in MT)	2000-2001 (in MT)
Karnataka	182900	209100	208400
Kerala	61150	60470	64430
Tamil Nadu	18300	19400	18950
Andhra Pradesh	1792	2176	2230
Orissa	137	152	180
N.E. States	221	202	199

Salaries to Employees of State Government of Assam

4068. SHRI M.K. SUBBA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had lately imposed a ban on payment of arrears of salaries in respect of Assam State Government and other employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the arrears of payments of salaries to Assam State Government employees at the end of December, 2000; and

(d) the steps since taken to lift ban on payment of these arrears?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As reported by the State Government, the salaries till the month of January, 2001 have been paid. The State Government has intimated that it will authorize payments as soon as the procedural and other aspects, in respect of opening the State treasuries is taken care of.

[Translation]

Pay Revision of Public Sector Undertakings

4069. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state

(a) whether pay revision due from 1.1.1992 and 1.1.1997 has not been effected so far by some

Undertakings out of 240 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs); and

(b) if so, the number of such CPSUs alongwith the number of CPSUs, which have not effected pay revision due from 1.1.1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Pay/wage revision in all the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) are to be implemented on fulfilling the laid down conditions/stipulations issued from time to time. Those CPSUs which did not fulfil these conditions, could not effect pay revison for their employees from the due dates. Implementation of pay/wage revision in Central PSUs rests with the administrative Ministries/ Departments. The details are not maintained on a centralized basis.

[English]

Buffer Stock of Foodgrains

4070. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether per unit administrative overheads, freight charges, interest charges and storage charges of buffer stock of foodgrains fluctuated widely from year to year during 1991-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to remove fluctuation of charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The required information is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The following measures have been taken/are being taken by the Food Corporation of India to remove fluctuation of charges and carrying cost :

(i) achieving average capacity utilization of 75% to reduce storage cost even though the procurement of grains is seasonal;

(ii) adhering to the procurement and movement ratio norm of 1:1.35 as fixed by the Government of India to reduce the expenditure on freight;

(iii) making efforts to reduce the incurrence of railway demurrage charges;

(iv) releasing excess stocks in the open market to reduce the buffer stock;

(v) controlling the administrative cost by reducing staff strength and other administrative expenses;

(vi) Making efforts to dispose off old stocks/C&D category of stocks.

Statement

Rs./Per Qtl.

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Admn. overheads	5.60	10.65	8.21	6.91	9.05	9.41	14.81	14.79	13.56
Freight	-	-	6.99	7.66	-	-	-	-	-
Handling	7.23	8.51	8.02	8.73	10.62	13.87	19.95	17.29	19.11
Storage ch.	24.27	40.13	24.32	23.83	32.91	46.61	50.81	44.26	43.40
Interest	34.28	36.70	62.97	72.06	78.37	75.52	74.66	87.07	85.35
Transit Shortages	-	-	1.13	1.31	-	-	-	-	
Storage Short.	6.17	7.66	5.52	4.96	9.89	17.33	11.84	8.33	8.10

The fluctuation in administrative overheads, freight charges, interest charges etc. of buffer stock of foodgrains is mainly due to inflationary effect, increase in expenditure, increase in interest charges of buffer carrying cost because of heavy procurement, fluctuation in capacity utilization due to wide fluctuation in sales and procurement, increase in per quintal cost of shortages due to increase in MSP, increase in wage revision and increase in DA etc.

[Translation]

Revenue Earned by DD Delhi and Mumbai

4071. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the targeted revenue to be earned by the Delhi Doordarshan and Mumbai Doordarshan Kendras, until February 28, 2001 and the actual revenue earned;

(b) whether there has been any decline in the revenue earnings; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the functioning of the above Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

4072. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of subsidy on different items has been increasing over the last few years;

(b) if so, the total subsidy provided during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 separately;

(c) the amount of subsidy on fertilisers and foodgrains separately;

(d) whether the Government propose to change the present system of providing subsidy on fertilisers and foodgrains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The details of subsidy given on various items (including fertilizers and foodgrains) over the last several years is given in Annexure 3.1 of the Expenditure Budget 2001-2002 Volume I;

(d) and (e) The Expenditure Reforms Commission has given recommendations for rationalising the subsidy regime. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech presented to Parliament on 28.2.2001 indicated the approach being adopted by Government.

[English]

Loans to Farmers

4073. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI

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

(a) whether a provision for grant of loans to the farmers under the cane development schemes for procuring inputs like fertilizers, seeds and pesticides for the cultivation of sugarcane was incorporated in the SDF Rules, 1983 on November 21, 1997 but the same was operational only upto March 31, 1998 and thereafter no loan has been disbursed;

(b) if so, the reasons for not disbursing any loans after March 31, 1998;

(c) the steps taken to reopen the grant of loans to help the farmers to increase the sugarcane production; and

(d) the sugarcane production in each of the last three years and how does that compare with the preceding three years of sugarcane production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) (a) and (b) A provision in the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 was incorporated *vide* notification dated 21.11.1997 for sanctioning loan to a sugar undertaking (and not to the sugarcane growers/farmers) for purchase of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. This provision was made in the SDF Rules to extend financial assistance to the sugar mills when the sugar industry was facing problem of liquidity and resource mobilization. Applications from the sugar undertakings for sanction of loan under this provision were allowed to be received upto 31.3.1998. Loans under this provision were disbursed in the financial year 1998-99 to 2000-2001.

(c) In terms of the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 the regular cane development loans can be availed from the SDF by the sugar undertakings under which a larger number of components are eligible for assistance. Besides the loan has a moratorium of 3 years and thereafter repayment in 4 equal annual instalments. The maximum amount of loan permissible i.e. Rs. 3.00 crores is also substantially higher than the short term loans.

(d) The sugarcane production in the country during the last six years is indicated below :

	lakhs tonnes
1994-95	2755.40
1995-96	2811.00
1996-97	2775.60
1997-98	2795.41
1998-99	2887.22
1999-2000	2992.27

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Motorcycles by Chinese Technology

4074. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Public Sector Undertaking propose to manufacture the motorcycles based of Chinese technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which production of said motorcycle is likely to commence;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between India and China in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Non-Banking Financial Companies

4075. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had issued a Circular/decision to a number of Delhi based Non-Banking Financial Companies including Motor Financing Companies not to accept the deposits from the general public and simultaneously refund the amount accepted as deposits on maturity or within two years with effect from April 1, 1994;

(b) if so, the details of such N.B.F.Cs. operating in Delhi;

(c) whether the R.B.I. had set up any team to monitor the implementation of the said Circular;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether number of N.B.F.Cs. including Motor Finance companies, had completely flouted the R.B.I.'s directions and continued to accept deposits from the members of the general public and after some time disappeared from the market;

(f) if so, whether the Government have received complaints in this regard from the general public against those companies; and

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

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

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

Export of Non-Leather Footwear

4076. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India lags behind in non-leather footwear exports" appearing in the *Times of India* dated January 4, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the exports target of non-leather footwear could not be achieved during the past few years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target in export of non-leather footwear?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The exports of non-leather footwear has been increasing in the recent years. The exports in 1999-2000 were US $ 37.73 million against exports of

US $ 17.52 million during the year 1998-99, recording an increase of 115.27%.

During April-December, 2000, the export of non-leather footwear has touched US $ 15.28 million registering an increase of 54.48% over the corresponding period of the previous year.

At the initiative of the Government, the Council for Leather Exports has formulated a plan for a more focussed approach for exports of leather products by identifying specific products to be marketed in specific countries.

Performance of Mutual Funds

4077. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the performance of Indian Mutual Fund vis-a-vis the foreign owned Mutual Funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Mututal Funds have not performed as has been expected; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve the performance of Indian Mutual Funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Mutual funds are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996. SEBI monitors the activities of mutual funds through various periodical reports submitted by them. Mutual funds are required to disclose their performance in terms of NAVs on daily basis in case of open-ended schemes and on weekly basis in case of close-ended schemes. Detailed internal status reports including funds mobilized, total assets, offer documents received and cleared, schemes launched, daily purchases and sales by mutual funds etc. are prepared which are also available on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in). As such, Government has not conducted any separate study on the performance of Indian mutual funds, vis-a-vis foreign owned mutual funds.

(c) and (d) Performance of Mutual Funds Schemes is dependent on various forces and factors affecting capital markets. However, SEBI has prescribed that Asset Management Companies of mutual funds must exercise due diligence and care while making investment decisions. With a view to bringing about transparency in investment decisions of mutual funds, SEBI has advised Asset Management Companies of mutual funds to maintain records in support of each investment decision. This is applicable to Indian as well as foreign owned mutual funds.

Working of NBF Companies

4078. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Non-Banking Financial Companies and Financial Institutions have sought to relax new borrowing norms from the Government;

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

(c) the details of action taken/proposed thereon, and

(d) the details of regulatory/monitoring mechanism to strengthen the working of NBFC and FIs to protect the interests of small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has received representations from Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for relaxation of borrowing norms.

(b) Unrated and underrated NBFCs engaged in equipment leasing & hire purchase activities have represented to RBI to allow them to accept public deposits up to four times of their Net Owned Funds (NOF) against existing ceiling of 1.5 times of NOF or Rs. 10 crores whichever is less. NBFCs have also represented for relaxation of borrowing norms from banks. They have also represented for relaxation of norms relating to delivery of credit in case of large loans (working capital limit of Rs. 10 crore and above) in the form of 80% term loan and 20% cash credit.

(c) The linkage of the quantum of public deposit that an NBFC can accept to its NOF is based on the recommendations of the Task Force on NBFCs, which had gone into the entire gamut of regulations consistent with the protection of interest of depositors. It is too early to consider relaxation in deposit limits prescribed by RBI at the recommendations of theTask Force. RBI has liberalized borrowing norms from banks by removing caps on borrowings by NBFCs from banks on May 25, 1999. Commercial banks have also liberty to vary the percentage of term loan and cash credit on merits and needs of each case.

(d) Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes *inter-alia* compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI takes various actions against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and directions issued thereunder. Government has introduced Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2000, which is expected to provide better safeguards to the depositors of NBFCs. The Bill has been referred to Standing Committe on Finance by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Channels for States

4079. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to give permission to the State Governments for starting their own Doordarshan channels, wherein besides other things welfare programmes sponsored by States will also be telecast;

(b) whether some requests have also been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. A few requests had been received earlier, but they could not be agreed to as they did not fall within the extant policy.

[English]

United Kingdom's Assistance to India

4080. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Kingdom has expressed its willingness to help the Indian States;

(b) if so, whether any agreements have been reached between India and UK in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the assistance that the UK has agreed to provide to Indian States;

(e) the details of the projects which are to be undertaken and the States where these projects are to be established; and

(f) the extent to which it will improve the condition of Indian State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) United Kingdom's assistance to India comes in the form of grant to fund projects in various sectors such as Education, Slum Improvement, Health and Family Welfare, Coal, Power, Forestry and Renewable Natural Resources. These projects strengthen the economy, this grant is extended through Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK Govt. The priority States of DFID are West Bengal, Orissa, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. During the current fiscal year the receipt of UK grant has been to the tune of Pound Sterling 77.776 million (upto 28.2.2001). As per established procedure the foreign grant is received by GOI and then passed on to the concerned State Governments, through the route of Additional Central Assistance (ACA).

NABARD Loan for Tamil Nadu

4081. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan sanctioned by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for Irrigation, Water Supply, Roads and Soil Conservation during the last three years for Tamil Nadu particularly in Sivaganga and Ramnad districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) the terms and conditions of the loan sanctioned;

(c) the total amount released out of sanctioned amount;

(d) whether proper monitoring for utilization of the loan is being made; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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 an aggregated amount of Rs. 1138.57 crores has been sanctioned under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) since inception in 1996-97 to the State of Tamil Nadu for undertaking

rural roads, rural brigdes and irrigation projects. Details of the amount of loan sanctioned under RIDF in Sivaganga and Ramnad (Ramanathapuram) districts are given in statement-I.

(b) The terms and conditions of the loan sanctioned are given in statements-II & III.

(c) The total amount disbursed under various tranches of RIDF in respect of Tamil Nadu as a whole and Sivaganga and Ramnad districts as on 17 March, 2001 are as under :

	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
Tamil Nadu (as a whole)	602.46
Sivaganga District	54.80
Ramnad District	34.38

(d) and (e) NABARD has a mechanism for monitoring of projects sanctioned under RIDF. The mechanism consists of various tools like desk monitoring, field visits, review meetings, project completion reports and release of loans. In the meetings of the Project Sanctioning Committee, while sanctioning of new projects posed by the State Governments, progress of on-going projects are reviewed to know about the level of implementation.

Statement-I

Details of the amount of Loan sanctioned by National Bank for Agricultural & Rural Development (NABARD) under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in Sivaganga and Ramand Districts in Tamil Nadu

(Rs. Crore)

Year/Tranche	Sivaganga District	Ramnad District
RIDF-II (1996-97)	14.86	8.58
RIDF-III (1997-98)	23.20	18.00
RIDF-IV (1998-99)	31.83	16.65
RIDF-V (1999-2000)	12.67	9.14
RIDF-VI (2000-2001)	13.14	12.73
Total	95.70	65.10

Statement-II

Terms and Conditions of Loan sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

Part-A Projects to be implemented by State Government Department

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 centres, 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-VI 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-III

Part-B Projects to be implemented by Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)/Self Help Groups(SHGs)/ Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)

1. The nature of the projects in individual cases may vary from State to State and PRI to PRI but would include activities like Rural Link roads/Culverts/Small Bridges, Community Irrigation including Bandharas, Primary School Building including additions, Drinking Water

Supply, Watershed Development Works, Drainage Works, Premises for Primary Health Services, Village haats, cold storages, godowns, seed farms, 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. Where the State Government borrows the fund on behalf of a PRI/SHG/NGO and the latter becomes only an executing agency, security would be the same as in Part-A. The borrower would be required to execute a time promissory note at the time of each release.

9. Selection of PRIs/SHGs/NGOs would be made on the basis of norms evolved by NABARD.

10. The loans would be generally be sanctioned by the Project Sanctioning Committee at the State/District level.

11. PRI/SHG/NGO concerned shall furnish to NABARD a quarterly statement of progress in the prescribed proforma within 10 days from the close of the quarter.

12. The progress will be reviewed PRI/SHG/NGO-wise at the State/Divisional/District level by a Committee headed by the Principal Secretary, Finance/Rural Development/Panchayat Raj Institution.

IT Structure

4082. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in comparison to other countries, the tax slab on income exceeding Rs. 1.5 lakh under individual income-tax structure is the maximum in our country;

(b) if so, the difference in income tax slab in comparison to developing and developed countries separately and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the tax slab on income exceeding Rs. 1.5 lakh under individual income-tax structure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Nil, in view of (a) above.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

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

Income Tax against Cricketers

4083. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has estimated the undisclosed income of some tainted former cricket players; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the penalties levied against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) (a) and (b) As a result of search, certain documents were found and seized indicating financial transactions either actual or proposed and also details of investments made by the cricketers which have been listed out and conveyed to the assessing authorities for making further enquiries.

Assessments have not been completed so far. At this stage, it is not possible to make any definite conclusions as regards the concealment of income or penalties leviable on the individual cricketer.

Assessments in most of these cases are statutorily to be completed by 31.7.2002 according to the provisions of Chapter XIV B of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

[Translation]

Profits of Multinational Companies

4084. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the profits shown by the leading Multinational Companies operating in the country has been rapidly increasing during the last few years;

(b) if not, the profit shown by the foreign multinational companies on the basis of their capital investment during the last three years; and

(c) the extent to which the above mentioned profits are higher or lower in comparison to that of Indian Multinational Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) This information is not centrally maintained as profits of Multinational Companies are freely repatriable under current account transactions.

(c) In view of the above, no such comparison is possible.

FFI's Loan to Rajasthan

4085. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount received by Rajasthan in the form of loan and assistance from Foreign Finance Institutions during each of the last three years, project-wise;

(b) the project-wise details of such institutions, countries and organisations;

(c) the interest payable by the State Government on the total loan;

(d) whether the said amount were not fully utilised on the projects for which they were meant;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The details of projects in Rajasthan undertaken with foreign assistance are listed in the enclosed statement.

(c) External loans are passed on to States in the form of Additional Central Assistance. State Governments do not pay interest on external loan directly to foreign institutions.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.

Statement

Figures in Millions

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Source	Currency	Disbursement during		
				1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Projects						
1.	Agricultural Develop. (Rajasthan) dt. 17.12.1992	IDA	USD	11 56	13 14	8.45
2.	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives dt. 19.05.2000	IDA	USD	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	PAWDI Project Rajasthan	Switzerland	Indian Re.	0.00	6.55	0.00
4.	Indira Gandhi Afforestation dt. 23.01.1991	Japan	JPY	584.50	532.50	362.40
5.	Afforestation of Aravalli Hills dt. 09.01.1992	Japan	JPY	1297.50	1142 00	958.40
6.	Rajasthan Forestry Develop. dt. 28.02.1995	Japan	JPY	867.30	878.30	725.60
7.	PPF–Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring dt. 10.2.94	IBRD	USD	0.28	0.00	0 34
8.	Rajasthan Agri. Drainage dt. 13.3.90	Canada	Canadian $	2.50	2 00	1.46
9.	Dungarpur Integrated Waterland Dev. dt. 4.3.92	Sweden	Sw. Kroner	5.52	10.59	1.73
10.	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Ph.-I dt. 29.4.87	Germany	DM	0.18	0.48	-0.16
11.	EEC Sidhmukh & Nohar Irrign. dt. 10.5.93	EEC Grants	EURO	--	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Lok Jumbish Prog. Ph.-II dt. 26.6.95	Sweden	Sw. Kroner	30.64	31.44	43.55
13.	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply Phase-I dt 17.6.1994	Germany	DM	10.38	7.68	3.75
14.	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply Phase-I dt 17.6.1994	Germany	DM	10.37	8.68	18.57
15.	Residential Schools, Rajasthan dt. 5.6.97	Germany	DM	0.00	0.00	1.56
16.	Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Dev. dt 01.12.1999	ADB	USD	0.00	0.00	0.15

*Multistate/Central Projects**
(in which Rajasthan is one of
the Beneficiary States)

				Cumulative Drawal (As on 31.12.2000)
1.	Ecodevelopment Project dt. 30.9.96	IDA, GEF	USD	8.60
2.	DPEP-IV	IDA	USD	4.00
3.	National Tuberculosis Control Programme	IDA	USD	20.80
4.	Cataract Blindness Control	IDA	USD	47.86
5.	Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS)-III	IDA	USD	17.40
6.	Family Welfare-IPP-IX	IDA	USD	49.05
7.	Immunisation Strengthening	IDA	USD	27.96
8.	Reproductive and Child Health Service (RCH)	IDA	USD	76.63
9.	2nd National HIV/AIDS Control	IDA	USD	31.20
10.	TA-States' Road Infrastructure Development	IBRD	USD	-
11.	National Highway	ADB	USD	165.90
12	Shiksha Karmi Ph. III	UK	UK Pd.	2.52
13	Lok Jumbish Ph. III	UK	UK Pd.	2.32

* For these projects amounts indicated pertain to entire project

[English]

Zero-based Budget

4086. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have adopted zero-based budgeting system for all plan and non-plan schemes for strict control over wasteful expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the savings made by adopting zero-based budgeting since the adoption of zero-based budgeting?

