

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 26, 2002/Sravana 4, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker Sir, I gave a notice of suspension of Question Hour on the plea that in spite of our notice yesterday, there is no response from the Government. It is a vital issue of the Zero Hour. So, I took it up in the Zero Hour. However, there was no response. Therefore, I thought since the matter is so important pertaining to the issue of Gujarat, it should be taken up seriously and the Government should come forward with the response. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received your notice and you can raise the issue in the Zero Hour. I will permit you to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Keep on discussing Gujarat daily—stop the entire work. ... (Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.01 hrs.

[Translation]

Capital for Cooperative Banks

*181. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cooperative banks have been facing resource crunch in the country;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for providing capital assistance to these banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Cooperative Credit System suffers from systemic shortcomings and erosion of net worth. As on 31.3.2002, out of 30 State Cooperative Banks and 370 District Central Cooperative Banks, 9 State Cooperative Banks and 139 District Central Cooperative Banks were not complying with the provision of section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 i.e. the net worth of these banks was below Rs. 1 lakh. This implies that the owned funds of the bank had been eroded and were not available for deployment in business. All such banks are therefore facing resource crunch.

(c) to (e) Government of India had constituted a Task Force (known as "Capoor Committee") in April, 1999 to study the functioning of cooperative credit system and suggest measures for its strengthening. The Task Force made wide ranging recommendations which have been examined by the Government in consultation with the State Governments and deliberated upon in a Conference of Chief Ministers of States. It was decided in the above Conference to constitute a Joint Committee of the Cooperation Ministers of select States under the Chairmanship of the then Union Minister of State for Finance. This Committee has since submitted its report. Central Government has made a provision of Rs. 100 crore in the current year's budget for revitalization of cooperative credit system and incentivising reforms in this sector.

DR. ASHOK PATEL: Hon Speaker, Sir, the co-operative banks in the country are facing a serious financial crisis. The Co-operative banks are in a pathetic condition owing to the financial crisis. Several cases of scams in co-operative banks have come to the fore. If those are not prevented then all the cooperative banks would be on the verge of closure. Hence there is an imminent need to provide financial support to the co-operative banks. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why no provision to control these nine State cooperative banks and 139 districts intermediate co-operative bank complying with the provision laid under the section 11(I) of the Banking Regulatory Act, 1949 as has been admitted by the hon. Minister himself, were made and why no action was taken against such banks? Hon. Minister has also accepted that co-operative banks are facing the resource crunch but he did not mention as to what are the reasons for this resource crunch. Hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply that an allocation

of hundred crore rupees has been made to promote the reforms in the co-operative sector during the current year.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question, else it will take more time.

DR. ASHOK PATEL: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the names of the States for which this provision has been made and has the said fund been released? If not, what are the reasons therefor and by when these funds are likely to be released.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the maiden reply of the Minister.

[English]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Sir, this is his maiden reply ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I fully associate myself with the concern expressed by the hon. Member regarding the co-operative banks which include nine State co-operative banks and 139 district co-operative banks. Entire House is aware that co-operative banks is the State's subject. A dual control is exercised over these areas and it is owing to this dual sphere of control that the problems arise. It is quite clear in the reply that the financial position of these co-operative banks is not good. It is keeping this thing in view that the Government of India took this decision and a provision of hundred crore rupees for reviving the co-operative banks has been made in this year's budget. This allocation of hundred crore rupees is not for any specific State but is meant for all the States where the co-operative banks exist or where the business in banking is done on co-operative basis. As per the directions given for providing hundred crore rupees 60 percent funds would be given by the Centre and the 40 percent by the States. So far this type of proposal has not been received from any State.

DR. ASHOK PATEL: Sir, I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to make the investment related laws in co-operative banks more stringent in view of the recent scams in the co-operative banks and have the Government issued any directions in this regard? If so, the details thereof and what are the recommendations of the Kapoor Committee constituted to study the working of the loan system in co-operative sector and also by when these are likely to be implemented?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that scams have taken place in some co-operative banks but it would not be right to say that

such scams have taken place or do take place in all the banks. Such information has been given by Reserve Bank in view of the scams and the special audit of all the district state co-operative banks is being done.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recommendations of the Kapoor Committee are quite lengthy and comprehensive and I don't want to lose all of my time in reading it. I would send these recommendations of the hon. Member if he wants so.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me have the list of at least the nine State Co-operative Banks which have been faring very badly. Secondly, as far as the provisions of the Banking Act are concerned, those banks which are not complying with those provisions, will be attracting penal action. The erosion of the capital of the banks should have happened not in a single day, but should have happened over a period of time. If so, what penal or effective action has been taken all along to correct it? It looks as if nothing has been done and they are let loose. I would like to know what exactly is the position. Is there any monitoring being done or has any effective action been taken? It looks as if nothing has been done. I have seen from the statement that all these nine State Co-operative Banks and 139 District Central Co-operative Banks are in bad shape and you have given Rs. 100 crore to revitalise them. I would like to know whether it is going to touch the fringe of their problem or their major problem. Are you really going to revitalise it or you have given only token money?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the financial condition of 9 State co-operative banks and 139 district banks is not good. It has also been made clear in the written reply. Though the Government of India cannot wholly assist the co-operative banks due to the financial crunch but the State which seeks the assistance of the Centre by formulating modern laws for reforming the co-operative sector as mainly recommended by the Kapoor Committee, would certainly be provided assistance by the Centre.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the share of the Union and the State Governments in the revival package proposed for these banks will be 60 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.

The assistance to be provided by the Government of India would be in the form of funds that would be mobilised through the interest earned on the funds invested in the form of various securities or banks by the Government of India. The interest accrued would be

considered equivalent to the income of the bank and we are trying to extend whatever possible help through it.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: These are two parts of the question that is asked one part is related to co-operatives and the department of co-operative is not associated with the hon. Minister of Finance. The Co-operative banks provide loans. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to whether this decision was taken under the Chairpersonship of hon. Finance Minister and after having been holding consultation with the States and obtaining their suggestions in this regard and also a report to the effect has been submitted in which it is mentioned that all the Central and State co-operative banks are superseded and are being governed and run by the administrators and unless the elections in those are held as per the provisions of model act, the Ministry of Finance would not be able to provide assistance in the works of the banks in a convenient manner. If so, what decision is proposed to be taken by the hon. Minister on it ?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member is quite right. The assistance from the the Union Government would only be provided when the administrator is appointed in State co-operative or district co-operative bank. It is the responsibility of the State Government that the elections of that institutions or banks held within six months. Though co-operative is a State subject. This assistance would be provided by the Union Government when the elections are held and the administration of the banks is in the hands of the elected representatives.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you and the hon. Minister are aware that I work in the co-operative sector. Hence my question would be a bit lengthy.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that you cannot make the question lengthy. The question should be in short and a specific information should be sought through it.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would try to ask in short. Co-operative banks are meant for helping the people belonging to the weaker section of society. Scams have certainly taken place in some banks and it has been done by some persons and the board of these banks have been dismissed on the recommendations of the Reserve Bank of India. As a result thereof administrator has been appointed in those co-operative banks on the recommendation of RBI. If the administrator of that bank gives adequate time to the bank for which he has been appointed, we do not have any objection to it. It should be so far some days but from my experience I can say that wherever the Administrator have been appointed then do not attend to

the work in banks even for 15 days altogether, due to which the work in banks come to a standstill.

In regard to the banks which are facing crisis or are likely to face it I would like to say that co-operative department of the State as well as Reserve Bank of India have some control over those and if the scams still do take place despite the control of both the organisations then both of them are responsible to certain extent for it.

I would like to accuse in no uncertain terms that the co-operative department in States are highly corruption ridden and the profits shown by the Banks year by year suddenly goes into liquidation. This clearly implies that the officers of co-operative department give them that certificate in lieu of getting favours.

The hon'ble Minister has told about control on banks and he has also told that all the banks are proposed to be liquidated ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is not a bit lengthy but very lengthy.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: It is an important subject which is never discussed. All the hon'ble Members will admit that it is necessary to ask questions on this subject taken up here sometimes. In the original question I have asked about the control of RBI on administrator appointed. It should be seen that the person appointed visits bank regularly and properly monitors the progress of the bank. As per my experience for the last 20 years, I feel that banks also suffer due to administrators ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will any investigation be conducted in this regard and any alternative arrangements or administrative board will be constituted in place of the board dissolved ?

MR. SPEAKER: You should not give a lengthy reply, it can be precise one.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: As I have told earlier also that cooperatives is State subject ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the three persons belong to the same party ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not affiliated with any party.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has not asked a simple or direct question. As per my information scams have taken place in Nakur District Bank, Wardha District Bank and Usmanabad District Bank or Raghuvanshi Bank of Maharashtra and inquiry is being conducted in this matter by the State Government. As per the recommendations of RBI, administrators have been appointed there. Administrators are appointed by State Governments and they were informed regarding the irregularities committed from viewpoint of RBI in those banks where scams took place. These irregularities were brought to the notice of the Department of Cooperatives and the concerned State Government but action was not taken at appropriate time that is why these scams took place. Administrators are appointed to check irregularities. If any director of the Selected Board of Directors misuses his office and power then action should be taken against him and another Board of Director should be constituted there at the earliest and that is the responsibility of the State Government.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has just given reply about Maharashtra and I would like to know from him as to whether the Union Government have received any request from Maharashtra Government for conducting CBI inquiry into scams taken place there. I have read the statement of hon'ble Minister in this regard. What has been done by the State Government and Union Government in this matter. Along with this, it has been stated in the statement issued by the Ministry of Finance that :

[English]

"There is a multiplicity of regulators on one side, like NABARD, RBI, Cooperative Ministry, Central Government, State Government."

[Translation]

As the provision being made by the Union Government, Ministry of Finance to accord all the rights to RBI for simplifying it ?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have made a request to the State Government that the work of inquiry may be handed over to CBI if it is unable to conduct inquiry into scams that took place in banks especially in district banks of Maharashtra.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: What is their response ?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The State Government has not clarified its stand in this regard so far.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Do the Government propose to bring any bill regarding multiplicity of regulators ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, cooperatives is a State subject and banking is related to Centre Government. A provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made in the current budget and at that time some suggestions were given for providing assistance in terms of equity to cooperative banks at the time of financial assistance but Union Government do not want to make any interference in business of banks. Banks should be given full authority. Like Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks should also be given more powers. The Government of India intend that there should be no interference by Centre or State Government in their working.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to ask a supplementary on this important question. It may be known that Maharashtra in particular is quite ahead in the field of cooperatives. Irregularities have been committed in Central Cooperative Banks and some such cases have been detected in Maharashtra also. State Governments have taken stringent action in this regard and guilty have been sent to jail. CID inquiry has also been initiated in this regard. State Cooperative Department directly controls these banks' working in interest of farmers by providing loan to them and for development of agriculture. But there is no control of RBI on these important banks. Thousands crores of rupees of farmers is deposited with these banks which is being misused in several district banks. The main reason for irregularities being committed in these banks is their election procedure. In the election held at taluka level shareholders are not allowed to participate directly and a representative is elected by Credit Cooperative Society at village-level. In this manner, 50-60 selective people elect director at taluka level. There are 15-16 talukas in a district and 15-16 directors are elected from these talukas the number of their shareholders is limited whereas the number of the farmers in a district is between 1 lakh to 3 lakh but they do not have a right to vote. The people who deposit their money have no right to vote but Members of Credit Cooperative Society get votes in their favour by giving money to share-holders and thus get elected ... (Interruptions) Since it is an important question and in interest of farmers, information in this regard should be given to the hon'ble Minister. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that does he propose to change the present system of election and introduce a new system of direct election.

In reply to 'b' part of the question, just now the hon'ble Minister has stated that financial assistance worth Rs. 100 crore is being given by the Centre to sick and weak banks.

They have put a condition that they will provide funds only to the elected bodies. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that on one side he is appointing administrator for these banks where irregularities are taking place in elected bodies and he will not give financial assistance to those banks where administrator has been appointed due to irregularities, his policy is not right. He should properly consider it. Will the Government of India particularly, Minister of Finance consider about it ?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all societies are registered under cooperative Act. This is State subject and the Centre do not want to intervene in it. This is a State subject. So far as second question is concerned, administrators are being appointed, to check irregularities taking place, and to constitute elected Board of Director there. The policy adopted by the Government of India in this regard is an appropriate one. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ratilal Verma, now, I would like to take up another issue.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: This is an important issue, why Central Government is not intervening it. They have got so many options, then why they are not intervening in it. This question is related to crores of farmers of the country. Hon. Minister should reply properly in this regard. Mr. Speaker, you should hold half-an-hour discussion on this. This is an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that Gujarat is near Maharashtra, Gujarat is number one in the matter of cooperative sector. Similarly, Gujarat was number one in the field of cooperative banks, but due to scams like Madhavpura Cooperative Bank scam taking place in cooperative banks for the last 1-2 years, all cooperative banks of Gujarat have got affected. There was a time, when cooperative sector was on the verge of closure, but as a result of cooperation from other banks in Gujarat Madhavpura Bank is running presently. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as people have lost their confidence in cooperative banks and they are depositing their money with nationalised banks, as such, is there any action under consideration of the Government so as to restore confidence among the people towards cooperative banks like nationalised banks and the deposit made by them would be protected. Poor people deposit their money in cooperative banks, because they get high rate of interest, but today they are with drawing their money, people are distressed under such circumstance, is there any proposal under consideration of the Government to enact a legislation for cooperative sector to restore the confidence of people so that they could be assured that they will get back their money like nationalised banks.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker Sir, the original question is in regard to agriculture credit. The question asked by the hon. Member is in regard to urban credit. This question is not directly related to the original question, but respecting his feeling. I would like to assure him and the House that Government of India would definitely take necessary steps to protect the money of people in these banks whether it is agriculture credit or urban credit as these banks are having the deposits of common man, poor people, farmers and labourers ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, this is a very important question. Please allow a Half-an-Hour discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to allow a Half-an-Hour discussion on this. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Discussion on this subject can be held through another way, this is an important subject. The half-an-hour has spent on this question. I cannot give much time on one question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to hold half-an-hour discussion on it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q.No. 182—Shri Haribhai Chaudhary.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, I had also given a notice to raise my Supplementary on Starred Q. No. 181. I may be allowed to raise it ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing a Half-an-Hour discussion on this Question. So, at that time, you can raise it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, it is a very important Question.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow a Half-an-Hour discussion on this Question in this Session itself. So, you can raise it at that point of time.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we got to Q. No. 182.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the hon. Member ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Haribhai ji, just a minute, you may have seen answer to this question. Full clarification has not been given in the answer. Therefore I postpone this question, as I do not have full reply. This question will be taken in next session. It will not be appropriate to take this question in this session, because full reply is not available.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): But I will reply to whatever question would be asked.

MR. SPEAKER: This question was asked in last session also, you gave the same reply.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: This question is related to all the States, and is a very important question. The full information is being asked. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

*Starred Question No 182 was taken but the Minister replied "The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House." Since the full reply was not available with the Minister, the Hon'ble Speaker postponed the question to the next session. Hence this question and answer is on footnote:

[Translation]

Encroachment in the Wakf's Assets

*182. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the cases of sale and encroachment on the Wakf's assets;

(b) if so, the details of such cases during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons found guilty in this regard; and

(d) the details of action taken against them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, we are living in a computerised age, and it is very regrettable that they cannot give the answer to this question even after weeks have passed. It is our fundamental right to ask the question and get the answer ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, let us hear the hon. Minister.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, we are depending on the States to get this information.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, we are living in a computerised age ...(Interruptions) ...It is the fundamental right of a Member to know the answer after it has been listed ...(Interruptions) ...Sir, this is a very important issue ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let us hear the view of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I also join my colleague on this. It is not good for the Government to say that the information is not available. Nearly 15 days' time is available to the Minister to get the information. I have full sympathy with the Minister. He is a good Minister and yet if he is coming to the House to say that the information is not available, it is not good. Everywhere, computers are available, aircraft are available and anybody can talk to any corner of the country with the help of the telephone, but still they are not able to get the information.

They could have given the information and said that "It appears that this information is not full." But to allow a Minister to come to the House and say that information is not available and 'we will give it later', is not correct. It is denying the opportunity to the Legislature to hold the Government accountable.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, it is our right to get the answer ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister have his say. Let me know as to why the reply is not ready.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, I am very much ready to reply. But the type of Question which is before me is:

[*Translation*]

(a) whether the Government are aware of the cases of sale and encroachment on the wakf's assets;

(b) if so, the details of such cases during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons found guilty in this regard; and

(d) the details of action taken against them, State-wise ?

These questions were asked. Wakf is a State subject. The Ministry has asked them for furnishing information. We lay here the information received from the States. It is difficult to give direct information about Wakf. I am ready to accept Speaker's ruling. Otherwise, I am ready to give reply.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, we have never heard such a reply during the last 50 years of Parliament. If a Starred question has been tabled for today, they should have come well prepared ...(*Interruptions*) ...It is an absolute deterioration of standards ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): If his anger is pacified, then I should say something. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: How can you say that this is "gussa" ? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is a denial of the privilege. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, sufficient notice has been given to put that Question. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK: Sir, the Minister himself is the Chairman of the Wakf Council. All the information-

about encroachment and other things—is available with the Wakf Council, of which the Minister himself is the Chairman; and it is also available with the Government. It is now very strange that the Minister comes to this House and says that the information is not available with the Government. Then, what is the fun in putting the Question ?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House. This is an important issue on which I have also raised objection as to why the reply was not given. We are normally given three months' time for completion of an assurance.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, is Shri Pramod Mahajan going to say something about the failure of information technology ? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is going to speak in his capacity as the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment has already said what he wants to say. Now, I have permitted the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to say something.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, he also has to permit me to speak! ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Mr, Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the feeling of the Members, that reply to any question asked to the Government should come in a fixed time limit and we make every possible effort to ensure it. But with due respect to you and the House, I would like to say that this is not the first time that it is being replied that the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. As an hon. Member said, that this has happened first time in the history of fifty years. I am also the Member of House for 20 years, and many a times when information is not available then it so happens. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But please do not follow that precedent. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No, I do not. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, sufficient notice was given. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Why do you not allow me to complete? ...*(Interruptions)* I will answer you. You are not allowing me to complete. This is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)* You should allow me to complete. What is this ? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he is not allowing me to complete. ...*(Interruptions)* Can he say anything and everything ? ...*(Interruptions)* Is this the way ? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

If I am wrong, you should definitely ask, but if you will not let me speak, then how can I tell you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The issue now is about the procedure. I have already made it clear that this Question was raised in the last Session also, on the 15th March 2002, for which the Minister had said the same thing. The same reply has come again now. Therefore, I took it seriously and requested the Minister to reply to this Question positively in the next Session. If the answer is not ready and if this Question is not disposed of, next Question cannot be put in the House; and there will be difficulty in replying.

It is true that normally, the Ministers always try to give replies by collecting information. This hon. Minister has also been doing the same thing. He was also trying to collect the information. But he wants to come to the House with full information. Since the reply was not ready, I said that I postponed the Question.

Thereafter, an objection was raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. At the same time, he has also complimented the Minister saying that he was a good Minister. What else he wants ? As a matter of fact, getting a compliment from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition means something good.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Minister is a good poet also.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. You are right that he is a good poet also.

Therefore, the issue need not be unnecessarily made a serious one. I have already said that the reply should

have come, but it had not come. I have told the Minister that I was postponing this Question. In the meantime, if the Parliamentary Affairs Minister wants to make the position clear, on behalf of the Government on this issue, let him speak; let him complete and then we will go to the next Question.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: There is no need to say anything new for me after your speech. You have postponed this question to the next session, Government will definitely try to give reply to it in next session. I would like to say just one thing that there are two types of Parliamentary questions—starred and unstarred. You may have seen this question, information regarding the places of encroachment and the persons against whom cases have been filed, but it is your right to decide, how this question should be treated. You decide it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want any more guidance on this issue. I now treat this issue as closed.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after being elected as the Member of Parliament, first time I had put this question, at that time the reply was same. Two years have passed. Despite, I do not know why has not been made any progress in this regard. If such circumstance arises that even after elapsing a period of five years, the reply of such question is not provided, Speaker has any right to take action against such people. I would also like to know whether hon. Minister has any right, if reply is not given.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give attention to your question.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: These questions have been asked by the JPC on Waqf. They are scrutinising them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me continue with the next question.

I am clubbing both, Questions 183 and 184 together.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): I have no objection.

[Translation]

Cotton Textiles Production

*183. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of cotton textiles during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether its production has registered steep fall during the aforesaid period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to arrest such declining trend and to increase the production of cotton textiles ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The production of cotton textiles and cotton yarn during each of the last three years is as follows :

Items	Unit	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 (P)	2002-2003 (P) (Apr.-May)
Production of Cotton yarn	Million kg.	2204	2267	2211	365 (375)
Production of Cotton Fabric	Million sq. mtr.	18989	19718	19737	3350 (3329)

(P)-Provisional

Note: Figures in the bracket indicate corresponding figures of the previous year.

(b) and (c) The decline in production of yarn was due to various factors including recessionary trends in the international and domestic market.

(d) The Government has taken various steps to increase the production of cotton textiles and to make it more competitive at international level. These include:

- (i) To increase the competitiveness of the industry, Government has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) w.e.f. 1.4.99 where 5% interest subsidy is provided on the finance raised from the designated financial institution for projects of benchmarked technology upgradation. Taking into account the felt needs of the industry, Government has been including modern machinery in the list of benchmarked machinery and making other necessary modifications. From January 1, 2002 Government has provided an option to Small Scale Textile and Jute Industry to avail either 12% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy or the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

- (ii) Downstream value addition norms for spinning industry under TUFS has been relaxed by taking into account the actual production of actual count of yarn. Second hand hi-tech open end machine for the spinning industry has been permitted.

Post spinning/twisting of yarn processing plant on stand alone basis to produce two fold twisted yarn or singeing yarn without putting up yarn spinning unit and online production monitoring and speed control system for spinning machines have also been included under TUFS.

- (iii) Government has announced a National Programme of modernizing the weaving capacity by inducting 2.5 lakhs semi/automatic looms and 50,000 shuttleless looms.
- (iv) Government has strengthened the support and facilitation machinery of the Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs). Taking into consideration of the need for technological upgradation in the industry etc., the looms and other equipments of PSCs are being upgraded, and Computer Aided Design facilities have been provided to technical training and new designs to the Powerloom Sector. The functioning of PSCs for its organizational structure, management and supervision has been reviewed and Government is providing infrastructure and grant-in-aid to strengthen them.
- (v) The Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) has been launched to improve quality, productivity and production of cotton thereby to make the quality cotton available to the user industry.

[Translation]

Unviability of NTC Mills

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

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 66 units out of total 119 units of the National Textile Corporation have become unviable;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) the annual production of these units and the total number of officers and other employees working in these units at present;

(d) whether the Government propose to disinvestments of these units to facilitate capital investment by the private sector; and

(e) if so, the detail therefore ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) These mills had been incurring losses on account of uneconomic operation, high cost of production, inadequate working capital & obsolete machinery.

(c) 105.18 Lakh Kgs. Of yarn and 62.36 lakhs meters of cloth were produced in these mills during 2001-02. There were 32753 employees on roll as on 30.6.2002, out of which 427 were officers.

(d) and (e) Efforts made to revive these mills - through respective State Governments/Workers' Cooperatives and even through private sector on outright sale basis - did not elicit proper response. After exhausting all avenues for revival of these mills, BIFR has approved rehabilitation schemes consisting closure of these unviable units after giving Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS) to employees therein. This approach has helped in reviving maximum number of viable mills and subsidiaries.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government are making efforts to establish the Textile

Industry of India at world level. This is an encouraging step. Gujarat has maximum number of textile mills. It is very fortunate that Gujarat is also hometown of our hon. Minister of Textiles. Recently, myself and Ramvilas Paswan ji, leader of our party visited Gujarat twice. We found that many of the mills are on the verge of closure and some are running in loss. There is widespread resentment among mill workers due to the reason that the Government have not taken any effective step for providing them relief. Textile mills located in other parts of the country are also not in good condition. On the one hand, Government are claiming improvement in productivity and quality under the technical Mission of Cotton, whereas the fact is that there has been no improvement in the condition of industries. I would like to know from the Government the production of cotton textiles in each of the last three years as also the extent of increase in production keeping in view Government's claim ? If there has been no increase, then what are the reasons therefor.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with the hon. Minister that the textile industry is in bad condition, as said by him in his speech. Sir, the production of cotton fabric in the last three years is as follows : 18,989 million square meter in the year 1999-2000, 19,718 million square meter in 2000-2001 and approximately 19,737 million square meter in 2001-2002. The Government has taken many steps so as to increase production. We have started the TUF Scheme in order to tackle the problems of obsolete machineries, outdated technology and paucity of funds. Banks have sanctioned funds of Rs. 9 thousand crore for more than 1400 units willing to modernise themselves. Fund of five thousand crore rupees has already been disbursed and many new mills have also been started with this fund.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government launched Technology Mission related to cotton production, two and a half years back, what has been the concrete outcome of this ?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Ms. Speaker Sir, hon. Member has provided correct information. Technology Mission on Cotton was initiated for improving the quality of cotton and increasing per hectare production of cotton.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : What happened to Gujarat ?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : We have given approval to 89 new and old market yards all over the country under the Cotton Technology Mission. Cottons gets contaminated in the ginning and Pressing factory, which degrades the quality of cotton. An investment of two hundred crore twenty five lakh rupees has been made to

overcome the problem. After two and a half years of cotton Technology Mission, the target which was earlier 300 kilogram per hectare, has now been fixed to five hundred and fifty kilogram. The production has increased in two and a half years only due to this Mission. Many States, viz. Gujarat, as mentioned by me earlier, Produced four hundred and fifty kilogram of cotton per hectare. Its quality has improved. Under the cotton Technology Mission the production of cotton per hectare has increased, its quality has improved, import of cotton has decreased and our spinners have started using indigenous cotton.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cotton industry is second in the country after agriculture, which provides maximum employment to people as also brings maximum foreign currency in the country through foreign trade. Indian cotton fabric is very much in demand in foreign countries. Reply to part "(a)" of my question no. 184 has been given in "yes". I had asked whether 66 mills out of 119 NTC mills are unviable whereas 53 are viable. It is a simple question which should have a simple reply.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : If you deliver speech, he will also deliver speech.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Has any assessment been made to revive the unviable mills, how much capital is needed for it, how many people would work, what would be the annual production and what would be net benefit ?

MR. SPEAKER : These are three or four questions. Please ask one question.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : It is a part of the same question-what would be the annual project earned from unviable mills and by what time production would start ?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon., Member has a simple question and I would give a simple reply to it. The first revival package of National Textile Corporation was approved by the Government and sent to BIFR. BIFR with consultation of labour union and concerned persons, approved the revival plan of six subsidiaries out of eight subsidiaries and have entrusted implementation to NTC.

Mr. Speaker Sir, an amount of 3 thousand crore rupees would be spent in this revival plan. Besides, we would get 3200 crore rupees by selling the land of unviable mills, machineries and structure. But it is not that all this would be implemented when land would be sold. We have started this work today itself. Today we

have 6 unviable mills. I would like to say only this much that whereas we had just 34 viable mills in 1997, the number has now increased to 53. Reason behind is that Government have protected the rights and interests of workers due to which the number of viable mills has increased to 53 from 34. We have made efforts to check viability unit-wise.

Mr. Speaker must be remembering that BIFR had given directions for completely closing 4 subsidiaries but we have re-opened them. This is the reason that 53 instead of 34 mills have become viable. Today we give modified VRS to the workers of the mills which are closed or which are on the verge of closure and the workers do wish that modified VRS should be given to them. I would like to submit that the credit goes to him. Shri Rawale has repeatedly raised this issue ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. Minister is not giving correct reply. All textile mills are closed. Everything is getting ruined ...*(Interruptions)*, it is possible that our hon. Minister may be having good quality cloth but textile workers are in bad condition. All textile mills of Uttar Pradesh are closed. Hon. Minister is reading out the figures. He may tell us what he has done in Uttar Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*. When would the Government start textile mills in Uttar Pradesh ? Spinning mills are lying closed ...*(Interruptions)* When would the Government start textile mills in Meerut ...*(Interruptions)*. Its all right, may be the cloth of hon. Minister must be good but the workers of the textile mills are in bad condition. Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. Minister is giving wrong figures.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, lakhs of children are not getting food due to the closure of these mills ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Members can ask the question for which they want to have reply. Even I am aware that mills are lying closed. Members are displeased. They have many questions. You have expressed your feelings, I did not say anything, but the hon. Minister also has the right to reply to it. You can ask question if you do not get any solution. I would definitely allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I know the question. Please listen to the reply of the hon. Minister. See, what the hon. Minister says ?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am giving figures in order to do away with the misconception

of the hon. Member. I do not wish to talk about the acts of different Governments, but today the NTC and other mills need to be modernised keeping in view their condition. It is the responsibility of the Government to adopt new technology and get loan from banks, besides, the Government are going to implement the policy of changing obsolete machineries. This has brought a new life to the textile Industry. These people wish that then have textile Industry may run properly.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Speaker Sir, what happened to my second supplementary question ?

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask supplementary, it is your right. As there was supplementary question in earlier question, I did not allow you. Anyhow, you ask quickly.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How can you ask question to the Speaker.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : How many persons are working in the mills which are unviable and what is the annual income of these persons along with the capital required for giving VRS on the closure of these mills ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Ramdasji, please sit down. Let your number for the question come. How would the House run like this. Please sit down.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : What would be the total assets of these mills. May I repeat my question.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Yes.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Sir I am repeating my question at the instance of hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question quickly, we have very less time, we have to finish the question in five minutes. You please ask straight question.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : How many persons are working in unviable mills, how much annual income do they get and the how much capital is required for giving VRS on the closure of these mills ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How would the things go on like this, I will not give time to you.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : From where shall we get this capital, what would be the resources and what would be the total assets of the closed mills.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : In the process of closure of unviable mills declared by BHR, we require rupees 1600 crore for extending modified VRS facility to workers. We have released bonds of rupees five hundred crore for this purpose. Under this we given around rupees three thousand five hundred crore in the form of modified VRS to workers. Besides, Bond guarantee given by us to Bank and financial institutions is also around rupees two hundred to three hundred crore. No sooner we get capital after approval from bank, or our subsidiaries and get funds, we release money for giving VRS.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramjilal Suman, please complete your question, time is short.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. Minister has said with regard to 66 unviable mills out of 119 mills of National Textile Corporation that these mills are running in loss due to uneconomic functioning, high cost of production, insufficient working capital and unpopular-outdated machinery. I, very humbly, wish to submit that all Government undertakings or mills, going in loss, are not due to lack of capital, but due to mismanagement and corruption. I would like to know that what systematic steps have the Government taken to convert the 66 unviable mills into viable ones.

MR. SPEAKER : Please give reply in short as I wish that this question gets completed as soon as possible.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : We conducted enquiry thorough textile research organisation for making maximum number of mills viable, out of the 119 mills of NTC, also got the assessment done and sent its code report to BIFR. As I have said that 53 mills can be made viable and there are 66 unviable mills and 19 percent of the total production is done in unviable mills, out of which some are closed, and some have very little production. We cannot go before the BIFR with 66 unviable mills when once it has given its decision with regard to 6 subsidiaries. Therefore keeping this decision in view, we have kept the promise of the Government for running as far as possible number of mills.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir there are 17 mills in my area and 8 mills in your area. Through you, I would like to ask the hon., Minister that he has referred to eight subsidiaries, which are the two subsidiaries. Why can not he revive these mills which are in South Maharashtra and North Maharashtra and how many NTC mills have been given upgradation fund.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, so far as the question of North and South Maharashtra subsidiary is concerned, decision with regard to these two mills has not been taken as the Government of Maharashtra have not given permission sought for the BIFR for selling the land. I had tried to contact the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, I met him once also and we have also requested the BIFR to wait for the reply of Maharashtra Government, so that any mill in north or in south, may not get closed without any reason.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, there are three mills of NTC in my constituency Kanpur. The hon. Minister has not considered all the three viable. Workers of those mills had given a proposal that if assets of two out of the three mills are sold, they would be able to run one mill at their own, and would disburse pay of workers from the profit accrued out of this mill. I have made repeated requests to the hon. Minister and he has also given assurance in this regard. Sir, thorough you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has deliberated over this proposal and if so, he may please tell the final decision taken in this regard.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, there is a proposal for NTC mills of Kanpur as rightly told by the hon. Member the government stick to the stand taken earlier with regard to the mills there, we had made an offer to the State Government in 1998 ...(Interruptions). We would give the entire assets of the mill to them on one condition that the workers should get employment, but this was not acceded to. The State Government did not agree to this. Secondly we asked them to take over the co-operatives of the workers, but they did not agree to it. Still their proposal with regard to running the mill ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : I have not received the reply. My question was whether the Government are considering these proposal and whether the mill would be revived by selling assets of the other two mills ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : We would think over that ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. Minister has said that he would revive the mill ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way by which you will get the reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Hon. Minister is giving assurance, his assurance may kindly be recorded. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : We are thinking. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is telling about Kanpur mills. He wants to reply about three-mill proposal which has been given by the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir please hold discussion on this. This is a very serious issue ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you don't want to listen to the reply of the Question, the hon. Minister would not give reply but if you want that discussion may be held you may come in the B.A.C. and discuss it. I am ready. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has said that he would make it run. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is giving you the reply, it is in your interest. What can we do if you do not want to listen to it. Please listen to me.

[English]

Please sit down, Everybody must sit down. I am on my legs. You must understand this. A very important question was raised by the hon. Member. The hon. Minister is replying about three mills in Kanpur. We must listen to what the Minister has to say. This is the question about the life of so many workers. This is not the way to demand a discussion. If you want a discussion, as Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav said, I am prepared to give a full-fledged discussion on this issue. But at the same time, you must allow the Minister to reply. Let the reply be completed. I am prepared to allow a full-fledged discussion on this. The Question Hour is almost over. Mr. Minister, please complete your reply.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, all the three mills of Kanpur have been declared unviable by BIFR. We are deliberating over the proposal given by the hon. M.P.

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, project-wise; and

(c) the names of the States, where these projects have been set up/likely to be commissioned in the near future ?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Japanese Aid For Projects

*185. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Japan has provided loan to India for the construction of projects;

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) No new commitment was made during 1999-2000 by the Government of Japan due to economic sanctions imposed by them in May, 1998. However, the Government of Japan extended a financial assistance of Yen 18,926 million (Rs. 720 crores) and Yen 56,132 million (Rs. 2040 crores) during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively. Details of the States, loans and utilisation of ongoing Government of Japan assisted projects are as under :

(as on 30.4.2002) (in Million Yen)

S.No.	Name of the Project	State	Sanctioned Loan	Cummulative Disbursement
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ghatghar Pumped Storage Project	Maharashtra	11414	7325.28
2.	Ajanta-Ellora Con. & Tourist Development Project	Maharashtra	3745	3745
3.	Yamuna Action Plan	Delhi/UP/Haryana	17773	11548
4.	Anpara 'B' Thermal Power	Uttar Pradesh	17638	16422.1
5.	Naini Bridge Over river Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh	10037	3081.67
6.	Four laning of NH-5	Andhra Pradesh	11360	4579.39
7.	Purulia Pumped Storage Project	West Bengal	20520	5808.5
8.	NH-5 Improvement Project	Orissa	5836	1383.69
9.	Lake Bhopal Cons. & Management Project	Madhya Pradesh	7055	3668.14
10.	Industrial Pollution Control Project	West Bengal	1525	406.40
11.	ICICI Programme	-	3000	3000.00
12.	Banglore Water Supply Project	Karnataka	28452	12026.38
13.	Attapaddy Wasteland Project	Kerala	5112	342.02
14.	Gujarat Forestry Project	Gujarat	15760	14860.79
15.	KC Canal Project	Andhra Pradesh	16049	5204.21
16.	Pipavav Ship Breaking Project	Gujarat	7046	6997.91
17.	Northern India Trans. System Project	Centre	8497	577.14
18.	West Bengal Transmission System Project	West Bengal	11087	6603.02

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Umiam Hydro Power Station Project	Meghalaya	1700	1385.40
20.	Tuirial Hydro Electric Power Project	Mizoram	11695	801.96
21.	Simhadri Thermal Power Project	Andhra Pradesh	19817	19027.27
22.	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project	Delhi	14760	14358.60
23.	Calcutta Transport System Project	West Bengal	10679	2849.54
24.	Kerala Water Supply Project	Kerala	11997	0.00
25.	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	Karnataka	15968	10108.40
26.	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	Tamil Nadu	13324	9181.24
27.	Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	Madhya Pradesh	13222	4892.72
28.	Simhadri & Vizag Transmission System Project	Andhra Pradesh	10629	9834.60
29.	Srisailem Left Bank Power Station Project III	Andhra Pradesh	14499	12783.91
30.	Dhauliganga HE Project-II	Uttar Pradesh	16316	8201.95
31.	Bakreswar Thermal Power Project-II	West Bengal	34151	29604.65
32.	Tuticorin Port Dredging Project	Tamil Nadu	7003	5961.03
33.	Punjab Afforestation Project	Punjab	6193	5403.00
34.	Chhattisgarh Sericulture Project	Madhya Pradesh	2212	523.05
35.	Manipur Sericulture Project	Manipur	3962	496.88
36.	Rengali Irrigation Project	Orissa	7760	3652.67
37.	Bakreswar TPS Unit-3 Extension Project-(II)	West Bengal	11537	7560.53
38.	Simhadri Thermal Power Project-II	Andhra Pradesh	12194	11696.01
39.	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project-II	Delhi	6732	6417.90
40.	Simhadri Thermal Power Project-III	Andhra Pradesh	27473	16769.95
41.	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project-III (as on 31.3.2002)	Delhi	28659	3026.51

Current exchange rate is 100 Yen = Rs. 41.54 (approx)
(as on 24.7.2002)

[English]

Wasteful Expenditure on Rent

*186. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it was decided in October 1995 to reduce the staff strength in erstwhile India Trade Centre at Brussels and merge its reduced strength with commerce wing of our Embassy there;

(b) if so, the date on which reduction of staff was implemented and the remaining staff merged with the Commerce Wing of our Embassy in Brussels;

(c) whether our Mission continued the lease of the Centre, un-utilised, during June, 1997 to December, 2000;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the persons responsible for incurring avoidable loss to the Exchequer by paying rent; and

(e) the preventive/remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government to avoid such losses in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In May 1996 the reduction of staff was implemented and the remaining staff was merged with the Commercial Wing of Embassy of India, Brussels.

(c) to (e) The India Trade Centre (ITC) was located in a building about 2 km away from the main chancery building. The lease for the accommodation was signed in June 1991 for nine years. In July, 1996 after the merger of ITC with the Commercial Wing, with a view to effect savings on rentals, the Mission proposed to the Ministry to re-locate the officials of the ITC in the main chancery building by construction of additional office space and alteration of the existing chancery building, as the office space available in the main chancery was not enough to accommodate the additional staff.

The Embassy worked on the project of construction of additional space, but because of exceedingly slow and complicated procedures to apply for and obtain approval of the local authorities and selection of construction companies through competitive bids, the construction was finally completed only in June, 2001 and still such time continued hiring of ITC building was inevitable.

[Translation]

Depositors Protection Trust Fund

*187. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India propose to set up a Depositors' Protection Trust Fund providing for transfer of the amount lying in the unclaimed Accounts;

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

(c) the time by which the above fund is likely to be set up; and

(d) the amount lying unclaimed in various banks alongwith the number of persons in each bank not claiming the said amount in Maharashtra State, bank-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has submitted a proposal suggesting amendment to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 which will facilitate transfer of unclaimed deposits lying with

banks (including foreign banks) to the Depositors' Protection Trust Fund which may be managed by a company or a Regulatory Authority. According to the proposal the concerned banks may claim reimbursement from such Trust Fund equal to the amounts paid to the genuine claimants.

(c) The proposal of Reserve Bank of India is under consideration of the Government.

(d) The amount lying unclaimed along-with number of accounts as on 31.12.2001 in respect of public sector banks having headquarter in Maharashtra is given below :

Sr. No.	Name of the bank	No. of accounts	Total amount (Rs. in crores)
1.	State Bank of India	1920973	98.12
2.	Bank of Baroda	500673	25.40
3.	Bank of India	316840	21.28
4.	Bank of Maharashtra	198330	15.56
5.	Central Bank of India	1583346	29.39
6.	Dena Bank	97198	10.38
7.	Union Bank of India	517666	49.26

Development Scheme For Tribals

*188. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the schemes formulated for the development of the tribal areas and tribal people generally remain only on paper and these schemes are not implemented effectively in the tribal dominated areas;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the tribals are not aware of the schemes and programmes meant for them; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make to tribals aware of the schemes and programmes undertaken for their development ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The tribals across the country have over the years improved their living standards as revealed from various human development indicators. The literacy rates amongst STs had increased from 8.50% in 1961 to 29.60% in 1991. The percentage of Scheduled Tribes population below the poverty line has come down from the level of 68.10 in 1977-78 to

41.4 (urban) and 51.94 (rural) in 1993-94. The number of ST persons employed in different jobs in the Government of India has increased from 50,889 in 1965 to 2,17,705 in 1995.

(c) and (d) The Tribals are generally aware of the schemes and programmes since the information on schemes for Tribal Development percolate down to the grass-root level, and plans are drawn up on a need basis and as per the demands of local people and local representatives, by the State authorities. In addition, the Government of India has floated a new scheme "Exchange of visits by Tribals" from 2001-2002 with a view to enable members of Scheduled Tribes from one State to visit other States in the country, enabling them to acquire more knowledge and develop awareness about opportunities available for their development.

[English]

NABARD Assistance to Agriculture Graduates

*189. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is ready to extend financial assistance to unemployed agriculture graduates;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether any State-wise survey has been done about the number of unemployed agriculture graduates in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when the above scheme is likely to be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Following the announcement made in the Union Budget for the year 2001-2002, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has formulated a scheme to provide financial assistance to agriculture graduates for setting up of agriclinics and agri-business centers. These are to provide extension services to facilitate technology transfer, also for the augmenting input supply and services. The scheme aims at providing gainful employment to agriculture graduates in new emerging areas in agriculture. The prescribed ceiling of the project

cost for an individual and group is Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 50 lakhs respectively. The repayment period of the loan could vary between 5 to 10 years depending upon the activity and may include a grace period of a maximum of 2 years. The rate of interest is to be decided by the financing banks as per Reserve Bank of India's guidelines. NABARD would provide 100% refinance for the bank loan.

(c) and (d) In response to the advertisement released by the Government of India in leading dailies soliciting applications from agriculture graduates desiring to set up agriclinics/agri-business centres, 11,667 agriculture graduates have responded to undergo training in select training institutes in the country. The State-wise data on number of applications received is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) The scheme has already been launched with effect from 23 July, 2001.

Statement

State-wise classification of applications received for setting up agri-clinics/agri-business centres (as on 17.6.2002)

S.No.	Name of State	No. of applications
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	513
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6
3.	Assam	153
4.	Bihar	1162
5.	Chhattisgarh	103
6.	Goa	10
7.	Gujarat	441
8.	Haryana	473
9.	Himachal Pradesh	101
10.	Jharkhand	209
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	156
12.	Karnataka	656
13.	Kerala	161
14.	Madhya Pradesh	648
15.	Maharashtra	912
16.	Manipur	49

1	2	3
17.	Meghalaya	5
18.	Nagaland	6
19.	NCT of Delhi	288
20.	Orissa	439
21.	Pondicherry(UT)	4
22.	Punjab	345
23.	Rajasthan	842
24.	Sikkim	8
25.	Tamil Nadu	303
26.	Tripura	8
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3014
28.	Uttaranchal	246
29.	West Bengal	406
Total		11667

Handling of Foodgrains by Private Agencies

*190. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI Y.V. RAO :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to offer the post harvest handling and transportation of foodgrains to the private companies;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there will be any adverse impact on employment in Food Corporation of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) :
(a) to (e) The National Policy on Handling Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains already approved by the Government provides for harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to build and operate infrastructure for bulk

handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in the country.

Under the said Policy, it is proposed to construct silos at different locations in Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal at present. The total capacity of these silos would be 21 lakh tonnes. The construction of these silos is not likely to affect employment in the Food Corporation of India.

[Translation]

Functioning of Export Promotion Councils

*191. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of the Export Promotion Councils;

(b) if so, the names of the Councils, whose functioning has been reviewed;

(c) the shortcomings noticed by the Government in these EPCs during the course of review;

(d) whether these Councils are serving the interests of some export houses only; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (e) Performance of Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) is constantly reviewed through the following mechanism :

- * Ministry of Commerce has been regularly reviewing the annual action plan and export performance of all EPCs. Latest such review was undertaken by the Commerce Secretary with all EPCs on 10th June, 2002. Ministry of Textiles also organises such reviews of the Textile EPCs and latest review of these EPCs was carried on 21st March, 2002 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Textiles.
- * MDA Committee reviews the activities and performance of EPCs on an annual basis while deciding MDA allocation for the next financial year.
- * Committee of Administration/Managing Committee of EPCs undertake such reviews on a regular basis wherein government is represented by an Officer from the Commodity Division concerned.

- * The performance of EPCs in the previous year is also reviewed by the concerned Ministers and a review note is placed on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament while laying their Annual Reports and financial accounts during the winter session.

EPCs are serving the interests of all members irrespective of their status. EPCs undertake a number of export promotional activities every year to help their members which are mainly small & medium enterprises and also take up the problems of their members with the concerned organisations for their resolution.

[English]

Monthly Income Plan, 1995 of UTI

*192. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India has decided not to protect the principal of investors in its monthly income plan, 1995 and other such schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the same;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost investors' confidence in UTI;

(d) the details of the funds spent by UTI in advertisement and on foreign tours of its officials during each of the last three years;

(e) whether some irregularities have been found in this regard;

(f) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to transfer this case of CBI for proper investigation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) According to the Unit Trust of India (UTI), under the Monthly Income Plan 1995 (MIP 95) which matured on 30th June, 2002, the principal on maturity was not assured and the dividend was to be reset every year. However, UTI has informed that there are 14 other MIP schemes in operation which assure the protection of principal on

maturity. The details of these schemes are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) Government has already announced a financial package to protect the interest of investors of Unit Scheme 64 (US-64) vide its Press Release issued on 28.12.01. Further, Government has extended a guarantee for Rs. 1000 crores to UTI against the assets and cash inflows to the Development Reserve Fund to honour the commitment to the investors in MIP schemes matured in June 2002 and a MIP scheme maturing in August 2002. UTI has also been asked to implement time-bound reforms based on the recommendations of the different Expert Committees.

(d) The details of funds spent by UTI on advertisements and on foreign tours of its officials during the last three years are given in the statement II and III respectively.

(e) to (g) No case has been entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for regular investigation regarding any irregularities either on account of advertisements or foreign tours of officials of the UTI.

Statement-I

I. Schemes for which both the principal maturity and annual dividend are assured

1. MIP 1997 (III)
2. MIP 1997 (IV)
3. MIP 1997 (V)
4. MIP 1998 (I)
5. MIP 1998 (II)
6. MIP 1998 (III)
7. MIP 1998 (IV)
8. MIP 1998 (V)
9. MIP 1999 (I)

II. Schemes for which only the principal at maturity is assured - Dividend to be reset annually

10. MIP 1999 (II)
11. MIP 2000 (I)
12. MIP 2000 (II)
13. MIP 2000 (III)
14. MIP 2001

Statement-II*Publicity Expenses incurred by the Domestic Schemes of UTI*

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Accounting Year (July-June)		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 (Provisional)
Publicity Expenses (all schemes)	3611.19	2611.54	1673.28
Common Publicity Expenses	780.01	1229.27	1082.11
Total Publicity Expenses	4391.20	3840.81	2755.39

Statement-III*Expenditure incurred on foreign tours of
UTI officials**

Year	Amount (Rs.)
July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000	99,89,419.00
July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001	90,37,902.00
July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002	59,63,117.00

* Includes expenditure incurred for visits of officials to attend the meeting abroad of the Board of Directors of off-shore funds. UTI receives management fees from off-shore funds.

Illicit Trafficking of Drugs

*193. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of officials of World Customs Organisations and Interpol, monitoring illicit trafficking of drugs and contraband including opiate at the international level, had lately expressed serious concern over the existing laws for preventing the menace and their enforcement in India, alleging nexus between law enforcers and the traffickers;

(b) whether the seizures made during the last three years show a sharp decline;

(c) if so, whether the Government have since reviewed the effectiveness and efficacy of the relevant laws, and their enforcement, and the outcome of such a study; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No such concern, expressed by any team of officials of the World Customs Organisation or Interpol, has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In view of the replies to parts (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Loan to OBC Women Under Swamima Scheme

*194. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan disbursed to OBC women under "Swamima scheme" since its inception, alongwith number of OBC women benefited from the scheme, State-wise;

(b) the details of income generating activities undertaken by women under the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to give benefit of this scheme to the OBC women residing in rural areas of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) The State-wise details of the amount of loan disbursed to OBC women under "Swamima scheme" since inception of the scheme in January, 1997 to 22.7.2002, alongwith number of OBC women benefited from the scheme, are as under :

S.No.	Name of State	Total Amount (Rupees in lakhs)	Total No. of Beneficiaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	612.89	8883
2.	Assam	38.73	42
3.	Bihar	54.41	158
4.	Goa	4.48	5
5.	Gujarat	27.00	150
6.	Haryana	32.77	173
7.	Himachal Pradesh	30.08	88
8.	Karnataka	1021.75	10900
9.	Kerala	392.37	1690
10.	Madhya Pradesh	50.00	500
11.	Sikkim	43.79	76
12.	Uttar Pradesh	126.02	297
13.	West Bengal	33.61	69
Total		2467.90	23031

(b) The Corporation has been providing loans to the eligible women beneficiaries through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) under following sectors :

- 1. Agriculture & Allied Sector :** Dairy, Bee-keeping, Fish buying & selling etc.
- 2. Small Business/Artisan & Traditional Occupation :** Bangle Unit, Beauty Parlour, Basket Weaving, Grocery Shop etc.
- 3. Service Sector :** Photocopier, STD/PCO Booth, Tailoring, Binding, Candle Manufacturing, Agarbati Making etc.

(c) The financial assistance under the scheme is meant only for the OBC women living below poverty line. The SCAs have been requested to give wide publicity among the target group and organise beneficiary identification camps in the areas having concentration of backward class population in urban as well as rural areas, so that the benefits of the scheme may be available to the OBC women residing in rural areas.

Reservation for Physically Challenged Persons

*195. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether physically challenged persons are provided with statutory 3 percent job reservations in various Central Government departments and public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some public sector undertakings are not filling the quota reserved for these people;

(d) if so, the number of posts filled up by such candidates during the last three years and number of posts lying vacant, till date; and

(e) the corrective measures taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 enjoins upon appropriate governments to ensure reservation of 3 per cent vacancies in identified posts for persons with disabilities of which 1 per cent each is to be reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy.

(c) to (e) The representation of persons with disabilities with reference to the identified posts in Group A, B, C and D under the Central Government is given below :

Group of Posts	Percentage w.r.t. identified posts
Group A	6.56%
Group B	5.43%
Group C	6.50%
Group D	6.39%

This information relates to a total of 66 Ministries/ Departments of GOI. In respect of 28 Ministries/ Departments, the information pertains to position as on 1.1.2000 and for the remaining Ministries/Departments, the same pertains to 1.1.1999.

In public Sector Undertaking (PSUs), the position as on 7.1.2002 is as under :

Group of Posts	Percentage w.r.t identified posts
Group A	2.78%
Group B	8.54%
Group C	5.04%
Group D	6.75%

While Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) monitor the implementation of the statutory reservation in respect of the Central Ministries/Departments and public sector undertakings respectively, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment also reviews and position regularly in meetings of the Central Coordination Committee and the Central Executive Committee.

Abolition of Beggary

*196. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently formulated any scheme for the abolition of beggary in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Liquidation of RRBs

*197. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have liquidated some of the Regional Rural Banks in the country during the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the All India Regional Rural Bank's Federation has expressed concern over the Union Government's attempt to liquidate these RRBs;

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

(e) whether the recommendations of the Working Group on Amendment of RRB Act, 1976 have been fully adopted; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Working Group constituted by Government to review the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 is yet to submit its report.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Industrial Development Bank of India

*198. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) had been facing financial crisis for the last few years;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the alternative measures adopted by IDBI to improve its financial position;

(d) the number of the bogus companies as well as those which have since been closed to whom loans were provided by IDBI leading to financial crisis; and

(e) the company-wise and State-wise details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it was not facing any financial crisis.

(c) IDBI has adopted the following measures to improve its financial position :

- * Measures to contain Non-Performing Assets
- * Risk Management Initiatives
- * Measures to control costs
- * Augmentation of Tier-I Capital to improve Capital Adequacy Ratio

(d) IDBI has reported that they did not sanction any assistance to bogus companies as the verification of the antecedents of the promoters are undertaken alongwith the detailed appraisal of the projects before sanctioning any assistance. However some of the companies assisted by IDBI have turned sick/were close down due to a combination of environmental, Industry specific, unit specific factors.

(e) Does not arise.

Powerloom Service Centre

*199. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up more powerloom service centres in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of places selected for this purpose;

(c) the criteria followed in selecting the places;

(d) whether priority has been given to such places where workers have been rendered unemployed due to closure of the sick textile mills; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) to (e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Internal and External Debt

*200 SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the internal debt-GDP ratio has increased from 27.8 per cent in 1990-91 to 36.5 per cent in 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the reasons attributed for this dismal position; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check this trend ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Internal debt-GDP ratio increased from 27.1 per cent in 1990-91 to 37 per cent in 1999-2000.

(b) The increase in internal debt-GDP ratio was due to conversion of other liabilities (small savings and Public Provident Fund) into securities with effect from 1st April, 1999 which form a part of internal debt. Thus, an increase in internal debt is matched by a corresponding decline in other internal liabilities.

The total internal liabilities-GDP ratio has, however, shown only marginal increase from 49.8 in 1990-91 to 49.9 in 1999-2000.

(c) The Central Government has been making every effort to contain non-productive expenditure and to increase non-debt receipts.

Old Age Social Insurance Scheme

1806. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had mooted a proposal to create a Rs. 40,000 crore corpus fund for an old age social insurance scheme for the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, whether the proposal was thereafter turned down by the Government; and

(c) if so the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Villages under Hathkargha Gram Vikas Yojana

1807. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under the Paschim Bangal Hathkargha Gram Vikas Yojana and Uttar Pradesh Hathkargha Gram Vikas Yojana during the last three years; and

(b) the actual number of persons provided employment under the said scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b): The Government of India is not implementing Paschim Bangal Hathkargha Gram Vikas Yojana or Uttar Pradesh Hathkargha Gram Vikas Yojana. However, the Integrated Handloom Village Development (IHVD) Scheme that was started during the year 1991-92 by the Government of India aimed at providing assistance for development of Handloom villages in the country. That scheme was merged with the Project Package Scheme w.e.f. 1.4.1997. During the period in which IHVD scheme was under implementation, Central assistance was given for covering 15 villages in Uttar Pradesh and 3 villages in West Bengal

on the basis of viable proposals received from them. Under the scheme, Central assistance of Rs. 184.85 lakh had been released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for covering 1500 beneficiaries and Rs. 34.75 lakh had been released to the Government of West Bengal for covering 300 beneficiaries.

Assistance to Vountary Organisations of Uttar Pradesh

1808. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided to various voluntary organizations of Uttar Pradesh for the development schemes by his Ministry during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the names of the voluntary organizations whose proposals are lying pending with his Ministry; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Financial assistance as under has been released to various voluntary organizations of Uttar Pradesh for development schemes of the Ministry

Sl.	Year	Grant released
1.	2000-2001	18.90
2.	2001-2002	21.22

(b) and (c) The time taken for disposal of applications depends upon the receipt of complete documents, recommendations of the designated authorities and established need for the project in the area where it is proposed to be set up. There are 34 applications for grant-in-aid assistance in which additional documents/information has been sought from the applicants/State Governments.

[English]

Audit of Companies

1809. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5688 dated May 2, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed the accounting fraud in the US;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar frauds and irregularities are taking place in the corporates;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to take to review the audit norms; and

(e) the reasons for not enforcing the CAG audit into the Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF and Super Bazar as far as it pertains to the purchase and sales of stationery stores, computers, furniture etc. to the Government offices paid for out of the public funds ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b): Various newspapers have reported accounting malpractices in some US companies such as Enron, World.com, Xerox, etc.

(c) and (d) If accounts do not present a true and fair view of the affairs of an Indian company, it can be prosecuted under Section 211 and/or Section 628 of the Companies Act. The concerned auditing firm can be prosecuted under Section 233 of the Companies Act or proceeded against, for professional misconduct, under Section 21 of the Chartered Accountants Act.

(e) C&AG had been entrusted with the super imposed audit of the accounts of NCCF for the five year periods, 1987-88 to 1991-92, and for 1995-96 to 1999-2000. Super imposed audit of the accounts of Super Bazar was conducted by the C&AG for the period 1981-82 to 1985-86. There is no proposal to have Kendriya Bhandar audited by C&AG, as the present system of having the accounts audited by a firm of Chartered Accountants is considered adequate.

[Translation]

Bank of Rajasthan

1810. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the gross irregularities and the scandals occurred sometime back in the Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the credit deposit ratio of the bank during the last three years and NPA as on date; and

(e) the number of farmers in Rajasthan who have been issued farmer credit cards by this Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, RBI has reported that during the course of inspection of the Bank of Rajasthan Ltd. with reference to its financial position as on 31.12.1995 and a special scrutiny carried out thereafter revealed serious irregularities in the conduct of bank's business, most of which had occurred in respect of certain borrowal accounts connected with the Bangur Group. A penalty of Rs. 20 Lac was imposed on the Bank on 3rd February, 1997. Chief Executive Officer also resigned from the Bank on 24.06.1997. Subsequently, two promoters directors of the Bank belonging to the Bangur Group were removed by the RBI from the Bank's Board in October 1997. Remaining six Directors of the same group were removed in March-April, 2000. The bank was restrained from induction of Director on the Board without specific prior approval of RBI. The matter is presently being investigated by CBI and the interim report of the CBI has observed that the funds to the tune of Rs. 69.63 crores were diverted to the front/group companies of one of the promoter director Sh. Keshav Bangur.

(d) The credit deposit ratio of bank of Rajasthan during the last three years and the gross non-performing assets are as under:

(Amount in crores of Rupees)

Year ending 31st March	CD Ratio	Gross NPAs
2000	60.4%	396.71(20.2%)
2001	59.5%	362.03(17.02%)
2002	53.4%	332.84(15.7%)

(e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[English]

Expenditure on Disabled

1811. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita expenditure made on disabled people during the period 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the reasons for the meagre allocation for the disabled;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the allocation on this account; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d): In the absence of accurate data on the number of disabled population, (which will become available on the publication of 2001

census) it is not possible to calculate the per capita expenditure. The total expenditure incurred by the Central Government on the various schemes and programmes run for the persons with disabilities during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is Rs. 164.09 crore, Rs. 246.65 crore and Rs. 272.19 crore respectively. The allocation for this sector is expected to increase over the Xth Plan period.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes

1812. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for the various schemes viz. Antyodaya Yojana, Famine relief etc. for each of the last three years;

(b) the amount actually spent on these schemes/programmes for the said period;

(c) the number of persons brought under the Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line, State-wise, till date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the schemes benefit the deserving strata of the society ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Antyodaya Anna Yojana was started from March 2001. Under the scheme foodgrains (rice and wheat) are allotted to the States at highly subsidised rates. The estimate subsidy on the basis of the quantity of foodgrains allotted to the States and the quantity lifted by the States during year 2000-2001 is given in the statement-I enclosed.

Food For Work (FFW) Programme for drought/flood relief was started in January 2001. Under the Programme foodgrains are provided to the States free of cost. The estimated subsidy on the basis of the economic cost of the foodgrains for the quantity allotted and lifted by the States during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) A statement-II showing the number of Ration Cards Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line is attached.

