

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 10, 2002/Vaisakha 20, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the employees of LIC and GIC are on strike today. They are protesting against the passage of General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. Q. No. 641.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This will weaken the organisation. The employees are on strike today. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. Let us have questions today. I did not come for the last two days.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Q. No. 641, Shri Adhir Chowdhary.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Seizure of Black Money

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

(a) whether the government propose to amend laws relating to search and seizure of black money;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the generation of black money is increasing and the steps of the Union Government to combat it are ineffective; and

(d) if so, the other steps Government propose to take to check the growth of black money in the country?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The existing provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 provide several measures for checking the growth of black money.

(c) and (d) No official estimates are available regarding the quantum of generation of black money in the economy. In order to combat black money and to check its growth, the Government have been adopting a two-pronged strategy of encouraging voluntary compliance as also intensifying various enforcement measures.

The measures for encouraging voluntary compliance include progressive rationalization of tax rates; simplification of tax laws including presumptive taxation Schemes for contractors and transporters; emphasis on widening of tax base by extending the one-by-six scheme to 4989 urban centers; deletion of provisions regarding pre-emptive purchase of property and introduction of a number of other tax-payer friendly measures such as reduction in the number of cases for scrutiny; doing away with *prima facie* adjustments in processing of returns and reduction of time limit for processing of returns and for re-opening of assessments.

The enforcement measures include Search and Seizure operations and surveys wherever necessary to unearth unaccounted money; compulsory quoting of Permanent Account Number in respect of certain high value transactions and monitoring thereof; restrictions on cash transactions; compulsory maintenance and audit of Accounts in specified cases and computerization of the functioning of Income Tax Department including creation of Data bank of high value financial transactions.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, in a cursory manner, the Finance Minister had laid the Statement on the Table of the House, which is a sheer case of gross under-estimation in view of the growing menace of black money. As per the study conducted by eminent economists, it appears that black money in India is as equivalent as 40 per cent of our GDP, which amounts to Rs. 7 lakh crore, while agriculture contributes to only

26.8 per cent of our GDP. Unlike in Western countries, 32 per cent of the black money in India comes from legal sector that is reportable, and eight per cent comes from illegal activities that are unreportable. The major chunk of generation of black money lies in tertiary sector and the huge accumulation of black money is in the hands of three per cent of our population. We know that it includes factor-income, but excludes transfer incomes. So, my account clearly vindicates that the law-enforcing agencies are not adequate and competent enough to check the menace of black money.

My questions are: (a) In order to spew out the huge accumulation of black money, are you going to conceive any amnesty mechanism as well as demonetisation of high denomination currencies? (b) Have you ascertained the impact of black money on your budget deficits? (c) And how do you concede the menace of black money—whether it is a boon in disguise or nemesis on the prowl for our economy?

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: On behalf of the Revenue Department, from the Income Tax Department side, we are having sufficient provisions to curb activities in black money, which are at various stages. There are also so many enforcement agencies in the Government to curb black money that goes to terrorist activities and others. Black-money is derived from illegal manner and all kinds of legal processes are intensified from the Income Tax Department side.

The hon. Member has quoted many statistical reports. The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy had estimated the circulation of black money in 1983-84 to be Rs. 31,584 crore.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: What is the present position?

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: I will come to that point. Previously, it was estimated by our National Institute of Public Finance and Policy—they made a study—as Rs. 31584 to Rs. 31786 crore. It has been submitted based on various assumptions. They have been discussed based on full facts. There are a lot of doubts about this. During 1995-96 some other private economists have estimated the black-money as Rs. 4,87,185 crore, which constitutes 40 per cent of the GDP. It is their estimates but all these are not based on full facts. There are a number of organised and un-organised sectors which are contributing to the GDP.

It is not possible to quantify how much black-money is in circulation in India. That is why we are taking all steps to curb the black-money. We have intensified our

two-pronged action. We are trying to reduce the income tax rates. Earlier it was 40 per cent and we have reduced it to 30 per cent. That means the tax-payers can comply with the request of the Government. We have not only fixed the rate as 30 per cent but also have simplified the tax procedures. There are also cases of search and seizures by the Central Enforcement agency. Earlier the time limit for reopening the assessment was up to 10 years. We have now brought it to six years. The result of these kinds of activities is, the tax compliance is more. Due to the positive steps taken by the Government, the black-money has come down and instead the people are voluntarily paying taxes to the Government.

The hon. Member has also suggested about giving any immunity, or having a special scheme, to the black-money hoarders. On behalf of the Government I would like to say that we are not considering this kind of a disclosure scheme because it is injurious to our honest tax-payers. All the tax-payers, except certain unscrupulous persons, are paying taxes regularly. We are taking stringent measures to curb the black-money in due course.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One Supplementary has taken seven to eight minutes. The question asked was long and the answer is also very-long.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, the hon. Minister has not been forthright in his answer. The black-money investment beyond the purview of the national income only ends up in negative growth and in worsening the employment scenario. In India, investment and savings are inter-linked with black-money and increase in black-money investment in conjunction with the increase in black-money consumption may lead to further demand for foreign exchange, as a corollary of which, do you perceive that it may snowball into BoP crisis? Already *Benami* Prohibition Act, 1998 has not been referred. May I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether he is conceiving any device, as POTA equivalent, to ferret out the huge accumulation of black-money. Have you identified the major fountain-heads of black-money generation similar to *Tehelka* or *Coffins* scam. I would like the Minister to be forthright in his reaction.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is very short, therefore the answer should also be proportionately short.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, the hon. Member has given some suggestions. We will keep them in mind for curbing these kinds of activities in future.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, in India, black money parallel economy is operating for the last many years. A few particular big industrial houses are, more or

less, operating Indian finances. They are having huge amount of unaccounted money, do to which, the Indian economy has received threats on different occasions. The fiscal deficit has gone up to such an extent that it is beyond control. Many VD Schemes were announced and some of them have achieved success but they did not reach the desired level. Our apprehension is that this black money is causing damage to the growth and progress of our country. But the Government has not risen to the occasion.

On different occasions, we raised this question that financial institutions and banks are just being looted by the captains of industries. They are not repaying the loans which amount to more than rupees one lakh crore. There is Banking Secrecy Act, and possibly, due to this, the names of these defaulters are not being listed and declared to the public. Why should Banking Secrecy Act not being abolished and names of those culprits who are actually operating the black money not being disclosed for public consumption? I would like to know whether the Government is in the mood to blacklist them and declare their names so that people could get an assessment about them.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the question is not related to the main question. Anyhow, I would try to answer.

Sir, we are taking many measures to bring the black money into tax-net. We have already brought the Money-laundering Bill to curb *hawala* activities through which people bring foreign moneys to India. They also earn illegal money from various sources like narcotic smuggling, arms smuggling, and many other illegal activities. For unearthing this kind of money, we have brought the Money-laundering Bill which is pending before Parliament. It has been passed by the Lok Sabha, and it is pending before the Rajya Sabha. From our side, we have taken many measures through our enforcement agencies. I want to quote some successful cases. During 1997-98, we had issued 3653 warrants to corporate sector and also to individuals. During the same year, we seized assets worth Rs. 306.85 crore. In 1998-99, we issued 5746 warrants, and seized assets worth Rs. 300.54 crore. In 1999-2000, we issued 5670 warrants, and seized assets worth Rs. 412.85 crore. In 2000-01, we issued 5321 warrants, and seized assets worth Rs. 512.36 crore.

During the last year ending 31st March 2002, 4358 warrants were issued; Rs. 343.42 crores worth assets have been seized.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Warrants have been issued. But how many have been arrested or against how many prosecutions have been launched? What has actually happened to them? Have they been given any exemplary punishment or not?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you have that figure about those who have been arrested? If not, you can give it to the Member in writing later.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: I am having the figures. During 1997-98, prosecution was launched in the case of 801; number of people convicted were 93; number of cases compounded was 143; the total number of convicted as also compounded was 236. In 1998-99, 184 prosecution cases had been launched; number of people convicted was 77 and those compounded were 184; the total number was 261. Likewise, in 1999-2000, 343 cases have been launched; number convicted was 14 and those compounded were 128; the total was 142. In 2000-01, 235 prosecutions were launched; 20 convicted and 279 compounded; the total was 299. This year, till the end of the year 2001-02, only 38 cases were launched; five convicted and eight compounded; the total number is 13.

Why I am saying all this is because after taking stringent measures to curb the black money by way of compliance of tax payers, we are getting more money through taxes, by simplification of collection process, reduction of tax and many other provisions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your reply is too long.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Very lengthy reply...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If it is short, then you say the reply is very short.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What has been given by the Minister is a statement about how to recover the black money. This is not sufficient. Just now he has read out some figures which show that the amount recovered is much less than the black money which is in circulation in our country.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether, as the existing Act is not sufficient and effective, the Government propose to enact a stringent legislation, so that the growth of black money, which is a parallel economy in our country, can be curbed and it can also be recovered forthwith?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is only a pointed question—whether you have in mind any new legislation or not.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: At present, we are not having any such proposal. But, we are having sufficient provisions to curb the black money. They are voluntary compliance, searches and seizures through many agencies and other acts also.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In his reply to the main question the hon. Minister had referred to the Department's initiatives and widening the one-by-six scheme. As the latest experience in Punjab shows, bank lockers were extensively used for stashing crores of ill-gotten money received by selling Government jobs. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the one-by-six scheme would include the bank lockers also as one of the requirements where by a person having a bank locker would be obliged to file the return. Often we would see that lockers in the name of other people have been used for stashing the ill-gotten money.

Further, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether quoting the Permanent Account Number would also be made obligatory for people who go in for bank lockers.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: The hon. Member has given some suggestions for inclusion of bank lockers as one of the requirements in the one-by-six scheme.

While we will be taking a decision, we will keep this suggestion in mind.

Regarding PAN, we have already made it compulsory to quote the PAN.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You do not say that you will keep it in your mind. You tell us that you will do it.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: As regards PAN, we have made it compulsory to quote the PAN in certain specific transactions in the following:

- (a) Sale or purchase of any immovable property valued at Rs. 5 lakh or more.
- (b) Sale or purchase of certain specified categories of motor vehicle.
- (c) Time deposits exceeding Rs. 50,000 with a banking company.

(d) Deposit exceeding Rs. 50,000 in any account with Post Office Savings Bank.

(e) A contract of a value exceeding Rs. 10 lakh for sale or purchase of securities.

(f) Opening of account with a bank.

(g) Making an application for installation of a telephone connection including a cellular telephone connection.

(h) Payment to hotel and restaurants against their bills for an amount exceeding Rs. 25,000 at any one time.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he asked a question about bank lockers. We all know what he has read out. The Finance Minister has announced them in the Budget speech...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: I have answered his question about the bank locker that while we take a decision, we will take it into consideration...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If a person wants to open a bank locker or hire a bank locker, would you insist on the PAN or not because only people who have enough money would go in for a bank locker and not others?

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: You have asked this question. While taking a decision, we will take this into account at an appropriate time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: So, you have not taken a decision and you are not going to take a decision. What is this?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the question is whether the Government propose to amend the law or not.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: A person who has to get a mobile telephone has to file a return. A person who has to get a locker does not have to file a return!...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please look into the question.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am referring to the same question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, his question relates to black money. The Member's right should be protected. He asked a simple question that whether to open a bank locker, one is supposed to give the PAN or not. He may say 'yes' or 'no'.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, we will consider his request when we would take a decision....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, under the existing income-tax law, a person who is above 70 years old cannot be convicted and sent to jail for violation of the income-tax law. So, all the corporate houses and the business houses are being manned by persons who are above 70 years old....(*Interruptions*) Further, I would like to ask as to why it is called black money. Why not it be called red money because it is dangerous to the society? Why not it be called yellow money because people who have a lot of money do not repay the loans, and why not it be green money to put in into the market for generation and lead to the development of the country?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Green, black, white or whatever it may be, in the Question, only black money is mentioned. So you have to ask no black-money now. You have to deal with only black money and not red and green....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, he is wearing a black coat today!....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Persons who are submitting returns voluntarily have been asked to pay tax. But, after that, for persons who have not submitted their returns and not accounted for their money, there is a scheme called VDS. You disclose your asset and you will get a moratorium. The persons who have correctly assessed and paid the tax do not get this moratorium. They have been penalised. But the persons who have not been asked to assess or who escape from the scrutiny of the income-tax law take advantage of the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme.

The Reserve Bank of India is printing notes. I think the Government will have an account of how much it prints. You do not have an account! You are not able to monitor the amount and the numbers you have. Even in a company, they maintain a ledger.

So, I would ask the Minister whether the Government is monitoring the circulation of Rs. 1000 notes, Rs. 500 notes and other notes after they are printed and circulated. Do they monitor as to how much money is being siphoned

off and how much money is being hoarded? Have you any mechanism to find that out? I want to know that. If there is no mechanism, can you devise a mechanism to detect the amount of money that is being siphoned off from the community, from the society and from the country?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the entire House can nominate Shri P.H. Pandian, as an expert from Parliament, to monitor this process....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am only interested in asking him to put the supplementary question.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, we all know that Reserve Bank of India is printing notes. Reserve Bank of India will also have the details about the number of notes printed in each denomination....(*Interruptions*) This is an important matter. I want to know whether the Government is serious enough to curb the unaccounted money. For that, you can ask the persons suspected of having hoarded money to give the account to the Government....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this question is not related to the main Question. The main Question relates to black money.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: You talked about unaccounted money. Where from you get the unaccounted money? How are you going to detect this unaccounted money? How are you going to prosecute the persons who have unaccounted money? You are prosecuting the persons who have given the accounts.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: It is not related to this Question.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: You have no answer. I want to know whether he has the answer. He has not answered the question....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ram Mohan Gadde. Q. No. 642.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question. Kindly allow half-an-hour discussion on this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Its fine, you please give a notice for this.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Instead of half-an-hour discussion, a full discussion should take place over this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I don't have any objection. You please give notice for a full discussion under Rule 193.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Government should come out with a *suo motu* policy statement on this matter. Then, we can all join the discussion for the whole day....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): The Government is ready for a discussion. The Government is very serious about curbing black money. There is no question of hiding anything....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That is why we say that let the Government come out with its policy statement. Then the entire House will join the discussion. It should not be under Rule 193 or Rule 184. It should be on the policy statement of the Government. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The policy to contain the black money.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: You give a separate notice. The Government is ready for a discussion....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, to cite an example, one company invested Rs. 20,000 crore in a stock exchange. When it withdrew the money, the share prices crashed. This is a scam.

World Bank Loan for Drinking Water and Sanitation Project

+
*642. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide loans for drinking water and sanitation schemes of some states;

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

(c) whether the World Bank has also imposed some conditions for this loan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) The details are enclosed at statement.

(c) to (e) These loans are on standard IDA and IBRD terms. IDA Credit, a interest free loan, with a maturity period of 35 years (including a grace period of 10 years) is being provided by the World Bank which include commitment charge on undisbursed balances and service charge at 0.5% and 0.75% per annum respectively whereas IBRD Loans are repayable over period of 20 years inclusive of grace period of five years, carry variable interest rate and commitment charge on undisbursed balances.

Statement

Drinking water supply and sanitation projects mentioned against the following states are being implemented with the assistance of the World Bank

Name of the State	Name of the Project	Date of signing/ Date of effectiveness/ Date of closing	Amount of Assistance (US\$ million)
1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh/ Uttaranchal	U.P./Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (IBRD Loan)	22.7.96/ 28.8.96/ 31.5.03	59.60
Kerala	Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (IDA Credit)	4.1.01/ 12.2.01/ 31.12.06	65.5

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	Second Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (IDA Credit)	8.3.02/ 19.4.02/ 31.12.07	151.6
Tamil Nadu	Second Chennai Water Supply Project (IBRD Loan)	20.11.95/ 14.2.96/ 30.6.02	275.8
Maharashtra	Bombay Sewage Disposal Project (IBRD Loan/IDA Credit)	28.12.95/ 22.2.96/ 31.12.02	167.0 (IBRD loan) 25.0 (IDA Credit)

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: What are the criteria laid down for getting World Bank loans as we find that different policies are followed for different States? For Andhra Pradesh, they insist on imposing conditions for raising the tax rate or resource mobilisation to ensure that the poor get free drinking water etc. whereas, recently, the West Bengal Chief Minister announced that he got loan from the World Bank without any such conditions. Is it true? I would like to know whether the Government of India keep a check to ensure that uniform policies are followed for all the States while sanctioning the World Bank loans.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: It is totally within the jurisdiction of the World Bank to sanction a World Bank Loan. But, at the same time, there is a procedure followed. The State Government recommends to the Government of India as to which agency they want to use. Naturally, the parent Ministry is also involved. After some scrutiny, we send it to the World Bank. The World Bank also makes some preliminary scrutiny. It appoints some consultants and gives some money for the project scrutiny. Later on, the State Government does design the project and again recommends, through the parent Ministry, to the Government of India. Finally, we submit to the World Bank. After detailed scrutiny, the World Bank approves it and the effectiveness comes later on.

As far as the Government of India is concerned, as far as the drinking water supply scheme is concerned, there is a uniform policy followed for the urban sector plus the rural sector though differently. So, there is no discrimination from the side of the Government of India.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Recently, World Bank Aid has been announced for drinking water scheme in Chattisgarh. In Andhra Pradesh, there are still 1804 villages having fluoride content requiring immediate action to provide safe drinking water. Our Chief Minister wrote

to the Prime Minister for assistance on 22nd January, 2001. I would like to know whether the Government of India would recommend the case for World Bank loan for these villages as the perusal of the statement shows that no loan has been provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh. I want to know the reasons for the discrimination. Drinking water scarcity is very much acute in Andhra Pradesh whereas we find that the richest States like Maharashtra and West Bengal corner all the World Bank loans. What is the policy of the Government of India in this regard?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I have already replied that we do not discriminate against any State regarding anything. The project design is done by the State Government only as per the criterion or strategy involved by the World Bank. It is done in consultation with the Government of India. The letter of consultation goes to the States. There is no question of any discrimination against any State Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has talked of providing loan to some States for supply of drinking water and sanitation with the assistance of world bank, but the name of Madhya Pradesh is nowhere in these States. We all have been watching in the television since the last three four days that there is severe crisis and problem of drinking water in 33 districts of Madhya Pradesh which has led to commitment of crimes at some places. People are resorting to fights and bloodshed for want of water. They have to bring drinking water from a distance of six, eight or even ten kilometers. Sir, through you, I would like to know...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: The Government should resign....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: He has said that the Government should resign. It seems he does not require water.* That is why he does not need water....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,.....he should not say like this....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him ask the supplementary. Do not interrupt him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the allegation made by the hon. Member on us is not right. I request that this may be expunged from the record...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ashok Pradhan, you are a Minister, you should not interrupt like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You ask your supplementary?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Sir he is preventing me from speaking. What should I could do. Sir, kindly ask him to sit first, then I would ask the question...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Nihal Chouhan, I am on my legs, will you please resume your seat?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if you continue interrupting the proceedings, I would take it seriously.