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

(b) All ongoing schemes will be subject to rigorous zero-based budgeting scrutiny. Further, the Planning Commission while initiating the task of preparing the Tenth Plan have requested all Central Ministries/ Departments to complete a review of all Plan schemes using zero-based budget methodology before deciding on their continuation in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Only such schemes that are demonstrably efficient and essential are to be retained. In this regard, necessary guidelines have been issued to all Central Ministries/ Departments and the exercise is underway.

(c) The Zero Based Budgeting exercise is in progress and the exercise has been carried out in about 50 Ministries/Departments. All Ministries and Departments have been asked to ensure that all schemes that are to be discontinued, as per the Zero Based Budgeting exercise do not find mention in ensuing budgetary proposals.

Identification of Pensions below Poverty Line

4087. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether is it a fact that number of persons living below poverty line varies from State to State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating methods used by States/Planning Commission to count BPL population;

(c) the fund allotted per head for population below poverty line during the last three years for their benefit; and

(d) the number of persons below poverty line benefited under public distribution scheme in each State during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and State level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The poverty line is defined in terms of expenditure per person per month. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee) the Government has applied State-specific poverty estimates in order to identify the poor i.e., persons living below the poverty line (BPL). These State-wise poverty estimates have been worked out by the Planning Commission from the national level poverty lines, using State-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty lines are expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. These percentage are applied to the estimated population in order to arrive at the number of persons living below the poverty line. A statement-I indicating the number of BPL families as per Planning Commission's estimates and number of BPL households identified by States/UTs as per the reports received from them is enclosed.

The percentage of poor families in BPL census conducted by the States is suspected to have an upward bias in estimation of poor families because the survey is conducted with the specific purpose of identifying families for self-selection as beneficiaries in various poverty alleviation programmes. Allocation of foodgrains under TPDS for BPL families is made on the basis of combined BPL estimates (for rural and urban) given by Planning Commission and not only for rural BPL population identified by States under BPL census.

(c) Funds allotted to States under various schemes of Ministry of Rural Development which are targeted generally at BPL population during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as per statement-II. Funds allocated by the Ministry of Rural Development for poverty alleviation are based on the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission.

(d) A statement-III showing the Statewise number of ration cards issued to families living below poverty line (BPL) under Public Distribution as reported by States/UTs during the last three years is enclosed

Statement-I

No. of BPL Families as per Planning Commission's Estimates and No. of BPL Households as Reported by States/UTs

State/UT	Projected population 2000 (in lakhs)	%BPL as expert group	No. of house-holds 2000 (in lakhs)	No. of BPL house-holds 2000 (in lakhs)	No. of BPL house-holds identified by the State Govt. (lakhs)	Reported as on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	754.66	25.58	158.21	40.63	113.26	June 2000
Arunachal Pradesh	11.92	40.86	2.42	0.99	1.2	June 2000
Assam	261.96	40.86	44.93	18.36	19.06	30.1.2001
Bihar	999.42	54.96	162.24	89.17	84.26	21.5.1997
Goa	15.95	14.92	3.20	0.48	0.07	–
Gujarat	482.52	24.21	87.57	21.20	33.91	1.7.2000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	198.31	25.05	31.48	7.89	5.86	31.1.2001
Himachal Pradesh	67.11	40.86	12.57	5.14	2.89	Sept. 2000
Jammu & Kashmir	99.45	40.86	18.02	7.35	4.96	19.2.1999
Karnataka	520.91	33.16	94.37	31.29	66.5	Sept. 2000
Kerala	322.52	25.43	61.10	15.54	20.58	31.3.2000
Madhya Pradesh	797.47	42.52	141.15	60.01	43.65	March, 2000
Maharashtra	911.15	36.86	177.27	65.34	77	2.3.2000
Manipur	25.18	40.86	40.07	1.66	1.29	Feb. 1999
Meghalaya	24.34	40.86	4.49	1.83	1.72	15.1.2001
Mizoram	9.52	40.86	1.67	0.68	0.9	31.3.2000
Nagaland	15.84	40.86	3.02	1.24	0.96	1.12.1997
Orissa	358.57	48.56	67.91	32.98	42.85	Aug. 2000
Punjab	235.36	11.77	39.76	4.68	4.9	1.4.2000
Rajasthan	535.59	27.41	88.67	24.31	23.82	6.12.2000
Sikkim	5.59	41.43	1.05	0.43	0.48	4.4.1997
Tamil Nadu	617.74	35.03	138.82	48.53	65.51	31.8.2000
Tripura	37.82	40.86	7.22	2.95	2.31	1.4.1998
Uttar Pradesh	1701.88	40.85	273.61	111.77	95.48	1.7.1998
West Bengal	790.06	35.66	145.23	51.79	47.87	31.7.1997
A&N Islands	3.86	34.47	0.81	0.28	0.17	23.5.1997
Chandigarh	8.88	11.35	2.03	0.23	0.01	June, 2000
D&N Haveli	1.90	50.84	0.36	0.18	0.16	Sept. 2000
Daman & Diu	1.40	15.80	0.26	0.04	0.04	25.6.1997
Delhi	139.64	14.69	27.82	4.09	4.11	25.1.2001
Lakshadweep	0.71	25.04	0.11	0.03	TPDS not launched	
Pondicherry	11.11	37.40	2.24	0.84	0.9	31.8.2000
Total	9950.44		1803.68	652.04	766.68	

Statement-II

Funds Allotted to States under Rural Development Programmes during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Programme Name	Central Allocation	
		1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)	182,410.01	126,200.00
2.	Indira Awaas Yojana (IAS)	159,999.00	161,369.00
3.	Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)	165,500.00	164,549.98
4.	National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)	19,790.64	20,914.35
5.	National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS)	9,278.14	9,455.78
6.	National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)	47,623.58	51,260.74
7.	Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)	110,500.00	100,000.00
8.	Desert Development Programme (DDP)	4,922.48	2,282.82
9.	Draught Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)	8,944.23	2,813.00
10.	Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP)	8,307.86	5,086.58
11.	Land Reforms (LR)	4,248.56	3,848.47
12.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Project (ARWSP)	137,719.47	171,603.00
13.	Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)	10,865.10	3,945.00
	Total	870,109.07	823,331.22

Statement-III

Number of Ration Cards issued to families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) under Public Distribution System during the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

S. No.	States	BPL Ration Cards (in lakhs)		
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	113.02	113.25	113.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.78	0.82	0.82
3.	Assam	18.72	18.81	18.82
4.	Bihar	84.26	84.26	84.26
5.	Delhi*	NA	NA	NA
6.	Goa	0.07	0.07	0.08
7.	Gujarat	33.74	33.85	33.89
8.	Haryana	5.62	5.64	5.86
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.84	2.86	2.86
10.	J & K	3.36	3.36	3.36
11.	Karnataka	62.55	64.74	62.67
12.	Kerala	20.60	20.58	20.47
13.	Madhya Pradesh	42.68	43.65	43.65
14.	Maharashtra	57.99	58.29	58.11
15.	Manipur	1.13	0.67	0.67
16.	Meghalaya	0.97	0.97	0.97
17.	Mizoram*	NA	NA	NA
18.	Nagaland	0.96	0.96	0.97
19.	Orissa	42.35	41.13	41.23
20.	Punjab	4.88	4.89	5.00
21.	Rajasthan	21.16	21.15	22.87
22.	Sikkim*	NA	NA	NA
23.	Tamil Nadu	55.00	64.88	65.51
24.	Tripura	2.31	2.31	2.31
25.	Uttar Pradesh	95.48	95.48	95.48
26.	West Bengal	47.07	46.11	46.49
27.	A&N Islands	0.12	1.12	0.12
28.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	D&N Haveli	0.17	0.16	0.16
30.	Daman & Diu	0.02	0.02	0.02
31.	Lakshadweep*	NA	NA	NA
32.	Pondicherry	0.89	0.90	0.90
	Total	718.74	729.93	731.14

* N.A.–Not Available

[Translation]

Central Board of Bank Fraud

4088. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Central Board of Bank Fraud has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases submitted to this Board so far; and

(d) the number of cases that have been disposed of by February 28, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Central Advisory Board on Bank Frauds (CABBF) had been constituted with effect from March 1,1999 by Central Vigilance Commission to render advice to Central Bureau of Investigation on borrowal accounts in banks and financial institutions. The Board consists of Chairman and five other Members.

(c) and (d) During the period March 1999 to February 2000, 13 cases were referred to the Board all of which have been disposed of.

[English]

Delicensing of Hazardous Chemicals

4089. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to de-licence nineteen hazardous chemicals, which are under compulsory licencing;

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

(c) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have been consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (e) In the process of review of laws, regulations, statutes and simplifications of procedures, Government is continuously reviewing the list of industries under compulsory licensing. The focus of the review is on development and promotion of industries rather than on regulation. The review of the industrial policy including licensing matters, procedures and their implementation, with a view to facilitate industrial growth, is an on-going process with the Government. Presently, hazardous chemicals are in the list of industries requiring compulsory licensing. Government is in constant touch with the concerned Ministries including Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in its process of review.

Closure of 8 Public Sector Undertakings

4090. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down 8 non-viable PSUs during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government had decided to take action for closure of non-viable PSUs after considering the recommendations of BIFR/Expert Agency, which at one stage or the other had given preliminary/final view regarding winding up or discontinuance of operations of these PSUs and after exploring all possibilities of revival. List of PSUs are as under :

1. National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited (NBCIL)
2. Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC)
3. Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (RIC)
4. Weighbird India Limited (WIL)
5. Tannery & Footwear Corporation (TAFCO)
6. Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Limited (BPMEL)
7. Cycle Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)*
8. Mandya National Paper Mills Limited (MNPM)**

* BIFR in its hearing held on 10.7.2000, ordered for the winding up of CCIL.

** Karnataka High Court in its order dated 20.10.2000 pronounced the winding up of MNPM.

Birla Sun Life Insurance Company

4091. SHRI VIJAY GOYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a joint venture Birla Sun Life Insurance Company has been opened;

(b) if so, when this company will start its operations and which would be its centres of operation to begin with;

(c) the percentage of Indian partnership in this joint venture; and

(d) the service incentives proposed by the company to win the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has intimated that Birla Sun Life Insurance Co. Ltd. has been issued registration certificate to commence business on 31st January, 2001. It has already commenced its insurance business in Mumbai and Delhi.

(c) and (d) In the joint venture, the Birla group of companies hold shares in the following manner :

1. Indian Rayon and Industries Ltd.	69%
2. Birla Global Finance Ltd.	05%

As per IRDA, the company has planned to serve its customers by looking after their grievances etc. in quick time.

Procurement of Maize from A.P.

4092. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to procure more maize from farmers of Andhra Pradesh due to glut in the production of maize;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several of these farmers are shifting their cultivation to tobacco, 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) The arrival of maize in the markets of Andhra Pradesh is almost over. During the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001, a quantity of 20451 MTs and 18891 MTs of maize has been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the AP MARKFED respectively. The Food Corporation of India has opened 44 purchase centres in Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the State Government. The State Government's nominee i.e. AP MARKFED has also opened 32 purchase centres for procuring maize under price support operations of Minimum Support Price to help the farmers.

(c) and (d) The Government is not aware of any such development.

Revival of Textile Mills

4093. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BIFR has recently taken certain decision in regard to the closed/sick industries of Orissa;

(b) whether BIFR has given any decision in regard to making payment and providing employment to the employees of Orissa Textile Mills located at Choudwar which is shut down;

(c) if so, the amount of money to be paid to these employees and the number of employees involved therein; and

(d) the time by which the payment is likely to be made to these employees and appropriate arrangements made to provide alternative employment to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. As reported by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), the Board has recommended the cases of five companies (closed/sick industries) of Orissa for winding up to the concerned High Court between June, 2000 and March, 2001

(b) to (d) As reported by the BIFR, the Board in its hearing held on 12.3.2001, has recommended winding up of M/s. Orissa Textile Mills. The dues of the workers, if any, are taken care of by the Board while rehabilitation schemes are sanctioned by making necessary provision in the scheme. However the Board has no jurisdiction over a case which is recommended for winding up to the concerned High Courts, unless it is remanded back

Export of Onions

4094. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the quantity allotted for export of onions to various canalising agencies particularly the Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board, Pune,

(b) whether the Maharashtra State Agricultrural Marketing Board, Pune has requested for allotting more quota to it for export of onions;

(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 (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) A total quantity of 3,50,000 MTs of Onion has been released for export for the financial year 2000-2001. The details of the quantity allotted to different canalising agencies are given as under :

S. No.	Name of the Canalising Agency	Quantity Allotted
1.	NAFED	1,95,000 MTs.
2.	Karnataka State Agriculture Produce Processing and Export Corporation Ltd. (KAPPEC)	2,500 MTs.
3.	Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. (KSCMF)	7,000 MTs.
4.	Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB)	65,000 MTs.
5.	Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation (GAIC)	35,000 MTs.
6.	Andhra Pradesh Marketing Federation (AP MARKFED)	10,000 MTs.
7.	National Co-operative Consumers Federation (NCCF)	20,000 MTs.
8.	Spices Trading Corporation Ltd. (STCL)	11,000 MTs.
9.	AP State Trading Corporation (APSTC)	4,500 MTs.
	Total Quantity Allotted	3,50,000 MTs.

(b) to (d) The Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) has been requesting for higher allotment of quantities of onion for export from time to time. The requests received form MSAMB was also given consideration while releasing the quota for export through various canalising agencies. The MSAMB has been allotted 15,000 MTs out of 50,000 MTs. released for export on 14th March, 2001, as against 10,000 MTs. allotted to them in February when a similar quantity was released.

Increased Demand from Ministries

4095. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have come with the increased Demands of Grants and gross budgetary support;

(b) if so, whether most of the Ministries/Departments have not spent the amount allocated during the last fiscal year i.e. 2000-2001;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the main reasons put forward by the different Ministries for non-utilization of grants and gross budgetary support; and

(e) the steps being suggested or guidelines likely to be issued by his Ministry to utilize full amount of grants in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Details in this regard are contained in Expenditure Budget Vol. I 2001-02 presented in the Parliament on 28th February, 2001.

(b) to (e) The Revised Estimates 2000-01 are worked out on the basis of pace of expenditure and unspent balances under various schemes. The General Financial Rules lay down the guidelines for utilisation of the grants by various Ministries/Departments.

Customs Duty Collected from Haldia

4096. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Customs Duty collected from Haldia during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up full fledged custom office at Haldia; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Customs duty collected in respect of goods imported through Haldia port during the last three years was as under :

Year	Duty collected (Rs. in crores)
1998-99	317.65
1999-2000	364.25
2000-2001 (up to February)	352.94

(b) and (c) A mini Custom House is already functional at Haldia port. Certain formalities in relation to import/export documentation have to be followed at present from Kolkata. The Electronic Data Interchange

(EDI) system is being introduced at Haldia Custom House. M/s. Computer Maintenance Corporation (CMC) Ltd., a Government Undertaking, has recently started preparation of the site at Haldia for installation of EDI system. Once EDI system is in place, all the documents relating to import and export can be filed, processed and duty paid at Haldia and the importers/exporters will not be required to come to Kolkata for customs clearance.

Merger of Global Trust Bank with UTI

4097. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Global Trust Bank has been merged with UTI recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the directors of the Bank of Global Trust?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No. Sir. A proposal for merger of UTI Bank Ltd. and Global Trust Bank Ltd. was submitted by both the banks to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 28th February, 2001. The proposal is under Examination with RBI.

(c) At present, the Directors of the Global Trust Bank (GTB) are as under :–

Names

Sh. Ramesh Gelli

Sh. Laxminiwas Sharma

Sh. Ravi Appasamy

Dr. Jayanta Madhab

Prof. Krishna G. Palepu

Sh. Badiga Ramakrishna

Sh. R.S. Hugar

Sh. Javed Hamid

Sh. Prakash Yardi

Sh. Sridhar Subasri

Dave Committee

4098. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dave Committee has submitted its report's;

(b) if so, the details of the main recommendations made by it; and

(c) the number and details of recommendations accepted/rejected by the Government?

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

(b) The Report contains recommendations on the schemes and action that Government may take to ensure that every young worker builds up enough savings during his/her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during their old age. The recommendations contained in the report have a twin focus on further improving existing pension provisions and to devise a fresh pension plan for such workers who are not included in the present pension provisions but are capable of saving modest amounts and converting these savings into Old Age Income Security provision.

(c) The report is under consideration of the Government.

Performance of NABARD

4099. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of NABARD during the last three years in various States particularly in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the details of lapses, if any, observed in implementation of State projects; and

(d) the details of projects cleared with locations during the above period and the number of projects awaiting clearance/approval by NABARD, State-wise especially in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The activities of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are monitored by Government of India on an on-going basis. An in-depth review of its operations is conducted by its Board of Directors which comprises, amongst others, senior representatives from the Finance, Agriculture and Rural Development Ministries and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The activities of NABARD are also reviewed by the Central Board of Directors of RBI every year. An annual review of NABARD's activities is also tabled in Parliament alongwith its annual report. The performance

of NABARD are analysed in relation to quantified targets. The details of the State-wise refinance assistance provided by NABARD and the loans given to the State Governments including Maharashtra for the last three years and during the year 2000-2001 are given in statements-I and II respectively.