(d) Government has taken a series of measures to ensure that the schemes benefit the deserving strata of the society. These are:

(i) Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions safeguard food security concerns of all better than the State bureaucracy, the Government has advised the State Governments to involve the Gram Panchayats more substantially in the supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

- (ii) The allocation of foodgrains for the BPL category was increased from 10 kg. to 20 kg. w.e.f. 1.4.2000, to 25 kg. per family per month from July, 2001 and to 35 kg. per family per month w.e.f. 1.4.2002 for a period of one year.
- (iii) Government of India is reimbursing the road transport cost on actual basis for transportation of foodgrains, to be distributed through PDS network, from the base depots of FCI to the designated Public Distribution Centres (PDCs) under the Hill Transport Subsidy (HTS) scheme, which is applicable to predominantly hilly States (including North-Eastern States and Island Territories).
- (iv) Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been implemented throughout the country. The scheme envisages 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg. for rice. The scale of issue has been enhanced to 35 kg. per family per month w.e.f. 1.4.2002 for a period of one year.
- (v) In order to maintain supplies, secure availability and distribution of subsidized commodities to the targeted beneficiaries under the PDS, the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued on 31.8.2001.

Statement-I

Subsidy on Allocation and Offtake of Foodgrains under Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Food for Work Programme.

	2000-2001 Subsidy		2001-2002 Subsidy	
	Allocation (in Rs. Crores)	Offtake	Allocation (in Rs. Crores)	Offtake
Antyodaya Anna Yojana				
Rice	30.47	15.75	930.57	817.28
Wheat	14.00	11.00	625.04	519.89
Total	44.47	26.75	1555.60	1337.18
Food for Work				
Rice	425.71	342.64	2849.53	2725.09
Wheat	205.25	113.41	843.11	803.37
Total	630.96	456.05	3692.64	3528.46

Statement-II

State Wise No. of Ration Cards

					(In Lakhs)
S.No.	States/UTs	BPL	AAY	APL	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98.82	6.23	53.97	159.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.84	0.15	2.73	3.72
3.	Assam	18.84	2.81	25.72	47.37
4.	Bihar	51.64	9.99	54.56	116.19
5.	Chhattisgarh	18.19	2.70	24.90	45.79
6.	Delhi	3.06	0.32	33.86	37.24
7.	Goa	0.16	0.06	3.00	3.22
8.	Gujarat	30.67	3.25	77.87	111.79

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Haryana	6.61	1.14	36.67	44.42
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2.19	0.79	10.34	13.32
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.36	1.13	10.12	14.61
12.	Jharkand	16.62	3.66	5.15	25.43
13.	Karnataka	59.11	4.76	48.98	112.85
14.	Kerala	20.10	2.49	41.28	63.87
15.	Madhya Pradesh	50.40	6.32	82.28	139.00
16.	Maharashtra	63.39	10.02	145.87	219.28
17.	Manipur	0.42	0.25	1.13	1.80
18.	Meghalaya	1.55	0.28	0.98	2.81
19.	Mizoram	0.58	0.10	1.71	2.39
20.	Nagaland	1.05	0.19	0.75	1.99
21.	Orissa	43.50	5.05	30.47	79.02
22.	Punjab	6.32	0.72	48.19	55.23
23.	Rajasthan	19.14	3.73	93.49	116.36
24.	Sikkim	0.30	0.07	1.89	2.26
25.	Tamilnadu	*	6.74	161.15	167.89
26.	Tripura	2.50	0.45	4.79	7.74
27.	Uttaranchal	4.22	0.76	16.77	21.75
28.	Uttar Pradesh	90.38	16.36	282.01	388.75
29.	West Bengal	41.33	5.59	112.42	159.34
30.	A&N Islands	0.11	0.04	0.72	0.87
31.	Chandigarh	0.10	0.03	2.15	2.28
32.	D&N Haveli	0.13	0.03	0.17	0.33
33.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.01	0.17	0.18
34.	Lakshdweep	0.00	0.004	0.11	0.11
35.	Pondicherry	0.86	0.09	1.75	2.70
Total		656.49	96.31	1418.12	2170.92

[English]

Banks Cash Record Transactions

1813. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "RBI pins lapses in bank cash record transactions" and "CVC spots banks violating norms" appearing in the *Indian Express* and *Times of India* both dated May 20, 2002 respectively;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) the details of action taken point-wise;

(d) whether CVC asked the RBI in April, 2000 to bring sweeping changes in the banking frauds guidelines;

(e) if so, the details of action taken thereon;

(f) whether the RBI has asked Commercial Banks to strictly follow RBI in keeping record of cash deposits or withdrawals of Rs. 10 lakhs and above; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Commercial Banks in following the instructions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that following a tip off from Enforcement Directorate a scrutiny was conducted at branches of five Kerala based private sector and other banks in Mumbai which revealed that large cash deposits/transfer/withdrawals were allowed by them. Although there was no loss to the banks it was revealed that the banks failed to follow the RBI prescribed procedures for opening of accounts and recording/reporting large value cash transactions and allowed large unaccounted money to be moved through banking channels.

At the instance of RBI, Central Vigilance Commission had set up a High Level Group to look into the certain matters relating to frauds in banking sector. The Group *inter-alia* examined the reasons for inordinate delay in banks taking action against officials involved in frauds and recommended measures for reducing delay and strengthen the internal control system with a view to prevent the frauds.

The Board of Financial Supervision in RBI had set up a committee on Legal Aspects of Bank Frauds. It submitted its report in September 2001. The recommendations of the Committee are development of best practice code (BPC), system of internalisation of BPC, internal check and internal control, legal compliance certificate in all transactions exceeding a value limit, legal compliance audit, data building on the exercise of discretionary power and monitoring thereof, liability of the accounting and auditing profession etc. which required no legislative changes for implementation were accepted by the RBI and advised to all scheduled commercial banks excluding Regional Rural Banks for implementation.

(d) and (e) RBI has reported that the Central Vigilance Commission has not asked for any changes in April 2000 in the guidelines for prevention of frauds in banks.

(f) and (g) RBI has asked banks to closely monitor cash deposits and withdrawals of Rs. 10 lakhs and above in deposit and other accounts like cash credit and overdraft, etc. by branches and maintain a separate register to record details of such transactions. Banks were also advised to strictly adhere to the extant instructions regarding opening and monitoring of accounts.

Bank Branches in Gujarat

1814. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several branches of various banks in Gujarat are not able to conduct their daily business especially after earthquake and recent riots; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to deploy additional staff to restore normalcy in these banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) According to the information furnished by the Dena Bank, Convenor of State Level Banker's Committee for the State of Gujarat, due to earthquake on 26th January, 2001, 148 branches of various Banks in Gujarat State were heavily/partially damaged. Banks took immediate steps to restore the functioning of the Branches by removing debris and retrieving the records shifting the premises to alternative places etc. By 17th February, 2001, all the Branches in the State were made functioning.

Due to recent riots, no bank branch is reported to be heavily damaged. However, due to curfew, several branches remained closed on account of tense position in certain places of the State. Under uncertain circumstances (of normalcy) many branches functioned partially also. Reserve Bank of India was closely monitoring this area of operation and various remedial measures like temporary shifting to non-riot area were also made by the banks.

(b) As regards earthquake, Banks have deployed additional staff from other centers to Kutch for restoring the immediate functioning of the Banks and to assist the branches in opening of about five lakhs Savings Bank Accounts of earthquake victims as the relief amount was to be channelised through Bank accounts. In case of riots also, wherever additional staff was required, it was deployed. Besides, arrangements for curfew passes were also made.

[Translation]

Kanya Vivah Loan Scheme

1815. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the nationalized banks which have introduced "Kanya Vivah Loan Scheme"; and

(b) the number of persons benefited by the above scheme so far alongwith the number of SCs/STs among them, bank-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) As per information received from Bank of Baroda they introduced a scheme known as BOB Kanya Vivah Loan Scheme" with effect

from 4th May, 2002. So far the Bank has financed 24 cases out of which two cases are of SC/ST beneficiaries. Information from other Nationalised Banks is being collected and the same will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

Unemployed Handicapped Youths

1816. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the number of unemployed handicapped youths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government have been advised to reserve a fix percentage of posts for them in State Government services in order to provide them employment;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States which are not adhering to this advice;

(e) whether any scheme has been formulated to impart training to the unemployed handicapped youths for setting up of small scale industries in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of the unemployed handicapped youths benefited by these schemes till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) As per information compiled upto June 2000 by the Directorate of Employment and Training, the total number of persons with disabilities enrolled in the live Register of Employment Exchanges is 4.66 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for affirmative action in favour of persons with disabilities by way of reservation in identified posts in Government organizations to the extent of 3 per cent. Implementation of the provisions of the Act is regularly followed up with State Government/Union Territory Administrations.

(e) and (f) For evaluating the residual capacity of the persons with disability and imparting them vocational training and guidance, 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres

(VRCs) are functioning in the country through which 1,31,900 persons with disabilities have been rehabilitated till June 2001. Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, 175 Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) have been assisted during 2001-2002 for running Vocational Training Centres covering 16000 beneficiaries.

[English]

Financial Aid to Karnataka

1817. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka is set to get Rs. 19,691.98 crore in total transfers of funds from the Union Government as per the recent calculations made by the Union Finance Ministry on the basis of the recommendations made by the Eleventh Finance Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it is more than in the Tenth Finance Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Total estimated transfer to Karnataka for the period 2000-05 as per the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) is as under :

(Rs. in Crore)

1. Share in Central Taxes and Duties	18552.48
2. Grants for Upgradation and Special Problems	311.53
3. Grants for Local Bodies	518.94
4. Centre's share of Calamity Relief Fund	309.03
5. Centre's contribution to Incentive Fund	286.15
Total	19978.13

Total estimated transfer to Karnataka recommended by EFC for 2000-05 is 89.89% more than the total estimated transfer recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) for 1995-2000.

Revision of Textile Policy

1818. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the opening up of garment sector to foreign investors has affected indigenous textiles industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to revise the Textile Policy keeping in view the protection of interest of domestic industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the other steps taken to protect the indigenous textiles industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R.PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise, However, the Ministry has taken a number of steps to improve the competitiveness of the Indian textile industry. Some of these are :

- (i) The Government has announced a Comprehensive Policy Package for SSIs on 30th August, 2000 to protect the interest of the Small Scale Sector. The package includes enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation. The major objective of the policy package is to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.
- (iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures.
- (iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.
- (v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

- (vi) To prepare and sensitise the textile industry (including knitwear and shawls) to conform to the ecological requirements of improving countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

Duty Concession on Import From Pakistan

1819. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have declared duty concession on import from Pakistan on certain items as a gesture to improve/ease its relation adversely affected in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No such concessions have been announced or contemplated since the December 13 terrorist attack on our Parliament.

Mentally Ill Persons

1820. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the number of mentally ill persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of institutions run by the Union Government which look after such persons, State-wise;

(d) whether there have been some complaints regarding the plight of the mentally ill in India;

(e) whether the Supreme Court has also made some directions in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) While the Government has not conducted any survey regarding the number of mentally ill persons in the country,

epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population has major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(c) The Union Government have two mental health care institutions—the Central Institute of Psychiatry in Jharkhand and National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Karnataka.

(d) to (g) The Supreme Court of India took *suo moto* cognizance on 7.8.2001 of a news report on the death of 25 chained inmates in a mental asylum at Ervdi in Tamilnadu. The matter is subjudice.

Development Schemes for Tribals

1821. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total population of tribals in Andaman and Nicobar;

(b) the steps taken to maintain the identity of aborigines tribals of Andaman and Nicobar; and

(c) the efforts made to impart education and make them accessible to modern facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) The total population of tribals in Andaman & Nicobar as per the 1991 census was 26770.

(b) To preserve the identity of tribals of Andaman & Nicobar, the Union territory Administration has restricted the entry of outsiders into the tribal areas without the permission of the U.T. Administration. Filming and photography in these tribal areas are also not allowed. The Anthropological Survey of India, Port Blair also prepares monographs on the tribes of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to document tribal culture.

(c) The tribals in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are still at different stages of social and economic development. Efforts are made both by the Government of India and the U.T. Administration through the implementation of various educational as well as other social and economic development programmes for the all-round development of the Schedules Tribes in the islands, and to make modern facilities accessible to them.

Custom Duty Collected at Delhi Airport

1822. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue collected by Customs Department at Delhi airport in the year 2001-2002;

(b) the revenue collected from cargo operations of customs at Delhi Airport during the aforesaid period;

(c) whether the exporters and importers are still facing severe delays and hardships in getting clearances and proper administration from the customs department; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure that the system is made easier and less bureaucratic ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N.RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Revenue collected at Delhi Airport in the year 2001-2002 was Rs. 61.73 Crores.

(b) The gross revenue collected from Cargo operations of Customs at Delhi Airport during 2001-02 was Rs. 2666.04 Crores.

(c) and (d) Specific cases of delay or hardship to the exporters and importers are being looked into and grievances are redressed by the Senior officers of the department including the Chief Commissioner of Customs. Many procedural and Systemic improvements have been brought about, as a result of which System, now, is much easier and less bureaucratic.

Under Assessment and Over Charge of Assesseees by Income Tax

1823. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been cases of under assessment and overcharge on the part of the income tax assessing officers;

(b) if so, the number of cases have to light of under assessment and how many cases in which the assesseees have been over charged and the amount involved therein; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this behalf apart from taking measures to check under assessment and overcharge of assesseees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, The C & AG in their Report No. 12 of 2002 (for the year ended 31.3.2001) laid down in Parliament on 15th March, 2002, have reported 15919 audit observations on under assessment and 82 cases of over assessment where,

according to them, tax effect of Rs. 4777.70 crore in under assessment and tax effect of Rs. 49.24 crores in over assessment are involved.

(c) This Report of C & AG is being examined in the CBDT with a view to give para wise reply to C & AG and to determine the correctness otherwise of the aforesaid audit observations. CBDT has already issued instructions to the assessing officers/field formations to take due care in assessments and to avoid mistakes. Remedial actions are invariably taken in all cases in accordance with CBDT instruction No. 1928 dated 7.8.95 DIT (Audit) has also issued instructions and checklist for guidance of the assessing officers.

[Translation]

Appointment in the Ministry

1824. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers and staff in Food Corporation of India who died while in service during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of those deceased officers whose dependents have been given employment on compassionate grounds;

(c) the names of those deceased officers whose dependents have not been given employment on the said grounds so far; and

(d) the time by which the dependents of the said officers and other staff members would be given employment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) The number of officers/staff of FCI who died while in service during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Officers	Staff
1999	30	347
2000	33	399
2001	39	366

(b) The names of the deceased officers of FCI whose dependents have been given employment in FCI on

compassionate grounds during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Name	Designation
1999		
	1. Sh. Onkar Swaroop Bhatnagar	AM(D)
	2. Sh. S.A. Khan	AM(QC)
	3. Sh. J.P. Sharma	AM(QC)
	4. Sh. S.S. Saxena	AM(A/cs)
	5. Sh. Virender Singh	AM(D)
	6. Sh. Prabhat Chander	AM(QC)
2000		
	1. Sh. Hari Kishan	AM(D)
	2. Sh. Harpal Singh Malik	AM(QC)
2001		
	1. Sh. Satish Kumar	AM(G)
	2. Sh. K.K Pillai	AM(G)
	3. Sh. Avtar Singh	AM(D)
	4. Sh. Rajan Mohan Khanna	AM(D)

(c) The names of those deceased Officers of FCI whose dependents have not been given employment on compassionate grounds are given in the statement.

(d) This will depend on the availability of year-wise vacancies arising in FCI for appointments on compassionate grounds.

Statement

Names of those deceased officers of FCI whose dependents have not been given employment on compassionate Grounds so far

S.No.	Name	Designation
1	2	3
Year-1999		
1.	Sh. P.V. Ranade	AM(D)
2.	Sh. S.B. Vingora	AM(G)
3.	Sh. P.V. Lohar	AM(D)
4.	Sh. P.M. Joshi	AM(D)

1	2	3
5.	SH. A.K. Gumasta	AM(QC)
6.	SH. Monaranjan Nandy	AM(G)
7.	Sh. V.K. Dang	AM(QC)
8.	Sh. A.L. Siddiqui	AM(QC)
9.	Sh. N. Srinivasan	AM(A/cs)
10.	Sh. R.A. Purankar	DM(A/cs)
11.	Sh. N. Pattabirama Rao	AM(D)
12.	Sh. K. Rajan	AM(G)
13.	Sh. R. Chandra Mohan	AM(G)

Note : Requests from remaining dependents of the remaining 11 deceased officers during 1999 not received.

S.No.	Name	Designation
Year 2000		
1.	Sh. S.T. Sarvankar	AM(D)
2.	Sh. S.B. Sonavane	AM(G)
3.	Sh. R.S. Sharma	AM(D)
4.	Smt. Meena L. Ramnani	AM(G)
5.	Sh. C.T. Parekh	AM(D)
6.	Sh. Sat Pal Vaid,	AM(D)
7.	Sh. Devender Kumar	AM(A/cs)
8.	Sh. V.K. Mishra	AM(QC)
9.	Sh. M.L. Garg	AM(QC)
10.	Sh. Ramesh Chand Sharma	AM(QC)
11.	Sh. Rajjan Lal Shukla	AM(D)
12.	Sh. P. Kannan	AM(QC)
13.	Sh. R. Venkatarao	AM(QC)
14.	Sh. G. Srinivasan	AM(D)
15.	Sh. S. Bhimaraju Dora	AM(G)
16.	Sh. P. Babu Rao	AM(D)
17.	Sh. Y. Bhaskar rao	AM(A/cs)
18.	Sh. M.L. Girdhani	AM(Movt.)

Note : Request from the dependents of the 13 remaining deceased officers during 2000 not received.

S.No.	Name	Designation
Year 2001		
1.	Sh. R.K. Choudhary	AM(QC)
2.	Sh. S.B. Vingora	AM(G)
3.	Sh. Jatin Ch. Bania	AM(A/cs)
4.	Sh. Munin Dowaral	AM(A/cs)
5.	Sh. R.C. Pruthi	AM(G)
6.	Sh. P.C. Pahuja	AM(G)
7.	Sh. Ram Prasad	AM(D)
8.	Smt. Aneema Ganguli	AM(G)
9.	Sh. V.K. Alag	AM(D)
10.	Sh. Irshad Alam	AM(QC)
11.	Sh. B. Mohandoss	AM(D)
12.	Sh. A. Radhakrishnan	AM(A/cs)
13.	Sh. M. Singaram	AM(D)
14.	Sh. V. Ramakottayya	AM(D)
15.	Sh. K. Padmanabha Rao	AM(QC)
16.	Sh. B. Swaminathan	AM(QC)
17.	Sh. Prem Swroop	AM(G)
18.	Sh. Satish Chandra	AM(G)

Note : Requests from the dependents of the 17 remaining deceased officers during 2001 not received.

[English]

Gold and Silver Seized by Customs

1825. SHRI P.S. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge haul of gold and silver worth crores of rupees were found and seized by the DRI and Customs Officials at Chennai Airport and other air terminals in Tamil Nadu, in the last three years;

(b) if so, the date-wise list/details of the seizures made during the above said period with the quantity and value of gold and silver seized;

(c) whether the Government have to pay some percentage as incentive to the informers or the persons who gave tips/clues to nab the smugglers; and

(d) if so, the details of the incentives given so far in the last three years for the seizures made in Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) 162.08 Kgs of gold worth Rs. 7.07 crores (approx.) was seized by DRI and Customs officials at Chennai Airport and other air terminals in Tamil Nadu during last 3 years, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002. There was no

seizure of silver during the said period. The date-wise list/details of the seizures made during the said period alongwith quantity and value of gold seized are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Reward is given to the informers or the persons who give tips/clues to nab the smugglers as per reward policy framed by the Government. Reward of Rs. 1.36 crores (approx.) has been given to informers for seizures made in Tamil Nadu during the last 3 years, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002.

Statement

Datewise details of gold seized by DRI and customs officials at Chennai Airport and other Air Terminals in Tamil Nadu during last three years, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002

S.No.	Date of seizure	Place of Seizure	Quality in Kgs.	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1999-2000				
1.	1.6.99	Chennai Airport	5.947	0.248
2.	17.9.99	Chennai Airport	2.548	0.103
3.	2.10.99	Chennai Airport	2.934	0.124
4.	1.11.99	Chennai Airport	5.830	0.266
5.	2.11.99	Chennai Airport	9.320	0.425
2000-2001				
6.	1.7.2000	Trichy Airport	0.093	0.003
7.	16.8.2000	Trichy Airport	0.116	0.009
8.	13.10.2000	Chennai Airport	8.155	0.368
2001-2002				
9.	11.5.2001	Trichy Airport	0.100	0.003
10.	26.6.201	Trichy Airport	0.081	0.002
11.	11.07.2001	Chennai Airport	119.169	5.182
12.	8.8.2001	Chennai Airport	7.689	0.336
13.	22.8.2001	Trichy Airport	0.100	0.003
Total			162.082	7.072

Power to Financial Institutions

1826. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FICCI has submitted a representation

to the Government against giving sweeping powers to the financial institutions on debt recovery;

(b) if so, the details of the representation; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) FICCI has informed that it had not submitted any such representation to any Ministry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Assistance to the Handicapped

1827. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance provided to the poor and physically handicapped, deaf and dumb persons living in the rural areas of the North-Eastern States including Sikkim and the name of such agencies through which assistance is being provided to them;

(b) whether the poor and physically handicapped, deaf and dumb persons are actually getting this assistance; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to provide direct assistance to the poor, physically handicapped, deaf and dumb persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Grant-in aid assistance is released to eligible organizations for setting up projects of special schools and centers for vocational training and rehabilitation under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities. Assistance is also provided for the purchase/fitment of suitable aids and appliances. The names of the agencies that received grants in North Eastern States and Sikkim during the year 2001-2002 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) In order to ensure that the funds reach the targeted beneficiaries the utilization of funds is monitored through periodical inspection and documentary information such as utilization certificates and audited accounts for the grant released in earlier years.

Statement

Name of the State	Name of the Organisation	Address
1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	Donyi Polo Mission	Itanagar-791111, Arunachal Pradesh
Arunachal Pradesh	Ramakrishna Mission Hospital	P.O. R.K. Mission, Itanagar-791113, Arunachal Pradesh
Assam	Amar Pragati Sanskritic Chora & Samaj Unnayan Kendra	Dakhin Rukmini Nagar, P.O Beltola, Guwahati-28, Assam
Assam	Ashadeep	Islampur Road, Gandhi Basti, Guwahati-781003, Assam
Assam	Assam Mental Welfare Society	Village-Malikuchi (Digheli), PO-Bidyapur, Distt. Nalbari, Assam
Assam	Dhule Regional Physical Development Association	P.O. Dhula, Darrang, PIN-784146, Assam
Assam	Guwahati Mental Welfare Society	Vikash Nagar, Dakhinagar, Kahilipara, Guwahati-781019, Assam
Assam	Janakalyan Tatha Bikalonga Lokar Seva Aru Govesana Kendra	Dubia, PO Dubia, Distt, Sonitpur, Assam
Assam	Kachajuli Physically Handicapped School and Training Centre	P.O. Kachajuli, Distt. Lakhimpur, Assam
Assam	Organizational for Educational & Other Rural Development	Gauranagar, PO Padum Pukhuri, Hojal, Nagaon-782435, Assam
Assam	Prerona Spastic Society of Jorhat	Cinnemara, Jorhat-8, Assam
Assam	Sahayika	Government Press Road, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati-781021, Assam

1	2	3
Assam	Shishu Sarothi Spastic Society of Assam	Off. Ramakrishana Mission Road, Birubari, Guwahati-781016
Assam	Swabalambi	Gandhi Basti Road, Opp. Silpukhuri Post Office, Guwahati-781003, Assam
Assam	Udali Rural Development Association	PO : Udali Bazar (Via Lanka), Distt. Nagaon, Assam
Manipur	All Manipur Mentally Handicapped Persons Welfare Organisation	Keishamthong Top Leirak, Imphal-795001, Manipur
Manipur	Centre for Mental Hygiene	Sangaiprou Airport Road, Imphal-795001, Manipur
Manipur	Institute of Social Development for Weaker Sections	Wehengbam Leikai Khongnang Haogaibi, New Cachar Road, P.O. Imphal-795001 Manipur
Manipur	Kangchup Area Tribal Women Society	Sherwood, 5th Avenue, Deaulalane, Imphal, Manipur-795001
Manipur	Leprosy Patients' Welfare Society	Chingmeirong. Lei-ingkhoh, P.O. Mantripukhri-795002, Manipur
Manipur	Rural Educational and Socio-Economic Development Organisation	P.O. Thanga Tongbram, P.S. Moirang-795133, Manipur
Manipur	Social and Health Development Organisation	Pshumthong Oinam Leikai, Imphal (West), Manipur
Manipur	Typewriting Institute and Rural Development	Thoubal Distt., Thoubal-795138, Manipur
Meghalaya	Bethany Society	Arai Mile, New Tura, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya-794101
Meghalaya	Dwar Jingkrymen School for Children in Need of Special Education	Stonyland, Shillong-793003, Meghalaya
Meghalaya	Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre	Mawroh, Mawlai, Shillong-793008, Meghalaya
Meghalaya	Montford Center for Education	Danakgve, Tura PO, Meghalaya-794101
Meghalaya	The Society for the Welfare of the Disabled	Holy Cross Villa, Red Hill Road, Laitumkhrah, Shillong-793003, Meghalaya
Mizoram	Samaritan Association for the Blind	HQ. Durtiang, Aizawl Distt, Mizoram
Mizoram	Society for Rehabilitation of Spastic Children	Ch. Chhunga Building, Saron Veng, Aizawl-796001, Mizoram
Nagaland	Deaf Biblical Ministry	Post Box 61, Dimapur-797112, Nagaland
Sikkim	National Association for the Blind (Sikkim)	Palzor Stadium Road, Post Box No. 92, Gangtok-737001, Sikkim

1	2	3
Tripura	North Tripura Deaf and Dumb School	P.O. Kailashahar, North Tripura
Arunachal Pradesh	R.K. Mission Hospital	P.O.R.K. Mission, Itanagar-791113
Assam	Bharat Vikas Parishad, Assam	2, Navjan Road, Uzan Bazar, Guwahati-781001
Tripura	Pratibanadhi Punarvas Samiti	Abhoynagar, Agartala-799005

Foreign Investors

1828. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
SHRI AMBAREESHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have discussed various issues concerning laws relating to protection to foreign investors with the Government of Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate protection have been provided to foreign investors under the Indian laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (d) In order to promote and protect on reciprocal basis investments of the investors, Govt. of India has been entering into Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPAs) with various countries and, so far, such agreements have been signed with 46 countries. Important elements of the BIPA are : National Treatment for foreign investment MFN treatment for foreign investment and investors; free repatriation/transfer of returns on investment; recourse to domestic dispute resolution and international arbitration

for investor-State and State-State disputes; nationalisation/expropriation only in public interest on a non-discriminatory basis and against compensation etc. Negotiations for entering into a BIPA with Japan were held in 1994 but due to substantial differences between the two sides on certain provisions of the agreement, it has not been possible to conclude it.

IFI's Assistance for Agriculture

1829. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have obtained funds from various International Financial Institutions for the development of agriculture;

(b) if so, the projects launched in various States during the last three years with such funds State-wise; and

(c) the targets fixed and achieved for these projects, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of projects alongwith the disbursement made during the last three years is as under.

(Figures in Millions)

Sl. No.	Loan/Grant Description	State(s)	Amount of Loan/Grant		Terminal Date of Disbursement	Disbursement during		
			Currency	Amount		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
LOANS								
IBRD								
1.	Integrated Watershed Dev, (Hills II) DT. 14.7.99	HR, HP, JK, PB,UR	USD	85.00	31.3.05	0.85	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
IDA								
2.	Integrated Watershed Dev. (Hills II) DT. 14.7.99	HR, HP, JK PB, UR	SDR	36.90	31.3.05	6.92	12.14	16.78
3.	Karnataka Watershed Dev. DT. 26.7.2001	KT	SDR	79.00	31.3.07			2.37
4.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management DT. 4.6.02 GRANTS	KT	SDR	80.00	31.1.09			
UNDP								
1.	IT for Agricultural in Punjab DT. 30.3.00	PB	USD	1.25	30.6.02		0.00	0.09
2.	Empowerment of Women Farmers for Food Security DT. 1.11.99	UP	USD	1.63	30.11.02	0.19	0.38	0.19

Regulatory Authority for NBFCs

1830. SHRI AMBAREESHA :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether to protect the interests of investors, the Government propose to establish a Single Regulatory Authority for the Non-Banking Financial Companies and Chit Funds; and

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken to make the Single Regulatory Authority functional ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Government have recently constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Financial Sector) to look into the issue of multiple regulators of different entities doing financial business. Report of the Committee is awaited.

INDO-Myanmar Border Trade Talks

1831. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indo-Myanmar border trade talks were held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of subjects discussed;

(c) whether India, exports many items through Myanmar to various other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) The Eighth National Level Meeting between India and Myanmar was held in New Delhi on 10-11 July 2002. The talks covered a wide range of subjects including usual trade matters aimed at facilitating enhancement of the level of bilateral trade.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Non-Performing Assets

1832. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Bank Employees Association suggested to the Government to constitute independent Banking Audit Commission on lines with Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in order to identify the areas of weakness that led to creation of growing number of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) accounts in the nationalised banks;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT

GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All India Bank Employees Association, Kolkata made a suggestion that an independent 'Banking Service Audit Commission' should be setup on the lines of Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(c) An elaborate system of appointing statutory auditors in public sector banks has been evolved by RBI/ Central Government over a period of time. RBI has set up a Sub-committee (Audit) under the aegis of the Board of the Financial Supervision which formulates policy governing the audit and lays down norms for the empanelment of Statutory Auditors. Thereafter Standing Advisory Committee finalises a panel of statutory auditors to be appointed in banks out of the list of eligible audit firms received from the office of Comptroller & Auditor General and Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. As the existing audit system is quite adequate, there appear to be no need for setting up of separate Banking Service Audit Commission.

[Translation]

Schemes for Backward Classes

1833. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of the people belonging to the backward classes and those below the poverty line; and

(b) the names and details of the schemes being implemented for the benefit of the people belonging to the backward classes, low income group, below the poverty line and families of the Safai karmacharies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) As the census does not categorise Backward Classes separately, there is no specific data, for persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) living below the poverty line in various States/UTs, available with the Government.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

The Government of India has been implementing the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the Welfare of OBCs :

- (i) Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC Students;
- (ii) Post-matric Scholarships for OBC Students;
- (iii) Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls;
- (iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare of OBCs; and
- (v) Pre-examination Coaching for OBCs

The Government of India has set up the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) with the main objective to promote the economic and developmental activities for the OBCs and assist them in setting up of viable self-employment ventures and development of entrepreneurial skills. The NBCFDC provides financial assistance to the persons belonging to OBCs in all the States under following schemes :

- (i) Term Loan scheme
- (ii) Margin Money Loan scheme
- (iii) Micro Credit Financing scheme
- (iv) New Swamima scheme
- (v) Educational Loan scheme
- (vi) Training schemes

The Government of India has been implementing following poverty alleviation programmes for the urban and rural poor including OBCs living below the poverty line :

- (i) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)
- (ii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS);
- (iii) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY); and
- (iv) Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

In addition, the Government of India has been implementing the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the Welfare of the families of Safai karmacharis :

- (i) National scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of scavengers and their dependents
- (ii) Pre-matric scholarships to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations

In addition, the Government of India has set up the National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) with the main objective of extending concessional financial assistance to the Safai Karmacharis and their dependents for establishment of income generating and viable projects. The NSKFDC provides financial assistance under following schemes :

- (i) Term Loan scheme
- (ii) Bridge Loan scheme

Production of Qualitative Products

1834. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue fresh guidelines/take action against such food processing industries in the country which do not provide qualitative products to customers or charge higher prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other mechanism available to protect the interests of the consumers on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) The Government regulates hygienic/sanitary conditions for processed fruits and vegetables at manufacturing end under the Fruits Products Order 1955. Non-compliance of the provisions of the Fruits Products Order 1955 leads to cancellation of licences of manufacturing unit. The quality of the food products is regulated under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955. The other mechanism available for protection of consumer interest is the provisions under the Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 to control Maximum Retail Prices.

[English]

Setting up of Food Banks

1835. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up food banks for the poor people of the country;

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

(c) whether a target date for making India hunger free on August 15, 2007 has been decided; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) A revised scheme on Grain Banks to provide against safeguards during periods of natural calamities or during the lean season when rural people do not have purchasing power in areas which are endemic drought prone having large scale migration and calamity oriented particularly tribal area is under consideration.

(c) and (d) The Agricultural Development strategy for the Ninth Five Year Plan was essentially based on the policy of food security announced by the Government to double food production and make India hunger free in the next ten years. In the inaugural address by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at the National Consultation on "Towards Hunger Free India" in April 2001 it was resolved to make the mission "Hunger Free India" successful by 2007.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Improving Transport System

1836. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank have provided or proposed to be provided any assistance for improving the transport system in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount out of this assistance allocated to various States for the purpose so far State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) World Bank has provided assistance for five State sector transport projects since 1997. Two more State projects are under preparations/appraisal. There is one central sector rail project which has been approved in June, 2002. Details of these projects are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

*World Bank/International Development Association (IDA) assisted Transport Projects
in various States State Sector Projects*

(\$ million)

A. Under Implementation :

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Donor	Participating States	Date of Signing	Loan Amount	Cumulative disbursements as on 30.6.02
1.	Andhra Pradesh State Highway	World Bank	Andhra Pradesh	30.7.97	350.00	218.750
2.	Gujarat State Highway Project	World Bank	Gujarat	18.10.00	381.00	49.442
3.	Karnataka State Highway Imp. Proj	World Bank	Karnataka	26.7.01	380.00	24.445
4.	Kerala State Transport Project	World Bank	Kerala	6.5.02	255.00	7.500
5.	Mizoram State Road Project	IDA	Mizoram	6.5.02	60.00	2.000

B. Under preparation/appraisal :

(\$ million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Donor	Project cost	Loan/Credit amount
1.	Uttar Pradesh State Road Project	Uttar Pradesh	World Bank	482.00	Not yet decided
2.	Tamil Nadu State Road Project	Tamil Nadu	World Bank	325.00	Not yet decided

Central Sector Projects

1.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project	Maharashtra	World Bank/IDA	945.00	Loan 463.00 Credit 79.00
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**Assistance From World Bank For Expansion of
Primary Education**

1837. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank and International Monetary Fund have offered financial assistance for expansion of primary education world over;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sought financial assistance from these institutions for expansion of primary education; and

(c) if so, the total financial assistance sought by the Government and time by which it is likely to be received ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) While the International Monetary Fund does not offer assistance for such development projects, the Development Committee of World Bank in its Spring Meeting held on April 21, 2002 has reaffirmed the commitment to achieve universal primary education by 2015. India has supported the plan for arriving at an international consensus to achieve primary education for all children by 2015. The Action Plan decided in the meeting includes mobilizing adequate resources including significant increase in external funding for primary education and identifying countries for initiating 'fast track' process to provide quick and incremental support to reach universal primary completion by 2015. The modalities for incremental assistance and 'fast track' approach are still being worked out by the World Bank. No specific financial assistance has so far, therefore, been sought by Government of India.

[English]

Anti-Dumping on Indian Steel

1838. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether US Government had imposed an anti-dumping duty of 72.49 per cent on import of cut to length steel plates from SAIL during 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether WTO Dispute Settlement Body has passed a ruling in favour of SAIL in the said case;

(d) if so, whether the panel has also recommended that US should bring this anti-dumping duty order in conformity with WTO rules;

(e) if so, whether US has reduced the duty on steel plates being supplied by India;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which the export of steel plates is likely to be increased after this ruling of WTO ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In December, 1999 the US Department of Commerce issued the final determination and imposed an anti-dumping margin of 72.49% on the sole Indian

respondent, Steel Authority of India (SAIL). While doing so the US Department of Commerce rejected SAIL's data in totality, and had relied on facts available in petition of the domestic industry and calculated the dumping margin.

(c) The Government of India has referred the matter to WTO against the rulings of the US, since the rulings violated certain WTO commitments. The Panel set up by the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO, has concluded that the United States acted inconsistently with Article 6.8 and paragraph 3 of Annex II of the Anti-dumping Agreement in refusing to take into account US sales price information submitted by SAIL without a legally sufficient justification and making its determination regarding the dumping margin for SAIL entirely on the basis of the facts available in the anti-dumping investigation at issue in this dispute.

(d) The Panel has recommended that the Dispute Settlement Body request the United States to bring its measure into conformity with its obligations under the Anti-dumping Agreement.

(e) to (g) The Panel Report is presently under circulation. The Dispute Settlement Body of WTO has to adopt the report before any of its recommendations is implemented.

Establishment of Complaint Cell by SC and ST Commission

1839. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is planning to set up a Centralised Complaint Cell for the registration of complaints;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely date of its working ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) No, Sir.

Review of Programmes and Schemes

1840. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some working groups were constituted by the Planning Commission to review the schemes and

programmes being implemented by this Ministry and to formulate its strategy during the 10th Five Year Plan Period (2002-2007);

(b) if so, whether the working groups have formulated any strategy and reviewed the programmes and schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter;

(d) whether any scheme of programme has been launched in Delhi to help the womenfolk from weaker sections of the society like imparting dressing, designing, cutting, tailoring etc. to make them self-reliant and to earn their livelihood;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the formalities which are to be completed to get NGOs in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission constituted the following Working Groups for formulating strategy for Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07):

(I) Backward Classes Sector

(i) Working Group on Empowering the Scheduled Castes

(ii) Working Groups of Empowering the Other Backward Classes

(iii) Working Group on Empowering the Minorities

(II) Social Welfare Sector

(i) Working Group for Empowering the Disabled

(ii) Working Group on Reforming Social Deviants and Caring for the Other Disadvantaged

(b) and (c) The recommendations given by the Working Groups have been utilized while formulating Tenth Plan Proposals keeping in view guidelines issues by the Planning Commission.

(d) to (f) Schemes are not formulated for specific States but for the whole country.

[Translation]

Violation of Law by Companies

1841. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DCA is conducting investigations against a number of companies in connection with violation of company laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above mentioned companies include the companies operating in share markets;

(d) if so, names thereof and the names of their promoters; and

(e) the amount involved in the scams committed by such share companies and nature of irregularities committed by them ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) Yes Sir. During the period from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002, 98 inspections were ordered related to the "Stock Market Scam" of 2001. 78 of these companies were broking companies dealing in the share market. Various offences such as those relating to loans to Directors (Section 295), inter-corporate deposits/loans (Section 372A), acceptance of deposits without complying with the rules (Section 58A), not presenting a true and fair picture of the balance sheet (Section 211) etc, have been committed by these companies. In these inspections, so far 497 prosecutions against 73 companies have been launched.

[English]

Vanished Companies

1842. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has prescribed any norms for describing a company as a "vanished company"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) SEBI and DCA have jointly adopted the following criteria for identifying vanishing companies :

(i) does not comply with the listing requirements for two years (listing requirements include filing the annual return and balance sheet) with respective Stock Exchange/ROCs.

(ii) does not submit the required reports to Regional Stock Exchange.

(iii) does not correspond with Regional Stock Exchange for two years

(iv) is not available at its Registered Office at the time of Stock Exchange inspection.

Diversion of Funds by Companies

1843. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain companies have been siphoning funds received from the public sector financial institutions and diverting it to their unlisted projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the estimated amount of funds diverted by these companies;

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to stop such practice in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) As per the information provided by the Financial Institutions (FIs), some companies have diverted funds for the purposes other than those mentioned in the loan Agreement.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation As To Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(d) and (e) FIs/Banks are themselves competent to take action to protect their interests. It has been reported that institutions have filed recovery suits against the companies. Institutions have issued guidelines for proper end-use of funds through a monitoring mechanism which are updated from time to time, whenever considered necessary.

[Translation]

Bank Frauds

1844. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned 'Bank ko dhai crore ka chuna char ke khilaf Mamla Darj' appearing at page 4 of 'Dainik Jagran' dated May 18, 2002;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to recover the money ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that on the basis of a complaint lodged by the Chief Vigilance Officer, Oriental Bank of Commerce it has registered a case against M/s. Delhi Petroleum Products Co., its Managing Director and the then Senior Manager, Safdarjung Enclave Branch and the Regional Manager, New Delhi Region of Oriental Bank of Commerce under various sections of IPC and PC Act 1988. It is alleged that the bank officials in conspiracy with the MD of the company allowed credit facilities for Rs. 90 lakhs which was later increased to Rs. 250 lakhs without obtaining collateral securities. No prior survey of the stocks was conducted with the result that stocks were released without bank's concurrence. The sale proceeds were not ploughed back by the party in the Cash Credit account as a result of which credit limit of Rs. 250 lakhs was misappropriated by the party.

(c) The Bank has filed a claim with Debt Recovery Tribunal, New Delhi for recovery of the amount.

[English]

Illegal Activities Across the Border

1845. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India sought greater cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries in sharing information and

intelligence with regard to customs in order to combat illegal activities across the border;

(b) if so, whether India has discussed the matter with the Asia Pacific countries; and

(c) if so, the response of the Asia-Pacific countries thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes Sir, India has Memorandum of Understanding/Bilateral Agreements for Mutual Administrative Assistance in customs matters with several governments of the world including one government in the Asia Pacific region. As a measure of public policy, Government favour signing of such Memorandum of Understandings/Agreements with many countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

(b) and (c) Issues relating to the need for greater cooperation in sharing information and intelligence among customs authorities were discussed in the 9th World Customs Organisation Regional Conference of Heads of Administrations held in Hong Kong from 8-12 April, 2002. The Conference agreed on the need of better regional cooperation among themselves and proposed a guideline for Regional Mutual Administrative Assistance, which can be adopted by all members. A WCO Meeting of Heads of Customs Enforcement Services of the Asia-Pacific region was held in New Delhi from 14-16 May, 2002. This meeting also emphasised the need for increased exchange of information and intelligence for the purpose of combating smuggling.

Debt Recovery Tribunals

1846. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed between January to December 2001 before the Debt Recovery Tribunal for Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, functioning in Bangalore;

(b) the number of cases so far pending for a final decision before the above tribunal;

(c) the amount involved in these cases;

(d) whether there is any proposal to expand the jurisdiction of Debts Recovery Tribunal and allow non-banking Finance Companies and its customers also to approach the Debts Recovery Tribunal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) at Hyderabad and Bangalore and jurisdiction of entire Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka respectively during the year 2001. Number of cases filed in DRTs at Hyderabad and Bangalore during the year 2001 were 628 and 761 respectively.

(b) and (c) As on 31st March, 2002, 3138 cases involving an amount of Rs. 9675 crore and 1407 cases involving an amount of Rs. 2115 crore were pending before DRTs at Hyderabad and Bangalore respectively.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Quality of Cement

1847. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether cement has been excluded from the purview of Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) if so, whether this would have adverse effect on the quality of cement which has a direct bearing on the construction activities; and

(c) if so, the details of measures taken by the Government to ensure the quality of cement ?

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

(b) and (c) The quality of the Cement is ensured under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Norms.

Townships in North Eastern Region

1848. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether four townships in the North-Eastern Region are proposed for creating congenial atmosphere to attract foreign investment;

(b) if so, the names of such townships; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and released by the Union Government for the development of these townships ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir. A New Industrial Policy and other concessions has been notified on 24th December 1997 for development of industry in the NE Region.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Narcotics

1849. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons caught by the custom officials between May 1, 2002 and June 6, 2002 for smuggling of heroine, hashish and other narcotics to foreign countries;

(b) the value of the narcotics seized from them; and

(c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the smuggling of narcotics ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Twenty four persons were caught by the customs officials between May 1, 2002 and June 6, 2002 for the smuggling of heroin, hashish and other narcotics to foreign countries.

(b) All confiscated narcotic drugs are liable to be destroyed and no authentic market value exists. Hence, precise valuation of the abovementioned seized narcotic drugs is not possible.

(c) The Government of India has taken a number of steps to prevent and put an effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up the enforcement efforts, training of the enforcement officers, close interaction between the agencies of the Centre and the State Governments, neutralizing drug syndicates by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of the police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons, fencing and flood lighting of the Indo-Pak border vesting of powers in the Border Security Force and the Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs, notifying certain precursor chemicals, viz., Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine, etc., as

'Controlled Substances' under the NDPS Act, quarterly coordination meetings of the Narcotics Control Bureau with all Central and State Agencies concerned, holding of periodic bilateral meetings of the Indian and Pakistani Anti-Narcotics Agencies, etc.

[English]

Privatisation of Banks

1850. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to bring down public ownership in the public sector banks to 33 percent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some banks have already diluted the Government's holding by issuing fresh equity to public;

(d) if so, the details of the fresh equity issued by the public sector banks during the last two years and the amount raised therefrom; and

(e) to what extent the Government's holding in these banks has been dilute as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to amend Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 with a view to modifying the stipulation of minimum prescribed Government shareholding in nationalised banks from 51% to 33% to enable nationalised banks to raise capital from market without affecting their public sector character. Accordingly, Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Amendment Bill, 2000 was introduced in Lok Sabha in December, 2000 which has been referred to Standing Committee on Finance.

(c) to (e) A list containing the names of banks who have so far gone for public issue, details of fresh equity, details of amount raised and extent to which Government's shareholding has been diluted in these banks is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement
Nationalised Banks-Public Issue Particulars

(*Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Date of issue	Equity Capital before public issue	Size of the Public issue	Equity after public issue	Post issue share holding			
						Govt.	%	Other	%
1.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	5.10.1994	128.00	360.00	192.54	128.00	66.48	64.54	33.52
2.	Dena Bank	5.12.1996	146.82	180.01	206.82	146.82	71.00	60.00	29.00
3.	Bank of Baroda	5.12.1996	196.00	850.00	296.00	196.00	66.88	100.00	33.21
4.	Bank of India	21.2.1997	489.00	675.00	639.00	489.00	77.00	150.00	23.00
5.	Corporation Bank	Oct 1997	82.00	304.00	120.00	82.00	68.33	38.00	31.67
6.	Syndicate Bank	Nov 1999	346.97	125.00	471.97	346.97	73.52	125.00	26.48
7.	Indian Overseas Bank	Sep. 2000	333.80	111.20	444.80	333.60	75.00	111.20	25.00
8.	Vijaya Bank	Dec 2000	259.24	100.00	359.24	259.24	72.16	100.00	27.84
9.	Andhra Bank	Jan 2001	300.00	150.00	450.00	300.00	67.00	150.00	33.00
10.	Punjab National Bank	Mar 2002	212.24	164.49	265.30	212.24	80.00	53.06	20.00

Facilities to the Old Aged

1851. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voluntary organizations running and maintaining old age homes, day care centres, mobile Medicare units for the aged, State-wise;

(b) the number of aged persons benefited during the last three years;

(c) whether some cases have come to the notice of the Government where money given to these voluntary organizations have not been passed on to the beneficiaries, i.e., old aged people; and

(d) if so, the details of such organizations and the action taken by the Government against those organizations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Instances come to the notice of the Government where as a result of inspection or information from other sources, a grantee organization is found to be non-existent, or misutilising the grant, or the quality of services delivered by it is not commensurate with the funds released. In such cases, further release of grant-in-aid to the NGOs is suspended. A show cause notice is issued to the management of the organization, and if the explanation is found to be unsatisfactory then action is taken to blacklist the organization.

A statement II showing the NGOs blacklisted under the Scheme during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement-I

*State-Wise Details of Number of Voluntary Organizations Running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units for the Aged And Number of Beneficiaries During Last Three Years
Namely 1999-2000, 2000-01 And 2001-02.*

S.No.	Name of the State	1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
		No. of NGO	No. of beneficiaries	No. of NGO	No. of beneficiaries	No. of NGO	No. of beneficiaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	118	11054	108	10072	141	13150
2.	Assam	7	1208	6	1045	11	1875
3.	Bihar	1	125	0	0	1	125
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	1	25
4A.	Chandigarh	1	300	1	300	0	0
5.	Gujarat	4		5	190	2	75
6.	Haryana	17	150	9	1120	13	1675
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2192	1	450	1	450
8.	J & K	3	880	3	1610	4	2200
9.	Karnataka	21	1610	20	1384	33	2300
10.	Kerala	4	1461	3	1250	3	1250
11.	MP	7	1660	5	525	5	525
12.	Maharashtra	16	730	10	2211	19	4225
13.	Manipur	33	3227	28	2718	34	3325
14.	Orissa	45	7241	27	4379	54	8700
15.	Punjab	13	750	12	682	13	750
16.	Rajasthan	1	125	0	0	4	900
17.	Tamil Nadu	42	4690	27	3036	49	5475
18.	Tripura	3	595	2	400	2	400
19.	Uttar Pradesh	49	6345	31	4026	33	4275
20.	Uttaranchal	00	0	00	0	2	250
20.	West Bengal	38	7439	38	7439	35	6850
21.	Delhi	4	3085	5	3795	7	5382
22.	Pondicherry	4	351	3	260	2	175
23.	Nagaland	0	0	2	85	3	125
Total		433	58770	346	46977	472	64482

Statement-II**List of NGOs Blacklisted Under the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons**

Sl.No.	Name of the Organisation
1.	Adarsh Mahila Mandal, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh
2.	Christ Rural Development and Education, Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh
3.	Sangameshwara Educational Society, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh
4.	Cultural Action in Rural Development, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh
5.	Mother India, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh
6.	Mercy Minority Educational Society, Andhra Pradesh
7.	Nandini Bal Vikas and Gramin Gramodhyog Sewa Samiti, Uttar Pradesh

Food for Work Programme

1852. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of drought affected districts in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of foodgrain released from the Centre for relief work under the "food-for-work" programme, State-wise;

(c) whether a Central Team was deputed to make assessment of the drought affected districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details of the Committee's report thereon;

(e) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh sought rice under "food-for-work Programme" on an exaggerated report; and

(f) if so, the response of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) A statement-I indicating the number of drought affected districts in the country during the last three years, State-wise is attached.

(b) A statement-II showing the allocation and offtake of foodgrains under the "Food for Work" Programme, State-wise is attached.

(c) to (f) A Central team visited some of the affected areas in Andhra Pradesh in May, 2002 for review of the drought situation and recommended that the "Food for Work" Programme be continued in 8 districts of the State. During the current year 2002-03, so far a quantity of 15.00 lakh tonnes of rice has been allotted to Andhra Pradesh Government for "Food for Work" Programme under the Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana.

Statement-I

Number of Districts Affected by Drought, as Intimated by the Respective State Governments, during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002:

1999-2000 :

Andhra Pradesh	18
Gujarat	17
Himachal Pradesh	12
Jammu & Kashmir	6
Karnataka	21
Madhya Pradesh	7
Manipur	5
Mizoram	3
Rajasthan	26
Tripura	4
West Bengal	10

2000-2001 :

Chhattisgarh	12
Gujarat	23
Himachal Pradesh	12
Jammu & Kashmir	6
Maharashtra	26
Madhya Pradesh	32
Orissa	28
Rajasthan	31

1 District in Uttaranchal faced shortage of drinking water supply.	Karnataka	25	
	Madhya Pradesh	6	
2001-2002	Maharashtra	12	
Andhra Pradesh	22	Rajasthan	3
Bihar	37		

Statement-II*Allocation of Foodgrains Free of Cost Under Food for Work Programme.*

(figures in tonnes)

S.No.	State	Allocation				Offtake			
		2000-2001		2001-02		2000-01		2001-02*	
		Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
1.	Chhattisgarh	0	207000	0	320550		198395		330383
2.	Gujarat	70000	20000	46515	11590	6793	1723	80760	25090
3.	Himachal Pradesh	0	11549	0	0		4947		5972
4.	Maharashtra	8000	2000	112000	28000	7102	1804	60241	16270
5.	Madhya Pradesh	43000	20079	145235	43430	23882	7386	236268	60719
6.	Orissa	0	100000	0	150000	14500	76000		155756
7.	Rajasthan	118145	0	621360	0	79767		502229	
8.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	1650000				1598626
9.	Karnataka	0	0	42540	57460			42540	57248
10.	Kerala	0	0	0	5000				4980
11.	Bihar	0	0	0	100000				7663
Total		239145	360628	967650	2366030	132144	290255	922038	2262707

*Includes Offtake during 2002-03 against allocation made in 2001-02.

Food for Work Programme was started in Jan. 2001.

(figures in tonnes)

S. No.	State	Allocation#		Offtake	
		2002-2003 (As on 25.7.2002)		2002-03	
		Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
1.	Madhya Pradesh	88729	22771	49400	3840
2.	Orissa		200000		199410
3.	Andhra Pradesh		1500000		965920
Total		88729	1722771	49400	1169170

Allocation for Food for Work during 2002-03 has been made under the Special Component of Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana.

Regional Imbalances

1853. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that regional imbalances due to non-implementation of the Plan programme and non-utilisation of plan outlays have added new political problem in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering the provision of Article 371 of the Constitution in such regionally imbalanced areas in the Tenth Plan Period including North Bengal of West Bengal and Eastern U.P. of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) Regional imbalances have arisen due to inter-alia, non-implementation of Plan programmes or non-utilization of Plan outlays. The current Gadgil-Mukherjee formula for allocation of Plan funds to States, gives a high weightage to backwardness and poverty. Within the overall allocation of Normal Central Assistance, 7.5% is available for special problems such as regions that are relatively backward within States.

Exports of Readymade Garments

1854. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of readymade garments exported from the country during the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether the export of readymade garments to quota countries has declined in comparison to the previous year;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of readymade garments during the current year particularly to quota countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Quantity-wise and State-wise/Unit Territory wise data is not centrally maintained. However, the exports of readymade garments from the country during the last three years are given below :

Year	Value (in Million US \$)
1999-2000	4765.2
2000-2001	5568.9
2001-2002	4987.4

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The figures of exports of readymade garments to quota countries during the last two years are given below :

Year	Value (in Million US\$)	% increase/decrease over the previous year
2000-2001	3827.4	
2001-2002	3436.6	-10.2%

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

The main reason for the decline are general slowdown in the economies of some of our major trading partners like the US and increased competition from our neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh etc.

(e) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to strengthen and promote textile exports including readymade garments to various countries including quota countries. Some of the important initiatives are :

- (i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.
- (iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been

extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures.

- (iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.
- (v) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with a few exceptions.
- (vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (vii) To prepare and sensitise the textile industry to conform to the ecological requirements of improving countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

[Translation]

Procurement Under PDS

1855. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details with regard to the total procurement under the Public Distribution System during the each of the last two years, commodity-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the price of wheat and rice under the Public Distribution System is directly linked to the support price of these foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) Statement-I and II showing the State-wise procurement of wheat and rice for the Central Pool during the last two marketing seasons are enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. While determining the Central Issues Price of foodgrains issued under TPDS, the Economic Cost of foodgrains is taken into consideration. The Minimum Support Price is a major constituent of the economic cost of foodgrains.

Statement-I

Procurement of Wheat for the Central Pool.

(Figures in '000 Tonnes)

State/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003*
Bihar		43	41
Gujarat			
Haryana	4498	6407	5882
Himachal Pradesh		2	2
Madhya Pradesh	351	294	424
Punjab	9424	10560	9863
Rajasthan	539	676	461
Uttaranchal		140	183
Uttar Pradesh	1545	2446	2111
Chandigarh		12	16
Delhi		50	35
Total	16357	20630	19018

*Position as on 22/7/2002

Statement-II*Procurement of Rice for the Central Pool*

(Figures in '000 Tonnes)

State/U.T.	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Andhra Pradesh	5498	7172	6193
Arunachal Pradesh			
Assam			
Bihar	20	8	9
Chhattisgarh		856	1734
Haryana	986	1477	1451
Himachal Pradesh		Neg.	11
Karnataka	111	229	137
Madhya Pradesh	1102	175	272
Maharashtra	51	36	135
Orissa	889	918	1068
Punjab	6787	6935	7227
Rajasthan	32	27	39
Uttaranchal		42	237
Uttar Pradesh	1421	1173	1684
West Bengal	351		48
Chandigarh	15	16	
Delhi	6		
Pondicherry	9	40	11
Total	17278	19104	20256

*Position as on 22/7/2002

*[English]***Growth Rate of Economy**

1856. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the growth rate of economy aimed at during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether the target growth rates of Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans were achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts of new approach of the Government to achieve the target growth rate during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) As per the Approach Paper to the Tenth Five year Plan approved by the National Development Council, the targeted growth rate is 8 per cent per annum for the period 2002-07.

(b) The targeted growth rate of the Eighth and Ninth Plans were 5.8 per cent and 6.5 per cent respectively.

As against that the achievement was 6.7 per cent and 5.3 per cent per annum respectively based on the later estimates available from the Central Statistical Organization.

(c) The main reasons for low growth during the Ninth Plan period include poor agricultural production, shortfall in public investment and public savings.

(d) The Tenth Plan seeks to achieve the targeted growth rate through a combination of an increase in gross domestic fixed capital formation and an increase in efficiency of resource use.

[Translation]

Special Component Scheme in Bihar

1857. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the Special Component Scheme formulated for Bihar;

(b) the targets fixed by the Government to achieve its main objectives;

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the said scheme during the current financial year; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to promote development of women in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Government of Bihar has intimated that as per proposed Special Component Plan, thrust has been given on health sector, rural development specially Indira Awas Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), education and nutrition programme.

(b) During the financial year 2002-03, it has been tentatively proposed to provide 21.02% funds of out of the total Annual State Plan outlay under Special Component Plan.

(c) Details as per the statement attached.

(d) Special scheme for women such as uniform to SC girls students has been taken up other than stipend scheme.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Departments/Sectors	Annual Plan outlay 2002-03	Proposed flow to SCP-2002-03
1	2	3	4
1.	Agriculture	2632.50	48.56
2.	Animal Husbandry	741.00	130.19
3.	Building & Housing	990.00	0.00
4.	Civil Aviation	100.00	0.00
5.	Commercial Taxes	200.00	0.00
6.	Cooperation	1659.00	291.34
7.	Energy	9101.00	652.01
8.	Finance	81.00	0.00
9.	Food & Civil Supplies	280.00	0.00
10.	Forest	253.00	0.00
11.	Med. Edu. & Family Welfare	1800.00	478.80
12.	Health	10498.00	1678.71

1	2	3	4
13.	Home	1694.00	0.00
14.	Higher Education	160.50	0.00
15.	Pry. & Adult Education	19422.00	3107.52
16.	Sec. Education	1059.00	36.09
17.	Art, Culture & Sports	444.28	0.00
18.	Rajbhasha	100.00	0.00
19.	Industries	1881.00	270.65
20.	Information & Public Relation	106.61	0.00
21.	Labour	258.94	37.65
22.	Land Reforms	2078.00	0.00
23.	Law	1065.00	0.00
24.	Minor Irrigation		
	(a) MI	13444.00	969.42
	(b) CADA	800.00	0.00
25.	Mines	34.00	0.00
26.	Minority Welfare	220.00	0.00
27.	Personnel	550.00	0.00
28.	PHED	4300.00	1640.00
29.	Planning & Devp.		
	(a) Planning	425.00	78.85
	(b) Statistics	350.00	0.00
30.	Road Construction	6310.00	975.52
31.	Rural Development	42790.50	21485.58
32.	REO	66433.00	9964.95
33.	Science & Technology	875.00	0.00
34.	Sugar Cane	132.00	0.00
35.	Tourism	500.00	0.00
36.	Transport	378.84	0.00
37.	Twenty Point Programme	229.95	0.00
38.	Urban Development	5492.00	2010.00
39.	Water Resources	66800.38	10688.06
40.	Welfare	1469.00	498.16
41.	Social Welfare	4274.50	2205.83
Total		272413.00	57247.90

Inclusion of Rajak Community of M.P. and Rajasthan in S.C. List

1858. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the organizations of Rajak Community (Washermen Community) in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have given memorandums to the Union Government to include their community in Scheduled Castes List; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Representation have been received for inclusion of 'Rajak' (Dhobi/Washermen) community in the list of Scheduled Castes in Madhya Pradesh. Matter related with inclusion of this community has been taken up with the State Government for supply of ethnographic material for examination as per approved modalities. So far as State of Rajasthan is concerned 'Dhobi' community is notified as Scheduled Caste at Sl. No. 22 of the Constitution (Schedule Castes) Order, 1950. No proposal for inclusion of Rajak as synonym/sub caste, etc of 'Dhobi' in Rajasthan has been received.