...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, these people are preventing the hon. Member from asking question...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Kantilal Bhuria, will you please resume your seat?

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what should I do. He interrupted in between and said that the Government should resign...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do not interrupt the proceedings of Question Hour like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari, you ask your supplementary. Do not deliver any speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Nihal Chand Chouhan, you are again getting up. Do not interrupt now.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is there in Madhya Pradesh and blame have the Central Government for scarcity of water, which is wrong. It is the duty of the State Government to provide water to its people. He should not have blamed the Central Government for this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Tiwari, if you do not have any supplementary, I would ask someone else to ask the supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do not interrupt now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: When Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari is asking a supplementary, why is he

interrupting him?...(*Interruptions*) Is he a Minister?...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has compelled me to blame. I was asking simply a question but he said that the Government should resign. Why did he ask the Government to resign....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, are you retaining those words in the records?...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is severe crisis of water in Madhya Pradesh. Keeping this in mind, I through you, request the hon. Minister of Finance to release additional funds asked for by the State Government for catering the demand of water, and this amount may immediately be provided to the State Government. The name of Madhya Pradesh has not been included in the list of five States which are to be provided loan by the World Bank. I request that the name of Madhya Pradesh may also be added, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is pondering over the matter of resolving the water crisis in my State. If not, I would request him to kindly consider it.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: There is several problem of water in many states due to famine. This is a state subject and should be looked into by the State Governments. I would give only this much information on the position asked by the hon. Member that

[*English*]

there are ongoing projects in many States. There is, Uttar Pradesh Water Supply and Environment Sanitation Project which is going on. There is an ongoing project in Uttaranchal which is estimated at Rs. 430 crore, the Kerala Water Supply and Environment Sanitation Project is estimated at Rs. 928 crore and the second project in Karnataka, namely, Karnataka Rural Water Supply Project is also going on.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, question is asked about Madhya Pradesh and the reply given is about Karnataka....(*Interruptions*)

What else than the wastage of time would take place with this....(*Interruptions*) We are asking questions regarding Madhya Pradesh and the hon. Minister is giving the news of the entire world, except Madhya Pradesh....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I am coming to Madhya Pradesh. Please listen....(*Interruptions*) Please be a little calm....(*Interruptions*) I can also speak in loud voice....(*Interruptions*) Second thing is that Tamilnadu and Maharashtra are also there. I am now coming over to Madhya Pradesh.

[*English*]

There are many proposed projects which are under consideration relating to the States of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. There is an ongoing project namely Andhra Pradesh Rural Water Supply Project.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: How much have you given to the State of Tamil Nadu?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: He is preventing me from speaking. Please stop him first....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Sanitation Project for Rural Areas is estimated at US\$ 135 million to cover 24,000 inhabitants spread over 3,527 village *Panchayats* in 8 districts of the State. The World Bank Identification Mission visited the State in March, 2002.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Please tell about Madhya Pradesh also....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I am speaking about Madhya Pradesh. Please be calm....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Then there are various other proposals under consideration. There is a project in Andhra Pradesh called Andhra Pradesh Rural Water Supply and Environment Sanitation Project covering 73 villages in 3 districts and its estimated cost is US\$ 423.105 million. The revised proposal duly addressing the concern of the World Bank is awaited from the State Government.(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister neither understands English nor Hindi. I wonder which language he understands....(Interruptions) We are repeatedly asking him about Madhya Pradesh and he is giving the details of the entire world....(Interruptions) because the Government have deliberately done injustice with Madhya Pradesh, and that is why they are avoiding any answer....(Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I am telling about Madhya Pradesh....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does he has statistics of Madhya Pradesh.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is going to mention about Madhya Pradesh now. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I am talking about Madhya Pradesh only....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria, he is now reading about Madhya Pradesh. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I am telling about Madhya Pradesh itself....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister is telling about Madhya Pradesh only.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: He is not stating....(Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: You do not listen. I was reading with regard to Madhya Pradesh only.

[English]

Sir, Madhya Pradesh Rural Water Supply and Environment Sanitation Project is covering 73 villages in

3 districts and its estimated cost is US \$ 423.105 million. The revised proposal duly addressing the concern of the World Bank is awaited from the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Hon. Minister, Sir, there are problems in many other things also....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask from the Government that 167 million American Dollars were sanctioned by the Government for Mumbai Water and Sewerage Disposal Project in 1995. There are 39 thousand villages in Maharashtra State and many villages out of these suffer from severe problem of drinking water. The State Governments have evolved many schemes but the state has no funds for these schemes. I wish to say that there is a need to raise funds from the world bank in order to resolve the problem of drinking water. My second submission is that there is serious problem of drinking water in dalit colonies all over India.

They do not get drinking water from common wells of the villages. Higher caste people do not allow them to take water from those wells. That is why there is a need to make a scheme on all India basis by raising funds from the world Bank....(Interruptions) I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether a special World Bank Project is being contemplated for Dalit Bastis?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the initiative of State Governments is very much important for raising funds from the world bank or any other institution. We can only be successful when the State Governments take initiative, be it the Dalit colonies, tribal areas or any remote area....(Interruptions)

[English]

Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project estimated cost is 16,562 million and to cover 16 districts of the State, the World Bank Identification Mission visited the State in January-February 2002. As per the report of the World Bank Mission, the State Government has agreed to complete certain formalities to facilitate the project. As soon as they comply to it, definitely this amount will be sanctioned.

I want to inform the House and the House will be happy to know that even the project preparation facilities sanctioned for Delhi Water Supply and Sanitation—2.5 million dollars; Kolkata Water Supply Drinking Water—2.5 million dollars; and Karnataka Water Supply and Municipal

Sanitary Project—1.5 million dollars are also under consideration.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question regarding dalit colony has not been answered yet...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, you have to resume your seat.

DR. V. SAROJA: Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the UNICEF made the observation that India is one of the densely populated sub-continent in the world and covers only 15 per cent of the sanitary coverage. Will the hon. Minister come forward to increase the sanitary facilities to the extent of 85 per cent by constructing, at least, 24 million latrines?

Sir, UNICEF has given affordability, social acceptability, and availability of water in addition to institutional and administrative capacity. Will the hon. Minister take the guidelines from the UNICEF and form the model?

Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu has sent a proposal to the World Bank to the tune of Rs. 2,300 crore for sanitation and protected drinking water. Will the hon. Minister get the approval from the World Bank and expedite the matter?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are two parts to this question. One is general question with regard to the sanitation and rural water supply, which comes under various Ministries. This question only relates to the World Bank projects. I can inform the hon. Member that the main components of Chennai Water Supply Project II worth US \$ 86.52 million closing on 30th June 2002 are strengthening of the water transmission and distribution system in Chennai. So, this is the only project. I have already informed the House that the State Government should initiate the project.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the hon. Minister has laid on the Table of the House certain names of States where projects are being considered. In the whole list of projects, there is a disparity that the eastern Indian States of West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar and the North-Eastern States are not there. Maybe, they have not applied. In view of the fact that water scarcity is more in these areas, would the Government take some steps to

see that some schemes could be granted to these States by the World Bank?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, Some of the old schemes have already been closed down. Now, we are only mentioning the new schemes. If there is a need, we can write to the States and they can submit their proposals.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question pertains to the arrangement of drinking water in different states by the World Bank and clean water projects. I wish to ask only a small question. This involves all States viz Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Maharashtra, but the problem of drinking water is acute in Bihar. I would like to ask with regard to Bihar that why there is no World Bank Project for providing drinking water in Bihar? If it is there then why Bihar State is not being provided funds by the World Bank? Bihar has not been included in the list despite the fact that Bihar is the mass affected state in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government of India cannot impose or ask any State to submit project proposals. It is for the States to become more active and submit proposals for projects.

[*Translation*]

The Government can ask the World Bank only when the Government of Bihar would work on it and send some proposals to the Central Government, there should be some proposal from the side of Bihar Government as you all knows.

[*English*]

the World Bank's policy is in line with the Government of India's national policy. In consultation with the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, the World Bank had framed project documents.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that Uttar Pradesh received 59.60 million dollars from the World Bank for solving the problem of drinking water, but where has the money gone which was earmarked for my

constituency Jaunpur and Pratapgarh. There is a acute problem of drinking water in my constituency. Instead of providing water to the villages of Uttar Pradesh, the Minister and officers of the State gulped mineral water, the entire American dollars have been spent under some other head, and not on providing drinking water. The hon. Minister may tell as to what action is he going to take for mis-appropriation of funds by the Uttar Pradesh Government released by the World Bank for drinking water purposes to poor people?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker it is the job of the state Government to monitor as to what is happening in their state. We would investigate into the matter reported by the hon. Member and would inform him accordingly.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Thank you, hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving an opportunity to me.

This is an issue that relates not only to one district or one State but it relates to the entire nation which is facing acute problem of drinking water shortage. More than 125 districts in the country are facing acute shortage of drinking water. For purposes of irrigation also, they are facing the same problem....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please ask your question now.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: The former Minister Shri K.L. Rao had prepared a project for linking of the northern rivers and the southern rivers, linking Ganga and Mahanadi with Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery. If this had been taken up, the problem of drinking water shortage would have been solved in the entire nation, irrespective of the States that faced the problem.

When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of this country, the project was prepared and everything was ready. We now have to go before the World Bank to get the funds because we cannot solve this problem in one district or one State. We have to make a comprehensive programme to solve the entire drinking water problem. Let the Government come forward in this regard.

Sir, Part 'C' of my question is that I want an immediate relief for the districts—72 talukas and seven districts in Karnataka—which are facing an acute problem. The water table has gone down to a depth of 600 feet. The fluoride is coming. We are not able to drink this water. Though the hon. Minister has provided 65 million

dollars for drinking water, it will not solve the problem. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he can answer Parts 'A', 'B' and 'C' of my question properly to solve the problem of the drinking water in the entire nation?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, Part 'A' of the question relates to the Ministry of Irrigation. They will deal with the Ganga-Cauvery or other linkage projects. I agree, Shri K.L. Rao was there. However, this is not covered under this Ministry.

Sir, as far as Part 'B' is concerned, as you know, drinking water is a State subject. The Government of India cannot force any State Government. So, naturally the State should submit the project to the World Bank. As far as current problems of the drinking water are concerned, the State and the concerned Ministry can sit together, discuss, and find out some solution....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Manohar Joshi, it is a 'last Supplementary' for you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister be kind enough to inform this House that apart from loan that we try to take from the World Bank, there are a number of countries who are ready to give grants to the Government because this issue is very important. Drinking water is a need of the rural areas, particularly of the poor people of the country. Has the Minister tried any time to get the grants instead of getting of loan from the World Bank?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I have a privilege to reply because within a minute he will become the Speaker. This is the first and the last question from him.

Sir, a number of donor countries are giving donations to the World Bank. The World Bank formulates the schemes. The Government of India negotiates with a number of countries for the development projects including the drinking water scheme. So, naturally, the Government of India are trying to exploit all kinds of resources and try to give more funds for the drinking water supply...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have made such a scheme which implies the meaning that the tribal people would never get water. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that where he would deliberate over removing

the ten percent charge taken from the people in my constituency.

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that the World Bank has put a condition against the total capital required for drinking water supply. Ten per cent should come as a participation from the local people. So, it is fact. But the State Government have their own issues. They can contribute from the State funds or the budgetary support. Contingency is a subject which is with the States....(*Interruptions*)

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Sir, sanitation and drinking water is not a problem in any particular State. It is there all over India. Sixty per cent of the villages are without any drinking water. Lack of sanitation is a problem.

We would like to know specifically whether the State of West Bengal has asked for assistance from the World Bank.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: It is a very serious problem, Sir. We shall supply the information to the hon. Member.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Export of Onion and Potato

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

(a) whether the prices of onion and potato are high as compared to the international market and there is scarcity of these commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the prices of onion and potato in international market;

(c) the quantity of onion and potato exported during the last three years, country-wise alongwith the foreign exchange earned; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to keep prices of onion and potato under control domestically?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The international prices of onion and potato were higher compared to the prevailing domestic retail prices during last three years as given in enclosed statement-I. There is no scarcity of onion and potato in the country. The production of these items was higher than the normal production during the last three years.

(c) The quantity of onion and potato exported during the last three years, country-wise, and the foreign exchange earned, are indicated in enclosed statement-II and III.

(d) The Government has *inter-alia* taken following steps to control the prices of onion and potato in the country:

- (i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through production and post harvest management.
- (ii) Capital investment subsidy schemes for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages and storages for Horticulture produce.
- (iii) Market information service for Horticulture crops.
- (iv) Constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Review Committee to monitor the availability and open market prices periodically for export of onion.
- (v) Putting quantitative restrictions (since 1999) on the export of onion to protect consumers' interest and to regulate exports to avoid sharp fluctuations in prices.
- (vi) Regular monitoring of prices of onion and potato (among others) through daily and weekly price monitoring.
- (vii) Removing all restrictions on the import of onion and potato to augment supplies.

Statement I*Production, Domestic Prices and International Prices of Onion and Potato during the Last Three Years*

Year	Production* (Lakh tonnes)		Domestic Prices** (Rs. per kg.)		International Prices (\$ per tonne)		International Prices*** (Rs. per kg.)	
	Onion	Potato	Onion	Potato	Onion	Potato	Onion	Potato
1999-2000	49.0	247.1	3-18	2-12	98-454	92-277	4-20	4-12
2000-2001	52.3	221.4	2-15	2-10	102-388	92-214	5-18	4-10
2001-2002	54.8	250.1	2.5-18	4-12	117-355	87-275	5-18	4-13

Note: * The normal annual production of onion and potato is 46 lakh tonnes and 215 lakh tonnes, respectively.

** Domestic retail price range per kg. in respect of onion and potato are price ranges of the two items prevailing in 18 major consuming centers/State capitals in the country.

*** The average exchange rate prevailing in the respective years have been used for conversion of dollars into Rupees as per the RBI norms.

Production Data — Source : D/o Agriculture & Cooperation.

Domestic Prices - Source : D/o Consumer Affairs.

International Prices - Source: D/o Commerce.

Statement II*Export of Onion during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002*

(Qty. in MT) (Value in US \$)

Country	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002*	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Argentina	9	1708	—	—	—	—
Australia	30	7639	151	46727	96	24869
Bahamas	—	—	150	25052	—	—
Baharain	1742	299566	4977	981630	3521	588121
Bangladesh	73851	12921789	55164	8354218	71019	10164018
Barbados	938	135464	—	—	—	—
Belgium	17	5908	42	5989	—	—
Bhutan	10	4454	—	—	—	—
Brunei	192	64939	1011	312059	499	173637
Burundi	41	12162	—	—	—	—
Canada	10	1338	2	636	11	14748

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chinese Taipai	—	—	409	158563	—	—
Colombia	100	13131	150	31612	122	14241
Denmark	1	231	—	—	50	8261
France	66	29977	76	15027	19	17347
Georgia	—	—	200	27180	—	—
Germany	—	—	114	37710	99	133006
Iceland	—	—	—	—	75	16585
Indonesia	1428	367967	2262	619751	1026	206682
Japan	—	—	10	2260	—	—
Kenya	12	2215	—	—	—	—
Kuwait	376	56978	950	148011	—	—
Malagasy Rep.	—	—	137	20775	—	—
Malaysia	70894	14047105	98178	19987320	68007	12946810
Maldives	11	2931	975	176157	357	62034
Mali	3550	903752	1687	545340	—	—
Mauritius	5874	1048977	7804	1189661	4412	575190
Nepal	—	—	8	1952	5	613
Netherlands	270	30970	347	81958	64	64485
New Zealand	—	—	38	11013	84	14706
Nigeria	20	3369	—	—	—	—
Oman	12	1177	27	3971	41	5620
Pakistan	—	—	1692	242364	—	—
Philippines	—	—	171	32248	175	24742
Qatar	585	86609	478	73929	120	17769
Reunion	1340	299058	1529	289485	2303	452199
Russia	21	3023	97	15312	—	—
Saudi Arabia	941	136594	1455	252082	2269	392087
Seychelles	476	88086	276	50215	599	89734
Singapore	13151	2477298	14461	2426203	11592	1762777
Solomon	575	64893	50	5089	—	—
South Africa	60	11492	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Spain	175	26631	—	—	—	—
Srilanka	50023	8468201	82687	13589583	38045	5076558
Thailand	47	5815	—	—	—	—
Turkey	20	9232	—	—	—	—
U.A.E.	32993	5034489	65284	10796676	43342	7302288
U.K.	21	7731	28	7195	—	—
U.S.A.	587	94801	180	90119	—	86797
Total	260469	46777791	343257	60655071	247952	40235903

*April 2001 to November 2001. Country-wise data from December 2001 to March 2002 is yet to be released by DGCIS, D/o Commerce. There have been no imports of onion during these years.

Conversion rate of 1 US \$ in 1999-2000 = Rs. 43.3327; in 2000-2001 = Rs. 45.58444 and in 2001-2002 = Rs. 47.328725 as per RBI norms. Source: D/o Commerce.