(c) Deficiencies/problems observed in implementation of State projects in Maharashtra sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) relate to, *inter-alia*, land acquisition and forest problem in different projects, documentation formalities in respect of irrigation projects, insufficient budgetary provisions by the State Government and no significant progress in formation of water user associations, etc.

(d) The details of RIDF projects cleared State-wise including in Maharashtra during the last three years are given in statement-III.

Statement-I

Details of State-wise refinance support by NABARD during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Rs in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Sanctioned	Drawn	Sanctioned	Drawn	Sanctioned	Drawn
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	A & N Islands	208	180	269	265	287	276
2.	Andhra Pradesh	189689	195799	247962	230546	231538	215112
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	509	509	460	460	1064	1117
4.	Assam	8218	8218	14098	14113	14546	14568
5.	Bihar	29910	26531	28491	26065	28225	26767
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	3	3	10	10
7.	D & N Haveli	17	17	3	3	24	24
8.	Goa	668	668	1402	1402	1910	1910
9.	Gujarat	66211	61866	75917	49835	80033	63084
10.	Haryana	99194	90641	112584	99949	118369	118290
11.	Himachal Pradesh	7876	7866	10978	10797	13602	13571
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	3529	3229	3449	3478	8889	8749
13.	Karnataka	99326	94440	121106	117734	125594	123913
14.	Kerala	54602	48634	55242	42887	64751	52052
15.	Lakshadweep	15	15	20	20	21	21
16.	Madhya Pradesh	114527	103429	110093	83265	120958	96519
17.	Maharashtra	58825	46557	78933	61279	109681	86838
18.	Manipur	354	968	325	939	203	817
19.	Meghalaya	1553	1359	1313	1168	2133	2074
20.	Mizoram	448	418	351	351	1386	1386
21.	Nagaland	373	373	319	319	1032	1032
22.	NCT of Delhi	0	0	105	105	100	100
23.	Orissa	57555	54909	56721	53877	85492	77624
24.	Pondicherry	196	196	247	247	844	809

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Punjab	75511	70214	94387	92184	101244	98650
26.	Rajasthan	71755	65993	90958	80426	98413	91321
27.	Sikkim	134	134	167	167	1500	1400
28.	Tamil Nadu	117492	86152	129394	104969	145149	120659
29.	Tripura	1774	2060	2013	2299	2710	2946
30.	Uttar Pradesh	141040	128129	163374	142126	180482	164877
31.	West Bengal	37996	36299	45349	39519	55282	48065
	Total	1239505	1135803	1446035	1260797	1595472	1434581

Statement-II

State-wise details of NABARD's loans to State Government during 2000-2001

(Rs. Crore)

S. No.	State	Total Sanctioned	Total Disbursement
1.	A & N Islands	3.93	1.27
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2391.35	1842.90
3.	Assam	179.97	79.23
4.	Bihar	282.28	192.37
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.61	0
6.	Gujarat	970.92	514.05
7.	Haryana	1368.26	1085.57
8.	Himachal Pradesh	152.51	123.67
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	85.19	74.00
10.	Karnataka	1356.28	1166.03
11.	Kerala	682.04	432.16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1061.71	853.97
13.	Maharashtra	1038.22	622.87
14.	Manipur	4.30	0.26
15.	Meghalaya	19.73	12.76
16.	Nagaland	9.95	5.71
17.	Orissa	729.03	590.30
18.	Pondicherry	9.34	6.68
19.	Punjab	1133.65	853.40
20.	Rajasthan	1113.38	832.39
21.	Sikkim	9.60	9.28
22.	Tamil Nadu	1520.92	1057.01
23.	Tripura	28.14	17.88
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1728.38	1400.51
25.	West Bengal	489.61	440.37
	Total	16380.30	12204.24

Statement-III

Details of RIDF projects cleared State-wise during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

S.No.	State	RIDF-III	RIDF-IV	RIDF-V
1.	Andhra Pradesh	304	386	1174
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	7
3.	Assam	11	39	100090
4.	Bihar	424	3	145
5.	Goa	-	3	145
6.	Gujarat	1226	154	9799
7.	Haryana	49	44	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	29	67	735
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	164	88	132
10.	Karnataka	492	537	371
11.	Kerala	312	162	237
12.	Madhya Pradesh	281	227	153
13.	Maharashtra	722	912	1549
14.	Meghalaya	21	16	61
15.	Mizoram	-		27
16.	Nagaland	-	1	54
17.	Orissa	53	41	93
18.	Punjab	51	161	104
19.	Rajasthan	264	47	513
20.	Sikkim	-	112	27
21.	Tamil Nadu	563	489	651
22.	Tripura	-	24	89
23.	Uttar Pradesh	9279	2656	1216
24.	West Bengal	150	106	959
	Total	14395	6294	118192

Disinvestment in Air India and Indian Airlines

4100. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the reserve price for the disinvestment of Air India and Indian Airlines has been fixed by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received poor response to technical bids for AI and IA;

(d) if so, whether the Government have decided to issue fresh tenders of AI and IA;

(e) if so, whether the fresh tenders required a change in ground rules;

(f) if so, whether it would send wrong signals to the foreign investors; and

(g) if so, the reaction of 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) Not as yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (g) Do not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Participation of Foreign Countries in I.I.T.F. 2001

4101. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take some more steps to ensure participation by more and more foreign countries in I.I.T.F. 2001; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) organises 17 fairs, including India Internatioal Trade Fair (IITF), annually at Pragati Maidan. IITF is a general nature fair encompassing all types of products i.e., from heavy machinery to small industries and from IT to handicrafts. As the trend now is to go to specific product oriented fairs, emphasis is being given to inviting greater foreign participation for such fairs namely, Leather & Leather Products Fairs, Tex Style Fair, Printing Technology Fair etc. In IITF the main focus is on inviting business delegations which can come and see what India can offer. Participants from 22 countries and business delegations from 49 countries visited IITF, 2000.

With a view to mobilising greater participation in fairs held in India, *inter alia*, following steps are taken:

(i) to send invitations for participation in the fair to Foreign Missions in India, Indian Missions abroad, Trade Promotion Organizations, Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Trade and Industry Associations abroad.

(ii) Distribution of mobilization folders at various trade fairs and exhibitions abroad where ITPO organizes participation.

(iii) Extend 50% discount to the least developed SAARC countries on the rentals for exhibition space.

(iv) Extend the facility of free space to Trade Promotion Organizations of various countries in lieu of similar facility for ITPO in their respective countries.

Committee of Financial Institution

4102. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Inter-Institutional Committee formed by IDBI, IFCI and ICICI to prepare norms and procedure of film financing has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) to (c) The Joint Institutional Committee set up by IDBI on Financing of Entertainment Industry including Films is yet to submit its final report to the Government.

Dispute between EU and India over Export of Cotton

4103. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether WTO had favoured India against the imposition of anti-dumping duties by European Union on exports of cotton bed linen from India;

(b) if so, whether EU has contested WTO ruling on Indian textiles;

(c) if so, whether India has also objected to EU's stand; and

(d) if so, the time by which the dispute is likely to be settled by WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. At India's request the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) had established a Panel in the dispute regarding imposition by European Union of final anti-dumping duties on imports of cotton-type bed linen from India. The Panel concluded that the European Union acted inconsistently with its obligations under certain provisions of the Agreement on Anti-dumping.

On 1st December, 2000, the European Union notified their decision to appeal the Panel report in this dispute. India also appealed on certain issues of law and legal interpretation developed by the panel relating to the method adopted by EU for calculating the constructed normal value. Subsequently the Appellate Body in its report of 1st March, 2001 upheld the claims made by India while rejecting the claim of European Union. The Panel and Appellate Body Reports have been adopted by the DSB of the WTO on 12th March, 2001, which has requested the European Union to bring its measures into conformity with its obligations under the Anti-dumping Agreement. In accordance with the provisions of WTO's Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing Settlement of Disputes, within 30 days after the date of adoption of the panel and the Appellate Body Reports, the European Union shall inform the DSB of its intentions in respect of implementation of the rulings and recommendations of the DSB. It is furthermore provided that if it is impracticable to comply immediately with the rulings and recommendations, the European Union shall have a reasonable period of time in which to do so.

[Translation]

Export Processing Zones

4104. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) the products exported from each Export Processing Zone in the country during each of the last three years alongwith the value of products exported;

(b) the total exports and imports made by each Export Processing Zone and the percentage of each Zone in the total export and import of country during the above period; and

(c) the difference between the imports and exports made by these Export Processing Zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Sector-wise exports from Export Processing Zones (EPZs)/Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along with exports and imports made by these zones and their percentage share in the total exports and imports from the country during the last three years are indicated in the statement annexed.

Statement

Sector-wise Exports from EPZs/SEZs during the last three years

(Rs. in crores)

Zone	Year	Electronics hardware	Electronics software	Engineering Goods	Gem & Jewellery	Leather	Textiles & garments	Pharma-ceutical & Chemicals	Plastic & Rubber goods	Food & Agro Products	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	1997-98	-	-	66.29	-	-	97.51	263.17	16.40	-	20.68	464.05
Kandla	1998-99	-	-	30.19	-	-	84.88	219.72	34.33	-	22.69	391.81
SEZ*	1999-2000	-	-	35.77	-	-	81.85	339.06	66.33	-	20.65	543.66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	1997-98	433.61	627.97	-	1456.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	2517.68
SEEPZ	1998-99	324.59	876.48	-	2080.77	-	-	-	-	-	-	3281.84
SEZ*	1999-2000	678.39	1041.71	-	2426.47	-	-	-	-	-	-	4146.57
	1997-98	77.94	99.39	102.37	121.00	13.43	93.78	38.48	24.17	-	33.53	604.09
Noida	1998-99	108.76	150.35	118.48	120.67	16.95	111.74	40.78	23.81	-	60.53	752.07
EPZ	1999-2000	165.98	139.31	120.12	129.45	12.70	134.13	46.22	29.50	-	68.22	845.63
	1997-98	571.71	56.40	87.90	5.74	32.90	169.20	37.82	25.62	1.92	14.77	1003.98
Madras	1998-99	34.74	109.79	72.77	7.79	41.23	180.45	45.33	20.48	1.54	21.82	535.94
EPZ	1999-2000	21.97	118.00	92.34	14.63	47.45	160.70	58.61	18.95	1.50	11.27	545.42
Cochin	1997-98	72.74	0.14	5.21	-	-	9.43	-	34.94	21.03	31.02	174.51
SEZ*	1998-99	87.87	0.35	5.39	-	-	23.40	-	27.00	42.71	13.33	200.05
	1999-2000	120.81	1.63	5.87	-	-	29.35	-	19.60	24.31	39.43	241.00
Falta	1997-98	-	-	2.89	-	-	6.11	37.84	2.56	1.17	2.37	52.94
EPZ	1998-99	-	0.10	11.80	-	2.57	23.31	7.93	11.24	9.74	6.08	72.77
	1999-2000	2.70	-	42.70	-	10.98	165.92	4.69	25.41	11.05	3.15	266.60
Visakha-	1997-98	-	-	-	0.05	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.05
patnam	1998-99	-	-	8.71	9.11	-	-	-	-	-	0.18	18.00
EPZ	1999-2000	-	2.86	51.14	63.40	-	0.70	-	0.03	0.23	0.68	119.04
Surat	1997-98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SEZ*	1998-99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1999-2000	-	-	-	0.46	-	-	-	0.24	-	-	0.70

* EPZ converted into SEZ w.e.f. 1.11.2000

Exports and Imports by EPZs/SEZs and their percentage of share in the total Exports and Imports of the country during the last three years

Zone	Year	Exports	Percentage of EPZ/SEZ's share of the country's Total exports	Imports*	Percentage of EPZ/SEZ's share of the country's total imports	Difference between Imports and Exports
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kandla	1997-98	464.05	0.36	142.30	0.09	321.75
SEZ	1998-99	391.81	0.28	119.68	0.07	272.13
	1999-2000	543.66	0.33	133.45	0.07	410.21
SEEPZ	1997-98	2517.68	1.93	1263.00	0.82	1254.68
SEZ	1998-99	3281.84	2.35	1262.61	0.71	2019.23
	1999-2000	4146.57	2.59	1925.21	0.96	2221.36
Noida	1997-98	604.09	0.46	310.23	0.20	293.86
EPZ	1998-99	752.07	0.54	323.90	0.18	428.17
	1999-2000	845.63	0.52	404.88	0.20	440.75
Madras	1997-98	1003.98	0.77	730.73	0.47	273.25
EPZ	1998-99	535.94	0.38	305.28	0.17	230.66
	1999-2000	545.42	0.33	281.65	0.14	263.77

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cochin	1997-98	174.51	0.13	120.34	0.07	54.17
SEZ	1998-99	200.05	0.14	117.01	0.06	83.04
	1999-2000	241.00	-	132.68	0.07	108.32
Falta	1997-98	52.94	0.52	51.94	0.03	1.00
EPZ	1998-99	72.77	0.05	65.42	0.37	7.35
	1999-2000	266.60	0.16	64.07	0.03	202.53
Visakha-	1997-98	0.05	-	43.08	0.02	(-)43.03
patnam	1998-99	18.00	-	39.83	0.02	(-)21.83
EPZ	1999-2000	119.04	0.07	137.78	0.07	(-)18.74
Surat	1997-98	-	-	-	-	
SEZ	1998-99	-	-	-	-	-
	1999-2000	0.70	-	-	-	-

* Include capital goods and raw materials.

Disinvestment of PSUs

4105. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings and the objectives thereof;

(b) whether the Government have issued any directions to the concerned undertakings for safeguarding the interests of the workers during the disinvestment process of public undertakings; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken against the undertakings violating these directions?

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 of the Government equity in the Central Public Sector Enterprises is being carried out in accordance with the disinvestment policy of the Government as enunciated from time to time. Its main elements 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 interests of workers

It has also been decided that the Strategic Public Sector Enterprises would be those in the areas of

(1) Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships

(2) Atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industries)

(3) Railway transport

Moreover, for the non-strategic Public Sector Enterprises, the reduction of Government share to 26% would not be automatic and the manner and pace of doing so would be worked out on a case to case basis. A decision in regard to the percentage of disinvestment i.e., Government share going down to less than 51% or to 26%, would be taken on the following considerations :

(i) whether the Industrial sector required the presence of the public sector as a countervailing force to prevent concentration of power in private hands, and

(ii) whether the Industrial sector required a proper regulatory mechanism to protect the consumer interests before Public Sector Enterprises are privatised.

(b) The decision to disinvest in any public sector undertaking is implemented by the Government and not by the PSU concerned. Therefore, there is no question of issuing any directions to the PSUs. Government is committed to protect the interest of the workers as mentioned by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech for the year 2000-2001. With this in view, in the cases of disinvestment involving transfer of the management control, appropriate provisions are made in the Shareholders' Agreement and the Share-purchase Agreement.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Industrial Financial Corporation of India

4106. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert Committee under the Chairmanship of former Chairman of SBI has finalised its report on Industrial Financial Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the main points of the report; and

(c) by what time Government are likely to take final decision on the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri D. Basu, former Chairman, State Bank of India set up by the Board of IFCI on the restructuring of IFCI submitted its report on 4th December, 2000. The Committee *inter-alia* suggested that :

(i) IFCI should be transformed into a fully licensed Term Credit Bank over a period of time.

(ii) Reduce the proportion of project finance and diversify into post project and short-term financing business as well as term fee-based services.

(iii) IFCI should set out an appropriate loan and exposure policy by developing new products and services.

(iv) IFCI should have a Corporate Recovery Plan to reduce current NPAs by at least Rs. 500 crore per year.

(c) The suggestions would receive due consideration of the IFCI and the Government at the time of taking a decision on restructuring of IFCI.

T.V. Network in North-Eastern States

4107. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan propose to expand the existing network in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to solve the transmission problems in the hilly terrain of the North-Eastern States on priority basis?

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

(b) Details of Doordarshan projects under implementation in the North-Eastern States are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) In its efforts to overcome the transmission problems arising from the hilly terrain of the North-Eastern Region of the country and to improve Doordarshan coverage in the North-Eastern States especially in the shadow areas, Prasar Bharati has been establishing Very Low Power Transmitters and Transposers to the extent possible, depending opon the availability of resources.

Statement

Doordarshan projects under implementation in the North East Region

(as on 01.03.2001)

Sl.No.	State	Project	Location
1.	Arunchal Pradesh	VLPT	Sangram
		VLPT	Etalin
		VLPT	Deomali
2.	Assam	Transposer	Guwahati
3.	Manipur	HPT	Churachandpur
4.	Mizoram	LPT	Lawngtlai
5.	Nagaland	Transposer	Bara Basti
6.	Sikkim	VLPT	Zorethang
7.	Tripura	LPT	Amarpur
		LPT	Jolaibari
		LPT	Ambasa

HPT=High Power Transmitter
LPT=Low Power Transmitter
VLPT=Very Low Power Transmitter

Disinvestment of State Public Sector Undertakings

4108. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government advised the State Government to pursue privatisation policy for privatisation of State public sector undertakings to mobilise resources needed for development;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reaction of the State Governments;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the State Governments in this regard, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the targets proposed for mobilisation of funds through disinvestment, State-wise?

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) and (d) According to the information available, there are 946 State level PSEs out of which 241 are not working, 551 are incurring losses while 100 are not submitting their accounts.

Various State Governments have drawn up action plans for and been engaged in disinvestment/ privatisation of State level public enterprises. Some States have availed/are availing international assistance from the Asian Development Bank, World Bank etc. in this regard. States like Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have set up the Disinvestment Commission and in 17 States, from where, information has been collected, disinvestment process has been initiated in 46 State-level PSEs. Since privatisation/disinvestment of State level public sector undertakings falls within the jurisdiction of the State Governments concerned, the States are taking action in pursuance of their disinvestment plan/policy.