[English]

Modernisation of Jute Industry

1859. SHRI SANAT KUAMR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently announced any package for the modernization of jute industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for the promotion of jute bags to help the jute growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A scheme titled "Incentive Scheme for Modernization of Jute Industry", to be implemented by Jute Manufactures Development Council form out the cess collected by D/o Revenue has been introduced recently. The scheme aims to provide a financial assistance of 15% of the cost of selected jute machinery for upgradation of technology in the jute mills.

(c) In order to assist jute growers, Government declares Minimum Support Price of raw jute/mesta every year. In addition, Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in packing commodities) Act, 1987, provides for compulsory packaging of certain commodities in jute packaging material, which helps jute growers in marketing their produce. In addition, in order to popularize promotion of jute bags, National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) and Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC) are the two government agencies which have been working for promoting use of jute bags both in domestic and export markets by organizing campaigns, fairs, exhibitions, contact promotion programmes, buyer-seller meets etc. Entrepreneurs are also being supported in this regard.

Input-Output Norms for Export

1860. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any additional input-output norms for certain items for export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the input-output norms of existing items have also been revised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The exercise of standardization and modification of Input Output Norms is a continuous and ongoing process in view of the rapid scientific and technological developments and the changing international trade scenario. Upto 31.3.2002 more than 6000 Input Output Norms have been standardized and notified and published in the form of Hand Book of Procedure (Vol. 2). Further during the period 1.4.2002 upto 1.7.2002, 90 new norms have been fixed and 179 existing norms have been modified vide various Public Notices issued from time to time.

Misuse of Export Promotion Schemes

1861. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that export promotion schemes are being misused rampantly;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected during the last three years particularly about the misuse of DEPB and EPCG;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps taken to tighten inspection of exports and imposts from/to free ports, especially from Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (c) Government has been receiving some complaints regarding misuse of export promotion schemes from time to time which interalia include misuse of advance licenses, EPCG, DEPB Schemes etc. In addition some complaints have also been received in the past about over invoicing of exports, mis-declaration, submission of forged documents and suppression of facts etc.

Every such complaint is investigated and dealt with under the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, and Rules and Orders made thereunder. The Customs authorities also take action under Customs Act, 1962 in such cases of recovery of duty and penalty. Enforcement proceedings by DGFT and recovery proceedings by Customs in such cases are at various stages and the position keeps changing.

(d) In order to tighten inspection of exports to free ports viz Dubai, Singapore, Sharjah and Hong Kong, customs have increased the scale of examination of consignments to 25-50% as against 2-10% resorted to in case of consignments destined to other ports.

Ban on Gelatin Based Explosives

1862. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

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

(a) whether on the basis of a request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to ban Gelatin based explosives, the Government have decided to ban only the production and use of NG-based explosives, and to phase out its use over a specific period on the basis of recommendations of Committee headed by Ex-Managing Director and Chairman of a Slurry based Multinational company (IDL);

(b) whether all the explosives namely NG, Slurry and Emulsion based explosives are called Gelatins and cannot be exploded without detonators;

(c) if so, the reasons for imposing ban on NG-based Gelatins only when all the Gelatins are equally safe and destructive with detonators;

(d) whether this decision results in imminent closure of 4 NG-based manufacturing units leaving the multinational companies producing emulsion based Gelatins to enjoy a monopoly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) : (a) In view of the reported misuse of NG-based explosives and the safety/security/law and order concerns expressed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Ministry of Home Affairs, a Committee comprising the Chief Controller of Explosives and the then Chairman, Development Council for Explosives Industry was constituted to look into various aspects of manufacture, distribution, sale and proposed phasing-out of NG-based explosives. The Committee had broad-based consultations with manufacturers, users and other stake holders including NG-based explosives manufacturers. The Committee's report which proposes a gradual phasing-out of NG-based explosives over a minimum period of five years has been considered and accepted by the Government.

(b) and (c) NG-based explosives are normally called gelatins while slurry and emulsion based explosives are not called gelatins. While none of these explosives can be exploded without detonators, NG-based explosives have been preferred by extremist/unlawful elements on account of their longer shelf life. Security/safety/law and order concerns, apart from other technical reasons, have provided the basis for the proposed phasing-out of NG-based explosives. NG-based explosives are also being increasingly phased out all over the world and presently only 12% of the global output of civil explosives is NG-based explosives.

(d) and (e) Since phasing-out provides sufficient time for switch over to non-NG based explosives, adverse implications on the explosives sector are not anticipated. The average consumption of NG-based explosives in India is only around 7 percent and is primarily for specified applications. The phasing-out programme will provide sufficient time and opportunity to move to newer technologies which, while involving some investment, will be in the larger interest of the explosives sector and not have any adverse implications for the manufacturing units or its employees.

UCO Bank

1863. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether UCO Bank has been suffering losses for the past several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) the reasons for losses suffered by the bank; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (d) UCO Bank has been earning net profits since 1999-2000 after incurring losses before that. The details of net profits earned by the bank during last three years are as under :

Year ending on 31st March	Amount of Net profit (Rs. in Crore)
2000	36.64
2001	33.00
2002	198.60

Government and Reserve Bank of India had put the Bank under special monitoring for implementation of restructuring plan prepared by the Bank which has resulted in improved performance of the Bank.

[Translation]

Companies Banned by NSE

1864. SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Stock Exchange has recently imposed the ban on shares business of 24 companies; and

(b) if so, the details of such companies alongwith the reasons for imposing ban on the business of each company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT

GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) has intimated that NSE has issued suspension notice stating that trading in the equity shares of 24 companies shall be suspended w.e.f. June 27, 2002 for non-compliance with provisions of the listing agreement. Out of the above 24 companies, 8 companies subsequently made submission/complied with the provisions of the listing agreement satisfactorily with respect to the issues relating to non-compliance and hence suspension of trading in these 8 companies was not carried out. The trading in the securities of the balance 16 companies was suspended w.e.f. June 27, 2002.

(b) The list of 16 companies which were suspended w.e.f. June 27, 2002 is given in the statement enclosed. The 16 companies mentioned at statement were suspended for non-compliance with various provisions of the listing agreement, such as, non-submission of an audited quarterly results, non-submission of corporate governance report, non-submission of share holding pattern, non-submission of holding of promoters and persons acting in concert under clause 40A of the listing agreement and non-submission of board meeting notice.

Statement**Companies Banned by NSE**

S. No.	List of Companies
1.	Aditya International Limited
2.	Arihant Threads Limited
3.	Bhor Industries Limited
4.	Biofil Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited
5.	D.R. Softech & Industries Limited
6.	Eider Infotech Limited
7.	European Software Alliances Limited
8.	ICDS Limited
9.	Information Technologies (India) Limited
10.	Nath Seeds Limited
11.	Netvista Information Technology Limited
12.	S&S Power Switchgear Limited
13.	Sabero Organics Gujarat Limited
14.	Shreyans Industries Limited
15.	Strides Arcolab Limited
16.	VLS Finance Limited

National Institute for Visually Handicapped

1865. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Institute for the Visually handicapped, Dehradun had entrusted the work of construction of office complex vocational training block, hostel block and staff quarters for its regional centre, Chennai to the Public Works Department, Tamil Nadu in 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CAG has also criticised the matter in its report No. 4 of 2002;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the construction work has since been completed;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the steps taken to get the work completed, in time; and

(h) by when the said work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NIVH had entrusted the work of construction of Office Complex, Vocational Training Block, Hostel Block and Staff Quarters for Regional Centre, Chennai to Public Works Department (PWD), Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.23 crores in 1992-93.

(c) and (d) C & AG Report No. 4 of 2002 (Civil) observed that the construction work was started in 1992 in a phased manner keeping in view the availability of funds and while PWD, Tamil Nadu spent Rs. 64.94 lakh on the construction out of Rs. 100.65 lakh paid, the balance amount was laying unutilized with it as of October, 2001 due to ban on construction activities imposed by Government of Tamil Nadu (1995) owing to the reason that the campus of the Centre was located adjacent to a high security prison. Though the ban was lifted an amount of Rs. 35.71 lakh is lying unutilized with PWD, Tamil Nadu.

(e) to (h) While the construction work of Vocational Training and Hostel Blocks have been completed, it was

decided that the space requirements and cost estimate for the Administrative Block should be scaled down and accordingly PWD, Tamil Nadu has been asked to prepare revised cost estimates which are awaited.

[English]

FDI in IT and Telecommunication Sectors

1866. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has not been able to attract FDI in the IT and Telecommunication sectors during the last ten years since 1991 as compared to other South Asian countries;

(b) if so, the total FDI secured during the above period and how much amount out of that was in the IT and telecommunication sectors and how does it compare China, Singapore, Thailand and Taiwan;

(c) whether the investment in hardware manufacturing and software development was also negligible; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) :

(a) to (d) India accounted for around 76% of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to South Asia during the year 2000 as reported in the World Investment Report, 2001 published by UNCTAD. India is emerging as an important destination for FDI in the areas of Telecommunications and Information Technology.

FDI received in the country during the period from 1.8.91 to 31.5.02 in Information Technology (Computer Software, Electronics, Computer Hardware and Other Software) and Telecommunication Sectors is as under :

Sector	Amount of FDI (in Rs. crore)	
	Inflow*	% of total
Information Technology	6569.96	9.50
Telecommunications	9230.16	13.35

*This excludes inflows against ADRs/GDRs, acquisition of existing shares, RBI's—NRI schemes and advances pending issue of shares.

The total FDI received during this period in all sectors is Rs. 1,19,088.52 crore.

*[Translation]***Demand of Handicrafts**

1867. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of growing demand of handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of demand of Indian handicrafts on Gulf countries and in world handicraft market;

(d) whether demand of handicrafts has increased in Indian markets;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the quality of handicrafts and to promote handicrafts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The assessment of growing demand of handicrafts is made on the basis of export performances. The export of handicrafts which was only Rs. 385.58 crores during 1986-87 has grown to the tune of Rs. 6967.50 crores during 2001-2002. Based on previous year performance, the target of export of handicrafts are subsequently fixed for the next financial year and accordingly strategy is evolved for participation of exporters in various festival/fairs abroad, organisation of buyer seller's meet; sponsoring of sales-cum study team abroad and overseas publicity etc. for achieving the targets.

(c) The demand of Indian handicrafts in the gulf countries is very negligible compared to the demand in EEC and European countries. However Saudi Arabia is the major importer of Indian Handicrafts amongst the gulf countries.

(d) and (e) Handicrafts sector being a decentralized and a State subject, no authentic methodology is in existence to assess the demand of handicrafts in the Indian market. However the only indicator to suggest that the demand of handicrafts has increased is the data available on production of handicrafts (including Gems & Jewellery) for the last few years. The figures are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Years	Production of handicrafts including Gems & Jewellery
1.	1998-99	12175.43
2.	1999-2000	13915.56
3.	2000-2001	16340.44
4.	2001-2002	18676.60

(f) The steps taken/being taken by the Government to enhance the quality of handicrafts and to promote handicrafts are as under :

- (i) Setting up of Regional Design and Technical Development Centers at Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai and Guwahati;
- (ii) Setting up of National Center for Design and Product Development (NCDPD) at Moradabad and Delhi.
- (iii) Setting up a Metal Handicrafts and Service Centre (MHSC) at Moradabad;
- (iv) Training for skill upgradation;
- (v) Design and technical upgradation;
- (vi) Marketing;
- (vii) Exhibitions;
- (viii) Setting up of Craft Development Centre and Common Facility Centre; and
- (ix) Launching of a new comprehensive scheme named 'Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hasshilp Vikas Yojana' which seeks to develop selected artisan clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation.

*[English]***Impact of Indo-Pak Tension on Indian Economy**

1868. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) has observed an adverse impact on the country's economy due to the stand-off between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the said observation; and

(c) the sectors of the economy which have been showing a declining trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) in its latest monthly review of Indian economy (June 2002) has mentioned that political and military posturings by India and Pakistan have vitiated the economic environment in the subcontinent thus affecting the investment climate in the region. Such political belligerence may adversely affect trade and investment in India thus impacting upon broad economic parameters like the Gross Domestic Product, Current Account Deficit and Gross Fiscal Deficit.

(b) There are no reasons for undue concerns regarding the prospects of the Indian economy. The Reserve Bank of India has projected a 6-6.5 per cent growth rate for the economy in 2002-03. Various multilateral institutions (e.g. World Bank, IMF, ADB and the UN) have projected growth rates between 5.5-6 per cent for the Indian economy in the current year. Overall growth is expected to pick up due to sustained growth in agriculture and services sectors.

(c) Contrary to CMIE's observations, industrial production, infrastructure performance and non-food credit offtake from commercial banks are showing noticeable improvements in the current year. Overall industrial growth improved from 2.1 per cent in April-May 2001 to 3.8 per cent in April-May 2002. Six core and infrastructure industries (electricity generation, coal, steel, crude oil, refinery throughput and cement) have grown by 5.7 per cent in April-June 2002 compared to 1.2 per cent in April-June 2001. Non-food credit offtake is also estimated to have grown by 9.7 per cent in the current year (March 22-June 14, 2002) compared with a decline by 0.8 per cent in the same period of the previous year.

A.S. Ganguly Report on Supervisory Role

1869. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have examined the A.S. Ganguly report on supervisory role in private banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact legislation to implement the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (d) The report of consultative group of Directors of Banks and Financial Institutions headed by Dr. A. S. Ganguly set up by Reserve Bank of India to review supervisory roles of Boards of banks is under consideration of the Government. The major recommendations of the Group are as under :

- (i) appointment of one more whole time director on the Boards of large-sized nationalised banks;
- (ii) establishment of appropriate due diligence procedures for appointment of directors on the boards of private sector banks,
- (iii) setting up of Nomination Committees of Boards of banks to recommend appointment of independent/non-executive directors,
- (iv) building and creation of a pool of professional and talented people for board level appointments in banks and also maintenance of the data for the purpose by Reserve Bank of India etc,
- (v) besides above, the recommendations also focus on the role and responsibilities of independent/non-executive directors, their training & remuneration, communality of directors of banks and NBFCs, information flow to/from the Board, Composition of Financial Committees of the Boards, etc.

Deposits From NRIs

1870. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for tapping the Non-Resident Indian (NRI) community to raise through any deposit programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

External Assistance for Dams and Canals

1871. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank and other foreign financial institutions have provided funds for construction of dams, canals and river developments projects during the last three years;

(b) if so, the funds provided by these institutions, State-wise;

(c) whether the funds provided by the foreign financial institutions has been fully utilised by the concerned State Governments;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of projects undertaken by the Government with the help of World Bank and Asian Development Bank, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as given in the Statement-I.

(c) These projects have been signed in March 2002 and further utilisation of funds would depend on the pace of project implementation and submission of claims for reimbursement by the State Governments.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The number of projects undertaken by the Government for construction of dams, canals and river development in various States with the assistance from World Bank is given in Statement-II ADB has not provided assistance in this sector.

Statement-I

(Figures in millions)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Name of the Institution	Currency	Loan Amount	Agreement Date	Terminal Date of Disbursement	Disbursement During		
							1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring	IDA	SDR	110.00	15.3.02	31.3.08	0.00	0.00	4.00
2.	UP Water Sector Restructuring	IDA	SDR	117.00	8.3.02	31.10.07	0.00	0.00	4.00

Statement-II

State	No. of Projects
1	2
Tamil Nadu	2
Multi-State	5
Uttar Pradesh	5
Gujarat	7
Rajasthan	2
Karnataka	3
Andhra Pradesh	4

1	2
West Bengal	1
Orissa	4
Madhya Pradesh	6
Kerala	1
Bihar	2
Maharashtra	4
Haryana	3
Punjab	3
Total	52

One Time Settlement Scheme

1872. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced special one time settlement scheme for small and marginal farmers to cover NPA upto 50,000 in budget 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all the public sector banks to formulate policy, with the approval of their Boards, for recovery of these loans vide their circular dated 22nd March, 2002. The salient features of the scheme are as follows :

- * The scheme will cover all loan accounts with outstanding balance of up to Rs. 50,000 principal amount (excluding any interest element) to small and marginal farmers, which have become Non-Performing Assets as on March 31, 1998;
- * The scheme will also cover suit-filed and decreed debts. After the settlement is reached, the banks may take appropriate steps for closure of cases in respective courts;
- * The scheme will not, however, cover cases of fraud, malfeasance and wilful defaults;
- * The scheme will be operative upto December 31, 2002.

Initial Public Offerings of PSUs and MNCs

1873. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of PSUs and other MNCs have requested the Government for initial public offerings (IPOs);

(b) if so, the details of these PSUs during the current financial year; and

(c) the reasons for the PSUs to go for IPOs when they have surplus cash reserves ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) Decision for raising funds through IPOs by corporate entities including PSUs and MNCs is taken by the corporate concerned keeping in view their needs and after following the procedure laid down by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) which is the regulator for this purpose. In so far as PSUs are concerned, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has informed that Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has proposed a public issue to mobilise funds for financing capital projects and investments in subsidiaries and joint ventures and to improve its debt-equity ratio. Indian OPI Corporation Ltd. has also submitted a proposal to Government for issue of fresh equity shares to mobilise funds for meeting its resource gap. Some public sector banks have also proposed public issues to increase their capital.

Regarding MNCs, 21 companies were permitted to invest in India subject to compulsory divestment within a specified time. Out of these, in 13 cases the divestment requirement could be met with by divesting in favour of Indian parties/joint venture partners of general public or both. In 8 cases, divestment through the IPO route is applicable, the first of which becomes due from July 2005.

As per information provided by SEBI, one proposal for Initial Public Offer from the Union Bank of India has been filed with SEBI during the current financial year.

Department of Mines, Ministry of Coal and Mines have informed that as a part of disinvestment process, they propose to divest 10% of paid up capital through IPO.

[Translation]

World Bank and International Development Forum

1874. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the position of India among the countries obtaining loan from the World Bank and the International Development Forum;

(b) the loan amount obtained by India from the World Bank and International Development Forum during the last three years; and

(c) the projects being implemented in this country with this loan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) India was 8th largest borrower from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and largest borrower from International Development Association (IDA) in terms of

loans disbursed and outstanding as on 30.6.2001.

(b) and (c) India was approved loans amounting to US\$ 3862.27 million from IBRD and US\$ 2683.28 million from IDA during the three year period between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2002. A statement of these loans and credits is enclosed.

Statement

Projects Approved by the World Bank from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2002

Project Name	Date of approval	Commitment (in US \$ million)		
		IBRD	IDA	IBRD+IDA
1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh District Primary Education Project (03)	16/12/99	0.00	182.40	182.40
Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project	11/4/00	0.00	111.00	111.00
District Poverty Initiatives Project-Rajasthan	25/4/00	0.00	100.48	100.48
Immunization Strengthening Project	25/4/00	0.00	142.60	142.60
Uttar Pradesh Fiscal Reform and Public Sector Restructuring Program Project	25/4/00	126.27	125.00	251.27
Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Development Project	25/4/00	0.00	110.00	110.00
Uttar Pradesh Power Sector Restructuring Project	25/4/00	150.00	0.00	150.00
Economic Reform Technical Assistance Project	12/5/00	0.00	45.00	45.00
Telecommunications Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project	6/6/00	62.00	0.00	62.00
National Highways Project (03)	8/6/00	516.00	0.00	516.00
Renewable Energy (02) Project	27/6/00	80.00	50.00	130.00
Gujarat State Highway Project	5/9/00	381.00	0.00	381.00
Technician Education Project (03)	7/9/00	0.00	64.90	64.90
Kerala Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	7/11/00	0.00	65.50	65.50
Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project	7/11/00	0.00	110.10	110.10
Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project	18/01/01	180.00	0.00	180.00
National Leprosy Elimination Project (02)	27/3/01	0.00	30.00	30.00
Powergrid System Development Project (02)	3/5/01	450.00	0.00	450.00
Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project	24/5/01	360.00	0.00	360.00
Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project	21/5/01	589.00	0.00	589.00
Karnataka Economic Restructuring Program Project	21/6/01	75.00	75.00	150.00

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka Watershed Development Project	21/6/00	0.00	100.40	100.40
Rajasthan District Primary Education Project (02)	21/6/01	0.00	74.40	74.40
Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (02)	18/12/01	0.00	151.60	151.60
Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	19/2/02	0.00	140.00	140.00
Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	19/2/02	0.00	149.20	149.20
Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Program Project	14/3/02	125.00	125.00	250.00
Karnataka Economic Restructuring Program (02 Project)	14/3/02	50.00	50.00	100.00
Kerala State Transport Project	14/3/02	255.00	0.00	255.00
Mizoram State Roads Project	14/3/02	0.00	60.00	60.00
Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project	25/4/02	0.00	98.90	98.90
Gujarat Emergency Earthquake Reconstruction Program Project	2/5/02	0.00	442.80	442.80
Mumbai Urban Transport Project	18/6/02	463.00	79.00	542.00
Total		3862.27	2683.28	6545.55

[English]

C&AG Observation

1875. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed the Assessing Officers to take up the cases listed by audit to their Control Registers and issue necessary instructions for issuing statutory notices which have so far been escaping;

(b) if so, whether the C&AG in its Report No. 12A of 2002 on page 94 has brought out this fact; and

(c) if so, the action taken to notice the assesses and break nexus of I.T. officials with them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All such cases have now been selected for scrutiny and statutory notices have been issued as a corrective measure.

Suspicious Bank Transactions

1876. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the changes Reserve Bank of India proposed to the commercial banks to check all suspicious transactions; and

(b) the action taken by banks to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) In order to tighten the monitoring system relating to operations in deposit and other accounts, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had instructed banks in May 1995 to introduce a system of close monitoring, by the branches, of cash deposits and withdrawals for Rs 10 lakh and above. The instructions have again been reiterated in May, 2002. Banks are required to maintain a separate register to record details of individual cash deposits/withdrawal for Rs. 10 lakh and above and report to their regional/controlling offices. Banks are also required to report cases of doubtful nature to RBI where there is sudden spurt in cash withdrawal of large amounts keeping in view the past conduct of the account. Banks are advised to strictly adhere to the extant instructions regarding opening and monitoring of accounts.

*[Translation]***Economic Reforms**

1877. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take stringent steps for promoting and implementing economic reforms in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allocate some funds to the States for this purpose;

(c) if, so the amount of assistance alongwith the time by which it is likely to be allocated; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (d) The Union Government have allocated funds for policy reforms and for fiscal reforms in States. An amount of Rs. 2500 crores has been provided under the Development Reforms Facility for policy reforms in sectors which are constraining growth and developments in States. An amount of Rs. 500 crores has also been earmarked for initiating reforms in the Urban Sector by States. The Government of India have created the States' Fiscal Reforms Facility with an Incentive Fund of Rs. 10607.72 crores for incentivising States towards fiscal consolidation. Under this facility, States are expected to draw up their Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme which address, inter-alia issues of fiscal consolidation, power sector reforms and fiscal transparency. Performing States are eligible for grants from the Incentive Fund.

*[English]***Procurement of Tobacco by Tobacco Board**

1878. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of tobacco purchased from tobacco farmers by the Tobacco Board since 1998-99 onwards, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the prices at which tobacco has been purchased during each year;

(c) whether the Union Government are aware that Tobacco Board is acting in a partisan manner with regard to purchase to tobacco from Karnataka farmers;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to purchase the tobacco on the basis of the States production capacity; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Since 1998-99, the Tobacco Board has intervened in the market only once, to purchase 0.03 M.Kgs. of tobacco at an average price of Rs. 12.08 per kilogram in the year 2000 in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) No proposal from the Government of Karnataka to purchase tobacco on the basis of the State's production capacity has been received.

Computerisation of Banks

1879. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Sector Banks and Scheduled Commercial Banks which have computerised their business as per CVC guidelines;

(b) the number of urban, semi-urban and rural branches of these banks which have been computerised;

(c) whether the Government have earmarked any amount for giving assistance to banks in computerisation of business;

(d) whether computerisation has not really cut down time in providing services to customer;

(e) whether the Government have received a number of complaints at computerisation has not yielded desirable results; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) CVC guidelines regarding computerisation of business are applicable only to Public Sector Banks (PSBs). All PSBs have captured more than 70% of their businesses through computerisation as per guidelines of CVC.

(b) Number of urban, semi-urban and rural branches of PSBs which have been computerised are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Government have not earmarked any amount for giving assistance to banks in computerisation of

their business.

(d) to (f) Computerisation of operations by banks has resulted in better and speedier customer service. Full benefits will become available after conductivity of branches is also achieved.

Statement

Number of Computerised Urban, Semi-urban and Rural branches of Public Sector Banks as on 31.12.2001

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	No. of urban branches	No. of Semi-urban branches	No. of rural branches
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	270	120	35
2.	Andhra Bank	185	128	29
3.	Bank of Baroda	464	364	211
4.	Bank of India	157	48	13
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	152	51	17
6.	Canara Bank	367	311	136
7.	Central Bank of India	339	202	53
8.	Corporation Bank	318	39	2
9.	Dena Bank	219	130	94
10.	Indian Bank	167	83	13
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	263	302	238
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	385	216	94
13.	Punjab National Bank	618	487	424
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	350	91	91
15.	Syndicate Bank	307	288	154
16.	Union Bank of India	367	288	165
17.	United Bank of India	182	107	78
18.	UCO Bank	454	122	44
19.	Vijaya Bank	142	35	9
20.	State Bank of India	1050	787	202
21.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	115	92	13
22.	State Bank of Patiala	119	132	38

1	2	3	4	5
23.	State Bank of Hyderabad	151	146	20
24.	State Bank of Mysore	58	20	10
25.	State Bank of Saurashtra	43	55	8
26.	State Bank of Travancore	82	186	19
27.	State Bank of Indore	101	44	2

Budgetary Allocation for Infrastructure Development

1880. DR. B. B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge budget has been earmarked for infrastructure development and investment promotion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this huge budgetary allocation is being utilised fully;

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(e) the extent of re-appropriation out of this budget and the reasons for lack of full utilisation of this allocation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) :
(a) to (e) The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion is operating the following schemes for Infrastructure Development and Investment Promotion :

(i) "Undertaking Investment Promotion Activities" (Plan) : The main objective of the Scheme is to enhance awareness among the potential investors about the good investment climate in India, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, etc., by conducting/participating in meetings, exhibitions, interactive sessions, workshops, road shows, seminars, printing and distribution of publications, CDs, etc. in India and abroad. The budgetary allocation made in respect of the said scheme during the past three years, viz., 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 funds utilised amount reappropriated/surrendered/lapsed during the said period were as under :

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	Budget allocation	Amount re-appropriated	Amount surrendered	Actual expenditure incurred	Amount lapsed
1999-2000	200.00	61.00		127.79	11.21
2000-2001	219.00		80.00	113.50	25.50
2001-2002	207.00		127.00	75.01	4.99

The main reasons for non-utilisation of the budget allocations fully during the above periods were less expenditure on studies, participation in less number of exhibitions/seminars/Destination India events compared to what had been originally planned.

(ii) **Growth Centre Scheme** : With a view to promoting industrialisation of the backward areas in the country, a Growth Centre Scheme was announced by

the Central Government in June, 1988 to set up Growth Centres endowed with basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunication, banking, etc., throughout the country to enable the States to attract industries. The budgetary allocations made in respect of the said Scheme during the past three years, viz., 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-2002 funds utilised, amount re-appropriated/surrendered/lapsed during the said period were as under :

(Rupees in Crores)

Year	Plan provision	Expenditure booked/ amount released	Amount re- appropriated/surrendered/lapsed
1999-2000	24.96	24.96	—
2000-2001	32.50	32.50	—
2001-2002	40.00	40.00	—

Loan to Farmers, Women and SC/ST

1881. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI have directed to fix certain percentage of their loan to deliver to farmers, women and SCs/STs;

(b) if so, to what extent these guidelines of RBI have been fulfilled by the various banks; and

(c) if not, the steps RBI have taken for completion of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) As per extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all domestic scheduled banks are required to lend 18% of their net bank credit (NBC) to agriculture sector. RBI has further advised all public sector banks to earmark 5% of their NBC for lending to women and this target is to be achieved by 31.3.2004. There is no separate target for lending to SCs/STs. Achievements of public sector banks against these targets have been 15.63% of NBC to agriculture as on September, 2001 and 3.45% of NBC to women as on December, 2001.

(c) Domestic scheduled commercial banks which are unable to meet their Priority Sector/Agriculture Lending targets are allocated amounts for contribution to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) established with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Besides, all domestic scheduled commercial banks have been advised to attain the targets set for advances to priority sector and to agriculture by March 2003.

[Translation]

Excise Duty Payers

1882. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of excise duty payers are about 95,000 in the country at present;

(b) if so, whether 95 percent of total excise duty has been recovered from 4000 excise duty payers out of them during 2001-2002;

(c) if so, the amount of excise duty recovered from remaining 91,000 excise duty payers;

(d) whether the recovery of excise duty has declined during the above period; and

(e) if not, the total amount of excise duty recovered during the financial year ending 31st March, 2002 in comparison to the financial year of 1999-2000?

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

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

(d) No Sir.

(e) Total amount of excise duty recovered during the financial year ending 31st March, 2002 is Rs. 72419 crore (provisional) as compared to Rs. 61902 crore recovered in the financial year 1999-2000.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Adivasis

1883. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any representation to Union Government seeking more grants or financial assistance to rehabilitate the Adivasis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the amount of grant sanctioned to Kerala for the same during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) to (d) The State Government of Kerala had sent a proposal to this Ministry to provide land with houses to the tribals costing Rs. 7000.00 lakhs in order to rehabilitate them during 2001-02. The State Government has been informed that this Ministry had no additional provisions for funding such a proposal. However, the State Government could implement the project out of the funds allotted to them under the Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub Plan, to which this Ministry would have no objection.

Irregularity in FCI

1884. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a reported loss of Rs. 9.05 crore to the FCI due to negligence in storage of foodgrains in the hired deposits of Rajasthan in March, 2000;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been made into the matter and responsibility for the lapses fixed against the officers; and

(c) if so, the result of the inquiry and the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) In March, 2000, the Audit reported a loss of Rs. 1134.43 lakh due to negligence and improper storage of wheat in the hired CAP Storage Deposits in Rajasthan Region.

(b) and (c) The matter had been investigated. On the basis of findings of the investigation, disciplinary proceedings against 2 Category I officials were initiated and penalty imposed. Penalty was also imposed on another Category I officer who was retiring, as per the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission. The advice of the Central Vigilance Commission has been sought on the cases relating to 3 Category I officers. In the case of 77 Category II/III officials, disciplinary proceedings for major penalty have been initiated.

As per the advice of the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Handling & Transport contractor found involved in this case, has been blacklisted and a recovery suit has been filed against the party.

Concurrent Power to SEBI Under Section 55A of the Companies Act, 1956

1885. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs (DCA) has sought a withdrawal of concurrent power of Securities and Exchange Board of India under Section 55A of the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the same?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Share for Tendu Leaf Pluckers

1886. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tendu leaf pluckers, most of whom are tribals in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa, have demanded their share from the commercial exploitation of Tendu leaf and bamboos;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interest of the tribals plucking Tendu leaves and working in bamboo plantation and sale?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received in this Ministry.

(c) Although, there is no specific scheme to protect the interest of the tribals plucking Tendu leaves, the tribal population of the concerned State can avail the benefit of the scheme being implemented by this Ministry for the

overall socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes in the country.

[Translation]

Import of Marble

1887. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries from which marble has been imported into India during the last three years alongwith the objectives for which these imports have been made; and

(b) the quantum of marble in tonnes allowed for import during the above period and the quantum of marble actually imported into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Import restrictions on items are being removed since the early 1990s as part of economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of our International obligations. At present, all the items on which import restrictions were maintained on account of balance of payment reasons are freely importable. Accordingly, finished marble blocks/tiles, as covered under Chapter 68 of the ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import items, 2002-2007, is freely importable and does not require any license from DGFT. However, import of crude or roughly trimmed marble, as covered under Chapter 25 of the ITC (HS), which was allowed under SIL prior to 1.4.2001, has been restricted for imports from 1.4.2001. In view of this restriction, the import of crude or roughly trimmed marble covered under Exim Code number 25151100 and 251512 has declined from 61987 MT in 2000-2001 to 41967 MT in 2001-2002.

Import of crude or roughly trimmed marble, as covered under Chapter 25 of the ITC (HS) was 48619 MT, 61987 MT and 41967 MT during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-2002 respectively. Import of finished marble blocks/tiles as covered under Chapter 68 of the ITC (HS) was 1113 MT, 3317 MT and 11134 MT during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-2002 respectively.

The names of the major countries from which marble has been imported into India during the last three years are; Egypt, Italy, Turkey, Greece, Iran, Spain, Germany, Sri Lanka, Oman, UAE and USA.

[English]

Consumer Safety

1888. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the present thermometers, clinical and otherwise using mercury are a threat to human health and safety when they breakdown;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that many countries have switched over or are in the process of doing this to have thermometers without mercury and other safe material;

(c) if so, the details of such countries;

(d) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any plan with regard to consumer safety;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have ever been approached by Bureau of Indian Standards and other bodies charged with this responsibility on the need for such a development; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated Indian Standards IS 3055 (Part 1) : 1994 Clinical Thermometers : Solid Stem Type and IS 3055 (Part 2): 2002 Clinical Thermometers - Scale Type. Both these thermometers are mercury filled in glass. The specifications have been formulated by a national committee comprising consumers, manufacturers, scientists, technocrats and eminent persons dealing with the subject. While formulating a standard the committee takes care of all the aspects including risk factors, if any.

(b) and (c) Alternative design of Clinical Electrical Thermometers that do not contain mercury has been developed. It is not known as to what extent the non-mercury thermometers have replaced mercury thermometers in various countries.

(d) to (g) In order to protect consumer interests, the Government of India has recently brought clinical

thermometers covered by IS 3055 (Part 1) : 1994 and IS 3055 (part 2) : 2002 under Compulsory BIS Certification under the BIS Act, 1986 through Gazette Notification No. GSR 843(E) published on 9 November 2001. The Notification will come into effect in September, 2002.

[Translation]

Creamy Layer

1889. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether no amendments have been made in the relevant rules since 1993 for determining creamy layer for issuing OBC certificate for reservation on various services of the Central and State Governments;

(b) whether thousands of OBC candidates have also been denied the opportunity of applying for different services of Central and State Governments for the last more than six years for want of suitable amendments in the income bracket;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time likely to be taken in making amendments in the income bracket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) No such complaint, has been received by the Government.

(d) The Government of India is already in the process of constitution of a Review Committee to review the income criteria for identification of Creamy Layer among Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The existing income ceiling will be revised on the basis of the recommendations of the proposed review committee.

[English]

Research Projects for Tribals

1890. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sponsored research projects for welfare of tribals during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of these research projects?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sponsored 29 Research projects during 2000-2001 and 43 Research Projects during 2001-2002 for the welfare of tribals under the scheme "Research & Training"-Supporting Projects of All India or Inter-State Nature. A list of projects sponsored during 2000-01 and 2001-02 is given in the statement enclosed. According to the scheme, each Research Organization has to submit its report within a period of one year. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has so far received the draft report of four research projects sponsored during 2000-01.

Statement

Research Projects Sponsored by Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2000-2001

S.No.	Subject
1	2
1.	Partographic presentation of data pertaining to STs of Madhya Pradesh - A Planning Atlas
2.	Tribal Development Report of Tripura-2000
3.	Health Nutrition and drinking water among P.T.G. of India. An insight into problems & strategies (Bihar, MP & Orissa)
4.	Tribal Atlas of Gujarat
5.	Study on impact of N.G.O run schemes in Andhra Pradesh
6.	Study on impact of N.G.O. run schemes in Orissa
7.	Intercropping of Medicinal and aromatic crops with sisal (Agave Sisalana)
8.	Exploring self employment avenues for Tharus in Eastern U.P.
9.	Evaluation of programmes funded under Article 275(1) of the constitution (M.P. & A.P.)
10.	Evaluation of programmes funded under Article 275(1) of the Constitution (Orissa & Bihar)
11.	Status of Tribal teachers in Assam & W.B.—A comparative study

1	2
12.	Development & change among the Tribal communities of the Kumaun hills—A comparative study of Rajis & Bhotias
13.	Assessment of Potential for bio-diversity based industry and collection and export potential of bio diversity based product for poverty alleviation in (M.P. & Chattisgarh States).
14.	Role of Institutional finance in the economic development of ST. Availability, utilization and impact (Chattisgarh & Orissa)
15.	Assessment of activities of the Tribal Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) (M.P. & Orissa)
16.	Problems of Indebtedness among Tribals of Orissa—A study of Malkangiri & Nowrangpur Distt, (Orissa)
17.	Action research for evolving innovative programmes and evaluation studies for the Development of Tharu and Buxa Tribes in Khatima & Udham Singh Nagar.
18.	An in-depth study on emancipation of Santhal women in the Jharkhand area and their role in social Transformation (Jharkhand State)
19.	The Bedias of Nadia Problems & Development—A micro study for Welfare Strategy (W.B.)
20.	A study of interlinkages between different organizations involved in the procurement and Marketing of M.F.P. (Orissa and Jharkhand)
21.	Study on manner of utilization of S.C.A. to the T.S.P. with reference to existing policy guidelines of Orissa & Jharkhand State
22.	Effectiveness of Education Delivery system to Tribals : A comparative study of performance of Educational Department and Tribal Welfare Department (Chattisgarh & Orissa)
23.	Occupational Mobility and Social change among the P.T.Gs. in the State of W.B.—An Anthropological study
24.	An analytical study on the superstitions, myths and mysteries associated with the practice of Janguru, Ojhaism and witch crafts among the Adivasis of Dumka Distt. (Jharkhand)

1	2
25.	Drought proofing study of sustain agriculture and accelerate economic growth for Tribal farmers in Sundargarh district (Orissa)
26.	Exploration of value addition to vegetable oils (Sal & Kusum) available in Minor Forest areas for industrial application (W.B., Bihar, Orissa & Jharkhand)
27.	Impact of different income generating schemes on tribal & strategies for identification of suitable schemes (Bihar & Orissa)
28.	An analytical study on the Manjhi-Pargana Systems (the traditional local self governance) in the context of the Panchayat Act, 1996, among the Santhals of Santhal Parganas (Jharkhand)
29.	Evaluation Study on implementation of the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) strategy in State of Orissa & M.P.

Research Projects sponsored by Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2001-2002

S.No.	Subject
1	2
1.	Extent of Poverty among the Tribals : An Exploratory Study to estimate the BPL among the Tribal Communities in Kerala
2.	Indebtedness among scheduled tribes—A comparative study between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
3.	Development of database on spatio-temporal dimensions of habitation, resource appropriation and immigration in the tribal habitat of the north zone Eastern Ghats (Vishakhapatnam distt. of Andhra Pradesh)
4.	Processes of Socio-economic Transformation of Tribal Areas under Development Programmes—A Temporal Evaluation in Jhabua District, (M.P.)
5.	A study of problem and prospects of safe drinking water supply in the tribal area of Jharkhand state.
6.	Evaluation of Educational Complexes for Scheduled Tribe Women in the Low Literacy area implemented by NGOs in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

1	2
7.	Research study on the Folk Dances and Music of Tripura (Both 'Barak' & 'Bengali')
8.	Research study on health and nutritional status of tribals in Maharashtra. (Chandrapur and Garhchiroli)
9.	Transition in tribal status and dialectics of development—A comparative study (Jharkhand, Uttaranchal & Chhattisgarh)
10.	Study on effect of extension related components provided under the Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and the National Pulse Development Project (NPDP) in improving cultivation practice of oilseeds and pulses in tribal areas of Maharashtra (Nasik and Amravati Distts.)
11.	Study on Income Generating Schemes for Tribal Welfare : A Comparative Study of the Role Performance of Rural Development Department and Integrated Tribal Development Agencies in the States of Orissa (Sundergarh and Angul distts.) and Chattisgarh (Raigarh & Dhamtari distts.)
12.	Domestic workers in Delhi : A study of migrant tribal women from Chhotanagpur Plateau.
13.	The study of the communication system of the Santhals of Eastern India : An approach in persistence, change and development in the context of modern media. (W.B.—Purulia & Birbhum distt. & Jharkhand—Dumka distts. & Ghatsila, Orissa—Baripada & Jharsuguda distts.)
14.	Evaluation of the sectors of development under the Special Central Assistance (SCA), Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) with special reference to Tipaimukh sub-division, Churachandpur Distt. (Manipur State)
15.	Assessment of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan Projects in Gujarat State.
16.	Professional Education and its impact on Industrialization in Tribal Region—Need for Government Support for creation of infrastructure (Jharkhand & Chattisgarh)
17.	Empowerment of Tribal Women : A case study of Role, Perception and Performance of Tribal Women Representatives in Panchayati Raj Institution in Sundargarh distt. Orissa state

1	2
18.	Tribal Development and Change in the Life situation of the Tribal : A case study of Jamalpur Block in the District of Burdwan of West Bengal.
19.	The Sustainable Development in Primitive Tribe : A case study of Sauria Paharia (Karampahar village, Borio block of Sahib Ganj distt.)
20.	A Study on availability, accessibility to and utilisation of institutional credit assistance in the context of development of tribals in the states of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. (Sundargarh, Phulbani & Koraput distts. of Orissa and Srikakulam & Vijayanagaram distts. of Andhra Pradesh)
21.	Impact of income generating programmes at three micro projects on the Pauri-Bhuyan (PTG) of Orissa; A comparative study distts. of Sundargarh, Deogarh & Angul distt.
22.	Evaluation of Panchyat Raj Institution on Tribal Areas of Tamil Nadu in distts. of Vellore, Dharampuri, Salem, Thiruvanamalai, Villupuram, Trichapalli & Nilgiri.
23.	Evaluation of Tribal Development Schemes implemented by two Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA), namely, Baripada ITDA of (Mayurbhanj district in Orissa) and Midnapore ITDP of (Midnapore district of West Bengal)
24.	Study of Primitive Tribal Housing to ascertain existing housing conditions and suggest appropriate planning and technology options (Srikakulam & Vishakapatnam distt. of A.P. & Koraput & Ganjam distt. of Orissa)
25.	An evaluation of the Government intervention programmes for the tribal development in Tamil Nadu (Salem distts. Kalrayan hills)
26.	Impact Assessment of the Scheme for Vocational Training in Tribal Areas in distts. of Dumka & Chatra of Jharkhand state.
27.	AN Evaluation Study on Utilization of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) in Assam and West Bengal States (Kokrajhar distt. of Assam & Jalpaiguri distt. of W.B.)

1	2
28.	Evaluation of Vocational Training Schemes in the State of Maharashtra
29.	Socio-Economic impact of specific programmes under the Tribal sub-Plan in Jammu & Kashmir State—An evaluation study. (Jammu, Ladakh & Kashmir distts.)
30.	Impact of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Schedule Area) Act 1996 towards Tribal Development in Mandla district of M.P.
31.	Dynamics of Tribal Exploitation and growth of the Naxalite movement in Andhra-Orissa-Chattisgarh Border Region : An Economic Analysis
32.	Effectiveness of Education Delivery System to Tribals : A Comparative Study of Performance of Government Education Institutions and Non-Govt. Education Institutions of Raigarh distt. in Chhatisgarh & Sundargarh distt. in Orissa.
33.	A Research Study on Vocational Training on Tribals in Jharkhand State—Retrospect and Prospect.
34.	Livelihoods Security : A Participatory Poverty Assessment in Tribal Villages of Arunachal Pradesh and Orissa (East Kameng & Upper Siang distts. of Arunachal Pradesh and Koraput & Sundargarh distts. of Orissa)
35.	Removal of Agricultural Backwardness of Sundergarh District in Orissa and Gumla District in Jharkhand State.
36.	Land Reform Programmes and Structural Changes in the Rural Economy with reference to Tribal Communities : An Evaluative Study in the State of West Bengal
37.	Empowering Tribal Women Policy Alternatives for Development (case study of Soliga Tribal Women) Biligiri & Ranganbetta in Mysore distt. of Karnataka)
38.	Contribution of the Non-Wood Forest Products in the Nutrition and the livelihood of the Baiga and the Pahadi Korwa Primitive Tribe Groups in Dindori Forests of Madhya Pradesh and Sarguja Forests of Chattisgarh (2 villages from each forest)

1	2
39.	Socio-Political Development and Modernization in Bhil Tribes of Rajasthan & Madhya Pradesh (Udaipur & Sawai Madhopur distts. of Rajasthan and Jhabua distt. of M.P.)
40.	Impact of targeted public distribution system (TPDS) among the tribal communities : An evaluative study in the State of Orissa.
41.	Functioning of the Tribal Advisory Council in the Fifth Scheduled Areas States : A case study of Rajasthan and Gujarat States.
42.	Efficacy of Governmental and Non-Governmental Development Programmes for the Development of the Birhor Tribe : A Case study of Chalkari Cluster under Bishnugarh Block of Hazaribagh District of Jharkhand
43.	Evaluation of implementation of the Tribal Sub Plan in the State of Andhra Pradesh

Violation of ISI Certificate

1891. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the number of cases detected with regard to violation of ISI mark labels in the various States particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Government against those who have violated the laws; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government to curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Details of the number of cases registered for alleged misuse of the BIS Standard Mark (ISI) in various States including the State of Maharashtra during the last three years, is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) After detailed investigation and search and seizure operation, if required prosecution proceedings are launched by BIS in the Courts of Law against the offenders in appropriate cases under BIS Act, 1986 and Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. BIS also conducts consumer awareness programmes and buyers/sellers meets from time to time.

Statement

Number of Cases Registered for Alleged Misuse of BIS Standard Mark in States/Union Territories during the Last Three Years

State	Number of Cases Registered		
	2000-01	2001-2002	2002-2003 upto 22.7.02
Andhra Pradesh	3		2
Daman	1	1	
Delhi	8	17	3
Gujarat	10	9	2
Haryana	3	1	
Karnataka	2	3	
Kerala	1		
Maharashtra	5		
Punjab	1		1
Rajasthan	2	1	2
Tamil Nadu	—	1	
Uttar Pradesh	5	3	1
Total	41	36	11

[Translation]

Inclusion of Onion In the List of Essential Commodities

1892. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have included onion in the list of essential commodities by imposing restriction thereon;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are intending to include any other item in the said list; 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) Onion was declared to be an essential commodity for purposes of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by an Order dated 29.6.1999.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Purchase of Cotton from A.P.

1893. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to purchase cotton with suitable minimum support price from the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) has purchased kapas equivalent to lint cotton of 4,67,973 bales (of 170 kg each)) under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The purchase of kapas under MSP operations in Andhra Pradesh accounts to 52% of the total purchase under MSP operations in the country.

Transfer of Assets of NISST to ICAR

1894. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the proposal regarding transferring the assets and liabilities of NISST, Mau to ICAR;

(b) the reasons for the delay in transfer procedure;

(c) the fate of the employees, who are already in their position with NISST, Mau after the said transfer;

(d) whether they all to be transferred to ICAR;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (f) The ICAR has in July, 2002 sought certain information regarding financial liabilities to be borne by them in case of transfer and pending litigations if any. The ICAR has also sought a draft agreement to be entered into for transferring the assets & liabilities of

NISST, to it. The information sought for by the ICAR is being furnished. The ICAR has informed that after receipt of the requisite information sought for by it, the matter relating to transfer of employees of NISST, Mau to ICAR would be decided in consultation with the Department of Expenditure.

Special Additional Duty on Import

1895. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have levied Special Additional Duty (SAD) on imports effected through DEPB licence which was hitherto exempt and was providing support to export;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the tax levying is given effect from 1.4.2002;

(d) if so, the reasons and provisions of law in this regard; and

(e) the remedial measures taken in this regard and steps taken to restore the status quo ante as on 31.3.2002 to enable the Government to attain the export growth target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) Customs Notification No. 45/2002 dated 22.4.2002, grants exemption from Special Additional Duty (SAD) on imports effected through DEPB scrip subject to debiting of the element of SAD in DEPB scrip. This provision is applicable in respect of imports made against DEPB scrips issued in terms on 2002-2007 EXIM policy.

DEPB Scheme operates on the principle that on export, the exporters get DEPB credit which is utilised on import by debiting the scrip. Corresponding provision of EXIM policy also provides that credit under DEPB may be utilised for payment of Customs duty which includes SAD. Further, DEPB scrip is freely transferable and it encourages trading.

Prior to 1.4.2002, exemption from SAD was available without debiting it to DEPB scrip. C&AG/PAC questioned the grant of SAD exemption without debiting it to DEPB scrip as it was causing loss of revenue and giving unintended benefit to the exporters. This loss was also pointed out in another Parliament Question. Hence, it

has been decided to grant exemption from SAD subject to debiting it to DEPB scrip.

(e) For reasons mentioned above, there is no proposal to restore status quo ante as on 31.3.2002.

Godowns in U.P.

1896. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 2726.648 metric tonnes of foodgrains are lying unused and damaged in the godowns in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the foodgrains lying in these godowns are more than six to seven years old;

(c) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated for the speedy disposal of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the purpose for which the damaged foodgrains are to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) As intimated by FCI, FCI has 2400.429 MT of damaged foodgrains in U.P. region as on 30th June, 2002.

(b) Out of the quantity mentioned in reply to part (a) above, only 395 MT is more than five years old.

(c) and (d) Damaged foodgrains are categorised into 6 categories, i.e., Feed I, Feed II, Feed III, Industrial Use, Manure and Dumping. FCI is authorized to dispose of these damaged foodgrains at prescribed formula rates. Feed category foodgrains are disposed of for use as animal feed. The progress of disposal of damaged foodgrains is monitored on a monthly basis.

[Translation]

IDBI Assistance to Entrepreneurs of Maharashtra

1897. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by Industrial Development Bank of India from the entrepreneurs of Maharashtra during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of applications approved and those rejected out of them; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by Industrial Development Bank of India to the industries of Maharashtra during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT

GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) As per the information provided by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the number of applications received/approved and rejected alongwith the amount of the financial assistance provided to the State of Maharashtra during the last three years are given below :

Maharashtra	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
No. of applications received	311	369	263
No. of applications approved	220	262	198
No. of applications rejected	90	107	60
No. of applications pending	1	0	5
Total amount sanctioned (in Rs. crore)	4261	5383	4948
Total amount disbursed (in Rs. crore)	3565	4216	4277

RRBs in Rajasthan

1898. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of regional rural banks and their branches in Rajasthan alongwith the names of their sponsoring banks;

(b) the number of employees/officers working in the headquarters of the regional rural banks;

(c) the profit/losses incurred by these regional rural banks during the last three months; and

(d) the measure being taken by the Government to ensure that these banks fulfil the objectives for which they were set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) There are 14 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with 1018 branches functioning in Rajasthan. These RRBs have been sponsored by Bank of Baroda (5), State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur (3), UCO Bank (2), Punjab National Bank (2), Central Bank of India (1) and Bank of Rajasthan (1).

(b) As per information furnished by RRBs there are 175 Officers (excluding staff deputed from sponsor banks) and 234 other employees working at the Headquarters of these RRBs.

(c) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that loss/profit in RRBs are not worked out on a quarterly basis.

(d) The RRBs in the State of Rajasthan have been functioning as per mandate given to them. They have opened branches in un-banked areas and financed small and marginal farmers and artisans in the rural areas besides implementing the Government sponsored programmes. However, the fragile state of the RRBs necessitated initiation of several policy changes by the Government to facilitate strengthening and revitalization of RRBs. These changes *inter-alia* include :

- (i) introduction of Development Action Plan and Memoranda of Understanding (DAP/MOU) on an annual basis for bringing improvement in the performance of the RRBs in a planned way, introduction of prudential norms covering income recognition, asset classification and provisioning norms;
- (ii) diversification of business portfolios and activities;
- (iii) increased avenues for investment of surplus Non-SLR funds;
- (iv) rationalization of branch network including relocation and merger of loss making branches;
- (v) deregulation of interest rate structure; and
- (vi) providing greater role to the sponsor banks in management of affairs of RRBs.

Utilization of Water in TSP Area

1899. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan have submitted a plan amounting to Rs. 413 crore to Union Government to utilize the additional areas submitted for approval;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) to (c) Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution are released against specific projects within the entitlement of the State Governments. The entitlement of Rajasthan for the year 2001-2002 was Rs. 20.00 crores. The project proposal for the development of small-scale surface water resources in the Scheduled Areas of Rajasthan amounting to 413.45 crores was discussed, alongwith other projects of the State, in a meeting which was attended by the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Development of Rajasthan alongwith the concerned Secretary. Since the project cost was much beyond the entitlement of the State, other projects of relevance to tribal development in Rajasthan were approved within the entitlement of the State as agreed by the State Government.

National Institute for Hearing Handicapped

1900. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Institute for Hearing Handicapped (NIHH), Mumbai has made any assessment regarding the hearing impaired people of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated percentage of hearing impairment at the time of birth;

(c) the other reasons of hearing impairment besides the hearing impairment at the time of birth;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch any programme for making people aware in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The non-congenital causes of hearing impairment include prenatal infections, high fever and convulsions, infectious diseases (e.g. whooping cough, mumps, measles, syphilis, meningitis, viral fever & tuberculosis) intake of toxic drugs, acoustic trauma or head injury, sudden exposure to loud sound or long durations of exposure to sounds, ear infections which are left untreated, high blood pressure, diabetes, hereditary predisposition to late-onset hearing loss, acoustic tumours, ageing etc.

(d) to (f) The Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped has been organizing public awareness programmes in various parts of the country on prevention, early identification, intervention and rehabilitation of the hearing impaired in the country. Awareness campaigns have also occasionally been carried out through the print and audio visual media.

[English]

WTO Meeting on Textiles and Clothing

1901. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of World Trade Organisation on Textiles and Clothing was held in the month of June 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India also participated in the meeting; and

(d) if so, the discussions held with the major trading partners in textiles and outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) to (d) In the month of June, 2002, a formal meeting of the Council for Trade in Goods which is a subsidiary body in the WTO, was held on 13th June during which issues relating to textiles were also discussed. Substantive discussions took place on implementation proposals. At the meeting, US and Canada made detailed interventions opposing the two implementation proposals on textiles. India reminded members that two textile related implementation proposals were part of the overall package

negotiated by Ministers at Doha. If the intention was not to take any action on two tirest, the Ministers would obviously have not incorporated paragraph 4 in the decision on implementation related issues and concerns. Textiles and clothing sector was a major segment of the Indian economy and was important both for export earnings as well as employment generation. India hoped that all members would engage constructively in consultations, which the Chairman will hold so that issues of concerns to developing countries are addressed satisfactorily. Some of the other developing countries also intervened expressing views similar to India. Summarising the discussions, the Chairman noted the differing views of members and stated that he would be continuing with his consultations on these two proposals.

Drug Abuse among Women

1902. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government and United Nations International Drug Control Programme regarding the number of women who are more prone to drug abuse in the country;

(b) if so, the number of educated as well as illiterate women who are prone to such abuse; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken to educate them and to make awareness amongst the women regarding ill effects of the drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) A limited Study on 75 women substance abusers, 25 each from Mumbai, Aizawl and Delhi, has been conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, in collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, regional Office for South Asia, New Delhi to examine substance abuse pattern amongst women.

(b) According to the study report, 76 percent of the women users covered were either illiterates or had dropped out of primary and middle school.

(c) The Government is in the process of incorporating appropriate interventions for prevention of substance abuse and alcoholism among women including, *inter-alia*, preventive awareness amongst women in accordance with the recommendation of the Report.

Rationalisation of ST Status

1903. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plans to discuss with some communities for rationalising their Scheduled-tribes Status;

(b) whether some communities are recognized as Scheduled Tribes in one district and not recognized in the neighbouring district as tribals;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to consider representations relevant to this issue?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The notification of Scheduled Tribes is state-specific and sometimes, region-specific, since the characteristics of a community may vary from one region to another.

(d) The Government of India in June 1999, had laid down a procedure for modification in the list of the Scheduled Tribes. As representations for revision of the list of the Scheduled Tribes are processed in accordance with this.

Export of Steel to China

1904. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI AMBAREESHA :

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

(a) the total steel exported to China during the last three years;

(b) whether China has recently imposed a 7.26% safeguard duty on the import of steel; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the export of steel is likely to be affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) The value of steel exported to China during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is given below :

(Value in Rs Lacs)

Item	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Primary & Semi-finished Iron & Steel	1555.50	12040.72	5195.44
Iron & Steel Bar/Rod etc.	0.20	381.83	462.47

Source : DGC&S.

(b) China has recently imposed provisional safeguard duty on 9 broad categories of steel products with effect from 24th May, 2002. The provisional safeguard measure is in the range of 7% to 26%. The duty is on imports exceeding predetermined quota level. Indian exports with the exception of non-alloy steel plates have been exempted from the application of the provisional safeguard measure. In respect of non-alloy plates, the imports in excess of the quota indicated by the Chinese authorities, would be subject to additional duty at the rate of 20%.

(c) It is too early to make a quantitative estimate of the extent of the impact of this provisional safeguard duty.

Funds for Fish Landing Centres

1905. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI S. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals have been received for revision of estimates as against the original estimates and also to release Central share for the construction of Fish Landing Centres at different locations in the country;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on each of above proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Furnished in the statement as per information received from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Fish Landing Centre	Originally approved cost	Date of approval	Revised cost proposed by the State	Details of revision of the cost estimate	Action taken by the Government of India
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Karnataka	(i) Alvekodi	89.53	29.3.1995	202.00	The main reasons attributed by the Government of Karnataka for cost overrun are, (i) rescinding and re-inviting of the tender for construction of the landing centre, (ii) changes made in the design of jetty etc.	The proposal was examined and rejected as the reasons stated do not merit consideration as per the provisions of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major and Minor Ports".

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		(ii) Belikeri	67.40	20.8.1997	141.00	The main reasons attributed by the State for cost escalation are (i) delay in implementation of the project and (ii) modifications carried out by the State in the originally approved proposal.	-do-
		(iii) Kodibengre	55.50	19.3.1993	191.00	The main reasons attributed by the Government of Karnataka for cost overrun are, (i) Non-availability of Government land for development of fish landing centre, due to which an area of 100m x 50m is proposed for reclamation, (ii) the changes in the design of foundation of auction hall, (iii) addition of new items of worked etc.	-do-
2.	Goa	(i) Cutbona	89.20	24.3.2000	416.70	The main reasons attributed by the State for cost escalation are (i) delay in implementation of the project, (ii) revision in the schedule of rates, (iii) addition of new items of work namely parking area etc.	-do-

Negotiable Instruments Act

1906. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering amending section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act to deal with the cases relating to the bouncing of cheques pending all over the country;

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

(c) whether commercial banks and financial institutions had also urged the Government to amend the Act for expeditious disposal of cases; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the time by which amendments in the Act would be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the various committees including Parliamentary Standing Committee of Finance, representations from various institutions and organisations, Government has decided to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2002 has

been introduced in the Lok Sabha to bring out, *inter-alia*, the following amendments :

(i) to increase the punishment as prescribed under section 138 of the Act from one year to two years;

(ii) to increase the period for issue of notice by the payee to the drawer from 15 days to 30 days;

(iii) to provide discretion to the Court to waive the period of one month, which has been prescribed for taking cognizance of the case under the Act;

(iv) to prescribe procedure for dispensing with preliminary evidence of the complainant;

(v) to prescribe procedure for servicing of summons to the accused or witness by the court through speed post or impanelled private couriers;

(vi) to provide for summary trial of the cases under the Act with a view to speeding up disposal of cases;

(vii) to make the offences under the Act compoundable.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Rural Development Schemes

1907. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has allocated any funds for implementation of several rural development schemes in the country during the last three years and as on date;

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

(c) the amount allocated/released to various States

and actually utilized as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The requisite information is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

World Bank Funded Rural Development Schemes/Projects Signed During the Last three Years

(amount in US\$ million)

Sl. No.	Project's Name	States	External Agency	Signing Date	Closing Date	Credit Amount	Cumulative Utilisation up to June, 02
1.	A.P.-District Poverty Initiatives Project	Andhra Pradesh	IDA	12.5.2000	31.12.2005	111	7.611
2.	Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project	Madhya Pradesh	IDA	5.12.2000	30.6.2006	110.1	4.423
3.	Raj. District Poverty Initiatives Project	Rajasthan	IDA	12.5.2000	31.12.2005	100.5	4.538
4.	Second Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Karnataka	IDA	8.3.2002	31.12.2007	151.6	4
5.	Kerala Rural Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation Project	Kerala	IDA	4.1.2001	31.12.2006	65.5	3.523
6.	U.P. Water Sector Restructuring Project	Uttar Pradesh	IDA	8.3.2002	31.10.2007	149.2	5
7.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	Rajasthan	IDA	15.3.2002	31.3.2008	140	5
8.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project	Karnataka	IDA	4.6.2002	31.1.2009	98.9	Nil
Total						926.8	34.095

[English]

Training and Education to Destitute Children

1908. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided by the Government to the voluntary organizations functioning in the country for imparting training and education to destitute children during each of last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether some of these organizations have not fulfilled the prescribed norms for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the name of the organizations against whom action has been taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) A statement showing details of the amount provided by this Ministry under the Scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' to the

voluntary organizations whose activities, *inter-alia*, are imparting training and education to destitute children, during last three years, State-wise, is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Some instances have come to the notice of the Government where organizations receiving grants have not fulfilled the prescribed norms. Action has been taken against the defaulting organizations. A list of these organizations is as under :

(i) Learning in the Field of Training, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) Navodaya Seva Sangam, Jadcherla, Mahaboobnagar, Andhra Pradesh.