Statement II

Export of Potato during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(Quantity in MT), (Value in US \$)

Country	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002*	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Angola	—	—	55	9345	—	—
Australia	16	1805	—	—	3	296
Bahrain	1	277	40	5002	—	—
Bangladesh	4798	440753	—	—	70	7628
Brunei	—	—	22	4717	—	—
Germany	75	877	—	—	—	—
Japan	50	6554	—	—	—	—
Italy	—	—	—	—	14	3254
Malaysia	390	73247	177	22003	266	29792
Maldives	—	—	7	921	—	—
Mouritius	25	3762	750	131997	20	1733
Nepal	273	20100	5440	306377	5478	348118
Oman	—	—	103	11978	1	275

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Qutar	7	415	—	—	—	—
Saudi Arabia	2	4062	37	5353	5	528
Singapore	164	17285	72	11890	74	7142
Sri Lanka	21849	2559614	14487	1826283	371	48977
U.A.E.	482	80147	1356	200595	597	123773
U.K.	75	7985	—	—	—	—
U.S.A.	—	—	90	8314	30	2007
Total	28207	3216162	22636	2544774	6929	573521

*April 2001 to November 2001. Country-wise data from December 2001 to March 2002 is yet to be released by DGCIS, D/o Commerce. There have been no imports of potato during these years.

Conversion rate of 1 US \$ in 1999-2000 = Rs. 43.3327; in 2000-2001 = Rs. 45.58444 and in 2001-2002 = Rs. 47.328725 as per RBI norms. Source: D/o Commerce.

National Scheme for Scavengers

*644. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the "National scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents", financial assistance is being released to State Governments;

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

(c) the total dwelling units constructed by the State Governments for scavengers and their dependents in the country during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(d) the details of States where manual scavenging has been completely rooted out; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to root out completely the social evil from the country?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) The National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS) to liberate the scavengers from hereditary, inhuman and obnoxious occupation and rehabilitate them in suitable alternate occupations was started in 1992. Rs. 236 crores as Central assistance was released to the State Governments during the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) by this Ministry under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme. There is no provision in this Scheme for construction of dwelling units. The

scheme provides for training and rehabilitation of scavengers in alternate, individual or group-based economic activities. State-wise details of the Central Assistance released by this Ministry during the Ninth Five Year Plan are enclosed as statement.

The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of dry latrines (Prohibition) Act was also enacted in 1993. This Act is applicable in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tripura, West Bengal and Union Territories w.e.f. 26.1.1997. The State Assemblies of Orissa, Punjab, Assam, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat have also adopted the Act.

The States of Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura and the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have declared that they are scavenger-free.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of urban low cost sanitation for liberation of scavengers to totally eliminate manual scavenging and to convert/construct low cost sanitation units is being administered by the Ministry of Urban Development in which financial assistance comprising of loan and subsidy is provided by the Central Government through HUDCO for conversion of dry latrines and construction of pour flush latrines in households in urban and semi-urban areas and loans are also sanctioned for construction of community latrines.

Statement

State/UT-wise Central Assistance Released under National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (during the Ninth Five Year Plan)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Central Assistance
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16.35
2.	Assam	3.72
3.	Bihar	4.64
4.	Gujarat	20.51
5.	Karnataka	6.95
6.	Madhya Pradesh	33.34
7.	Maharashtra	21.35
8.	Orissa	6.97
9.	Rajasthan	19.35
10.	Tamil Nadu	22.53
11.	Uttar Pradesh	44.46
12.	Chhattisgarh	15.00
13.	Jharkhand	10.85
14.	Uttaranchal	10.00
Total		236.02

Import of Steel Scarp

645. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Unexploded rocket arrives in melting steel scrap", appearing in the *Hindu*, Delhi, dated the April 3, 2002;

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

(c) the precautionary measures taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future while importing steel scrap from foreign countries?

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

(b) In the morning of 2 April, 2002, at the time of unloading of a consignment of 10 containers containing Heavy Melting Steel Scrap at ICD, Tughlakabad an explosion took place. As a result, the driver and the conductor of the truck who were present nearby and engaged in loading were injured. They were given immediate medical treatment in a nearby hospital. The entire consignment, which was shipped from Sharjah and originated from an African country, was immediately detained and destuffed. Further examination of the goods took place in the following days in the presence of explosive experts, local police, officials of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Container Corporation (CONCOR) and Customs Officers. The total weight of scrap was 212 MT (Net). On examination, the piece that had exploded was found to be part of an unexploded heat rocket of 1969 vintage. The remnants were taken over by explosive experts for further examination. The police authorities completed their investigation and later allowed clearance of the consignment with the advice that it may be handled carefully. M/s Words Window, New Delhi, were the importer in this case. They had sold the goods to M/s Rathi Ispat of Ghaziabad on high sea sale basis. M/s Rathi Ispat of Ghaziabad is a regular importer of Heavy Melting Steel Scrap at ICD, Tughlakabad.

(c) As a precautionary measure to deal with such scrap, a separate area away from normal examination area has now been earmarked for examination of heavy metal steel scrap by the CONCOR. In suspected cases, the scrap would be subject to examination by Police/explosive experts and only after their clearance, the same would be examined by the Customs.

Institutional Development Fund

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

(a) whether the World Bank has approved a grant under Institutional Development Fund to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the grants sanctioned so far, Institution-wise;

(d) whether the projects have been completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Sir. World Bank has approved one grant under Institutional Development Fund (IDF) during the Financial Year 2001-02.

(b) This grant is for Modernisation and Capacity Building of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The grant amount is US\$ 200,000.

(c) A total of 13 grants have been approved by the World Bank. 11 are for Government of India, 2 for O/o the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(d) Twelve of the grants have since closed.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Sub-Standard Foodgrains and Sugar Distributed through PDS

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

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that substandard quality of foodgrains and sugar are distributed under the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the number of such cases, which have come to the notice of the Government during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the officers found guilty and punished during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Foodgrains of fair average quality conforming to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) standards are distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Sugar distributed under the PDS conforms to the Indian Sugar Standards (ISS).

Some complaints about the quality of foodgrains supplied under the PDS were receiving during the last two years.

During 2000-01, complaints were received from the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Sikkim and Tripura regarding the supply of foodgrains of poor quality, especially rice procured under relaxed specifications (URS). Keeping in

view the reluctance of consumers, the supply of URS rice of 1997-98 Kharif Marketing Season was stopped.

During 2001-2002, the Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi complained about the supply of luster lost wheat while the Governments of Goa and Kerala complained about the poor quality rice stocks. It was explained to the State Governments that, except in appearance, lustre lost wheat is as good as sound wheat, especially in terms of nutritional value. The FCI officers were instructed to ensure that rice of good quality only was supplied under the PDS to Goa & Kerala.

The State Governments are free to inspect the stocks of foodgrains and satisfy themselves about their quality before lifting the same from FCI depots. The State Governments have also been advised to depute an officer not below the rank of Inspector to check the quality of stocks.

No complaint was received from any State Government during the last two years about the supply of substandard sugar under the PDS.

In view of the position explained above, there was no occasion to take action against any official.

[*English*]

Assets of SBI

*648. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India's net value of assets dipped to 121 per cent on account of India Millennium Deposit and VRS given to large number of employees;

(b) if so, its impact on the bank activities; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was no reduction in State Bank of India's net value of assets on account of India Millennium Deposits (IMD) and Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). However, the bank has reported that its net profit in year 2000-2001 recorded a decrease of 21.80 per cent as compared with profit in 1999-2000. This decline was mainly on account of IMD issue expenses and absorption of a portion of VRS related expenses in its Profit and Loss Account.

(c) Does not arise.

Restrictions Imposed by EU on Indian Marine Export

649. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union imposed any specification of quality maintenance in the marine food exports from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any study in the field of marine exports after the imposition of restrictions by European Union;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the extent to which restrictions have affected our marine exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) European Commission had laid down the health conditions for the production and placing of fishery products on the markets of EU countries in July 1991 which apply to fishing vessels, landing centers market premises processing establishments, transport vehicles etc. applicable to third countries, including India desirous of exporting to the EU.

European Commission also laid down in 1996 measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products as a result the production process of animals and primary products of animal origin shall be monitored for the purpose of detecting the presence of the residues and substances in live animals, their excrement and body fluids and in tissue, animal products, animal feed and drinking water. Recently due to the detection of antibiotic residues like chloramphenicol in shrimps imported from China and countries like Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar, the EU has intensified testing consignments for these substances.

(c) and (d) though no specific study on marine exports has been conducted the export trends from India competing countries to the EU and from India to all countries are constantly being analysed and changes in the strategy made.

(e) After the imposition of ban on the export of fish and fishery products to EU countries from India in August, 1997 which was lifted in December 1997 the exports to

EU have picked up to the level existing prior to the imposition of ban as given in the table given below:

Export of European Union

Year	Quantity Exported (MT)	Value in Rupees Crores	Value in US \$ Million
1995-96	87212	911.87	289.48
1996-97	71192	790.11	221.01
1997-98	34875	412.53	113.81
1998-99	54261	684.62	163.78
1999-2000	65402	905.56	210.45
2000-01	68827	1025.36	225.37
2001-02(*)	69756	960.42	202.48

(*) upto Feb. 2002

[Translation]

New Textile Policy

*650. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of new textile policy;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations against the new textile policy as it adversely affects Indian cotton growers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The National Textile Policy, announced in November 2000, redefines goals and objectives, and focuses on strategic thrust areas meant to strengthen the Textile Industry and make it globally competitive, by facilitating and enabling technological upgradation of all manufacturing segments of the industry; increase in the raw material base by emphasis on productivity and quality; integrated human resources development, with special attention to those working in the de-centralised and the traditional sectors; attention to product diversification with a strong multi-fibre base and innovative marketing strategies; and a major thrust on exports. The target for textiles and apparel exports is US\$ 50 billion by the year 2010 with garments contributing US\$ 25 billion. The policy also aims to increase sustainable employment through the growth of the industry.

(b) to (d) Several representations were received after the National Textile Policy 2000 was announced. However, no representation specifically mentioning that the Policy adversely affects Indian cotton growers has been received in the Ministry of Textiles.

[English]

Concession to Pakistan by European Union

*651. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations between India and European Union (EU) about India's demand to extend the concessions given to Pakistan under Generalised System of Preferences has failed and the EU has rejected India's request in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has now taken a decision to move the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the other steps the Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) 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. As this may adversely affect India's exports to EU India had taken up this issue with EU through bilateral consultations held in February 2002. During the consultations it was highlighted that India would stand to lose substantial trade on account of duty concessions given selectively to Pakistan. The EU was requested to rectify the adverse trade impact due to such concessions. The bilateral consultations did not however yield the desired results from India's point of view.

(c) to (e) 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 which have however not led to positive results. 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.

Export Earning Spent on Oil Import

*652. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 40% of the export earnings are spent on oil imports;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase export in order to bring down the percentage of oil import bill on the export earning; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce oil import?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. As per provisional data for 2001-02, the oil imports bill was only 31% of merchandise exports.

(b) and (c) Export promotion is a continuous process, necessitating short term as well as medium term measures. Short term measures were needed in October last year to arrest the declining trend arising out of the global economic slow down. These included reduction in the interest rates on export credit, special financial package to manufacturer exporters, extension of normal repatriation period upto 360 days and 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 the Exim Policy for 2002-07 announced recently incorporates a number of measures to promote exports. These include operationalising Special Economic Zones, scheme to reimburse certain admissible expenses for export of certain agricultural products, development of selected urban clusters, additional support for electronic hardware exports, and reduction in transaction costs.

In order to reduce dependence on oil imports several steps have been taken by the Government which include improving the recovery factor from the existing major oil fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) and Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); exploring in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas as also in the deeper layers of the producing fields; developing faster the newly discovered fields and stepping up the use of new

technologies for seismic surveys, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas; exploration and exploitation of Coal Bed Methane; increasing refining capacity in the country etc.

Directors of Banks

*653. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directors of some Regional Rural Banks/co-operative banks have been found to have diverted the depositors' money for personal use in the share market and other activities;

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

(c) whether the RBI has imposed penalties against such banks for violating the rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) undertakes statutory inspection of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Co-operative Banks once in two years under section 35(6) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACS). NABARD has reported that during the course of inspection they have not found any instance wherein the Directors of RRBs/Central Co-operative Banks (CCBs) have diverted the depositors' money for personal use in the share market. However during the course to statutory inspection of the Nagpur District Central Co-operative Bank (NDCCB) conducted with reference to the financial position of the Bank as on 31st March, 2001 it was observed that the NDCCB has not followed the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for conduct of trading in Government securities.

(c) to (e) NABARD have reported that the findings of the inspection of NDCCB has been forwarded to RBI and Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of Maharashtra for initiating appropriate action. RBI has reported in this regard that they have initiated action to supersede the Bank's Board and an administrator has been appointed for the Bank. The Registrar of the Cooperative Societies in Maharashtra has been advised to conduct special audit of investment transaction of all State and District Central Co-operative Banks in the State.

[Translation]

Loans to Foreign Countries

*654. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several countries including Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Sudan have not repaid the loans provided to them by India;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken for recovery of these loans;

(c) the names of the countries against whom loans are outstanding alongwith the dates when such loans became due including the details of the amounts of loans; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to recover the loans at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHLE PATIL): (a) to (d) The Government of India has extended lines of credit to various countries. However, no line of credit has been extended to the Government of Sudan by the Government of India. Some countries like Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, which have availed of GOI lines of credit and are Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC), are unable to repay their dues.

The details of outstanding Government of India dues in respect of these countries are as under:

Country	Principal	Interest
Uganda	(US \$ 3.207 million (as on 30.6.2001))	US \$ 1.189 million (as on 30.6.2001)
Tanzania	Rs. 14.17 crores (as on 31.3.2002)	Rs. 14.39 crores (as on 31.3.2002)
Kenya	Rs. 0.059 crores (as on 31.3.2002)	(Rs. 0.74 crores (as on 31.3.2002))

Government of India had been trying to resolve this problem of outstanding debt through bilateral discussions. Some of the options being considered were local investment by Indian companies, repayment in kind and equity participation in Government-owned companies being privatized.

However, in response to HIPC initiative started by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank

(WB) to reduce the debt of these Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)s to sustainable levels, Government of India is examining the modalities of providing debt relief to these countries.

[English]

Corporate Tax on Foreign Companies

*655. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up an action plan to progressively bring down the corporate tax on foreign companies from the budgetary proposal of 40% and to move to full convertibility of rupees even on capital account;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken in pursuance of this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) No proposal is under consideration at present to reduce the corporate tax rate further on foreign companies from the budgetary proposal of 40%. Steps to liberalize the capital account for certain purposes have been announced in Budget Speech of 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. Consequent to these announcements, the Reserve Bank of India had issued a number of notifications to liberalize the capital account for certain purposes. The liberalization of capital account, however, has to be viewed as a process and not as a single event. It has to be embarked upon cautiously as part of overall reforms as well as on assessment of the emerging scenario relating to international economic and financial architecture.

[Translation]

Incentive Fund for Panchayats

*656. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to constitute an Incentive Fund for such Panchayats, which have performed well and made full use of their resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No such proposal is before the Union Government.

(b) and (c) However, at an All India Panchayat Adyakshas Sammelan held on April, 2002 in New Delhi it was suggested that the Union Government institute an appropriate structure of incentives by the State and the Union Government to recognize and encourage the panchayats for outstanding performance, especially in respect of improvements effected in accepted Social Development indicators. Since this issue requires extensive consultations with the State Governments including initiation of certain prior steps by the State Governments, no time frame can be indicated for taking a final decision in this regard.

FDI Inflow

*657. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

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

(a) whether there has been continuous decline in the foreign investment inflow in the country for the past few years;

(b) if so, the actual foreign investment registered during the year 2001-2002 as compared to the previous two years;

(c) whether the Government have identified the reasons for declining trend of FDI inflow in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost foreign direct investment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has been considerable increase in FDI inflows during 2001-2002 compared to the previous two years. The year-wise inflows during the last three years are as under:—

Year	FDI Inflows (excluding ADRs/GDRs and advance pending issue of shares) (Rs. in Crore)
(April-March)	
1999-2000	9,404.05
2000-2001	10,732.61
2001-2002	18,654.11

The inflows during 2001-2002 were 98.36% and 73.81% higher than that of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Government is making continuous efforts to promote India as a preferred investment destination by providing an internationally competitive investment climate in terms of policy framework, factors and institutions. The FDI policy is reviewed continuously for carrying out progressive reforms.

[English]

FII's In Derivative Products

*658. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has allowed FII's to trade in all derivative products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FII's were earlier restricted from trading in all derivative products in the stock exchanges;

(d) if so, the reasons for reversal of the policy;

(e) whether increase of limits in trading in derivatives by FII's are likely to increase the volatility of the Indian Stock Market; and

(f) if so, the safeguards adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that it has allowed Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) to trade in all Exchange traded derivative products, vide their circular dated 4th February, 2002.

(c) Earlier, RBI, vide its circular dated 7th August, 2000 permitted FIIs to invest only in exchange traded index futures on recognised stock exchanges for the purpose of hedging subject to the condition that the overall open interest of the FIIs shall not exceed 100% of market value of the concerned FII's total investment.

(d) After the launch of the new derivative products such as index options and stock options, the Advisory Committee on Derivatives constituted by SEBI on 14th August, 2001, recommended wider participation in all exchange traded derivative products by institutions, including FIIs. Accordingly, in the High Level Committee on Financial and Capital Markets (HLCCM) meeting of August, 2001, a proposal was considered to allow FIIs to trade in all exchange traded derivative products. The HLCCM decided that the RBI Guidelines restricting FIIs participation in the derivatives market to the extent to market value of their total investment may be withdrawn, while the overall cap on "open interest" exposure to the derivatives market for FIIs would be specified by SEBI in consultation with the Government subject to the provision of adequate safeguards.

The SEBI Board, in its meeting held on December 28, 2001 granted approval to FIIs to trade in index based option contracts and stock specific derivative contracts, subject to position limits. SEBI vide their letter dated 29th January, 2002 have intimated the trading limits for derivative contracts and subsequently, RBI issued necessary instructions vide their letter dated 4th February, 2002.

(e) The participation by FIIs in all exchange traded derivative products would bring in higher participation by various classes of investors including institutional investors leading to higher liquidity and, better price discovery in the stock markets.

(f) SEBI has intimated that FIIs would be subject to the position limits. The position limits and applicable margins would be computed on a gross basis at the level of a FII and on a net basis at the level of sub-accounts and proprietary positions.

Indian's Share In the World Handicrafts Markets

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

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare handicrafts trade as an industry;

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study to find out India's share in the world handicraft market, particularly of USA and EC;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the steps taken by the Government in that direction; and

(e) the main role of the Union Government in the development of handicraft industries?