Exclusive TV Channel for Women

4109. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to start an exclusive TV channel for women,

(b) if so, the main features of this channel, and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Access to PDS Commodities

4110. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that the consumers of tribal and scheduled caste regions of country face difficulties in getting commodities under Public Distribution System on time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the problem;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate an effective action plan to ensure timely availability of commodities under Public Distribution System to consumers of tribal, rural and backward regions, 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) No complaints from consumers of tribal and scheduled caste regions facing difficulties in getting commodities under Public Distribution System (PDS) on time have been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

(d) and (e) Government of India allocates rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene to different States/UTs under

the PDS one month in advance of the month of distribution. The internal distribution of the items within the States/UTs in time is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

[English]

Identification of BPL Families

4111. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the States and Union Territories have not yet completed identification of BPL (below poverty line) families, a pre-requisite for effective implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the same will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Govt. 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 up to the designated depots of FCI, identification of households living below poverty line (BPL) and distribution of foodgrains to the carholders through the network of Fair Price Shops rests with the State Governments. Identification of beneficiaries i.e., families living below poverty line (BPL) is the most critical element for effective implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which is carried out by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Statewise number of BPL families is based on poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of 'Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and number of poor' under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala.

All State Governments/UT Administrations except Lakshadweep have identified BPL families with varying degree of efficiency. Identification of BPL families is an ongoing process and requires to be reviewed at regular intervals to take into account the mobility of the households across the poverty line. Irrespective of the number of BPL families identified by the State Governments, subsidised foodgrains under TPDS are released for the number of BPL estimates given by Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Trade and Economic Relation with New Zealand, Chile and Kuwait

4112. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether New Zealand, Chile and Kuwait have offered for increasing trade and economic relations with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the States and sectors in which they have expressed their desire to improve relations;

(c) whether any meeting of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners of these countries has held in these countries in this connection; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) The bilateral trade and economic co-operation between the two countries is reviewed from time to time by a Joint Trade Committee between India and New Zealand. The meetings of the Joint Trade Committee are held every year in each other's country. During the meeting, the issues of bilateral and mutual interests including ways and means for promotion of two way trade are deliberated. Frequent meetings with the New Zealand High Commissioner take place with the Minister/Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Senior Officers.

2. Three is no trade agreement between India and Chile at present. However, a Free Trade Agreement between two countries is being pursued.

3. In the recent past, Kuwait has neither made any specific offer for increasing trade and economic relations with India, nor any meeting of the Ambassador of Kuwait has been held. However, the Embassy of Kuwait had intimated the Ministry of External Affairs that its Ministry of Trade and Industry intends to send a delegation to seek India's expertise in the fields of TRIPS, TRIMPS, etc. and other WTO matters.

[English]

NPA Management Company

4113. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether IDBI has submitted plans to the Government to form an NPA management company:

(b) if so, the outlines and objectives of the proposed NPA management company;

(c) whether IDBI and other financial institutions are frittering away resources on such diversifications and related activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Finance Minister while presenting Union Budget for 1998-99 had announced that a few banks with high NPAs would be encouraged on an experimental basis to set up Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) which will buy out the non-performing assets of the banks at their realizable value and concentrate on recovery of dues to realize the maximum value for the assets transferred to them. In pursuance of the Finance Minister's announcement, IDBI in consultation with other financial institutions has prepared draft of Asset Reconstruction with other financial institutions has prepared drarft of Asset Reconstruction Companies Bill to provide for a legislative framework for setting up of Asset Reconstruction Companies in the country. The transfer of non-performing assets to a separate specialised agency, ARC will help banks and financial institutions to reduce their non-performing assets. As such, the question of frittering away of resources by IDBI and other financial institutions does not arise. The proposal is under examination of the Government.

Circulation of Soiled and Mutilated Notes

4114. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the circulation of soiled and mutilated currency notes, mostly of Rs. 5 and Rs. 2 denominations continues in large scale, especially in North-Eastern States;

(b) the steps the Government has taken to withdraw such currencies from circulation, by issuing coins through the currency chest of RBI at Guwahati;

(c) whether there have been persistent complaints from the public about the non-cooperation/refusal of the public sector banks to exchange such currencies when tendered by public;

(d) whether the Government propose to issue instructions to the public sector banks in the North-East to entertain deposits of such currency by the people; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Government is aware of instances of circulation of soiled and mutilated currency notes especially of Rs. 5 and Rs. 2 denominations in some parts of the country, including the North-Eastern States.

(b) The supply of coins and notes to the bank branches of North-Eastern region have been stepped up. All the currency chest branches spread over the region have been instructed to open special counters for acceptance and exchange of soiled/mutilated notes when presented by the public. Special counters have been opened at the RBI Guwahati Office, besides providing such exchange facility through mobile vans in Guwahati. The RBI has also informed the public about these facilities and requested them to get their soiled and mutilated notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 exchanged.

(c) to (e) There have been a few complaints about non-co-operation of the banks regarding exchange of soiled and mutilated notes tendered by the public. However, the RBI has directed all branches of public sector banks to exchange these notes on being presented by the public. Further, powers have also been delegated to the public sector banks and some private sector banks having currency chests to accept torn/ damaged notes from the public for exchange. The RBI is repeating these instructions from time to time.

Smuggling of Skin of Wild Animals

4115. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether a large number of cases of smuggling of skin of wild animals, leopards, tigers have been detected at various parts and international airports during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether involvement of customs officials and some foreign agencies have been reported in facilitating ilicit skin trades,

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of skin of wild animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only one case of such smuggling has

been detected during the last three years, wherein snake skins, valued at Rs. 1.40 crores (approx.) were seized at Chennai Airport by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the year 1998-99.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) Field formations under the Customs Department are alert and vigilant to check smuggling of contraband goods. including smuggling of skin of wild animals.

Staff Requirement in Income Tax Department

4116. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department is over staffed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to reduce personnel Income Tax Department; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost of tax collection in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) In view of the growing volume of workload due to exponential increase in taxpayer base and the consequent need for induction of technonolgy, the Government has approved a restructuring plan for the Income tax department which is based on the objective of increasing the productivity of the department through induction of technology, which involves redeployment of the existing manpower through redefining the span of control, redesigning of the business process and re-training of the manpower.

(d) Restructuring process involves increase in productivity. By itself, this will go to reduce the cost of tax collection.

Reduction of Taxes

4117. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the Budget 2001-2002 excise duty and taxes have been reduced on many of the items; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government ensure that the benefit of these tax reductions go to the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. In this year's budget, excise duty rates have been reduced on a few items.

(b) There is no specific provision under the excise laws for passing on duty reduction on goods to the consumers. The prices of commodities are determined by the market forces and depend on a multiplicity of factors such as cost of production, demand and supply position and the level of taxation. Excise duty is levied at the production point and there is a long chain of intermediaries between production point and the consumer who add their costs and profits to the ex-factory prices.

Returns from Equity Share

4118. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA Wil the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the returns from the equity share capital of PSUs during the years 1999-2000 and 1998-1999;

(b) whether there is any increase is the returns from the equity share capital of PSUs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the returns from the equity share capital is not commensurate with the investment made by the Government in the PSUs;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to get a good return from the PSUs on its equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Information regarding the return from equity share capital i.e. dividend of CPSUs during the years 1999-2000 & 1998-99 is given in Statement 8 of Public Enterprises Survey, 1999-2000 which was duly laid in the Parliament on 27.2.2001 and is a public document. As per P.E. Survey, 1999-2000, the dividend declared by CPSUs has increased from Rs. 4931.56 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 5455.48 crores in 1999-2000.

(d) and (e) Beside earning profit and declaration of dividend, the CPSUs have to perform other social objectives such as creation of employment opportunities, creation of necessary infrastructure for economic development and promotion of balanced regional development etc. which are not quantifiable in financial

terms. It is, therefore, difficult to ascertain whether returns from equity share capital is in commensurate with the investment made by the Government in the PSUs.

(f) Enterprise specific steps are taken by the administrative Ministries/Departments/Management of PSUs from time to time so as to get a good return from the PSUs on its equity. However, some of the steps include managerial and financial restructuring, formation of joint ventures, upgradation of technology, modernization of plants and machinery, cost control measures, rationalization of manpower, improved marketing strategies etc. as the case may be.

Status of Public Sector Undertakings

4119. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Group of Ministers have been asked to give its recommendations on the status of public sector companies;

(b) if so, whether the Group of Ministers have submitted their recommendations to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(d) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

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) A Group of Ministers has been constituted to consider the procedure to be followed for adding or deleting PSEs from the list of Navaratna and Miniratna PSEs and for monitoring their performance.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Printing of Currency Notes

4120. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to allow printing of currency notes by a private Indian Company in association with an Australian company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been recommended by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing a private sector company to enter in such a sensitive area?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Loans from Banks to SSI

4121. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of applications received by Banks from small scale industrial units of the country particularly from schedule caste and scheduled tribe areas during last three years;

(b) the number of applications approved/rejected during said period to till date, State-wise;

(c) whether the banks have released loans in time to prevent the applicants/small scale industrial units from becoming sick;

(d) the number of cases detected pertaining to irregularities in release of loans during the said period, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that its Management Information System (MIS) does not generate data pertaining to number of applications from small scale industrial units received, approved/rejected State-wise by the Banks. However, RBI has furnished State-wise details (including Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe Areas) regarding number of SSI accounts and amount advanced by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) for the years ending March 1997, March 1998 and March 1999 and the same are given in enclosed statement.

(c) RBI has reported that study of specialized SSI bank branches of PSBs undertaken by Bank revealed that banks are adhering to the prescribed time schedule for disposal of loan applications.

(d) and (e) According to RBI, its MIS does not generate data relating to number of cases detected pertaining to irregularities in release of loans.

Statement

Public Sector Banks advances to SSIs (State-wise, number of Accounts-wise and amount Outstanding-wise) for the years ending March 1997, 1998 and 1999

Region/State	Small Scale Industries 1997		Small Scale Industries 1998		Small Scale Industries 1999	
	No. of A/cs.	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs.	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs.	Amount Outstanding
Haryana	72080	11017963	43414	13235218	43875	17041406
Himachal Pradesh	19073	1496906	18625	1841855	17493	1876943
Jammu & Kashmir	9569	1097441	10067	1317758	10086	1424994
Punjab	102389	21264337	97056	26064423	100567	29635752
Rajasthan	95903	9392952	90231	14047365	79475	15136525
Chandigarh	4832	2340966	4285	2530198	3378	2734851
Delhi	42138	25265357	46313	31637041	42941	36688433
Northern Region	345984	71875922	309991	90674658	297815	104538904
Assam	61946	2487905	61935	2629335	58231	2741362
Manipur	14272	401574	15011	407974	15367	456120
Meghalaya	4248	96261	4350	133929	4203	170376
Nagaland	5976	213992	4348	202925	3657	215829
Tripura	16569	206868	17852	212745	17488	217895
Arunachal Pradesh	1371	37731	1353	41447	1426	45148
Mizoram	2137	64678	2388	68385	2258	79963
Sikkim	892	45553	2206	53643	1993	81740
North-Eastern Region	107411	3554372	109443	3750383	104623	4008433
Bihar	221267	8705597	211727	9132639	201787	10789488
Orissa	343968	4498043	130991	5199851	134723	5922475
West Bengal	626585	20572464	559921	23307405	547705	25618425
Andaman & Nicobar	654	32638	1183	40036	844	42783
Eastern Region	1192474	3808742	903922	37679931	885059	42373171
Madhya Pradesh	122945	11864312	114037	14508265	118315	16364303
Uttar Pradesh	316306	27896569	272273	32286535	256003	35291556
Central Region	439251	39750881	386310	46794800	374318	51655859
Gujarat	96040	22175981	72855	28145832	72663	30491522
Maharashtra	133367	53239874	110683	67909798	96147	78634756
Daman & Diu	126	37080	95	41957	99	49642
Goa	3809	1160259	3943	1613281	4040	2242807
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	70	29009	127	90200	117	132600
Western Region	233412	76643003	187703	97801068	173066	111551327
Andhra Pradesh	157264	20340106	122206	23870130	119870	26463198
Karnataka	104727	19088545	96701	22277770	105540	25616250
Kerala	261600	10323759	120593	11538736	119972	12379787
Tamil Nadu	240875	39562081	241839	43982509	238979	46956442
Pondicherry	6398	321462	6071	342408	6202	363016
Lakshadweep	32	846	23	600	18	562
Southern Region	740896	89636799	587433	102012153	590581	111779245
All India	3059428	315269219	2484702	378712993	2425462	425906939

Export of Machinery

4122. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for export of machinery especially tools and implements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated Four Point Programme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) No specific targets are fixed for exports of sub-sectors like machinery, tools, implements etc. However, the Engineering Export Promotion Council makes projections from time to time for exports of these items.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, in order to achieve better export performance of engineering goods like machinery etc. strategies are formulated from time to time depending upon the global market conditions. These strategies include, *inter-alia*, participation in specialized trade fairs, mounting trade delegations to target markets and undertaking other promotional activities like brand promotion, road shows and seminars to foster cooperation and strategic alliances etc.

[English]

Reduction of Fair Price Shops

4123. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to reduce the number of fair price shops and other Public Distribution System outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private traders will be given more responsibility on this count;

(d) whether any studies have been done on this new initiative by Government and the workability of such a private sector in the PDS system;

(e) whether this experiment has been tried anywhere in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Centre and State Governments. The administrative responsibility of distribution of the commodities under the PDS through the network of fair price shops to the consumers rests with the State Governments. The decision regarding the opening/ closing of the fair price shops and other PDS outlets in a particular area is taken by the respective State Government/UT Administration taking into account the local needs of the population and the economic viability of the outlets. However, the State Governments/UTs have been requested to ensure one fair price shop for every 2000 persons subject to exceptions in view of the population density, terrain of the area etc. They have also been advised to ensure that no consumer/card holder has to travel more than 3 km to reach his/her fair price shop. Majority of the fair price shops are owned by the private traders in the country.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Non-Banking Finance Companies

4124. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has acknowledged the vital role being played by Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) in meeting the credit needs of specific sectors like equipment leasing, hire purchase, housing finance and consumer finance;

(b) whether unlike banks and other financial institutions, NBFCs have to rely on slow legal machinery for recovery of their dues and if so, whether the NPAs of these NBFCs have gone up both in absolute terms in amount and in relative terms;

(c) whether the Government propose to incorporate the provisions in the Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000 for recovery of the NBFCs dues.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) have to take recourse to the general laws of the land for recovery of the dues from their borrowers. A comparative study of the non-performing assets of the NBFCs reporting to RBI have revealed that the ratios of Gross Non Performing Assets (NPAs) to total assets have increased from 11.51% as on September, 1998 to 15.10% as on March, 2000 and to 16.22% as on September, 2000. The ratio of net NPAs to the total assets had risen from 9.53% to 11.95% between September, 1998 to September, 1999 and then declined to 7.70% as on September, 2000.

(c) to (e) The Government has introduced the Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000 on 13th December, 2000 in the Lok Sabha with a view to regulate NBFCs in a more effective manner. The Bill does not contain specific provisions for speedy recovery of the NBFCs dues. Such a provision can be considered after stabilization of NBFC sector. The Bill has been referred to Standing Committee on Finance by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Diversification of BHEL

4125. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether BHEL has made plan to diversify into producing advanced gas glass turbines from the year 2001-2002, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The question perhaps refers to advanced class Gas Turbines. BHEL, Hyderabad has already diversified into advanced class Gas Turbines to the designs of M/s General Electric, USA. The first two of these sets (of capacity 70 MW) have been supplied to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) during 2000-01 for their Kovilkalappal and Perungulam Projects.

Economic Reforms

4126. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister has recommended that the time has come for the Government to build on the nation wide consensus on economic reforms to carry over the realm of policy and implementation;

(b) if so, the steps suggested by the Committee for consensus on economic reforms in the country;

(c) the other recommendations made by the Committee regarding fiscal deficit and lowering income tax rate; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council in its report on 'Economic Reforms–A Medium Term Perspective' has noted that a nationwide and broad based consensus to reform our economy and to put the individual States and the country as a whole on a path of higher productivity and growth is already in place. What is required now is for this consenus to be built upon and carried over into the realm of policy and implementation.

(c) The Council has recommended identification of some critical areas for policy action which would bring about a significant reduction in the Centre's fiscal deficit over 3 to 4 years period. On the resource mobilisation front the recommendations include continuation of the basic strategy of lowering tax rates and broadening the tax base, moving towards a regime of low customs duties and plugging loopholes in the excise system. On the expenditure side it has suggested review of system of administered interest rates, downsizing of the central bureaucracy, rationalisation of subsidies, pension reforms etc.

(d) The recommendations of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council have been circulated to different Ministries for examination and appropriate action. The progress in this regard is being monitored.

Tele Film from Bangalore Doordarshan

4127. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bangalore Doordarshan Kendra has decided to produce tele-films after a gap of a few months;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that as a part of a new project, the Kendra has produced a tele-film titled 'Anthara Jala' which has been telecast in the month of February, 2001;

(c) whether these films has got great impact on the urban and rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that presently there is no plan to produce tele-films in Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore. However, the commissioned tele-film 'Anthara Jala' which was produced in the year 1999, was scheduled for telecast on 12.2.2001 as no suitable feature film was available for telecast in Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Foreign Institutional Investors Registered with SEBI

4128. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign institutional investors registered with SEBI;

(b) whether there are set guidelines for foreign institutional investors to be registered with SEBI;

(c) whether these guidelines are different for domestic and foreign institutions; and

(d) if so, the details of specific distinct requirements for domestic institutional investors and foreign institutional investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There are 525 foreign institutional investors (FIIs) registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as on 20.03.2001.

(b) Yes, Sir. FIIs are required to be registered with SEBI under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional Investors) Regulations, 1995.

(c) and (d) As stated above, foreign institutional investors are required to be registered with SEBI. Domestic Mutual Funds are required to be registered with SEBI under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996. Domestic institutions i.e. IDBI, IFCI, ICICI etc. are governed by their constitution and are not required to be registered with SEBI in respect of their investment activities. The domestic banks are required to be registered with RBI.