(iii) Yuvajana Vinulonda, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

(iv) Zill Vikalangula Sangam, Venukonda Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

(v) Bhagini Niketan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

(vi) Awadh Sansthan, Ayodhya, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98.70	29.08	73.12
2.	Assam	5.71	15.87	6.79
3.	Gujarat	91.41	76.06	58.66
4.	Haryana	0	0	0.25
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.75	5.37	5.96
6.	Karnataka	12.37	27.85	24.90
7.	Kerala	14.00	4.52	7.68
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5.04	00	00
9.	Maharashtra	38.58	71.57	24.58
10.	Manipur	8.06	11.6	00
11.	Meghalaya	00	00	0.25
12.	Mizoram	1.79	1.06	00
13.	Orissa	7.93	10.21	5.52
14.	Punjab	8.55	6.38	23.28
15.	Rajasthan	22.78	12.37	27.42
16.	Tamil Nadu	73.21	56.07	37.14
17.	Tripura	0.50	00	5.69
18.	Uttar Pradesh	74.28	72.09	67.92
19.	West Bengal	187.53	159.82	187.72
20.	Chandigarh	8.59	9.00	00
21.	Delhi	50.35	54.11	37.21
Total		717.13	623.03	594.09

[Translation]

Bank Dacoities

1909. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bank dacoities which took place during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise; and

(b) the safety measures taken to prevent recurrence of dacoities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) A statement showing State-wise number of bank dacoities which took place during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is enclosed.

(b) Security measures implemented by public sector banks are reviewed in the State Level Security Committee meetings convened by RBI. The meetings are required to be attended by bankers and State Government officials including senior Police officials. The committee takes stock of the security environment in the State, steps needed to be taken to strengthen bank security and whenever further improvements are necessary requisite guidelines/instructions are given to banks. Banks have classified their branches depending on the risk factor involved and posted armed guards, installed anti-burglary devices, etc., wherever necessary. Where deficiencies are reported in regard to guarding to bank branches by the armed guards supplied by the State Police, the committee stresses on the police officials to provide adequate armed guards.

Statement

State-wise Number of Bank Dacoities which took Place during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

S.No.	State	No. of cases during the years	
		2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	02	02
2.	Assam	03	05
3.	Arunachal Pradesh		01
4.	Bihar	33	34
5.	Chandigarh		01

1	2	3	4
6.	Delhi	01	02
7.	Gujarat		02
8.	Haryana	02	07
9.	Himachal Pradesh	02	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir		01
11.	Karnataka	01	01
12.	Maharashtra	05	06
13.	Madhya Pradesh	03	05
14.	Meghalaya	04	01
15.	Orissa	07	03
16.	Punjab	02	03
17.	Rajasthan		01
18.	Uttar Pradesh	16	24
19.	Uttaranchal	01	02
20.	West Bengal	14	08
21.	Jharkhand	01	11
22.	Chattisgarh		01

[English]

Sugar In Godowns of Karnataka

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

(a) the quantity of sugar lying idle in godowns in Karnataka without being lifted as on date;

(b) the reasons for the glut in the sugar production in Karnataka;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government have sought Centre's aid to tackle the sugar glut;

(d) if so, the amount of Central Assistance sought; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to help Karnataka to tackle the glut in sugar productions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) :

(a) As per information received from the sugar mills of Karnataka State, as on 7th June, 2002 there was 11.44 lakh tonnes of stocks of sugar with the sugar mills, as against 13.62 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date of the previous season.

(b) Due to high level of production during the last three successive sugar seasons and the current season, the stocks of sugar have progressively increased over these years. The Government have taken following steps for liquidating the stocks of the sugar mills :

(I) Export of sugar has been allowed : In order to boost export of sugar, the following measures have been announced :

(a) Levy exemption has been given on the quantity of sugar exported.

(b) The quantity of sugar exported is treated as advance free sale release and is adjusted after a period of 18 months.

(c) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) @ 4% value of F.O.B. price of sugar exported.

(d) Quantitative ceiling on export of sugar has been removed.

(II) Advance free sale sugar is given to the needy sugar mills.

(c) to (e) Government of Karnataka has requested for grant of advance free sale quota of 33,200 MTs. for 10 sugar factories of the State to clear cane price arrears.

Keeping in view the guidelines in vogue for grant of advance free sale quota, a quantity of 10,000 MTs. of advance free-sale quota was released to the aforesaid number of sugar factories of the State of Karnataka.

[Translation]

New Guidelines for Registration of Companies

1911. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue new guidelines or amend law relating to existing rules for registration of companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the new guidelines/law for registration of companies is going to protect the interest of investors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some companies which came up with public issues since 1991-92 have disappeared from market resulting in loss to investors. Arising out of complaints against these companies, inspections were carried out. Steps have been taken to prosecute the companies and/or their directors. The prosecutions were for inducing the public to invest with false promises and for making mis-statements in offer documents. These cases are non-compoundable and involve fine and imprisonment.

Management Policy for Indian Economy

1912. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate a management policy to improve the economy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the above policy; and

(d) the time by which the above policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (d) Since 1991 the Government has undertaken several reforms in trade, industry, financial and public sectors to improve efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of Indian economy and to induce dynamism to the growth process. These reforms are well documented in Government of India's Economic

Survey published every year as well as plan documents brought out by the Planning Commission. Further reforms have been announced in the Union Budget 2002-03 to accelerate the country's economic growth. These measures include agricultural and food economy reforms, enhancing investment in infrastructure, strengthening the financial sector and capital market, deepening structural reforms, regenerating industrial growth and consolidating tax reforms etc.

Janata Cloth for Weaker Sections

1913. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of Janata cloth in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the weaker sections of the society are not getting the Janata cloth primarily meant for them; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the Janata cloth produced for the poor is actually made available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) to (c) Janata cloth was produced and distributed under a Central Sector Non-Plan Scheme. That scheme was discontinued after the year 1997-98. Therefore, there is no production of Janata cloth under any Central Sector or Centrally Sponsored Scheme at present.

[English]

Impact of Gujarat Riots on Tax Collection

1914. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a serious impact on tax revenue collection due to Gujarat riot;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the economy of Gujarat has been seriously affected; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to revive the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. The tax collection in Gujarat during 2001-2002 has been higher than that in 2000-2001.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The trends in the economy are under constant review and appropriate measures are taken as and when necessary for overall growth of the country, keeping in view the macro-economic considerations and broad policy objectives.

MOU between FICCI and WTO Consultation Centre, Shanghai

1915. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WTO Affairs Consultation Centre in Shanghai to enhance cooperation on WTO related affairs, which affect the interest of two countries; and

(b) if so, the details of the MOU and the precise WTO related issues concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Shanghai WTO Affairs Consultation Centre (SCCWTO) on 11th May 2002 with a view to generating awareness on WTO issues, promoting training and capacity building in this area and establishing a collaborative mechanism on WTO related matters and policies. As part of the MoU, FICCI AND SCCWTO will jointly organize nation wide awareness campaign on WTO issues, undertake surveys to identify the industry perspective on the WTO issues, conduct visits to each others' country to understand the implementation process of various WTO Agreements and regularly exchange information on their respective programmes, activities and projects with a view to ensuring coordination, and, where appropriate, joint action.

Money Laundering Activities

1916. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group constituted by Reserve Bank of India has urged the Government to strengthen the existing framework against money laundering activities in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether the financial action task force norms had not been adopted to check money laundering activities; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) An internal technical group on "Market Integrity" was constituted by the Standing Committee on International Financial Standards and Codes in RBI for making an assessment of India's position vis-a-vis international standards on market integrity. The Report, *inter-alia*, has recommended measures to prevent money laundering including enactment of the prevention of money laundering Bill.

(b) A comprehensive legislation to prevent money laundering, namely, the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill is under consideration of the Parliament.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on anti-money laundering have been taken into account while framing the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill.

[Translation]

Use of Foreign Technology

1917. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign technology has also entered in the Indian industries simultaneously with the foreign capital investment;

(b) if so, the names of traditional industries of the country in which use of advanced foreign technology has been encouraged so far;

(c) whether the use of this technology has resulted in increase in production and has also reduced the cost of production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir. Over 2000 proposals have been approved for both financial and technical collaboration since January, 1991 to 31.5.2002. Apart from this, 7,039 proposals have been approved purely for foreign technical collaboration.

(b) Government has put in place a liberal foreign technology collaboration regime for joint ventures which permits lumpsum payment not exceeding US\$2 million and royalty payment not exceeding 5% / 8% on domestic sales/exports for a period not exceeding 10 years from the date of Agreement or 7 years from the date of commencing production, whichever is earlier under the automatic route. The above regime is applicable to all industries, including traditional industries.

(c) The use of advanced technology results in tangible economic benefits in terms of higher productivity, more efficient use of raw materials, minimization of wastage and cost reduction.

(d) The economic benefit derived out of the use of modern technology is reflected in the level of profitability, which is also dependent on many other factors.

[English]

Norms for Preferential Allotment of Equity by Companies

1918. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to introduce new norms for preferential allotment of equity by companies;

(b) if so, whether the Government have constituted any committee on the subject;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) SEBI has described guidelines for preferential issues for listed companies, namely, SEBI (Disclosure and Investors Protection) Guidelines 2000 which regulates pricing, lock-in-period, transferability of instruments issued through preferential allotment, etc.

Jute Bags for Cement

1919. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cement companies are flouting the mandatory norms on using the Jute bags for packaging their products;

(b) if so, the details of losses incurred by the Jute industry in this regard during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) The commodity cement has been exempted by the Government since 15.12.1998, from the purview of the mandatory packaging orders issued under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Seminar on India's Trade Policy

1920. SHRI AMBAREESHA :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

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

(a) whether a seminar on India's Trade Policy under the aegis of WTO has been organized in Geneva recently;

(b) if so, the agenda discussed and the persons who have represented India in the seminar;

(c) whether our country lags behind the other Asian countries in the world trade;

(d) if so, the share of our country in world trade; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase its share in the world trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Under Annex 3 of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO, the trade policies and practices of all the World Trade Organization (WTO) Members are

subject to periodic review. Under this provision, India's third trade policy review took place in WTO in Geneva on 19 and 21 June 2002 by the Trade Policy Review Body, which is composed of representatives of all the WTO Members.

(b) The trade policy review meeting discussed India's trade policies and practices under three broad headings, namely economic policies; trade policy regime; and sectoral policies. The discussions during this review was primarily based on two reports—one prepared by the WTO Secretariat and the other by the Government of India. The Commerce Secretary led the Indian delegation for this review meeting. The other members of the delegation were the concerned officers of the Trade Policy Division of the Department of Commerce, an officer from the office of the Director General of Foreign Trade, an officer from the Department of Economic Affairs and two officers from the Reserve Bank of India. The officers of the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva also constituted part of delegation during the review meeting.

(c) and (d) As per the data of world trade in the Annual Report 2002 of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in the year 2001, some Asian countries/customs territory, namely, Japan, China, Hong Kong China, Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, Singapore, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Indonesia had a higher share of export in world merchandise trade than India. The figures of exports from Hong Kong China and Singapore also include re-exports. In 2001, India's share of export in world merchandise trade was 0.7% and its share of import in world merchandise trade was 0.8%.

(e) The steps taken by the Government in the Export-Import Policy 2002-07 to increase India's share in world trade include reduction of transaction time & costs; procedural simplification and enhancement of transparency in the export promotion schemes; special schemes for status holders, small scale industry and units located in disadvantaged zones such as North East, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir; special schemes for exports in the country's core sectors such as agriculture, textiles, leather, Gems & Jewellery, Chemicals and pharmaceuticals and electronic hardware; diversification of export markets by revamping the focus Africa, focus LAC (Latin American Countries) & focus CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) schemes; notification of three towns of export excellence and 28 agri. export zones and continuance of the Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme along with the removal of value cap on 429 items. To enhance India's merchandise export, the Government has also announced a Medium Term Export Strategy (MTES) for the period 2002-2007. The MTES makes an opportunity assessment after

examining both the import baskets of the major trading countries and India's export basket and arrives at focus products and focus markets for India. This would facilitate a more favourable trading environment to enable Indian export community to achieve higher growth rates in the global trade. It suggests key macro strategies and sector-wise strategies for India's export growth.

[Translation]

Cooperative Banks Running in Loss

1921. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Co-operative banks in the country are running into losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the State-wise names of such banks alongwith the date since when these are running into losses; and

(d) the remedial steps taken to improve the performance of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), out of the 30 State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and 369 District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in the country, 18 SCBs and 204 DCCBs are running in losses as on 31 March 2001. Low volume of business, low resource base, low borrowing membership, lack of democratization and professionalisation of the management and high incidence of overdues on account of almost stagnated recovery performance have been identified as the major factors responsible for these losses.

(c) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) RBI and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have taken several remedial steps to improve the performance of cooperative banks in the country. Some of these include advising the cooperative banks to prepare Development Action Plans (DAPs), execute Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between the banks, NABARD and the concerned State Government, conducting of Organizational Development Intervention (ODI) programmes for cooperative banks for improving their organizational performance, etc. NABARD also provides assistance to supplement the DAP efforts

of cooperative banks out of its Cooperative Development Fund (CDF) for improving their operational efficiency.

[English]

Identification of BPL Families

1922. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

YOGI ADITYA NATH:

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

(a) whether the base for ascertaining the BPL families has been shifted from the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission to the population of the Registrar General;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of families identified as BPL families in the various States of the country by both the State Governments and as per the population projection of the Registrar General, State-wise, till date;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the effective implementation of schemes viz. Antyodaya Yojana, Famine Relief etc.; and

(e) the total subsidy provided by the Government for the above mentioned schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Does not arise.

(c) The number of BPL families identified by the State Governments and the number of the BPL families as per the estimates of the Planning Commission on the population base of 1.3.2000 is as per statement-I.

(d) The Government has taken several steps for effective implementation of Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

(i) Keeping in view with extremely poor condition of the Antyodaya families, the Government of India has suggested to the State Governments/ UT Administrations to ensure that the end retail price at FPS is retained at Rs. 2 a kg for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg for rice.

- (ii) The State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to identify the Antyodaya families from amongst BPL families within their respective jurisdiction. They have also been advised to finalize the list of Antyodaya families by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions in rural areas and local bodies in urban areas.
- (iii) The Guideline issued by the Government of India with regard to the Antyodaya Anna Yojana

specialy provide that the allocation of foodgrains to the States will be linked to the receipt of Utilisation Certificates to the effect that the foodgrains already allocated have actually reached the Antyodaya families.

(e) The food subsidy incurred on allocation of foodgrains under scheme AAY, Food For Work Programme and Drought Relief Programme for the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II, III and IV respectively.

Statement I

Identification of BPL Families Under TPDS

Sl. No.	States	No. of BPL Household projected as on 1.3.2000 (in lakhs)	No. of BPL Household identified by the State Govt. (lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.63	113.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.99	1.20
3.	Assam	18.36	18.85
4.	Bihar	65.23	61.63
5.	Goa	0.48	0.08
6.	Gujarat	21.20	33.90
7.	Haryana	7.89	7.68
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.14	2.98
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7.36	6.23
10.	Karnataka	31.29	62.80
11.	Kerala	15.54	20.58
12.	Madhya Pradesh	41.25	44.87
13.	Maharashtra	65.34	77.00
14.	Manipur	1.66	1.29
15.	Meghalaya	1.83	1.72
16.	Mizoram	0.68	0.91
17.	Nagaland	1.24	1.24
18.	Orissa	32.98	48.57
19.	Punjab	4.68	4.35
20.	Rajasthan	24.31	23.74
21.	Sikkim	0.43	0.44

1	2	3	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	48.63	65.51
23.	Tripura	2.95	2.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	106.79	105.75
25.	West Bengal	51.79	47.87
26.	A&N Islands	0.28	0.17
27.	Chandigarh	02.3	0.23
28.	D&N Haveli	0.18	0.16
29.	Daman & Diu	0.04	0.04
30.	Delhi	4.09	4.11
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	0.01
32.	Pondicherry	0.84	0.95
33.	Chhattisgarh	18.75	17.48
34.	Jharkhand	23.94	22.21
35.	Uttaranchal	4.98	4.30
Total		652.03	804.95

Statement II*Subsidy of Foodgrains Provided to States during the last three years under AAY*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of State	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.708	168.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	1.03
3.	Assam	—	25.46
4.	Bihar	—	114.675
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.326	77.970
6.	Delhi	—	1.729
7.	Goa	—	0.885
8.	Gujarat	—	44.33
9.	Haryana	—	18.36
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.516	19.16
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	21.56

1	2	3	4
12.	Jharkhand	—	70.05
13.	Karnataka	—	72.14
14.	Kerala	5.243	64.621
15.	Madhya Pradesh	11.451	140.67
16.	Maharashtra	—	201.658
17.	Manipur	—	1.730
18.	Meghalaya	—	3.178
19.	Mizoram	—	2.854
20.	Nagaland	—	2.437
21.	Orissa	—	79.999
22.	Punjab	—	13.240
23.	Rajasthan	6.161	75.337
24.	Sikkim	—	1.063
25.	Tamil Nadu	—	32.080
26.	Tripura	—	7.159
27.	Uttar Pradesh	—	194.199
28.	Uttaranchal	—	9.554
29.	West Bengal	—	86.598
30.	A&N Islands	—	0.689
31.	Chandigarh	—	0.287
32.	D&N Haveli	.057	0.542
33.	Daman & Diu	—	0.161
34.	Lakshadweep	—	0.036
35.	Pondicherry	—	1.02

As scheme was launched on 25.12.2000 no allocation was made during 1999-2000.

Statement III

Subsidy on Foodgrains provided to States during the last three years under Food for Work Programme

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chhattisgarh	—	244.26	386.054
2.	Gujarat	—	83.66	54.487

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Himachal Pradesh	—	13.62	—
4.	Maharashtra	—	9.22	131.307
5.	Madhya Pradesh	—	60.608	178.848
6.	Orissa	—	118.0	180.653
7.	Rajasthan	—	101.36	541.391
8.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	1987.178
9.	Karnataka	—	—	106.267
10.	Kerala	—	—	6.022
11.	Bihar	—	—	120.435

Statement IV

Subsidy on Foodgrains provided to the States for Drought Relief for Distribution to the Drought Affected Families during last three years

Sl. No.	State	Rs. in Crores
1999-2000		
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	7.94
2.	Manipur	3.62
2000-2001		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	235.95
2.	Gujarat	153.58
3.	Rajasthan	146.69
4.	Orissa	34.99
2001-2002		
1.	Gujarat	164.20
2.	Rajasthan	169.13
3.	Maharashtra	255.23
4.	Himachal Pradesh	89.93
5.	Madhya Pradesh	60.73
6.	Andhra Pradesh	313.64

Strategy to Avert Financial Scam

1923. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the RBI to expedite conversion of all Government Securities into Demat mode following unearthing of multi-crore scam involving co-operative banks and broking firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also asked the RBI to draw up strategy to avert such scams in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by RBI in this regard; and

(e) if not, the time by which such steps are likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that it has been, over a period of time, encouraging holding of government securities in the dematerialised mode. Presently, 99% of the trading in government securities takes place through Subsidiary General Ledger (SGL) accounts with RBI for which the Delivery versus Payment (DVP) system ensures simultaneous transfer of securities against funds. Of the new issuances in 2001-02 of government securities, 99.9% was in SGL form.

However, in the light of recent fraudulent transactions in the guise of Government securities transactions in

physical format by a few co-operative banks with the help of some broker entities, it was proposed to accelerate the measures under contemplation for further reducing the scope for trading in physical form, RBI, thus issued a circular on "Transactions in Government securities" on 20th May, 2002, taking the following measures to expedite conversion of all Government securities into demat modes:

- (i) All RBI regulated entities [including financial institutions (FIs), primary dealers (PDs), cooperative banks, RRBs, local area banks (LABs), non banking financial companies (NBFCs)] were advised to undertake purchase/sales transactions with effect from July 1, 2002 compulsorily through Subsidiary General Ledger (SGL)/Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger (CSGL)/demat accounts.
- (ii) All RBI regulated entities were advised to mandatorily hold their investments in Government securities in SGL/CSGL account or in a demat account with depositories.
- (iii) It was specifically indicated that the custodians providing SGL or demat facility must ensure clear funds in the buyer's account and sufficient securities in the seller's account before putting through a transaction.
- (iv) All RBI regulated entities were prohibited from undertaking any transactions in physical form with any broker.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that it has forwarded the said circular to stock exchanges for compliance and to bring the same to the notice of their broker-members.

For non-RBI regulated entities, RBI has requested the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India and Central Provident Fund Commissioner to consider issuing suitable instructions to Employees' Provident Fund Organisation/Regional Provident Fund Commissioners/other concerned entities making demat holding of Government securities mandatory them.

RBI has further taken following additional measures to help strengthen the capabilities of institutions in avoiding recourse to frauds in their operations:

- (i) Urban Co-operative banks have been prohibited from dealing with brokers on principal to principal basis.

- (ii) Prompt punitive action has been taken against defaulting banks and officials including suppression of Boards, levying of penalties and criminal action against officials.
- (iii) Cases where brokers appeared to be involved in price manipulation and other undesirable practices have been referred to SEBI.
- (iv) List of "Do's and Dont's" finalised by the Primary Dealers' Association of India for transactions in Government securities including conducting due diligence on the broker's track record and antecedents, etc. has been forwarded to all RBI regulated entities, Ministry of Finance, Central/Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India for wider dissemination.
- (v) Negotiated Dealing System (NDS), a screen based system set-up by RBI was operationalised with effect from February 15, 2002, to ensure transparency and enable settlement in RBI either directly or through Clearing Corporation of India (CCIL).

(e) In view of (a) to (d) above, does not arise.

[Translation]

Old Age Homes In Bihar

1924. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar to set up old age homes in some districts of the State;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time limit likely to be fixed for setting up of these old age homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]***Electronic Customer Services**

1925. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to speed up banking transactions the RBI proposes to permit banks to undertake electronic imaging of cheques, drafts and other banking instruments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the customers would be benefited by this move; and

(d) the time by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (d) The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2002, incorporating cheque truncation and electronic cheque in the definition of "cheque" has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19th July, 2002. This will speed up clearance of the cheques.

Rigidity in Opening Bank Account

1926. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial background of bank customer and customer profile is to be made mandatory before allowing a bank account to be opened by a customer;

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

(c) the other changes proposed by RBI in respect of private and personal banking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that banks have been advised from time to time to adhere to the prescribed norms and safeguards while opening accounts and to put in place

systems and procedures to help control financial frauds. RBI has instructed banks to be vigilant while opening accounts for new customers. In the light of recent developments, these instructions are being reiterated with a view to safeguarding the banking sector from being unwittingly used for the transfer or deposit of funds derived from criminal activities, (both in respect of deposit and borrowal accounts) or for financing terrorist activities.

Banks are, therefore, being advised by RBI to obtain information about a customer such as source of funds, income and assets and nature and extent of the customer's expected use of the products and services of the bank at the time of opening an account to prepare a 'customer profile'. At the same time, banks are required to ensure that there is no harassment of customers and the customer acceptance policy does not become restrictive in nature leading to denial of access to the general public for banking services.

Nagpur Co-operative Bank

1927. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the inquiries into the Nagpur Co-operative Bank fraud case;

(b) the details of the persons found involved and the nature and extent of involvement; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that during the course of regular statutory inspection by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) of Nagpur District Central Co-operative Bank (DCCB), certain irregularities in the investment transactions of the bank involving M/s. Home Trade Ltd. and a few other broking firms were found. It was noticed that five brokers including M/s. Home Trade Ltd. had not delivered the securities worth Rs. 149.82 crores to Nagpur DCCB. The broker-wise details are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

1. M/s. Home Trade Ltd.	94.31
2. M/s Indramani Merchants Pvt. Ltd.	16.20

3. M/s. Syndicate Management Services Ltd.	16.62
4. Gilt Edge Management Services Ltd.	11.20
5. M/s. Century Dealers Pvt. Ltd.	11.49
Total	149.82

Govt. of Maharashtra has set up a Special task Force for the investigation, which is in progress.

(c) RBI has reported that the Chairman of Nagpur DCCB has since been arrested and police investigations are on. The General Manager of the bank has also since been relieved and placed under suspension by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank.

[Translation]

Company Law

1928. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide penal rights to DCA by making comprehensive amendments in the company law;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the irregularities committed in their accounts;

(d) if so, the details of such companies; and

(e) the action taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No comprehensive modification of Company Law is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Not presenting a true and fair view of accounts or manipulation of accounts is an offence punishable under sections 211 and 628 of the Companies Act, 1956 respectively. In the financial year ending 31st March, 2002, 135 prosecutions were launched under these sections.

[English]

Non-Banking Companies

1929. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of non-banking companies/private banks are indulged in misappropriation of depositors money;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to check the rampant opening of Non-Banking Companies/Private Banks in the country;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against those Non-Banking Companies/Private Banks which are indulged in misappropriation of depositors savings;

(d) whether the Government have instituted a separate department for defaulter Non-Banking Companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that two specific cases of alleged misappropriation of funds have been reported to RBI by M/s Tulunadu Finance and Development Ltd., Bangalore and M/s TATA Finance Ltd., Mumbai.

(b) Yes, Sir. The commencement/carrying on business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution by any company requires obtention of a Certificate of Registration from Reserve Bank of India under Section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

RBI has further reported that opening of private sector banks in the country is regulated under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and no bank can commence banking operations without a license issued by RBI.

(c) The action initiated by RBI against the two companies in question is as under :

(i) Winding up petition in respect of Tulunadu Finance & Development Ltd., has been admitted by Hon'ble High Court of Kamataka.

(ii) M/s TATA Finance Ltd. had filed complaints with the Economic Offence Wing, Crime Branch, CID, Mumbai against the ex-Managing Director, Shri

D.S. Pendse and other officials for alleged fraud/cheating to the tune of Rs. 400 crores by violating the provisions of various statutes including the RBI norms.

It may, however, be noted that M/s Tata Finance Ltd. has not defaulted in repayment of deposits so far.

(d) and (e) RBI has been entrusted with the responsibilities of regulating and supervising the NBFCs; however there is no separate Department within the Bank for dealing with "defaulter" NBFCs. However, 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.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

1930. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total foreign exchange reserves as on June 30, 2002;

(b) the break-up of such foreign exchange reserves giving data on the bank deposits held in foreign exchange by NRIs, etc.;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to reduce interest on foreign exchange bank deposits;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the contribution of the various sectors of economy towards the foreign exchange reserves;

(f) whether the RBI has suggested a lower figure of foreign exchange reserves than the present figure;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the target fixed for 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) India's foreign exchange reserves at the end of June, 2002 amounted to US \$58.04 billion and consisted of foreign currency assets of US \$54.70 billion, gold of US \$3.33 billion and SDR 10 million. The foreign exchange reserves with the Reserve Bank of India, which have been accumulated over the years, represent the net outcome of India's International transactions on both the current and capital accounts of balance of payments. Therefore, it is not possible to apportion the stock of foreign exchange reserves to any single or group of transactions, including the NRI deposits. The total outstanding NRI deposits with the banks excluding Non-Resident (Non-Repatriable) Rupee Deposits at the end of May 2002 stood at US \$19.18 billion.

(c) and (d) As a sequel to the announcement of the Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2002-03, on April 29, 2002, interest rate of Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Banks) [FCNR(B)] deposits have been reduced by 25 basis points for LIBOR/SWAP rates for corresponding maturity.

(e) to (h) The policy of offering exchange reserves management is judiciously built upon a host of identifiable factors and other contingencies. These factors, *inter-alia* include : the size of current account deficit; the size of short-term liabilities; the possible variability in portfolio investment and other types of capital flows; the unanticipated pressures on balance of payments arising out of external shocks and movements in the repatriable foreign currency deposits of Non-resident Indians. The Government and the Reserve Bank of India continue to ensure that, the quantum of reserves in the long run is consistent with the growth of the economy, the size of the risk-adjusted capital flows and national security requirements.

Monthly Income Plan of Unit Trust of India

1931. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
SHRI J.S. BRAR :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the small investors and pensioners who have invested their money in various Monthly Income Plan (MIP) schemes are not getting adequate returns from the UTI;

(b) whether UTI have declared return to just five per cent on MIP (First) and MIP (Second) of the year 2000;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether this return is below the interest of Saving Fund Account and the RBI Bonds; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that adequate return is given to small investors of UTI, MIP schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) According to UTI, it is presently managing 14 Monthly Income Plans of which 9 provide assurance of a predetermined rate of return for the full term and 5 provide returns at rates which are reset at the commencement of each year. Returns for the year 2002-03 in respect of the five schemes which provide for annual reset have been assured at lower rates than in the past.

(b) MIP 2000(I) and MIP 2000(ii) have declared income distribution of 3.04% p.a. and 5.12% p.a. respectively (on annualised basis).

(c) UTI has intimated that lower returns for the year 2002-03 in respect of 5 schemes which provide for annual reset are so assured due to lower earning capacity of these schemes on account of *inter-alia*, higher provisioning for NPAs and prevailing market conditions leading to depreciation of equity.

(d) While the dividends declared for the period April 2002-March 2003 under the two schemes are lower than interest rates on RBI Bonds, the dividend under MIP 2000(II) is higher than savings account interest rate. It is lower in the case of MIP 2000(I).

(e) Government has extended a guarantee to UTI for Rs. 1000 crores against the assets of and cash inflows to Development Reserve Fund to honour the commitment to the investors in MIP schemes matured in June, 2002 and a MIP scheme maturing in August, 2002.

Reduction of Procurement Price of Boiled Rice

1932. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are planning to reduce the procurement price of boiled rice as compared to common rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request to this effect has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the decision of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present as the major part of the current Kharif Marketing Season 2001-2002 is over.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The suggestion of the Government of Andhra Pradesh will be kept in view while fixing the procurement price of levy rice for the next Kharif Season 2002-2003.

[Translation]

Import of Gold

1933. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries alongwith the quantity of gold imported during each of the last two years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to reduce the import of gold; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The country-wise details of import of gold during the last two years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Country*	Quantity of gold imported during 2000-2001 (in MT)	Quantity of gold imported during 2001-2002 (in MT)
Australia	1.050	13.134
Bangladesh	0.00	00.001
Belgium	0.085	0.017
Canada	0.00	0.260
Dubai	0.088	0.143
France	1.225	1.897
Germany	0.186	0.696
Hongkong	0.212	0.209
Italy	0.337	0.236
Korea	0.313	1.220
Kuwait	0.004	0.004
Malaysia	0.764	3.063
Muscat	0.002	0.002
Netherland	0.001	0.00
Sarjah	0.331	0.025
Saudi Arabia	1.083	0.045
Singapore	0.620	23.344**
South Africa	111.018	126.512
Sweden	0.00	0.008
Switzerland	323.47	283.900
Thailand	0.015	0.097
U.A.E.	4.510	18.170
U.K.	91.708	31.980
U.S.A.	4.996	6.313
Lebnan	0.000	0.002
Turkey	0.019	0.146
Spain	0.002	0
China	0.998	0

*In respect of gold imported at the International Airports at Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore through the baggage route, the country-wise figures are not available. The total quantity of gold imported through the baggage route at these Airports during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is as under :

	Quantity (in MTs)
2000-2001	136.12
2001-2002	22.92

**A quantity of 22561 Kgs. of unfinished Gold jewellery was imported by M/s. G.M. Raju Jewellers, a 100% Export Oriented Unit from Singapore and the same was duly exported after finishing.

[English]

China's Co-operation for Multilateral Trade

1934. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether FICCI has sought China's cooperation securing the legitimate interest of developing countries at future multilateral trade negotiations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a five-point proposal for co-operation programme was put forward by FICCI;

(d) if so, whether the China has also agreed to the proposal made by the FICCI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (e) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Shanghai WTO Affairs Consultation Centre (SCCWTO) on May 11, to establish a collaborative mechanism in the field of WTO related matters and policies. During the meeting with the SCCWTO, FICCI had proposed a five point cooperation programme to address the issues of level of playing field for developing countries in terms of market access, reduction of tariffs in developed countries, agricultural subsidy, Singapore issues including investment, competition policy, and links between trade and environment & labour standards. Representatives of the SCCWTO had shown interest in the above proposals but the reaction of Chinese Government is not known in this regard.

Price Stabilisation for Cash Crops

1935. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a project worth Rs. 30 crore or more for price stabilisation and other matters in relation to rubber, coffee, tea, spices, etc. is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Operation of a Price Stabilization Fund is a new concept requiring in depth assessment of complexities in consultation with many agencies such as producers, processors, exporters and financial institutions like NABARD, commercial banks, and economic experts. It will also depend upon participation by willing producers who will be required to contribute to the Fund when prices of commodities are favourable and who will benefit when the prices are low.

Repayment of Deposits of Customers of Co-operative Bank

1936. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the deposits of the co-operative banks are insured by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether under the scheme, every depositor of the bank is entitled to repayment of his deposits subject to a maximum of Rs. one lakh as per the DICGC Act;

(c) whether the small depositors of less than Rs. one lakh have been paid their deposits in case of the General Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ahmedabad, the Ahmedabad Urban Co-operative Bank, Ahmedabad, the Baroda Peoples Co-operative Bank Ltd., Baroda, and the Charotar Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Anand;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the time by which they will get their hard earned deposits back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In terms of the provisions of Deposits Insurance & Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) Act, 1961, the deposits of all eligible co-operative banks, which are registered as insured banks are insured upto Rupees one lakh per depositor per bank. In the event of winding up or liquidation/amalgamation/reconstruction of an insured bank, the depositors are paid

the deposit money upto the aforesaid ceiling of Rupees one lakh.

(c) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the liability of the DICGC in respect of insured deposits arises only where an order for the winding up or liquidation of an insured bank is made or where in respect of an insured bank, a scheme of compromise or arrangement or of reconstruction or amalgamation has been sanctioned by any competent authority. Of the four banks, the licence of only Ahmedabad Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd., Ahmedabad was cancelled on December 27, 2001 and the liquidator has been appointed on January 3, 2002. The liquidator of the bank has been issued guidelines by DICGC on 18th June 2002 regarding submission of the claim list which is yet to be received by DICGC from him. The claim will be settled by DICGC within a period of two months from the date of receipt of the claim list of depositors. In so far as the other three banks, RBI has neither cancelled their licences nor these banks have been taken into liquidation. However, these banks are working under directions issued by RBI imposing certain restrictions on certain banking operations which include ceiling on repayment of deposits.

Co-operative Credit

1937. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether only those States which modernize and align their state co-operative legislation with the new Multi-state Co-operative Societies Act passed recently by the Parliament will be extended the financial package for revamping of the co-operative credit structure;

(b) if so, how many States have taken action on this Act; and

(c) the number of States have been provided financial assistance as required under this law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Union Government have made a provision of Rs. 100 crore in the Budget 2002-2003 for providing revitalization assistance to cooperative credit institutions. The Joint Committee, which looked into the funding mechanism, has laid down reform preconditions to be fulfilled by States and institutions for becoming eligible to receive revitalization assistance. These preconditions include -

- * Adoption of essential features of Model Co-operative Act especially removal of duality of control and conduct of regular elections;
- * Abolition of common cadre systems of Primary Agriculture Credit Society (PACS) Secretaries;
- * Audit by Chartered Accountants;
- * Transparent Human resource policies;
- * Autonomy to Co-operative Credit Institutions.

(b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that five States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi have either adopted or incorporated the essential features of the Model Co-operative Act. Seven more States are in the process of adopting the Model Act.

(c) No State has been provided revitalisation assistance under the scheme so far.

Interest Charged by Banks

1938. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether RBI has asked banks to charge interest on a quarterly basis instead of a monthly basis;
- (b) whether companies had represented to the RBI in this regard;
- (c) if so, whether banks will be asked to refund the difference in interest charged to customers;
- (d) to what extent have banks resorted to unethical practices by forcing their clients to pay interest monthly; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken to check such practices being done by commercial banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India vide its directions dated 9th March, 2002 advised the banks that with effect from April, 2002, they should switch over to the system of charging interest on loans/advances at monthly rates. However, subsequently it was clarified vide circular dated 28th May 2002, that banks

should not compound interest at monthly rates till March 31, 2003 and move over to monthly compounding only from April 1, 2003.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Banks have been advised to ensure that the effective rate does not go up merely on account of switch over to the system of charging of interest on monthly basis.

(d) The interest is being charged as per RBI guidelines only.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Entry of Dalits in Temples

1939. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the entry of dalits in some temples is prohibited in the country even today;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any steps to uproot the caste system;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reasons for not uprooting the caste system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) As per provision under Section 3 to the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, whoever on the ground of "untouchability" prevents any person from entering any place of public worship which is open to other persons professing the same religion, is liable for punishment for a term not less than one month and also with fine not less than Rupees One Hundred. This is a Central Legislation extending to the whole of India and implemented by the State Government/ Union territory Administrations.

Following steps are taken to eradicate untouchability:

- (i) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Government on 50 : 50 basis and to Union Territory Administrations on 100% basis for

implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and taking measures such as provision of legal aid, appointment of officers for initiating or exercising supervision over prosecution, setting up of Committees and Special Courts, conducting periodic suryes etc.

- (ii) Assistance for holding of Sabdhavana Shivirs and inceptive for inter caste marriage are also extended for promoting social harmony and removal of untouchability.
- (iii) State Government/UT Administrations have been requested to accord priority to implementation of the protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and extend required assistance for ensuring that there is no discrimination on the ground of caste.
- (iv) State Government where tendency of cases, is high have also been requested to set up exclusive Special Courts for expeditions disposal of cases registered under the Act.
- (v) Reservation of posts in Government services, by mainstreaming the Scheduled Castes is a major factor in this direction.
- (vi) The Central Government has adopted a Budgeting pattern in which concerned Ministries have a Special Component Plan, which is for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and their upliftment.
- (vii) The Government has appointed the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which look into the problems of the Scheduled Castes. There is also the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, which provides institutional finance to Scheduled Castes at concessional rate of interest and also looks after organizing training for skill and entrepreneurship development.

[English]

Patent Granted to Indian Innovations

1940. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the United States Patent and Trade Office has granted patents for some Indian innovations recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some innovations are pending with the United States Patent and Trade Office for patents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to take up the matter with the patent authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) :

(a) to (e) Patents are granted under the sovereign prerogative of countries according to their respective patent laws and have territorial effect, that is, they are effective only in the country of grant. Applications for patents are made and pursued by inventors, including Indian inventors, in different countries as per the patent law of country concerned, depending upon the interests of inventors.

Information about patents being granted by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and applications pending with that office is not maintained. The information about grant of patents is published by patent offices concerned. As and when information is received about patents being obtained on certain items which are not considered patentable and which affect Indian interests, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of such patents can be challenged under the patent laws of the country concerned.

[Translation]

Training and Rehabilitation of Handicapped

1941. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the assistance provided and work undertaken in the field of education, training and rehabilitation of physically and mentally handicapped persons during the last three years in the country;

(b) the State-wise details of beneficiaries in the said period; and

(c) the schemes launched or proposed to be launched by the Government for the welfare of physically and mentally handicapped persons during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The National Institutes for disabilities run several programmes including

special schools, rehabilitation services and vocational training programmes. Besides, under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for persons with Disabilities and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of aids and Appliances (ADIP) Non-Governmental Organizations are providing education, training and rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities. The beneficiaries during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are 5.76 lakhs, 6.43 lakhs and 6.47 lakhs respectively.

(c) A new programme entitled 'National Scholarships for Persons With Disabilities' is being started during 2002-2003 in addition to the existing schemes and programmes being run for the persons with disabilities.

[English]

Revival of Regional Rural Banks

1942. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a report of the Committee set up to review Regional Rural Banks operations and revival under the Chairmanship of Chalaphi Rao;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, time by which Committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether the Government have cleared the merger of three RRBs in Maharashtra sponsored by Central Bank of India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The report is likely to be submitted shortly by the Working Group.

(d) to (f) The proposal submitted by Central Bank of India for merger of its three Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) namely Akola Gramin Bank, Yavatmal Gramin Bank and Buldhana Gramin Bank in the State of Maharashtra has been agreed to in principle. The merger of geographically

contiguous RRBs will result in improving their viability and better operational and managerial control.

NPA's of Financial Institutions

1943. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total NPA of Public Sector financial institutions during each of the last three years and upto March 31, 2002;

(b) the number of companies involved in these NPAs, State-wise; and

(c) the mechanism has been adopted by the FIs to realise the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) As per the information provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), NPAs of Public Sector Financial Institutions during the last three years are as under:

	(Rs. in crore)		
Financial Institution	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
IDBI	7675	8370	6500
IIBI	658	625	539
EXIM Bank	374	407	448
SIDBI	197	174	382

(b) The information in respect of the number of companies involved in these NPAs as on 31 March, 2002, State-wise, will be collected and laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(c) Government of India and RBI have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and filing of suits in Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs). On 21st June, 2002, Government has promulgated The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Ordinance, 2002 to facilitate foreclosure and enforcement of securities in cases of default in banks and financial institutions to realize their dues.

FERA Violation

1944. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to probe FERA violation involving 4000 crores against the corporates and trading firms;

(b) if so, the names of the corporate/firms so far identified for the violation;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such corporate/firms; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such violation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1973 was repealed and replaced by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 with effect from 1st June 2000. However, by virtue of the provisions of sections 49 (3) and 49 (4) of the FEMA, cases registered under the FERA up to 31st May 2000 were processed in accordance with the relevant provisions of FERA upto 31st May 2002. During the period of operation of the FERA, 1973, no violation of its provisions involving an amount of Rs. 4000 crore by corporates and trading firms has come to the notice of the Directorate of Enforcement.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Unspent Budget

1945. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unspent provisions in the budget of the Government has totalled to Rs. 1,38,164.89 crore and there was an unspent budget of most of the ministries during 2000-01 to Rs. 4446.47;

(b) if so, the reasons for the sharp increase in the unspent provisions as compared to the sanctioned provisions;

(c) the reasons for not correcting the wrongs that lead to such huge unspent provisions in the budget;

(d) whether there is any proposal to fix the accountability and responsibility of the officials charged with unrealistic budgetary assumptions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Out of total savings of Rs. 1,38,164.89 crore as reflected in Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for the year 2000-01, savings to the extent of Rs. 85,254.98 crore was from the Appropriation 'Repayment of debt' and Rs. 38,658.30 crore was from the Grant 'Transfer to States and Union Territory Governments'. As the net expenditure in respect of appropriation 'Repayment of debt' is "Nil", savings under this appropriation should not be treated as savings in normal sense. The savings under the grant 'Transfer to State and Union Territory Governments' was on account of a revised accounting procedure adopted from the year 2000-01 on the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission.

(c) to (e) In view of (a) and (b) above, budgetary assumptions may not be considered unrealistic.

Scholarship for Tribal Students

1946. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some irregularities/shortcomings have been found in pre-matric/post-matric scholarship scheme for students belonging to STs;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to regulate the proper and timely disbursement of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships to the tribal students in each State; and

(d) if so, the guidelines issued to the State Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements a Post Matric Scholarship scheme for students belonging to STs. Two cases of irregularities in the disbursement of Scholarships to ST students in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the provisions contained in the 'Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships to

the Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for studies in India", the "Government of the State/Union Territory Administration, to which they belong, in accordance with the procedure laid down by them in this regard, will pay the scholarship money to the selected students." Therefore, the guidelines etc. are decided by the State Government/UT Administrations concerned themselves.

Welfare Schemes for SC/ST/OBC

1947. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any machinery to monitor the progress of the various schemes mooted for the welfare and development of SC/ST/OBCs and economically poor sections of the society; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives achieved under these schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs implement Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes through State Government/UT Administrations and NGOs. The progress of implementation of these schemes is monitored through a mechanism comprising periodical progress reports submitted by the implementing agencies and inspection/evaluation and recommendation by the nodal Departments of the State Governments, Inspection Teams/institutions designated by the Ministries, as well as the apex bodies/National Institutes etc. The grants for the on-going programmes are released after taking into account the performance report, audited accounts and utilization certificates in respect of grant released during the preceding years.

(b) Requisite State-wise details of achievements under the schemes for the welfare and development of SC/ST/OBCs during the last three years are given in the Annual Reports 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

National Institutes for Disability

1948. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the various National Institutes in the country working for various aspects of "Disability" in the area of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR):

(b) whether any campaigns have been undertaken by these institutes in educating and creating awareness among the disabled; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The National Institutes for disabilities working under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment undertake manpower development & research and provide rehabilitation services in their respective fields. The outreach programmes of the National Institutes are organized through camps where assessment, certification of disability, supply of aids & appliances, vocational guidance, counseling & awareness generation are taken up to facilitate community based rehabilitation.

Shortcomings revealed in Transport Subsidy Scheme

1949. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether review of the Transport Subsidy Scheme revealed several serious shortcomings leading to irregular and excess reimbursements to industrial units;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (e) The matter relating to review of Transport Subsidy Scheme for the year 1994-95 to 1999-2000 arising from the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General for the year ended March 2000, is under consideration of Public Accounts Committee of Parliament. The said Report of C&AG has been presented in Parliament on 10.8.2001.

Bank Interest Rates

1950. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news article captioned "Mera Loot Mahaan" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated 13.7.2002;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the rate of interest to small subscribers has been reduced in the banks etc. to help provide loan to industrialists at lesser rate of interest; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to increase the rate of interest on deposits by small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news article in the *Indian Express* dated 13.7.2002 mainly focused on the issue of Non-Performing Assets of Banks and Financial Institutions.

(c) Government of India and RBI have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of dues which include evolving and implementation recovery policy, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and filing of suits in Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs). On 21st June, 2002, Government has promulgated "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Ordinance, 2002" to facilitate foreclosure and enforcement of securities in cases of default in banks and financial institutions to realize their dues.

(d) and (e) Since RBI has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakhs with effect from 18th October 1994, the rate of interest on advances are determined by the banks themselves. Banks have also been advised on 19th October 1996 to announce maximum spreads over Prime Lending Rate (PLR) (being the minimum lending rate charged by banks in respect of credit limits over Rs. 2 lakhs to the best borrowers). For credit limits upto Rs. 2 lakh, banks have been asked to charge interest at the rate not exceeding PLR.

With effect from 22 October 1997, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given freedom to commercial banks to fix their own interest rates on domestic term deposits of various maturities with prior approval of respective Board of Directors/Asset Liability Management Committee (ALCO). However, banks cannot discriminate in the matter of rate of interest paid on deposits, between one depositor and another. Exceptions have been given in respect of deposits received from Senior Citizens, bulk deposits of greater than Rs. 15.00 lakh and bank's staff members etc.

Audit of Companies

1951. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have double check on the Indian Companies who are hiring only private chartered accountants, by authorising cross check by CAG as a deterrent;

(b) if so, whether despite clear Government directions by an Act of Parliament for checks involving Consolidated Funds of India, bodies like NDDB have defied the Government orders for statutory auditing by CAG;

(c) whether any other institutions have also failed to submit themselves for such audit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such defiance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) The matter regarding audit of NDDB by CAG is sub-judice. The matter is being heard in New Delhi High Court.

(c) to (e) If any institutions or bodies do not comply with the requirements of law regarding audit, appropriate action can be taken against them under the relevant laws.

Cultivation of Tea

1952. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the area under tea cultivation in each State as on June 30, 2002;

(b) whether Tea Board is pushing for an increase in production of Darjeeling tea as means for reducing costs;

(c) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to bring more land into cultivation to increase tea production;

(d) if so, the details of the study alongwith its recommendations; and

(e) the details regarding the estates surveyed and the total land available for cultivable purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Information on the area under tea cultivation in each State as on 30th June, 2002 is not available. However, estimated State-wise area under tea cultivation as on 31.12.2000 is as follows:

States	Area under tea (in Hectares)
Assam	267392
West Bengal	109690
Tripura	6623
Arunachal Pradesh	2176
Manipur	907
Sikkim	296
Nagaland	1214
Meghalaya	351
Mizoram	391
Uttar Pradesh	1068
Himachal Pradesh	2325
Bihar	1350
Orissa	214
Tamil Nadu	74331
Kerala	36762
Karnataka	2106
Total	507196

(b) Tea Board has stressed the need for improvement in productivity of tea in Darjeeling with quality improvement through long term development measures and through improved manufacturing techniques.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. A Techno Economic Survey of Darjeeling Tea Industry was undertaken by the Tea Board during 1998-99 to look into the various problems of Darjeeling tea industry based on an on-the-spot study of suitably selected sample gardens. The main problems identified were over-aged bushes, low productivity, declining profitability, lack of uprooting and replanting, top soil erosion, lack of adequate finance etc. The recommendations made in the Survey include extension planting & replanting, suitable infilling programmes, uprooting and replanting programme in low yielding estates, rejuvenation and consolidation with inter-row

planting, judicious application of herbicides, adoption of latest R&D in field & cultural practices for qualitative upgradation and growth of production, upgradation of processing and packaging machinery, measures to enhance labour productivity, greater emphasis on essential field operations specially in small tea estates and improvement of basic infrastructural facilities. It has also recommended that generic promotion of Darjeeling tea in India should be initiated to increase domestic consumption of such teas. A sample of 46 tea estates representing 54% of the total number of tea estates were chosen for the purpose of the Survey. The sample was done by statistical method with proportional representation of various holding sizes and status of ownership. The Survey revealed that on an average, 49% of the total grant area was available for cultivation.

Marine Export to Japan

1953. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether demand from Japan for Black Tiger prawn/shrimp has picked up in the last three months;

(b) if so, whether MPEDA is monitoring quality and other aspects of marine exports in this regard;

(c) whether about 250 tonnes of black tiger prawn is being packed for export every day from Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether there is any possibility of increasing such exports from Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details of steps proposed by MPEDA to sustain a high level of exports of tiger prawns from Visakhapatnam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) As per the provisional export figures, the exports of Black Tiger Shrimp to Japan during the last three months as compared to the corresponding period of last year, has shown negative growth.

(b) The Marine Export Development Authority (MPEDA) with the help of Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) has laid down standard for handling and processing of marine products. The EIC monitors quality aspects of export consignment of marine products.

(c) to (e) The State-wise figures of marine products processed are not maintained. However, the export of Black Tiger Prawn/Shrimp from Visakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh during 2001-02 had been about 17783

tonnes. There are possibilities of increasing such exports from Andhra Pradesh, MPEDA has been extending financial assistance to the exporters of Prawn/Shrimp, including those from Visakhapatnam, through various schemes like new farm development, setting up commercial hatcheries, setting up PCR Labs in hatcheries for diseases diagnosis, effluent treatment system in shrimp farms and establishment of chill room facilities in shrimp/prawn farming areas etc.

Unclaimed Money of Financial Institutions

1954. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated total of unclaimed deposits with the Financial Institutions as on June 30, 2002, Financial Institution-wise;

(b) whether the process of claim is very cumbersome; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to simplify the process of setting of unclaimed deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[*Translation*]

Impact of Foreign Businessmen on Domestic Industries

1955. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :
SHRI V. VETRISILVAN :

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

(a) whether the facilities provided to foreign businessmen are posing danger to the domestic industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the losses suffered by the domestic industries so far on this account during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government to save the domestic industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) : (a) to (d) Foreign businessmen do not get any preferential treatment as compared to domestic investors. There is a level playing field for both domestic and foreign investors. The entry of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has made the domestic industry more competitive in terms of productivity, technology, etc. Besides, many domestic players are entering into financial/technical collaboration, strategic alliance, etc., with foreign companies. Nearly, 80% Foreign Direct Investment approvals are for joint ventures.

Export of Wheat to Egypt

1956. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have exported durum wheat to Egypt;

(b) if so, the quantum of durum wheat exported during each of the last two years, till date alongwith the value and transportation cost involved in the export; and

(c) the quantity of durum wheat lying in the Food Corporation of India godowns at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) to (c) Wheat from the Central Pool is being exported to various countries including Egypt. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures wheat to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) and does not make variety-wise purchase. The wheat procured by the FCI is being offered for export purposes.

[*English*]

Income Tax Assesseees

1957. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of income tax assesseees in Kamataka Circle;

(b) the number of assesseees who have applied for refunds during 2000-2001 in Kamataka;

(c) the amount of refund disursed during 2000-2001 in Kamataka Circle;

(d) whether there is any proposal to re-introduce (ECS) Electronic Clearance System to avoid delay in refunds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total number of Income-tax assesseees in Karnataka and Goa Region as on 30th June, 2002 is 17.49 lakhs.

(b) Refunds is a countinuous process. The total number of refunds issued during the year 2000-2001 is 2,13,374 in Karnataka and Goa Region.

(c) The amount of refund disbursed during 2000-2001 in Karnataka and Goa Region is Rs. 586.71 crores.

(d) and (e) The Electronic Clearing System (ECS) is already in vogue in respect of salaried assesseees in Bangalore city for the last three years.

Merger of RRBs

1958. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Working Group on Amendment of RRB Act, 1976 with regard to the merger of Regional Rural Banks is under the active consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the RRBs in the country which are running into losses;

(d) the names of such RRBs;

(e) whether the Government are also considering the execution of revival plan for loss making RRBs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) The Working Group constituted by Government to review the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 is yet to submit its report.

(c) and (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that 26 RRBs have

incurred losses as on 31st March, 2001. A statement showing the loss making RRBs is enclosed.

(e) and (f) The Government has advised the sponsor banks to evolve strategic plans for revival for loss making RRBs. Several policy changes have also been initiated to facilitate strengthening and revitalization of RRBs which *inter-alia* include recapitalisation, introduction of Development Action Plan and Memoranda of Understanding on an annual basis for bringing improvement in the performance of the RRBs in a planned way, introduction norms, diversification of business portfolio and activities etc.

Statement

Names of the loss Making Regional Rural Banks as on 31st March, 2001

1. Ellaquai Dehati Bank
2. Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank
3. Arvali Kshetriya Gramin Bank
4. Mewar Anchalik Gramin Bank
5. Arunachal Gramin Bank
6. Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank
7. Manipur Rural Bank
8. Tripura Gramin Bank
9. Champaran Kshetriya Gramin Bank
10. Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank
11. Nalanda Gramin Bank
12. Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank
13. Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank
14. Puri Gramya Bank
15. Bolangir Anchalik Gramin Bank
16. Cuttack Gramya Bank
17. Balasore Gramya Bank
18. Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank
19. Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank
20. Jhabua Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank
21. Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank
22. Shahbol Kshetriya Gramin Bank

23. Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank
24. Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank
25. Rani Lakshmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank
26. Bhandara Gramin Bank

[*Translation*]

**Evasion of Customs Duty by
Reliance Industry**

1959. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of customs duty evasion worth several crores of rupees are lying pending for adjudication since many years against the Reliance Industry;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the adjudication process; and

(c) the time by which these cases are likely to be adjudicated?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Attaching of Property of Narcotics Dealers

1960. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the property, vehicles and Indian and foreign currency of drug dealers attached by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) during the last three years;

(b) the rent paid by the NCB to various agencies for storing the contraband so attached during the aforesaid period; and

(c) the steps taken for the early disposal of the attached property, seized goods, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Meeting of Governors of Asian
Development Bank**

1961. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level meeting of the Asian Finance Ministers was held in Shanghai, China, in May this year as a part of the 35th Annual meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank (ADB);

(b) if so, whether any long term action Plan, targeting the likely economic scenario and problems to be faced by the Asia in 2015 was discussed and worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the role contemplated for India under the Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Foreign Investors

1962. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign investors who invests in India use to get a return by way of tax free dividend prior to Finance Act, 2002;

(b) if so, the whether the Finance Act, 2002 has levied tax on such return;

(c) if so, whether the Government's objective to woo foreign investors is likely to suffer a major set-back due to this position;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to woo foreign investors to invest in India and make it more investors' friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Prior to amendment made through Finance Act, 2002 any amount declared, distributed or paid by way of dividends by an Indian company was charged to additional income-tax at the rate of 10%. Through Finance Act, 2002, the incidence of tax has been shifted on to the shareholder receiving the dividends and accordingly will be taxed either at the rate of 20% or the rate mentioned in the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements, whichever is lower, and the foreign investor will get the credit of tax withheld in India in his own country.

(c) No Sir, in view of the answer to parts (a) and (b) above.

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

(e) With a view to attracting more FDI, the Government have already put in place a liberal, transparent and investor friendly FDI policy where most activities fall on automatic route for FDI up to 100% except a small list.

Inspection of Export Firms

1963. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of exporting firms inspected by the Export Inspection Council during 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(b) the total number of exporting firms blacklisted by EIC so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any action against the blacklisted firms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) set up under the administrative and technical control of the Export Inspection Council (EIC) inspected 492 and 441 exporting firms during 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively in connection with quality control and pre-shipment inspection.

(b) Export Inspection Council/Export Inspection Agencies are not empowered to blacklist the exporting

firms. However, the complaints against these firms are attended to as per the established procedure.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Additional Grants to Bihar

1964. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has reviewed the memorandum seeking additional grants by Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) Planning Commission has set up a Bihar Cell under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman for considering assistance to the new State of Bihar. A separate economic package for Bihar is currently under active consideration of the Planning Commission.

[English]

Ceiling for Portfolio Investment

1965. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made certain amendments in FEMA Regulation during 2001 and issued guidelines to enhance the aggregate ceiling for portfolio investment by Foreign Institutional Investors from 40 percent to 49 percent of the issued and paid up capital of Indian company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the capital market has been benefited by increasing this limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Consequent to the announcement made in the Budget Speech 2001-02, the Indian companies were permitted to enhance the normal aggregate portfolio investment limit from 24% to 4% under specified special procedure. In September, 2001, the

upper limit of 49% was further raised upto the applicable Sectoral Cap levels, under specified special procedure.

(c) While several factors influence the marked trends/sentiments, the above measures also could enhance the liquidity in the secondary markets.

[Translation]

**C&AG Observation on Non-Adherence
of I.T. Act, 1961**

1966. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been mentioned in the report number 12 of 2002 of Comptroller and Auditor General of India that there has been a mistake in granting permission for deduction of profit earned on account of service rendered to foreign tourist;

(b) if so, whether non-adherence of provisions of Income Tax Act, 1961 during assessment year 1989-90 led to less tax collection to the tune of Rs. 97.49 lakh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In para 3.25 of their report No. 12 of 2002, the C&AG have pointed out such mistakes which, according to them, led to short levy of tax aggregating to Rs. 97.49 lakhs.

(c) Details of such cases are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) This Report of C & AG is being examined in the CBCT with a view to give para-wise reply to C & AG and to determine the correctness or otherwise of the aforesaid audit observations. Remedial actions are invariably taken in all cases in accordance with CBCT Instruction No. 1928 dated 7.8.95 DIT (Audit) has also issued interactions and checklist for guidance of the assessing officers.

Statement

				(Rs. in lakhs)
S.No.	DP No.	Name of Assessee	A.Y.	Tax Effect
1.	385 (CT)	M/s Cosmopolitan Hotels Ltd.	1997-98	37.60
2.	500 (CT)	Sun N Sand Hotels (P) Ltd.	1996-97	22.97
3.	535 (CT)	Hotel Leela Venture Ltd.	1996-97	17.93
4.	135 (IT)	Escapade Resorts (P) Ltd.	1995-96	14.73
5.	55 (CT)	Ritz Hotels (Mysore) Ltd.	1997-98	4.24

[English]

Vijaya Bank

1967. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to shape 15% stake in Vijaya Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be written off to make the bank presentable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.. The capital of the Vijaya Bank as on 31st March, 2001 was Rs. 359.29 crore with Government shareholding forming 72.16%. The bank had proposed to return capital to the Government to the extent of Rs. 125.72 crores, in the following three instalments, which would have brought down Government holding to 57.2%, a reduction by 15%.