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

(b) Handicrafts, being in the unorganized and decentralized sector, the need for declaring it as an industry has not been felt so far. The handicrafts traders and exporters have also not made any demand in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The main role of the Government of India for the development of handicrafts in the country is as under:—

- (i) to increase the production base of crafts having high market demand;
- (ii) to establish vibrant, member-controlled Communities Based Enterprises (CBEs) for self-sustainable development of handicrafts;
- (iii) to continue design and technological upgradation programmes for quality output and enhanced value addition;
- (iv) to enhance employment opportunities, particularly in rural and backward areas of the country and to preserve crafts as living heritage;
- (v) to create and expand market for handicrafts, both in India and abroad; and
- (vi) to improve the socio-economic condition of craftspersons in the country.

Import of Diesel

*660. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the new Exim Policy, the import of diesel and petrol is to be handled only by the State Trading enterprises;

(b) whether the petroleum sector has been de-regulated and new marketing companies have entered;

(c) if so, the manner in which this proposal could be enforced without the consensus of private players in the oil sector;

(d) whether the past record of India's State trading enterprises being dismal, the prime STC (State Trading Corporation) is on the verge of being wound up and disinvested;

(e) whether the Government have identified any STC to handle the sensitive issue of petroleum imports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) Import of High Speed Diesel (HSD), Light Diesel Oil (LDO) and Motor Spirit have been always allowed only through the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). This Policy continues even today and IOC is the only designated State Trading Enterprise. It is true that the marketing of Diesel and Petrol has been opened up for new players. Since there has been no change in import policy, the question of consensus of private players in the oil sector has not arisen.

State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) is not the designated State Trading Enterprise for these products. Nevertheless, the past record of State Trading Corporation of India Ltd (STC) has not been dismal and it has been making profits consistently. However, STC is being disinvested, and not wound up, under the extant policy of the Government.

[Translation]

LIC Housing Finance Corporation

6629. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise Details of Branches of LIC Housing Finance Ltd. and loan granted by them under various Schemes for construction of houses during last three years;

(b) whether the number of loan seekers for house construction is very large and their applications are pending for sanction;

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

(d) whether the Corporation proposes to open more such branches; and

(e) if so, State-wise details thereof and by when these are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The relevant information is given in enclosed statement-I and II.

(b) and (c) The LIC Housing Finance Ltd. has informed that the time lag for sanction and disbursement of loan is approximately 1 to 10 days and therefore applications are not kept pending.

(d) and (e) At present the LIC Housing Finance Ltd. has no plans of opening new offices.

Statement I

Details of Offices of LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

A.O.: Area Office

EC : Extension Counter

TAMIL NADU

Chennai A.O.+(5) E.C.

Coimbatore

Madurai

Salem A.O. + (1) E.C.

Tirunelveli A.O. + (1) E.C.

Trichy

Vellore A.O. + (1) E.C.

KERALA

Ernakulam

Kozhikode

Trivandrum

KARNATAKA

Bangalore A.O. + (3) E.C.

Gulburga

Hubli

Mangalore

Mysore

ANDHRA PRADESH

Hyderabad A.O. + (3) E.C.

Kurnool

Rajahmundry A.O. + (1) E.C.

Tirupati

Vijaywada A.O. + (1) E.C.

Visakhapatnam

Warangal

RAJASTHAN

Ajmer

Bikaner

Jaipur A.O. + (2) E.C.

Jodhpur

NEW DELHI

New Delhi A.O. + (3) E.C.

Ghaziabad A.O. + (1) E.C.

PUNJAB

Amritsar

Chandigarh

Jalandur

Ludhiana

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Shimla

HARYANA

Karnal

UTTAR PRADESH

Agra

Allahabad

Bareilly

Dehradun

Haldwani

Kanpur

Lucknow A.O. + (1) E.C.

Varanasi

MADHYA PRADESH

Bhopal A.O. + (1) E.C.

Indore

Jabalpur

Raipur

ORISSA

Bhubaneshwar

WEST BENGAL

Kolkata A.O. + (2) E.C.

Siliguri

ASSAM

Guwahati

Silchar

BIHAR

Jamshedpur A.O. + (1) E.C.

Patna

GUJARAT

Ahmedabad

Rajkot

Surat

Vadodara

MAHARASHTRA

Kalyan A.O. + (1) E.C.

Mumbai A.O. + (1) E.C.

Nallasopara

Vashi

Nashik

Aurangabad

Kolhapur

Nagpur

Pune

GOA

Panjim.

Statement II

State-wise Detail of Loans Granted by LIC Housing Finance Ltd. under various Housing Schemes for the past 3 years

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	34287.57	40732.22	42301.41	117321.20
Kerala	6079.09	5016.68	5039.47	16135.24
Karnataka	13244.05	14392.82	15653.26	43290.12
Andhra Pradesh	14218.98	14694.93	20056.54	48970.45
Rajasthan	3457.26	4322.98	5707.93	13488.17
Delhi	3923.61	3740.28	3700.99	11364.88
Punjab	2998.28	3681.28	5252.37	11931.93
Himachal Pradesh	299.01	354.90	712.24	1366.15
Haryana	966.14	1223.49	1539.70	3729.33

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	6910.86	7581.90	8027.76	22520.52
Madhya Pradesh	4394.85	4207.23	3547.28	12149.36
Orissa	769.55	923.80	1577.55	3270.90
West Bengal	3838.94	4946.15	6311.01	15096.09
Assam	727.14	741.32	918.07	2386.53
Bihar	1789.05	2049.32	2418.96	6257.32
Gujarat	2742.33	3828.59	2783.42	9354.34
Maharashtra	23892.93	28884.51	26807.66	79585.09
Goa	925.07	639.85	518.14	2083.06
Grand Total	127430.36	144427.89	155946.00	427804.24

Voluntary Organisations in Gujarat

6630. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of voluntary organizations in Gujarat receiving financial assistance from his ministry;

(b) the financial assistance sought by these organizations and the actual financial assistance sanctioned to them during the last two years;

(c) the criteria adopted for sanctioning financial assistance to these organizations; and

(d) the names of such organizations which have been blacklisted during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The details of Voluntary organizations and financial assistance provided to them are available in the Annual Reports of this Ministry. Voluntary organizations seek assistance as per their own assessment, however financial assistance is sanctioned as per norms of the various schemes.

(d) No organization has been blacklisted during the last two years in Gujarat.

[English]

Portfolio Management Scheme

6631. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem regarding hiding of Rs. 40 crores portfolio profit accrued to the Citibank through Grasim deposits during 1991-92 assessment year published in the Economic Times, dated 26 March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Bombay High Court has upheld that the Bank had failed to disclose the primary facts and have also violated the Reserve Bank's guidelines pertaining to Portfolio Management Scheme (PMS);

(c) if so, the steps taken to recover the taxable amount by the Income Tax Department; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the defaulting bank?

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

[Translation]

Bank Guarantee for Foodgrains given by FCI

6632. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India provides bank guarantee on per quintal of rice to such exporters to whom rice is sold by it for the purposes of exports; and

(b) if so, the details of various kinds of bank guarantees given by the exporters since April, 2001 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. Exporters offer Bank Guarantee to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) which is encashed by FCI in the event of any default on the part of the exporter in actually exporting the quantity lifted from FCI.

(b) The exporters provide default guarantees, as described in reply to (a) above.

[English]

Expenditure in GIC

6633. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3061 on March 22, 2002 regarding expenditure in GIC and state:

(a) whether the Government and the New India Assurance Company Ltd. have received complaint from the Employees Association against misuse of Guest Houses of the Company by the stay of relatives of Senior Officers of Ministry/Company for years together; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The All India National General Insurance Employees' Association have complained that the guest houses were being occupied by persons other than the Company officials and that the Company Officials were staying in hotels/other places adding avoidable costs to the Company.

The Company has stated that occupants of the guest house accommodation are charged as per provisions of their guest house rules. The Company has also informed that the guest house accommodation is being used by Chairman and General Managers of the Company on official tour to Delhi. Only in case of non availability of the guest house accommodation, they stay in hotels as per their entitlements.

Government have issued strict directions to all the public sector insurance companies for proper utilization of their guest houses at various places.

Karnataka SC/ST Development Corporation

6634. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for release of Central share towards the share capital contribution to the Karnataka SC and ST Development Corporation under reference SWD 834 SEW 2000, dated February, 19, 2001 to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the economic programmes being implemented through Karnataka SC and ST development Corporation and every year a budget provision of Rs. 1000/- lakhs is made towards the share capital of this Corporation;

(c) whether out of this provision 51% is State's contribution and the remaining 49% is being released by the Union Government;

(d) whether for the year 2000-01, provision of share capital of Rs. 1000 lakhs and the Central share comes to Rs. 160.05 lakhs;

(e) if so, whether the Government have released the amount;

(f) if not, the main reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (g) State Government's proposal dated 28.8.2001 for release of Central Government Share of Rs. 395.00 lakhs as 49% Share Capital contribution, for the year 2001-2002 for Karnataka SC & ST Development Corporation Ltd. (KSCSTDC), was received in September, 2001. The State Government had made a budget provision of Rs. 1000 lakhs in 1999-2000, Rs. 1020 lakhs in 2000-2001 and Rs. 955 lakhs for the year 2001-2002. This Ministry has released Central Government contribution of Rs. 499.80 lakhs as 49% Share Capital contribution for year 2000-2001 for KSCSTDC.

Committee for UTI Defaulters

6635. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UTI has constituted committees to look into the cases of UTI defaulters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of defaulting companies; and

(d) the details of the amount from them?

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

[Translation]

Services to Senior Citizens

6636. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the basic services being provided by the Government to all senior citizens of the country; and

(b) the guidelines laid-down by the Government to ensure their access to all such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) 391 Old Age Homes, 469-Day Care Centres and 83 Mobile Medicare Units have been set up by 609 NGOs with Grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. 10 kg of foodgrain is distributed to each destitute elderly every month under "Annapurna Scheme" of the Ministry of Rural Development, separate queue system for the elderly is operational in hospitals, elder citizens are given priority in telephone connection and grievance redressal by the Department of Telecommunications, concession in fares is provided by Railways & Civil Aviation Ministries, tax concessions are provided by the Ministry of Finance, specific insurance schemes have been designed by the Life Insurance Corporation, New India Insurance etc. Some public sector banks also allow higher interest on deposits by the elderly. Formalities for accessing the benefits are incorporated in the concerned Schemes.

Availability of Kerosene in the Country

6637. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) the per capita availability of Kerosene oil in West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir States as on date and the extent to which it is lesser or more as compared to other States of the country;

(b) whether the above data is equal to the national average and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the allocation of kerosene oil to West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) As per the allocation approved by the Central Government to various States/Union Territories for distribution under Public Distribution System during the year 2002-2003, per capital allocation of Kerosene to the States of West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir is 9.71 kg per annum and 8.38 kg per annum respectively. The details of Kerosene Allocation to others States/UTs and per capital allocation for the year 2002-03 are given in the statement.

(b) The per capita allocation of West Bengal for the year 2002-03 is more than the national average of 9.35 kg per annum. In the case of Jammu & Kashmir the per capita allocation is lower than the national average. Difference in the per capital allocation amongst various States/UTs and the national average is because of the criterion based on historical followed till 1993 for the allocation of kerosene.

(c) to (e) Central Government have already made Kerosene Allocation to various States/UTs including West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir for the year 2002-2003. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has not received any such request from the States of West Bengal & Jammu & Kashmir for increase in allocation of Kerosene oil.

Statement

SKO Allocation to various States

States/UTs	SKO Alloc. for 2002-03 (MT)	per Capita alloc. (2002-03) (Kg/Annum)
1	2	3
Andman & Nicobar	5709	16.02
Andhra Pradesh	566113	7.48
Arunachal Pradesh	9793	8.97

1	2	3
Assam	261081	9.80
Bihar	646618	7.80
Chandigarh	14089	15.64
Chhattisgarh	147977	7.12
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3003	13.62
Daman & Diu	2273	14.38
Delhi	188854	13.70
Goa	21999	16.37
Gujarat	781176	15.44
Haryana	155928	7.40
Himachal Pradesh	56509	9.30
Jammu & Kashmir	84413	8.38
Jharkhand	216766	8.06
Karnataka	500625	9.49
Kerala	236758	7.44
Lakshadweep	874	14.43
Madhya Pradesh	497726	8.24
Maharashtra	1367232	14.13
Manipur	20857	8.73
Meghalaya	20597	8.93
Mizoram	6748	7.57
Nagaland	13332	6.70
Orissa	317443	8.65
Pondicherry	13307	13.66
Punjab	272143	11.20
Rajasthan	417204	7.39
Sikkim	6403	11.85
Tamil Nadu	582712	9.38
Tripura	31545	9.89
Uttar Pradesh	1261121	7.59
West Bengal	778784	9.71
All India	9606166	9.35

Construction of Warehouses in Orissa

6638. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has submitted any schemes on behalf of the Orissa State Warehousing Corporation for constructing warehouses in the districts of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government of Orissa had submitted a proposal for creation of additional storage capacity (covered) of 2 lakh MTs through the State Warehousing Corporation under 7 years guarantee scheme for various districts of Orissa like Kalahandi, Malakangiri, Bolangir, Rayagada, Phulbani, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda and Ganjam.

Recently, the State Government of Orissa has also submitted another proposal for 1 million tonnes of additional storage capacity in Orissa.

The Government has already conveyed its approval to offer guarantee for construction of 2.5 lakh MTs additional storage capacity (covered) in Orissa under seven years guarantee scheme to Managing Director, FCI on 10.1.2002. Out of this, 2 lakh MTs capacity has been assigned to the State Warehousing Corporation, and balance 0.50 lakh MTs to the Central Warehousing Corporation.

The recent proposal for 1 million tonnes additional storage capacity under 7 years guarantee scheme is under examination.

[English]

Revival of HSCL

6639. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival packages of HSCL is still pending with his Ministry since 1998;

(b) if so, whether the demand for payment of wage arrears of HSCL employees is still not allocated in this year budget;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when the revival package including repayment of wage arrears of employees of the HSCL, Durgapur unit are likely to be made?

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

(b) to (d) Government of India has granted a financial assistance of Rs. 89.44 crore to HSCL to partially clear outstanding wages and outstanding statutory dues. Government has also approved extension of a guarantee in four of HSCL to the tune of Rs. 250 crore for raising funds from the banks to effect VRS aimed at separating 5000 employees.

[Translation]

Corruption In Handloom Sector of Jammu and Kashmir

6640. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of Jammu and Kashmir which have made achievements in the handloom sector during the last three years;

(b) whether no progress has been made in the handloom sector in Jammu and Kashmir due to corruption prevailing in the State Handloom Board;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The Government of J&K has reported that the crucial achievement of the handloom sector is the preservation and promotion of the unique weaving heritage of the State. The areas which have particularly registered the maximum progress are Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur and Doda. The major contribution of the handloom sector is the well-known Raffal Pashmina and Kani-Jamawar shawls, loies and blankets, khadi and woollen cloth. The handloom sector in Jammu and Kashmir has made considerable progress during the last 3 years as indicated below:

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Production of fabric (in lakh metres)	57.33	43.35	153.70
Value in Rupees in lakh	5137.29	4165.96	22279.34
No. of persons trained	556	678	637
No. of beneficiaries covered under Insurance Scheme	650	850	1412
New Handlooms provided	62	34	159

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the position stated above. Further, the State Government has informed that there is no Handloom Board in the State.

[English]

New India Assurance Company

6641. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of complaints have been received during the last three years from several quarters by the New India Assurance Company Ltd. against some of the employees having got employment in the company on the basis of fake and fabricated SC/ST certificates;

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

(c) whether some of such complaints are also being looked into by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of each complaint;

(e) the number of cases in which employees have been found guilty after Departmental enquiry in the last two years but no penalty has been imposed; and

(f) the reasons therefor and the time by which the final orders of penalty are likely to be passed by the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The New India Assurance Company Ltd. have reported that they have received 14 complaints from All India General Insurance SC/ST Employees Welfare Association; 11 complaints from All India General Insurance SC/ST Parishad; one complaint from All India SC/ST General Insurance Employees Welfare Association

and two complaints from National Commission for SC/ST. All these cases have been referred to the respective District Collectors for caste verification. National Commission for SC/ST have also been requested to issue necessary instructions to the concerned District Collectors.

(e) and (f) Four employees have found to have submitted bogus caste certificates. These employees have been issued chargesheet. The final orders would be issued on conclusion of departmental proceedings and issue of cancellation of caste certificates by the respective District Collectors. Therefore, no definite timeframe could be envisaged.

Performance of GIC Companies

6642. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Companies in the public sector are facing stiff competition from the private insurance companies and there has been considerable decline in their business as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the extent of decline in business of general insurance companies registered during the last two years;

(c) whether the opening of insurance to the private sector has created lot of difficulties to the public sector companies like reduction in staff and closing avenues for promotions and fresh recruitments;

(d) whether the insurance employees have resorted to agitational methods as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, the steps have been taken by the Government to strengthen the general insurance companies in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) It is a fact that the public sector general insurance companies are facing stiff competition from private insurance companies. However, there has been no decline in the business of the public sector companies. On the other hand, there has been a growth in business to the extent of 3.75% in 2000-2001 and 12.14% in 2001-2002.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Some employees unions and associations had resorted to a strike on 16th April, 2002 to protest against Government's policy of dis-investment/privatization of public sector, curtailment of workers rights, downsizing of public institutions.

(e) Several measures to face the competition from private sector companies have been initiated by the public sector general insurance companies which, *inter alia*, include emphasis on prudent underwriting practices, thrust on personal line business, upgradation and extensive use of information technology to improve enhanced customers' services, organisational restructuring by consolidation of offices and emphasis on reducing management expenses.

Storage Facility in West Bengal

6643. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing FCI storage facility in West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the storage facility for the State in the Tenth Five Year Plan in view of the growing foodgrains production;

(c) if so, the details in this regard including the funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the implementation of the proposal is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The total storage capacity in West Bengal available with Food Corporation of India as on 1.4.2002 is 10.44 lakh tonnes (Owned & Hired/Covered & CAP).