Competition due to Private Channel

4129. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan has any plan to meet the challenges posed by private TV channels;

(b) if so, whether Doordarshan is ignoring Regional News Channels and Regional News units are not collecting news properly;

(c) if so, the Government propose to improve and motivate the functioning of DD to retain its audiences; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) (a) Yes, Sir. While the focus of the private TV Channels is more on entertainment, the role of Doordarshan as a public service broadcaster is different. Doordarshan is constantly making efforts to improve the quality of programmes and retain its viewership. This is an ongoing process.

(b) Regional Kendras of Doordarshan originate regional news, emphasize news of regional significance and provide wholesome news in the regional language bulletin.

(c) Doordarshan has recently upgraded most of its channels to 24 hour Channels, packaged the channels, improved their content and is attempting to professionalise their functioning.

(d) The fixed point chart and programme schedules of the channels are reviewed periodically to incorporate necessary changes as per the programming requirements of the channels. Programmes of new genres are being telecast to include channel-driving programmes. Programmes of various genres, reality television shows, music talent search programmes etc. are being planned. Programmes on great Indian personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Chhatrapati Shivaji etc. are also being planned for educating the younger generation about our history and contribution made by the freedom fighters. This apart, packaging of channels for slick presentation is also being executed from time to time for better viewer attraction.

[Translation]

Foodgrains at Concessional Rates

4130. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had made available foodgrains at concessional rate to the poor pilgrims on the occasion of "Kumbh Mela";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains allocated for distribution in Kumbh Mela; and

(d) the percentage of allocated foodgrains distributed at concessional rate among the poor?

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

(b) and (c) A quantity of 13,500 tonnes of wheat and 7800 tonnes of rice was allotted to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for Kumbh Mela at below poverty line (BPL) rates. The Government of Uttar Pradesh distributed 674 tonnes of wheat (including 654 tonnes of atta) and 611 tonnes of rice of the pilgrims in the Kumbh Mela at BPL rates.

(d) The percentage of foodgrains distributed at BPL rates to the pilgrims in Kumbh Mela as compared to the allocated quantities is as under :

Wheat	4.99%
Rice	7.83%

[English]

Stoppage of Hindi News Bulletin

4131. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Jalandhar Station of AIR, which discontinued Hindi News Bulletin in mid 1980 has not yet resumed it so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Hindi News Bulletin is likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the relay of the Regional News Bulletin originating from the Regional News Unit at Chandigarh was discontinued by AIR, Jalandhar from September, 1992. However, no news bulletins in Hindi, which were being originated from Delhi and relayed by AIR, Jalandhar, were discontinued.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to start the relay of additional news bulletins by AIR, Jalandhar.

Increase in Time Slot of Sanskrit News Bulletin

4132. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the time for broadcast of news bulletin in Sanskrit during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to constraints of funds and manpower.

IT Challan with Bogus Bank Seals

4133. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a case have come to the notice of the Government where income tax amount has not actually been credited to their accounts but income tax challans with bogus bank seals have been submitted to the income tax department in Delhi and the department failed to verify the authenticity of those challans;

(b) if so, the complete details of the case;

(c) the present status of that case; and

(d) the action has been taken against the cheats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) One such case has come to the notice of the Government during the course of search and seizure operation u/s 132 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 on 19.10.2000 in respect of one tax consultant.

(b) During the course of such proceedings, various incriminating articles/documents like fake rubber stamps of Bank of India, Panchsheel Branch, forged and fabricated tax payment challans, blank Income Tax Returns bearing receipt numbers and office stamps of Income Tax Department, blank portions of sales tax challans, non-judicial stamp papers etc. have been found and seized. On inquiry with the Bank of India, Panchsheel branch, it has been confirmed that the challans with receipts stamp impressions were false and fabricated.

(c) and (d) A complaint has been filed with the Deputy Commissioner of Police (South), New Delhi, on 22.11.2000 based on which Delhi Police have registered FIR No. 936/2000 against the tax consultant. The Tax consultant and his associate are now under the judicial custody and are facing criminal proceedings under the IPC. The immovable properties of accused and his family members have been attached u/s 281B of the Income Tax Act, 1961 till the finalisation of the assessments.

Merger of Organisations

4134. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of organisations which have merged to form Prasar Bharati;

(b) whether sufficient funds were provided for functioning of these institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) AIR and Doordarshan, which were earlier functioning as attached offices of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, are now constituents of Prasar Bharati w.e.f. 23.11.1997.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. With effect from 1.4.2000, Prasar Bharati has been given its own funds in the form of grants-in-aid (for revenue expenditure) and loans (for capital expenditure). It has also been allowed to retain its commercial earnings. Details of funds provided to Prasar Bharati for the year 2000-2001 are as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

	Sanctioned Budget Grant 2000-2001	Revised Estimates 2000-2001
Non-Plan Revenue	919.98	906.42
Plan Revenue	42.98	70.94
Plan Capital	170.30	139.30

Privatisation of Modern Food Ltd.

4135. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Modern Foods employees oppose privatisation" appearing in the *Times of India* on February 2, 2001;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have received spate of representation to reconsider their decision to privatise the Modern Foods Limited; and

(d) if so, the reaction of 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Modern Food Industries (India) Limited (MFIL) was a Government Company till 31.1.2000. As per the accounting procedure followed prior to 31.1.2000, the Company did not provision for outstanding recoveries exceeding 5 years even, whereas the new management of the Company made provision for all outstanding recoveries which were more than 3 years old on the grounds that the strict application of accounting principles warrant so. The loss of MFIL, in accordance with the accounts so prepared, during the year 1999-2000 was Rs. 4822.88 lakhs out of which Rs 3519.00 lakhs was towards provisions made for previous years. The loss during the period from 1.4.2000 to 31.12.2000 was Rs. 1604.81 lakhs. The performance of MFIL was declining over the last 3 years. However, the performance showed steady improvement and by the last week of December, 2000, weekly sales of bread increased to around 44 lakhs SL, which is a 100% increase over the figure of April, 2000.

(c) and (d) Representations containing various unsubstantiated allegations were received from a handful of employees, who are facing disciplinary proceedings on the charges of dereliction of duty and misbehaviour.

Vacancies Reserved for SC/ST

4136. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill the Backlog of vacanies reserved for the SCs/STs in the year 1993,

(b) if so, the action taken thereon since 1993 by the Ministry of Finance in respect of Backlog vacancies concerning this Ministry and results thereof;

(c) if no action is taken the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on January 1,1993 in class I, II, III and IV category under the Ministry of Finance and its autonomous/statutory attached offices and action taken to fill these vacancies; and

(e) the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in Class I, II and IV categories as on August 29, 1997?

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

Casual News Readers in AIR

4137. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Casual News Readers in Doordarshan and AIR separately;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to regularise their services;

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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.

Financial Position of Orissa

4138. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial position of Government of Orissa has deteriorated after adopting free market economy whereas other States have improved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure growth of Orissa in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) There has been a general deterioration in the fiscal position of all the States including Orissa mainly as outcome of a combination of factors such as high interest payments for past borrowings, impact of the Fifth Pay Commission and rising mismatch between receipts and expenditure.

(c) The Eleventh Finance Commission has made detailed assessment of the receipts and expenditure of the State and has recommended devolutions and grants to the State so as to improve the fiscal viability of the State which would contribute to the economic growth of the State.

Indian Acquisitions Abroad

4139. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether RBI is monitoring the performance of Indian Acquisitions Abroad;

(b) if so, the name of the companies having acquisitions abroad;

(c) whether some case has been referred to FERA for investigation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance of the overseas acquisitions of monitored by Reserve Bank of India through the Annual Performance Reports submitted by the investing companies.

According to information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the names of Indian companies who have made acquisitions in foreign concerns during the period 1st January, 1998 to 28th February, 2001 with equity stake of 50% and more in them, the extent of such investments and the actual remittances by these companies are given in the enclosed statement. The statement includes only takeovers of the existing foreign concerns by Indian companies and does not include investments in new joint ventures/wholly owned subsidiaries abroad.

(c) and (d) None of the companies listed in the annexure has been referred to Enforcement Directorate for investigation.

Statement

List of approvals for overseas acquisitions (majority stake) by Indian companies from 1st January, 1998 to 28th February, 2001

Amount in US$ million

Sl. No.	Indian Promoter Co.	Date of approval	Country	Approved Investment				
				Swap	Equity	Loan (L)/ Guarantee (G)	% of equity	Actual Remittances
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Silicon Automation Sys.	17.3.1998	Japan	-	0.08	-	100	0.080
2.	Silicon Software Designs	29.7.1998	U.K.	-	0.04	-	100	0.001
3.	Usha Beltron Ltd.	17.9.1998	USA	-	0.13	-	100	0.058
4.	Gana Yantrika Systems	12.10.1998	USA	-	0.002	-	50	-
5.	Data Software Reseach	5.11.1998	USA	-	0.50	-	50	-
6.	Ramesh Flowers Ltd.	1.10.1999	USA	-	0.07	-	70	0.010
7.	SSI Ltd.	3.11.1999	USA	2.760	-	-	100	#
8.	Ogilvy & Mather Ltd.	19.3.1999	Sri Lanka	-	0.452	-	75	0.452
9.	SVG Software Pvt. Ltd.	19.3.1999	USA	-	0.05	-	66.67	0.019
10.	Pan Music & Magazines	5.3.1999	France	-	0.10	(L) 2.30	100	2.400
11.	Sejal Gems Pvt. Ltd.	5.3.1999	USA	-	0.05	-	90	0.045
12.	Suvi Information System	31.5.1999	USA	-	000*	-	100	-
13.	Applitech Solutions Ltd.	14.6.1999	Singapore	-	0.14	-	100	-
14.	Applitech Solutions Ltd.	14.6.1999	Australia	-	000*	-	100	-
15.	Applitech Solutions Ltd.	14.6.1999	USA	-	0.02	-	100	-
16.	Gujarat Glass Ltd.	22.7.1999	Sri Lanka	-	9.05	-	100	-
17.	Infotech Enterprises	26.7.1999	U.K.	1.761	1.761	-	100	-
18.	Usha Beltron Ltd.	27.7.1999	U.K.	-	7.75	(G) 3.00	100	2.853
19.	Techmatic (India) Pvt. Ltd.	16.8.1999	U.K.	-	000*	-	100	-
20.	Titagarh Industries Ltd.	28.8.1999	Belgium	-	0.762	-	86.57	0.091
21.	Zee Telefilms Ltd.	23.9.1999	BVI	470.589	-	-	100	#
22.	Zenith Infotech Ltd.	10.9.1999	Singapore	-	0.03	-	100	-
23.	SNR Softech Pvt. Ltd.	18.10.1999	USA	-	0.005	-	51	-
24.	Usha Beltron Ltd.	20.10.1999	BVI	1.976	000*	-	100	#
25.	Eastern Software System	21.10.1999	Indonesia	-	0.36	-	100	0.180
26.	J.K. Informatics Ltd.	29.10.1999	USA	0.025	-	-	100	#
27.	East India Hotels Ltd.	12.7.1999	BVI	-	8.10	-	100	7.260

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
28.	Sterling Infotech Ltd.	23.12.1999	Singapore	-	0.68	-	87.5	0.774
29.	Silverline Industries	27.12.1999	USA	46.250	-	-	100	#
30.	Infonet Worldwide Ltd.	28.12.1999	USA	-	3.50	-	50	1.50
31.	Ind Telesoft Pvt. Ltd.	18.1.2000	USA	-	0.07	-	100	-
32.	Ind Telesoft PVt. Ltd.	18.1.2000	USA	-	0.01	-	100	-
33.	Goa Carbons Ltd.	31.1.2000	Mauritius	-	0.03	-	100	0.030
34.	Zee Telefilms Ltd.	24.2.2000	BVI	63.920	148.26	-	50	148.260
35.	Berger Paints India Ltd.	2.5.2000	Nepal	-	0.69	(L) 0.29	100	-
36.	KLG Systel Ltd.	3.1.2000	USA	-	5.87	-	51	5.865
37.	GE Indian Services Ho	22.3.2000	Mauritius	-	0.002	-	100	-
38.	Leading Edge Systems	31.3.2000	Bermnda	-	0.300	-	100	-
39.	Boston Management Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	26.7.2000	USA	-	0.300	-	100	-
40.	Genesys Technology Ltd.	4.1.2000	USA	-	0.10	-	100	0.100
41.	Jenson & Nicholson (I) Ltd.	2.5.2000	Nepal	-	0.003	-	95	-
42.	System America (India)	4.5.2000	Canada	-	0.18	-	100	0.016
43.	Strides Arcolab Ltd.	5.1.2000	USA	-	8.01	(G) 4.02	100	-
44.	Real Times Holdings (P)	20.5.2000	USA	0.495	-	-	100	#
45.	Netacross Holdings & Investments	16.5.2000	Mauritius	0.419	-	-	100	-
46.	Ram Informatics Ltd.	24.6.2000	Bermuda	5.734	1.516	-	100	#
47.	Synergy Login System	20.5.2000	Singapore	-	0.44	-	100	-
48.	Subex Systems Ltd.	6.1.2000	USA	0.300	6.413	-	100	3.566
49.	Tata Tea Ltd.	6.3.2000	U.K.	-	101.69	-	86.11	23.720
50.	Trigyn Technologies Ltd.	31.3.2000	Bermuda	139.397	-	-	100	#
51.	Arasan International	6.5.2000	USA	-	0.27	-	100	-
52.	Shriram Global Techno	26.7.2000	USA	-	0.50	-	100	-
53	VMF Soft Tech Ltd.	6.9.2000	USA	-	0.35	-	100	-
54.	Rave Technologies	14.6.200	U.K.	1.589	-	-	100	#
55.	Data Line Transcription	26.7.2000	USA	-	0.150	-	100	-
56.	Teamasia Semiconductor (India) Ltd.	8.5.2000	Mauritius	-	6.48	-	100	-
57.	Wockhardt Ltd.	8.5.2000	USA	50.000	20.000	-	100	-
58.	Amex Information Technologies Ltd.	12.5.2000	Germany	-	-	(L) 0.200	100	0.111
59.	BFL Software Ltd.	8.6.2000	USA	168.028	-	-	100	#

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
60.	Shri MM Softeck Limited	18.8.2000	USA	84.55	-	-	100	#
61.	Spike Technologies	23.8.2000	USA	74.00	-	-	100	#
62.	UTV Software Communications	23.8.2000	Singapore	5.494	-	(G) 5.60	100	#
63.	UTV Software Communications	23.8.2000	BV Island	0.238	-	-	100	#
64.	Indiainfo.com Pvt. Ltd.	25.8.2000	USA	-	3.738	-	100	-
65.	OCS International (P) Ltd.	22.9.2000	Oman	0.738	-	-	100	#
66.	Boston Education	26.9.200	USA	-	0.30	-	100	-
67.	ITC Ltd.	6.10.2000	USA	-	000*	-	50	-
68.	KLG Systel Ltd.	13.4.200	USA	5.635	5.865	-	100	5.865
69.	Maersk India Ltd.	10.4.2000	Nepal	-	0.01	-	95	-
70.	Modi Entertainment Ne.	10.4.2000	Mauritius	-	0.10	-	100	-
71.	Navayuga Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	10.10.2000	USA	-	0.04	(L) 0.11	100	-
72.	Trigyn Technologies Ltd.	10.10.2000	USA	-	9.00	-	100	-
73.	SSI Software Services	15.11.2000	USA	-	2.00	-	100	-
74.	Insyst Technologies Ltd.	11.12.2000	BVI	-	3.83	-	100	-
75.	Helios & Matheson Tech Ltd.	12.12.2000	USA	-	13.00	-	100	-
76.	Melstar Information Tech. Ltd.	13.12.2000	U.K.	1.74	5.10	-	100	-
77.	Sun Earth Ceramics Ltd.	27.12.2000	Netherland	-	4.49	-	100	-
78.	Multi Pack Systems P. Ltd.	16.1.2001	USA	-	0.25	-	100	-
79.	B2B Software Technologies	17.1.2001	USA	-	0.30	-	100	-
80.	Mold Tek Technologies Ltd.	20.1.2001	USA	0.20	0.24	-	100	-
81.	Infoban Technologies Ltd.	23.1.2001	USA	0.52	0.9	-	100	-
82.	Crest Communications Ltd.	15.2.2001	Mauritius	-	2.00	-	100	-

* Investment amount less than US$ 10,000. # No remittance involved.

Press Council of India

4140. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received requests form All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation, New Delhi for closing down the Press Council;

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

(c) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding irregularities and misuse of funds in Press Council of India during the year 1999 and 2000;

(d) the action taken thereon and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the number of members/representative submitted their resignations from Press Council of India during the said period and grounds on which the resignations were submitted?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) (a) and (b) All India Small & Medium Newspapers Federation, New Delhi has demanded closing down of

Press Council of India as there is a move by Government to close down many other units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Press Council of India being a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament cannot be closed down like other units of this Ministry.

(c) and (d) No specific complaint regarding irregularities and alleged misuse of funds in Press Council of India has been received by the Government.

(e) Three members submitted their resignations from Press Council of India during 1999 and 2000, one on account of being held guilty of transgression of Press Council's Code of Ethics for published writings, the other owing to alleged lack of respect to the members of the Press Council and the last one on account of personal problems.

Private TV Channels

4141. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private channels at present in the country;

(b) whether some more private channels are going to be started in the country in near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for giving permission for the same; and

(d) the income generated through these private channels during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The Government is not maintaining record of foreign channels beaming signals over India. However, 25 channels have been permitted to uplink from India.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some private companies have applied to uplink their channels from India and these are being processed as per the guidelines for uplinking from India, a copy of which, has been put on the website of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (mib.mc.in)

(d) The income generated through these private TV channels during the last 3 years is as follows :

(i) Revenues earned by WPC Wing of Ministry of Communication	Rs. 3.86 Crore (approx.)
(ii) Revenues earned by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL)	Rs. 39 Crore (approx.)
Total	Rs. 42.86 Crores

[Translation]

Smuggling in Mumbai Airport

4142. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mumbai Airport has becoming main route of smuggling into the country;

(b) whether foreign currency and smuggled goods amounting to 497 crore 70 lakh rupees have been seized in Maharashtra alone in the last 11 months;

(c) if so, measures taken by the Government to check smuggling through airports located at Mumbai; and

(d) the value of smuggled goods seized at other airports of the country in the year 2000?