Date of payment	Amount (Rs. in crores)
31.3.2002	25.72
31.3.2003	50.00
31.3.2004	50.00

The Bank has returned the capital of Rs. 25.72 crores on 31.3.2002 to the Government thereby Government holding has been reduced 70.02%. As regarding the remaining Rs. 100 crores (investment of Rs. 50 crore each) due for return on 31st March, 2003 and 31st March, 2004, the bank has represented to the Government not to insist for the return of capital.

Foreign Capital in Garment Sector

1968. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign capital has flown into the garment sector after being dereserved;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the Plan Schemes "Integrated Apparel Park Scheme" and a "Scheme for development of Central Infrastructure in Export Oriented Clusters"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per available information, the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in textile industry including garment sector during the years 2000-2001 and 2002 (Jan.-May) has been as under :

Year	Inflow of FDI (in million Rs.)
2000	80.99
2001	182.88
2002 (Jan.-May)	234.73

(c) All State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to furnish project proposals in line with the guidelines of "Apparel Park for Exports Schemes" and "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" for Central Assistance under these Schemes. The Project Approval Committee, constituted under the guidelines, has considered and approved two Apparel park projects at Tronica City (Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) till date.

Scholarship Scam in Andhra Pradesh

1969. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the 18 crore Scholarship scam which came into light recently in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) As per report of Government of Andhra Pradesh a preliminary enquiry was conducted by Commissioner of Social Welfare, Hyderabad. The matter was later enquired by Vigilance and Enforcement Wing of Andhra Pradesh Government. Now the case has been entrusted to the Central Crime Station, City Police, Hyderabad, who are conducting detailed investigation. 21 persons have been arrested and 241 properties worth Rs. 40 crores approximately have been attached. State Government have also decided to establish a Special Sessions Court for speedy trial and disposal of all the cases relating to fraudulent drawals of scholarships.

(d) State Government has taken various steps like making the district heads of welfare departments as sanctioning, drawing and disbursing officers instead of principals of various colleges, Monitoring, reviews and reconciliation of accounts for all sanctions & drawals at all levels has been introduced to streamline the procedure of sanction & disbursement of scholarships.

[Translation]

Loan to Foreign Countries

1970. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries to whom India have provided loan along with the names of those countries from which India have taken loan during the last three years, amount-wise; and

(b) the amount received/paid by India as interest with reference to the said countries, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) The information in respect of countries to whom India has provided loan is given in the statements I and II gives the information in respect of countries from whom India has taken loan.

Statement-I*Countries to Whom India has provided Loan*

(Rs. figures in crores, Dollar figures in millions)

S. No.	Name of the Country	Currency	Disbursement (since 1.4.99)	Interest Received (Since 1.4.1999)
1.	Bangladesh	Rupees	149.94	1.50
2.	Guyana	Rupees	0.00	0.67
3.	Vietnam	Rupees	68.05	16.68
4.	Mauritius	Rupees	0.00	0.68
		US Dollar	1.75	3.18
5.	Kyrgystan	US Dollar	0.00	19.14
6.	Mangolia	US Dollar	0.00	0.21
7.	Myanmar	US Dollar	16.69	0.55
8.	Sri Lanka	US Dollar	15.87	2.49
9.	Turkmenistan	US Dollar	0.72	0.06
10.	Uzbekistan	US Dollar	0.00	1.10
11.	Seychelles	US Dollar	1.94	0.00
12.	Laos	US Dollar	2.00	0.00

Statement-II*Countries from whom India has received loan*

(Figures in Rs. Crores)

S. No.	Name of the Country	Disbursement (since 1.4.99)	Interest Paid (Since 1.4.1999)
1	2	3	4
1.	Japan	10153.87	3142.28
2.	Germany	919.56	557.11
3.	France	170.68	374.19
4.	Netherlands	49.52	164.20
5.	Russian Federation	194.55	119.34
6.	Saudi Arabia	6.21	5.96
7.	Norway	0.11	0.00
8.	Kuwaiti Fund	0.67	32.62

1	2	3	4
9.	Austria	0.00	8.93
10.	Australia	0.00	2.31
11.	Belgium	0.00	1.53
12.	Canada	0.00	0.06
13.	Czech & Slovak	0.00	1.44
14.	Spain	0.00	10.10
15.	Italy	0.00	30.83
16.	Switzerland	0.00	18.47
17.	Sweden	0.00	4.11
18.	USA	0.00	521.50

Credibility of Unit Trust of India

1971. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for losing the credibility of the Unit Trust of India; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government so far to restore its credibility and authenticity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Overall credibility of UTI has not been adversely affected because UTI has intimated that its NAV based schemes have performed well in a very competitive market and inflows into these schemes reflect continuing investors' support.

(b) Government announced a financial package for US-64 on 28.12.01. As a part of the financial package, UTI was asked to implement time-bound reforms based on the recommendations of the various expert Committees including Tarapore Committee. Further, Expert Committees have recommended amendments to the UTI Act. In this regard, appropriate actions have been initiated by UTI and the Government.

[English]

Rating by International Credit Rating Agency

1972. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the international Credit Rating Organization has embellished India as highly engrossed in debt trap;

(b) if so, whether this illustration will have an adverse effect on India's obtaining foreign loan and investment;

(c) if so, whether according to Reserve Bank of India's recent report the Central Government's treasury deficit has crossed 10 percent and further deteriorate in the coming days; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) In their Annual Report for 2001, an international credit rating agency while affirming its rating outlook on Government's foreign currency debt as stable, stated that the outlook on Government's domestic debt rating was negative. This was based on their concern about the status of public

finances. However, it is not likely to have any impact on India's obtaining foreign loan and investment, as there was no change in country's rating.

(c) and (d) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), no statement with respect to treasury deficit crossing 10 percent has been made in the RBI's publication.

[Translation]

Export of Indian Herbs

1973. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand of Indian herbs has increased in the developed countries;

(b) if so, the total worth of the herbs exported during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of herbs in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total value of Indian herbs/herbal ayurvedic products exported during each of the last three years are as under :

Year	Exports (Rs. in lakhs)
1998-1999	40235.37
1999-2000	33647.68
2000-2001	57896.00

(Source : DGCI&C)

Country-wise data is available in the DGCI&S publication viz. "Monthly statistics of the Foreign Trade of India".

(c) The Government is extending Market Development Assistance through Export Promotion Council to all exporters including exporters of herbal products for competing in foreign markets through participation in overseas fairs, exhibitions, for mouting trade delegations and for conducting market surveys in foreign countries, Department of Indian system of Medicines and Homeopathy under Government of India exclusively concentrates on all aspects of India system of medicines to redress various problems faced by the industry.

[English]

Infrastructure Equity Fund

1974. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised the contours of the proposed Rs. 1,000 crore Infrastructure Equity Fund;

(b) if so, by what time this fund is likely to be floated;

(c) whether the Government have worked out the initial equity contribution by the sponsoring insurance companies, banks and financial institutions;

(d) if so, whether the corpus of the fund would be solely dedicated to commercially-viable core sector projects; and

(e) if so, to what extent it will be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2002-2003 announced for setting up of an Infrastructure Equity Fund of Rs. 1000 crores. The contributions to the Fund to be managed by Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd. (IDFC) would be initially made by public sector insurance companies, financial institutions and some banks. IDFC is in the process of finalizing the modalities.

(d) and (e) IDFC has proposed that the fund would be utilised :

1. to provide equity, equity-linked to mezzanine capital.
2. to invest in equity capital of infrastructure projects or companies.
3. for investments in energy, oil production and distribution systems, product pipelines, telecom and information technology, integrated transportation, urban infrastructure, special economic zones, infrastructure for agriculture, bio-technology, health, education, tourism and service providers connected with these sectors.

The fund would facilitate faster private investments in infrastructure facilities.

Debt Burden of the States

1975. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the break-up of debt of States owed to World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other multilateral agencies, State-wise;

(b) the figure of repayment in terms of such debt of States;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to encourage low cost financing from international financial agencies like the World Bank and ADB; and

(d) if so, the details of the plan to reduce debt burden of States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Constitution, the executive powers of a State extend to borrowing only within the territory of India. Also, under the VII Schedule of the Constitution, 'Foreign Loans' come under countries/institutions directly. Therefore, debt owed by States to foreign countries/institutions is 'Nil'. The external loans in respect of projects implemented in various States are obtained by the Central Government and passed on to the States on different terms and conditions

The debt owed by Government of India to various multilateral donors, as on 31.3.2002, was as under :

(Figures in Rs. crore)

Asian Development Bank (ADB)	13804.37
International Bank for Reconstruction & Dev. (IBRD)	28003.50
International Development Assn. (IDA)	93880.30
International Fund for Agricultural Dev. (IFAD)	1065.19
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	82.46
European Economic Community (Special Action Credit) [EEC(SAC)]	178.93

The breakup of repayment by Govt. of India during the last three years is as under :

(Rs. in crores)

External Agency	Principal			Interest		
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
ADB	419.27	534.89	578.09	637.85	726.98	812.22
IBRD	3236.89	3788.30	2686.79	1660.93	1460.29	1312.84
IDA	1430.78	1679.54	2027.48	603.56	628.46	671.90
IFAD	23.70	24.83	26.69	9.54	9.85	10.01
OPEC	53.70	47.04	26.74	1.71	1.96	2.35
EEC (SAC)	3.64	4.82	4.93	1.25	1.08	1.07

(c) and (d) India is already availing low-cost financing from IDA and grants from various bilateral donors. There has been continuous effort to seek low cost financing for development projects in the country. External loans are passed on to the States as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) in the proportion of 70% loan : 30% grant (90% grant : 10% loan to Special Category States). The interest rate charged by Govt. of India on the loan portion has been reduced from 12.5% (two years back) to 11.5% (at present) per annum.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Handicapped and Women in PSUs

1976. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons and women recruited in the various public sector undertakings under his ministry during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the details of the scheme formulated for recruiting such persons in each undertaking during the last three years alongwith the targets fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Development Reform Facility

1977. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Development Reforms Facility (DRF) announced by his predecessor has remain non starter;

(b) if so, the reasons for the non-starting the development reform facility; and

(c) the names of the States where development process has suffered due to non-starter of the DRF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) The Union Government in its Budget Estimates for 2002-03 have provided Rs. 2500 crore under the Development Reform Facility, for policy reforms in sectors which are constraining growth and development in the States. The guidelines of the facility are under formulation by the Planning Commission.

Foodgrains to the Poor

1978. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to ensure supply of foodgrains to the inaccessible areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the inaccessible area, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government to supply foodgrains to these areas during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) to (c) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) makes foodgrains available

to States/UTs from its designated godowns/rail heads. Further transportation of the foodgrains from the FCI godowns/rail heads to the retail outlets is the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs.

However, the FCI is reimbursing road transport cost on actual basis for transportation of foodgrains, to be distributed through PDS network, from the base depots of FCI to the designated Public Distribution Centres (PDCs) under the Hill Transport Subsidy (HTS) scheme, which is applicable to predominantly hilly States (including North-Eastern States and Island Territories).

Slump in Sale of LIC

1979. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has posted a massive slump in sales with the first premium income during April-June, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the sale and income premium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that the First Premium Income collected/received by them during 1st April, 2002 to 30th June, 2002 is Rs. 905.88 crores. During the corresponding period in 2000 and 2001, the Corporation received a First Premium Income of Rs. 657.51 crore and Rs. 2,961.03 crore respectively. LIC has mentioned that the previous financial year (2001-2002) was an exceptionally good year from the point of view of growth of business registering an increase of 137.03% compared with the increase in business of 64.98% during the year 2000-2001 which itself was a record growth. Some of the schemes of the Corporation with guaranteed returns were very popular which resulted in exceptional growth of business last year. Consequent to the decline in interest rates in the economy, some of these Plans have been modified or withdrawn. This has resulted in a temporary set back to the business.

(c) The Corporation has been taking various steps to increase the sale of new policies and thereby increase the premium income. These include strengthening of the

marketing force by recruitment of new Agents, regular training sessions and renewed publicity activities through various media. Corporation has also taken steps to recruit Corporate Agencies for exploiting bulk business potential available in various segments.

Facilities to Senior Citizens

1980. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given exemption regarding income tax in favour of senior citizens;

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

(c) whether the Government have also enhanced the interest in Fixed Deposit/Saving Banks Account in favour of senior citizens; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Under the Income tax Act, 1961 individual taxpayers who are residents and are above the age of 65 years are allowed a tax rebate of Rs. 15,000 under section 88B. Such citizens are allowed a higher deduction of Rs. 60,000 for medical treatment of certain chronic and debilitating diseases under section 80DDB;

(c) and (d) In order to mitigate the hardships faced by senior citizens on account of falling interest rates, as per the Monetary & Credit Policy for 2001-02 announced on April 19, 2001, banks have been permitted to formulate fixed deposit schemes specifically for senior citizens offering higher and fixed rates of interest as compared to normal deposits.

Cooperative Banks

1981. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Urban Cooperative Banks which are put on the "Critical List" by the RBI during the current financial year 2002-2003;

(b) whether RBI has appointed a nominee Director on such Urban Cooperative Banks which are facing problems;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether RBI propose to give temporary bridge loans to such banks to tide over their problems; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Noniya Caste in SC List

1982. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to include Noniya Caste in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Government of Bihar had recommended a proposal for inclusion of Nonia community in the list of Scheduled Castes from Bihar. The proposal of the State Government lacked the requisite ethnographic details. Hence, the State Government of Bihar has been requested to furnish requisite details for further examination of the proposal as per approved modalities. There is no proposal pending with Government for inclusion of Nonia caste in any other States/Union Territories.

(c) Does not arise.

Committee to Monitor Sale of Essential Commodities

1983. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a high powered committee to monitor the wholesale and retail prices of 12 essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of members on this committee together with the number of representatives of the farmers among them; and

(d) the objectives and main features of the final report presented by the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) A High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB) is functioning under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, which meets every months, to monitor the prices and availability of 12 essential commodities.

(c) and (d) The 16 member Board consists of Secretaries of economic Ministries/Departments, Chairman, Railway Board and Director General, Indian Metrological Department. The Board reviews the price and availability situation of 12 essential commodities every month based on the Agenda Notes from the concerned Departments. The Board recommends policy measures and action points to be initiated by concerned Ministries/Departments for any increase in prices/shortages relating to any essential commodity all over the country.

[English]

World Bank Aid for Transportation

1984. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has recently approved Rs. 2,602 crore loan for improving the transportation system of Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have also approached the Union Government for World Bank assistance for drinking water, sanitation and transportation system for their respective States;

(d) if so, the details in this regard and since when these requests are pending with Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT

GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) The World Bank on 18th June, 2002 has approved an IBRD Loan of \$463.0 million and a Development Credit of SDR 62.5 million (\$ 79.0 million equivalent) for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP). The total estimated cost of the project is \$945 million of which the World Bank assistance would be of \$542 million. The remaining portion of \$ 403 million would be contributed by Ministry of Railways and

Government of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) No time limit can be indicated as much depends on preparation, availability of funds and other related factors.

Statement

Project Proposal received from State Governments for World Bank assistance

(US\$ in million)

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Project	Project cost	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh Road Project	596.00	Likely to be negotiated during the current financial year.
2.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu State Road Project	411.00	Likely to be appraised during the current financial year.
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	Sewerage System for Greater Jammu	300.00	Under examination in consultation with M/o Urban Development
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	Sewerage System for Greater Srinagar	355.00	-do-
5.	Maharashtra	2nd Maharashtra Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Project	204.08	Under preparation
6.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Water Supply & Sanitation project for Rural areas	142.85	Posed to the World bank.
7.	Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply & Sanitation project-II	102.04	The comments of the M/o Rural Development are awaited. The State Govt. is yet to give an undertaking that it would provide counterpart State funds as per the expenditure schedule.
8.	Maharashtra	2nd Maharashtra Water Supply & Sewerage project	181.836	Posed to the World Bank.
9.	Maharashtra	Bombay IV Middle Vaitarna Water Supply	116.32	Posed to the World Bank
10.	Gujarat	Water Supply & Sewerage project in Surat	125.656	Posed to the World Bank.

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Andhra Pradesh	2nd Hyderabad Water Supply & Sanitation	303.75	The W.B. has not accepted the project.
12.	Tamil Nadu	2nd Madras Water Supply & Environmental sanitation	225.5	Posed to the World Bank.

Falling Prices of Silk

1985. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the falling prices of Indian raw silk leading to the fall in the prices of cocoon affecting farmers of silk production areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government for financial assistance to provide minimum support prices to silk growing farmers;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to arrest the heavy import of China silk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Silk Board (CSB) has received a request for financial assistance from the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) for purchase of mulberry cocoons at reasonable prices to mitigate the hardship faced by sericulture farmers. CSB has agreed to provide loan of Rs. 1.50 crores to KSIC provisional to State Govt. guarantee.

(d) Government has been closely monitoring the imports of raw silk and silk fabrics, and the prices of cocoons and raw silk in the main domestic markets. Though quantity of imported raw silk has not gone beyond the estimated demand supply gap, in view of the increase in quantum over last year, the steadily declining prices, and its effect on the domestic market, Government has initiated investigations to ascertain if statutory provisions need to be invoked to raise tariff barriers.

US Publicly Related Companies

1986. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI has issued a list of 945 US publicly related companies whose financial statements must be certified as accurate by their Chief Executive and Financial Officers;

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

(c) whether this step has been taken to restore the confidence of investors in the wake of recent accounting scandals to hit corporate America;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the accounting scandals are likely to be minimized by this step?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) According to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), it has not issued any such list of companies.

(b) to (e) In views of (a), do not arise.

Global Centre for Corporate Governance

1987. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to consider setting up of a Global Centre for corporate governance at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have agreed to the request of the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The question does not arise.

*[Translation]***Violation of Rules Under PDS**

1988. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons booked for violating the rules framed under Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 since its inception till date;

(b) the details in this regard and action taken against these guilty persons; and

(c) the action proposed to make these rules more stringent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) to (c) Figures regarding the number of persons booked for violating the rules framed under the PDS Control Order, 2001 are not maintained by Government of India. Violation of clauses 3, 4, 6 and 7 of PDS Control Order (2001) invokes criminal liability under section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

*[English]***Exposure in Balance Sheet by Banks**

1989. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has made new norms for banking and financial institutions to disclose much exposure in the balance sheet;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) the time by when these are likely to be implemented; and

(d) impact of these norms of the financial condition of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India, from time to time, have been issuing guidelines regarding to disclosures required to be made in the statement of accounts as also in the 'Notes on Accounts' to the Balance Sheet. The disclosure are required to be made regarding capital adequacy, shareholding of the

Government, non-performing assets, provisioning maturity patterns of loans, advances, investments, deposits, borrowing etc. With effect from 31st March, 2002 banks are required to disclose the information relating to movement in provision held towards NPAs, depreciation on investments and information in respect of Corporate Debt Restructuring undertaken during the year. These norms would enable the banks to present their financial condition in more transparent manner.

Five Rupee Coin Scam

1990. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Five Rupee Coin Scam which came into light in the Hyderabad Mints;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) An incident of theft occurred on 12-6-2002 during the transportation of Rs. 5 Coin blanks and not Rs. 5 Coins between the Salfabad Mint, Hyderabad and Cherlapally Mint, Hyderabad.

(b) It was observed that on 12-6-2002, the lorry driver and the cleaner of the truck were carrying two hidden bags of Rs. 5 Coin blanks in the bonnet of vehicle. During transportation between the Mints, smoke emerged from the bonnet which was detected by the bullion custodian and the Security Guard escorting the vehicle. They also noticed falling of Rs. 5 Coin blanks. The vehicle was stopped and the material was collected and deposited in the Mint.

(c) The Mint authorities and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) guarding the Mint handed over the driver and the cleaner to the Police after filing an FIR. Investigation of the case is being done by the state police who have taken the driver and cleaner of the truck in custody and have also produced them before the Court. A Senior Works Manager of the Mint was asked to conduct a preliminary enquiry. On receipt of his report, the Deputy General Manager has been ordered to conduct a detailed enquiry which is in progress. The CIFS authorities have also asked their Deputy Inspector General to conduct an investigation and submit a report. State police investigation is also in progress. It is stated that Mint authorities have already terminated the transport

contract with immediate effect. After receipt of Final Inquiry Report of the Deputy General Manager, CISF and Police, the Government will initiate appropriate action against those found responsible for the theft.

[Translation]

Trade Related Development Programmes for Rural Women

1991. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government had accorded sanction to Trade Related Entrepreneur Assistance and Development Programme (TREADP) for rural women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) Sir, the Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance Development (TREAD) Programme being implemented by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries seeks to economically empower women in rural, urban and semi-urban area through the development of their entrepreneurial skill by eliminating constraints faced by women, and to strengthen trade support networks. The scheme includes assistance in the form of loans, grants, trade related training, trade information, counselling, and extension activities relating to product and market development.

[English]

Urban Cooperative Banks in Tamil Nadu

1992. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the RBI has cracked down two urban co-operative banks in Tamil Nadu for the first time;

(b) whether in order to bring them under Banking Regulations Act, these banks have been asked to register with RBI;

(c) if so, whether the action of the RBI follows the implementation of the recommendations by the High Power Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. K. Madhava Rao in 1999; and

(d) if so, to what extent the recommendations of the High Power Committee has been fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the licence application of two urban co-operative banks in Tamil Nadu were rejected in May, 2002 and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS), Tamil Nadu was requisitioned to make an order for winding up these banks and appoint a liquidator. However, on the request of the RCS, the orders rejecting the licence applications have since been kept in abeyance for six months.

(b) All urban co-operative banks have to obtain licence from the RBI under provisions of Banking Regulation Act for carrying on banking business in India.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that the action against these two banks were taken in the usual course as they were not complying with the provisions of B.R. Act. The action was also in conformity with the recommendations of the High Power Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. K. Madhava Rao. As the existing unlicensed urban cooperative banks had applied for issue of licence several years ago when the entry point norms were not so high, the High Power committee has in its report dealt with the problem of licensing of these banks and observed that the norms for licensing should be based on (i) minimum regulatory level of Capital to Risk Assets Ratio (CRAR); (ii) net Non-Performing Assets less than 10%; (iii) profitability during each of the last three years; and (iv) compliance with statutory frame-work of B.R. Act/Directions issued by the RBI from time to time. The licence applications of all unlicensed urban cooperative banks were examined in March 2002 in the light of the above norms vis-a-vis their financial position and action like issue/rejection of licence was taken.

Export to Traditional Markets

1993. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether exports to the traditional markets of USA, UK, Japan and Hong Kong has declined in the fiscal year 2001-02;

(b) if so, the extent of decline registered over the last two years in these traditional export markets;

(c) the reasons for such decline; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Exports to the traditional markets of USA, UK, Japan and Hong Kong had declined

in the fiscal year 2001-02 due to the global economic slow down and the impact of September 11 events and its aftermath.

Exports to these traditional markets during 2000-01 and 2001-02 are given below :

(US \$ million)				
Country	2000-01	Growth (%)*	2001-02	Growth (%)*
USA	9236.48	10.17	8488.15	-8.10
UK	2272.02	11.82	2152.36	-5.27
Japan	1779.30	5.20	1495.28	-15.96
Hong Kong	2631.30	5.65	2363.89	-10.16

*Over the previous year.

(d) Several short term interventionist measures have been undertaken by the Government to arrest the declining trend owing to the global economic slow down which *inter alia* include reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters, extension of normal repatriation period up to 360 days, abolition of value caps in the case of DEPB for more than 400 export items. A medium term export strategy has been announced for the period 2002-07, which aims at achieving 1% of world exports by the year 2006-07. Besides these Exim Policy for 2002-07 announced recently has also incorporated a number of measures to proactively promote exports which inter-alia include permitting offshore Banking units in Special Economic Zones, a scheme to reimburse certain admissible expenses for export of certain agricultural products, development of clusters to help small scale exports, additional support for electronic hardware, exports, further reduction in transaction costs, etc.

[Translation]

Expansion of Sugar Mills

1994. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received seeking financial assistance from Sugar Development Fund for expansion and modernization of sugar mills as on date, State-wise;

(b) the names of sugar mills provided financial assistance from the said fund during each of the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(c) the terms and conditions for providing such loans;

(d) whether these sugar mills have fully utilized the above fund; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The State-wise position of application received from sugar mills for grant of loans for modernization/expansion/rehabilitation of sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) from 1985-86 onwards till date is at statement-I enclosed.

(b) to (e) A list showing the names of sugar units which have been sanctioned loans from Sugar Development Fund for modernisation/expansion from the year 1999-2000 onwards till date and the position of disbursement of the loan instalment and utilisation of loans by these units alongwith reasons for non-utilisation of loan, wherever applicable is statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State	No. of applications
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15
2.	Bihar	17
3.	Gujarat	10

1	2	3	1	2	3
4.	Haryana	06	9.	Punjab	06
5.	Karnataka	16	10.	Tamil Nadu	13
6.	Maharashtra	64	11.	Uttar Pradesh	95
7.	Madhya Pradesh	04			
8.	Orissa	01		Total	247

Statement-II

Names of Sugar Mills who have been Sanctioned Financial Assistance from Sugar Development Fund for Modernisation/Expansion during the year 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 (Till Date) and Status of Utilisation of the Loan

Sl. No.	Name of the Sugar Mills	Instalment released	Status of utilization	
1999-2000				
1.	Shree Maroli Vibhag Khand Udyog Sahakari Mandli Ltd., Maroli, Distt. Navsari, Gujarat.	I & II	Fully utilised.	
2.	M/s Davengere Sugar Co. Ltd., Davengere, Karnataka.	I & II	Fully utilised.	
3.	M/s Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd., Alaganchi, Distt.-Mysore, Karnataka.	I & II	Fully utilised.	
4.	M/s Shri Datta SSK Ltd., Asurle-Porle, Tal. Panhala, Distt. Kolhapur, Maharashtra.	I & II	Fully utilised.	
5.	Shrigonda SSK Ltd., Shrigonda, Tal. Shrigonda, Distt. Ahmebnagar, Maharashtra.	I & II	Fully utilised.	
6.	L.H. Sugar Factories Ltd., Pilibhit, Distt.-Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh.	I & II	Fully utilised.	
7.	Ganpati Sugars Ltd., Sangaredely, Distt.-Medak, Andhra Pradesh.	I & II	Fully utilised.	
2000-2001				
Sl. No.	Name of the Sugar Mills	Installment released	Remarks	Status of utilisation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Eastern Sugars Ind. Ltd., Motihari, Distt. East Champaran, Bihar.		I & II	Fully utilised.
2.	Piccadily Agro Ind. Ltd., Bhadson, Distt. Karnal, Haryana.		I & II	Fully utilised.
3.	Jawahar SSK Ltd., Hupari, Distt. Kolhapur, Mah.		I & II	Fully utilised.

1	2	3	4
4.	Shri Tatya Saheb Kore Warana SSK Ltd., Warananagar, Distt. Kolhapur, Mah.	I & II	Fully utilised.
5.	Sakthi Sugars Ltd., Sakthinagar, Distt. Erode, Tamil Nadu.	I & II	Fully utilised.
6.	Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Nadehi, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar, U.P.	Cancelled on 13.3.2001 on the request of State Fedn.	
7.	United Provinces Sugar Co. Ltd., Seorahi, Distt. Kushinagar, U.P.	I & II	Fully utilised.

2001-02

Sl. No.	Name of the Sugar Mills	Installment released	Remarks	Status of utilisation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kovur Coop. Sugar Fty. Ltd., Nellore. A.P.	I & II		Fully utilised.
2.	Mula SSK Ltd., Sonai, Distt. Ahmednagar, Mah. (STM case)	I & II		Fully utilised.
3.	Indapur SSK Ltd., Indapur, Distt. Pune Maharashtra.	I (full amount)		Fully utilised.
4.	Terna Shekari SSK Ltd., Dhoki, Maharashtra (STM case)	I & II		Fully utilised.
5.	Ramgarh Chini Mills Ltd., Ramgarh, Distt. Sitapur, U.P.	Nil	In process for disbursement of loan.	
6.	Chhatrapati Sahu SSK Ltd., Kagal, Distt. Kolhapur, Maharashtra.	I & II		Fully utilised.
7.	Pratappur Sugar & Ind. Ltd., Pratappur, Distt. Deoria, U.P. (STM case)	I & II		Fully utilised.
8.	Ravalgaon Sugar Farm Ltd., Ravalgaon, Distt. Nasik, Maharashtra	I	Under implem-entation.	Ist Instalment not fully utilised.
9.	Upper Ganges Sugar & Ind. Ltd., Sidhwalia, Distt. Gopalganj, Bihar.	I & II		Fully utilised.
10.	Jai Jawan Jai Kisan SSK Ltd., Nalegaon, Maharashtra	Nil	Not yet disbursed due to non-completions of formalities.	

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Ghaghara Sugars Ltd., Ajabapur, Jungbahadurganj Distt. Lakhimpur Kheri, Maharashtra.	I & II		Fully utilised.
12.	M/s Mawana Sugar Works, Mawana, Distt. Meerut, U.P.	Nil	Not yet disbursed for want of required formalities	
13.	Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd., Sameerwadi, Distt. Bagalkot, Karnataka (STM case).	I	Under impels-entation.	1st instalment. Fully utilised.
14.	Majalgaon SSK Ltd., Telegaon, Tal. Majalgaon, Distt.-Beed, Maharashtra.	Nil	Not yet disbursed due to non-compilations of formalities.	
15.	Varalakshmi Sugars, (Div. of GMR Tech. & Ind. Ltd.), Sankili, Distt. Srikakulam, A.P.	Nil.	Not disbursed due to non-compilations of required formalities	
16.	Dnyaneshwar SSK Ltd., Newasa, Distt. Ahmednagar, Mah.	I	Under implem-entation.	1st instalment. Fully utilised.
17.	Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd., Sathyamangalam, Distt. Erode, T.N.	I & II		Fully utilised.
18.	Vithal SSK Ltd., Gurusale, Pondharpur, Distt. Solapur, Maharashtra.	I	Under implem-entation.	1st instalment which is recently released.
19.	EID Parry (India) Ltd., Pugalur, Distt. Karur, (T.N.)	Nil.	Not yet disbursed due to non-completions of required formalities.	Fully utilised.
20.	Sanjivani (Takli) SSK Ltd., Kopargaon, Distt. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.	I	Under implem-entation.	1st instalment released recently.
21.	The Chodavarm Coop. Sugars Ltd., Chodavaram, Distt.-Vishakhapatnam, A.P.	I & II		Fully utilised.

2002-2003

Sl. No.	Name of the Sugar Mills	Instalment released	Status of utilization
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s Shree Talala Taluka Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Talala, Distt. Junagarh, Gujarat.	Nil	Not yet completed the required formalities for disbursement.

1	2	3	4
2.	The Simbhaoli Sugar Mills Ltd., Simbhaoli, Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P.	Nil	Not yet completed the required formalities for disbursement.
3.	Shree Sidheshwar SSK Ltd., Kumathe, Distt. Solapur, Maharashtra.	Nil	Not yet completed the required formalities for disbursement.

Note: The loan for modernisation/expansion of sugar mills provided from SDF is disbursed in two equal instalments. After sanction of loan the sugar units are required to complete a number of formalities/documentation before disbursement of the first instalment. The second instalment is released only after due certification of full utilisation of the first instalment. The status of utilisation of the loan is certified by the respective monitoring agency i.e. IFCI/NCDC.

The loan sanctioned for modernisation/expansion/rehabilitation is subject to the following conditions :

- (i) the sugar undertaking shall utilize the amount of loan to meet liability on account of shortfall of promoter's contribution in the total project cost;
- (ii) the sugar undertaking shall execute an agreement as required under the provision of sub-rule (9) (i) of rule 16 of Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 before disbursement of the loan by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India/National Cooperative Development Corporation;
- (iii) the sugar undertaking shall create second charge on its fixed and movable assets in favour of the Central Government;
- (iv) the sugar undertaking will have to repay fully all the sums which have become due in respect of the Sugar Development Fund and the Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund;
- (v) the sugar undertaking will avail the first instalment of the sanctioned amount within a period of two years from the date of issue of sanction, failing which the approval will automatically lapse;
- (vi) the actual disbursement of loan will be made subject to the availability of funds in budget of the Sugar Development Fund; and
- (vii) the sugar undertakings should maintain the accounts separately and all payments therefrom should be met only through cheque to ensure proper utilization of the fund released for the purpose for which sum has been sanctioned.

[*Translation*]

Introduction of Common Currency

1995. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the South-East Asian Countries under active consideration of the Government to introduce a common currency to boost their economic and deepen inter-regional trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Notification issued by CBDT

1996. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued any notification on 20th June, 2002 under Rule 2 of BBA Income Tax Rule in the interest of the employees opting for VRS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said amendment will be applicable in case of bank employees who opted VRS of 31st March, 2001 and had been paid VRS amount in May-June, 2001; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Through Notification No. 151/2002 dated 19.06.2002 rule 2BA of I-T Rules has been amended to provide that amount received by an employee of a notified institution having importance throughout India or in any State or States, at the time of his voluntary retirement shall be exempt only if the scheme of voluntary retirement is framed in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the said rule 2BA. No further benefit has been given through this Notification to the employees who are opting for VRS.

(c) The above mentioned amendment is not related to bank employees.

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

[English]

Uniform Client Code

1997. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has received a representation from the Merchants Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata that stock brokers be empowered to manage client funds in line with the system prevalent in the USA;

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

(c) whether the SEBI will have to take precautions regarding electronic transfer of funds in the banking industry before it begins to implement the new system;

(d) if so, the initial reaction of SEBI to the suggested new system of "Uniform Client Code"; and

(e) the steps proposed to fashion a new system to address the concerns of the stock brokers and investors in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that it has not received any representation from Merchant Chambers of Commerce, Kolkata that stock brokers be empowered to manage client funds in line with the system prevalent in the USA.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

[Translation]

Market for Service Sector

1998. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate a policy for export of human resources in service sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the share of India in service sector of the world at present;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any study to identify the potential of India in service sector in the foreign markets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Necessary inputs for formulation of the Medium Term Strategy for Export of Services are being collected.

(c) India's share in the world export of Commercial Services is 1.4% in the year 2001.

(d) and (e) In the proposed Medium Term Strategy for Export of Services, the potential sectors/markets would be identified by internal studies and discussions with exporters.

[English]

Financial Crises Faced by States

1999. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the Finance Ministers of States was held in New Delhi in June, 2002 to discuss *inter alia* the financial crises being faced by the States in view of the implementation of the V Pay Commission Report, past debt burden of the States, shortfall in the devolutions of their share in central taxes and the overdraft limits of States;

(b) if so, whether the committee appointed to work out solutions to these has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the committee in its report; and

(d) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be available ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Loan Taken by Dabhol Power Corporation

2000. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions which have invested/advanced loans to the erstwhile Dabhol Power Corporation and the total amount invested by each bank/Fl;

(b) whether these banks and Fls have been able to get back their dues from the DPC;

(c) if so, the details of dues received back and the dues still outstanding, bank-wise and institution-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to get back the remaining dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) According to the information provided by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), out of the Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions (Fls), State Bank of India (SBI), Canara Bank and IDBI have taken exposure in Dabhol Power Corporation. Further, the company had serviced all its debt obligations to banks/Fls for both Phase-I and Phase-II of the project till September/October 2001 so also a major portion of the amount due in January 2002 for phase I of the project. In accordance with the practice and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of The Public Financial Institutions (Obligation As to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(d) Fls/Banks are themselves competent to take action to protect their interests.

Export of Handicrafts

2001. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the concessions and facilities being provided by the Government to exporters to promote the export of handicrafts items;

(b) the number of registered units which are exporting handicraft articles;

(c) whether the Government had approved an Export Promotion Council for Handicraft;

(d) if so, whether the said Council has started functioning;

(e) if so, the benefits being derived by foreign buyers from this Council;

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to boost handicraft export for more employment in the textile sector;

(g) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any new scheme for the development of handicraft trade in the country particularly in Rajasthan; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The concession and facilities being provided by the Government to exporters to promote the export of handicrafts items include: duty draw back on exports; eligibility of funds from Market Access Initiative scheme for developing website for virtual exhibition; entitlement to the benefit of export house status on achieving lower average export performance of Rs. 5.00 crore during the preceding three licensing years; entitlement to duty free import of specified items upto 3% of FOB value of exports and assistance under MDA scheme to exporters for participation in fairs/exhibition abroad as well as for undertaking research.

(b) The number of registered units exporting handicrafts articles registered with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is 6692.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) started functioning in the year 1986-87.

(e) Due to various promotional export activities taken by the Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts (EPCH), the export turnover of handicrafts has increased steadily from Rs. 386.58 crores in the year 1986-87 to Rs. 6967.50 crores during 2001-2002 and the benefit accruing both to exporters and foreign buyers. Moreover, the council is organising Indian handicrafts and Gifts Fairs twice a year in New Delhi, wherein a large number of foreign buyers and their buying agents participate directly and book on the spot order on Indian handicrafts.

(f) The steps taken or being taken by the Government to boost handicrafts export for more employment in textile sector include: organization of buyer-seller's meet; overseas publicity; organisation of workshops on design development; export marketing and packaging etc; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; setting up of National level

design center at Moradabad and New Delhi and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs (Autumn and Spring) by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, annually in New Delhi.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. A new scheme named 'Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana' has recently been launched with a view to ensure sustainable development of handicrafts sector in the country including in the state of Rajasthan. The scheme seeks to develop selected artisan clusters into professionally managed self reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation.

Note Printing Press

2002. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures to check the circulation of fake currency notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the printing capacity of Government Note Printing Press working in the Country at present and the currency notes of different denomination being printed at present; and

(d) the number and value of mutilated currency notes being exchanged by the RBI every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) To curb circulation of fake currency notes in the country, the Government has taken a number of steps which, *inter-alia*, include setting up special unit in the Central Bureau of Investigation for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes, scaling up of vigilance by the Border Security Force/Custom Authorities to prevent smuggling of fake currency notes into the country, incorporation of special security features in high denomination notes and dissemination of information on security features through print media and Doordarshan for the benefit of public. A High Level Committee of experts, with representatives from Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Security Council Sectt., Reserve Bank of India and the Printing Presses, constituted to examine the whole gamut of problems caused by circulation of fake currency has recently submitted its report wherein it has made several recommendations to tackle the problem.

(c) The printing capacity of note printing presses working both under the Government and under the Reserve Bank of India is 15,540 million pieces per annum and the currency notes of Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 50, Rs. 100, Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 are printed by these Presses.

(d) The number and value of mutilated currency notes exchanged by the RBI during the last three years is as follows:

Jan-Dec	Total Pieces (in thousands)	Total Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1999	30976	6652
2000	28789	6479
2001	42589	8312

[Translation]

Filing of Income Tax Return

2003. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether income tax payers fail to file income tax return due to the complex process of filing income tax return and the non-cooperation of the officials in income tax offices;

(b) if so, whether the Government have simplified the procedure of the filing of income tax return to enable the income tax payers in the country to file their return conveniently and fairly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. Income-tax Act, 1961 has always provided for simplified procedures for filing income tax return and full cooperation of the officials in the Income tax Offices is made available. Filing of return is facilitated by an ongoing process of simplification of tax laws and procedures. Such simplification has resulted in two fold increase in the number of tax-payers in the last five years.

(c) Several measures have been taken to enable the income-tax payers to file their returns conveniently and fairly. Some of these measures include:

(i) introduction of simplified forms of returns such as the one page form (known as SARAL) for non-corporate tax payers.

(ii) providing that acknowledgement of a return filed may be taken as acceptance of the income declared, except in a very small percentage of cases taken up for verification on the basis of specific information.

(iii) a Scheme called Bulk Filing of Returns by Salaried Employees, 2002 has been introduced from 1st July, 2002 which enables salaried taxpayers to fulfil their tax obligations and receive refunds, if any, within a very short period without any interface with the Income-tax Department.

- (iv) under the "Sahayata (Helpline Income-tax)" scheme introduced from 1st August, 2000, a special cell designated as "Helpline Income-tax" was formed to function as the focal point for bringing to the Department's notice urgent and serious problems of individual and corporate tax payers. This cell is working under the supervision of an officer of the level of Commissioner of Income-tax.
- (v) under the 'Suvidha' scheme introduced from 1st August, 2000, computerised branches of all the nationalised banks in the towns and cities covered by One-by-Six Scheme, have been authorised to receive direct tax payments in addition to the existing authorised branches of different banks.
- (vi) several additional receipt counters have been opened at different income-tax offices to enable smooth filing of income-tax returns and to avoid any inconvenience and delay to the tax-payers.

[English]

FDI in Food Sector

2004. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has opposed to the proposal for FDI in food sector;
- (b) if so, the main reasons elucidated by the Ministry in this regard; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir. Under the National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains, approved by the Government, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed for developing and operating bulk grain handling, storage and transportation facilities in the country.

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

Review of Location of Export Promotion Councils

2005. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether existing headquarters of some Export Promotion Councils are very distant from their source of exports;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review the existing organizational and locational structure of such Councils; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Location of the headquarters of Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) depends upon the production base of their products alongwith availability of export facilities, manpower and other conveniences. The headquarters of the EPCs are identified and approved by the concerned industries themselves and these are generally located at places which are the main centres for exports of commodities and products under their charge. EPCs are autonomous organisations set up by the concerned industry and they regulate their own affairs. The Government has no proposal in hand to review the existing locational structure of the EPCs in view of the working autonomy given to them.

[Translation]

Export of Wheat to Indonesia

2006. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

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

- (a) whether India is pushing subsidised wheat into world market;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether an export order has been received from Indonesia for the export of wheat;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether many countries have given preference to Indian wheat rather than US wheat; and
- (f) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to export more wheat to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Wheat is being offered to the exporters at the Open Market Sales Schemes (Domestic) price of FCI. However, post-delivery and other related expenses, which are WTO compatible, are also being paid.

(c) and (d) FCI is not directly exporting wheat to any country. FCI makes wheat available from the Central Pool stocks for export purposes. According to the available information, Indonesia is one of the countries to which wheat has been exported.

(e) and (f) Indian wheat is being exported to a number of countries. Post-delivery and other related expenses, which are WTO compatible, are being paid to the exporters.

[Translation]

T.U.F.S. In Gujarat

2007. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been introduced in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries of this Scheme in powerloom, jute and textile sectors separately since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) Government of India has introduced Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for textile & jute industries w.e.f. 01-04-1999 for a period of 5 years. The Scheme provides a reimbursement of 5% on interest charged by designated nodal agencies and co-opted banks/Financial Institutions for a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme. TUFS is applicable to whole of India including Gujarat. This Scheme is being implemented through three nodal

agencies namely Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI). These nodal agencies have further co-opted around 240 institutions for providing a network of financial organizations for sanction and disbursement of loan.

For monitoring and review of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Textiles) including representations of Departments of Expenditure, Commerce, Industry, Banking and Planning Commission has been constituted. Besides, a Technical Advisory and Monitoring Committee (TAMC) under the chairmanship of the Textile Commissioner has also been constituted to monitor and review the progress of the scheme, accelerate its implementation as well as to suggest necessary changes in the technical/financial norms and other aspects for smooth operation of the scheme.

Taking into account suggestions received from various organisations, Government has been making suitable amendments to the Scheme to make it more user friendly.

Since January 1, 2002, the Scheme also provides an option to the Small Scale Sector textile and jute industries for availing of either 12% Upfront Credit Linked Capital Subsidy or the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

As on 31.05.2002, an amount of Rs. 431 crore has been disbursed in the State of Gujarat against 266 applications having a total project cost of Rs. 992 crore.

The number of beneficiaries of this Scheme in powerloom, jute and textile sectors separately since its inception is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Segment-wise Progress under TUFS as on 31.5.2002 (Provisional)

Sr. No.	Industry Segment	Received			Sanctioned			Disbursed			
		No. of Applications	Project cost Amount	Amount of loan	No. of applications	Project cost	Amount	No. of applications	Project cost	Amount sanctioned	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Spinning	323	3595.19	2168.95	233	2541.68	1412.10	199	2357.96	1274.64	1082.07
2.	Manufacturing of viscose filament yarn	2	15.01	12.12	2	15.01	12.12	2	15.01	12.12	12.11
3.	Synthetic filament yarn texturing crimping & twisting	163	483.97	286.88	143	327.67	190.71	132	306.80	177.71	152.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4.	Weaving	62	787.41	436.77	50	519.40	290.67	37	458.96	248.18	205.58
5.	Powerloom	112	90.76	53.91	104	78.62	42.57	83	54.31	27.75	22.34
6.	Composite upgradation	134	4388.79	2511.79	111	3821.22	1712.90	86	2836.33	1489.50	1069.74
7.	Silk reeling	44	38.52	23.34	38	14.64	10.31	29	10.43	6.98	6.45
8.	Knitting	237	1198.19	635.99	223	1004.01	239.42	161	823.00	168.97	148.39
9.	Fabric embroidery	71	298.66	165.29	67	179.65	91.37	49	96.20	61.02	48.46
10.	Independent weaving preparatory	8	72.47	51.50	7	58.47	40.00	6	22.47	15.00	22.68
11.	Made up manufacturing	24	352.85	124.00	17	108.44	59.62	13	92.15	52.69	43.55
12.	Garment manufacturing	164	427.53	253.71	145	342.11	181.11	112	293.81	157.77	130.37
13.	Processing of fibres, yarns, fabrics, garments and made-ups	253	2344.75	1351.51	225	1723.67	845.90	181	1581.55	755.26	620.50
14.	Cotton Ginning and pressing	32	71.46	37.74	30	67.94	26.23	26	62.82	24.42	17.88
15.	Technical textiles	8	36.78	18.96	7	32.61	16.34	6	25.94	13.64	13.38
16.	Wool scouring and combing	6	16.95	13.73	6	16.95	13.74	5	1.60	1.74	1.09
17.	Jute industry	9	65.35	37.04	7	46.58	17.81	6	45.81	17.30	9.62
18.	Non-wovens	4	89.31	22.80	4	89.31	22.66	3	3.71	2.66	2.34
Total		1656	14373.95	8206.03	1419	10987.98	5225.58	1136	9088.86	4507.35	3609.31

Note: (i) BHF-Bank, Societe Generale, Sanwa Bank, The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., SBI Commercial & International Bank Ltd., BNP Paribas have submitted NIL information.

Note: The segment-wise data may not tally with aggregate data due to the rounding up of the figures.

Training to Handloom Weavers

2008. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impart training under various schemes to the weavers of handloom sector in North-Eastern States particularly in Nagaland to get them adapted to the new techniques of weaving, dyeing and diversifying of handloom products;

(b) if so, the number of training centres proposed to be opened for the purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which these training centers are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Government has been implementing schemes for imparting training to the handloom weavers to get them adapted to the new techniques of weaving, dyeing and diversifying of handloom products. Provision for such training has been existing under the following schemes:

- (i) Decentralised Training of Weavers Scheme
- (ii) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, and
- (iii) Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme

(b) and (c) Under the Decentralised Training of Weavers Scheme, training is provided to handloom

weavers at or near their place of work or residence; that is, in the handloom cluster itself. The training is overseen by the 24 Weavers' Service Centres already functioning under the Ministry of Textiles in various parts of the country, of which the Centres at Guwahati, Agartala and Imphal are catering to the needs of the handloom weavers of the North-Eastern States, with the centre at Imphal covering the training needs of weavers of Nagaland. As for the handloom weavers of the State of Nagaland, the existing arrangements have been found adequate.

Duty Free Access for Textile Products

2009. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union (EU) has granted duty-free access to textile products for Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons for not granting the same for Indian textile products; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government to secure duty-free access for Indian textile products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) The scheme of Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) of the European Union (EU) for the period 1st January 2002 to 31st December 2004 *inter-alia* provides for suspension by the EU of customs duties for all products which have not graduated, under special tariff arrangements to combat drug production and trafficking. Pakistan is one of the beneficiary countries under this special arrangement. India had taken up this issue with EU through bilateral consultations held in February 2002. Since EU, on the basis of its own assessment did not agree to grant similar concessions to India, the bilateral consultations did not yield the desired results from India's point of view.

As the first step to resolve the above dispute with EU, under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of WTO, it was decided to seek consultations with EU. The consultations were held with EU on 25th March 2002 during which certain details regarding adverse impact on our trade were conveyed to the EU. These consultations have however not led to positive results. Another round of consultations was held with EU on 9th July, 2002. While we are still open to remedial action from the EU side, further course of action would be taken in accordance with the WTO rules.

No Industry/Industrially Backward Districts

2010. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in the country that have been declared as 'No Industry district' or Industrially Backward districts, State-wise;

(b) the criteria being adopted to find out such districts;

(c) whether some more districts of various States are under active consideration to declare them as 'No Industry district' or Industrially Backward districts particularly in regard to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

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

(e) whether the Government have received proposals from various State Governments including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for establishment of major industries in those backward areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) The Central Government had notified industrially backward districts vide notification number S.O. 713(E) dated 7th October, 1997 of Ministry of Finance. The list of these districts is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The criteria used for selection of backward districts adopted by the Study group set up to identify them were as follows:

(i) Financial Criteria

- Per capita credit given by scheduled commercial banks.

(ii) Infrastructural Criteria

- Phones per thousand population.
- per capita power consumption.
- Metalled roads per hundred square kilometres.
- Inaccessible hill area district, and
- No railhead district.

(iii) Industrial Criteria

- Workers in registered factories per thousand population.
- No Industry District.

- (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.
 (e) No, Sir.
 (f) Does not arise.
 (g) Does not arise.

Statement*List of Backward Districts*

Category A	Category B
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
Nil	Srikakulam
	Mahbubnagar
Bihar	
Araria	Katihar
Madhepura	Bhagalpur
Khagaria	Gopalganj
Kisanganj	Darbhanga
Madhubani	West Champaran
Jehanabad	Saran
Saharsa	Bhojpur
Nawadah	Samastipur
Sitamarhi	Nalanda
Aurangabad	Gaya
East Champaran	Muzaffarpur
Purnia	Rohtas
Siwan	
Vaishali	
Jharkhand	
Godda	Deoghar
Gumla	
Dumka	
Palamau	
Sahebganj	

1	2
Lohardagga	
Gujarat	
The Dangs	Banaskantha
	Sabarkantha
Karnataka	
Nil	Bidar
Kerala	
Wayanad	Nil
Iduki	
Madhya Pradesh	
Mandla	Seoni
Panna	Tikamgarh
Chattarpur	Shivpuri
	Balaghat
	Jhabua
	Sidhi
	Vidisha
	Morena
	Betul
	Rajgarh
	Sagar
Chhattisgarh	
Bastar	Raigarh
Sarguja	Rajnandgaon
Maharashtra	
Gadchiroli	Beed
Orissa	
Phulbani	Bolangir
Kalahandi	Mayurbhanj
	Balasore
	Ganjam
Rajasthan	
Jalore	Dungarpur

1	2
Barmer	Dholpur
Jaisalmer	Sawai Madhopur
Churu	Tonk
Banswara	Nagaur
	Jhalawar
	Sikar
Uttar Pradesh	
Sidharthnagar	Hardoi
Barraich	Lalitpur
Pratapgarh	Hamirpur
Maharajganj	Badaun
Banda	Fatehpur
Basti	Azamgarh
	Etah
	Barabanki
	Etawah
	Deoria
	Ghampur
	Balia
	Jaunpur
	Sitapur
	Jalaun
	Unnao
	Faizabad
	Kanpur Dehat
	Mainpuri
	Gonda
	Farukhabad
	Sultanpur
	Mirzapur
	Mau

1	2
Uttaranchal	
Chamoli (& Rudra Prayag)	
Uttarkashi	
Almora (& Bageshwar)	
Pithoragarh (& Champawat)	
Tehri Garhwal	
West Bengal	
Malda	Purulia
West Dinajpur (Split into Uttar Dinajpur & Dakshin Dinajpur)	Birbhum
Murshidabad	Midnapur
Cooch Behar	
Bankura	
Jalpaiguri	

[English]

Renovation Cost of NTC Mills

2011. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the renovation of the spinning mills in the State of Kerala under National Textile Corporation since the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the total number of applications received seeking VRS under NTC mills in the State of Kerala during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The amount spent for renovation of spinning machinery in the mills in the State of Kerala under NTC is as under:

1999-2000	Rs. 36.24 lacs
2000-2001	Rs. 14.92 lacs
2001-2002	Nil

(b) The number of applications received seeking VRS and given VRS under NTC mills in the State of Kerala is as under:

Year	Appl. Recd.	VRS given
1999-2000	40	26
2000-2001	Nil	Nil
2001-2002	Nil	Nil

VRS was not offered to workers in the mills in Kerala during the years 2000-2002, since these mills are slated for revival.

FERA Cases

2012. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the clause attached to the repealing of FERA, the Directorate of Enforcement should initiate investing and launching penal action on all forex offences, committed before May 31, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Directorate of Enforcement has filed all the complaints pertaining to FERA;

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

(d) the number of cases left out in whose case the complaints were not filed;

(e) the number of persons got scot free due to not filing the case; and

(f) the total number of complaints pending before May, 2002 and number of them filed for investigation of penal action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) All cases of foreign exchange violations registered upto 31.5.2000 under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1973 were finalised during the period 01.06.2000 to 31.5.2002 by initiating penal proceedings under the FERA by way of either adjudication or prosecution. This was the "sun-set" period under sections 49 (3) and 49(4) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 which came into force from 1.6.2000 by repealing and replacing the FERA, 1973 w.e.f 31.5.2000. Action regarding violation of foreign exchange regulations committed after 31.5.2000 is not possible under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 as that Act stood repealed on the said date.

The violations occurring after 31.5.2000 are to be dealt with in accordance with the new Act, viz, the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 which came into force w.e.f. 01.06.2000.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. All cases of violation of foreign exchange regulations under various provisions of the FERA 1973, which justified prosecution in terms of prima facie adequacy of evidence, were dealt with by filing prosecution before the expiry of the sun-set period provided under section 49(3) of FEMA, 1999.

1235 cases of prosecution under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 were pending as on 31.5.2000. During the period 01.06.2000 to 31.5.2002, 1168 cases of prosecution were filed, out of which 131 complaints were disposed of by the courts concerned during the said period. Therefore, 2272 cases of prosecution under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 were pending as on 31.5.2002.

(d) All cases of violation of provisions of the FERA 1973 registered upto 31.5.2000 have been dealt with by the end of the sun-set period, in accordance with the provisions of the FERA, 1973.

(e) Nil.

(f) As on 31.5.2002, 2272 cases of prosecution under the provisions of the FERA, 1973 were pending.

As regards penal action by way of adjudication in cases of violation of the provisions of the FERA, 1973 registered upto 31.5.2000, 4503 cases of Show Cause Notices were pending as on 31.5.2002. During the period 1.6.2000 to 31.5.2002, 13,996 Show Cause Notices were issued under the FERA, 1973. Out of these 3091 Show Cause Notices were adjudicated. Thus, as on 31.5.2002, 15,408 cases of Show Cause Notices under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 were pending for adjudication.

Dress Design Exhibitions

2013. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Dress Designing Exhibitions organized in the country specially in tribal areas during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the export purchase orders received through these exhibitions so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to organise such more exhibitions in the country in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) to (d) No Dress Designing Exhibitions have been organized

during the last three years under the aegis of the Ministry. However, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), a premier Educational Institution, working under the aegis of the Ministry undertakes Craft Documentation Projects in tribal areas as a part of academic curriculum where the students and faculty interact with tribals and contribute towards product development by design interventions in the area of crafts and textiles in the tribal area using indigenous products. NIFT has also not organized any dress designing exhibition during the last three years.

12.04 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 736 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2002 containing Order specifying mandatory packaging of certain commodities in jute packaging materials under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 5866/2002)

[Translation]

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) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Dr. Raman Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 176(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2002, under sub-section (3) of section 87 of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5867/2002)

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) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shri Ginge N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 :—

- (i) G.S.R. 353 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest on delayed payment of refund, under section 11BB of the Central Excise Act, 1944, consequent to the enactment of the Finance Bill, 2002.
- (ii) G.S.R. 354 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest on delayed payment of duty, under section 11AA of the Central Excise Act, 1944, consequent to the enactment of the Finance Bill, 2002.
- (iii) G.S.R. 355 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest on delayed payment of duty, under section 11AB of the Central Excise Act, 1944, consequent to the enactment of the Finance Bill, 2002.
- (iv) G.S.R. 360 (E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 18/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (v) G.S.R. 361 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the existing concessional rate of special additional excise duty on motor spirit and HSD, consequent to the enactment of the Finance Bill, 2002.
- (vi) G.S.R. 362 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the existing concessional rate of excise duty on goods cleared from specified refineries located in North-East, consequent to the enactment of the Finance Bill, 2002.
- (vii) G.S.R. 398 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 10/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (viii) G.S.R. 444 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain notifications mentioned therein so as to align these notifications with the provisions of the new Export and Import Policy, 2002—2007 and Handbook of the Procedures.
- (ix) G.S.R. 448 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain Notifications mentioned therein.
- (x) Ad hoc Exemption Order No. 83/3/3002-CX dated the 2nd May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt pre-stressed concrete sleepers supplied to Konkan Railway Corporation from whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (xi) G.S.R. 468 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain Notifications mentioned therein.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5868/2002)

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :—

- (i) G.S.R. 356 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest on delayed refunds, under section 27A of the Customs Act, 1962, consequent to the enactment of the Finance Bill, 2002.
- (ii) G.S.R. 357 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest on delayed payment of duty, under section 28AA of the Customs Act, 1962, consequent to the enactment of the Finance Bill, 2002.
- (iii) G.S.R. 358 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest on delayed payment of duty, under section 28AB of Customs Act, 1962, consequent to the enactment of the Finance Bill, 2002.
- (iv) G.S.R. 359 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of interest on delayed payment of duty, under section 47 of the Customs Act, 1962, consequent to the enactment of the Finance Bill, 2002.
- (v) G.S.R. 363 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 22/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002, consequent to the enactment of the Finance Bill, 2002.
- (vi) G.S.R. 364 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002, so as to withdraw concession rate of basic customs duty hitherto available on butter.
- (vii) G.S.R. 377 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (viii) G.S.R. 399 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain notifications mentioned therein, so as to make changes which are technical in nature.
- (ix) G.S.R. 416 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt raw pearls, natural or cultured, and precious or semi-precious stones, unset and uncut when imported into India, from the whole of the basic and additional duties of Customs leviable thereon.
- (x) G.S.R. 445 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain notifications mentioned therein so as to align with the provisions of the new Export and Import Policy, 2002—2007.
- (xi) G.S.R. 449 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain notifications mentioned therein.

- (xii) G.S.R. 452 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
 - (xiii) S.O. 460 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose assessment of import.
 - (xiv) S.O. 461 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose assessment of export.
 - (xv) S.O. 475 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
 - (xvi) G.S.R. 490 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (xvii) S.O. 515 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
 - (xviii) S.O. 574 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose assessment of import.
 - (xix) S.O. 575 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose assessment of export.
 - (xx) S.O. 631 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
 - (xxi) S.O. 669 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose assessment of import.
 - (xxii) S.O. 670 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for concession of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose assessment of export.
 - (xxiii) G.S.R. 466 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st, March, 2002.
- (Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5869/2002)
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 :—
- (i) G.S.R. 375 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Vitamin AD3 500/100. originating in or exported from the European Union and Singapore, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 378 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty, provisionally, as per the recommendation of the Designated Authority, originating in or exported from the Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong and imported into India, except the industrial lead acid batteries manufactured by M/s. Shenyang Matsushita Storage Battery Co. and M/s. BB Battery Co. Ltd. of China, who exported by M/s. Panasonic Industrial Asia Pte. Ltd., Singapore and M/s. National Trading Ltd., Hong Kong respectively, and imported into India.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 397 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 73/2000-Cus., dated the 22nd May, 2000.