(b) to (d) Under the Annual Plan 2002-2003, the Central Warehousing Corporation proposes to construct 0.20 lakh MT. storage capacity at Panihati in West Bengal. The cost of construction including the cost of land for this centre is approximately Rs. 7.5 crore.

FCI has invited tenders for creation of a capacity of 10,000 MT. at Midnapore in West Bengal under 'Build Own and Operate' (BOO) scheme through private participation in development and operation of conventional godowns.

Hoogly Centre in West Bengal has also been identified for creation of bulk foodgrains storage and transport facilities under 'BOO' scheme.

National Jute Manufactures Corporation

6644. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to close National Jute Manufactures Corporation;

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

(c) whether property of NJMC valued at Rs. 700 crore is being projected for sale at Rs. 45 crore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) NJMC is a sick company and stands referred to BIFR since 11th August, 1992. In accordance with direction of BIFR, a study was conducted by IJIRA regarding the unit-wise viability of NJMC mills. The study recommended that only three mills of the Corporation are viable and that too only in private sector. However, the Government in an effort to revive all the mills, proposed to BIFR that a mill-wise revival could be attempted through sale/transfer of the mills to workers cooperatives, state government or private bidders, in that order, BIFR approved the government proposal and the Operating Agency (OA) asked for bids through open competitive bidding. The prospective buyers have been offered mills on the condition that the assets can not be alienated for ten years and interests of permanent workers shall be protected. The offers received against open advertisement from prospective buyers have been evaluated and placed before BIFR in the hearing held on 4.4.2002. BIFR has not taken a final decision in the matter.

[Translation]

Overflowing Foodgrain Godowns

6645. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrain in the godowns of the Central Government and the State Government in Punjab are overflowing;

(b) whether the Punjab Government have requested for the removal of the foodgrain from its godown keeping in mind the chances of the foodgrain getting rotten; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) On 1.4.2002, The Food Corporation of India (FCI) had stocks of 109.42 lakh MT in Punjab, against their total storage capacity of 131.81 lakh MT.

As per information received from the Government of Punjab, as on 6.5.2002, the State Government and its agencies are holding 167.40 lakh tonnes of wheat. About 80% of these stocks are stored on pucca plinth and remaining 20% are stored on katcha plinth.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following measures have been taken to move the stocks and increase the storage capacity in the State of Punjab:—

- (i) Though there are movement constraints due to the limited storage space in the recipient States yet FCI has been able to move 12.3 lakh MTs of wheat lying with the State procuring agencies from Punjab between October, 2001 and January, 2002.
- (ii) Field Officers of FCI have been delegated full powers for hiring of additional storage capacity from the State Agencies like State Government/ Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporations and from private parties as and when required.
- (iii) Further, Punjab State Warehousing Corporation has been given sanction to create additional storage capacity of 46.01 lakh tonnes (41.60 covered & 4.41 lakh tonnes CAP) under the Seven Year Guarantee Scheme. Out of this, 17.55 lakh tonnes (14.86 lakh tonnes Covered & 2.69 lakh tonnes CAP) has already been created.
- (iv) During the current Annual Plan (2002-03), FCI has also proposed to construct own storage capacity of 5,000 MT at Malout and 23,340 MT at Tanda in Punjab.

[English]

Automatic Trigger Facility by UTI

6646. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India is all set to empower its unit holders with an automatic trigger facility,

whereby the investors can exit or roll over the entire investment as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 16, 2002;

(b) if so, the names of the schemes likely to be covered under this facility;

(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided to investors;

(d) the extent which investors are likely to be benefitted by this scheme;

(e) whether the SEBI guidelines are to be complied before availing the facility available under this scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(e) and (f) According to SEBI, a close ended scheme may be allowed to be rolled over if the purpose, period and other terms of the roll over and all other material details of the scheme including the likely composition of assets immediately before the roll over, the Net Assets and Net Asset Value of the scheme, are disclosed to the Unitholders and a copy of the same is filed with the Board. Such roll over will be permitted only in case of those unitholders who express their consent in writing and the unitholders who do not opt for the roll over or have not given written consent shall be allowed to redeem their holdings in full at Net Asset Value based price.

Export of Basmati Rice to European Union

6647. SHRI SHASHI KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed minimum price for the export of Basmati rice to European Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated quantity of Basmati rice to be exported from India for the year 2002-03;

(d) the other varieties of rice to be permitted by the Government for export State-wise;

(e) whether any action plan in this regard has been prepared; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Government has not fixed any minimum price for the export of basmati rice to the European Union.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) The export of non-basmati rice is free. The requirement of registration of contracts with the Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for the export of non-basmati rice has also been recently done away with.

Pension Scheme in IIBI

6648. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Investment Bank of India Ltd. has implemented any pension scheme for its employees so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Industrial Investment Bank of India Ltd. (IIBI) has informed that its Board of Directors considered the proposal for pension in December 2001 and felt that considering the current financial health of IIBI, it will not be proper to introduce the pension scheme.

[Translation]

Pre-Examination Coaching for SC/ST's

6649. SHRI RAM MURTI SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Backward Classes are imparted pre-training in recognized institutions and recognized private colleges to take IAS/PCS/Medical/Engineering/P.O./Stenography/Clerks grade examinations;

(b) if so, the family income limit prescribed for these candidates and total number of candidates imparted training during the last three years with institution-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that after implementation of recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission the wards of class III and class IV employees are not eligible to avail the benefits of this training;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to raise the annual income limit from Rs. 44,500 to 1 lakh for this purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The family annual income limit for candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes has already been revised upwards from Rs. 44,500/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- p.a. 30,769 candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes were imparted coaching during the last three years. The institution-wise detail are enclosed in the statement.

Statement

Details of Number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes imparted pre-examination coaching during the last three years under coaching & Allied Scheme

S.No.	Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
A. Pre-Examination Training Centres run by State Governments				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	387	Nil	Nil
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nil	Nil	120
3.	Delhi	476	282	210
4.	Haryana	320	Nil	252
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	Nil	Nil
6.	Karnataka	1184	Nil	70
7.	Kerala	825	440	1024
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4338	3280	Nil
9.	Meghalaya	80	Arrear	Nil
10.	Orissa	280	Nil	260
11.	Punjab	100	100	Nil
12.	Rajasthan	Nil	3320	Nil
13.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	200
14.	Tripura	14	Nil	Nil
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	60
16.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	60
Total		8008	7422	2256

B. Coaching Centres run by Universities

S.No.	Name of the University	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	J.N. Technical University, Andhra Pradesh	40	Nil	Nil
2.	Kakatiya University, Warangal	Nil	60	Nil
3.	Nagarjuna University, Guntur, A.P.	360	400	Nil
4.	Osmania University, Hyderabad	160	Nil	80
5.	Sri Venkateshvara University, Tirupati, A.P.	60	60	Nil
6.	Arunachal University	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi	Nil	Nil	80
8.	Kurukshetra University	Nil	Nil	40
9.	Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla	Nil	Nil	150
10.	Gujarat University, Ahmedabad	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Karnataka University	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Mysore University	Nil	Nil	300
13.	Manglore University	Nil	Nil	200
14.	Banglore University	Nil	Nil	340
15.	A.P.S. University, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh	216	Nil	80
16.	M.P. Bhoj University, Bhopal	Nil	Nil	135
17.	Devi Ahilya University, Indore, M.P.	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Vikram University	240	190	220
19.	B.R. Ambedkar Marathwarath Univ., Aurangabad	35	Nil	Nil
20.	Nagpur University	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Pune University	40	Nil	Nil
22.	Pondicherry University	Nil	Nil	180
23.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	110	140	140
24.	Punjabi University, Patiala	284	123	Nil
25.	Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur	Nil	Nil	190
26.	Motilal Sukhadia University, Udaipur	Nil	Nil	180
27.	Sikkim Govt. College, Sikkim	26	Nil	Nil
28.	University of Madras	Nil	Nil	100
29.	Aligarh Muslim University	Nil	Nil	200
30.	Allahabad University	165	147	214

1	2	3	4	5
31.	B.R. Amb. Univ., Agra	100	Nil	Nil
32.	H.N. Bahuguna Garhwal University, Garhwal	120	80	120
33.	Kurukshetra University	40	Nil	Nil
34.	Lucknow University	170	120	150
35.	Moti Lal Nehru Engg. College, Allahabad	120	76	67
Total		2286	1396	3166

C. Coaching Centres run by Non-Governmental Organisations

S.No.	Name of the University	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jagruthi Edu. and Rural Dev. Society, Hyderabad	Nil	80	290
2.	Rao's Study Circle, Hyderabad	30	Nil	80
3.	Social Int. and Rural Dev. Society, Hyderabad	Nil	150	40
4.	Veneela Edu. And Rural Dev. Society, Hyderabad	Nil	40	80
5.	Mahakaushal Academy, Raipur	Nil	40	Nil
6.	Delhi Education Centre, New Delhi	260	IInd Ins.	80
7.	S.N. Das Gupta College, New Delhi	400	IInd Ins.	200
8.	IMPA, Srinagar	120	Nil	Nil
9.	Asok Coaching Centre, Bhind, M.P.	60	Nil	Nil
10.	Ashok Mahila Mandal, Bhind, M.P	320	Nil	Nil
11.	Gyan Vikas Samiti, Bhopal	80	80	Nil
12.	Jagannath Shikshan Sansthan	50	Nil	Nil
13.	Krishna Coach Institute, Jabalpur	40	100	120
14.	Krishna Coaching Instt., Bhopal	Nil	Nil	120
15.	Dr. B.R. Amb, National Social Instt., Mhow, M.P.	40	Nil	Nil
16.	Richa Samaj Seva, M.P.	50	Nil	Nil
17.	Sri Lal Bahadur Shiksha M.P.	40	Nil	Nil
18.	Sri Lav Shik. Sansthan, M.P.	50	Nil	Nil
19.	Suruchi Vyavsyk Shik Sansthan, Gwalior, M.P.	Nil	160	Nil
20.	Chaitanya Bahudeshiya Shik. Sansthan, Nagpur	80	80	200
21.	Chanakya Mandal, Pune	Nil	180	Nil
22.	NICE, Nagpur	225	Nil	Nil
23.	Swami Viveka Nand Shik. Sansthan, Latur Maharashtra	Nil	130	Nil
24.	L.C. Institute Social and Applied Sci., Bhubaneshwar	100	40	60

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Orissa IAS Study Circle, Bhubaneswar	30	IInd Ins.	70
26.	Udaipur Study Circle, Udaipur	Nil	200	Nil
27.	Dr. G.R. Damodaran Coll. of Science, Coimbatore	Nil	Nil	150
28.	ICE Career Guidance, Thiruvapur, Tamil Nadu	Nil	170	Nil
29.	Sahara Academy, Kanpur U.P.	Nil	160	Nil
30.	A.P. Study Circle, Mehboob Nagar, A.P.	Nil	Nil	80
31.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar youth Asso., Khammam, A.P.	Nil	Nil	120
32.	Trust Education Foundation, Nagaon, Assam	Nil	Nil	40
33.	Yogi Narayan Education Centre, Bangalore	Nil	Nil	30
34.	Aassarya Jan Vidya Kendra, Thiruvananthapuram	Nil	Nil	40
35.	Institute of Management in Govt., Thiruvananthapuram	Nil	Nil	40
36.	Krishna Coaching Institute, Gwalior	Nil	Nil	40
37.	Gram Bharti Sansthan, Gwalior	Nil	Nil	80
38.	Padmakar Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal, M.P.	Nil	Nil	120
39.	Kundan Kalyan Samiti, Gwalior, M.P.	Nil	Nil	120
40.	Adarsh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Dhule, Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	40
41.	Navalbhai Partishthan's Vijay Career Academy, Aurangabad	Nil	Nil	60
42.	The Women's Econ. Dev. Society, Khongmam, Imphal	Nil	Nil	40
43.	The Instt. of Social Dev. for Weaker Sections, Imphal	Nil	Nil	40
44.	Sachdeva New P.T. College, Puri, Orissa	Nil	Nil	30
45.	Mayur Welfare Education Society, Banswara, Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	40
46.	Social Science Sudha Research Instt., Kanpur	Nil	Nil	40
47.	Aanchal, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	120
48.	Study Point Samiti, Dehradun, Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	40
Total		1975	1610	2650

*[English]***Benefits to Senior Citizens**

6650. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Government Departments are providing certain benefits to senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on 28th February 2002, Department-wise;

(c) whether some age limit have been prescribed for senior citizens to avail these benefits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof as on 28th February 2002, benefit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) 391 Old Age Homes, 469 Day Care Centres and 83 Mobile Medicare Units have been set up by 609 NGOs with grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. 10 kg. of food grain is distributed to each destitute elderly every month under "Annapurna Scheme" of the Ministry of Rural Development, separate queue system for the elderly is operational in hospitals, elder citizens are given priority in telephone connection & grievance redressal by the Department of Telecommunications, concession in fare is provided by the Railways and Civil Aviation Ministries, tax concession are provided by the Ministry of Finance, specific insurance schemes have been designed by the Life Insurance Corporation, New India Insurance, etc. Some public sectors banks also allow higher interest on deposits by the elderly.

(c) and (d) Age limit of 60 or 65 has been prescribed under separate schemes.

Power to Enforcement Directorate

6651. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to provide more powers to Enforcement Directorate to check terrorist funding;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Enforcement Directorate will have these powers and to what extent it will help checking terrorist funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Government, in keeping with its commitment to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolutions for combating terrorism, is taking, from time to time, various legal and administrative steps to deal with the situation.

Construction of Godowns in Andhra Pradesh

6652. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for allocation of Rs. 125 crore subsidy for construction of godowns for foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested for financial assistance of Rs. 360 lakhs for construction of 36 godowns under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'construction of godowns' with a total capacity of 18000 MTs during financial year 2001-2002. The request of the State Government could not be considered since the proposal submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh was not as per guidelines by the Scheme.

[Translation]

Production of Tobacco

6653. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the leading States producing tobacco in the country;

(b) the production of tobacco in the country during each of the last three years;

(c) the annual consumption of tobacco in the country; and

(d) the total quantity and value of tobacco exported from the country during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are the two leading States in production of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco.

(b) to (d) The details of production, consumption and export of FCV tobacco over the past three years is given below:

Year	Quantity in tonnes: Value in Rs. Crores			
	Production	Domestic Consumption	Export	
			Quantity	Value
1999-2000	165,190	65,094	136,221	1050.22
2000-2001	45,220	64,864	115,390	903.38
2001-2002*	171,160	62,700	102,086	888.52

*Provisional

Source : Tobacco Board

*[English]***Assistance to Cooperative Banks**

6654. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government advances financial assistance to State Co-operative Banks under the Agricultural Credit Stabilization Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to increase the financial allocation under this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total financial assistance released to States under this scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise?

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

Credit Cards to Urban Pooors

6655. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered or considering to issue credit cards to urban poor for their needs in profession and vocation on the lines of Kisan Credit Cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Indian Bank's Association (IBA) have evolved a novel scheme, called "Laghu Udhyaami Credit Card Scheme" to provide hassle free credit facilities to small borrowers, viz. small business units, retail traders, artisans, small industrial units and tiny units, professionals and self employed persons, etc. with credit limits upto Rs. 1 lakhs. Under the scheme, the borrowers having credit limits upto Rs. 2 lakhs and satisfactory dealings with the bank for the last 3 years may be sanctioned limit for a 3 year period and a credit card may be issued in recognition of the borrower's special status.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Sugar Mills**

6656. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills in the country which have commenced production of sugar during the current crushing season;

(b) the number of sugar mills lying closed at present and the steps taken for re-opening them; and

(c) the target fixed for production of sugar during the current crushing season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) 428 Sugar Mills in the country have commenced production of sugar during the current crushing season 2001-2002.

(b) As per available information, 99 sugar mills are lying closed during the current sugar season i.e. 2001-2002 against 72 in the preceding sugar season. While one mill in U.P. which was lying closed in the preceding sugar season has reported production in the current season, 28 mills in the country have not reported production. Out of these, 20 mills in Maharashtra have not reported production primarily due to inadequate cane availability on account of drought like conditions. The closed sugar mills include 11 sugar mills of U.P. State Sugar Corporation Limited and 15 sugar mills of Bihar State Sugar Corporation Limited which have been decided to be closed by the concerned State Governments.

The closure of sugar mills is attributable to a variety of factors such as inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size, old age, bad condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence, excessive high cane price not commensurate with the sale realization of sugar etc.

The Government has taken the following steps to improve the viability of the sugar industry in the country.

1. The levy obligation of sugar mills which was reduced from 30% to 15% w.e.f. 1.2.2001, has been further reduced to 10% w.e.f. 1.3.2002.

2. The restrict inflow of imported sugar in the country, custom duty has been increased to 60% w.e.f. 9.2.2000. The imported sugar has been brought under the release mechanism.
3. Advanced releases of freesale sugar are being given to needy sugar mills to enable them to clear cane price dues of the farmers.
4. Government has substituted by the monthly release of freesale sugar by quarterly release. The sugar mills have been allowed to sell up to 10% of their quarterly quota as additional quota, during the quarter subject to utilization of the proceeds from the sale of additional quota for payment of cane price dues to the sugarcane growers.
5. The quantitative restriction on export of sugar has been lifted w.e.f. 01.04.2001.
6. The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation.

(c) No targets are fixed for production of sugar. However, the production of sugar during the current crushing season is expected to be around 175 lakh tonnes.

[English]

Targeted Public Distribution System in Gujarat

6657. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have identified the families living under poverty line in Gujarat which are to be included under the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether each of the family has been provided with a special ration card;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken for providing of ration card at the earliest as these people have poor purchasing power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and the State Governments/UT Administrations. While the Central Government is responsible for procuring and making available to the States the PDS commodities up to the Principal Distribution Centres, the responsibility of distribution of essential commodities under PDS, identification of BPL families and issue ration cards rests with the State Governments. As reported by Government of Gujarat, the number of BPL families identified by them is 33.89 lakh against the estimated 21.20 lakh BPL families on the basis of the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for year 1993-94 based on population projections as on 1.3.2002.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government of Gujarat have reported issue of 33.63 lakh ration cards to BPL families.