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

(b) No, Sir. The field formations of Custom Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have seized foreign currency and smuggled goods valued at Rs. 52.85 crores in Maharashtra, during the last 11 months, i.e. from April, 2000 to February, 2001.

(c) All the field formations under the Customs Department including DRI are alert and vigilant to check smuggling of contraband goods, including through airports located at Mumbai.

(d) During the year 2000, smuggled goods worth Rs. 95.54 crores have been seized at other airports (excluding Mumbai Airport).

[English]

Burst of High Pitch Volume

4143. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of sudden burst of high-pitch volume of sound that pierce the ears of viewers of Doordarshan and Cable telecasts during the songs in movies and commercial advertisements and its consequential sound pollutions to the viewers;

(b) if so, what is the permissible limit of sound level of telecasting of such advertisements and songs in India at par with developed countries abroad;

(c) if so, the steps taken/being taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Though no limit of sound level of telecasting of advertisements and songs has been laid down, the broadcaster is expected to keep the comfort level of the viewer/listener in mind in this regard.

[Translation]

Honorarium to Media Persons

4144. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Hindi Diwas' and 'Hindi Pakhwada' were organised in his Ministry and other media units last year;

(b) if so, the Media-wise details or rewards given for publicity and to the organisers and of honoraria paid to the Jury members/officials of media units;

(c) whether some irregularity have been found in awarding the honorarium to the officials; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the persons responsible for this?

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

(b) No reward has been given for publicity to the organisers. So far as payment of honoraria to the jury members/officials of media units under this Ministry is concerned, information is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Media-wise details of Honoraria paid to the Jury members/officials of media units under the Ministry on the occasion of Hindi Diwas/Pakhwada

Name of Media Unit	Honoraria paid (in Rupees)
1	2
Directorate of Field Publicity	16,498.00
Directorate of A.I.R.	37,250.00
Directorate of Doordarshan	33,400.00
Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity	4,500.00
Registrar of Newspapers for India	4,000.00
Directorate of Publication Division	8,500.00
National Film Archives of India	2,732.00
Films Division	8,350.00
Research, Reference & Training Division	500.00
Indian Institute of Mass Communication	Nil
National Films Development Corporation	Nil
Chief Controller of Accounts	Nil
Song & Drama Division	Nil
Press Council of India	Nil
Central Board of Film Certification	Nil
Directorate of Film Festivals	Nil
Broadcast Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd	Nil
Photo Division	Nil
Film & Television Institute of India, Pune	Nil
Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute	Nil
Children Film Society, India	Nil
Press Information Bureau	10,800.00

[English]

TV Centre at Berhampur

4145. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are considering to open second TV centre at Berhampur in Orissa in view of heavy demand of the people for the same,

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) At present, a High Power TV Transmitter is under implementation at Berhampur, in replacement of the existing Low Power Transmitter. Further expansion of Doordarshan services in Orissa is dependent upon availability of resources with Prasar Bharati and inter-se priorities.

Sugar Development Fund, 1983

4146. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to amend rules governing Sugar Development Fund (SDF) to help sugar mills take-up co-generation of power and production of ethanol for use with petrol for transportation;

(b) if so, how much power is expected to produce from the sugar mills in the country and cost of each unit of the power produced;

(c) whether the Government will consider to study/ get modern technology from Brazil which is producing ethanol from Molasses in the most profitable lines; and

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

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

(b) As per information available, about 3500 MW of power could be generated from existing sugar mills through optimum co-generation. Assuming surplus power generation during a typical crushing period ranging from 180 to 210 days per year, and choice of an optimum technology package, the unit cost of generation ranges from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.75 per unit.

(c) and (d) Government has decided to set up pilot projects on the use of ethanol to examine environmental, operational, financial and other aspects of its use as autofuel.

Representation from Employees

4147. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Forum of SC/ST had submitted a representation demanding posting/assignments of adequate number of SCs/STs Officers in the foreign posts/assignments under his ministry;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of officers of Finance Ministry working in the above posts/assignments as on 1.1.1996 in the grade of Class I, II, III and IV and persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total posts/assignments; and

(d) the number of officers posted of the above posts/ assignments during 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 and persons belonging to SCs/STs filled in during the said period?

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

Subsidised Foodgrains for SC/ST Students of Karnataka

4148. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have agreed to supply foodgrains at subsidised rates to hostels run by the Government of Karnataka for SC/ST and minority students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has furnished the information regarding the number of hostels to be covered and the quantity of foodgrains required for SC/ST hostels in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have taken any final decision and issued directives to issuing agencies for release of foodgrains to the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (f) Under the Scheme for supply of subsidised foodgrains from Central Pool to the States/UTs for resident students of the SC/ST/OBC hostels commenced in Oct., 1994, 15 kg foodgrains per resident per month is supplied to the hostels having 2/3rd residents belonging to these categories. The State Governments can draw foodgrains as rice and/or wheat depending on the food habits of the residents of the hostels. Food Corporation of India

(FCI) issues foodgrains to the authorized nominees of the State Governments. The foodgrains are presently issued at rates applicable for families below poverty line (BPL).

Manipulation in Stock Market

4149. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI conducted its investigation in scrip of sterlite and two other firms following allegation of manipulation in the wake of sudden payment crisis in June, 1998;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government have considered the probe into charges of price manipulation if the scrip of Sterlite industries before handing over BALCO to it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) SEBI has intimated that they conducted investigations into price manipulation in the scrips of BPL Ltd., Videocon International Ltd. and Sterlite Industries in June, 1998. The investigations, prima-facie, revealed that prices of the scrips of the aforesaid companies were manipulated by Harshad Mehta in connivance with the companies. Pursuant to investigations, show cause notices were issued to Harshad Mehta, his connected entities, BPL Ltd., Videocon International Ltd. and Sterlite Industries and some of the directors of these companies, asking them to show cause why suitable directions including directions prohibiting them from accessing the capial market and dealing in shares for a suitable period should not be issued to them, under Section 11 B of the SEBI Act, 1992, read with Regulation 11 of SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent & Unfair Trade Practices) Regulations, 1995. Further, proceedings, which are of quasi-judicial nature, are in progress.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Public Financial Institutes

4150. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI propose to introduce credit sharing information system among public sector banks about defaulters especially by non-banking financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) State Bank of India (SBI) has, jointly with Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd., and in technical collaboration with Dun & Bradstreet Information Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. and Trans Union International Inc., set up the Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd. The Bureau will collect consumer and commercial credit related data about customers and using such data, create, package, market, sell and distribute credit reports to banks, financial institutions and business which agree to contribute the relevant data to the Bureau on a regular and continuous basis. Action has also been initiated to put in place necessary legislation in this regard.

Hundred Crore Draw Back Scam

4151. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4103 on August 18, 2000 and state :

(a) the reasons for not lodging FIR against the parties involved in scam amounting to Rs. 17.46 crores;

(b) the status of show cause notices pending adjudication before the competent authority; and

(c) the competent authority in the present cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) (a) A complaint in a Court of Law for prosecution for an offence under Customs Act, 1962 is filed generally after the adjudication proceedings initiated under the Customs Act are completed.

(b) The show cause notices issued are pending adjudication by the competent adjudicating authority.

(c) Commissioner of Customs Inland Containers Depot, Tughlakabad, New Delhi is the competent adjudicating authority in all these cases.

Guidelines for HRA

4152. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether some subordinate offices in Delhi insist upon producing the ration card or any other document as a proof of bonafide resident for claiming the House Rent Allowance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any guidelines for eligibility of claiming HRA has been issued by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) As per the orders, a Government servant whose place of duty falls within the qualifying limits of a city shall be eligible for House Rent Allowance, irrespective of whether his place of residence is within such limits or outside. In case of a Government servant whose place of duty is in proximity of qualifying city, and who, of necessity, has to reside within the city may also be granted the House Rent Allowance admissible in that city provided the administrative Ministry/Department is satisfied that :

1. The distance between the place of duty and the periphery of the municipal limits of the qualified city does not exceed 8 Kms.

2. The Staff concerned have to reside within the qualified city out of necessity i.e. for want of accommodation near their place of duty.

A Government Servant allotted Government accommodation or residing with one of his family members who has been allotted Government accommodation is not eligible for House Rent Allowance.

NRI Remittances from Abroad

4153. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NRI-remittances from abroad reach their destination after a considerable delay;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken or likely to be taken in this regard?

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

Disinvestment of Steel Industry

4154. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any disinvestment in Hindustan Steel, Durgapur, Alloy Steel, Durgapur and Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur of West Bengal;

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

(c) the total value of assets of the above three public sector units as assessed till 31st March, 2000?

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) Durgapur Steel Plant and Alloy Steel Plant are units of SAIL. At present there is no proposal to disinvest Government equity in SAIL. With a view to reviving Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of SAIL, it is proposed to be converted into a joint venture, with SAIL holding minority stake.

(c) The values of assets of Durgapur Steel Plant, Alloy Steel Plant and IISCO as per annual accounts as on 31.3.2000 are Rs. 4547.46 crore, Rs. 149.52 crore and Rs. 348.01 crore respectively.

'Narcotics Control Bureau'

4155. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Narcotics Control Bureau set up in, 1986 as the apex coordinating agency under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act has no powers to investigate any of the drug pedalling cases booked over the year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor stating the implications involved in dealing with the pending and decided cases based on the NCB's investigations; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to solve the cases of drug pedalling booked by NCB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) As per Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue Notification nos.8/86 to 8/86 [F.No. 664/75/86-Opium] published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) dated 01.01.86, Narcotics Control Bureau is empowered to conduct investigations in drug related cases. However, the Delhi High Court in its judgement dated 13.12.2000

in the case of Kulwant Singh vs State has observed that NCB is not empowered to perform functions under Sections 41,42,53 or 67 of the NDPS Act.

(b) and (c) Government has filed an appeal alongwith the stay application in the Supreme Court of India against the judgement of the Delhi High Court. The apex court has been pleased to grant stay. Hence, as on date there is no change in the status of the pending and decided cases based on NCB's investigations and those booked by the NCB. The matter being subjudice, no remedial action is proposed to be taken at this stage.

Amendment to SEBI Act, 1996

4156. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1996 with a view to incorporating "default by companies" in their disclosure requirements; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Government intends to propose legislative changes in the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 to strengthen the provisions for investor protection.

The Standing Committee on Finance, in their 8th Report, have recommended, *inter alia*, that disclosure requirements should be amended to provide that in case any promoter who diverted funds happens to be on the Board of Directors of other companies, which access the capital market for raising equity and/or debt, such a fact should be mentioned in the prospectus and offer documents. SEBI has intimated that necessary steps are being taken to implement this recommendation of the standing committee.

Loss of Official Documents

4157. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether sensitive official documents have been stolen from the car of a senior customs official, recently in New Delhi while parked at Nehru Park;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons why the customs official was carrying sensitive documents in his car unattended;

(c) whether the matter has been investigated and any action taken against the customs official for negligence of duty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

Export of Information Technology and Electronics Goods

4158. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the percentage of GDP achieved by the exports in information technology and electronics goods sold last year;

(b) how does it compare with the other Asian countries;

(c) the reasons for such poor growth;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to develop Indian IT hardware industry;

(e) the date fixed for implementation of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) of World Trade Organisation (WTO); and

(f) its likely impact on indigenous IT and telecom hardware industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) The export of electronic hardware and software during the year 1999-2000 amounted to Rs. 18700 crores, which is estimated to be around one per cent of the GDP

(b) According to a related indicator, reported in the World Development Report 2000/01, India's share of high technology exports as a per cent of manufacturing exports in 1998 was 5 per cent, as compared to 10 per cent for Indonesia, 15 per cent for China, 21 per cent for Hongkong, 27 per cent for S.Korea, 31 per cent for Thailand, 54 per cent for Malaysia and 71 per cent for Phillipines.

(c) While the Indian software industry has been doing consistently well, the IT hardware industry is passing through a transition due to, *inter alia*, lack of fresh investments, high tariff duty, poor infrastructure, high cost of capital, restrictive labour laws and complex procedures and regulations pertaining to exports and imports.

(d) Government recognises the importance of IT hardware industry and its potential in contributing to the growth, employment and exports of the country. Measures taken by the Government to promote electronic hardware sector include permission for 100 per cent foreign investment in units set up for exports, accelerated depreciation norms for computers and peripherals, larger access to the Domestic Tariff Area and permission for broad banding under EOU/EPZ/ EHTP schemes, exemption from withholding tax and higher weighted deduction for R&D activities. An Information Technology Act, 2000 has also been enacted. Further policy changes, as and when necessary, would be effected to accelerate IT exports on a sustainable basis.

(e) Of the 217 tariff lines bound by India under ITA, the phase out schedule stipulates reduction of duty rates to zero on 95 tariff lines by 2000, on 4 tariff lines by 2003, on 2 tariff lines by 2004 and on remaining 116 tariff lines by 2005.

(f) Information Technology Agreement is expected to aid the development of the domestic IT and Telecom industries as it is expected to expand the world trade in IT products. India is likely to benefit from the capital investments in R&D in this growing field. ITA is also expected to improve the competitiveness of other industries depending on IT.

[Translation]

Amount Allocated to Bihar

4159. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount allocated by the Union Government to the State Government of Bihar for various schemes during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government of Bihar have utilised the said amount fully; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Central Government releases funds to the States both for Central schemes as well as for State Plan. Apart from this, the State Government also receives funds under the award of the Finance Commission. The allocation made by the Planning Commission and Finance Commission for the last two years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	Allocation for 1998-99	Allocation for 1999-2000
Normal Central Assistant	1191.76	1420.17
Basic Minimum Services	383.32	419.04
Slum Development Scheme	24.25	26.58
Addl. Central Assistance for EAP's	236.14	236.14
Share in Central Taxes	4476.67	4998.03
Small Savings Loans	1200.00	1700.00
Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)	43.22	45.05
AIBP	60.00	200.00
ACA (others)	75.11	41.00
BADP	-	7.00
NFCR (NCCF)	11.45	38.18
Upgradation/Spl. Problems	97.33	210.17
Local Bodies	215.41	430.70

(b) and (c) The Central Assistance for State Plan is released in the form of block loans and block grants. The financial management of the States is primarily the responsibility of the State Government and it is for the respective State Governments to ensure that the funds provided are properly spent on development programmes. The Government of India imposes a cut in the Central Assistance if there is a shortfall in achievement of approved plan outlay. Releases and monitoring under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, as also expenditure against each scheme is over seen by the concerned Central Ministries in accordance with the guidelines of the scheme.

[English]

Under Invoicing Imports

4160. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether liquor manufacturing companies has resorted to under invoicing imports between January, 1995 to June, 2000;

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

(c) the action the Government have taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. One case of suspected under-invoicing of imports has been noticed.

(b) and (c) In investigations carried out by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence into the imports of concentrates by M/s. Seagrams Manufacturing Ltd., for the period December, 1994 till June, 2000, a number of irregularities including prima-facie under-valuation of concentrates have come to light. A detailed Show-Cause Notice has been issued in which they are alleged to have evaded Customs duty of Rs. 37.96 crores. A complaint for prosecution has also been filed on 22.12.2000 and is being pursued before the jurisdictional Court.

Basu Committee Report on Financial Institutions

4161. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Basu Committee has levelled charges of irregularities on certain officials of financial institutions such as IFCI, IDBI etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the charges made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Pending Excise Cases

4162. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as on 1.4.99 there were 47,911 cases of adjudication in excise cases involving over Rs. 8,060 crore were pending in comparison to 47,911 cases on 1.4.1998;

(b) if so, the number of those cases and since been adjudicated and the amount of excise duty recovered;

(c) the position of pending adjudication cases as on April 1, 2000 and March 1, 2001 and money involved therein;

(d) whether Chief Commissioners and Commissioners of Central Excise were asked by the Government for time-bound disposal of the cases but those authorities have miserably failed in the execution of the orders; and

(e) if so, the concrete measures the Government propose to take to liquidate the pending adjudicated excise cases and to check the large scale evasion of excise duty all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Setting up of News Units

4163. SHRI SUBODH ROY Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration to set up an news division in Akashwani, Bhagalpur to broadcast local news from there; and

(b) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Non-Banking Companies

4164. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the State-wise number of non-banking Financial Companies operating in various States as on January 1, 2000;

(b) the amount of money deposited by public in these companies during January 1,1997 and December 31,1999;

(c) the names of such companies out of the said companies which disappeared with the money deposited between January 1,1997 and February 28, 2001;

(d) the names of those companies which disappeared after January 1, 2000;

(e) the action taken by the Government against such companies; and

(f) the manner is which the Government propose to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and monitor the workings of such companies to protect the interests of investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) State-wise data on the number of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in India as on January 1, 2000 as determined in terms of the number of applications for Certificate of Registration (COR) submitted by such companies to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) RBI has reported that the details of amount of money deposited by public in these companies during the period 1.1.1997 and 31.12.1999 is not available with them. However, the details regarding amount of public deposits mobilized, as furnished by NBFCs, during the year ended 31.3.1998 and 31.3.1999 is given as under

During the year ended	No. of reporting companies in category 'A'*	Amount of public deposits mobilized (Rs. in crore)
31.3.1998	1288	7903.20
31.3.1999	899	3732.16

* Deposits accepting companies.

(c) and (d) From February 25, 2000 onwards the Reserve Bank is advising the names of all vanishing NBFCs (NBFCs, which are not traceable at their registered address or where letters sent to the NBFCs have been returned undelivered) to the State Governments concerned for appropriate action. The names of vanishing NBFCs advised to the respective State Governments as readily available are given in the statement-II.