- (iv) G.S.R. 406 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on Zinc Oxide, originating in or exported from Nepal, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (v) G.S.R. 407 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on graphite electrodes-Ultra High Power grade, originating in or exported from Poland and Brazil and imported into India at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (vi) G.S.R. 415 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 2/98-Cus., dated the 2nd February, 1998.
- (vii) G.S.R. 432 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on sodium tripolyphosphate, originating in or exported from People's Republic of China and Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (viii) G.S.R. 397 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 73/2000-Cus., dated the 22nd May, 2000.
- (ix) G.S.R. 472 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti dumping duty on D(-) Para Hydroxy Phenyl Glycine Base, originating in, or exported from, European Union, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (x) G.S.R. 488 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti dumping duty on Polyester Staple Fibres (PSF) of deniers ranging from 0.8 to 4.5, originating in, or exported from, Korea RP, Malaysia, Taiwan and Thailand when imported into India.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5870/2002]

- (4) A copy of the Customs Tariff (Transitional Product Specific Safeguard Duty) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 420 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 2002, under section 10 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 together with an explanatory memorandum thereto.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5871/2002)

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 464 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2002 seeking to appoint a Commissioner of Customs (General), New Delhi, as the Director General (Specific Safeguard) issued under sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the Customs Tariff (Transitional Product Specific Safeguard Duty Rules, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum thereto.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5872/2002)

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 :—

- (i) The Natravati Grameena Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. NGB/STF/488/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2001.

- (ii) The Bhagalpur-Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Pra.Ka./Ka.Pra./Vividh/51/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 2001.

- (iii) The Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 109 in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2001.

- (iv) The Thane Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. TG-B/HO/2001/134 in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2001.

- (v) The Sri Saraswati Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PER/44/2001-02 in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2001.

- (vi) The Solapur Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. Admn./Per./18/177 in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2001.

- (vii) The Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 4/Karmik/183-2001-02 in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2001.
- (viii) The Dhenkanal Gramya Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Staff/Misc./140/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2001.
- (ix) The Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. Pers./Misc./97/229 in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 2001.
- (x) The Sahyadri Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 14 HO/382/2001-02 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (xi) The Chikmagalur Kodagu Grameena Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 31 in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2001.
- (xii) The Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 33 in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2001.
- (xiii) The Puri Gramya Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. CH/Vig./39/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2001.
- (xiv) The Kamraz Rural Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. C.M.O./O.Z./2001/182 in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2001.
- (xv) The Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. Sectt. 136/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2001.
- (xvi) The Rewa Sidhi Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 03/1859 in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2001.
- (xvii) The Vallalar Grama Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 17 in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2002.
- (xviii) The Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank Mainpuri (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. KKGB/Karmik/2001-02/439 in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2002.
- (xix) The Gomti Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. Per.Sec/Pers/1716/02 in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2002.
- (xx) The Bengusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. HO/SF Misc./122/2001-02 in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2002.
- (xxi) The Cauvery Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PAO/763/2001-2002 in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 2002.
- (xxii) The Banaskantha Mehsana Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 75 in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 2002.
- (xxiii) The Faridkot Bathinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bathinda (Punjab) (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. RRB/SS/Staff/2002/136 in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2002.
- (xxiv) The Ellaquai Dehati Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. CMS in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2002.
- (xxv) The Sri Ganga Nagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. New Pers/281 in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2002.
- (xxvi) The Hindon Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 69 in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2002 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. H.G.B./1178/2002 dated the 10th May, 2002.
- (xxvii) The Kisan Gramin Bank, Badaun (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 74 in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 2002 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. K.G.B: PD/3406/02 dated the 21st May, 2002.

- (7) A copy each of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Travancore for the year 2001-2002, alongwith the Audited Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon under sub-section (3) of Section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5874/2002]

- (8) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of Section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:

- (i) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Baroda for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- (ii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of India for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- (iii) Report on the working and activities of the Dena Bank for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- (iv) Report on the working and activities of the Punjab National Bank for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- (v) Report on the working and activities of the Corporation Bank for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- (vi) Report on the working and activities of the Oriental Bank of Commerce for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5875/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Rubber (Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 897(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2001, under sub-section (3) of section 25 of the Rubber Act, 1947.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5876/2002]

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 Notification No. G.S.R.

327(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2002 seeking to amend Notification No. G.S.R. 842(E) dated the 9th November, 2001, issued under section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5877/2002]

12.06 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Ramesh Chand Behera, General Secretary, NPEU, Smelter Plant, NALCO, Nalco Nagar, District Angul (Orissa) and others regarding protest against the move for privatisation of National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO)

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 5878/2002)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG (Koraput): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also support the petition presented by honourable Member Shri K.P. Singh Deo.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): A part of it is in her constituency also.

12.07 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 29th July, 2002 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002 and consideration and

passing of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002.

3. Consideration and Passing of the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2002.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:
 - (a) The Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Repeal Bill, 2002
 - (b) The Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2001
 - (c) The Biological Diversity Bill, 2000
 - (d) The Imperial Library (Indenture Validation) Repeal Bill, 2002
5. Consideration and passing of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002 as passed by the Rajya Sabha.
6. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by the Rajya Sabha:
 - (a) The Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002
 - (b) The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2002
 - (c) The Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 2002.
7. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by the Rajya Sabha:
 - (a) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Extension to Kohima and Mokokchung Districts) Repeal Bill, 2002
 - (b) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002
 - (c) The Petroleum (Berar Extension) Repeal Bill, 2002
 - (d) The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on the Continental Shelf Bill, 2002

8. Discussion and voting on:

- (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2002-03
- (b) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1999-2000

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to make his Submission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, please allow me for a minute. After the Farewell Address of the President in the Central Hall, we thought that the Government would at least now bring forward the Women's Reservation Bill on the Agenda. This has been left out ...(Interruptions) They have no consideration even for the advice of the outgoing hon. President ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down, please.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) The coconut palms in Kerala are affected by disease. I request the Central Government to include the cut and removal of disease-affected-palms in the Technology Mission on Coconut.
- (ii) Kerala State is gifted with rivers and connecting canals. I request the Central Government to take up work of widening Quilon-Kovalam Canal at the earliest.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:

The 'Malveeya Bridge' constructed on the river Ganga at Varanasi during the British regime has completed its life in the year 1983. The speciality of this bridge in that it is 2 tier bridge. The first tier of the bridge is used as railway bridge while the second tier of the bridge is used for road transport. This bridge connects Bengal, Assam and various States of eastern India by rail and road. Due to dilapidated condition of the bridge, the over bridge used for road transport has been closed for the heavy vehicles due to safety measures, as a result of which the vehicles have to cover additional distance of 20-25 km to enter the city.

It is, therefore, urged that the Government of India should get the bridge repaired immediately and construct an alternate bridge simultaneously.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:

1. To start immediately the construction of Jhansi-Sagar, North-South corridor, Srinagar-Kanyakumari stretch of 4 lane express highway.
2. To start immediately the construction of National highway No. 86, Kanpur-Sagar-Bhopal-Dewas by allocating the work to a suitable agency.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Non-payment of wages in various Public Sector Undertakings especially 34 months due to H.S.C.L.
- (ii) Need to protect the domestic industry and to bring a Buy Indian Bill for the purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Khiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Discussion in the House regarding the deaths due to brain-fever and encephalitis in the north eastern border area of India every year.
2. Discussion regarding inadequate supply of electricity in the rural area and continuous increase in the unemployment.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussions are to be held regarding providing special armed forces and mobile vans, etc to the Madhya Pradesh Government by the Central Government to combat the increasing problem of dacoity in Madhya Pradesh particularly the Satna district of Rewa division.

Discussion regarding crisis being faced by the teachers and girl students of the 'Adivasi' residential schools khoh and Hardua kalan of Satna district of Madhya Pradesh due to non release of grants for the last two years by the Central Government.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to provide 100 crore rupees by the Central Government to the Chhattishgarh State Government to meet the famine situation in the State by providing free drilling of tube wells and also electrification of 10 poles as well as digging of Government land so that the farmers may reap a good Rabi harvest.
2. Need to accord sanction to the Guru Ghansidas University, Bilaspur as a Central University.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 there is a provision to handover the controlling power of Ropar, Harkay and Firozpur head works to the Bhakra Bias Management Board. But the Punjab has been controlling these three headworks for last 35 years. Therefore, there is a need to handover the control of Ropar, Harkay & Firozpur headworks to the Bhakra Beas Management Board.
2. The largest and the oldest Loco and carriage factories at Ajmer are the lifeline of that city. There is a need to lift the ban on new recruitments and to fill up the vacant posts in these factories and to fully utilise its installed capacity according to the needs of Broad gauge and Metergauge lines.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:

1. On 18th November, 1997 there was a major accident on Wazirabad bridge in which 28 children died and 62 were injured. At that time a suggestion was given to construct an additional bridge but till today the construction work of the bridge has not commenced. The construction work be started immediately.
2. There is a pantoon bridge between Geeta Colony cremation ground and 'Shantivan' which collapses every year during rainy seasons and it costs lakhs of rupees to construct it again. There was a proposal to construct a bridge here but till today the construction of the bridge has not commenced. The construction work be started immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the Calling Attention notice from Shri Kirit Somaiya to call the attention of the Minister of Disinvestment to the recent disinvestment in IPCL, etc.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgur): Sir, this is a very important matter ...(Interruptions) We are thankful to Shri Kirit Somaiya for raising this important issue.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Only one name has come. We all wanted to have a proper discussion like the other matter. Kindly convert it into '193'. Let this be discussed next Thursday. I have been told that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said that there is some difficulty with regard to the discussion about the Plan. Instead of that, we are prepared to have a discussion on 'disinvestment' ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me for a minute. Shri Chatterjee, it was decided in the Business Advisory Committee that two notices for calling attention should be taken up every week. For the reasons best known to you, we could not take up two notices this week. Therefore, I have already accepted this one notice.

My only request would be that there can also be a general discussion on disinvestment provided the Minister agrees and the Business Advisory Committee gives the time. I have no objection to that. But in the meantime, since the business is already listed, my request would be that we go ahead with the queries that Shri Kirit Somaiya wants to raise. I have already told him that we have fixed a time of 10-15 minutes. Then, the procedure is correct.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am told by Shri Rupchand Pal, being in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, that there has been an agreement to discuss the Five-Year Plan. In lieu of that, could this be taken up ? ...(Interruptions) In lieu of that, disinvestment can be discussed fully ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have also written to you, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am sure, the hon. Minister would also like to have views of all sections of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I want to request you ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not quarrelling with you. You have done a job.

MR. SPEAKER: You see the business. What should be the business next week ? It can be discussed in a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee or in my chamber.

I have already told you that I have no objection for taking up the discussion if agreed to by the Minister. My only request would be this. In 10-15 minutes, let me complete the business that is before us.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly, 'zero hour' should be taken up, it may be taken later ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Calling attention has precedence over zero hour. You may quote rules on the day your calling attention takes place ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How it is possible, it can not be done.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. I am finishing it in 15 minutes. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Well, fifteen minutes do not make any difference ...(Interruptions) why do you break rules where small matters are concerned ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice on an important issue ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall give you time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know that calling attention gets priority.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, you have been kind enough to observe that we are expecting to have a full discussion on Thursday.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): During the time allotted for a Calling Attention notice, only five Members could speak. But here only one Member has been listed. ...(Interruptions)

I have also given another notice. You also allow me to put one or two questions.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: A maximum of five hon. Members can be listed for one Calling Attention.

MR. SPEAKER: No notice has been given by other Members.

...(Interruptions)

12.19 hrs.

[English]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Disinvestment of Certain Public Sector Undertakings

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Disinvestment to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Recent disinvestment in IPCL, Paradeep Phosphate and Maruti Udyog and reported proposal to disinvest BPCL, HPCL, etc., and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT AND
MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, this statement,

which is enclosed herewith, I believe, has been distributed with an annexure, but I will go through the main points with your permission in just two-three minutes.

The question was that in the last few months how many of these disinvestments we have done. We have completed 17 transactions since the beginning of January and we have raised about Rs. 5,114 crore in these transactions. In addition, as you know, we have completed, what is I believe, a landmark agreement with Suzuki Motor Company for disinvestment in Maruti. In this, Suzuki Motor Company has subscribed Rs. 400 crore extra to Maruti as a Rights Issue. This share has been valued at Rs. 3,280 per share compared to Rs. 269 only at which shares were transferred earlier to Suzuki.

Secondly, while in earlier tranches, Government never received any control premium from Suzuki, we have extracted Rs. 1,000 crore from Suzuki Motor Company without parting with a single share of the Government. In future, Government will off-load its shares, and, even for the off-loading in the market, we have been able to persuade Suzuki Motor Company to underwrite Government's shares at Rs. 2,320 per share.

Thirdly, during the time from 1991 to 1997, there was a minority sale of Government shares in the market and many of these were forced on financial companies. The price earnings ratio, which the Government was able to obtain at that time, ranged between 4.6 to 6. Through our methods, we have been able to secure and I am happy to report to this House, earnings ratios ranging from 11 to 89.

Fourthly, we have thus far disinvested only 1.02 per cent as far as my information goes of Government equity, which was only about Rs. 890 crore or so, and from that we have secured Rs. 11,335 crore or more from these transactions. At present, about 31 cases are under process of disinvestment.

In the Calling Attention Motion, the hon. Member has asked about HPCL and BPCL. In February 2002, the Government decided, in principle, to disinvest in these two companies also. The precise percentage to be disinvested is to be settled and then we have to go back to the Cabinet. It has to be settled between the Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Finance and our Ministry.

On the question of the target, I have given the precise figures—that the Finance Minister had put the target that we should raise Rs. 12,000 crore from disinvestment. The Approach Paper to the Tenth Plan, which was approved by the Cabinet as well as by all the

Chief Ministers at the meeting of the National Development Council, put this figure not at Rs. 12,000 crore a year, this year, but at Rs. 16,000 crore for raising resources for the Tenth Plan—because they have put a figure of Rs. 80,000 crore for the entire Plan period. All the Chief Ministers and the Central Government approved that figure. I learn that in the final estimate for the Tenth Plan, which is now under finalisation, this figure could, in fact, be even higher than Rs. 16,000 crore a year.

Now the question is how to attain this ? We have submitted a set of proposals to the Finance Minister for his consideration and the moment he gives us the clearance of those matters, we can proceed. If the House would want me to do so, I can list some of the steps, otherwise, as was suggested, we can go into these matters on Thursday.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Let us take it on Thursday.

Statement

"Recent Disinvestment in IPCL, Paradeep Phosphate and Maruti Udyog Limited and Reported Proposal to Disinvest BPCL, HPCL, etc. and Steps taken by the Government in Regard Thereto"

Since January 2002 Government have completed disinvestment of the following enterprises

Sl.No.	Enterprises	% Divested	Amount realized (Rs. in crores)
1.	I.B.P.	23.58	1153.68
2.	V.S.N.L.	25	1439.25
3	P.P.L.	74	151.70
4	H.Z.L.	26	445.00
5	I.P.C.L.	26	1490.84
6	I.T.D.C.		
	(a) Agra		3.61
	(b) Mamallapuram		6.13
	(c) Madurai		4.97
	(d) Qutab		34.46
	(e) Lodhi		71.93
	(f) LVPH, Udaipur		6.77
	(g) Manali		3.65
	(h) Kovalam		40.39
	(i) Airport Kolkata		19.39
	Sub-total		191.30
7	H.C.I.		
	(a) Juhu, Bombay		153
	(b) Rajgit		6.51
	(c) Airport, Mumbai		83
	Sub-total		242.51
Total			5114.28

2. In addition, Rights issue of Rs. 400 crores was completed in Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) which was wholly subscribed by Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC). Suzuki subscribed to the Rights Issue, including Rights share renounced by Government in favour of Suzuki, at a price of Rs 3280 per share. In addition, SMC paid Rs. 1000 crores as Control Premium to Government. In the second phase, Government will sell its existing shares in MUL, Suzuki has agreed to underwrite the first tranche of about 36 lakh of these shares at Rs. 2300 per share and also provide the comfort of a "put option" to the Government.

3. Market sales of minority shares of blue-chip companies like I.O.C., O.N.G.C., G.A.I.L., V.S.N.L. during 1991-97 received price/earnings ratios of 4.4 to 6—this was at a time when these companies were monopolies in their field. Through disinvestments to strategic partners, Government has secured price/earnings ratios of 11 to 89.

4. By selling a mere 1.02% of Government held equity, valued at Rs. 885 crore, Government has received Rs. 11,335 crore.

5. At present, Ministry of Disinvestment is pursuing 31 cases of disinvestments. The names of the enterprises are at Annexure.

6. On H.P.C.L. and B.P.C.L. Government decided in February 2002, 'in principle' to disinvest in H.P.C.L. and B.P.C.L. The precise percentage to be disinvested and some other issues are to be determined amongst Ministry of Disinvestment, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Ministry of Finance.

7. The Budget for the Financial Year 2002-2003 has fixed a target of Rs. 12,000 crores as receipts through disinvestment. The Approach Paper to the Tenth Plan prepared by the Planning Commission and approved by the Government and the National Development Council, envisages receipts of about Rs. 16,000 crores every year from disinvestment.

8. To reach this goal, Ministry of Disinvestment has prepared time schedules for completion of disinvestment cases already cleared by the Government. These are being submitted to the Government for approval.

9. Even at this early stage, the benefits of strategic disinvestments are becoming evident. Sales of Modern Foods have almost doubled. Production of Paradeep Phosphates is reported to have tripled.

10. Earnings of workers of Modern Foods have increased by Rs. 1600 a month. Those of Paradeep Phosphates have increased by an average of 29%. The new management of BALCO has entered into a new wage agreement with the unions; as a result, the basic pay of workers has increased by 20 per cent.

11. The new management has announced an expansion plan costing about Rs. 5000 crore for BALCO. That of IPCL has announced an expansion of I.P.C.L. costing about Rs. 1000 crore.

Annexure

Public Sector Undertakings in which decision for disinvestment has been taken and disinvestment process is underway:

1. Air India Ltd. (AI)*
2. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
3. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.
4. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)
5. Braithwaite & Co.
6. Burn Standard & Co.
7. Engineers India Ltd. (EIL)
8. Engineering Project (India) Ltd. (EPIL)
9. Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL)
10. Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL)
11. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL)
12. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)
13. Hindustan Salts Ltd.
14. Indian Airlines Ltd. (IA)*
15. Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL)
16. MECON Ltd.
17. Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC)
18. National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL)
19. National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO)

*The process has not been started again after there was no response for the earlier sale.

20. National Instruments Ltd.
21. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI)
22. Sponge Iron India Ltd. (SIL)
23. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC)
24. Tungbhadra Steel Products Ltd. (TSPL)
25. Tyre Corporation of India Ltd
26. Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd. (BHPV)
27. NEPA Ltd.
28. Instrumentation Control Valves Ltd. (ICVL)
29. India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)
(remaining hotels)
30. Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. (remaining hotels)
31. Fertiliser and Chemical Travancore Ltd. (FACT)

[Placed in Library See No. LT 5879/2002]

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I do not know the procedure how to greet him. I want to greet the Disinvestment Minister and with that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know the procedure, you may greet him when the subject comes up for discussion ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I do not understand the procedure, we can directly greet the Disinvestment Minister. But I would like to greet the Minister for Heavy Industries on the basis of his answer regarding Maruti Udyog. I want to greet the then Minister of Heavy Industries during whose period that work was done. His name should not be confused with the present Minister of Heavy Industries, my colleague Balasaheb Vikhe Patil. I am unaware of the procedure.

MR. SPEAKER: For this purpose, you may take as much time as you wish.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The Minister has given information about Maruti Udyog but I have information about the control premium worth one thousand crore rupees received by the Government and the shares sold by the Government in the past

[English]

according to my information, in 1994, it was sold at Rs. 269/- per share. Why does it happen ? How has it happened ? How much loss the Government has incurred? How could the Ministry of Heavy Industry and Department of Disinvestment at that time could achieve 1,000 crore control premium ?

[Translation]

Through the Chair, I want to congratulate for one more thing, you know that for small investors,

[English]

particularly in this Ministry also, 20 per cent open offer, .

[Translation]

all the previous Governments did not agree to the clause of 20 per cent open offer. I would like to cite two examples. Disinvestment in I.B.P. took place.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is a backbiting motion. It is not a Calling Attention motion. What is this going on ? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I would like to say that 20 per cent share holding of small investors in I.B.P was valued at 70 crores rupees.

[English]

Sir, you know how much we got. It was Rs. 770 crore due to this strategic sale.

[Translation]

The 20 per cent offer of small investors in I.B.P.C.L was valued at 200 crore rupees ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I would like to call the attention of this Government to get so much benefit to the small investors ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, he can only ask clarifications. He is making a speech ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Rs. 200 crores invested by small investors became Rs. 1200 crore and a benefit of

Rs. 770 crore was earned from the investment of Rs. 70 crore and the benefit which they will earn ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya, you can ask clarifications from the Minister.

[Translation]

I directed him to ask for clarification.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): The issues related to the problems of the poor and the downtrodden should be discussed here. The Government should not be praised at this place ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the money earned by this disinvestment will be used in health and education sector or in other public amenities ? My second question is about strategic sale whether instead of direct disinvestment, strategic sale of the public sector enterprises will be made by the Government which is worth Rs. 75,000 crore ? Moreover, I want to know about the extent of investment and the steps intended to be taken for strategic sale. The Ministry of Disinvestment informed about B.P.C.L. and H.P.C.L. For example, I.B.P. got Rs. 1500 crore for the investment of Rs. 140 crore and I.B.P.L. got Rs. 140 crore for Rs. 40 crore ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This is the fixing of calling attention ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The hon. Member has a right to ask for clarifications. Therefore, I have already requested him that instead of going into anything else, he can only ask for clarifications on the statement that he has made.

I will also request the Minister to clarify the matters which are in the nature of clarification. Let me apprise the House on the issue that the clarification which is asked by him is that whether the money, which is received from disinvestment, will be used for giving amenities to the people. That is the question he has asked. Let the Minister clarify.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask three clarifications ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This clarification is of an important nature.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: My first clarification is as to whether this disinvestment will be done for the welfare of the society ? And my second question is that in case of BPCL, HPCL or IPCL when the Government got strategic price, at that time they wanted to float a public issue at Rs. 200.

[English]

Will it not be a loss to the Government ?

[Translation]

What the Government will do in this regard ? My third clarificatory question is that the hon'ble Minister has told that they have to raise an amount of Rs. 12000 crore whereas they have received only Rs. 5000 crore so far. I would like to know as to what steps they will take to mobilize the remaining amount ? ...*(Interruptions)*. In the end, I would like to say that firstly this disinvestment was being done through the mutual fund which was causing loss to small investors. I would like to know as to whether the Government will continue with that policy or will it make any other strategy ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will give reply in five minutes' time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If you co-operate, he will give reply within five minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): I know that all this is a fixing.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You can ask anything, I will give a reply ...*(Interruptions)* Earlier he said what will be done with regard to proceeds ? While presenting the budget, the hon'ble Minister of Finance told in this very House that there is an estimate of Rs. 12000 crore, out of this total amount, Rs. 7000 crore would come through

disinvestment and this will be utilized for three purposes. These are restructuring of PSUS, safety net for workers and reduction of debt burden. He also told that the remaining amount of Rs. 5000 crore would be given for additional budgetary support plan ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

This is primarily for social and infrastructure sector ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How can you say that? There has not been any increase in the social sector ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Let me reply.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Does any hon'ble Member not have a right to get a reply ? When full fledged discussion is held,

[English]

you can raise objection and clarification. Why are you not allowing the Minister to give reply to me ? Is it not my right ? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are trying to cover up the matter ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: What are you talking about? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am saying perfectly right ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have a point of order. It cannot be allowed. What is the language he is using ? He must apologise ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to raise important questions during zero hour then the reply to this question has to be finished within five minutes. I have allowed the Minister and he will finish his reply within five minutes. Whatever you are doing, is not necessary. I would like to tell you in this regard also that I will go through the record and if there is any unparliamentary expression, I

will expunge it from the record. I will request all of you that let him complete his reply.

[English]

I want to carry on the business of the House as per the procedure and as per the convenience of most of the hon. Members. Therefore, please co-operate. Let him give his reply in five minutes. After that we can take up Zero Hour.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you again and again. If you do not listen to me, you will be loser and it will lower the dignity of the House.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I have replied to the question which has been asked.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a new practice is being started to ask sponsored question. This should not be a part of our parliamentary tradition. It should be discouraged and some guidelines should be issued on your behalf in this regard. Some restriction should be imposed on such practice. All this is being done with the connivance ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I strongly object to it. How can he object to what I have said ? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want a reply to this question, you will get it from me, but this is not the way of asking a question. I will reply to your question but there is no need to raise this question again and again whatever is being done here, is being done according to the rules. If while speaking, he has congratulated the Minister it is his right. How can we object to it ?

[English]

No rule prohibits a Member congratulating a Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If he has right to congratulate then we have also a right to interpret the meaning of congratulation ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have nothing to say further.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I can only say that what has happened on the floor of the House is very unseemly and disgusting.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, once again, I strongly object to it. Hon. Members are doubting our intentions. Does a Member not have a duty to his voters, the society and the country ? How can they raise an objection ?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, actually, the question about the use of proceeds has been asked several times during debates—including by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni and other hon. Members. I was addressing you, Sir, because you pinpointed that question among the three that had been asked. For them to say that this is a strange question when the hon. Speaker himself repeats it is a very peculiar thing. I have listed the heads which the hon. Minister of Finance had prescribed in the Budget which was approved by this very House.

The second question here relates to piece-meal disinvestment of minority shares. It is true, as I have mentioned in the statement also, that our analysis certainly shows this. It is the conclusion which the Disinvestment Commission had come to and prescribed for the Government. The Disinvestment Commission was set up earlier than this Government was established. The recommendation was: "Do not do piece-meal disinvestment; go for strategic sales." That is what we have been pursuing.

As far as petroleum companies are concerned, the hon. Member has expressed an apprehension that if the minority shares were disinvested, in that case also, the Government would suffer a loss. I will communicate that to all concerned.

...(Interruptions)

12.39 hrs.

RE. NEED TO CONDUCT CBI INQUIRY INTO THE
MURDER OF SMT. PHOOLAN DEVI, EX-MP

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the step taken regarding domicile policy in Jharkhand is unconstitutional ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me announce your name first.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The first subject that I would like to take up is to be raised by Shri Ramdas Athawale. Always, he speaks last but today he is to speak first.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Everyday, I am the last but today I am the first.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Phoolan Devi had been the member of this House twice. She was murdered on 25th July, 2001 on Ashoka Road. This is very serious matter for the country and Parliament. After one year some people have been arrested, but what was the secret behind it because there were many conspirators behind it. What was the intention ? There were different charges levelled on the Character of Phoolan Devi but after being insulted whatever she did, is a matter of pride for us. She changed her lifestyle completely and became a member of Parliament from Samajwadi Party. She embraced Buddhism and followed the ideology of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. After such a change she was murdered which is not good thing at all. My question to the Government is why it has not investigated properly. We demand that a CBI inquiry may be conducted and full report be given in this regard. Ministry of Home Affairs must consider this. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is present here. He should reply to it.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, I have taken note of it ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Pramod jee, the question is that one year has passed since Smt. Phoolan Devi was murdered but there is no result till now. Who was responsible for that. CBI inquiry should be conducted at the earliest in this regard. This is the demand of Hon'ble member.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I will convey these sentiments personally to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs ... (Interruptions)

[English]

RE. AGITATION IN JHARKHAND ON DOMICILE POLICY

MR. SPEAKER: There is an Adjournment Motion from Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

Though it is an adjournment motion but I am allowing it to be raised during zero hour. Besides, Shri Prabhunath Singh and Shri Basu Deb Achariya has given notice on the same subject.

[English]

One member has given the notice for Adjournment Motion. So, he will get a priority. Thereafter, I will allow both the Members to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, we have given a notice *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government of newly created Jharkhand State has adopted a new domicile policy which is unconstitutional and illegal. People have come on the roads against this policy. Demonstrations are being held by the people equipped with arms. Five people have been killed and curfew has been imposed in two places. After this struggle Jharkhand will again be divided, situation has reached to that pass. Constitution is being mocked at there and unconstitutional action is being taken. Central Government has failed to see and provide guidance. There is uproar, arsoning and blood sheding in a State and Central Government remains silent. Its not right. It is the constitutional responsibility of the Centre to see that there is peace and harmony in each State and no State is allowed to do anything unconstitutional which impinges the fundamental rights of the people. Things like this happend in the Karnataka in the decade of 1950. When the case was moved to Supreme Court the wrong domicile policy was dismissed. Fighting and killing must be stopped there. Out of total population of 2 crore and 70 lacs 1 crore people are debarred from citizenship because they came here after 1932. They will not get job there, it is unconstitutional. There is a big uproar and tumult. Under the article 19 of the Constitution you have the right to assemble and demonstrate without arms but

armed men are stalking on the roads. There is no discipline. Administration has failed. I request that Chief Minister be dismissed there because he has failed to have a check on this. There should be peace and harmony and constitutional rule. Such situation should not be allowed to arise which may lead to disintegration of the country. It is the duty of the Centre to look after national integration. The Central Government has failed to take any action against it. I demand that Government should give statement in this regard immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, your demand for statement is justified but I have disallowed your adjournment motion.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter which has been going on since last seven days in Jharkhand. Curfew still continues there. There is Jharkhand Bandh daily. Ministers and trains are being attacked. At least 12 people have been killed. This is such a serious matter. The case regarding domicile is that those who came to Jharkhand after 1932 are not entitled for group 'B' and 'C' jobs. Is it constitutional ? Can a Government there can do like this ? There is substantial percentage of Bengali population. Bangla medium schools are being closed down there. Books are not available. Linguistic minorities are being assaulted like this. Oriya and Benglis are being attacked.

[English]

Oriya medium schools have been closed down. Bengali medium schools have been closed down. Bengali books are not being supplied *...(Interruptions)*.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad): What about Telugu medium schools ?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There is no Telugu medium school there, only Oriya and Bengali schools are there. Telugu, Tamil and other schools are only in our State-in Kolkata, Kharagpur, Adra and in my place. Dr. Sen Gupta knows it. Bengal is very liberal.

[Translation]

So we demand that the Central Government must pay attention towards this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Attention has been paid out what has been done ?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Day before yesterday, the Chief Minister was here. We do not know what advice

has been given by the Central Government to resolve this issue, to address the situation Jharkhand is burning. Public properties are being damaged. Trains are being attacked. One issue is the reorganisation of railway zones which has divided Bengal and Bihar and another issue is this which has divided the people of Jharkhand ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Sir, we would like to know the reaction of the Government.

SHRI BASU BEB ACHARIA: They are differentiating between the people living in the State before 1932 and after 1932. The Central Government should intervene and see that this problem is resolved.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker Sir, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh through adjournment motion and Shri Basudeb Acharya ji in the zero hour have raised the matter regarding grave situations created in Jharkhand. The Government of Jharkhand have declared the domicile policy of the State. People are agitating for and against this policy and such situation is giving rise to the violence. No doubt it is a matter of great concern. The Central Government is continuously in touch with the State Government in this regard. After getting required information from the State Government the Hon'ble Home Minister will give a statement in the House on this subject on Monday or Tuesday.

12.49 hrs.

RE: GUJARAT SITUATION

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Both, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi have given notice on the same issue, that is, further clarification on the Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister's reply to the debate on the Gujarat issue under Rule 193 held on 23.7.2002.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have also written to you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You might have written, but your name is not there in the list.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to raise it again during the 'Zero Hour'. We are thankful to you for having

allowed a Short Duration Discussion on Gujarat. Article 75(3) of the Constitution says that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People, this is, Lok Sabha.

Any conduct on the part of the Government, they have to explain in the House to the satisfaction of the House. Sir, in any short duration discussion—you can look into the past traditions—or any discussion on a substantive motion, questions are raised by Members. It is a different thing that the Member may not agree with the Government, but the questions should be responded to and answer should be provided by the Government.

Sir, in this short duration discussion, several senior leaders like Shri Basu Deb Acharia, who initiated the discussion, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Kamal Nath, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri G.M. Banatwalla, Shrimati Margaret Alva, myself and few others raised very important questions. If the questions would have been answered and we had not agreed, that is a different thing, but the questions were not even touched or responded. The issues were as follows.

(1) To whom the caretaker Government will be answerable if something goes wrong before the election is held in Gujarat in order to preserve the unity and harmony of the people in the State in the given situation?

(2) List of all those 60 victims of the Sabarmati Express massacre should be known to the House and tabled in the House.

(3) Tabling of the forensic report.

(4) Total number of persons now staying in the camp and the number of people reported to be missing in respective parts of Gujarat.

(5) Total amount of the Prime Minister's package which had been spent and in what direction.

(6) What is the response of Government of India to the action taken report on National Human Rights Commission's recommendations pertaining to Gujarat riots?

(7) What are the reasons of issuing cheques of Re. 25, Rs. 50, Rs. 100 etc. to the victims who may not have even bank accounts ?

(8) Why the women were terrorised by persons who assaulted them, not to get the FIR registered and why did police publicly, in the camp, insist women to identify the culprits ?

(9) How many persons have been killed or injured while returning home from the camp ?

(10) Why has the IDRF Fund from USA been channelised to support the activities of VHP and RSS as reported in *Outlook* published on 22.7.2002 ?

(11) Why the Governor, knowing full well that Article 355 is in operation, did not send the report of the State to the Union Government and allowed the same person to function as caretaker Chief Minister while Article 355 had been used against the same Government ?

(12) How will the identity of missing persons be found and the actual status known ?

(13) How will the people be ensured to get their identity cards and how will the people who lost their ration cards and could not go back to their homes shall figure in the list of voters ?

(14) Has, according to the Home Minister, full normalcy been restored and the ground is ready for election ?

(15) Why 256 dargahs, 18 mosques, 16 temples and three churches, which had been damaged, have not been repaired and restored till date ?

These are the questions, I must admit that the Home Minister did refer only to one point that he would try to co-operate or something about the enrolment of people in the voters' list.

I have heard Shri Advani in all the debates in the past. He was sincere to respond to the questions. We may differ. That is a different issue. All these questions have not been responded to. If you check the proceedings, you will find that he abruptly ended and the House was adjourned. He did not touch any of these questions. These are the questions we raised and we wanted to understand the position of the Government, but the Minister left.

Sir, he is our Deputy Prime Minister. Some say that he is *de facto* Prime Minister. That is a different thing. He could at least respond to the questions. Without getting answers to these questions in Lok Sabha in a substantive motion, where his accountability lies under Article 75(3), how can the Opposition keep quiet ? Therefore, Sir, through you, I request the Government to convey this to the Deputy Prime Minister. I know that he is busy and his programmes are fixed in advance. He can find time

on his own and come to the House, respond to all these questions and give clarification to us. We will be very happy if he comes and answers. We agree that we may disagree, but if these questions are not answered and if the House is treated in this way, if the Opposition is treated in this way and if the very sanctity of Parliament is treated in this manner by the *de facto* Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister, it is difficult for us to co-operate with the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. In the discussions held two days earlier on Gujarat issue, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Minister of India kept on repeating the old incidence due to which opposition raised hue and cry about incident of Godhara in Sabarmati Express, we would like to know why the names of the passengers travellings in the train were not published ? It was not disclosed whose names were in the reservation list. We also want to know that why the Government of India prevented the entry of the people of Amnesty International in to Gujarat what are the reasons behind it ? According to them ...*(Interruptions)*. Certainly reservations would have been made in the name of M.P.s and M.L.A.s and the journey being performed by others ...*(Interruptions)* Cheques worth rupees 50-100 have been distributed as a relief ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRO JADHAV (Parbhani): Rs. one lac to each victim has been given, it is in the record.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Shri Jadhav.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: To whome it was given. People were travelling in the couches reserved in the name of B.J.P. MLA's ...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker Sir, people were being sent to Ayodhya deliberately posing them M.L.As of B.J.P. This is the reason for not disclosing the names of those persons. It is a serious issue. No arrangement has been made to reconstruct and repair the Dargahs and Mosque destroyed ...*(Interruptions)*. What happened to the rupees 150 crore package announced by the Prime Minister. Where is this amount being spent. Killing of people returning their homes is still going on and terror is also being created. There is no information about lost people ...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give my utmost cooperation. But when the Government does not giving positive answer to

any question and tries to conceal the facts, it create a peculiar situation. We want that the Home Minister should reply to the questions we have raised. We want you protection in this regard, Sir.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have also written to you.

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken up the notices which are listed for today. In that, there were only two notices—one was given by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, and the other was given by Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have written you a letter.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you had written me a letter but did not give notice thereafter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I wrote the letter that I wanted to raise the issue.

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Buland Shahar): Will only the Gujarat issue be raised daily in House ?
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: If such situation continues in Gujarat this issue will be raised daily ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): May I take only one minute ? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I want to hear Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas, you do not want to allow Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. I have given permission to Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is a very important matter. I am raising this because the hon. Deputy Prime Minister has sent us a statement, circulated through the Press Information Bureau, with regard to his speech made here. Apart from quoting from his speech, in that PIB note, he has said: "When I made this assertion, namely, this Chief Minister had dealt with properly, I have in mind these telling statistics of Government Action Taken Reports." He has mentioned certain things. I thought that such an experienced and able Home Minister that we have, at least, when he wants to add to the statement made in the House, he would come here and make that statement. It is not a matter for PIB to circulate the note wherein he said: "I have this thing in mind, which I wanted to say at that time." This is not a proper thing.

In view of this fact—the issues have been raised, and the Members are agitated on this—let him come and make the statement clear, and withdraw this PIB circular, which will be part of the record of the House. This is very unheard of. In my humble experience, I have never seen it till now ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is an insult to the House. He should make a statement on the floor of the House ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): While raising issue we expect that Government will take action but when the Government and hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister is not giving the reply, what is the use of raising the issues ? How the dignity of House will be maintained and what is the utility of the House ?

13.00 hrs.

Sir, It is expected that the Government should take action. But the situation here is quite different no statement was given in the House directly. The statement was given through PIB copies of which have been made available to MPs. This is not right.

[*English*]

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there was a debate on the issue for eight hours. We raised several issues. But not a single question was replied to by the hon. Home Minister. The only thing that he did was that he gave a good character certificate to Shri Narendra Modi.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the commencement of this discussion we raised only two questions and I am still stick to these questions that to whose name reservations were made and what are the names of those persons who died. I have confirmed news that reservations were made in the names of M.L.As, M.Ps, Ex-M.L.As. and Ex-MPs and in their name some other were being sent to Ayodhya, spreading violence but for they met to their death.

I have my sympathy for those who died but the concerned Government is responsible for their killing. I express my sympathy concerns and sorrow for their brutal killings.

Sir, my second question is that how many people received money and who were those people. Why their list is not being published ? It is a simple question but even this has not been answered. Why it is being suppressed ? Why the Govt. is not publishing the list of the people who were murdered.

MR. SPEAKER: Ok, I will see it right now.

[English]

Hon. Members, let me say that I am not giving a ruling on the issue because there is nothing to give a ruling on this. I am making a few observations. Most part of the observation is known to you.

We had a very nice debate on the important issue of Gujarat. The hon. Members also spoke on the issue and the hon. Minister for Home Affairs replied at the end of the debate. The debate was over and the House was adjourned. I personally feel that whenever a Minister gives a reply he has to reply to all the queries raised by the Members. I have also seen that most of the time the Ministers reply to the queries that are raised in the House. But you are all aware that it is always the case that the Ministers are not in a position to reply to all the questions that are raised. Some of the questions are always left out. Thereafter, whenever the questions are left out, there are some other methods by which the hon. members are entitled to raise those issues as per the rules, regulations and the procedures of the House. The procedure has been that as soon as a debate is over, questions can be put to the Minister and the Minister normally replies. Wherever he requires some information, he requests that this information can be supplied later on.

As I remember, on that day after the discussion was over, the House was adjourned and the hon. Members could not put their questions. I am prepared to take that.

I have gone through all the rules. I have also gone through the precedents because when these questions were raised in the House I thought that it was my duty to see that a proper reply goes to the Members who have raised the questions and also for the information of others. At least I have not been able to find out that because some replies were left out, a Minister was called again to reply to them. There is absolutely no provision in the rules and you are all aware that I am bound by the rules in the House while conducting the business in this House. Suppose, hon. members want to raise some questions and if they are permitted to be raised under rules, then I have no objection. You can always put it. If the BAC advises, you can go for a discussion also. Or, the other way out will be that along with the leaders, we can sit together, we can find a way out as to how the questions can be replied to.

Another way suggested was that the number of questions that were raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, he has written to the Minister and has also written to me saying that these are the questions that are to be replied. The Minister can always write to him the replies to all the questions that have been raised because for any member of Parliament if he/she wants any information, he/she can write to the Minister and the Minister can always reply to him.

I do not think that beyond this anything can be done. These are my observations. This is not my ruling. If the Members so desire, since the senior leaders have raised the issue....

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, let us have a discussion in your room.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You call a meeting in your chamber. We want this to be replied in the House, that is all! This is the property of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to discuss this. At the same time, it must be understood that I will have to go according to the present rules and regulations.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You have said that this is your observation and not ruling. Therefore, you have an open mind.

MR. SPEAKER: I really have an open mind. If any important questions are not replied to, you can always ask the Minister in writing and you can get your replies. There is no difficulty about it. Beyond that, if the Government wants to make any observation I have no

objection for the Government to say anything. Otherwise, I presume that I am in a position to call the Meeting and discuss the matter in my chamber. Thank you very much.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2:05 pm.

13.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past fourteen of the clock.

14.10 hrs.

*Lok Sabha Re-assembled at 14.10 hrs.
after Lunch Break*

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Floods and Drought in Various Parts of the Country

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Proceeding of the House begins now. The last speaker in the discussion under Rule 193 is Shri Ramdas Athawale ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SAIDUZZMA (Muzaffarnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to lay on the Table my written speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi). Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not given my speech yet. I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that under Rule 193, I had ...*(Interruptions)*. Please, atleast listen to me. I had given a notice on drought under Rule 193. Hon'ble Speaker had assured me that I will be given a chance when further discussion on it will take place. I had also raised questions for **two days during Zero Hour** regarding drought in Uttar Pradesh and other States. Hon. Mr. Speaker told me that I will be given the opportunity during discussion under Rule 193. I wish to attract attention of the Chair towards this whether he remembers his words or not ? If he remembers, I should be called.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said that you raised the issue two times, now listen the reply of the Government ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: My question was that the Chair had assured me that I would be given time during discussion under Rule 193. I only want

to know that if the Chair would turn back from his words? ? This has never happened and will never happen in future also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the order of the Hon'ble Speaker, those Members were asked to submit their written speeches who could not take part in the discussion on floods and drought yesterday. These speeches would be included in the proceedings. Many MPs have submitted their speeches, my speech is also there. I request you to include that in the proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have any written speech, you can give it. The written speeches of Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shrimati Kanti Singh and that of you too will become the part of the proceedings.

*SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, we are having a discussion on floods and drought in the House under Rule 193. Every year, such discussions takes place in the House during Monsoon session but how far it is meaningful that is an important question. Whereas there is severe drought in 11 States of the country, a part of Bihar, Assam and Gujarat is being devastated by floods. Now the Agriculture Minister has called a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of the States asking them to prepare immediate contingency plan but no time bound programme has been announced. 65% of the land in country depends on rain which is uncertain. 26 districts in Uttar Pradesh have been declared drought-affected while the whole State is under its spell. There is desperation everywhere. Unless a concrete strategy is formed regarding floods and drought, the situation will remain unchanged and the debate in the Parliament will remain just a formality

In fact, we have always remained indifferent towards agriculture. We conceptualised the development of agriculture but did not implement it. We did not take necessary interest in completing various irrigation projects. 146 projects including 5 irrigation projects under first five year plan, 7 under second five year plan and 12 under third five year plan are still pending which will need 90 thousand crore rupees for their completion. Irrigation system is also faulty. In 1970-71 irrigation through canal was 41% which has come down to 31% now. Three decades earlier, irrigation through ponds was 13% which is 5% now and 14% was through tube-wells which is 33% now. It implies that we exploited underground water but did not provide for letting water seep inside ground resulting in continuous decline in the water level. If this situation continues most parts of the country will become

*Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

desert. Drought is called a natural calamity which is not true. It is a problem created by men. There are 20 river basins in the country where 1869 billion cusec metre water flows annually. 55% of the river water flows down into sea unutilised. According to the World Bank Report of May, 2000 a loss of 74 thousand 730 crore rupees is suffered by the country annually due to water mismanagement. The region receiving maximum rainfall in the country is 15% with 150 cusec metre annual rainfall. The region getting normal rainfall receives less than 75 cusec metre rain. The region having lowest rainfall is 21%.

If we will make an arrangement to supply 21 percent water from the area receiving more than 15 percent rain to the area which is having a shortage of water, there will be neither drought nor flood. But we have not done this. This year, both Government of India and Department of Meteorology had given incorrect information with regard to the weather. They were fearing that an adverse atmosphere would be created after knowing the truth. It is the need of the hour that Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Irrigation should be merged to form a single Ministry. The loans of the farmers should be waived off. The drought-affected areas including Uttar Pradesh should be declared as 'famine-stricken' areas. Special arrangements of loans should be made for small and marginal farmers. Irrigation projects should be completed within next five years. The supply of electricity should be made regular and the rates of diesel and electricity should be reduced for farmers. This should be made clear in the House right now that what effective initiatives are being taken by the Minister of Agriculture to deal with the drought situation.

*SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Sir, today the country is passing through a very difficult phase and facing great crises. It is the worst drought in our country since last 15 years.

The entire country is reeling under drought and certain areas are affected by the flood. Even, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are also affected by it. Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Northern India are completely affected by the drought.

The Government does not have an idea about it. The Meteorological Department has been a complete failure in this regard. It has misguided the farmers. The crops of the farmers have been destroyed. They have been badly affected by the drought. There is no fodder

for the cattle. The agricultural labourers are in great crises and they are at the verge of starvation. There is a great crisis of electricity as well as water. The position of supply of electricity has been further deteriorated. Since then, 1000 Megawatt of electricity is being supplied to Uttaranchal and the Uttar Pradesh Government has sold out power stations of about 900 Megawatt to Unchahar and Tanda NTPC. There is an increase in the new consumers since last 10 years, using about 2000 Megawatt of electricity. Thus, there is a shortage of 3900 Megawatts.

The time since when the Government of Congress has left the charge of the State, the production of electricity has not increased and the power stations of Uttar Pradesh are also not in a good state because they are not being maintained properly. Construction of new canals for the purpose of irrigation has not been undertaken whereas a new policy should have been evolved in this regard so that the water could be distributed in a just manner and the farmers could get more irrigation facilities. The entire Uttar Pradesh has been ruined by the drought and the farmers are striving hard to survive. The Government of India and the Government of UP have been a silent spectator for the last one month and not even a single effective step has been taken by them in this regard.

There is a great crisis of electricity in the State and the Government of UP has been a complete failure in supplying the electricity. In this hour of crisis, the Government should give its full support so that the farmers of the country could be saved and industries could also be saved. At this point of time, arrangement of fodder should be made for the cattle and arrangement of wheat, rice etc. should be made for the poor people, which has not been made so far. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has announced drought in certain districts whereas the entire State has been affected by it. Meerut has been badly affected by the drought. Only the recovery of land revenue has been discontinued. The proceedings of recovery of other debts from the farmers are still continuing which is very painful. At this time, the Government should discontinue the proceedings of recovery of all kinds of debts from the farmers. These should be condoned in toto so that the farmers could be able to face these difficulties. The outstanding amount of sugarcane against Government sugar factories should be paid to the farmers immediately. The farmers have given the sugarcane, why are they not given the price of their crop till now even after the lapse of three months, whereas their all other crops have been ruined. The Government's Sugar Mills have failed to pay the farmers because production capacity of their Mills is low as

*Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

compared to their expenditures. Sugar Mills have taken loans from the banks and sugar has been mortgaged against those loans. There are 2-3 lacs sacks of sugar lying in each Mill and the payment to the Sugar growers is not being made. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure the immediate payment to the farmers so that the farmers could get some relief. The farmers are sitting on hunger strike and 'dharna' in front of the Sugar Mills and if the payment is not made to them on time, it could lead to a very serious situation. The farmers at Sakoti Sugar Mill are sitting on a strike since 20th of this month.

I urge upon the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Central Government to take effective steps immediately. Payment be made to the farmers, arrangement of fodder should be made, immediate arrangement of wheat, rice be made for the poor people, and the debts of the farmers should be cordoned. Effective arrangements for electricity and water should be made in the drought-affected areas so that these problems could be dealt with. A scheme should be prepared in this regard keeping in view the forthcoming Rabi Crop so that Rabi Crop could be saved. An equal treatment should be given to all the State in solving these difficulties and a new scheme should be prepared so that they are fully able to face these difficulties in the time to come.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Sir, a grave situation has arisen in 12 districts of Bihar due to floods. At the same time the condition of farmers of rest of the districts like Rohtas, Baxur, Kaimoor, Aurangabad, Gaya, Patna, Sekhpura, Bhagalpur is very pitiable due to the scarcity of rains. Under such situation it is necessary to introduce D.P.A.P. work so that the conditions can be improved. Simultaneously the loans taken by the farmers should be waived off and they should be given fresh loans so as to given them some relief.

Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kamataka and Tamil Nadu States have been affected due to weak position of the monsoon till date but Bihar State is suffering from the horror of floods and drought simultaneously. On one side 12 districts of north Bihar-Muzafarpur, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Gopalganj, Eastern Champaran, Western Champaran, Siwan, Saran, Vaishali, Samastipur, Saharsa, Sitamarhi etc. are affected due to heavy rains in the catchment area of river Gandak and red alert has been

declared due to release of water in this river from the Nepal side. Bihar Government has asked for Military assistance. Rail service have also been disrupted in this area. Around 65 divisions, 274 villages and 6.65 lakh of people have been effected by the floods. Crops on 25 thousand hectare land costing approximately 26.05 lakhs of rupees have been damaged. 724 houses have been destroyed and there is a loss of life also. These figures are up to 23.7.2002 thereafter the situation has become more horrible in last two days.

The people of Bihar are fully dependent on agriculture. The State Government has submitted a project of National Hydro Power Corporation (N.H.P.C) costing 1111 crores of rupees to the Central Government regarding construction of a reservoir at Kadvan on Sone river. The Uttar Pradesh Government is creating hurdles in the construction of the reservoir Jharkhand and Bihar Government have agreed for construction of the reservoir. This year also the Bihar State could not get its share of water from Ban Sagar and Rihand due to which the farmers of 8 districts-Rohtas, Bhojpur, Kaimoor, Buxar, Aurangabad, Gaya, Jahanabad and Patna could not get the required quantity of water from the Sone canals resulting in 30 to 40% of loss of crops and the work of sowing in lakhs of hectares of land could not be taken up due to scarcity of water. 10 lakhs acres of land spreading in a area of 1105 square miles of these 8 districts is supplied water for irrigation from Indrapuri barrage through the Sone river canals system. For this purpose a network of main canals has been spreaded over the area of 209 miles. Over the area of 149 miles branch canals and over the area of 1235 miles distribution canals have been constructed.

The Central Government should immediately take the matter with Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh Governments for releasing the allocated share of water from Rihand and Ban Sagar reservoirs to Bihar and ensure that in future also such kind of injustice is not done against Bihar.

The Central Government should make their efforts for removal of hurdles being created by the Uttar Pradesh Government in the construction of Kadvan reservoir and give approval for the construction of the reservoir immediately.

The construction of Sone canal system was done by the British Government in the year 1870 by constructing a Barrage at the Anicut of Dehri-on-Sone. During that time there was severe drought in Bihar in the 1860 and there was increase in the cases of crimes in this area.

*Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

[Shrimati Kanti Singh]

The land of this area is very fertile. But due to the non availability of irrigation facilities people resorted to crimes. In other words criminals had taken the rein of the region in their hands. During 1873 famine Farmers irrigated their fields by cutting away the pavements of Ara canal a main canal of Western Sone canal, at various places.

Non construction of the Kadvan reservoir will put question mark on the existence of the Sone canals and there is every possibility that there would be a spurt in the cases of crimes as a result thereof.

It is therefore urged that the Government should take initiative to provide relief to the victims of drought.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlisahar): My speech is also concerned with the drought. I have given this under rule 193. I would like to give my speech in writing ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): I have been giving notice for the last 5 days to raise a matter in the Zero Hour. When will I get chance ? Today also my number was second ...*(Interruptions)*. If you are not giving me time to speak during Zero Hour, I may be allowed to lay my written speech. My name is being placed 1st in the Zero Hour's list for the last five days ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have written speech, you may give it and we will treat it as given in writing. The time allocated to all the parties has been over. I accommodated all those Honourable members, whose names had been given to me. Now, only Shri Ramdas Athawale will give his speech and thereafter the Government reply will be there.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I have given notice under rule 193. I am giving you in writing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will treat your written speech as a part of proceedings. Have you submitted your speech? You may give your speech in writing.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: During the proceedings Mr. Speaker told me that I would be given a chance during the discussion under rule 193. If this assurance of Mr. Speaker is noted under the proceedings, I would like to ask a question whether the Chairman will give a ruling against this assurance of the Speaker ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a rule and convention that once a subject is decided the whip of the party sends the names of the speakers. Those honourable Members

who are interested and keen to speak over the subject request their party whip to send their names. However most of the Members have been accommodated.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Honourable Chairman Sir, kindly excuse me, when I was assured by the Chair to get a chance under rule 193 even in the Zero Hour, why should I ask my party I was directly assured by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said that you had raised this matter twice. Listen to my reply.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): He has given a notice so he must be given permission to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not mandatory that whoever gives a notice under rule 193 should get a chance to speak. It is essential that the Party should send the name of the speaker.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Kindly tell me whether I would be given a chance or not even after the assurance from the Chair and also the Speaker. Either you give a ruling or allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly take your seat.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation of flood and drought is being discussed in House, under rule 193 since yesterday. This subject is being discussed every year in Mansoon session since the constitution of Parliament after we got independence. There is nothing wrong in having discussion over this subject but it also is not a matter of pride that we must go on discussing the subject of floods and drought every year. When we can face earthquake and storms than why can't we face floods and drought? Therefore, it is essential to make some arrangements so as to check the floods. We should formulate plans to divert the floods water towards the drought affected area. I want to tell one thing to Shri Ajit Singh ji that there is flood in many parts of Maharashtra. Atleast 86 persons have died. Mumbai gets excess rains. I have requested the State Government and would like to request you also that wherever there is excess rains the water of that area should be diverted to the drought affected areas so that we can solve the problem of floods. The Parliament should consider this matter seriously. There is flood in Bihar and some States are reeling under drought. In order to solve this problem we must be able to divert the water flow. This is only the solution to this problem. It is essential for the Government to take steps towards flood problem in the flood prone areas.

Abhi Sthiti Aisi Hai Ki Atankwadi Chus Rahe
Hain Hamara Blood

Jammu-Kashmir Ho Ya Kahin Bhi Ho, Jagah-
Jagah Per Barbadi Kar Raha

Hain Flood.

Ajit Singh ji,

Apka Naam Hai Singhi Ajit Apko Karna Hoga
Kisano Ka Hit.

Gana Hoga Apko Sukhe Aur Barh Nasht Karney
Ka Geet.

Nahin to Anewale Chunawon Main Aapki Nahin
Hogi jeet.

Therefore, you have to contemplate on the matter
seriously.

Jab-Jab Aap Logon Ko Mila Hai Mouka

Tab-Tab Aapney Kisanon Ko Dey Diya Dhokha

Isliya Desh Main Par Gaya Hai Sukha.

Agar Hamain Satta Main Aaney ka Milega Mauka

Kabhi Nahin Rahega Desh Main Sukha.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I do not want to speak more but
would like to say.

Jeevan Daan Deta Hai Pani, Pran Leta Bi Hai
Pani,

Kisan Ka Pran Hai Pani, Pran Ki Shan Hai Pani,

Makan Ko Torta Hai Pani, Makan Ko Jorta Bhi
Hai Pani,

Sukhey Ko Khatm Karta Hai Pani, Isliya Dhan
Ko Agar

Aapki Sarkar Nahin Pilayegi Pani,

To Unke Jeevan Main Ho Jayega Pani-Hi-Pani

That is why I want to say that you should have such
plan to check floods and drought that we must be able
to face the situation.

14.22 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thirty-Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I
beg to present the Thirty-ninth Report of the Business
Advisory Committee.

14.24 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Floods and Drought in Various Parts of the Country—Contd.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shankar Prasad Jaiswal, please
conclude within one or two minutes.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr.
Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you a lot as they
have maintained their tradition. I was the first person to
give a notice over drought situation, to be discussed
during Zero Hour on the very first day of this session.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I had given a notice before you.
Sumanji and myself had given notice first ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: You are also
older to me ... (Interruptions). Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to
low pressure of wind over bay of Bengal, drought situation
created in several States along with Uttar Pradesh. The
Meteorological Department should be severely criticised
for the weather forecast it had made. The Government
should seriously think over the performance of the
Meteorological Department. So far as the drought and
other things one concerned, the situation in Uttar Pradesh
is very pitiable. The hon'ble Minister may also agree with
the fact that except one or two districts, the entire Uttar
Pradesh is affected by drought. Though, the
recommendation of District Magistrate was delayed and
the Government of Uttar Pradesh did not make any
proclamation in this regard but this is a separate matter.
In this connection, there may be some administrative
lapses but when all the people of Uttar Pradesh are of
the view that the entire U.P. is in the grip of drought, the
entire State should be declared drought affected. I would
like to request the Central Government that a team may
be sent to U.P. to take stock of the drought situation
and send a package for the drought affected areas.

[Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal]

I would also like to draw your attention to the acute problem of power in Uttar Pradesh. In case of no rain, tubewells are the only source of irrigation for the farmers. Paddy and other crops have been destroyed by drought. Had the tubewells and supply of power been adequate they could have got water from canals and the farmers would have got some relief but due to inadequate supply of power the situation is that we are not able to provide them sufficient water for irrigation.

Through you, Sir, I would like to request the Central Government that ignoring the outstanding dues if any on the Electricity Department and keeping in view the present situation, it should supply electricity liberally so that farmers can get electricity for irrigation from canals and by tubewells. I would also like to submit that the Central Government should also consider the other concessions which can be given to the farmers. One of them is that the recovery of dues can be postponed by banks. This is not the problem of Uttar Pradesh only. Recovery of dues from farmers may be postponed in all the drought attacked States. The Central Government should also consider regarding waiving of the loans.

Sir, I appreciate the Central Government for continuing the scheme 'food for work'. The food for work scheme is being implemented in several southern States of the country. If need arises, the Government should honestly implement this scheme in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other States of northern India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

*SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad): Sir, I share the anguish and concern of the nation regarding the prevalent conditions of drought. The Uttar Pradesh Government has been acting in a most insensitive manner on this issue.

Most sugar mills owe farmers' crores of rupees; diesel prices are high; fertilizers are expensive. Yet no effort is being made to reduce diesel prices; increase subsidies on fertilizers or induce mill owners to pay farmers.

Selection of drought prone districts is being done, not on the basis of rainfall received, but on political considerations. For example, Moradabad has been left out and neighbouring Bijnor and Rampur included in that list.