Donation to Narmada Bachao Andolan

6658. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enron Corporation has donated Rs. 10 lakhs to Narmada Bachao Andolan, a voluntary organisation;

(b) if so, whether the donation was made as per established procedure laid down by the Government; and

(c) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. As per records with the concerned authorities, there is no information regarding donation of Rs. 10 lakhs to Narmada Bachao Andolan by the Enron Corporation.

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

[Translation]

Income Tax Raids

6659. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI ADHI SHANKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax Department officers have conducted country-wide raids, particularly in Mumbai on April 16, 2002 and during March and April, 2002 on the

premises of money lenders, hotel owners and at some other places;

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

(c) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such illegal activities and apprehend the persons found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Details of searches conducted by the Income Tax Department at premises of money lenders and hotel owners during March and April 2002, and of seizure made therefrom are given below:

Nature of Business	Place	Date of search	Seizure made (in lakhs)
Money lender	Chengannur,	13.3.2002	133.00
	Alleppy (Kerala)		
	Phulera, Rajasthan	20.3.2002	20.55
Hotel and restaurant	Chennai	11.4.2002	140.00
	Mumbai	11.4.2002	925.81
Total			1219.36

(c) Whenever any information about illegal activities is found during the search, same is passed on the concerned Agencies. So far as the Income Tax Department is concerned, block assessments are framed within a period of two years from the end of the month in which search is conducted to determine the undisclosed income of previous six years. Seized assets are adjusted against the tax and interest levied on completion of the block assessments. For various defaults under the Income Tax Act, 1961, prosecutions are also launched.

[English]

Education to SC/ST's

6660. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people for participation in vocational, technical and professional education at various levels;

(b) if so, what positive and interventionist role have been played by the Government in the educational improvement of SC and ST so far;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the non-implementation of reservation in vocational, technical and professional institutes at various levels; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The National Policy on Education lays emphasis on removal of disparities and equalization of educational opportunities by attending to the specific needs of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A number of Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes have been formulated to ensure educational empowerment of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. Reservation of seats in admissions, stipends, hostel facility, book banks etc. facilitate access to education for SCs and STs.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Exchange of Soiled Notes

6661. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the banks authorised by the Government for exchange of soiled and mutilated notes; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to provide this facility to small cities/towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that all Public Sector Banks (PSBs) branches are under instructions to freely exchange soiled notes tendered over their counters not only by their customers but other members of public also. Thus, 46,095 PSBs branches are authorized by RBI for exchange of soiled notes. Thus, the facility is available throughout the country.

Further, all currency chest bank branches of PSBs as well as private sector banks have been delegated full powers of adjudication of mutilated notes presented by the members of the public. There are 4409 currency chests in the country.

[English]

Special Drive to Recover the Outstanding Tax

6662. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the corporates owe a staggering Rs. 65,000 crore in Income Tax, Corporation Tax and Central Excise Duty as on date;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to launch a special drive to recover its tax dues;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The amount of income tax and corporation tax outstanding as on 28.2.2002 is Rs. 62134.53 crore. Separate statistics for income tax and corporation tax are not available at present. The central excise duty outstanding as on 31.3.2002 is Rs. 8439.55 crore.

(c) and (d) Recovery of outstanding dues is a continuous process involving the use of various statutory provisions. These include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment and sale of moveable and immovable properties, etc. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are made by higher authorities on a regular basis and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting the recovery of taxes.

(e) Does not arise.

Public Debt Offices of RBI

6663. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Public Debt Offices (PDOs) which were traditionally functioning for Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have been separated by RBI during the last three years;

(b) if so, the State-wise/Year-wise PDOs separated by RBI during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons for such separation; and

(d) the improvements expected while taking such a decision?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Public Sector Insurance Companies

6664. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the insurance companies working under the control of the Government of India and the nature of their insurance business;

(b) the company-wise details of turnover of said insurance companies during March, 2002;

(c) whether some insurance companies have been running in loss of the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for making the loss making insurance companies viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The requisite information is as under:—

(Rupees in Crores)

Names of the Corporations/ Companies	Nature of business	Turnover during the year ending March, 2002 (Provisional)
Life Insurance Corporation of India	Life Insurance	50,000.00*
General Insurance Corporation of India	Reinsurance	2500.00
National Insurance Company Ltd.	General Insurance	2353.00
New India Assurance Co. Ltd.	General Insurance	3503.09
Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.	General Insurance	2461.81
United India Insurance Co. Ltd.	General Insurance	2672.48

*Includes first year premium, renewal premium, premium from pension plans, P&GS business premium, Jeevan Suraksha premium.

(c) All the Companies have posted overall profits during the last three years.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Even though the companies have posted overall profits during the past three years, yet several reform measures have been initiated by the public sector insurance companies to improve their performance. These, *inter alia*, include emphasis on prudent underwriting practices, thrust on personal line business, upgradation and extensive use of information technology to improve customers' services, organisational restructuring by consolidation of offices and emphasis on reducing management expenses.

[English]

Procurement of Foodgrains from Open Market

6665. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain is procured from open market instead of directly procuring from the farmers in some States;

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

(c) whether the sale of foodgrains is in distress in these States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reports of distress sale of foodgrains have been received during the Rabi and Kharif Marketing Season 2001-2002 from some States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. However, investigations revealed that only non-FAQ variety of foodgrains were sold below the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

(d) Before the start of each marketing season, States are requested, *inter alia*, to open Control room for dealing with complaints of distress sale of foodgrains.

As and when a complaint of distress sale is received, the same is forwarded to FCI/State Government for taking necessary corrective measures.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Mints

6666. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to modernise the mints in the country;

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

(c) the provision of funds made by the Government for the modernisation of these mints; and

(d) the time by which the mints are likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Government had approved a scheme for modernisation of India Government Mints (IGMs) at Kolkata, Mumbai and Hyderabad during 1989 at a total cost of Rs. 118.28 crores. This scheme was further revised in 1994 with increase in cost estimates from Rs. 118.28 crores to Rs. 301.82 crores. The mint-wise break-up of approved revised cost was as under:

Name of the Mint	Rupees in crore
IGM, Hyderabad	117.49
IGM, Mumbai	96.48
IGM, Kolkata	87.85

(d) The modernisation of the mints was completed during June, 2001.

[English]

Stability in Central Government Finances

6667. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has pointed out certain areas in regard to the stability and sustainability of Central Government finances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India in its Annual Report 2000-01 has, *inter-alia*, commented that the widened resource gap and the resultant growing borrowing requirements has led to an accumulation of public debt. The persistence of primary deficit and convergence of nominal GDP growth and interest rates impose downward rigidity to the debt-GDP ratio. The near stickiness of medium to long-term interest rates and modernisation in GDP growth has direct implications for the stability of the debt-GDP ratio.

(c) The Central Government accords high priority to stability and sustainability of its finances. With a view to strengthening fiscal consolidation process, several

expenditure management measures viz., Zero-based budgeting, review of subsidies and their rationalization, reduction in administered interest rates, etc. have been adopted. The Government has revised administered rates with effect from 1.3.2002 by 50 basis points. Government has also introduced Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000. The Bill provides, *inter-alia*, for a legal and institutional framework to eliminate revenue deficit, bring down the fiscal deficit and contain the growth of public debt as a proportion of GDP within a time-frame.

Export Promotion Councils

6668. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of existing Export Promotion Councils;

(b) whether the Government are considering the formation of more Export Promotion Councils to answer the needs of new areas of exports and new commodities that are being exported;

(c) if so, the details of new Export Promotion Councils under consideration;

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to strengthen the existing Export Promotion Councils;

(e) whether the Government are also considering to make certain changes in the system of election to the Governing bodies of such Councils; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Location-wise details of the existing export promotion councils are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) are set up by the industry to promote exports of products relating to a particular segment of the industry and then recognized by the Government on fulfilling the prescribed criteria for recognition of new EPCs. No recent requests fulfilling the criteria have been received from the industry to recognize more EPCs for exports of new areas of exports and new commodities.

(d) In view of the significant changes that have taken place in the international trade environment in the recent years, especially after the conclusion of the Uruguay

Round and the establishment of WTO, it was felt necessary to restructure the Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) with a view to making them more responsive to the needs of their members as well as to introduce greater professionalism for improving the quality of services being provided to their members. The Government have accordingly prescribed a set of Model Bye Laws for adoption by EPCs which will lead to the rationalisation of their administrative and election procedures ensuring that real exporters have a more effective say in the management of the EPCs thus contributing to greater efficiency and transparency in their functioning.

(e) and (f) In the Model Bye Laws/Articles of Association circulated to the EPCs it has, *inter alia*, been proposed that voting rights and right of standing for election to various positions in the EPCs should be given only to such members as are having an established standing over a minimum period of three years. It has also been stipulated that there shall be two categories of members namely Associate members and Ordinary members. New members shall first be enrolled as Associate members and after having continuous membership for at least three years, they would be eligible for Ordinary membership of the Council provided the company represented by him as to its credit during the three financial years, immediately preceding, minimum prescribed average exports. The ordinary member shall have the right to vote and officer himself as a candidate at elections to various positions in the Council.

Statement

Location-wise details of the head offices of Export Promotion Councils

KOLKATA

1. Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL)
2. Engineering Export Promotion Council
3. Shellac Export Promotion Council

CHENNAI

1. Council for Leather Exports
2. Handloom Export Promotion Council

COCHIN

1. Cashew Export Promotion Council

MUMBAI

1. Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL)

2. Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council
3. Indian Silk Export Promotion Council
4. Plastic Export Promotion Council
5. Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council
6. Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council
7. Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council

NEW DELHI

1. Apparel Export Promotion Council
2. Carpet Export Promotion Council
3. Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council
4. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts
5. Overseas Construction Council of India
6. Sports Goods Export Promotion Council
7. Wool & Wollens Export Promotion Council.

Misuse of ISI Certificates

6669. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI certificates are being misused by traders/manufacturers;

(b) if so, the number of complaints of misuse of the certificates were received during each of the last three years; and

(c) the penalty imposed for the misuse of ISI certificates by traders/manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Some instances of misuse of Certification Mark (ISI) of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) by traders/manufacturers have come to notice.

(b) The year-wise details of number of complaints of misuse of the BIS certification mark registered by BIS are as follows:—

Year	Complaints Registered
1999-2000	51
2000-2001	41
2001-2002	36

(c) BIS initiates legal proceedings in appropriate cases for misuse of the BIS Certification Mark and during the last three years 18 of the proceedings ended in convictions. Under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986, fine upto Rs. 50000/- or imprisonment extending upto one year or both can be imposed for offences involving misuse of the BIS Certification Mark.

Decontrol of Sugar

6670. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after decontrol of sugar completely prices of it have increased substantially in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the price of sugar does not increase exorbitantly and is available in market at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The sugar is yet to be decontrolled. However, the open market prices of free sale sugar have not increased, as evident from the behaviour of wholesale prices of S-30 grade sugar in the four principal markets of the country viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The wholesale prices of said grade of sugar in April, 2002 are in the range of Rs. 1400—Rs. 1580 per quintal in the said four principal markets, which are lower as compared to Rs. 1420-1620 per quintal in April, 2001.

[Translation]

Strategic Partner for IDBI

6671. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI is looking for a strategic partner;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the business transacted by IDBI during the last three years and the profits earned by the Government therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2002-2003 has proposed to make legislative changes to

corporatise IDBI within the coming year to provide it appropriate flexibility.

(c) The amount sanctioned & Disbursed by IDBI during the last three years and the dividend received by the Government from IDBI are given as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Sanction	Disbursement	Dividend Received by the Govt.
1998-99	21829	14471	218.51
1999-00	26966	17059	218.51
2000-01	28711	17498	171.80

[English]

Non-Banking FI's

6672. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have collected any data about the public funds deposited with Non-banking Financial companies functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the total estimated amount of money of these companies including those companies which have gone underground after duping the money of thousands of innocent persons during the last three years;

(c) whether any rescue package for innocent investors is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the details of public deposits with Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) during the last three years are as follows:—

Rs. in crores

year ended	Total public deposits
31.03.1999	20428.93
31.03.2000	19341.72
31.03.2001	18450.57

(c) and (d) Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes, *inter-alia*, compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of 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.

Handloom Weavers

6673. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the actions taken so far to improve the garment export from India to western countries in the wake of the new Exim Policy;

(b) the total amount disbursed during the last year to exporters as subsidy; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to improve the textile industry including the welfare of handloom weavers and handloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The new Exim Policy 2002-07 announced on 1.4.2002 incorporates a number of features/schemes with a specific focus on garment exports, which include:-

- (1) Inclusion of sample fabrics (upto 200 meters in a financial year) in the list of trimmings and embellishment items allowed to be imported on duty-free basis.
- (2) 10% variation in Gram per Sq. Mtr. allowed for fabrics imported under duty-free Advance Licensing Scheme.
- (3) Additional items such as zip fastners, inlay cards, eyelets, rivets, eyes, toggles, velcro tape, cord and cord stopper included in input output norms for garment exports under Advance Licensing Scheme.
- (4) With a view to encouraging further development of centres of economic and export excellence such as Tirupur for hosiery, woollen blankets in Panipat, woollen knitwear in Ludhiana, benefits shall be available like EPCG for common service provider, accessing of funds by recognised

associations under the Market Access Initiative Scheme and Entitlement for Export House status at Rs. 5 crores instead of Rs. 15 crores.

(5) Provision for neutralising high fuel cost made.

These features/schemes of the Exim Policy have been given wide publicity amongst the garment exporters by the Apparel Export Promotion Council to facilitate them to avail themselves of these facilities.

The above initiatives, alongwith other factors, have resulted in overall increase in garment exports, including to western countries. The quota exports of garments to US and Member States of EU during the month of April 2002 have increased by 20.6% in quantity terms and 17.1% in value terms in comparison to April 2001.

(b) The Government does not disburse any subsidies in respect of garment exports. However, several export promotion schemes such as Duty Exemption Pass Book, Duty Drawback, Advance Licensing Schemes etc. are in operation to enhance the exports of readymade garments.

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to strengthen and promote textile industry and the welfare of handloom weavers and handloom sector. Some of the important initiative are:

- (i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also announced the de-reservation of knitted segment in the Budget 2002-03.
- (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) Government has launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton-processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing factories.
- (viii) To prepare and sensitise the textile industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.
- (ix) The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has been implementing the following Plan schemes for the welfare of handloom weavers and development of handloom sector:—
 - (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana,
 - (ii) Development of Exportable products and their Marketing Scheme,
 - (iii) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme,
 - (iv) Health Package Scheme,
 - (v) Group Insurance Scheme,
 - (vi) New Insurance Scheme,
 - (vii) Thrift Fund Scheme.

Rehabilitation Camps for Disabled

6674. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from NGOs or Social Activists to review the order to hold only "Comprehensive Rehabilitation Camps" for disabled people;

(b) if so, the objections to the concept of CRCs;

(c) whether the mentally handicapped people do not get adequate attention at such camps;

(d) whether the Government have any objection to discussing this concept with concerned activists; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to view this issue with an open mind?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The objection to the concept of comprehensive camps is that the mentally handicapped people require more time and attention and different specialists. It has been suggested that separate camps should be organized for mentally handicapped people.

(c) to (e) Due attention is given to all categories of persons with disabilities including the mentally handicapped people in the camps. The Government has taken decision to cover persons with different disabilities together in a camp as far as practicable so that larger numbers can be covered for assessment, issue of disability certificates and providing aids/appliances. This does not preclude holdings separate camps also for mentally handicapped, wherever required.

House Building Advance

6675. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide House Building Advance to Government employees a second time considering that many Government employees wish to construct houses at a their native place and place of posting;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The scheme of House Building Advance to Central Government Employees is aimed at providing assistance to them to construct/acquire a house/flat of their own. Assistance is also admissible to the Government employees for enlargements of their existing houses. However, due to limited availability of funds, the question of sanctioning a second House Building Advance to the Government employees is not being considered.

Evasion of Excise Duty

6676. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to reintroduce the earlier system of Gate Passes issued/

authenticated by Central Excise Officers on the consignment dispatched by the industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that presently many industries in the country are evading Central Excise duties on the sales/invoices/consignments; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken to generate the revenue share of Central Government from the Central Excise pool on this account?

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

(b) Question does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir. Some cases of duty evasion have been noticed.

(d) Whenever duty evasion is noticed the same is investigated and steps are initiated in accordance with legal provisions to recover the duty and safeguard revenue.

World Bank and ADB Loan to Gujarat

6677. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and Asian Development Bank had given 498 crores to the Gujarat State for relief and rehabilitation programme of earthquake affected areas; and

(b) if so, the total amount utilized, programme-wise and area-wise so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. World Bank have committed US \$ 293.90 million (Rs. 1421 crores approx.) for the Gujarat Earthquake Programme (Phase-I). Asian Development Bank had also approved US \$ 500 million (Rs. 2425 crores approx.) for Gujarat Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project. However, the loan amount has now been reduced to US \$ 350 million (Rs. 1697 crores approx.) as the cheaper funds from IDA are available.

(b) US \$ 253.58 million (Rs. 1229.86 crores approx.) has been disbursed so far by the World Bank for housing,

social, infrastructure and socio-economic activities. The works relating to repair and reconstruction of private houses, dams, roads, public buildings, schools have also been undertaken in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat. The works have been undertaken in the districts of Kutch, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Surendra Nagar, Ahmedabad, Patan, Surat, Porbandar, Junagarh, Amreli, Bhavnagar and Banaskantha. Financial assistance has also been extended to houses damaged, partially in 21 districts of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Business of Public Sector Banks

6678. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "P.N.B. ka karobar ek lakh crore se upar" appearing at page 5 of the 'Jansatta' on April 10, 2002; and

(b) if so, the amount of turnover carried out by other public sector banks like that of the P.N.B.?

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

(b) The news item is based on unaudited figures of turnover of Punjab National Bank for March, 2002. However, According to Reserve Bank of India as per audited figures (latest available) the total advances given and deposits mobilised by Punjab National Bank during the year ending 31st March, 2001 were Rs. 28029.05 crore Rs. 56131.13 crore respectively. The position of advances given and deposit mobilised by each of the 27 public sector banks during the same period is at the statement enclosed.