(e) and (f) Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes *inter-alia* compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI takes various actions against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and directions issued thereunder. Government has introduced "Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000" in the Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2000. The Bill has been referred to Standing Committee on Finance by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Statement-I

Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in India as on 1.1.2000

State/Union Territory	Number of NBFCs an on 1.1.2000
Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1,481
Karnataka	624
Madhya Pradesh	588
Orissa	62
West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	12,852
Punjab & Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh	1,667
Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	2,646
North Eastern States	272
Andhra Pradesh	1,524
Rajasthan	614
Jammu & Kashmir	149
Uttar Pradesh	1,475
Maharashtra & Goa	5,090
Delhi & Haryana	7,397
Bihar	507
Kerala, Lakshdweep	451
All India	37,399

Statement-II

NBFCs not traceable at addresses available with the Department referred to respective State Governments

Bhubaneswar Region

1. Allwin Finance & Housing Finance Ltd., Balasore
2. City Investment & Finance Ltd., Bhubaneswar
3. Samaleswari General Finance & Investment Ltd., Sambalpur

4. Super Finance Development Ltd., Sankalpa Finance & Investment Ltd., Cuttack
5. Sankalpa Finance & Investment Ltd., Keonjhar
6. Milan India Investment, Cuttack
7. Capital Chamber Financials Ltd., Cuttack
8. Memorial Agro Projects Ltd., Sambalpur
9. Jiban Bikas General Finance & Investment (I) (Ltd.)
10. Sevak Finance & Investment (P) Ltd.

Guwahati Region

11. Assam Albatross Estate & Finance Ltd., Karimganj
12. Bohagi Finance & Investment Ltd., Guwahati
13. Indo Prabhat Investment Ltd.
14. Kolong Valley Finance & Investment (P) Ltd., Nagaon
15. Karbi Trade Industries Pvt. Ltd., Tinsukia
16. Kumeru Finance & Investment (P) Ltd., Guwahati
17. Maharathi Finance & Hire Purchase (P) Ltd., Nagaon
18. Karmabhumi General & Housing Finance Ltd., Kamrup
19. Benison Finance Ltd., Guwahati
20. ABB Securities & Finance Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati
21. Ratnayogi Finance & Trading Pvt. Ltd., Nagaon
22. Puberun Finance Private Ltd., Nagaon
23. Panchasheel Investment & Fintrade Pvt. Ltd., Nagaon

Bhopal Region

24. Miraje Exim & Finvest Ltd., Bhopal
25. Nirpeksha Home Finance Ltd., Bhopal
26. Ocean Fintrate (P) Ltd., Bhopal
27. Regency Fintrade Pvt. Ltd., Bhopal
28. Saikrupa Finlease Ltd., Bhopal
29. Image Finvest Pvt. Ltd., Indore
30. Kshipra Lease & Financial P. Ltd., Indore
31. Minto Yester Finance & Invest. P. Ltd., Indore
32. Nasa Finance Pvt. Ltd., Indore
33. Para Finance Private Ltd., Indore
34. Pick Gain Finsec Pvt. Ltd., Indore
35. Priyanka Fincap Pvt. Ltd., Indore
36. Raap Finsec Pvt. Ltd., Indore
37. Saokar Inv. & Finance Co. Ltd., 10, Paldanaka, Indore
38. Stein Finance Pvt. Ltd., Indore
39. Sul Finsec Pvt. Ltd., Indore
40. Sushmita Finsec Pvt. Ltd., Indore
41. Torential Finsec Pvt. Ltd., Indore
42. Viners Finvest (I) Ltd., Indore
43. Padmavati Holdings Ltd., Ujjain
44. Sun Money Care Give & Take Money P. Ltd., Ujjain
45. Jai Lahari Finance P. Ltd., Raipur
46. Mahanadi Farms & Fin. & Leasing P. Ltd., Raipur
47. Shyambaba Finance P. Ltd., Raipur
48. Maihar Comml. & Finance Co. Ltd., Bilaspur
49. Jan Bhakti Finance Leasing & Housing Ltd., Jabalpur
50. Madhya Kshetra Leasing Ltd., Jabalpur
51. Malwa Fincap Ltd., Guna (MP)
52. Sifco Finvest Ltd., Gwalior
53. Taran Angad Leasing P. Ltd., Gwalior
54. Sagar Finsec Ltd., Sagar
55. Mahakali Gen. Fin. & Leasing P. Ltd., Bhopal
56. Senatorial India Leasing & Fin. Ltd., Bhopal
57. ITL Finvest Ltd., Indore
58. Sukhmani Investment P. Ltd., Indore
59. Yard Securities Pvt. Ltd., Indore
60. Sonali Resources P. Ltd., Gwalior
61. Straightway Marketing P. Ltd. Katni–483 501
62. Anjuli Finsec (P) Ltd., Indore
63. Anmol Investment P. Ltd., Indore
64. Bhagyarekha Capital Market (P) Ltd., Indore
65. Bhojpur Finvest (P) Ltd., Indore
66. Commando Securities (P) Ltd., Bhopal
67. Gunjan Leasing & Hire Purchase (I) Ltd., Bhopal
68. Jatanshree Fin. & Const. Co. (P) Ltd., Bhopal
69. Bibi Bhaniji Fin. & (P) Ltd., Jabalpur
70. Kiran Prabha Holdings Private Limited, Indore

71. Linkers Securities Limited, Bhopal
72. Shagun Leasing Limited, Jabalpur
73. New Royal Prompt–Investment & Leasing Ltd., Jabalpur
74. Om Samaradhi Leasing & Housing Finance Ltd., Jabalpur
75. Gondwana Finance (India) Limited, Jabalpur–482 002
76. Canon Capital & Leasing (I) Limited, Bhopal

Thiruvananthapuram Region

77. Al-Bakhiyath Finance Agency Pvt. Ltd., Mulakuzha p.o.
78. Ashtami Kuries And Loans Pvt. Ltd., Guruvayoor
79. Choolayil Finance And Investment Company Ltd., Varkala
80. Great Oriental Securities Pvt. Ltd., Ernakulam
81. Guruvayoor Kuries And Loans Pvt. Ltd., Guruvayoor
82. Harisree Finance (P) Ltd., Ernakulam
83. Hero's Wing General Finance And Investment Co., Thrissur
84. Instrumental Finance (P) Ltd., Kochi
85. Intelligent Investment & Finance Co. India Ltd., Senapathy
86. Jayson Chits And Finance (P) Ltd., Kozhikode
87. Kavery Leasing & Hire Purchase Co. (P) Ltd., Ernakulam
88. Krishnaprasadam Chits and Finance Pvt. Ltd., Guruvayoor
89. Lalasree Business Credits Pvt. Ltd., Kannur
90. Link India Capital and Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., Kochi
91. Maxwealth Leasing And Finance India Ltd., Mannuthy
92. Midland Hire Purchase And Leasing Company, Kollam
93. Mohta Caustics & Chemicals Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram
94. Moonnupeedika Chits and Finance (P) Ltd., Perinjanam
95. Nazrani Savings Private Ltd., Alaphuza
96. Nri Nidhi Company Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram
97. Pampakuda Kuries And Investments Pvt. Ltd., Ernakulam
98. Periyar Finance Private Ltd., Kollam
99. Premium Hire Purchase (P) Ltd., Kunnakulam
100. Random Chits And Financiers (P) Ltd., Ernakulam
101. Value Invest Ltd., Kochi
102. World Line Kuries & Loans Pvt. Ltd., Kunnakulam

Ahmedabad Region

103. Aarvi Financial Services P. Ltd.
104. Ace Credits P. Ltd.
105. Agrawal Finstocks P. Ltd.
106. Ajabgajab Investment P. Ltd.
107. Ajwa Finance Ltd.
108. Akropan Finance Ltd.
109. Ami Padma Finmark Ltd.
110. Anar Fin Engineers P. Ltd.
111. Arrow Securities Ltd.
112. Arshan Trading & Investments Pvt. Ltd.
113. Arunodaya Credit & Holding Investment P Ltd.
114. Ashok Finstock Ltd.
115. Atlas Lease and Finance Ltd.
116. Bagrecha Finance and Investment P. Ltd.
117. Bearing Finance P. Ltd.
118. Bhanushali Finance Ltd.
119. Bhatia Finstock Ltd.
120. Bolt Consultants P. Ltd.
121. Chandresh Finance Ltd.
122. Chini Leasing And Finance P. Ltd.
123. Churuwala Investment And Finance P. Ltd.
124. Citilink Finsec Ltd.
125. Cordial Investments P. Ltd.
126. Creative Finstock P. Ltd. (Junagarh)
127. Dayal Finance and Investment Company P. Ltd.
128. Deepak Finstock P. Ltd.
129. Dev Capital Venture (India) Ltd.
130. Dhanlaxmi Caplease Ltd.
131. Dhanna Finstock P. Ltd.
132. Dinar Securities Pvt. Ltd.
133. Earnmore Fiscal Services P. Ltd.

134. Elaar Investment P. Ltd.
135. Fadia Finmark P. Ltd.
136. Forpee Fincap (India) Ltd.
137. Freight Financing Company P. Ltd.
138. Ganipitak Yakshraj Caplease Ltd.

Calcutta Region

139. Apanjan Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
140. Assurance Savings & Investment (I) Ltd.
141. Alokmala Savings & Investment Co. (P) Ltd.
142. Amiabl Savings & Credit Ltd.
143. Argosy Finance & Industrial Investment (I) Ltd.
144. Ashajyoti Finance Company (I) Ltd.
145. Biswabharati Investment Co. Ltd.
146. Biswajoee Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
147. Britex Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
148. Banyan Small Savings & Investment (I) Ltd.
149. Buoyant Housing Finance & Investment Ltd.
150. Carryon Savings & Investment Ltd.
151. Chance Savings Co. Ltd.
152. Fastland Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
153. Dependable Savings & Finance Co. Ltd.
154. Elite Life Finance & Credit (I) Co. Ltd.
155. Dinkal Finance & Hire Purchase Co. Ltd.
156. Falta Savings & Investment Co. Ltd.
157. Favourable Finance & Investment Co. (I) Ltd.
158. Granry Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
159. Dox Finance Ltd.
160. Future Life Finco & Investment Ltd.
161. Green Banyan Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
162. Chirantani Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.
163. Artech Housing Dev. Finance Investment Co. (P) Ltd.
164. Contai Finance & Hire Purchase (P) Ltd.
165. Dunhil Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
166. Gaonliya Savings & Investment Ltd.
167. Happy Life Small Savings & Investment Ltd.
168. Chancellor Housing Dev. Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
169. Chaitanya Credit & Finance Ltd.
170. Chartered General Finance & Investment Ltd.
171. Celebrate Small Savings & Investment (I) Ltd.
172. Annuity Savings & Investment (I) Ltd.
173. Adwitiya Savings & Credit Co. (I) Ltd.
174. Abiskar Small Investment Co. (P) Ltd.
175. Debdut Savings & Investment Co. Ltd.
176. Emm DEE General Finance & Savings Ltd.
177. Faithful Savings & Investment Ltd.
178. Fecond Life Finance & Investment (I) Ltd
179. Fiona Investment Ltd.
180. Inland Finance & Small Investment (P) Ltd.
181. Agradoot Credit & Finvest Ltd.
182. Catchy Savings & Finance Ltd.
183. Legend Finance & Agricultural Investment (I) Ltd.
184. Limbo Housing Credit (I) Ltd
185. Lokadarshi Savings & Finance (I) Ltd
186. Lucky Savings & Credit Co. (P) Ltd.
187. Matangini Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
188. Meliorate Finance & Investment Ltd.
189. Monali Finance & Investment (P) Ltd.
190. Nabarashmi Investment & Commercial (I) Ltd.
191. Overman Investment Co. Ltd.
192. Parrot Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
193. Parrot Savings & Industrial Investment Ltd.
194. People's Own General Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
195. Plover General Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
196. Prantik Small Savings (I) Ltd.
197. Navkiran Savings & Investment Ltd.
198. New Life Finance & Investment Ltd.
199. Renaissace Small Savings & Investment Ltd.
200. R.F.D. Capital Investment Ltd
201. Pratidin Credit (P) Ltd.
202. Priya General Finance & Investment Co Ltd.
203. Proper Life Finance & Investment Ltd.
204. The Gold Rush Savings & Finance Co. Ltd.

205. The Reliance Credit Ltd.

206. Jilex Finance & Investment Ltd.

207. Jeewika Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.

208. Johura Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.

209. Joy India Savings & Investment Co. Ltd.

210. Juvenile Savings & Credit Pvt. Ltd.

211 DNS Finance & Investment Co. Ltd.

212. Casion Leasing & Finance (I) Ltd.

213. Bright Future Finance & Investment Ltd.

214. Vicar General Finance Co. Ltd.

215. P.G. Finance & Investments (I) Pvt. Ltd.

216. Reginal Small Savings & Investment Ltd.

217. Minerva Finance (I) Ltd.

218. Asia Pacific Financial Services Ltd.

219. Satadal Savings & Investment (I) Ltd.

Guwahati

220. Anurag Entrade India Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

221. Asha Entrade Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

222. Balaji Securities Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

223. Ess Gee Tradefin Private Ltd., Guwahati

224. Lee Gem Fintrade Private Ltd., Nagaon

225. Lokapriya Finance & Industrial Investment, Guwahati

226. Leopard Finance (India) Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

227. Lucent India Finance & Investment (P) Ltd., Nagaon

228. Flagship Securities Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

229. Kamakhya Leafin Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

230. Krishna Hire Purchase Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

231. Q.B. Finance & Investment (P), Shillong

232. Sterling Services Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

233. Sysa Hire-Purchase & Marketing Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati

234. Shubham Commercials (P) Ltd., Guwahati

Malpractices in Selection of Programmes

4165. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the programmes are awarded to outside producers without consulting the Committees constituted by Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government against the guilty officials;

(f) whether the Government have formulated new guidelines to check malpractices in awarding commissioned programmes to outside producers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that all commissioned programmes are awarded to outside producers after due consideration of the proposal by the Costing Committee of Doordarshan.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) and (g) The guidelines for selection of commissioned programmes in Doordarshan are already in existence. These guidelines are modified from time to time according to the changing requirements with a view to ensuring that quality programmes are obtained in a totally transparent manner.

[Translation]

Cheating by Non-Banking Finance Company

4166. SHRI PADAM SEN CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the swindling of investors money by a non-banking finance company particularly Kuber Group companies;

(b) if so, whether any action is being taken by the Government against the said company;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts being made to facilitate the recovery of investors money from the company?

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

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Kuber Group of Companies consists of three major Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs). The details of action taken against these companies are as under :

1. Kuber Auto General Finance and Leasing Ltd.– The Reserve Bank has filed a criminal complaint against the company in the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Patiala House, New Delhi. The Reserve Bank has also filed winding up petition against the company in Delhi High Court and the next date of hearing has been fixed for July 25, 2001.

2. Kuber Finance (India) Ltd.–The Bank has rejected the application of the company for Certificate of Registration on April 19,1999, based upon the inspection findings. The company is already under Prohibitory Orders.

3. Kuber Mutual Benefit Ltd.–Kuber Mutual Benefit was a notified 'Nidhi' company under the control of the Department of Company Affairs (DCA), Government of India. DCA denotified the company on March 26, 1999. As a follow up measure, RBI took various steps like issuing of Prohibitory Order to the company on April 5, 1999, filing of criminal complaint on June 18, 1999 and filing of winding up petition against the company on October 25, 1999 in the Allahabad High Court. The Hon'ble High Court has restrained the company from disposing of its assets. The case is sub-judice.

   The RBI, as a regulator of NBFCs, has taken various steps against the group companies. However, the repayment to the depositors and creditors of Kuber Mutual Benefit Ltd. and Kuber Auto General Finance Ltd. will depend upon the outcome of winding up petitions.

[English]

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Prasar Bharati

4167. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4210 on 15 December, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

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

(b) No person from SC/ST community was working in Prasar Bharati Board as on 1.1.2000

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Wheat

4168. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have set a quantitative ceiling of 2 million of tonnes of wheat export during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the target achieved till date;

(c) whether the private sector companies have asked the Government to extend to it the benefits of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers relating to the Export of two million tonnes of wheat at fixed price of Rs. 4150/- per tonne; and

(d) if so, 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) A quantity of 13.70 lakh MTs of wheat has been lifted from FCI for export upto 12.03.2001

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Wheat is being made available by FCI for purpose of export to PSUs/Government agencies *viz* STC, MMTC, PEC, NAFED, NCCF & (Punjab) MARKFED

Amendment to Karnataka Taxation Law Bill, 1999

4169. SHRI R.S. PATIL :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Karnataka for amending the Karnataka Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 was received in the Ministry of Home Affairs on 24th May, 1999. The Bill proposes to amend the Karnataka Sales Tax Act, 1957 and the Karnataka Tax on Entry of Goods Act, 1979 to give effect to the proposals made in the Budget Speech.

(c) The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that the Bill was circulated to the relevant Ministries and Departments and the comments received have been communicated to the State Government on 20th March, 2001 for clarifications.

Representations in Prasar Bharati Board

4170. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government received a representation from Akash Darshan Backward Classes Employees Association to include the intellectuals from SC/ST and OBC in Prasar Bharati Board;

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

(c) whether the Government will issue a white paper in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Section 4(3) of the Prasar Bharati Act prescribes the criteria for appointment of Chairman and Members of the Prasar Bharati Board. The Selection Committee has to work within this statutory framework.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Appointment of District Representatives

4171. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

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

(a) the norms laid down for the appointment of the district representatives for Akashwani and Doordarshan;

(b) the districts in Maharashtra where the posts of the district representatives are lying vacant at present; and

(c) the time by which the said vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Sudden Crash in Stock Market

4172. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched any investigation into the sudden crash in stock prices after the presentation of budget for 2001-2002 and has asked the BSE, DSE and CSE to collect details of the trading pattern of some brokers;

(b) if so, whether the SEBI has got registered FIRs with police against some leading stock brokers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and details of persons arrested in this regard;

(d) whether the Reserve Bank of India has also launched an investigation into the part played by banks;

(e) if so, the details thereof giving the names of the banks against whom investigation has been launched; and

(f) the findings of the RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that it has launched an investigation to determine whether there was a deliberate attempt to artificially affect the market and distort price discovery at the beginning of March, 2001.

(b) and (c) The matters of stock market manipulation are dealt under the SEBI Act, 1992 and Regulations thereunder and fall in the jurisdiction and purview of SEBI. According to SEBI, only in cases of a criminal nature where there are violations of provisions of IPC etc., the issue of informing police authorities arises and no such occasion has arisen in the present matter.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

12.01 Hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

HOMAGE TO MARTYRS IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, today is the 70th anniversary of the martyrdom of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and Sukh Dev.