Farmers are being jailed because of recovery of dues from them cannot be undertaken. The Government should intervene, stay all recovery of arrears; stop harassing farmers; subsidise diesel and fertilizers and declare my district, Moradabad as drought prone—if not, the whole of Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, an important discussion was held yesterday on this issue whole day and night during which some important suggestions of far reaching effect were also given. Usually, the State Governments complain that the financial assistance for immediate relief under CRF and NCCF, is stopped ...*(Interruptions)* Most of the discussion has been focussed on drought instead of flood because only eight States are affected by floods in the country while almost entire country is affected by drought. That is why the hon'ble Members are more concerned ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): People are dying due to floods.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Due to floods people are dying, roads and rail lines are getting damaged and even national highways have also been damaged. Some parts of Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are more affected by floods ...*(Interruptions)* The main point raised during the discussion was that the State Governments do not have funds. A high level committee has been constituted to assess the situation of drought, flood and hailstorm. Deputy-Prime Minister will be the Chairman of the Committee and the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Finance and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission will be its members. Central team visiting the affected areas will present its report to the Committee. Besides, an inter ministerial group comprising Home Secretary and secretaries of other departments has also been formed. All of them will assess the situation. High level Committee will consider the recommendations of Central team and inter ministerial group. It will also see as to how much amount is to be given in the contingency fund. The general impression is that State Government do not have funds to provide immediate relief. Financial Commission is set up after every five years and it makes provisions in this regard. 11th Finance Commission raised the amount of Rs. six thousand crore which was fixed by the 10th Finance Commission to Rs. 11 thousand crore. Such relief is given from Calamity Relief Fund to the States. It has also fixed the amount to be given to each

State on the account. The Central Government releases first instalment of relief to all the States in the month of May which is prior to the time floods generally come, without receiving any report and demand.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you were talking about Bihar and while speaking about, Bihar other hon'ble Members also remarked that the relief had been stopped but it is not so. First instalment is released in the month of May but the problem is that some States do not submit their accounts. There is a separate account for that and that amount is to be credited to that account. The amount required for immediate relief is spent from this account. It is the duty of the States to get the canals cleaned before the floods and not to let the channels blocked. It is also the duty of the States to warn the people in the flood prone areas. After doing all this, arrangements are made for relief works, gratuitous relief and shifting of people out of the amount given to them as a first instalment. After the amount is credited and report regarding item wise expenditure made from the Calamity Relief Fund, is submitted the next instalment is released. If flood occurs, all of a sudden before November or the dimension of natural calamity is vast, this instalment is released in anticipation. So far as the State of Bihar is concerned, I would like to tell you that no certificate or report has been received from there so far. The Chief Minister of Bihar called on the Prime Minister. She has been told till now that we have not received certificate. So it would be better to send the same. This sort of impression is there that some of the States are being discriminated but this is not true. There are 7-8 such States ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (coochbehar): Please tell me as to how much money has been released to West Bengal and Assam so far ?

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): In anticipation of the crisis, how much money have you advanced to West Bengal ? That is the question.

[*Translation*]

Please give us the figures so that we may have some knowledge about it.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: We have not received any certificate from Bihar. I met the Chief Minister of Bihar in the month of July ? The Central Government had earlier released money to Bihar in anticipation. We are still waiting for their accounts as well as utilization certificate

so the second instalment for last year and first instalment of this year can be immediately released to them. This is not in the case of Bihar only but there are 6-7 such States also which have not submitted utilization certificate till now after crediting the amount. As soon as we receive the certificate, we will immediately release the next instalment to them. You have asked about the State wise details of money released to them. I would like to tell you that the finance commission had prepared data for the period from the year 2001 to 2005 ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: So far as the submission of utilization certificate relating to the amount earlier released to Bihar is concerned, it can be submitted later on. At present Bihar is badly affected by floods. So I would like to know whether the Government wants to do something for initiating relief work immediately or not?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Yesterday, you said that a central team should be sent there and I told you that as soon as we receive a memorandum in this regard, a Central team will be sent there immediately.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Are they making immediate arrangement for relief or will they continue their survey work for indefinite period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (DR. ASHOK PRADHAN): Prabhunath Singh ji was just saying that you ruin Bihar before doing anything else. Bihar is getting ruined gradually. What is left there?

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Honourable Minister has termed drought and flood as natural calamity, but according to the report of meteorological department the monsoon and the rain has been normal since 1988 till date. For the first time, monsoon has been a bit late to set in. So, are you blaming nature ? Why are you terming it as natural calamity ? Can we not call it a lapse on the part of the Government. It does not matter whether it was previous governments or the present one. But, the fact remains that the government was not prompt. You should tell us about water management in those areas where there is excess of water. Why are you terming it as natural calamity ?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Regarding the long-term and short-term planning the detailed information will be given by hon. Minister of Water Resources, Shri Sethi ji. The Agriculture Minister will himself give the complete answer about it. I only want to make it clear that the co-ordination work and the work related to disaster management was recently transferred in June to the Ministry of Home Affairs and for that specific purpose, they have constituted a

[Shri I.D. Swami]

high-powered committee. I have already said that the Minister would present all the details before the House. As far as the amount of money sanctioned by Centre is concerned ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the basic question is that the same work comes under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Irrigation Ministry and Agriculture Ministry. Any other ministry is not needed for looking after the issue of agriculture and water. Only one ministry is adequate for it. It would have been much better if all these issues are dealt by the Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: How much amount has been sanctioned for West Bengal.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: For the year 2002-2003 from the Centre's share a sum of Rs. 5537 lac for Bihar, Rs. 578 lac for Madhya Pradesh; Rs. 12095 lac for Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 17,116 lac for Rajasthan have been sanctioned. After disbursement of total amount ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Pleast tell us about the amount sanctioned for West Bengal and Assam. How much money has been given by the Central Government ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How much money has been sanctioned for Assam and West Bengal separately for flood.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: An amount of 8161 lac rupees was sanctioned for West Bengal. But this money belongs to C.R.F. category ...*(Interruptions)* in the year 2000-2001 79.92 crore rupees were sanctioned for Assam as C.R.F. Central share and in the year 2002-2003 41.96 crore rupees were sanctioned as Central share. But the money belonging to N.C.F and C.R.F. is shared by Central and State Government on 75:25 basis. But, in such a situation, we shall give instructions to the team which is sent by us ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Bihar has got very little amount what is the basis of sanctioning money ?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Bihar has already got the first instalment for the year 2001-2002. Besides 6-7 States, it has not got the Calamity Relief Fund for the year 2002-2003 because these States have not informed whether they have credited the amount or not and whether they have opened their account or not ? Bihar had not opened its account. Recently, they have done so but still they

have not given certificate about the money deposited by them and spent ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: You have not sanctioned money for West Bengal.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: West Bengal was given 3981 lac rupees in the year 2001-2002 and in the year 2002-2003 81.61 crore rupees have already been given ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Only 81 crore rupees have been given from the amount of 8 thousand crores. Till now, the Central teams have not been sent to assess the flood situation in West Bengal and Assam.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: As far as central share is concerned its first instalment has not been released for Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachl Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab and Tripura also. They say that it has not been released in the case of Bihar and West Bengal. There are other States also whose instalments have not been released. Not only Bihar and West Bengal but there are other States also who have not submitted their accounts and certificates.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request the Home Minister to sit down for a minute to listen my point.

I would like to draw your attention to a news item in 'Aaj Tak' about flood in Madhubani and other districts of Bihar. People are sitting on the branches of trees like birds. 20 lac people have been affected by flood but the Central Government has sent only one helicopter of Army to help them. How can only one helicopter will be able to provide help to such a large number of people as well as area ? So, I would request them to send more helicopters.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the information of the hon. Member, I would like to tell that not only one but three helicopters have been sent there. Two helicopters have been kept as stand by all the three helicopters are helping in providing relief material as well as taking people to safer places in different areas. Today, two columns of Army have been sent from Sarsawa Airfield.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Sir, I have seen with my own eyes in 'Aaj Tak' that only one helicopter of the Army was operating in that area. Please, get it investigated.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I would like to tell you that this thing was brought to my notice by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav yesterday only. I have got information in this regard in the morning and it has been confirmed that three helicop[ters are in operation and two helicopters have been kept as stand by since morning in Bihar. Some more columns of Army have been sent from Sarsawa Airfield and two columns each have been deployed in Assam and Bihar. They have already lifted 40 tons of materials and are engaged in other work.

I want to request the hon. Member of Parliament to tell their respective State Governments that their grants have been held by the Centre for want of certificates and submit that list of amounts incurred by them also tell and whether they have credited the amounts or not. We want certificate only nothing else. As soon as we get certificates from the State Governments, we shall even release their second instalment under C.R.F. if it has not been released. We shall release even those instalments which could not have been released for one or the other seasons. Any State Government in which such calamity occurs and which does not have sufficient funds the first instalment of the amount disbursed by the 11th Finance Commission has already been sent to the concerned State Government so that they are in a position to start relief work and provide ration and tent to the needy persons and can shift the people to safer places. As soon as the amount is spent on these works, a certificate to that effect may please be sent to us immediately so that second instalment can be released soon. The certificate is must.

Sir, both the Ministers will give reply in detail. I have explained the things in brief. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that a high powered committee will consider the proposals sent by the State Government for meeting the expenditure incurred on roads which have been damaged by floods and due to other reasons and repairs of such roads are essential to send relief materials. I would like to clarify that the said money can not be spent for the development of infrastructure. But we have made provision that all those proposals which have been sent by States to the high powered committee will be considered and while doing so the report of the Central Team will be gone through. Then there will be recommendation of inter-minister group. After that the proposal will be sent to the high-powered committee. The high powered Committee will be headed by the Deputy Prime Minister. Other Ministers will also be included in that committee and whatever the money will recommend will be given. The allegation is wrong. Many a times it is stated that money from N.C.C.F should be granted as C.R.F. fund has been exhausted. This

arrangement cannot be made, the reason is that money in National Calamity Contingency Fund is collected after levying cess on income-tax payees. It is used for a specific purpose. When there is a extreme calamity and the money from C.R.F. has been exhausted and the State is required to be assisted only then we sanction money from this fund. That is why this high powered committee has been constituted. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, through you, I have a suggestion to make to the hon. Minister and he could refer it to the hn. Prime Minister in view of the gravity of the situation. Every now and then, there is a natural calamity. The Minister of Home Affairs is extremely preoccupied to safeguard the interests of the nation. They are concerned with the maintenane of internal security and fighting of cross-border terrorism. I would like to suggest that the relief measures and the natural disaster should be dealt with separately by an independent desk without clubbing it to the Ministry of Home Affairs. He could talk to the Prime Minister about this suggestion. The Ministry of Home Affairs is over-burdened. How could that Ministry deal with it ?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

*SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to present my views on flood and drought under rule 193. A discussion is going on about drought in the House. I would like to say that it is not drought but a severe famine. In my constituency I did not experience such severe drought in the last 100 years. Crops in district Janupur and Pratapgarh has completely ruined. In the near future farmers will die of hunger. There is famine because there is no foodgrains in the godowns of Food Corporation of India. Foodgrains is not being distributed among the people below poverty line. Due to black marketeers and corrupt officers poor people are not getting any foodgrains. Had the drought hit farmers got some assistance there would be a different situation, but in my district Jaunpur and Pratapgarh Sampurn a Gramin Rojgar Yojana is running on papers only, officers are filling their coffers and labourers are not getting the foodgains. So it have created a famine like situation.

Sir, today is 26 July, monsooon generally comes by the 15 June. There is no monsoon even after delay of one and half months. Central Government did nothing so far. In U.P. creation government of B.S.P. and B.J.P. is indulged in corruption transfer posting has become a

[Shri C.N. Singh]

business. Chief Minister and agriculture minister have not declared Jaunpur and Pratapgarh as a drought hit area so far. There is a saying-subject has to bear the results of all doings of their king. From the day this government was formed earthquake, storm, drought, flood and now famine like situation have emerged. The day Bajpayee government resigns I am sure monsoon will come the same day. The victims of earthquake and riots in Gujarat got nothing similarly this government will do its relief work on papers only.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you that you have given me this opportunity to intervene in this particular debate, which is very much important for all of us. More than 57 hon. Members of Parliament have participated in this debate till today. So, I am tahnkful to you as well as to all the hon. Members who have participated and given valuable suggestions.

I would try to deal with some of the many important points raised because it would be very difficult on my part to reply to each and every Member for whatever points he has raised. Of course, I consider it very important. Still I would try to deal with some of the important points.

We all know that ours is a vast country. Our population is above one billion. The total area of our country is also more than 329 million hectare. Roughly, it has also been seen that floods or drought affect every year our country. That is the problem. We all know about it. This has been highlighted by all the hon. Members here.

At the outset, I must admit and say that out of 40 million hectare of land that are prone to floods, only 32 million hectare of land could be protected with reasonable measures that can be taken by the Government. Since Independence till today, we have tried to protect about 16 million hectare of land. So, you could imagine that there is still enough left for protection against the floods.

As I have said earlier, it is also not possible to provide all flood prone areas necessary protection. Not only the Central Government has tried to protect the flood prone areas, but the Governments at the State level have also tried it. In response to the State Governments, the Central Government has provided funds so that a reasonable degree of protection could be provided to the people.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Are you ready with the Flood Management Policy during the Tenth Plan? If that information is not available today, you could provide it to the House later on.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: I have just now started. I would try to dwell on the point that you have raised.

We all know that management of floods is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. As I have stated here, the Central Government supplements the efforts made by the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Do you monitor the money that is given to State Governments by the Central Government, whether this money is being spent by the State Government for the payment of salary or for digging ponds? Figures presented by you are on papers only. No pond has been dug in my district of U.P.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, I have just started. Whatever points the hon. members has raised. I will try to reply to them. But we all know that the funds being released from the Centre are left to the State Government to utilise it. Of course, there are particular category of programmes, like Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, on which the Central Government has the power to monitor. But more than the Central Government cannot interfere every now and then in the functioning of the State Government. We all admit it and it is the practice that whatever funds are being released from the Centre, it is up to the State Government to utilise and send the required utilisation certificate to the Central Government.

As has been mentioned by my colleague, who has just now spoken ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: They are talking about management, everybody knows it and it is being discussed every year that the reason of flood in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is, release of water from Nepal. In such a situation tiots the State Government but Central Government have to discuss the issue with Nepal. The Government should also tell about the action taken so far and the progress, if any, made in this regard.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Please tell about the rivers flowing from Bhutan.

[*English*]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Hon. Member, Shri Prabhunath Singh has raised a very valid point and really every year the Governments of Bihar, UP and West Bengal are being affected due to floods in different rivers originating from Nepal as well as Bhutan.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Bangladesh also!

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Yes, Bangladesh also, from all the neighbours situated in North. We are all here and we know that this is a very important issue. We are having interaction with these countries, like Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, but we cannot directly hold discussions with them. We try to contact them and our efforts have been continuing since long. We have been trying our best and I would like to inform the House that at least with Nepal we have signed Mahakali Treaty for Pancheshwar Dam Project. We are holding discussions with them for Kosi Dam Project.

No doubt, this is a tricky issue because even inside our country we are unable to reach an understanding so smoothly to share surplus water. So it is very difficult to have an understanding with another country for a particular project and in a specific period of time. But our efforts are always on and we are trying our best, especially with Nepal and Bhutan. We are trying to achieve an understanding so that the projects, especially as I have just now mentioned, Kosi Dam Project and Pancheshwar Dam Project, are completed within a timeframe. We are also trying to have an understanding on the rivers originating from Bhutan and Bangladesh so that we can build a reservoirs to control the floods afflicting different States.

We all know that inside our country, whenever any multi-purpose project is undertaken or is being executed, many problems are associated with it. Submergence of areas is a problem and people get affected due to this. We have problems inside our country and that Nepal too has its own internal problems.

Recently, the Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Deuba visited India. I have had meetings with him and at the Prime Ministerial level too we have had discussions.

Unfortunately, in Nepal, they have their internal problems now. The internal problem because of Maoist insurgency, etc. Law and order problem is there. Emergency has been declared there. Whatever efforts

we have taken are being nullified. It is being stopped where we have left. So, we are trying to achieve some kind of an understanding and in fact, we have achieved in signing the treaty to implement Pancheshwar Dam Project.

Similarly, with China, recently we have signed an MoU in respect of rivers originating from China so we can have advance warning regarding impending floods. It is flood forecasting system we have achieved.

Similarly with Bhutan, we are having ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I agree with you. I sincerely appreciate your efforts. Do you not agree to a fact that technically many rivers in many parts of the country, especially in West Bengal, silt deposited year after year is so serious? Unless a proper dredging at the point where the river merges is not done, in spite of all your efforts, you cannot manage floods. I know that in my State, three rivers—Mahananda, Nagar and Bagirathi—are flooded because of silt deposits. No technical planning is done how to get at silt deposits. Why are you blaming others? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: It is a fact that the riverbeds have been desilted up. As a result, more and more floods are occurring in different parts with much intensity. For that reason, in my Ministry we have appointed an Expert Committee to study the problem of different rivers in the whole of India to report to us and take remedial measures. We have constituted this Committee just six months back. They have not yet submitted their report. When the report comes, we will certainly take decisions with the co-operation of the State Governments.

Sir, you will appreciate the efforts that we take at the Centre. Unless we get all kinds of co-operation from the State Governments, it becomes sometimes difficult to act in a very quick or a prompt way. So, we have been trying ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has referred to Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission. I would like to know from the Minister the latest progress on this ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, as regards the progress, as I have stated earlier, inside the country, it is very difficult to achieve or to have an accord in regard to sharing of water. We are dealing with a neighbouring country. Certainly they are a sovereign country. And to begin a discussion with them, it requires time. We cannot achieve it in one discussion. We are certainly moving in that direction ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Are we having a talk with Bhutan? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Yes, we are having a discussion with Bhutan at the official level ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the matter related to Eastern U.P. and Bihar, two States are affected due to Nepal so it is not good to leave this matter to State Governments. People have suffered a lot due to flood that occurred four times during the last five years. There is a need to take immediate as well as permanent measures in this regard. I agree that you have told your officers, that one river of Nepal is affecting two States, we must take some immediate steps, otherwise we will have to face the wrath of the flood. When there is no flood there is drought. We must consider granting package to Eastern U.P. and Bihar, leaving our officers aside. It is taking very long period, this is not the question of States, only one river is affecting two States and this river flows from Nepal. It is an urgent matter and we must take initiatives in this regard.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, I appreciate the concern of not only Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi but also all the other Members who are present here.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur): Say something about drought also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will speak on floods only as he is the Minister of Water Resources.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: There is destruction due to floods. Why Multipurpose Project is not being made for water so that a drought prone State like Rajasthan can get water. Provisions should be made for connecting flooded rivers with the dry rivers there. We are facing this problem for the last 10 years.

[English]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): She has rightly said. You are saying that this is a national disaster.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Please allow me to speak. I can reply to them one after the other. If so many questions are asked at a time, how can I deal with them?

So far as Nepal is concerned, I have already pointed out here that we are having constant interaction with the Government of Nepal. We have certainly progressed a lot. But I have already stated about the Mahakali Treaty and the decision to prepare the Detail Project Report (DPR) to execute the Pancheshwar dam project. DPR is to be completed by June, 2002.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Khiri): Are you aware that Nepal has changed the flow of its river water towards Bihar? This matter was discussed on 9th August also, but no reply has been given.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: We are having constant interaction with the Government of Nepal. That is why, we could sign Mahakali Treaty to implement the Pancheshwar dam project. Similarly also, we are having constant interaction with the Government of Nepal how to achieve an understanding with the Nepal Government to protect, Sir, your State of Bihar, specially from Koshi, Samkoshi as well as Athuvara group of rivers. We are having interaction, but you will appreciate it takes a lot of time. We have also our own problems. They have also their own problems. They will certainly consider every aspect before signing or arriving at a decision. So we are trying to achieve break through in this kind of a dialogue.

Whatever hon. Member, Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi has stated here, inside the State, the project is to be executed or is to be considered by the Centre, the States have to send it. The concerned State Government has to send the project report to the Centre. Unless they send, the Centre cannot intervene and cannot say you send this. So we have a very delicate check and balance. Unless we follow that, there may be any number of conflicts and misunderstandings. He has mentioned why we are not bringing surplus water from the surplus basins to the deficit areas. But this is also a very ticklish problem. The river passes through many States.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Can I interrupt?

[Translation]

The entire House is concerned about what you are saying. Former Prime Minister, Devegowda ji had gone

through Dr. K.L. Rao's report on Ganga-Cauvery Link Project.

[English]

The National Water Development Agency had already done the survey.

[Translation]

Why their report is not being implemented? The whole report is gathering dust.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: No.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: There is no mention of that report. We would like to know whether it is possible or not.

[Translation]

The surplus water can be made available ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: No, I am coming to that. Please give me some time. He has now rightly mentioned and Madam Jas Kaur Meena also mentioned it. While speaking on the debate, the former Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowdaji also mentioned it. I consider and admit that the only solution to the flood and drought in the country is to have the transfer of water from the surplus river basins to the deficit region. Unless that is done, inside the country, flood problem cannot be addressed. Similarly also, drought problem in the country cannot be dealt with.

We have a problem and we have also the National Perspective Plan to address it. It was framed in the year 1980. Under the National Perspective Plan, the National Water Development Agency had been constituted, it is on the job. They are studying every link, proposal how to bring water from the River Brahmaputra to Ganga and Mahanadi ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: If the report has been prepared, then it should be laid on the Table, rather than allowing it to gather dust. Let him make it public. Let the House know; let the country know.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Please let me complete. You are a senior Member of this House ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I am a junior Member.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: The pre-feasibility studies of the link canals have already been completed by the NWDA. Similarly, we have completed the feasibility studies for six out of thirty links. The NWDA envisaged for the transfer of water from surplus basin to the deficit.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Make it public.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: When I am stating here, I am making this public. This is the highest body.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: We want to see the report.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: It will certainly be placed on the Table of the House. The people at large would certainly know.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: When?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Unless the DPR's are completed, that cannot be placed on the Table of the House.

Under the National Perspective Plan, thirty links have been suggested. Prefeasibility studies have been completed and feasibility studies are now going on. I should say and appeal to you and to all hon. Members present here that we who represent different States should at least for the nation's sake agree that surplus water—whatever surplus we have in a particular river, say, Brahmaputra, Ganga or Mahanadi—should be transferred to the deficit region. Unless States are agreeable to this, it is very difficult on the part of the Central Government to direct anything. This is a very delicate balance we have to maintain. Under the Constitution, water is a State subject and certainly the States will raise an objection as to why the Centre is interfering. So, there are a number of difficulties. Fortunately, as has been mentioned by Shri Lakshman Singh as well as the former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, we are on the job but unless all the States are agreeable it would become very difficult for us. Some States say, 'There may be surplus water in a particular river today but thirty years later there may not be any surplus.' So, there are many complexities. I am very much for this inter-basin transfer of water resources. Unless that is done, the flood and drought problem in the country cannot be solved.

[Shri Arjun Charan Sethi]

Hon. Shri Ajay Singh Chautala, while initiating this debate, has made certain points. He has raised a point that many projects are lying incomplete for ten to twenty years. It is a fact but we are providing funds under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme to the State Governments to help completion of projects continuing since long. Under this Programme, I am happy to inform this House that since 1996 till today we have provided Rs. 8,400 crore to different States. Similarly, under the direction of the hon. Prime Minister of India, this year also, we have selected some fast-track projects, which could be completed within one year or two working seasons. We will provide 100 per cent loans to these projects but unless projects are identified by the State Governments and sent to the Centre, how can we help the States ourselves? Under this Programme, we are trying to help State Governments complete all the projects that are lingering for several years.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, conclude now.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Hon. Minister Sir, you have said that the number of water projects has been increased. Sir, many water projects have been formulated and 90 thousand crore rupees have been spent on them. But all this money has gone waste as these projects are still incomplete. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when these projects will be completed? ...*(Interruptions)*. In the case of Haryana, the hon. Supreme Court has asked to complete the projects by 15th January.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should conclude now.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: He has referred about SYL. ...*(Interruptions)*. On these issues, the Supreme Court has already given its judgment. We will certainly abide by it and we will honour it. So, I should not say anything further on this ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, some of the hon. Members have raised the point about depletion of ground water. It is really a matter of concern for all of us. This has happened because of at-random exploitation and extraction of ground water. So, to regulate and or control the at random exploitation or extraction of ground water, we have circulated model Bills to the States. But, I am sorry to say that the response from the States is not at all encouraging. A few States have certainly enacted laws to regulate this extraction of ground water. But that is not enough. We are pursuing

with them. Unless the legislation is brought forward to control the extraction of ground water, it will be very difficult not only today but also for future years to come.

Sir, I should not dwell more on this thing. However, whatever points are left, I will certainly write to the hon. Members.

Sir, with these few words, I think, I have done my job.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Sir, will the hon. Minister give assurance in the House for completion of Ganga-Cauvery Project as soon as possible?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Instructions have been given in this regard and co-operation of the States is required.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, 5 and 7 irrigation projects were started under first and second 5 year plan respectively, which are still incomplete. These projects have now been included in the Tenth Five Year Plan. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much time is needed for the completion of these projects?

Secondly, Sir, 15% area receives heavy rainfall and 21% area receives low rainfall. You should organise a conference of State Ministers to consider providing water from areas having excess water to areas having very little water.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: It will be organised.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, the Government should announce a time-bound programme for the completion of irrigation projects.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman Sir, hon. Agriculture Minister and hon. Water Resources Minister, both are present in the House. I want to say that the Central Government should take in its hands the problems of floods and drought. This problem should not remain in the hands of the State Government otherwise no assistance will be available.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Sir, a large amount due to of sugarcane growers is outstanding against Government Sugar Mills. Farmers of Sukauti Sugar Mill are on agitation from 20th and they will be on hunger-strike from 3rd. I want to know from the Government as to when the arrears will be paid to the farmers so that their problem can be solved.

*PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Sir, at present the whole country is either drought affected or facing the devastation of flood. It would have been better if we declare U.P. and the whole country famine affected in stead of declaring the country and particularly the U.P. as drought affected State.

Sir, loan given to the farmers of U.P. should be waived off and recovery should be stopped. All types of lagan should be waived off. Chairman Sir, the U.P. government has declared some of the districts as drought affected. I demand that the whole U.P., especially all districts of Agra Division should be declared drought affected. Agra, Etah, Firozabad, Hathras, Mathura, Mainpuri and Aligarh should also be declared drought affected. Sir, due to drought paddy crop has been completely destroyed. Even paddy seedlings could not be planted. There is no rainfall at all. Moreover, farmers of U.P. are not getting electricity. So, tube-wells are not in operation. Diesel is so costly that the farmers can not afford to run their pumping sets with diesel. There is no water in canals. Government should consider that this July is different from the past years. There will be rain but it may quite late. The officers of irrigation department and the U.P. government are releasing the same quantity of water in canals as was being done in normal days. Due to drought they should release more quantity of water. For this purpose Government should have made arrangements from June to August. Sir, in my Lok Sabha Constituency Jalesar, Tripoli of Etah district, Mahchua distributory of Jalesar, Sitapur, Jinawali, Punhera, Nuhkheda and Orderly minor, Podary minor, Narora distributory, Barhan distributory, Govindpur distributory in Sadabad, Jugsana distributory, Sikarari distributory are almost dried and the water is not being release therein. Mahchua distributory of Nighauli Etah, Sitapur distributory and Sahpau and Varhan distributories of Sadabad Atladpur are in worst condition are concerned. Sir, had the water flowed in these distributories, then to some extent the drought situation could have been tackled. Sir, I don't have any objection if the government provides 24 hour power to cities. But I want that the Government should make arrangements to supply at least 16 hours power to the villages and farmers atleast for one month by taking additional electricity either from the N.T.P.C. or from any other agency and for this purpose if the U.P. Government has to stop its major projects for time being, it should not hesitate to do so. The price of diesel should be reduced.

Sir, we have been discussing about drought for the last two days and in this debate many such leaders have

taken part who even do not know the difference between barley and wheat. Their forefathers have never done farming. I want to speak a little bit away from the subject. I want to know what the farmer has gained from this two day's discussion. Mr. Chairman, Sir, unless we prepare a long term planning on drought and flood, it will not serve any purpose.

Sir, can government give any guarantee that there will be no drought next year? If there is drought next year then what measures we have taken during this year. Discussion will not solve the problem. For permanent solution we have to take the services of specialists. I suggest that check dams should be constructed on the small rivers throughout the country. Check dams be constructed on the rivers Issan, Karon, Sirsa flowing through my own constituency Nidauli (Etah) and on river Karban flowing through districts Atmadpur, Agra, Sadabad and Hathras, so that the flowing water can be checked and utilized for irrigation as well as drinking water for cattles. Due to shortage of water cattle are being sent to relatives. Price of fodder has increased. There is no fodder for cattle. Fodder (Chara) without water has become toxic causing death to cattle.

Sir, to save the State from future drought you have to link each village of U.P. through rivers canals or government tubewells or ponds or lakes and clean all distributories, pumps besides construction of check dams on rivers. People expect that there should be roads, schools, electricity and water in villages and they do not want more than that. Receding ground water level will create alarming situation for life. You have to pay more attention to afforestation also. You have to do water harvesting. People like Magsaysay Award winner, Rajender Singh has to be encouraged. By organising Seminars you have to create awareness among people about climatic changes so that they can adapt themselves accordingly. When I was young, we used to draw water from the well without rope. But today water level in well has gone down to 40 feet. During those day's when there was excess rain but we used to get paddy crop instead of maize. Due to scanty rain neither we are getting paddy crop nor the maize.

Sir, crop of maize has been totally destroyed. Farmers have been already late for millet. Sir, government in U.P. should provide additional electricity to the farmers, get the pumps cleansed and canals desilted as this has not been done for the last 10 years. Moreover, the Government should provide water, to the farmers, reduce diesel price and waive off their loans and lagans.

*Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): Sir, this is a matter of concern. All Hon'ble members have expressed their concern and we are getting regional, provincial and other information through them. Such a severe drought never occurred in the country. Discussion on this issue had started yesterday at 12 o'clock and today there are so many Hon'ble members who want to speak, express their views on this issue and apprise the House with their concern. Everybody is familiar with the situation. The drought situation prevailing on 17th has also appeared in the news-papers and Members also have mentioned it here. As per the information available to me and the condition of rain as on 24th and also the data available, the most affected areas are western U.P. and Bundelkhand where it has been noticed that there was 73 per cent less rainfall than normal from 1st June to 24th July. If we see the condition from 17 to 24 July, we will come to know that it has worsened further. There was 85% less rain fall than normal. The next badly affected states are Haryana and Delhi. It has 70% less rainfall than normal. Last week it had 51% less than normal. If we see the average rainfall of last seven weeks with regard to Rajasthan, we will come to know that it has 66-68% less rainfall than normal. Last week there the situation has deteriorated further. There was 84-87% less rainfall than normal. The same situation is in Karnataka, Andhra, Tamil Nadu and Orissa. There were less rainfall than normal. Last week same condition prevailed in Saurashtra and other areas. If we see the condition of last seven weeks. We find that here is a lot of improvement in comparison to other States. I convened a conference of Agriculture Ministers and Revenue Ministers of 12 States just two days back. This does not mean that only those States are facing drought situation. There is drought in Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland also. Although Kerala has experienced less rainfall yet it has not affected agriculture. That's why only 12 States were invited in the conference. This is just an assessment. These States are most affected by drought. You know there are many districts in Bihar, which are affected by drought and they have suffered a lot. When it would rain and how much it will be a different issue but already we have suffered a lot due to this. Crops of coarse cereal and oil seeds have been badly affected. Pulses have suffered a little bit.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: What is the forecast of Meteorological department?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Prabhunathan jee, I will tell you about the Meteorological forecast too.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Please don't call me Prabhunathan, my name is Prabhunath Singh ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Had the God kind enough this problem would not have arisen. Last year crops of coarse cereals were sown in 152 lakh hectares. This year these crops have been sown only in 96 lakh hectares. Sowing season for millet is over. If we sow this crop now, it can be used as fodder. It is not possible to use it as a cereal. Millet is the main crop of Rajasthan. It is sown in some parts of Haryana too but it is the main crop of Rajasthan. It has suffered a lot this year. Last year Soyabean was sown in 108 lakh hectares, this year it has been sown in 71 lakh hectares. Soyabean has also affected very much last week. It is our assessment. But there was some rain last week and situation has improved to some extent. I have already told that we have suffered a loss and I wanted to say that as much as we expected ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: The crop has to be sown again in Madhya Pradesh and the seed sown earlier had gone waste. If you give some grants to the farmers, it would help them.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The same is the problem with paddy crops also. It is true that if it rains in next two weeks, the condition of paddy crop may improve. A substantial quantity of paddy is sown in upperland, which is in Chattisgarh as well as in Orissa. It is badly affected there. Everybody knows that if it rains, it will improve productivity. After having an assessment in this regard we come to conclusion that problem is serious. What can be done about it, this is the question. Many of the Hon'ble members have given long term and short term suggestions. But the question at present before us is that what kind of relief we can provide against the calamity which has struck us at present. Some questions have been raised about meteorological department. Meteorological department could forecasts rain, they can tell probability or possibility. We people have formed an opinion about meteorological department as it is a God of rain (Varuna). It can not bring rain ...*(Interruptions)*. I am not yielding.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: CNN and BBC predict correctly whereas our meteorological department fails to do so. There is a lot of difference in their prediction ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister will answer only. At these Members are not taking notice of the answer.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please listen.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I agree that the Hon'ble Members are very much agitated, concerned and worried. They are worried about the problems of farmers. But if you want more information regarding this, if you want to talk more in this regard, you can discuss at any time with me after proceeding of the House is over.

You can discuss with me for an hour on Meteorological Department or on Soyabean. It is true that the forecasts made by the Meteorological Department were not proved to be correct. This has also happened in America and England. I am not defending them. I am only saying that it is not an exact science. If any disturbance occurs in the atmosphere at a distance of 15 thousand Km., it leaves its impact here also. But it has a number of variables. The forecasts made by the Meteorological Departments of America and England have also gone wrong a number of times despite the fact that they are well equipped with scientific equipments and have a lot of money. I am not saying that their forecasts have proved to be correct this time. This had lead to difficulties. But at the same time we should know it and should not have misunderstanding that our farmers sow their crops on reading the forecasts of Meteorological Department in the newspapers. I was saying this for several days and I have also mentioned it in the meeting of the Ministers that we are looking for the seeds for the alternate crop. What should be done in this regard. Whether seeds are available with the Government or not. We are of the view that our farmers are more aware in this regard. They themselves look after this aspect as to how much seed is needed to them and they keep that quantity with them and also make arrangement for that. The question is not that the forecasts of the Meteorological Department were correct or not, but what relief we can provide, that is the major problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me make this point very clear that it is not possible to start the relief work right now. Relief will be given when the problem will come before us actually. Will you start the fodder bank right now, will you start supplying the drinking water right now? We have to keep ourselves ready, we have to make arrangements, we have to make assessment so that we may not sit and make a planning at the time of crises. We should do the planning and make the arrangement in advance. We should also assess and make arrangements as to how much and at which place assistance is needed ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: I would like to ask a question to the hon'ble Minister. What is the basis of

selection of drought-affected areas in Uttar Pradesh—rain or politics. My district falls between Rampur and Bijnore. Both these districts have been declared as drought-affected areas. Not even a single drop of rain has fallen in my district but that has not been declared as drought-affected area. What is the basis of this?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: If the hon'ble Member will have a little patience, I am coming to all these issues. After my speech, if you feel that you want some more information, even if there is no time left in this House, you may come to me and talk to me again in this regard. Please do not worry about that. I'll give you complete information. What can we do at this point of time? The first thing that has come up is that this is being demanded from the Central Government, our old friends sometimes get angry with us ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You get angry with us, we don't get angry with you.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: They have just said that the Centre should take these rights and declare a drought in the entire country. The day Centre takes a little step, all the hon'ble Members say that more power should be given to the States. It is not under our jurisdiction, so how can we do that? We have yet to receive this information from SDM, Patwari, DM as to how much crop has been produced. This power rests with the States and they should declare drought-affected areas. And as I have said, after that we want to help them.

In the recently held meeting of the Ministers, they said that they would not be able to make an estimate in the next 15 days as to how much money is required, how much 'food for work' is required and what kind of help is required. It is not possible to make this estimate right now. They have given some preliminary figures. It is the jurisdiction of the State governments. According to the information available with me today, the Uttar Pradesh Government has declared 39 districts as drought-affected. Their criteria is also fixed by the State governments and in most of the States the criteria is that if 50 percent of the crop is destroyed, they declare it as a drought-hit area. Karnataka has declared certain Talukas. Uttar Pradesh has declared many districts.

We hope that other States will also make announcement as soon as they make assessment in this regard. This is not hampering the work and as my colleague from Haryana Shri Swarniji had stated that the Calamity Relief Fund is with the States. Most of the States have taken money from that fund. There are only a few States who have not taken even the first instalment.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: It is totally wrong. Last year ...*(Interruptions)* You said that it is with the States. You please give correct information to the House ...*(Interruptions)* I have read out the figures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please listen to his speech.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Madhya Pradesh has already taken its first instalment. But the issue is not that. I am saying that most of the States have taken that and some States have not taken. Formality should be completed. I have written to the Minister of Finance in the morning itself that we are ready to release the second instalment which is to be released in October, immediately if the same is demanded by the States.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Had Chhattisgarh not created, we would not have come to you. We are forced to come to you after the creation of Chhattisgarh.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I can understand your compulsion. I would do what I can in this regard. I would try to talk to Jogiji. If he comes back to you, your problem will be solved.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I did not mean that. You please take it seriously ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want that hon'ble members should take this issue seriously. It is a serious issue and party politics should not be dragged into this by saying that had Chhattisgarh not separated from Madhya Pradesh etc. because we are already facing this problem.

As Sethi Sahib had said just now that Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu etc. also have their own problems. At present it does not become us to say like this that there is a problem in Madhya Pradesh due to the separation of Chhattisgarh from it or a problem arose in Bihar because Jharkhand was separated from it. I would also like to say one thing more that a question was raised yesterday by hon'ble member from Bihar Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh as to why I was talking about 524 districts only whereas there were more districts than that. I said that because we have statistics about 524 districts only. You have rightly said that there are more districts.

First thing is that there is Calamity Relief Fund, National Calamity Contingency Fund, about which information was given to you. Besides, there are certain such measures which can be taken up by the State governments as well as by the Central Government. Money can be released under the Calamity Relief Fund

for that area where the crop has been destroyed. In case of small and marginal farmers, for the farmer having a land less than two hectare, Rs. two thousand per hectare for the non-irrigated land, Rs. two and a half thousand per hectare for the irrigated land and Rs. four thousand per hectare for the perennial crop can be given under the Calamity Relief Fund. I would like to say to the hon'ble members that they should request their respective State governments to undertake this work immediately. If Calamity Relief Fund is found to be inadequate for this purpose we are ready to give assistance from the National Contingency Fund. There is also a provision that under the Calamity Relief Fund, assistance can only be given to the farmers having a land upto two hectare. We want to remove this ceiling and want to provide this facility to other farmers also.[#]

In addition to this, it is also affecting the animal husbandry. Money can be given from the Calamity Relief Fund for this purpose also. Rs. 12 per day for big animals and Rs. 6 per day for small animals can be granted and fishermen can also be provided with assistance under this provision. Handloom weavers can also be given an assistance of Rs. one thousand per loom and Rs. one thousand per loom for purchase of yarn etc. I know that it is not enough but the farmer, whose crop has been destroyed and who has spent money on seeds and fertilizer, can at least get his investment back. Therefore, I want that the State governments should take steps immediately in this regard. But for that they would have to declare drought-hit district. There are a number of areas in Rajasthan which have not yet been declared drought-affected areas even in their fourth consecutive year of drought ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time will you take to complete it.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: If the hon'ble members allow me to speak, I'll conclude my speech in ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Private Members' Business will be taken up after you conclude your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH: There is a food for work scheme. The agricultural workers are getting the benefit of this scheme. Under this scheme the workers get 50% foodgrains and another 50% is cash component half of it is given by the Central Government. The State Governments have to give just 26% of the amount. We will allow the State Governments to implement all other schemes with their resources or they can use the funds

given by the Central Government for the implementation of other schemes. But the State Governments should assess right now, that what are the field which they want to work, which area they will choose for this work and how much of quantity of grains will be required for this scheme. Recently the States have demanded 50 lakh tons of grains in the Minister's meeting. Except Himachal Pradesh F.C.I. is having sufficient stock of grain in all the drought affected areas and we will provide sufficient stock of food grains to Himachal Pradesh immediately. But so far as other relief is concerned I would like to tell that this year's drought is quite different from the droughts of past. The first difference is contribution that nowadays of Rabi and Kharif crops to the agriculture is more or less equal, there will not be much effect of failure of rains or monsoon on agricultural production. Second difference is that we have sufficient stocks of food grains. That is why there will not be any problem of starvation. If the administrative machinery works effectively, if the State Government supplies the food grains at right time to areas where it is required there will not be any possibility of starvation. I have said that there may be some decline in the production of oil seeds but we have sufficient foreign exchange. Still we are importing good quantity of oil seeds. This time consumers will not be much affected but the farmers and agricultural labourers of rural areas will be affected. That is why we are advising to stop the recovery from the farmers, who have taken loans. We will try to waive off the loan and interest thereon for a single crop because this matter is concerned with R.B.I. The matters of Cooperative bank, comes under the States jurisdiction and through you. I would like to say that the State Governments should try to stop the recovery of loans taken by the farmers through cooperatives for the purchase of fertilizers.

Doubts are being raised about the utilisation of money under the food for work scheme. All are aware that it is not only a doubt but a reality in certain places. But what is the remedy because we can not take the powers of the State Governments in our hands. We cannot check their work. But if we can involve honourable Members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, M.L.As, members of district councils and all other elected members and also the members of public in it. Then there will be less possibility of misuse of funds. That is why we will try that honourable Members get involved in these relief schemes.

You have heard about the problem of water. This problem is not due to drought. Doubts are being raised that there may be a problem of water in future and this fact is known to all. There are two remedies for this problem. Firstly, there is a feeling in the minds of the people of our country that it is dangerous to construct

dams as they deteriorate our environment. That is why one should try to stop the construction of dams either by going to court or by resorting to dhama. You may be aware that we get monsoon rains for only 3 months and if we do not make arrangements to store this rain water and allow it to flow then how can we solve the problem of water? It is OK. What whosoever are displaced we must have sympathy towards them and make adequate and suitable arrangements for them. But if you visualise the entire scene and intensity of the problem of water it is essential that unless and until we make arrangements to store this rain water we can not solve the problem of water in our country. Secondly we should once again follow our traditional methods of water conservation. We have to maintain our wells. 'Bavadi' Johad' and ponds. Although our Government has formulated various water conservation schemes but it is essential that community involvement should be there in these schemes. Only those schemes were successful which had community involvement. That is why I want to say that if at all we want to look after the problem of water for a longer term as Sethi Sahab we have to settle all other issues but we have to look into the public opinion also. If there is a need for the construction of big dams as well as introduction of water conservation scheme, we have to consider that also. Some Ministries have undertaken number of schemes since there is paucity of time. I am unable to give the details of such scheme but if you want I have every details of these schemes. Under such schemes we have tried to increase the water level in 28 million hectares of land in rain fed areas and also use the water in such areas. We have treated the water of 28 lakh hectares of land.

There is one more point and that is no arrangements have been made for irrigation and that is why this problem has arisen. Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh have irrigated areas. Irrigation can not replace Monsoon but it can supplant it. Today we have 70 reservoirs. At present there is 47% of water in these reservoirs in comparison to last year. Unless and until these reservoirs get water this problem will remain there.

We are ready to provide relief. Once again I want to tell you that at the moment we are considering the relief aspect, for that we are having talks with the States. Report will come in due course. Cabinet Secretary and Agriculture Secretary had meetings with all the States but the Ministers and political people not only get reports but they also get the information from their constituents. We had a meeting based on the nature of the problem and we made an assessment of those problems. I am not telling that there will be rains, this thing is not even said by the meteorological department. But if rain comes within

[Shri Ajit Singh]

next 5-10 days then the situations will improve. If there is no rain the conditions will worsen. We should be ready for such a situation and we should pray for rains as it will be beneficial for all.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: You have not replied about the amount to be paid by the Sugar Mills to the Sugar Cane grower.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: More than one thousand crore rupees has not been paid by the Sugar Mills to the Sugarcane growers. We have told about this to the Agriculture Ministers of the States and we are also writing to the Chief Ministers. The farmers are to be paid their dues at the earliest and in this work I need your cooperation.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Kindly say something about crop insurance scheme also.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: There has been a steep decrease in the crop insurance scheme. Many Members have given suggestions in this regard. I admit that there are some flaws in the scheme and it has not been much beneficial in the States where it has been implemented. This scheme has not been implemented in Punjab and Haryana since 1991 till date Central Government has given 77,500 lakhs rupees to Gujrat Government under this Scheme in four seasons. Similarly we have given 11,800 lakhs of rupees to Andhra Pradesh, around 12,000 lakhs of rupees to Karnataka. We have given more than 12,000 lakhs of rupees to Maharashtra. Around 10,000 lakhs of rupees to Madhya Pradesh. We have made a payment of just 800 lakhs of rupees to Uttar Pradesh. That is why I want to say that there is a need to improve the scheme. You were enquiring about the individual figures that can be given. This scheme is not enforced in Jharkhand as such, there are no claims. Agriculture insurance scheme is a good scheme I was hopeful that this will give good results atleast in Rajasthan but the results were not upto my expectations. Farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, where natural calamities struck, have shown keen interest and participated in this scheme and got benefited from the Scheme.

There are means of irrigation in Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh also but farmers of these States were feeling that there was no risk. So, they did not actively took part in this scheme. I want that all the States should adopt this scheme.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that he gave the figures of the crop sown till now but whether

the concerned officers of his department have submitted any report about the crop which has dried up? As far as I know, out of the total quantity of maize sown in Farukhabad and Etawah, 90 percent of it has dried up. So far as the crop of soyabean is concerned, it was sown again in some areas. Soyabean sown in Bundelkhand has also destroyed. Have the concerned officers reported about soyabean crop sown and destroyed? If you have figures about it, please tell us also. You claim that you have sufficient stock of foodgrains and you will send it there where required but I would like to know whether these labourers and marginal farmers have money to purchase it? I said yesterday that I had witnessed such incidents that the Government had sufficient stock of foodgrains even though people were dying of hunger on the roads. What are you thinking about this fact? Farmers are being over burdened with debt, be it from banks or otherwise. You said that recovery will be postponed but I think that this burden will continue to increase. If you make full recovery next year, how will they be able to pay it? You said that a part of interest will be waived off. I would like to know as to whether their loans will also be waived off?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I have full details of area where maize crop has been sown. Maize and millet were sown in very less quantity. There are reports from some parts that the crop has been destroyed. But the Revenue Ministers and Agriculture Ministers of the States have said that it will take some time more to assess the loss suffered. So far as relief and giving financial assistance to the farmers is concerned, we can start it from CRF and we are ready for that. We will also launch 'food for work scheme'. Since the poor do not have purchasing power, so, we are giving 50 percent financial assistance. Out of this, 25 percent is being given by the Central Government and we are asking state also to give the remaining 25 percent. They can mobilize cash component from other schemes. I think that there are some State Governments which will not be in a position to provide even this amount. I am also pursuing this matter with the Hon'ble Finance Minister and Prime Minister and if need arises the Central Government should give this amount to the State Governments so that they can implement the food for work scheme. As I earlier said that this is a very important scheme particularly for agricultural labourers and marginal farmers. You have rightly said and I know that this is the time to provide immediate relief to them and recovery should not be made from them. But on the other hand if their loan and interest amount continues to increase, it will create problem. I want to say it again that these are very vital issues. I think that some solution will definitely come out after discussing it with the Finance Minister and I am making

all possible efforts for that. Some State Governments also can assist us in this regard. They can also raise loan from co-operatives for this purpose ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): I said yesterday that 65 lakh ton wheat of FCI is lying in open and the concerned officers are planning to give this rotten wheat under drought relief programme. Whether the hon'ble Minister will give any clarification in this regard? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: After completion of all formalities you can meet the concerned Minister.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bijnor and Rampur districts have been declared drought affected while Moradabad has not been declared drought affected because certain area of my district falls under the constituency of hon'ble Mulayam Singh ji ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Neither Etawah has been included nor ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT SINGH: First of all Etawah and Mainpuri have been included ...(*Interruptions*) I have a report ...(*Interruptions*) Officers may not have sent the report. Mainpuri was included alongwith Meerut ...(*Interruptions*) I also hope that you will be active in this regard and keep on eye on the matter so as to prevent them from releasing the rotten wheat.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I will do so.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I will also do so. I have a list in which 39 districts have been included. I have no knowledge. So, I again say that this is the duty of the State Government ...(*Interruptions*)

15.48 hrs.

[*English*]

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTIONS

(i) **Re : Policy for All Round Development of Economically, Socially and Educationally Backward People—Contd.**

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up item no. 14 of today's agenda.

Before further discussion on the Resolution regarding the policy for all round development of backward people moved by Shri Punnulal Mohale is resumed, I would like

to mention that already 2½ hours have been taken to discuss this Resolution. The time allotted for the discussion on this Resolution is already exhausted. The House is now to extend the time for further discussion on the Resolution.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the time for this Resolution is extended by half-an-hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Does the House agrees to it?

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : Yes Sir.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): I would like to thank Shri Mohale ji for showing his concern and drawing the attention of Indian Government about the development of those people who are economically, socially and educationally backward. During the fifty years of independence we have observed that most of population live in villages. The condition of many people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and backward classes is so bad that it is beyond description. A country can not be strong and can not progress unless there is all-round development. All castes, groups and areas should get the benefit of all-round progress. So, particular concern has been shown in this resolution for Chhatisgarh State. Chhatisgarh must be developed but I want to draw your attention towards my State, Bihar. I would like to inform the government that even before reorganization of Bihar, its condition was very bad. There has not been any significant progress in the areas of small scale industries, large scale industries, educational institutions and health services. But, after the reorganization of Bihar, the situation has even worsened. Bihar has been left high and dry in the matter of educational institutions. I would like to remind you that under the provisions of the Reorganisation Act the students of Bihar used to enrol in Sainik schools at Tilaiya and Hazaribagh under Ministry of Defence of Government of India but by making such rules and provision being deprived the meritorious boys and girls of Bihar are now of admission in Sainik Schools. Now 67 percent students will be enrolled in Jharkhand and the remaining 33 per cent will be enrolled on the basis of a merit test. In this way, the big losers will be the students of Bihar and the standard of education will further deteriorate. So, I urge upon you that unless educational institution and Sainik Schools of the same standard are established in Bihar, Bihar will continue to meet with this grave injustice.

[Shri Subodh Roy]

There are lacs of people engaged in powerloom sector and handloom sector in the State, but their condition is not good. But the Central Government sponsored schemes in sectors like silk or any other sector are intended to remove them. The action being taken is intended to worsen the condition of the minorities and most backward castes. We would like that more and more resources should be mobilized so that the areas of Bihar which are backward, where agricultural work is hampered, big schemes are pending and the condition of educational and health institutions is very bad, may be developed. The Central Government must take responsibility to develop the backward areas of Bihar. It has been rightly said in the Resolution that the Government should formulate a comprehensive policy for it. It should guarantee that it will be completed by making a time-bound programme for five years. The Central Government should identify all these areas. It should prepare a complete action plan by consulting the public representatives and State Governments. Only then effective steps can be taken for economic, social and educational development of the area. The Government should take immediate steps for it. There are many separatist and extremist elements in the country. The demon of regionalism is raising its head and it is creating a lot of problems. The Government should stop the implementation of those policies which create this problem.

Today, there is a problem related to railways and will have to take all possible steps to solve it. There is another problem of industry and many other problems. The Central Government should implement such a policy which leads to the development of the country. The Government should take effective steps to maintain national unity and integrity.

Democracy should be strengthened so as to sustain it. The Government of India should take vigorous steps for the development of those persons who are the most downtrodden. Today, the poor and the Dalit are devoid of education and other facilities. We should work towards their upliftment. The Government should act on an action-plan for completing the plan by adopting the right approach and policy, so that every area of the country is developed. There should be an endeavour for sustaining the faith of the people in the traditions of the country, its constitution and democracy.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I support the Resolution. Now, the social, educational, and economical backwardness is a global phenomenon. It is not confined to a particular area. So, in this background, we have to examine the uneven development

in India. Even our country was divided on this basis. It was not divided on the basis of religion alone. India was divided into Pakistan and Indian Union because of this uneven development and because of the discrimination shown to a particular section of the community. Sir, mere administrative change will not solve the problem,. Now, recently we have divided our country also by carving out Chhatisgarh from Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand from Bihar for the simple reason that small administrative unit will solve the problem.

16.00 hrs.

We thought that backwardness could be got ridden by bringing in smaller units of administration. Things have developed to such an extent that very recently, the day before yesterday, a new theory was developed by the PMK Leader Shri Ramodoss. He wanted the country to be further divided on the basis of caste. He wanted Tamil Nadu to be divided into two States; one governed by the upper class and the other governed by the so-called backward class. That is the theory developed recently by the PMK Leader Shri Ramodoss. We have come to this pass.

By carving out Jharkhand from Bihar or by carving out Chhattisgarh from Madhya Pradesh we did not solve the problem. That is why this Resolution has been brought in. This is the situation throughout the world. In India itself now there is a big difference in terms of development between city areas and village areas. Uneven development is still taking place in our country. Development of cities would be at a higher level and the rural areas naturally get neglected by the administration.

In India there are other reasons for social backwardness because caste system prevailed here for ages together in which a large section of the people were regarded as untouchables. They were not allowed to travel through public roads; they were denied entry to public institutions; they were denied the right to education in public schools. That led to a serious situation in which a large section of the people remained as untouchables and they were not allowed to grow as citizens of India. This is one of the reasons for social backwardness. Not only that, religious discrimination also is prevalent in India which has led to uneven development. So, there are historical reasons, there are religious reasons also. The most important reason is the caste system prevailing in our country.

The United Nations also would agree that at the global level there is uneven development. That is the reason why a social development scheme was prepared

by the United Nations specially for the dark countries in Africa which were far below the standards and where people were far below the poverty line. In India also this is the position. When you think of development in India, you will see that people are migrating to cities. People from all over India are migrating to Mumbai because it is an industrially developed city; all the industries are flocked together there; it is a centre for Railways; and almost all developments are centred at a particular place. This very same reason has given rise to other metropolitan cities like Chennai, Kolkata and Delhi also. So, people are migrating to these places. Meanwhile the administrative set up has remained completely negligent.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to catch a train but there is no member from the panel of Chairmen present in the House. So, if the House agrees, Shri Anadi Sahu is called to preside.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): All right, we agree.

16.05 hrs.

[SHRI ANADI SAHU *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I was dealing with the uneven development of cities in India. Now, we have reached such a position that there is population explosion in some of the cities. Maximum population explosion has taken place in Mumbai. Most of the industries are now defunct. The textile industry which once flourished in Mumbai is now defunct because of this population explosion and because of this uneven development. People from throughout India, especially the unemployed, are clogging in certain places, especially in places like Mumbai. That created population explosion. This has led to not only population explosion but also to environmental pollution. In Delhi and other metropolitan cities, the most important problem is atmospheric pollution. Another problem is traffic congestion. Traffic is miserable in these cities because of this uneven development.

In the meanwhile, we are now constructing Metro Railway in the city. But we are neglecting village roads. We do not have any money to spend for poor villages? How can this development become even? When we are constructing Metro Railway with crores of rupees in the city, we are neglecting the village roads throughout the country. The villagers are left to the mercy of the nature.

Is it not the position? The entire money is spent for particular areas, thereby naturally neglecting those rural areas. Now, we have taken many steps in this direction. If you think administrative set-up will help the issue, it will not help. We have created small States. Even the creation of small administrative units did not solve the problem. If that could solve the problem, then Chattisgarh would have developed; if that could solve the problem, then Jharkhand would have developed. But their position did not improve. They have a lot of complaints. We cannot say that these regions have developed. Previously, we had an idea that if our nation is divided upon the basis of language, we can have development. So, we have linguistic provinces. The areas where majority of people spoke Telugu, that was carved out as Andhra Pradesh; the areas where majority of people spoke Tamil, that was carved out as Tamil Nadu; the areas where majority of people spoke Malayalam, that was carved out as Kerala. Like-wise, Maharashtra was carved out. So, linguistic provinces were formed. That was one of the reasons for this uneven development. Even formation of States on the basis of linguistic administrative regions did not solve the problem. We are still at the same stage when it was born. It has its own problems. Division of the country on linguistic basis will not solve the problem. Division of the country or bifurcation of the State on administrative basis will not solve the problem. The basic problem is our wrong approach to the issues. Until and unless we take a very healthy attitude in these matters, the problems will remain as it is. Even now we find there is discriminatory attitude towards the States. In the previous discussion that we had previously when we discussed the situation broadly, there were a lot of complaints from Members coming from Madhya Pradesh that that State is being discriminated against. They feel that they are being discriminated. The State of Bihar also has got a lot of complaints that it is discriminated by the Central Government. So, a lot of complaints are there from all the States. We came across this when we discussed the drought situation. So, unless and until we take a practical approach, unless and until the administrators take a broad approach, the issue will not be solved.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, would you mind concluding it now ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am concluding it. I accept your advice.

So, coming to the issue, it has to be achieved not by bifurcation. All these principles will not solve the issue. The issue could be solved only when we take a practical approach. That is not possible in the near future. That is

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

my view. So, the issue will go on like this. We will have to find out a solution somehow or the other. The people should become committed. They should feel that they are particular about this issue. They should become self-reliant. The people, who are now clamouring for equality, will have to re-organise themselves and they will have to have an approach to the issue. Unless they become self-reliant, this problem will not be solved. This can be solved only through that process.

With these words, I support the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before I call upon Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak on this, may I request all the hon. Members to keep in mind that we have given only half-an-hour's time for this discussion? Unless we conclude it in another five to seven minutes' time, it would not be possible for the hon. Minister to give the reply. After that, Shri Mohale has to seek certain clarifications. May I request for the cooperation of all the hon. Members to limit their discussion on this to only very bare minimum points ?

Shri Suman to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the resolution moved by Shri Punnu Lal Mohale regarding the need to formulate a comprehensive policy for all round development of economically, socially and educationally backward people of the country and particularly of the Chattisgarh State and to implement the same within a period of five years, is good. Since there is a time limit, so I can ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Six more Hon'ble Members have to speak on this subject. If five minutes are allotted to each member, it will amount to 30 minutes. If the House permits, 30 minutes extension can be given to this subject.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): We can have 45 minutes *in toto* to discuss it. It is a very important Resolution ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Chair has given a ruling that it would be extended for thirty minutes only. Now, we have extended for thirty minutes. The extension of time is coming to an end. In another two-minutes' time, it will be over. Then, the other Resolution has to be taken into account. That is why, I am saying that it would be better if Shri Suman concludes it in another two to three minutes'

time. If other hon. Members agree not to pursue it further, we can request the hon. Minister to give her reply and conclude it. If we go on doing this, then the other Resolution cannot be taken up. There has to be further extension of time.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO.: The other one can be taken up next time ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I have given the notice to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have the notice. Your notice is there. I am only requesting the hon. Members to cooperate. I want to know whether we can conclude it now or you give further extension of thirty minutes because we have given only thirty minutes' extension for this discussion. Originally, it was fixed for two hours.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): About the other Resolution, will it be taken up today or later on?

MR. CHAIRMAN : If this is finished, it will be automatically taken up today itself. So, I would now request the hon. Members to say whether we should give another thirty minutes extension to this particular Resolution or we should conclude it here itself. Let the House say as to whether we should give an extension or not.

[Translation]

If everybody agree its time will be extended.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Please extend.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, you are for further extension of time. Is it the opinion of the House that we should extend the time further?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, we give a further extension of thirty minutes. Shri Suman can continue now.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): My resolution has been standing for a long time. This discussion has taken enough time, so I request you to complete it within the given time frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we have agreed. Now 30 minutes extension has been given.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also request that the subject on which Mr. Prahlad is to move private member's resolution is very important. It has been pending for the last many weeks, so conclude this subject within allotted time so that he can get a chance.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request you to conclude this item within 30 minutes without extending it further.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

Shri Ramji Lal Suman, kindly be brief and conclude your speech within five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a good resolution and I understand that the government must make some meaningful effort to improve the economic condition of poor people, to eradicate the poverty of poor States. There is no dearth of wealth in our country. I do not say that there is no increase in the wealth in free India but it is unfortunate that it has increased only with those people who already has it in plenty. Economic condition of common man has not improved. Justice has not been done to them. As far as rural areas are concerned, if we see honestly and if electoral roles are prepared correctly, we can find out that half of electorate do not reside in villages. A prosperous man in village first builds his residence in the city and only those people work in villages who have small holdings of land and there is no permanent job for poor people in villages. So they are migrating to the cities. There is no job in the cities too. A man from village, who comes in the city, is perplexed.

"Tumahare Sahar Mei Aye to Gaon Se Bhi Gaye,

Makan Ki Aas Mein Pedon Ki Chhaon Se Bhi Gaye."

There is no employment anywhere. There is no protection to agriculture. I do not want to go into it as to what amount of money was provided for agriculture in the last Budget. I do not want to go into it what amount of money was provided for agriculture in last budget. I do not want to go into it how much money is required if we want to sent one rupee in the name of development. 65-70% people depend on agriculture, but agriculture which provides or can provide maximum employment has not been protected.