Statement

Total Advances

(As on 31st March, 2001)
(Rs. Crore)

Name of the Bank	2001
1	2
State Bank of India	113590.27
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	5168.12
State Bank of Hyderabad	7091.49
State Bank of Indore	3427.48

1	2
State Bank of Mysore	4286.71
State Bank of Patiala	6833.39
State Bank of Saurashtra	3595.56
State Bank of Travancore	6397.49
Total for SB Group	150390.51
Allahabad Bank	9582.70
Andhra Bank	7423.17
Bank of Baroda	27420.68
Bank of India	31823.14
Bank of Maharashtra	6672.53
Canara Bank	27831.77
Central Bank of India	18833.38
Corporation Bank	8666.09
Dena Bank	7001.90
Indian Bank	9433.90
Indian Overseas Bank	13095.51
Oriental Bank of Commerce	11076.41
Punjab & Sind Bank	5180.87
Punjab National Bank	28029.05
Syndicate Bank	13116.16
Uco Bank	10085.44
Union Bank of India	17505.35
United Bank of India	5739.35
Vijaya Bank	5720.00
Total for Nationalised Banks	264237.40
Total for PSBs	414627.91

Total Deposits

State Bank of India	242828.38
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	40326.08
State Bank of Hyderabad	14841.86
State Bank of Indore	6698.40
State Bank of Mysore	7608.29

1	2
State Bank of Patiala	11574.17
State Bank of Saurashtra	6667.53
State Bank of Travancore	11572.79
Total for SB Group	312117.50
Allahabad Bank	20106.02
Andhra Bank	18291.52
Bank of Baroda	53985.78
Bank of India	51678.81
Bank of Maharashtra	17024.56
Canara Bank	59069.93
Central Bank of India	41517.90
Corporation Bank	16560.13
Dena Bank	14572.99
Indian Bank	21692.99
Indian Overseas Bank	27414.16
Oriental Bank of Commerce	24680.43
Punjab & Sind Bank	11904.71
Punjab National Bank	56131.13
Syndicate Bank	25094.84
Uco Bank	21535.66
Union Bank of India	34888.06
United Bank of India	18477.35
Vijaya Bank	12632.24
Total for Nationalised Banks	547259.21
Total for PSBs	859376.71

*[English]***CII Report on Industrial Growth**

6679. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:

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

(a) whether a recent survey by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has shown that majority of the sectors, have exhibited moderate growth rates and some have indicated clear signs of revival;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey covered 116 manufacturing sectors and 12 service sectors for April-March 2001-02 over corresponding period in the previous financial year;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has examined the survey report;

(e) if so, whether the Government have ascertained the detailed reasons for under moderate growth;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the facilities and considerations being provided to the industry to have a better growth in future?

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

(b) to (g) The Associations Council (ASCON) Survey (April-March, 2001-02) has revealed that out of 116 manufacturing sectors, 65 sectors i.e. more than 56% of sectors, have exhibited moderate growth of 0.10%, 15 sectors have shown high growth rates of 10 to 20%, 6 sectors have exhibited excellent growth of more than 20%. 30 sectors however, exhibited negative growth rates. The survey also covers 12 service sectors.

The low growth has been mainly due to overall economic slowdown, compression in global demand, slowdown in auto sector and slack in the production of basic goods like Crude Oil, Fertilizer, Cold Rolled Steel and Consumer Durable items.

The Government has taken several policy initiatives to boost industrial production in the country. These measures have been targeted to improve competitiveness of Indian industry in general and to boost aggregate demand, improve infrastructure base, upgrade technology, introduce labour flexibility and encourage FDI inflows. Some of the initiatives, *inter alia*, are: incentives in the Union Budget 2002-03 for power, roads, civil aviation and port sectors; completion of Golden Quadrilateral project; corporatisation of major ports in a phased manner; and an allocation of Rs. 2500 crore for Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana for 2002-03; abolition of 16% special excise duty on all except eight items and additional 15% depreciation on new plant and machinery.

Theft in LIC Offices

6680. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount looted by dacoits/miscreants in each branch and Headquarters of Life Insurance Corporation in each State during last three years and current year;

(b) the number of dacoits/miscreants/departmental staff who have been found responsible for these incidents;

(c) whether dacoity/loot was committed in the Life Insurance Company Headquarters Barganda Giridih Jharkhand in March 2002 during carrying of cash;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against erring official and responsible criminals and the measures/action taken by the Government to prevent cash loots, dacoity and other criminal activities in Life Insurance Corporation Branch Offices and outside of office premises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that the total amount looted by the dacoits/miscreants from LIC Branch Offices and its headquarters during last three financial years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 was Rs. 2,44,74,171.21 Branch-wise/Division-wise break-up thereof is given in the enclosed statement. As regards the current year 2002-2003, no case of dacoity/loot has been reported by the Corporation so far.

(b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that they have taken action against 8 employees of the Corporation found responsible for such dacoity/loot. Disciplinary proceedings against 28 employees are also contemplated.

(c) and (d) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that on 27.3.2002, the ABM (Sales) and sub-staff of Giridih Branch, Hazaribagh Division were carrying cash of Rs. 10,000,00/- to Bank. The cash was looted from them at gun point by miscreants.

(e) LIC has informed that when an incident of loss of cash takes place, FIR is lodged with the local police authority. They also intimate to the Central Office to file claims with the Oriental Insurance Company.

Simultaneously Vigilance Department is asked to conduct an independent inquiry. On completion of said inquiry, the concerned employee if found guilty/negligent is awarded suitable penalty like censure, demotion, recovery of amount or dismissal. Corporation has also taken several steps/measures including a request to bankers for lifting of cash collection from the Branch Offices to prevent the cash loots/dacoity/other criminal activities. Apart from

these, the Corporation deploys officer/higher grade assistant/senior assistant/cashier to accompany the sub-staff to Bank when the cash exceeds the prescribed limits. In places where the law and order situation is unsatisfactory the Branch Manager/Sr. DM/Manager (F&A) engage the services of external security services with the approval of Zonal manager for depositing cash in the bank.

Statement

1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
Branch/Division	Amount	Branch/Division	Amount	Branch/Division	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
BO-III, Amritsar	290,530.00	BO Unit 124, Delhi DO-I	562,141.30	Yamuna Nagar, Kamal	215,000.00
Br. 129, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi	8,711.00	Jagraon, Ludhiana	266,969.20	BO-11 M, New Delhi DO-II	79,076.50
Narela, Delhi DO-II	100,369.60	Bahadurgarh, Kamal	1,047,894.70	BO unit-III, Ludhiana	678,441.50
CBO-IV, Agra	173,997.70	Gomti, Lucknow	98,971.80	Laibagh, Lucknow	820,018.30
Balrampur, Lucknow	339,008.54	Etah, Aligarh	402,159.12	District-BO, Kanpur	181,189.00
BO No.-III, Kanpur	197,050.60	CBO-2, Firozabad, Agra	304,485.10	CBO-1, Dehradun	207,515.10
		CBO-III, Meerut	510,834.90		
		CBO-1, Allahabad	334,000.00		
				CBO-II, Indore	449,305.10
				Naila, Raipur	803,351.30
				CBO-4, Indore	181,078.50
				Mandsaure, Indore	76,584.00
Gobindpur, Hazaribagh	14,812.00	Saharsha, Bhagalpur	629,096.10	Katihar Bhagalpur	1,110,000.00
Maligaon, Guwahati	320,627.00	BO-I, Muzaffarpur	314,863.95	Dhanbad, Hazaribagh	266,829.70
Bhubaneswar, Cuttack	662,964.20	CAB, Muzaffarpur	83,129.10	Bhowanipore, Kolkata MDO-II	237,777.00
Maharajganj, Muzaffarpur	195,222.10	Barh, Patna	199,258.90	Diamond Harbour, Kolkata MDO-II	900,076.80
		Saharsa, Bhagalpur	11,200.00	Siwan, Muzaffarpur	1,035,000.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Hinoo, Jamshedpur	698,089.40	CAB, Patna	315,276.60
		Jhumretelaiya, Hazaribagh	1,317,464.05	Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri	324,270.50
				Banka, Bhagalpur	561,107.50
				Gindih, Hazaribagh	1,000,000.00
Palamaner, Nellore	5,000.00	Gulbarga, Raichur	192,979.50	Main BO, Rajamundry	279,411.20
CBO-II, Hyderabad	1,183,000.00	Kolar, Bangalore DO-II	269,248.70	Davangere, Udupi	409,752.70
Kallakurichi, Vellore	288,000.00	Hosur, Salem	301,921.20		
Dahod, Nadiad	72,320.30	Parbhani, Nanded	259,037.40	BO-964, Nasik	132,351.00
Wardha, Nagpur	238,733.20	Jalgaon, Nasik	125,366.20	Shrirampur, Pune	303,759.00
		CBO-II/854, Ahmedabad	152,474.50	BO-955, Pune	255,596.55
		Valsad BO-I, Surat	235,173.90		
		Vashi, Thane	118,793.20		
		CAB-879, Vadodara	18,242.50		
		Junagadh, Rajkot	261,640.50		
		BO-1/846, Nadiad	445,621.90		
Grand Total	4,090,346.24	Grand Total	9,161,057.12	Grand Total	11,222,767.85

*[Translation]***Import of Soyabean Oil**

6681. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed a ban on the import of Soyabean oil;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the imported Soyabean oil lacks protein; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the content of protein in this oil?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Imported Soyabean Oil does not contain protein.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Higher Price of Commodities in North-Eastern Region**

6682. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of various essential commodities are higher in North-Eastern States when compared to other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to bring down the prices of North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) A statement showing the retail prices of essential commodities as on May 3, 2002 in North-Eastern States and other metropolitan cities of the country is given in

the enclosed statement. The marginal difference in prices of some essential commodities is mainly due to higher transportation cost involved in moving the commodities to North-Eastern region.

(c) The prevailing prices of essential commodities in the North-Eastern region are comparable with prices in other parts of the country. Essential Commodities like wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene are supplied at below market prices through the public distribution system. The State Governments as well as the Central Government are closely monitoring the prices of essential commodities on daily and weekly basis and appropriate measures are taken to control the prices, if need arises.

Statement

Retail Prices of Essential Commodities in Selected Centres of North-Eastern States and in other Metropolitan Cities as on 3.5.2002

(Rs. per kg.)

Commodity	Agartala	Aizwal	Guwahati	Shillong	Delhi	Mumbai	Chennai	Kolkata	Hyderabad	Bangalore
Rice	9.50	13.40	9.00	10.00	12.00	13.50	10.00	10.00	9.50	10.00
Wheat	NR	8.00	NR	10.00	7.50	11.50	11.00	NR	9.50	12.00
Gram dal	23.50	26.80	22.00	25.00	23.00	27.50	23.00	24.00	22.00	23.00
Tur dal	25.00	30.00	24.00	25.00	26.00	25.00	26.00	25.00	23.00	33.00
Sugar	19.00	18.00	17.00	17.00	15.50	16.50	14.30	16.50	15.00	16.00
Groundnut oil	NT	NT	NT	NT	74.00*	45.00	46.00	64.00*	46.00	43.00
Mustard oil	44.00	41.00	39.00	36.00	40.00	60.00*	NR	40.00	48.00	NT
Vanaspati	47.00	48.00	42.00	42.00	40.00	40.00	43.00	38.00	40.00	44.00
Tea (loose)	80.00	92.00	70.00	120.00	115.00	130.00	120.00	80.00	100.00	196.00**
Potato	10.00	8.50	7.00	5.00	7.00	9.50	7.00	5.50	7.00	8.00
Onion	10.00	7.25	7.00	7.00	6.00	7.00	4.00	5.00	4.00	3.00
Salt (packed)	5.00	6.75	NR	6.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00

NR = Not Reported. * Refined oil. ** Three Roses NT : Not Traded.
Source : State Civil Supplies Departments.

[Translation]

Export of Foodgrain

6683. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) the rate at which the Government have procured wheat and rice from the Food Corporation of India for the purpose of export;

(b) the average sale price of wheat and rice fixed for each country, country-wise; and

(c) the extent to which the sale price fixed by the Government is less than the economic cost separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) FCI has been permitted to offer wheat & rice from the Central Pool for the purpose of export at the following rates:

WHEAT

Rate (per MT)	From	Upto
Rs. 4150/-	20.10.2000	31.03.2001
Rs. 4300/-	01.04.2001	16.08.2001
Rs. 4200/-	17.08.2001	30.11.2001
Rs. 4250/-	01.12.2001	10.05.2002
Rs. 4310/-	11.05.2002	30.06.2002

RICE

Rate (per MT)	From	Upto
Rs. 7650/-	27.02.01	31.03.01
Rs. 5650/- (raw)	26.05.01	10.05.02
Rs. 6000/- (Par-boiled)	26.05.01	10.05.02
Rs. 5760/- (raw)	11.05.02	30.06.02
Rs. 6115/- (Par-boiled)	11.05.02	30.06.02

The economic cost of FCI in respect of rice & wheat are as under:

(Rs. Per MT)

Year	Rice	Wheat
2000-2001 (RE)	11480/-	8296/-
2001-2002 (RE)	12044/-	8713/-
2002-2003 (BE)	12064/-	8792/-

*[English]***Code of Conduct for Banks**

6684. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India proposes to release a Code of Conduct to make all banks follow 'Know your Customer' Guidelines and report back to the regulator any abnormal flow of funds in any account;

(b) if so, whether world's leading bankers met at Wolfsberg in Switzerland in the wake of September 11, 2001 attack on USA by terrorists to consider a self-regulating mechanism;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to draw from the Wolfsberg principle while re-drafting its Money Laundering Bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it is in the process of issuing fresh guidelines to banks setting out the policy and procedures required to be introduced by banks, including renewed emphasis on the importance of "Know Your Customer" procedures, to prevent misuse of the banking system for money laundering.

(b) The Wolfsberg Group of international financial institutions met at Wolfsberg from January 9 to 11, 2002 to describe the role of participating financial institutions in preventing the flow of terrorists funds through the world's financial system.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Export of Yarns to Bangladesh**

6685. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of yarn exported to Bangladesh during the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned by India therefrom;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the quantum of yarn being exported to Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The quantum of yarn exported to Bangladesh during the last three years and the foreign exchange earned was:

Year	Quantum (in tons)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1998-1999	27989.12	31174.67
1999-2000	35585.10	40870.35
2000-2001	68340.76	74147.89

(c) and (d) Export of Yarn to Bangladesh as per Exim Policy 2002-2007 is free from all restrictions.

[English]

Foreign Exchange Dealers

6686. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that several foreign exchange dealers are

involved in illegal withdrawal of foreign exchange worth crores of rupees using forged documents;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to curb the illegal activities of foreign exchange dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Enforcement Directorate, has registered some cases against Full Fledged Money Changers for alleged involvement in illegal foreign exchange dealings using forged documents.

(b) Statement giving details of such cases alongwith present status is enclosed.

(c) On the basis of information received/intelligence collected, the Enforcement Directorate takes appropriate action under law against foreign exchange dealers involved in illegal foreign exchange dealings.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Party	Nature of Contravention & Amount Involved	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. New Line Finance Ltd. Shri Muthuswamy, Mg. Director Sh. Krishna Mani, Vice President No. 26, 1st Street, Sait Colony, Egmore, Chennai-8	Sec. 6 (4), 6 (5), 7, 8 (1) r/w. 49 of FERA, 1973 US\$ 30,00,000	Pending adjudication before Special Director of Enforcement
2.	M/s. New Lines Finance Ltd. Madurai Road, Trichy	Sec. 6(4), 6(5), 7, 8(1) r/w. 49 of FERA, 1973 US\$ 2,23,600	-do-
3.	M/s. Lakshmi Trade Credits Ltd. B-28, Janne Plaza, Trichy	Sec. 6 (5), 7(1), 7(2), 7(3) and 8 (1) of FERA, 1973 US\$ 20,00,000 US\$ 15,00,000	-do-
4.	State Bank of India, RNI Branch, 7th Floor, 103A, Anna Salai, Chennai-2	Sec. 6 (4), 6(5), 73(3) and 68 (1) of FERA, 1973 Rs. 1,08.86,244.65	-do-
5.	M/s. International Money Exchange Corporation, 54, Cathedral Road, Chennai-86	Sec. 7 r/w. 6(4), 6(5), 49 and 8 (1) of FERA, 1973 US\$ 1,000, UAE Dr. 4,000 DM 4,60,02,415 FF 23,250 UK£ 5,520, SR. 3,700 Q.R. 1200, MR. 1800 and S.\$ 4,000	Adjudicated

1	2	3	4
6.	M/s. Fairway & Co. Shop No. 14, Prince Plaza, No. 46, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-8	Sec. 7(2), 7(4), r/w. Sec. 6 (4), 6 (5), 48, 49 of FERA, 1973 Rs. 15,80,52,096.50	Pending adjudication before the Special Director of Enforcement
7.	M/s. Kanniah Travel Agency No. 71-72, Wallajah Road, Chennai.	Sec. 7(2), 7(4), r/w. 6(4), 6 (5) of FERA, 1973 Rs. 27,05,04,900	-do-
8.	M/s. Sterling Exchange Corpn., Palakarai, Trichi-1	Sec. 8(1), 9(1) (a) US\$ 2,00,000	-do-
9.	M/s. Goodluck Forex India Pvt. Ltd. 90, Wellington Plaza, Mount Road, Chennai-2	Sec. 8(1), 9(1) (a) US\$. 1,50,000	-do-
10.	M/s. Rahem Travel Services, 5, General Patters Road, Chennai-2	Sec. 8(1), 9(1) (a) US\$. 1,50,000	-do-
11.	M/s. Sterling Exchange Corpn. 90, Wellington Plaza, Mount Road, Chennai-2	7(2), 7(4), r/w. 6(4), 6(5), 8(1), 8(2), 48, 49, r/w. clauses 11, 22, 23, 24, 26 of FLM Memo. US\$ 1,68,68,000	-do-
12.	M/s. Goodluck Foerx India Pvt. Ltd., Mount Road, Chennai	As above Secs. US\$ 34,12,000	-do-
13.	M/s. Rahem Travel Services, Mount Road, Chennai-2	As above Secs. US\$ 52,14,000	-do-
14.	M/s. Sterling Exchange Corpn. Palakarai, Trichy	As above Secs. US\$. 52,14,000	-do-

Functioning of Banks

6687. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism available with Reserve Bank of India to monitor the day-to-day functioning of banks as per the guidelines issued to them;

(b) whether any discrepancies have been found in the functioning of public sector banks during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not monitor day to day functioning of the banks. RBI issues guidelines on

credit management, investment management, internal control system, house keeping etc. and monitoring of day to day functioning is the responsibility of Bank's management.