The nation can never forget the sacrifice of these revolutionaries who laid down their lives for the Independence of the motherland.

The House may stand in silence for a short while to pay respect to the memory of these and other martyrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, we should congratulate our cricket team...*(Interruptions)*

12.01½ hrs.

(At this stage, Sardar Buta Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

12.02 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3483/2001]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3484/2001]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry,

for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3485/2001]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3486/2001]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3487/2001]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Six statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3488/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : On behalf of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3489/2001]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Erratta* (Hindi and English versions) to the Economic Survey, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3490/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : On behalf of Shri Sharad Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3491/2001]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) (Procedure and Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.F.No. N-10/3/2000-PB CELL VOL. I in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2001,

* Economic Survey 2000-2001 was laid on the Table on 23.2.2001.

under section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3492/2001]

(2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Press Council of India for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts, under section 20 of the Press Council Act, 1978.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3493/2001]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Forty-Fourth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Working and Administration of the Companies Act, 1956 for the year ended the March 31, 2000 under section 638 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3494/2001]

7. SHRI ARUN JAITELY to lay on the Table a copy of the Forty-Fourth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Working and Administration of the Companies Act, 1956 for the year ended the March 31, 2000, under section 638 of the said Act.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

8. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI, AVSM to lay on the table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highway Act, 1956 :

(i) S.O. 575(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 1999 authorising M/s. Ayushajay Construction Private Limited, Indore or its authorised legal representative to collect and retain fees on Road in Dhule district, Maharashtra.

(ii) S.O. 576(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1999 authorising M/s Ideal Road Builders Infrastructure Limited, or its authorised legal representative to collect and retain fees on mechanical vehicles for the use of major bridges on Panvel of Mahad-Panaji road on National Highway No. 17 in the State of Maharashtra.

(iii) S.O 646(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2000 authorising Special Land Acquisition No 2 Pune as the competent authority for land acquisition for four laning on Pune-Satara road of National Highway No. 4 in the State of Maharashtra

(iv) S.O. 647(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2000 authorising Special Land Acquisition No 17 Pune as the competent authority for land acquisition for four laining on Pune-Satara road of National Highway No. 4 in the State of Maharashtra

(v) S.O. 765(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957

(vi) S.O. 766(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2000 seeking to entrust Verna to Mormugao Port from National Highway Nos. 17A and 17B in the State of Goa.

(vii) S.O. 1175(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2000 authorising the Chief Engineer P W Region, Mumbai, or his authorised representative to collect and retain fees at the rates specified in the notification.

(viii) S.O. 194(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 2001 authorising M/s. Ashoka Builders Limited, or its legal representative to collect and retain fees on mechanical vehicles for the use of major bridge across Wainganga river of Nagpur Raipur section of National Highway No. 6.

(ix) S.O. 161(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2001 regarding levy of fees on mechanical vehicles for the use of the existing and new bridge and its approaches across river Watrak of Ahmedabad Vadodara section.

(2) Statement (Hindi and Englisn versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) to (viii) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3495/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : On behalf of Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3496/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3497/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1999-2000.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3498/2001]

(3) A copy of the Annual Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 2001-2002 under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3499/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with audited accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3500/2001]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3501/2001]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board Kottayam, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 1999-2000.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3502/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : On behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 163 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt rough diamonds and other precious or semi-precious stones from the basic customs duty and additional duty subject to certain conditions, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3503/2001]

(2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-3504/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 149(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001, under sub-section (3) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-3505/2001]

12.03 hrs.

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

(i) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday the 12th March, 2001 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Accounts

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002 and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven members from among the members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee :

1. Dr. Y. Radhkrishna Murty
2. Shri K. Rahman Khan
3. Shri Satish Pradhan
4. Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav
5. Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave
6. Shri S.R. Bommai
7. Shri Onward L. Nongtdu'

(ii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday the 12th March, 2001 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Undertakings:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to

associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002 and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven members from among the members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee :

1. Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav
2. Shri Jibon Roy
3. Shir C.P. Thirunavukkarasu
4. Smt. Ambika Soni
5. Shri Suresh Kalmadi
6. Shri B.P. Singhal
7. Shri K. Kalavenkata Rao'

(iii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday the 12th March, 2001 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes :

"That this House resolves that the Rajya Sabha do join the Committee of both the Houses on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002 and do proceed to elect in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, ten members from among the members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee :

1. Shri Nagendra Nath Ojha
2. Shri Shyam Lal
3. Shri Ram Nath Kovind
4. Shri Kanshi Ram
5. Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhundar
6. Shri Palden Tsering Gyamtso
7. Dr. Faguni Ram
8. Shri N. Thalavai Sundaram
9. Shri Raju Parmar
10. Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar'

(iv) 'In accordance with the provision of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2001, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th March, 2001 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'

(v) 'In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2001, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th March, 2001 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'

(vi) 'In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2001, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th March, 2001 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'

(vii) 'In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation Bill, 2001, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th March, 2001 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'

...(Interruptions)

12.03½ hrs.

[English]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER : The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their Sixth Report presented to the House on 21st March, 2001

have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each :

(1)	Shri Laxman Giluwa	24.07.2000 to 25.08.2000 and 20.11.2000 to 15.12.2000
(2)	Shri V.M. Sudheeran	20.11.2000 to 05.12.2000
(3)	Shri M.V. Chandrashekara Murthy	20.11.2000 to 22.12.2000
(4)	Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel	20.11.2000 to 22.12.2000
(5)	Late Shri Indrajit Gupta	20.11.2000 to 22.12.2000– Member expired–absence condoned
(6)	Prof. Kailasho Devi	19.02.2001 to 23.03.2001
(7)	Shri Vinod Khanna	19.02.2001 to 23.03.2001

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Leave is granted. The concerned Members will be informed accordingly.

...(Interruptions)

12.03¾ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Thirteenth Report

[English]

SHR P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) I beg to present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

...(Interruptions)

12.04 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Nineteenth and Twentieth Reports

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) . I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee

1. Nineteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (2000-2001) on "Audit Review on Indian Agricultural Research Institute "
2. Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (2000-2001) on "Indian Railways Appropriation Accounts (1997-98) "

...(Interruptions)

12.04¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Seventh Report

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) Sir, I, on behalf of Shri Basu Deb Acharia, present the Seventh Report (both Hindi and English versions) of Committee on Petitions.

...(Interruptions)

12.04½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Fifth Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara) I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and Minutes relating thereto.

...(Interruptions)

12.04¾ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Tenth Report

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2000-2001.

...(Interruptions)

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Seventeenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (2001) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation).

...(Interruptions)

12.05¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Fourth Report

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation–proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377, listed for the day, are to be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

12.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

(i) Need for early construction of a bye-pass at Ranchi in Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : The population of Ranchi city of Jharkhand is about 15 lakhs. In the absence of a bye-pass, huge traffic jam takes place on the roads in the midst of the town, which causes a lot of inconvenience to the people and they reach their destination very late. A lot of petrol is consumed and accidents takes place frequently. When bye-passes have been made in small towns, then it is really surprising that capital city of the State does not have a bye-pass.

I urge upon the Union Government through this August House to construct a bye-pass at the earliest in district Ranchi of Jharkhand State.

(ii) Need for construction of Third Canal System of the Upper Indravati Multi-purpose Project in Kalahandi district of Orissa

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, the already surveyed third Canal system (Previously Lift Canal) now flow canal of the Upper Indravati Multi Purpose Project in Kalahandi may be taken up under AIBP Programme to augment irrigation facility to the drought prone areas of Kalahandi and in particular Koksara Block and parts of Dharmgarh Block. Also preliminary feasibility for the third Canal has been sent to the Central Government because it is contemplated that there is sufficient water for this canal also which can irrigate large tracts of arable land.

I request the Government to look into the matter.

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* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(iii) Need for early conversion of Pachora-Jamner narrow-gauge rail line into broad gauge in Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon) : There is a narrow gauge line on the Pachora-Jamner track under Central Railway in my constituency Jalgaon. Two important tehsils—Pachora and Jamner are connected with this railway line. Two years back, a survey work for conversion of narrow gauge into broad gauge, was undertaken by the Ministry of Railways. There is a requirement to convert this narrow gauge line into broad gauge line and then to extend it further to Bodwad. This would lead to the development of this area. In this area, we have the world famous 'Ajanta Caves' which are just 30 kms. away from a station called 'Pahoor' on this railway line. Tourists of our country as well as other foreign countries would have facilitated to visit the Ajanta Caves if this narrow gauge is converted into broad gauge. Cotton is grown in abundance here, but traders, farmers and citizens here have to face a lot of difficulties due to meter gauge line.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to take appropriate action in order to convert the Pachora-Jamner narrow gauge line under Bhusawal Division into broad gauge railway line.

(iv) Need to set up LPT's at Mandsaur and Neemuch districts in Madhya Pradesh

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : In Mandsaur and Neemuch areas under my constituency in Madhya Pradesh although there is Doordarshan transmission facility but many places not covered by the transmission range are devoid of the Doordarshan Programme. Such places include mainly Suwasara area of district Mandsaur and Jawad and Singauli areas of district Neemuch. Citizens of these places have from time to time made requests to the Government. So today, when an extensive expansion of the communications and Doordarshan facilities is taking place then the aforesaid places should also be covered by these facilities.

I, therefore, request hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting to take necessary action to open low-power transmission centre for providing Doordarshan facility at the aforesaid areas of my constituency.

(v) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh for renovation of small irrigation projects in Balaghat district of the State

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : District Balaghat of Madhya Pradesh is the area having maximum irrigation facility in its agricultural periphery. There are 17 small irrigation facilities here which are more than 90 years old. After the independence of India, the capacity of these old small irrigation schemes was also increased between 1977 to 1980. As a result of this, these 60 to 90 years old small irrigation schemes irrigates 10 per cent more of agricultural land than their fixed target. Thus these irrigation projects have been ignored due to their qualities and as a result proposal for their renovation is not getting approval because of their high capacity of irrigation on canals are in a dilapidated condition, embankment of Jamunia water reservoir is getting broken. The dam was about to break, but could somehow withstand the present rains.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to provide money to the State Government for the maintenance of such a high capacity old irrigation projects.

(vi) Need to review the decision regarding derecognition of some Dental Medical Colleges in Karnataka

[English]

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore) : It is a matter of great concern that a large number of students who have passed out from some dental and medical colleges in Karnataka are uncertain about their future because of a decision by the Central Government to derecognize these colleges. Over 2000 students from 13 recently established dental colleges now find themselves unable to pursue higher education or to seek job outside the State because the Central Government through an ordinance, made its permission compulsory before sanctioning new colleges. The future of so many students cannot be taken lightly. At the same time responsibility should be fixed on the management.

I request the Union Government that the students who passed from these colleges should be asked to undergo a test in some University of Karnataka and their degrees should be recognised. The other colleges, if complied with all infrastructure in terms of buildings, laboratories and clinical facilities adequate doctor-patient ratio, then these colleges should be recognised and thereby these students are rescued.

(vii) Need to extend gas pipe line upto Moradabad keeping in view the interests of workers engaged in brass industry

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Thousands of craftsmen are engaged in the Brass Industry at Moradabad and are earning their livelihood by this engraving of brass. Out of total handicraft exports of the country, the share of these people is 37.8 per cent. But if proper arrangements had been made to solve the problems of these persons, then exports would have increased beyond expectations.

They have some other basic problems *viz.* pollution relating to the environment. Due to the smoke and gas emanating from the coal fuelled furnaces for melting brass, these people develop various diseases relating to lungs as well as tuberculosis. The gas pipe-line is laid up to Diboi near start to Moradabad. I request that this gas pipe-line may be extended upto Moradabad so that the entrepreneurs could use gas instead of coal for melting brass. This would do away with the environment problem and craftsmen would also remain healthy.

Main problem relates to the raw material. It is received from the depots of Defence, Railways, Communications and Petroleum. It may kindly be supplied to these entrepreneurs on the basis of allotment instead of disposing it through auction to the middlemen.

I once again request the Union Government to immediately solve the problems of these entrepreneurs and craftsmen.

(viii) Need to look into illegal immigration of youths from Tamil Nadu to Maldives

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Un-employed youths from Sivaganga Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu are taken illegally to Maldives. This costs the youths their life. Enquiry should be made for their proper safety and repatriation and compensation should be provided by the Government of India in this regard.

(ix) Need to increase berths in Kalindi Express from Mainpuri, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri) : Numerous labourers, passengers and people of Mainpuri have since long, been making a demand for increasing a 2-tier bogie or increasing the reservation berths by 20/30 seats for Mainpuri in "Kalindi Express" from Farrukhabad to Delhi but the Railways have not acceded to their demands. Many MPs also wrote letters to the Railway Officers concerned and the hon. Minister of Railways in this regard, but no concrete steps has been taken so far. Many institutions have also made demands in this regard.

I, therefore, demand that a quota of atleast 20/30 reservation berths at 'Mainpuri' may be provided in the Kalindi Express Train.

(x) Need to reopen thorough fare between railway station junction and Civil Lines at Allahabad, U.P.

SHRI SURESH PASI (Chail) : There was a very old passage existing from Allahabad Railway Station Junction to civil lines, for the common people but the Railways closed this passage two and a half years back due to which common people have to face difficulty and now have to come after walking additional 500 meters.

Therefore, I through you, urge upon the Union Government to take immediate action to open the aforesaid path in public interest.

(xi) Need to provide more railway facilities at Arakkonam Junction in Tamil Nadu

[English]

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN (Arakkonam) : Certain trains are not, at present, making a stoppage at Arakkonam Junction though there is a strong demand for this and the number of passengers boarding at Arakkonam is increasing day by day. I would therefore urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to issue instructions for the stoppage of the following trains at Arakkonam Junction :

1. 2639/2640 Chennai-Bangalore Superfast Express
2. 1063/1064 Chennai-Dadar Express
3. 6319/6320 Chennai-Trivandrum Mail

At present, Engineering workshop at Arakkonam does not get many job orders and sometimes the Workshop is not used at its optimum level. To boost the Workshop and to get adequate job orders, the Workshop may be made to Mechanical Workshop with some training to workers wherever necessary. This would not only help railways to utilize its workshop to an optimum

level but also generate more economic activities and also employment opportunities to the unemployed.

There is a need for opening of a sub-urban Railway Terminal in front of Arakkonam Bus Stand since the present Junction is far away from the town and the daily commuters have to walk a long distance for their avocations and destinations.

(xii) Need to reconsider the decision of Oil India Ltd. to close down exploration project in Mahanadi Basin, Orissa

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) The Oil India Limited (OIL) has undertaken exploration project in the Mahanadi Basin of Orissa. Various Seismic Geo-chemical Survey and Basin Model Survey conducted during the recent years and geophysical and interpretations propose that Mahanadi Basin has a large potential of Oil and Natural Gas reserve.

As per OIL report (Exploration and Production strategy 1985-2005) prognosticated reserves of Mahanadi Basin are as below :

Mahanadi on shore	50 MMT
Mahanadi off shore	100 MMT
NEC offshore	1160 MMT

But without drilling sufficient number of wells to the required depth and as per the All India average, the OIL is deciding to close down the project on various pleas. When oil refinery project is coming up at Paradip, Orissa, the Oil India Limited is withdrawing itself from the exploration activities in the Mahanadi Basin which could be the nearest source of crude oil to feed the Paradip Refinery.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to prevail upon the OIL to reconsider their decision of closing down the exploration project in Mahanadi Basin.

(xiii) Need to withdraw move to amend Chapter V of the Industrial Disputes Act and Section 10 of the Contract Labour Act

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda) : The second generation of economic reforms which are being sought to be implemented by the Government through the amendment of Chapter V of Industrial Disputes Act and Section 10 of the Contract Labour Act, will bring in unprecedented miseries in the life of thousands of workers of both organized and unorganized sectors.

On the one hand, it will not only smash the hard-owned democratic Trade Union rights, but on the other this will push the workers on the brink of total destruction. These reforms will increase the exploration of the workers, perpetuate and enlarge the denial of 'equal wage for equal work' in flagrant violation of the decisions of the Supreme Court and will cause widespread unemployment and chaos all round.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to desist from the proposed reforms.

(xiv) Need to improve telephone services in Sunderbans region, West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) For the people of Sundarbans, telephone link is of vital importance. As Sundarbans comprise a number of islands separated by rivulets, telephone link is the easiest and cheapest mode of communication. This service is provided by the MARR system. Most of the Gram Panchayats, Schools, Hospitals, Post Offices and public places are connected by the MARR Network. But for quite a long time, the system has become totally dysfunctional and people are facing enormous difficulties. Moreover, the MARR Technology has become outdated and it has failed to provide regular, round-the-clock and reliable service. In view of this, there was a proposal to replace the MARR with the WALL system. In addition to this, the Government is also considering to set up smaller telephone exchanges in the Sundarbans.

I suggest that these exchanges should be set up in Mollakhali and Jamtola in South 24 Parganas and Sandesh Khali and Sarberia in North 24 Parganas. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take steps immediately to replace the MARR system with WALL system. At the same time, steps should also be taken for the setting up of smaller exchanges at the earliest.

(xv) Need to provide more railway facilities at Kurdwadi railway station in Solapur district, Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) The Kurdwadi workshop under the district Solapur and Matoonaga and Parel workshop in Mumbai are in very bad condition and infact the Kurdwadi Railway Workshop is on the verge of getting closed. This workshop was, once one of the best Railway workshops of Asia. There is a dire need to renovate these workshops because if they are not renovated in time then the railway employees deployed there would reach the condition of starvation due to unemployment.

There is again a dire need of establishing a Railway Booking Centre at Kurdwari Railway Station and establishing a platform in order to remove the inconvenience caused to the commuters due to the halt of Goods Shuttle Train there as well as increasing the quota of berths in the sleeper class especially in Chennai Mail (Chennai-Mumbai) people there are making continuous demands for this.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to execute these works on priority basis by giving appropriate directions in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 16th April, 2001 at 11 a.m.

12.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 16th April, 2001, Chaitra 26, 1923 (Saka).

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