Education has become a business. Health services are in bad shapes and our traditional industries, our cottage industries, do not get loan liberally from financial institutes. Overall situation is that those who are poor and require assistance are not getting that.

As I have mentioned annual income of some of our States is very high whereas some have very low. Maharashtra has per capita annual income of Rs. 23398 whereas Bihar has Rs. 6328. According to the figures of the year 2000-2001, Delhi has the per capita annual income of Rs. 25162, Gujarat Rs. 13022 and Rajasthan Rs. 8088. In other words some of the States are affluent whereas some of them are very poor. That disparity should be removed. As far as the number of poor families are concerned Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh top the list. I have figures regarding poor people also but since time is very less so I do not want to repeat that. But I would like to say one thing certainly that in the year 1998-99 Rs. 102.80 crores were spent in the name of public conveniences in 22 States but only 13% people were benefited. No matter has good schemes we formulate, how good programmes we make but the fact is that the benefit could not reach to those who needed it most. Then there is no use of these plans. It is a practical thing. Questions are raised in the House daily that the funds given to backward States for welfare of the people are not being utilised properly. Approximately 900 crore rupees remained unutilised out of the funds released to State governments for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes during the last nine five year plans. It is a very serious matter and needs attention.

As per the report for the year 1998 India ranks 37th regarding administrative efficiency. According to the figures for the year 2000 India ranks 44th. Thus efficiency is also not good here. I want that attention should be paid to this issue also. It should be considered over as to how to remove the backwardness of States and alleviate poverty. We have a list of people living below poverty-line. This list is not proper at all. The resourceful persons get their names entered in the list cleverly and avail its benefits. Therefore it should be inquired into. In my view it would be definitely better if we formulate a programme on the basis of the list of people living below poverty line on all India level and implement it.

Sharad Yadavji, it is not important as to how long the government runs for five years or ten years. What is important, the directions and the manners in which it works. If we fail to give benefits to backwards, poor and backward States, there is no meaning in running the

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

government. I hope this proposal will give us some better ideas and we will give more protection to poor States and would try to give good programmes for them.

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA (Dahanu): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. I thanks Mr. Punnu Lal Mohale for moving this resolution. It is an important matter. I don't want to go into it that the list of people living below poverty line is proper or not. As per the All India Survery 26 percent people in the Country live below poverty line. So far as Scheduled Tribes are concerned the figures are given in reply to today's starred question No. 188. I would like to tell you what the figures reflect.

[English]

"The tribals across the country have over the year improved their living standards as revealed from various human development indicators. The literacy rates amongst STs has increased from 8.50 per cent in 1961 to 29.60 per cent in 1991. The percentage of Scheduled Tribes population below the poverty line has come down from the level of 68.10 in 1977-78 to 4.4 (urban) and 51.94 (rural) in 1993-94. The number of ST persons employed in different jobs in the Government of India has increased from 50,889 in 1965 to 2,17,705 in 1995."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, the population of scheduled tribes is approximately eight crore in the country. How many of them are employed in services under Government of India is also revealed by this reply. Although wide publicity is given to recruit people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. When advertisement for a high post is published they can not get this job due to non availability of scheduled tribes candidates. Why this situation has arisen? This situation has arisen due to the fact that whatever schemes were formulated for scheduled tribes and backward classes remained on papers only. As per provisions made in the constitution the special assistance given to State Government by the Central Government is also not utilised fully. Therefore there should be a monitoring system in regard to the funds allocated for backward classes under various schemes. Even after independence condition of scheduled tribes has remained unchanged. The Central Government and State Government give incentives for industries. The idea of Government behind this is that the industries set up in tribal areas and the industries are also set up there. The Government of Maharashtra has set up some industries in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Central

Government give incentives but whenever industries are set up in tribal areas, provision of some reservation should be made for that area. The tenth five year plan is still running. The Central Government should formulate a national policy for the tribal areas to remove their backwardness otherwise. Whatever funds would be provided will remain unutilised. Area should be identified for special assistance given to State government by the Central Government. In my district the number of tribal people is the largest in Maharashtra. Despite it, special assistance given by the Central Government does not reach in my constituency. Therefore, there is need to change the norms. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing a resolution. A policy was formulated in the country for the overall development of the people belonging to the Backward Classes. In fact, the need of the hour is that proper attention should be State given to the people living in villages, who are economically, socially and educationally backward, by the State government or by the Central Government but that attention has not been given even after 55 years, since Independence. The names of the people living below the poverty line in the villages have not been registered so far in the list of 40-45 percent. This is so because officials which go to villages to get the datas for census prepare the list sitting at the homes of the land lords. In fact, the names of those poor people should figure in the list, but their name are not included in the list despite the fact that they live below the poverty line. There are actually 40 percent people in Bihar living below the poverty line but their names are not there is the list. A discussion is held in this regard in the district several times that inspection should be made, but it could not be done. The same is the position of Indira Avas Yojana. A sum of Rs. 20 thousand was earmarked under this scheme ten years ago and even today Rs. 20 thousand are allocated under Indira Avas Yojna. Even one toilet can not be constructed in the village with this amount. I, through you, Sir, would like to request the Government to increase this amount to Rs. 40 thousand so that these poor people could build a small house, but this has not been done so far.

Sir, hospitals in our area have not been set up in the ratio of population. People have to travel a distance of 20-25 km. to get the medical facilities. This is the position on one hand and there are no roads on the other. My Parliamentary constituency is near the border of Nepal and it is affected by floods at present. We have to take our patient to the hospital on a cot in the absence of roads. The situation there is very bad. The people belonging to Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes also not given proper respect. The people belonging to other

backward classes are not given due respect which they are supposed to get. I also want to tell that one primary school was sanctioned for our area about 25 years back in Bihar. The population of the area is increasing day-by-day. The area where one school was sanctioned on the basis of population of one thousand people, the population of that area has increased to 15 thousand during the last 20 years and there is not even a single primary school in that area upto a distance of 5-7 km. for the population of 15 thousand people. If there is a school, there are no teachers available. If there are teachers, there is no building. If building is there, it is damaged beyond repairs. There is no arrangement of any kind. A higher secondary school was constructed in my Parliamentary Constituency but construction work could not be undertaken for such a huge population with a meagre amount of Rs. two cores. I through you, Sir, want to say to the government that such a scheme should be prepared under which work is completed within the prescribed time-limit. A time-frame of five years should be fixed so that steps could be taken for the upliftment of crores of backward people in the country who are socially and economically backward. Unless there is participation of the people belonging to lower classes in the progress of the country, we will not get their cooperation and the country can not make any progress.

Lastly, I, through you, Sir, urge upon the Government that unless and until these people belonging to the weaker sections are uplifted, our country can not make progress. I thank you very much that you have given me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): At the very outset, I must thank the hon. Member, Shri Punnu Lal Mohale as he has brought this Resolution in this august House.

I rise to support this Resolution. It is known to us that in our Constitution, in the Directive Principles, it is written that:

"The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation."

So I would like to know what sort of programmes our Government has taken up so far. My opinion is that not only the present Government but also the former Governments have done nothing but only limited to the welfare works for the downtrodden and the weaker

sections. So a comprehensive programme must be there for the upliftment of the downtrodden people socially, economically and educationally. Much has been said here. I do not like to repeat all those points.

Generally, most of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people live below the poverty line. Unemployment problem is very much there. Most of them are unemployed. Most of them are construction workers. Illiteracy is very much there. No medical facility is being provided to them. So it is known to all that socially they are very much neglected in our society. So far as the tribal community is concerned, it is known to all that witchery system is very much there because sufficient medical facility is not there. So witchery system is very much continuing. They are facing so many health problems.

My point is that any comprehensive scheme for the downtrodden people should not be compartmental but that should be comprehensive. My point is that for the upliftment of the downtrodden people of our country, land reform is a must. So far as our State is concerned—we are coming from West Bengal—land reforms programme has helped a lot. In most of the States, this programme is neglected.

Secondly, the *Panchayat* system is not being implemented all over the country. There are many States where *Panchayat* system is not being implemented so far. That is to be taken into consideration. So far as education of the tribal people is concerned, there are so many languages among the tribal people. They should be recognised.

The medium of instruction should be their own language but that is not done in many States. It should be taken care of.

Without giving proper importance for the development and uplift of the downtrodden people, our country cannot strongly move forward. So, for the betterment of our country, the uplift of the downtrodden people should be taken up as a priority.

Let me conclude by quoting Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. He said: "*Paschate rekhecha jare se tomare taniche paschate*". It means, if you keep the downtrodden people backward, they will pull you back. So, I think, the Government will take up this issue seriously and bring before us a comprehensive programme for the uplift of the poor and downtrodden people.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

I have many things to say but because of time constraint I would not go far.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I completely support the Private Member's Resolution moved by Shri Punnu Lal Mohale, hon. Member of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh because this particular resolution aims at developing the under-developed areas in the country, which had been neglected since the last 50 years after Independence and also before that.

It has been seen that *roti, kapada* and *makaan* are the three important elements for consideration of development. You can see today that in most of the under-developed areas the calorie intake even today is not more than 800 calories per day but a normal human being requires 2,200 calories a day to lead a normal life. In the under-developed areas, you can see that particular regions in every State like the Telangana region in Andhra Pradesh, the Vidarbha region in Maharashtra and some regions in the North-East, Uttar Pradesh, have been always clamouring for development. So, through this debate on this Resolution, I would like to get an assurance from the hon. Minister. There is a provision in article 371 of the Constitution where special provisions have been given from 371 (a) to (i) for various States beginning from Maharashtra and Gujarat for the establishment of a separate development board by which equitable allocation of funds could be made to under-developed areas so that they can attain parity with the developed areas of their particular States. When the hon. Minister replies to this debate, I would like to get an assurance that it would be extended to Kalahandi also.

This particular resolution aims at improving and developing under-developed areas. Under-developed areas have always been exploited for further development of developed areas. Take the case of mining, forestry or fishery. Today all the mines are located in tribal areas. When a dam is built, the tribal people lose their land, the Scheduled Caste people lose their land and the under-privileged people lose their land. How are they compensated for that loss? The rehabilitation package is just a piece of paper but it is not carried out.

I thank our present Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for taking some special measures for some backward areas in Orissa. He started the KBK Programme and revised then long-term action plan. A Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha by the Petitions Committee. I would just like to state how this KBK Cell is functioning in Orissa. If you go through the Report, it is disheartening that still bureaucratic control is

there. There is no people's participation in the programme. Today, the Western Orissa Development Council has been formed with very limited powers and very meagre amount of funds.

We already know that previously there have been agitations and movements in the State of Orissa. It is because the Western region of Orissa has always been neglected though it has got the maximum amount of resources in the State of Orissa. So, to remove this disparity, I thank the hon. Member, Shri Punnilal Mohale, for bringing this Resolution.

Sir, today the drop-out among the tribals is the highest in the country. Today, if you go and see the backward areas, the haemoglobin level of expecting mothers, who are going to deliver our future generation, is less than 7 mg. It is 5.67 mg whereas the haemoglobin level should have been 12 mg. So, in this condition, I think, our Government should be very serious to develop these underdeveloped areas, and, if required, the Constitution may be amended to an extent that an additional article should be added for improvement of the other backward regions, which have been deliberately kept neglected because of so many reasons. There are also other political considerations.

Sir, in certain areas, for about 50 years, the Congress Party ruled, but in certain areas Congress Party always lost ...*(Interruptions)* They never won ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him have his say.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Those areas have been deliberately neglected by the then Governments ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Sir, I object to this. What has this Government done for the Congress States? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Shri Bikram Keshri Deo, please be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): How much money have you got for the cyclone in Orissa? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him have his say. There is nothing objectionable in the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, please be seated.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Please make your Orissa good ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, please cooperate with the Chair. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, please conclude now. Your time is over. Kindly be seated. May I request all of you to cooperate with the Chair? A new man is sitting here. So, please cooperate with the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, before I conclude, I request the hon. Minister to kindly recommend to the Government for inclusion of backward areas under article 371 of the Constitution, which this august House has got the right to do. I hope they will do it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, this is the constructive part ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, you have given a good formulation. That is why, I thank you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have two more Members—Shri Manikrao Hodya Gavitt and Shri Ravi Prakash Verna. Then, the Minister will reply. After that some clarifications will be asked by Shri Punnulal Mohale. So, I would request the Members to be very brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Half an hour is over. I think we may extend the time for further 15 minutes for this resolution.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It's O.K.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I hope all of you agree to it.

Shri Manikrao Hodya Gavitt, please start your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the resolution moved by Shri Punnulal Mohale this House urges upon the Government to formulate a comprehensive policy for the all round development of the economically, socially and educationally backward people in the country, particularly in Chhatisgarh State. I thank Shri Punnulal Mohale ji for this resolution.

All the governments that ruled the country so far have made many laws for the development of this country but these are not being implemented. For example, tribal sub-plan has been made for tribal people. There is a provision in the budget for tribal sub-plan, but it is not being implemented properly in each State. Under the tribal sub-plan there is a provision to link my village with roads, to open Ashram School and to provide dispensaries etc. there. So far as the social development is concerned, I would like to say that still people are living below poverty line in the villages. The Congress Government had launched a very good scheme named 'Indira Vikas Yojana'. This scheme is meant for those who live in small huts in the villages but the amount being given under this scheme is not sufficient and this should be increased. So far as educational development is concerned, I would like to state that arrangements for opening Ashram schools in each backward and tribal area of the country are made by the Central and State Governments. Hon'ble Minister is here. I would like to say that due to negligence of the concerned officers, educational development is not taking place there.

Tribal people are also being subjected to social injustice. This is a very important issue. The tribal people of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh who were displaced due to Sardar Sarovar Project, were given a written assurance that they would be provided with the irrigated land but even after the lapse of fifteen years they are not getting even a single drop of water for irrigation. This is also a gross injustice which should also be looked into. Most of the villages do not have roads and rail facilities are not sufficient. I have been demanding for the doubling Surat-Bhusawal rail line for the last many years. Due to breaking down of a bridge near Alwar railway station, rail traffic was diverted to Surat-Bhusawal rail line from 27th June to 8 July. This line passes through the tribal areas of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Therefore, I support the demand made by Shri Mohale in his resolution to formulate a comprehensive policy for all round development. Arrangements should also be made for irrigation of the land allotted to the people there. A scheme is also pending with the Irrigation Department. It should be completed. The injustice to which they are being

[Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit]

subjected, can be removed. Each State Government as well as Central Government make statements for the welfare of backward areas but it is also very necessary to set up public sector industries in these areas. All the poor labourers of these areas have to come to cities to earn their livelihood. Therefore, I demand that public sector industries should be set up in the backward areas.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me chance to speak on the resolution moved by Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

Our first Prime Minister Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru jee in his maiden speech on 14th August, 1947 in the same House had said that in the night of 14th August. When the whole world was sleeping India would awake to redeem the resolution that we had made. 200 years of slavery and struggle gave us some goals and after the freedom of India we have worked to achieve those goals. Our Parliament and our whole system have been evidence to this fact, but after fifty four years of independence we find that the agenda prepared by the previous governments to eradicate poverty and to develop the country has been changed by the present Government. Today's agenda is to combat fundamentalism and terrorism. As far as our society is concerned, it has been so divided that there is terrorism everywhere, and society is disintegrating. The condition in cities is such that in every urban area in every urban establishment KAUN BANEGA CROREPATI and Priyanka Chopra has become the ultimate truth of life.

From where we started and where we have reached requires to be given a serious thought. One of our noble prize winner scholar Dr. Amartya Sen has given very precise formula of education, health, nutrition and employment to us. It is crystal clear that there is a need to make a projected plan, consolidated plan for the backward areas and backward population but it is to be seen what is the performance level of our delivery mechanism which delivers our goals. We established new factories for the development of those areas for the upliftment of poor but the grim reality is that all those industries are running into losses. There is a big question mark over our delivery system, our administrative performance.

Today our country is progressing towards economic reforms but what about administrative and judicial reforms? If we can not make any progress in this direction then how can we eradicate poverty? It is ground reality that the same delivery system, same mechanism responsible for upliftment of poor, has failed to do so, failed to achieve

goals. The targets fixed for reservation of jobs were never met and today those industries are being sold in the name of liberalization. After all how will we remove poverty, how a man will cross the line of poverty, how the poor people will be uplifted above poverty line? It is a very serious question. I want to remind you the address of Mr. President on 25th January that India had to change its agenda due to regional disparity, poverty, illiteracy and injustice. Can we create the sense of responsibility within this House or country to achieve the targets we initially fixed and how far have we travelled in that direction? This is definitely a big question. As I told you, Dr. Amartya Sen has given us a formulae but can we focus on our will power to work, our delivery mechanism and above all on the agenda of the Government.

17.00 hrs.

If we can not, as it is being done now then definitely India is paying a heavy price for it through one way or other. We have to pay attention to the migration of people, going on in the rural. There is no backwardness in villages. People of villages are backward not because of the reason that they are weaker, but for the reason that people with talent migrate to cities. The condition has become as such that there is no employment, no electricity in backward areas. I request through you Sir to the government to make a number of comprehensive plans and implement them with strong will power.

I would like to say one thing regarding education too. We have taken a revolutionary step to make education one of the fundamental rights after 54 years of independence. But we see in India that there is a separate education system for poor and a separate one for rich people. How can we achieve the target of uniform education in this situation? As we have set up a commission for human rights on the same lines we should make a high level commission for education which has been included in the fundamental rights in order to defend it and give proper education to poor, so that we can guarantee the high quality of education. The day we can give a guarantee for a high level, uniform and useful education we can achieve the target of removing backwardness and achieving development within a very short period.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this subject relates to the educational and economic welfare of Dalit and tribal community. Shrimati Vasundhara Raje jee is sitting here, she has to reply. Care is to be taken in replying that the government is meant for upliftment of those who are socially and educationally backward and this is the society for which

we are working for. Those who are developed need not be supported. Those who are poor and downtrodden, government should work for them. The way government is working, depends upon the government. We demand that if we have to work for the welfare of poor and tribals, we should think of implementing a five year plan. We also demand that as government has accepted that scheduled castes and scheduled tribes comprise 15% amount 7.5% of our population respectively, on the same basis Government of India should allocate 22½% of the budget amount to these category of people. You should talk to the Minister of Finance in this regard. Previously Shri Yashwant Sinha jee was Minister of Finance. Shri Jaswant Singh jee has replaced him. Shri Yashwant Sinha jee did not make any special provision for Dalits and Tribals in the budget. So Atal jee replaced him with Jaswant Singh jee. So it is his responsibility also to work for the upliftment of the society who has given him the mandate.

If we wish to uplift all Dalits economically in rural areas, then we should allot land to them. Loans also should be made available to them. Survey must be done to ensure that there is no landless person in the village. Those who possess excess land, the excess land should be taken away from them, and the same should be distributed among landless people irrespective of their caste. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Digvijay Singh has resolved to distribute many acres of land to Dalits and Tribals and he is working on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time was extended for 15 minutes for the subject. It seems that it will not be over within this time. If House permits it can be extended by another 15 minutes.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Please extend for half an hour because the Minister has to give a reply.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, it is quite unfair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know it is unfair but please co-operate.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : From my 15 minutes ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No more 15 minutes, Mr. Bwiswmuthiary also has to speak. Now you please conclude ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : As it has been done by Government of Madhya Pradesh, Government of India should also follow the suit. As far as education is concerned, if two three thousand students apply for hostel facility hardly fifty of them get it. So the number of hostels must be increased.

As far as reservation policy is concerned, today SC/ST constitute 27% of our population. Government of India has provided 22.5% reservation, it needs to be increased by 4% more. According to population SC/ST have got 22.5% reservation in 1950. that means that time their population was 22.5%. Now the number has increased.

Suno, Suno Vasundhara Raje,
Jag Raha Hai Dalit Adivasi Sara
Ab Hum De Rahe Hain Hamare hak Ka Nara

So we must get justice. I make an appeal to you to do some good work. You need to take some concrete decision on this Bill.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important subject. It is a very important matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be very brief. Kindly give your suggestions and do not go into the statistics.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, I strongly support this Resolution. I would like to request the Government of India that while dealing with the multifarious problems of the tribal people of this great country they should adopt certain concrete and effective policy measures to resolve their burning problems. I would like to appeal to the Government of India to concede maximum political autonomy to all the tribal inhabited areas including Bodoland under the different provisions of the Indian Constitution, particularly under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Sir, in the year 1993 we, the Bodo people, signed an Accord with the Government of India as well as with the Government of Assam. In pursuance of that Accord the Bodoland Autonomous Council was created. But no meaningful power devolved to the Bodo people and because of this half-hearted policy of the Government this problem could not be solved as yet.

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

Sir, I would like to appeal to the Government through your honour that the Government of India should concede to the long-standing demand for a separate State of Bodoland. This is the only political solution to this burning Bodoland tangle that has been raging in the North-Eastern region of India. Towards solving the problems of different tribal people of this country, I would like to suggest to the Government of India that they should accord maximum political autonomy to the tribal inhabited parts of this great county. Here I would like to quote one very important statement made by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

According to him, political power is the main key by which we can unlock each and every door. The kind of concessions being given by the Government of India to the tribal people since Independence amount to giving alms. Tribal people are not beggars! We do have our own heredity. We are the indigenous people of this great country India. So, all the tribal people of this country India should be accorded maximum political power either under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution or any other provision.

In regard to Bodoland, I would again like to appeal to the Government of India to create the much long awaited separate State of Bodoland on the lines of Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh without any further delay, in order to provide a scope to the indigenous tribal people to live in India as dignified Indian citizens on par with the people of the rest of the country because we do have our own language, cultural identity and historical background. We have been neglected for decades. It is a great injustice that is being done to us. This discrimination should not go on any longer.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely grateful to all the hon. Members. It is a large cross section of the House that has actually participated in these discussions over the last two such Sessions.

Everyone has made some very valuable suggestions. I am particularly taken by the subtle appeal of Shri Ramdas Athawale, and the impassioned plea that was made by Shri Bwiswmuthiary. I am sure all these valuable suggestions are going to be extremely helpful to all of us in the Ministry in trying to structure the continuing exercise of development planning.

Basically, since the attainment of Independence we have seen a great deal of progress on the economic and on the social fronts. I find that a cross section of the Members that have participated in the debate had insisted that the country's progress is low and it should certainly be moving faster. At this point I would like to say that there are some economic and social indicators which I would like to put up before the House which prove very clearly that we have taken small but strong steps in the right direction.

If you look at the figures, *per capita* income in real terms has, many Members have made a reference to this, increased from Rs. 3687 in 1950-51 to Rs. 10,254 in 2000-01. Similarly, consumption expenditure *per capita* has gone up from Rs. 125 per month in 1983 to Rs. 591 per month in 1999-2000. Foodgrains production, the irrigated area under foodgrains, production of milk and all these have increased consistently. The *per capita* net availability of cereals and pulses has gone up from 395 grams in 1951 to about 470 grams in 1999. Upward movement has also been seen in the *per capita* availability of electricity, in the index of industrial production and also in the employment in the public sector. The percentage of population which is living below poverty line, there has been a lot of discussion on this, that was 46 per cent in the rural areas in 1983, has come down to 27 per cent in 1999. The percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living below poverty line has also witnessed a very substantial decline.

The social indicators we see that overall literacy percentage has increased from 44 per cent in 1981 to 65 per cent in 2001. The female literacy and the literacy percentage among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have also increased. Here I would like to say that the State of Chhattisgarh has made very major progress. From the abysmal literacy rate of 24 per cent in 1971, they have gone up to 65 per cent in 2001. On the 14th of May 2002, this is something that Shri Mohale made a reference to when he talked about compulsory education, the Rajya Sabha has passed the Ninety-Third Constitution (Amendment) Bill which provides free and compulsory education to children between six and 14 years of age.

This will have very far-reaching implications for raising those educational levels across the country.

Shri Adhir Chowdhary, who is not here today, had raised a point regarding the scholarships which were given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—I think, this is very important and which is why I am mentioning it—during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

We have given a sum of Rs. 589 crore—almost Rs. 600 crore—which had been spent benefiting about 71.6 lakh SC students in the scheme for the Post Matric Scholarship. In the case of STs, a total expenditure of Rs. 265 crore, in the Ninth Plan, benefited about 21 lakh ST students.

Then, he raised another point on the identification of 75 primary tribal groups. The Government has identified these 75 tribal communities as Primary Tribal Groups with a total estimated population of about 1.36 million in 1991 which is spread over about 15 States and Union Territories. Some of these are on the verge of extinction. To save these groups, a National Plan of Action is required for the survival, protection and the development of these people. The newly created Ministry of Tribal Affairs—I am sure—could be advised to have a look at it carefully and take it up for appropriate action in the matter. I am very lucky that the hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs is present here. We may be able to mention it right here.

Sir, the health and demographic indicators are also very important. They have shown a continuous improvement ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Sir, is it proper for a Minister to advise another Minister in the House?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : I am not advising anybody ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, the health and demographic indicators are very clearly showing that there has been a continuous improvement and upward movement here.

Households with *pucca* houses, households with safe drinking water, and the percentage of villages connected by roads have also gone up.

Let us look at the welfare of the SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities. We have the Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes; and the Tribal Sub Plan for the Scheduled Tribes by earmarking funds and benefits for the SCs and STs from the very concerned development sector.

Funds that were earmarked under SCP during 1997-2001 were to the tune of Rs. 45,000 crore, which is a large amount of money. As per the Annual Plan 2001-02, approximately Rs. 150 crores and the Rs. 379 crore were allotted, particularly, to Chhattisgarh under these SCP and TSP respectively.

Special Central Assistance was released by the Central Government to fill those gaps in these programmes and also to take up various family-oriented programmes which were for those people of SCs and STs living below the poverty line.

During the period of 2000-01 to 2001-02, Rs. 83 crore were released under the SCP to TSP to the State of Chhattisgarh for this particular area of development.

The above-mentioned development constitutes enough evidence, I think, to prove that the progress has happened in real terms and that the economic upliftment of poor, backward and disadvantaged sections of the country's people has been kept in mind by the Government.

But many of the Members of Parliament have mentioned that the benefits of the development have not percolated right down to the remote and backward regions of the area. In order to take care of this problem, the Government has devised a very broad strategy of poverty alleviation which looks at three components, namely, acceleration of economy growth with basic focus on employment—intensive sectors; the access to basic minimum services for improving the quality of life of the people; and direct State interventions in the form of targeted anti-poverty programmes.

Sir, there are a whole lot of anti-poverty programmes. As regards economic growth, it is necessary to look at Agriculture and also those areas where there is possibility of high employment.

Special emphasis is being laid on basic minimum services such as literacy, education, primary health care, safe drinking water and nutritional security by trying to earmark funds for these services.

The Government's focus basically is on providing interacted, preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services in primary, secondary and tertiary health care institutions with appropriate linkages.

Schemes like Mid-day Meal Scheme, District Primary Education Scheme; the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries; the National Programme for Rural Industrialization of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries; the Growth Centres Schemes of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and the Capital Investment Subsidy Schemes of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry are there.

[Shrimati Vasundhara Raje]

These are all such programmes which are timing at promoting infrastructure in backward areas.

Then, we have anti-poverty programmes which supplement the growth effort, protect the poor from destitution and sharp fluctuations in employment and income. These are being implemented in the rural and urban areas for generation of both self and wage employment. There are a number of programmes for poverty alleviation. The rural poverty programmes have been redesigned and restructured so that they can have maximum impact on the poor and improve sustainability of the programmes themselves.

Then, we have *Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana*, *Sampuran Gramin Rozgar Yojana*. We also have other poverty alleviation programmes like National Social Assistance Programme, Annapurna Scheme, Food for Work Programme, *Indira Awaas Yojana*, *Swarnjayati Sehari Rozgar Yojana*, *Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana* and many others. Further poverty can effectively be eradicated by active involvement of poor in the growth process. So, to that effect, we are trying to bring in *Panchayati Raj* Institutions, voluntary organizations and also community based self-help groups which can play a very important role.

Development of backward areas is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and it is the State Governments which have to decide the allocation of funds amongst the various regions of the State and also to decide what the priorities are going to be. The Central Government also play an enabling role in trying to support and supplement these measures. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me conclude and then you can ask questions.

One of those measures is basically to provide weightage for backwardness. Successive Finance Commissions have laid stress on backwardness in the formula for determining inter-State shares of Central Tax proceeds. The Eleventh Finance Commission assigned weight of 62.5 per cent for its Award Period, 2002-2005, which is higher than the weight assigned by earlier Commissions.

Then, we have the criteria of 'area' and 'index of infrastructure', which help backward States. Finally, we also have the assessment of the requirement of revenue-gap grants which is an exercise which accords special consideration of backwards States. Those States which are not able to raise those revenues and are not so well off as other States, get their problems built into this assessment of revenue-gap grants. These are the considerations which are taken into account.

Finance Commissions also take particular note of specific requirements of each State during their visits. Then, there are special problems of identified area like the Tribal Sub-Plan, Border Area Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, Desert Development Programme, Drought-prone Areas Programmes, etc. These programmes use the special characteristics of the particular development problem to identify the areas and fix the levels of allocation.

In order to encourage quick industrialisation, Category 'A' and Category 'B' Districts have been identified. Then, there are schemes like Growth Centre Scheme, Scheme for Integrated Infrastructural Development Centres, etc.

As regards the State of Chhattisgarh, there are lot of strengths that the State has. It has a relatively high literacy rate; it has high work participation rate; it has high female participation rate; it has a positive balance from current revenues with a small revenue deficit; it has a low non-Plan expenditure; it has rich mineral resources; it has high forest cover; it is surplus in power generation and it has a profit-making State Electricity Board.

The Annual Plan for the State of Chhattisgarh for the year 2001-2002 was Rs. 1312 crore; for the year 2002-03, it stands at Rs. 1757 crore. The agreed outlay for the Tenth Plan is Rs. 11,000 crore. The Plan Funds shall be used to improve the educational network, strengthen health care delivery mechanisms, and try and move all these along much much faster.

Now, I would like to dwell about some of the problems that have been brought out by the hon. Members. To start with, I would say that the hon. Member, Shri Bikram Keshari Deo told that a provision be made under article 371 for constitution of Development Boards for the Backward Areas. This article provides for constitution of Development Boards for Vidharbha, Marathwada, Kutch and the rest of Gujarat and Saurashtra. The Development Boards in Maharashtra have already been set up.

As far as Orissa is concerned, we have KBK Scheme which has not been implemented, I believe, properly as yet. But I do think that the State has very recently drawn up a revised plan from 1998-99 to 2006-07 with a total outlay of Rs. 6062 crore, which consists of Plan as well as Centrally-sponsored schemes in various sectors like agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, irrigation, drinking water, welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and rural connectivity. In order to fill that critical gap, additional Central assistance of almost Rs. 244 crore has been allocated from 1998-99 to 2001-02 to the KBK districts.

So, I think as far as Orissa is concerned, in consultation with the State and hon. Members, an effort is being made to try and fill the gap and to try and move in the direction along with the KBK areas.

As far as discussion itself is concerned I would like to say that really in conclusion we do not have much of the difference between the Resolution that has been moved and our direction because as far as wanting to bring about a comprehensive policy for all round development of socially, economically and educationally backward people of the country is concerned, it is something the Government is committed to. Every effort is going to be made by the Government to see that we are going along with it. As I have just mentioned, all the issues that have been brought up before the House are in that direction. I would, therefore, say that there has been a substantial progress in the economic development and poverty removal during the five decades after Independence and we would continue with this multi-pronged strategy of poverty removal. Various steps are taken by the Central and State Governments to try and make special emphasis on the removal of these regional inequalities.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that the critical role over here in balanced regional development would still lie with the State Governments, and in the federal structure of this country, all round development of socially and educationally backward people of the region is primarily a key responsibility of the State Governments. It is in this context that effective and efficient governance is critical for improving that pace of human development in the country. Funds alone, without the corresponding improvement in governance and in implementation of policies, cannot efface poverty and under-development.

I would like to thank all the Members who have taken part in the discussion and I would like to tell everybody that in the days to come, this is the responsibility which the Governments at the Centre and at the States will take up, I am sure, with renewed sincerity and emphasis. Under the circumstances, that the Government is doing the work that the hon. Members have spoken about, I would imagine that this would have answered the hon. Members' questions. I would be happy if the hon. Member does not press for the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Because of the time constraint it is not possible to allow other Members to ask clarifications again. However, Shri Bwiswmuthiary may be allowed to speak on the point which he wanted to raise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I want to raise two issues. It is a serious issue. Assam government has put a ban on new appointments.

[*English*]

The Assam Government has put a ban on the employment of general as well as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. Because of this drastic decision of the Government, the tribal people have been suffering ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a matter which the hon. Minister cannot answer. As this point of time she would not be able to answer it. So, it would not be possible to entertain this question. Please be seated.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the data given by the hon. Minister, much work has been done to remove poverty. If it is true, who India slipped from last years 115th rank to 124th rank this year in human development report? Why is it so if poverty has lessened? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : I am going to reply to your important question regarding data.

[*English*]

The index that they prepare ranked countries by the composite measure of life expectancy, literacy and income per person. You already know that. India has been ranked 124 in this report. You are absolutely right that last year India's rank was 115. But the ranks are not comparable because the number of countries in the index has gone up from 162 to 173. Had the numbers not gone up, we would have actually come up a point and we would have been ranked 114.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I took part in this debate in the last Session. My question to the hon. Minister is regarding the region of North Bengal. Before finally shaping the Tenth Five Year Plan, will the Minister take into account such under-privileged, under-developed, and backward regions of the country and recommend to bring them collectively under article 371? You could do it according to the latest statistics available to you in terms of development, *per capita* income, and other shortcomings of the infrastructure be it Orissa or

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

West Bengal or Madhya Pradesh or Chhatisgarh? Will you take this into account?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No response.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman Sir, I think that the data presented in Special Component plan and Special Tribal sub plan for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not adequate. In accordance with the population of these castes, they should be allocated 22.5 per cent of the budget but it is not so in the data presented by the hon. Minister. So, I want to ask the Ministers as to what percentage of budget has been allocated for the welfare of these castes and classes?

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Hon. Chairman, Sir, the intention behind this Resolution is to know about the schemes formulated for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and the people of any class of society living below poverty line in the country and especially in Chhattisgarh. The schemes formulated in the past for the welfare of these classes are not adequate. What schemes the Government propose to formulate for the welfare of these people? The second query is whether the government would ensure that the all round development of all these classes should take place in five years and if so, whether it would act in accordance with it? If so, my resolution should be adopted.

Sr. I have brought this resolution under Article 371 of the Constitution. There is a provision under this Article that the government would make provision for the development of backward areas. Whether the government would act according to that provision and fulfil its obligation? Secondly, the manifesto of Bhartiya Janta Party promised to improve the lot of people of the lowest strata of society and the backward classes. Our Prime Minister belongs to Bhartiya Janta Party and the government is running with the support of its allies. So, I would like to request to hon. Minister of clarify whether the government would work according to the above mentioned Article of the Constitution and the manifesto of Bhartiya Janta Party or not?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, I have given all details about it while answering every point raised by the hon. Member. I had made it clear that I associate myself with the concerns raised by him and our government have taken and would take steps to help the

S.Cs & S.Ts, the Backwards and the Minorities in future also and we would never backtrack in this regard. There are various schemes for the welfare of these classes as I have state. So far as the Central Government is concerned, it will leave no stone unturned to complete every scheme, but the State governments have also some participation in completing these schemes. If the Central and State Governments work with each others cooperation for removing the regional deficiencies, they will get money for the upliftment of these classes and they will make progress. I would request the Hon. Member to withdraw his resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you withdraw you resolution?

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue concerns the whole country. The members of all political parties want that the poor should get benefits. I would withdraw this Resolution if the Government formulates a Action plan in this regard and brings a proposal before the cabinet.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please withdraw you Resolution.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Let the State Governments do their duty. Will the Central Government bring a Bill to do its duty?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You please strengthen hands of Shri Ajit Jogi in Chhatisgarh ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : That is a separate issue. Here, we have to strengthen hands of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ... (Interruptions) Your democracy will not survive ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you withdrawing your Resolution?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : If Chhattisgarh State would have not been created Shri Ajit Jogi would not have become the Chief Minister ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you withdrawing the Resolution?

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : I would withdraw my Resolution if the Government assures to bring a Bill in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, are you withdrawing the Resolution?

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : I withdraw my resolution on the assurance of the Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would now put the question for leave to withdraw the Resolution.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, he has not sought the leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has sought the leave.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : No, Sir, this is Lok Sabha where he said that he would withdraw the Resolution only if the hon. Minister gives him an assurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His last sentence was that he would withdraw the Resolution, anyway, I would ask the hon. Member once again whether he is withdrawing his Resolution unconditionally or whether it is on same condition.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : He means to say that whatever the Minister has said due to that reasons he is withdrawing his proposal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please stand-up and say that you are withdrawing it.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : After the assurance given by the Government I am withdrawing it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would now put the question for granting the hon. Member leave to withdraw his Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

[English]

17.36 hrs.

(ii) Ban on Cow Slaughter

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Item No. 15 of today's agenda paper. Before Shri Prahlad

Singh Patel moves his Resolution, may I request the hon. Members to indicate as to how much time they require for discussion on this Resolution? I think two hours are sufficient.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, two hours have been allotted for discussion on this Resolution.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : I beg to move :

"This House is of the opinion that the Government should bring forward a suitable legislation to ban slaughter of cow and its progeny throughout the country."

[Translation]

I have submitted a resolution before the House. I feel that this House is of the opinion that government should immediately bring a legislation to ban slaughter of cows and its progeny throughout the country. I am not the first member who has brought this resolution. On 1st September, 1972 an hon'ble member had initiated a discussion on this subject in the House in the form of the Bill. Second time, in 1990 when I was elected as a member of this House, the first time at that time Shri Guman Mal Lodha also brought this Bill for discussion. I also participated in this discussion. After that in 1998, Shri Yogi Adityanath ji a sitting member of Lok Sabha also brought this Bill in the form of Private Member's Bill for discussion. This is the fourth time when discussion is being taken place on this subject. I would like to start my speech with the citation of revered Param Pujyashri Babashri. He told me that "Jeev-Jeev aahaar Nahin Jeev-Jeev aadhaar". Unfortunately whenever discussion was made on this subject it could not be held properly owing to communalism and political gambit a number of times consensus has arrived in this House on this issue but this consensus has never been implemented.

We are nearly completing fifty fifth years of our independence. The constitution of this country has also completed its 50 years. We had celebrated the golden jubilee on both the occasions. But there are some intellectuals and statesmen in our country to whom we pay our respect every year while celebrating this birth anniversaries and on this occasion we not only follow their ideals but also advocates about their principles and also held some ceremonial functions in their honour. But I would like to say with heavy heart that during the journey of these fifty years, whether we have worked as a political

[Shri Prahlad Singh Patel]

or social activist or from the religion point of view have observed any system of worship or sect, it is a fact that we want welfare of the country although we have never taken any concrete steps in this regard. The passing fifty years of the history are clear cut evidence of this fact. Here I would like to quote the extracts of some intellectuals. Acharya Pandit Sriram Sharma, who has been called the propounder of the new era, in his opinion. Milk is taken for useful elements for life this source of milk after mother can be obtained from cow only. Therefore it is pertinent that the question of protection of cow has to be considered emotionally and economically. Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi had said—"There is uncouthed live stock in India and we have committing a sin as we have not given proper attention to it. I tell that the act to provide protection to cow is above all the acts done by man in the worldly affairs. Acharya Vinoba Bhave who has been called a National Saint has said—India is the country of farmers. A lot of development has been made in crops in India. Some research has also been made in this regard. Agriculture in India depends on the good caring of cows and oxen. Indian civilization means serving the cow, but today the condition of Indian villages is worse than those countries which do not believe in the concept of giving care and protection to cows. We talked about to give protection to cows but this act has not been implemented fully. Mahatma Madan Mohan Malviya had said "if we give protection to cows, they will also protect us". I am quoting the names of these great personalities because the photographs and thoughts of these greatmen give us inspiration and I feel that every political leader whether he belongs to any party will agree to it. I have said earlier also that there may be difference in our method of worship but there can not be any difference in our opinion. There I feel it necessary to quote a reference made by Dr. Rajendra Prasad because he was the first president of this country. It is presumed that his ideology was influenced by Gandhism. I would like to quote what he said in a conference held in Patna—There can not be any other source to generate income as much we can generate from cattle". All these question were put to him. He was asked about tractors, export of meat and agricultural products.

He has replied to all the queries. I want to quote his last words. With reference to Tractors and machines, he has said —"Nowadays the conditions, which are prevailing in India under it we can manage with this kind of art for some time but the need for bullocks will always be there. We can not do our cultivation without the help of bullocks". Lala Lajpat Rai, who never had any differences with any one on any matter since independence struggle till date said—"Under British rule there is cow slaughtering and

cow makes us strong and healthy by providing Ghee and milk. That is why those who want to make our country independent and want to drive away Britishers should opt for non-cooperation with Britishers". Since Britishers do cow slaughtering, we must drive them away. This was his first priority, Maharshi Purushottam Das Tandon, who was called "Raj Rishi",— had said "Persons who are using the items of leather in the name of fashion are equally responsible for cow slaughtering as the people eating beef." He has hinted to one more point that we are doing slaughtering but the people who are giving encouragement to it are equally responsible for the guilt. Maharshi Dayanandji said, "By killing a cow we can feed just twenty people but the same cow can provide nectar like milk to atleast twenty thousand people during its lifetime." If you kill a cow and wants eat its beef it can provide food to just twenty people but if the same cow survives it can benefit twenty thousand people.

Atlast, I want to tell about Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, who was the first Prime Minister of this country, when he was asked to comment over this matter he said, "I totally dislike slaughter houses. Whenever I pass through them I feel suffocated." Livestock is the wealth of our country and I totally dislike its loss. I have given the reference of these persons for whom we have regards. I have particularly referred the name of first President and the first Prime Minister of this country, I have particularly referred the name of Mahatma Gandhi also.

Now I want to refer a case of Supreme Court. In the year 1958 Supremen Court while interpreting Article 48 of our Constitution gave the following decision. Firstly you can not slaughter a cow. If we give exemption in case of old and sick cows we can not even save healthy and good cows. Supreme Court presented the analysis of economic reasons regarding the merits of saving a cow. Secondly you can not also kill calves. Thirdly you can not kill grown up bullocks oxen who are able to work and buffaloes who can give milk. The further point was you can not kill old and useless bullock, oxen and buffaloes. The Supreme Court further stated that due to the final and partial relaxation the law banning cow slaughter has become meaningless in many States; it was the opinion of the Supreme Court which it expressed in 1958. Further it has been stated that there is provision of 10 years imprisonment for killing a cow or Buffalo. Jammu and Kashmir has been referred in that order of Supreme Court.

I am telling this because during the last 50 years when various great personalities have been giving their opinion about this issues than why we have been unable to have a consensus over this issue in the House. We have never imagined how the issue of cow slaughter can

be a communal issue? Whether we have to accept this fact on the basis of political grounds? Has we considered this fact earlier there would not have been any such mistake. I want to clear one thing to the Members of this House that I do not intend to criticise any thing but once my spiritual Guru 'Babashri' asked me a question, 'Yug Parivastan Ka Akatya Sidhant Kya Hai? There is every possibility that people may treat this spiritual word as communal but this is an important question, when he asked me a question, "Bhool Sudhar ya Mool Sudhar". I kept quite, people made fun of me but Guruji said, "you remained silent that goes in your favour because any answer given to it would have been an uncompleted one. You can not give a total reply to this question "yug parivartan ka akatya sidhant bhool sudhar aur Mool Sudhar Hai". Unfortunately whenever any discussion is held in this House, the Member who asks questions leaves behind such facts that we are forced to say that kindly agree with 'Bhool sudhar Ya Mool sudhar". Who ever agree with any one of the facts he or the house can not be a pioneer for 'You Privartan' because if a question is wrong it is obvious that it's reply will also be wrong. I want to submit that it is not unfortunate for our country that the export of meat started in 1959 which is the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi who objected to cow slaughtering. It was a blunder we do not want to make anybody responsible for this. I do not want to insult any one but I want to bring to the notice of this House that such kind of blunders were committed by the Government during that period.

We have a great regard for Gandhiji and that is why we call Mahatma Gandhi as 'Rashtrapita'. If you had put a ban on cow slaughter on the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, it would have been our real respect to him. It would have shown our commitment to his ideas. But the government has done exactly opposite to it. A man who was a follower of non-violence throughout his life. The export of meat was started in this country on the occasion of his birth centenary. If we go through the record, we will find that when we were celebrating the birth centenary of the First Prime Minister of this country Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru meat technology mission was started. This was also the period of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru's birth centenary. How these blunders were committed and who are responsible for all these? We have done what we did not want to do. We have acted against the principles of those great persons whom we respect a lot. During these 50 years we should have followed the path shown by them but we did not do so. If we have taken such wrong decisions on the occasion of their birth centenaries then how this country can run smoothly.

I am unable to understand to whom I should criticise and from where I should start criticism. So fast as the question of history is concerned, it is a very long history. This matter is not important that I am the only Member in this House who is opposing it. Laws are also there in this country. In 1971, prevention of cruelty to Animals law was made and in 1972, another law for protection of Animals was made. Although these laws are in existence but, when there is a question of implementation of these laws, the State Government implement these laws in their own way. We are discussing here about the ban on cow slaughter in this country. Whether this House wants it or not and what the Government would do, I do not want to say anything in this regard. But I would like to tell you that there are some States which did not accept it. I gave the example of Jammu ad Kashmir. The Government of Jammu ad Kashmir has never accepted it. They have accepted the provision for ten years rigorous imprisonment. There was a ban on cow slaughter in Jammu and Kashmir even when democracy was not existing there but this fact was ignored by us. Thereafter, a number of protests were held. I understand that this fact should be brought to the notice of this House as how we have ignored majority voice and also such responsible persons.

The meeting of 1857 was due to tallow (cow). This was the first mutiny. Thereafter Lokmanya Tilak ji launched a signature campaign against cow slaughter. In 1921, on Gopal Ashtami, Tilak ji had conveyed this historic conference on the day of non co-operation movement. This conference was presided over by Hakim Ajmal Khan and it was held in the presence of Lala Lajpat Rai and Mahatma Gandhi. After that 'Govansh Sanrakshan Sangh' was set up on 25th July, 1921. This Conference was presided over by Gandhiji. In 1942, during Quit India Movement Pradham Mantri of the then Mysore State Mirza Ismail consulted Mahatma Gandhi and he launched this agitation. On 19th November, 1947 a cattle promotion committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Sardar Datar Singh which was the first effort made by the Government and public representatives. The request made by Vinobaji at the time of formulation of First Five Year Plan in 1951 was not accepted by the House. Thereafter, in 1962 a proposal was passed in Haridwar by Bhartiya Dharma Sangh. This was the strongest protest shown in this country when saints adopted a proposal. In 1962, itself when a proposal was made to export meat to earn foreign exchange, it was strongly protested. In 1965, a delegation of saints led by Swamy Narendra Dev Tirth called on the then Prime Minister of the country. The delegation demanded a ban on cow slaughter and showed a strong protest against the cow slaughtering. In 1966, Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh submitted a

[Shri Prahlad Singh Patel]

memorandum signed by one crore people to the then President and the Prime Minister. In 1966 itself, Acharya Shri Ram Chanda Sharma observed eighty das fast which was the most important day in the Indian history. We call this fast a record which could not be broken. On 10th August, 1966 he again started a 32 days fast. He further went on fast on 20th September on it he was put in Jail but he did to break his fast. On 5th November, 1966 people protested against it under the leadership of Shri Govind Vallabh Pant. An unprecedented demonstration was made at Parliament House on this day. There was a firing in which number of saints and cow protectors were killed. On 7th November, 1966, an all party demonstration was held on Parliament in which 15 to 20 lakh people took part. On 20th November, 1966, Sankaracharya of Puri revered Nirajan Dev ji observed 73 days fast in Delhi itself. Formation of a committee to stop cow slaughter was announced there. This movement did not stop there and it continued further. Goraksha Samiti observed 'Satyagarh' from 11th Jan. 1982 to 1994. Perhaps there was no other movement which continued for such a long period.

We generally talk much about Hindu-Muslims. There is a youth wing of Bhartiya Janaya Party. The president of that wing, who is my colleague is sitting here, When their conference was held at that time, a Muslim conference was also held which was organised by Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain who is a Minister in the present Government. This Muslim conference was held on 4th December, 1997. In this conference, a resolution was passed that a ban should be put on the cow slaughter. I find it necessary to mention here that from the day we got independence till today all the religious preachers, political and social workers are advocating that there should a ban on cow slaughter.

People have also lost their lives in anger. What are the reasons behind it? But no one is ready to consider these facts. I feel that it is injustice to the nation. At many occasions, I have desired to know what is total number of livestock in the country as compared to the increasing human population. If this livestock is decreasing, is there any agency which is in position to make available us any data in this regard? In a reply given to me it was stated that the census is going on since 1997 and it has not yet been completed. After that whatever figures have been made available to us are purely based on the social, political and economic reasons. I would like to say that if we had paid attention towards it, then some decrease could be seen in the figures. Perhaps it is not there, I would like to place some figures before you. As per 1953 census there were 453 cattle against a population of one thousand persons.

That proportion was 436 in 1961, 326 in 1971, 278 in 1981, 216 in 1991 and it further decreased to 176 in 1993. The census which has been started in 1997 has not yet been completed. It is assumed that now there are not more than 60 cattle against a population of 1000 persons. Why did it happen? There were 300 slaughter-houses at the time of Independence of our country but at present this figure has gone to 36000. Therefore, the number of cattle is bound to decrease. If the Government think that this country can prosper by earning foreign exchange through slaughter of cattle has to be condemned. This concept can not be proved true. This is not the truth. The country can not prosper by wiping out the livestock. The increasing population, decreasing land-holding and livestock are an alarming situation for this country. The members sitting here have to think seriously about it. We should focus our concern on economic and social aspects. We will have to consider the way of thinking of Members sitting in this House,

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please leave some points and data for others. You have to give the reply also. Please conclude.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : I request you to give me some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : The point which I was referring is that, it is our social responsibility that we should not take such decisions for solving our problems which may cause permanent crisis and our future generation may feel helplessness in solving those problems. We are in a hurry to find out a solution in this regard but we do not have any solution for it. I admit that the agricultural production will increase. But, at the same time. I would like to add humbly that if production increases, fertility decreases. This truth can not be denied. The use of fertilizers has helped in increasing the yield but the fertility of land has decreased. The Members of this House have been made aware of this scientific fact that the fertility of land does not decrease whenever cow-dung is used for farming. I can cite many examples whether it is cow's skin or bone or beef or urine, none of the products is harmful. It has been proved that in case of atomic radiation, the area coated with cow-dung will not get affected by it. Today, increase in temperature has also become a problem. Now, it has also become clear that the walls of a house coated with dung have 6 degree less temperature than the normal temperature.

18.00 hrs.

It was the duty of our society to bring this fact to the notice of the world Community. As somebody has

said that service to cow is the basis of our culture, We should have propagated it before the world and should have presented our view point. We have lagged behind in the race of leading the world spiritually. We have set high ideals but we have not followed these ideals. You had full information about the teachings of great men. So many Members took part in the debate. Many of them have opposed it but you have not fulfilled your responsibility. No one can avoid oneself from such kinds of allegations. It was the duty of our society that not only in this House, but to the whole world it should have been told that cow-slaughter is not a religious killing. This is the truth which contributes the most in overall development of any society, The concept of development accepted by this country is that it is a fact that if development takes place then it is bound to degrade the environment. We cannot escape from all these things. My thinking is that, we have always opposed the slaughtering of cows and its progeny. The reference of 'godan' of one lac cows by a king to his 'guru' is not a show of wealth. It indicates that the place where one lac cows are inhabited is a place where one can find peaceful atmosphere. It will help us to protect our area from polluted environment.

We would create such an atmosphere in the society in which people could behave in a decent manner. A scientific fact has come forth in this regard which can prove to be a mile-stone.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The discussion was started at 15-45 hrs. in the House. So the time of the House would be upto 18.15 hrs.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Sir, two scientists of Delhi University namely Mohammad Ibrahim and Dr. Vijay Raj Singh had presented a research paper in Moscow in June, 1995. The subject of that research paper was earthquakes or calamities hit the places where exists the slaughter houses. The person in Moscow accepted the research paper of the Indian scientists but in Delhi, where we have our heritage and also have the knowledge of our culture, we are reluctant to accept that report. I am surprised to see this. Therefore, I, through you Sir, would like to request that there should be a change in our attitude. We should associate ourselves with the opinion of the House.

Sir, I can give statistics to the effect that how could a cow, a calf or an ox be economically useful for us. But we would have to understand this fact that we have not gone through the statistics of the countries whose ideology we have adopted. The developed countries have publicized about formulating of new technology missions.

They required a better quality of meat from us and we got ourselves caught in the illusion. There has been an increase in their live-stock. There has been an increase in the live-stock are thousand persons in this developed countries. The production of milk is on increase there. I, through you Sir, would like to present statistics, there are 2079 animals per thousand people in Argentina 13,065 animals per thousand people in Australia, 1919 animals per thousand people in Columbia and 726 animals per thousand people in Brazil. If we look on the position of export in our country, we find that the situation rather unfortunate. The export of leather was of Rs. 100 crore in 1971-72, which increased to Rs. 3300 crores in 1992-93. It is clearly implied that either the animals have been killed or they might have died thereby making such a huge export possible.

This fact is proved by these statistics. We have committed these mistakes. We should rectify them. We exported meat. An export to the tune of Rs. 110 Crore was made in 1998-99. It had gone upto Rs. 195 crore in 1991-92. In a period of just one year it increased to Rs. 215 crore in 1993-94. A target of Rs. 1000 crore was fixed for the export of meat for the year 2001. This target is being fixed by the Government itself. I don't know as to how long the progeny of cow will survive? It is also treated as raw material. The government will have to give the reply in this regard. Live-stock is not generated by the artificial means. The increase and decrease of live-stock depends on its capacity of natural breeding. If we'll do injustice to it as per our own will it would not possible to find out its remedy under such circumstances. I was with my worthy guru on the occasion of guru Poomima alongwith other people. Whatever he said I want to mention it here. He said in very simple words that he does not flatter anybody. He said that when your mother gives you birth, nature does not give her opportunity to breast feed you for more than one and a half or two years. But the cow gives milk not only to you but also to your generations to come. Now I come to buffalo. Madan Mohan Malviya has written about buffalo that we have done injustice to it. The milk of other animals may contain fat but it does not contain vitamins and other substances which are essential for the overall development of a child. While giving a warning he told as to why it was necessary to protect the progeny of cow? We call mother to a cow. Gandhiji had made a comparison. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I don't want to make a comparison but he had made a comparison that cow is more respectable for us as our own mother which gives us birth. I did not dare to make such a comparison. He was a great person and he made the comparison. He said that it is a fact. My mother can breast-feed me for only two years after my birth. But if any thing is required

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for the growth of the body for the development of mind and for overall development, it will only be the milk of cow i.e., 'Gau Mata'. We call cow as our mother, our land as our mother, our nation as our mother but fingers are raised on this also. We have continued the trend of insulting ourselves. We have dragged ourselves back to a great extent in this regard. We'll have to take care of this aspect also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very young in this House, I have not been the member of this House for a long time. Expectations are made from the people who were here from the very beginning of the House. You please read and establish those points against which this House was warned. Perhaps, they have also been over-looked. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the words "Dharamchakra Pravartanaya" are written on the seat in which you are sitting. The religion has been criticized in the House to the extent we can criticize it.

Religion means way of worship. I have one or two SLOKAS which I have noted down. When we enter the lobby, we see it inscribed on lift No. 2.

Sabha Va Na Praveshtavya, Vaktavyam Va Samanjasyam,

Abruvan Vibruvan Vapi Narobhawati Kilvishi.

"Anybody either should be not enter the House or if he enters, he should speak there according to religion because if a man who does not speak or speaks lie, is sinner." I have told this knowingly because 55 years have been elapsed since we got freedom and this SLOKA is inscribed there since then. I had said that those teaching ought to be respected but now a days people even do not hesitate to pass comment no MANU, instead they feel pride in that. I do not emphasize that they must be respected but I must emphasize that their teachings must be respected because they are recognised in the country and all over the world. The House must have a concern for their insult. Only because of these I am in favour of prohibition of cow-slaughter. Knowingly we have invited standing loss for small gains by ignoring the important subject.

I would also like to mention what is inscribed on lift No. 1. Mr. Chairman, Sir yourself know Sanskrit very well. Excuse me if I read incorrectly.

Na Sa Sabha yatra Santi Vriddha, Vriddha Na Teye
Na Vadanti Dharamam, Dharmah Sa No Yatra na
Satyamasti, Satyam Na Taddya Chhalabhambhyupaiti.

This SLOKA means that without old men there is no assembly, if he does not speak according to religion, he is not an old man. Where there is no truth there is no religion. Where there is treachery there is no truth. This is the 5th SLOKA of 35th chapter of Mahabharata. I am saying so because right time has arrived for it. We have wasted the longer period of our life on this earth and have wasted in destroying the pride of our country. We should think about that. This is not the question of this country only but of the whole world. There is a problem of famine, there is a problem of ground water level. Rising population and decreasing arable land are the reason for low production. There is a report regarding global changes, Changes are occurring in India too. Production is reduced. The Government can not make rain, it can not create livestock, We can try to compensate in this natural condition. If we want to solve the problem we have to be careful.

Lastly, I would like to say that everything I said belongs to my revered Shri Babajee. He had told me, "If you seek an alternative to your resolution, you can not do any great work." A man takes resolution individually. If this House brings any resolution, there will be no need to pressurize it from outside. If I bring resolution then it will be my own resolution for this. I need not my friend, my colleague and any organisation. If I do not fulfill it, it is my weakness, I may impute someone and save my skin. This House is a collaborator in this great job. Actually this work might have been accomplished many years ago, this will be a tribute to our sages and saints, this will be a respect to our country. It is mandatory for the future generation of the country. For its remedy not only mind and intelligence but apply your soul with resolution. I appeal to this House with this prayer. This is not the occasion to oppose it for political reason. I would not speak against any religion. Now if any allegation is made I would quote Babar. While dying Babar asked his son Humayun to abstain from cow-slaughter, if he wishes to rule over this country. History is testimony to this fact. Akbar also followed this, There is a need to contemplate on these facts. I don't think House can not have a consensus on this subject. But I am confident that House will formulate an opinion in this regard. This question has arisen first time in this century I take this century to be an important one for India and we will achieve our dignity. With this hope and faith I request the House to have consensus on this subject.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"This House is of the opinion that the Government should bring forward a suitable legislation to ban

slaughter of cow and its progeny throughout the country."

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Sir, I stand here to support the Resolution which has been moved by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel. Since my childhood I have been hearing about four mothers.

[*Translation*]

One mother is my own mother, second mother is motherland, third mother is River Ganges and forth mother is mother cow.

[*English*]

I have been hearing this since my childhood, I was born and brought up in a village. I have lived iwth a number of people who have a greater attachment towards cattle and cows. It is explained.

[*Translation*]

All round development, physically and mentally

[*English*]

that is total development of a human being. While going through the different scientific reports, I came across one line that by taking cow milk, a child's brain develops.

Two years ago, I had been to Mexico with the hon. former Speaker, the late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. While going around in that trip, a number of Mexicans told us that they were looking towards India for its attachment to cattle. They said that they wanted to inculcate how India developed its milk production. There is a discussion in the United States and most of the developed countries

too about providing nutritious milk to each and every child. This has happened in our country and it has been a success. We are not aware about it because we are close to our country. Once we go out to another developing country, we get to hear how people look towards us. This is one aspect.

There are tow or three other aspects relating to this Resolution. The first among them relates to how cow is beneficial to society; the second relates to what we expect from the Government; and the third is whether it is essential that we allow our cattle to go to the slaughter house and the meat of cows to be exported or not.

Some months ago, I had raised a Question relating to export of meat in this House and a reply came from the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry. I think, the Chair knows and many hon. Members present in this House know that a colleague of ours lost his Ministership because of a question relating to cow slaughter and export of meat.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, would you mind sitting down for a minute?

It is eighteen minutes past six o'clock now and it is time to conclude the business for the day. You may continue on the next day this Resolution is taken up.

The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday the 29th July, 2002 at 11. a.m.

18.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 29, 2002/Sravana 7, 1924 (Saka).

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