(b) and (c) RBI has reported that the deficiencies generally observed are decline in capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), increase in non-performing assets (NAPs), decline in earnings and deterioration in house keeping area. The deficiencies are taken up with the respective bank for taking corrective action.

Interest on loans

6688. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of interest on various types of loans viz. plan assistance and for development/Social schemes given to State Governments;

(b) whether some State Governments requested the Union Government to reduce the rate of interest on loans;

(c) if so, the reasons given by them; and

(d) the reaction of Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The rates of interest on various types of loans applicable to State Governments from 1st April, 2002 are as follows:

Type of loan	Interest rate per cent per annum
(i) Ways and Means advances	8.00
(ii) Other Loans	11.50

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pool to Cover Terrorist Act

6689. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the insurance companies have decided to set up a Rs. 200 crore pool to cover terrorists acts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the insurance companies which have agreed to join the above said pool?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A pool to meet losses arising out of acts of terrorism has been formed by all the Indian insurers, both in public and private sector, w.e.f. 1st April, 2002. The pool will be managed by the Indian Reinsure i.e. General Insurance Corporation of India. It will have a capacity upto sum insured of Rs. 200 crores per location per event on losses under all insurances at that location. The rates, deductibles and other terms and conditions for terrorism risks will be decided by the Tariff Advisory Committee from time to time.

(c) The names of insurance companies which have agreed to join the above pool are as under:—

- General Insurance Corporation of India
- National Insurance Company Ltd.
- New India Assurance Company Ltd.

- Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.
- United India Insurance Company Ltd.
- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd.
- ICICI-Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd.
- IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Company Ltd.
- Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd.
- Royal Sundaram Alliance Insurance Company Ltd.
- Tata-AIG General Insurance Company Ltd.

NABARD Funding

6690. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD has provided funds for various projects in Orissa;

(b) if so, the names of those projects and the amount funded, project-wise during the last three years;

(c) the criterion for selection of these projects;

(d) whether despite increase in funds the loan provided by NABARD is decreasing;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by NABARD to provide more funds to Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides loans to State Governments for creation of rural infrastructure under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). The details of projects and amount sanctioned to State of Orissa during the last three years under RIDF are given in the enclosed statement. Projects under RIDF are prioritized and selected by the State Governments and sanctioned by the Project Sanctioning Committee of NABARD.

(d) and (e) While overall sanctions under various tranches of RIDF are commensurate with the creation of corpus for each RIDF, sanctions to individual state is dependent on the submission of proposals by the State Government.

(f) NABARD has further taken a number of steps for enhanced utilization of RIDF towards creation of rural infrastructure in Orissa. Some of these steps include keeping regular contact with the State Government for submission and faster execution of projects, constitution of High Power Committee to weed out the constraints for larger utilization of RIDF, providing mobilization advance to the State, if required, appointing consultants, holding meetings with officials of the State for expediting utilization of RIDF, etc.

Statement

Details of amount sanctioned to State Government of Orissa for various projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

Projects	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Rural Bridges	4695.14	4359.51	7973.97
Rural Roads	896.14	—	862.39
Minor Irrigation	4388.14	5384.87	6195.53
Medium Irrigation	2800.88	17.81	293.46
Farms	681.50	980.58	—
Total	13461.80	10742.77	15325.35

Restructuring of Income Tax

6691. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether restructuring of Income Tax Department taken up in financial year 2001-02 has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether out of sanctioned strength of 647 at the Middle Management level of Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, about 300 posts are still vacant;

(d) if so, whether this has affected the revenue collection of the department; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to fill up the posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The restructuring of Income Tax Department was

approved in the year 2000-2001. The implementation of restructuring entailed grant of promotions in various cadres where after the available persons have been deployed.

Restructuring of the Income Tax Department is expected to contribute towards higher collection of Direct Taxes.

Trade Talks with Thailand

6692. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

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

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand trade relation with Thailand;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-Thai trade relation established during the last three years;

(c) the new areas identified for the expansion of trade between both the countries;

(d) whether any agreement has been signed between both the countries in this regard;

(e) if so, the terms and conditions of said agreement; and

(f) the main items proposed to be traded between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) During the visit of Prime Minister of Thailand to India to Now. 2001, the two sides agreed to undertake a Joint Study on the possibility of having a Free Trade Area Agreement between the two countries. The study is underway and the first meeting of the Joint Working Group, set up by the two sides, was held in New Delhi on 12-13 April 2002. No formal agreement has been signed yet in this regard.

Gems and jewellery, inorganic/organic/agro chemicals, oil meals, drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals, marine products, primary & semi-finished iron & steel are among the main items of export from India and electronic goods, machinery except electricals and electronics, artificial resins, plastic material etc., pearls, precious & semi-precious stones, etc. are main items of import from Thailand.

The other areas of interest for export by India, identified during the last India-Thai Joint Trade Committee

(JTC) meeting held in New Delhi on 10-11 Sept. 2001, include machinery and parts, textile machinery and parts, electrical equipment and parts, cotton, cotton-yarn and fabrics, auto parts, railway rolling stocks, dye and dye stuff, consultancy services, including process engineering and design transmission line tower, caster oil, telecom equipment including fibre optic cable, granite, ores and minerals, etc. Items of interest identified for export by Thailand include automatic data processing machines and parts, motor cars, motor vehicles, parts and accessories, polymers of ethylene, propylene, etc. in primary forms, chemical products, textiles, food processing, etc.

Loan to Tamil Nadu by SC/ST Financial Development Corporation

6693. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Financial Development Corporation has released loans in the current financial year to the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the loans released so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in releasing the loans?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) In the current financial year Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing & Development Corporation Ltd. (TAHDCO) submitted a proposal to National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) on

26.4.2002 for release of Rs. 2.00 lakhs for one project. The same have been approved and released by NSFDC.

Tea Development Scheme

6694. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a Tea Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the scheme;

(c) the tea growing States where the scheme is being implemented; and

(d) the incentives granted to the tea growers under the scheme during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to promote the development of the tea sector, including improvement in productivity and quality of tea, the Government/Tea Board has implemented various tea developmental schemes which provide financial and technical assistance to the tea industry for encouraging extension planting, re-planting-rejuvenation pruning, infilling, creation of irrigation facilities and drainage, upgradation of tea machinery, R&D etc.

(c) and (d) The tea developmental schemes are applicable for all the tea growing States of the country. The financial incentives extended under the various schemes are in the form of term loans and capital subsidy. The region-wise disbursement of loan and subsidy for the last three years in respect of Plan Schemes is as under:—

(in lakh Rupees)

Year	North East		South India		Rest of India	
	Loan	Subsidy	Loan	Subsidy	Loan	Subsidy
1998-99	570.55	878.68	163.59	361.93	424.68	438.33
1999-2000	530.31	950.78	52.28	369.66	451.51	358.42
2000-01	299.13	1719.28	59.70	461.20	306.15	590.54
Total	1399.99	3548.74	275.57	1192.79	1182.34	1387.29

[*Translation*]

Smuggling from Neighbouring Countries

6695. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of foreign made silk yarn narcotics. Ganja, Opium and even arms from the neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the gangs and people involved in smuggling activities; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to arrest the people involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) No large scale smuggling of foreign made silk yarn, narcotics, Ganja, Opium and arms is taking place from the neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh. However, all field formations of the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods from neighbouring countries into India. Action is being taken against the persons involved in the smuggling activities way of imposition of penalty and launching of prosecution in deserving cases under the Customs Act, 1962.

[*English*]

Restrictions on Cultivation of Tobacco

6696. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has forwarded any proposal to the Union Government to withdraw restrictions on cultivation of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the criteria adopted by Tobacco Board for fixing restrictions on cultivation of tobacco; and

(e) the reasons for fixing the restriction on cultivation of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka advocating withdrawal of restrictions on cultivation of tobacco.

(d) The Tobacco Board, while fixing the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco crop size every year, takes into account the domestic and international demand, the existing stock situation and the trends in cigarette production and consumption, both in India and abroad.

(e) The objective of placing such restrictions on FCV tobacco production is to help the tobacco farmers get remunerative prices.

Diversion of Plan Fund

6697. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States have diverted the plan fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps contemplated to check the diversion; and

(c) the financial status in respect of deficit, debt and other liabilities of the State of Manipur *vis-a-vis* the Finance Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As most States have been facing large Revenue deficits in their budgets, Plan funds have in many cases been diverted to meet emergent non-plan needs. For shortfalls in Plan expenditure reported by State Governments, proportionate cuts are made from the Central Assistance allocated to the State Government. The only effective way to prevent such diversion is for the States to ensure that Revenue deficits are wiped out. Subsequent to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, the Ministry of Finance has drawn up a scheme called the States 'Fiscal Reforms' Facility. Under this scheme, States are being given suitable incentives to bring down their Revenue Deficits by 2004-05.

(c) As per 2001-02 (BE), the Revenue Deficit and Outstanding Debt including other liabilities of State of Manipur was Rs. 25.20 crores and Rs. 1681 crores respectively. The total outstanding loans as on 31.3.2002 in respect of Ministry of Finance against Government of Manipur was Rs. 402.40 crores.

Internal Debt

6698. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gross receipts from markets loans has grown from Rs. 5543 crore in 1985-86 to Rs. 100206

crore in 2000-2001, at an average amount rate of 22.74 per cent/outstanding market borrowing increased by 18.32 per cent;

(b) if so, whether the internal debt has increased over 10 times during last sixteen years from 35688 crore in 1985-86 to Rs. 354905 crore during 2000-2001;

(c) if so, whether the approval of the competent authority was taken for raising market borrowings/internal debt;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The gross receipts from market loans have grown from Rs. 5543 crore in 1985-86 to Rs. 100206 crore in 2000-2001, at an average annual growth rate of 46.61 per cent, whereas the average annual growth rate of outstanding market loans has been 18.23 per cent.

(b) The internal debt (net) has increased from Rs. 12502 crore in 1985-86 to Rs. 89443 crore in 2000-2001.

(c) to (e) Market borrowings are made within the levels contemplated in Budget approved by Parliament.

[Translation]

Purchase of Rice by FCI

6699. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

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

(a) the total quantum of rice (Terricot-B) purchased from FCI by various exporters and supplied to foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) the total foreign exchange earned therefrom, year-wise;

(c) the total sale of the rice of above said variety by FCI in domestic market; and

(d) the total stock of this variety of rice during the above said period and as on March 31, 2002 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Food Corporation of India procures rice on the basis of Length-Breadth (L/B) ratio only, not variety-wise. It procures & offers only Grade 'A' and common rice.

Nominated Directors of Banks

6700. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nominations of directors in various banks in Rajasthan alongwith the yardsticks of such nominations during last four years;

(b) whether a number of nominated directors who were nominated by the previous Government tendered their resignation following the change in Government at Centre;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the procedure and practice adopted for nomination of directors in the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (d) There is one public sector bank whose headquarter is located in Rajasthan i.e. State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur. The Directors on the board of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur are nominated as per the provisions of State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. Out of 14 directors only 3 are nominated by the Central Government out of names of persons recommended by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament, other eligible person/experts. etc. Others are nominated by the State Bank of India and Reserve Bank of India.

(b) and (c) No Sir.

[English]

Beggary Prevention Scheme

6701. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for Central Sector Scheme for Beggary Prevention furnishing of fresh proposals/utilization certificate under reference D.O. No. 12-3/98-SD, dated April 22, 1998 to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether under the scheme, the Government of Karnataka had proposed for sanction of recurring grants in respect of seven Work Centres at the rate of Rs. 2.52 lakhs per centre, totally Rs. 17.64 and Rs. 7.04 lakhs towards setting up of two new Work Centres;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have released the amount;

(d) if not, the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) With the abolition of the Central Sector Scheme for Beggary Prevention with effect from 1998-99, no funds are being released to any State Government including the Government of Karnataka.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Rajasthan

6702. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made in the field of Social Justice in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the welfare schemes to the State Government during each of the last three years, scheme-wise;

(c) the amount utilized out of the above amount;

(d) whether the Government propose to stop the assistance being provided to an organization of Jodhpur district in Rajasthan;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any complaint has been received against the NGO's regarding misutilization of funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The scheme-wise grant-in-aid released during the last three years to the State Government of Rajasthan by this Ministry are as under:—

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	88.13	93.99	155.81
2.	Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse	66.54	72.69	79.67
3.	Hostel for OBC Boys & Girls	57.48	—	—
4.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisation for the Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)	—	—	11.74
5.	Pre-examination Coaching for OBCs	—	—	0.38
6.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/appliances (ADIP Scheme)	348.78	360.00	382.92
7.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	1.35	—	3.15
8.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisation working for the Scheduled Castes	66.05	94.90	257.09
9.	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Group for Constructions of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons	10.00	2.50	—
10.	Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria	5.25	2.45	4.43
11.	Integrated Programme for Street Children	25.67	17.68	37.92

- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) No, Sir.
- (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Conversion of Guaranteed Loans

6703. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) have proposed the Government to convert guaranteed loans to various State controlled entities into approved securities;

(b) if so, the amount to be converted into approved securities;

(c) whether the Government have examined the proposal;

(d) if so, with what result;

(e) whether the Reserve Bank of India is also required to give its approval to the proposal;

(f) if so, whether RBI has given its approval; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) As on March 31, 2002, the amount of State Government guarantees in respect of 106 cases aggregated Rs. 934.93 crores.

(c) to (g) The proposal could not be considered favourably, as it would result into diluting the sanctity of the State Government guarantees for the loans obtained by State Government undertakings.

Wages for Tea Workers

6704. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether bound by a tripartite agreement the tea industry is obliged to increase the daily wages of more than 3.5 lakh workers by Rs. 4.10 from April 1, 2002;

(b) whether in an unprecedented move the tea industry has sought deferment of the wage increment for an unspecified period;

(c) whether the Government have taken a move to settle the tricky situation which awaits the tea industry from April 1, 2002; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) As per Tripartite Agreement signed on 5.2.2001 the daily wages for tea plantation workers in Dooars, Terai and Darjeeling in the state of West Bengal would increase by Rs. 4.10 for each of the adult workers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per the information available from the industry, the deferment of wages has not been accepted by the Labour Unions and the said wage rate has become effective from 1.4.2002.

[Translation]

Revival of NTC Mills

6705. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to accord approval for revamping of textile mills of Madhya Pradesh run by NTC or its Management; and

(b) if so, the names of such mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The BIFR has sanctioned a rehabilitation scheme for NTC (MP) Ltd.

(b) The scheme involves revival of the following two mills of NTC (MP) Ltd-

(i) Burhanpur Tapti Mills, Burhanpur

(ii) New Bhopal Textile Mills, Bhopal

[English]

Rating System for Corporate Governance

6706. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to reignite investors confidence SEBI has decided to have a rating system for corporate governance in future;

(b) if so, whether any meeting with rating agencies have been held in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI) has made some of the best practices of corporate governance mandatory, through a phased programme. SEBI is examining the concept of a rating system for the measurement of corporate governance.

(b) SEBI has intimated that no formal meetings have been held with rating agencies in this regard.

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

FICCI's Study on FDI

6707. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention drawn to the FICCI's FDI Survey, 2002 released recently;

(b) if so, the details of negative and positive performance of foreign investor given in survey;

(c) the details of FDI inflow, State-wise given in survey;

(d) the reasons given for less inflow of FDI in some States;

(e) the response of the Government in this regard;

(f) the measures suggested in survey to further improve the FDI inflow in the country; and

(g) the action taken or likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) The highlights of FICCI FDI Survey 2002 are as under:

- The report presents several positive findings such as; an overwhelming 93% feel handling of

approvals at the Centre is good-average; 61% of respondents have reported profits or break-even; and 51% are planning expansion of their Indian operations in the near future.

- The report also underlines some areas for improvement such as projection of India's image, systems and procedures and infrastructure.

- The inter se distribution of FDI between States is determined by locational advantages offered by them. Based on the overall investment climate, including policy environment and infrastructure, the survey has grouped-Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu as reform-oriented States; Haryana, Orissa and West Bengal as intermediate reformers; and Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh as lagging reformers.

(e) to (g) With a view to simplifying foreign direct investment procedures, Government has already put in place a transparent and investor friendly FDI policy. Under this dispensation, in most sectors FDI is permitted up to 100% on the automatic route and foreign investors only have to notify RBI within 30 days of bringing in funds and again within 30 days of issuing shares. Government's decision of FDI proposals considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board is conveyed within 30 days time frame. Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) has been set up in August 1999 to act as the single point interface between foreign investors and various Central/State Government agencies in resolving implementation issues related to FDI.

Request from Association of Fishers

6708. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing any central share as reimbursement of cost of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil supplied to mechanized fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned in favour of Maharashtra during 2001-2002 under the above scheme;

(d) whether State Government, Association of Fishers and Members of Parliament of Maharashtra have submitted several requests/representations to sanction at least 4 crore for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on High Speed (HSD) Oil supplied to mechanized fishing boats below 20 Mt. Length was in implementation till the end of the 9th Plan according to which fishing vessels registered with State Fisheries Department could draw HSD Oil through a pass book system and claim reimbursement of the excise duty @ Rs. 351.75 per KL (35 paise per Lt.). The scheme was financed by the Centre and State Government on 80:20 basis i.e. 80% of reimbursement cost by the Centre and 20% by the State except in the case of Gujarat, Maharashtra & Karnataka which have exempted sales tax fully on HSD Oil and also the UT's which would be met by the Centre on 100% basis.

(c) A sum of Rs. 168 lakhs was sanctioned and released towards reimbursement of Central Excise duty on HSD oil supplied to mechanized fishing vessels below 20 metre length under the Centrally sponsored Schemes "Development of Marine Fisheries" during 2001-2002.

(d) and (e) No Sir. However, a proposal to release Rs. 288 lakhs towards the cost of reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil under the scheme was received from the Government of Maharashtra during 2001-2002 but the demand from the State Government was to be proportionately limited to Rs. 168 lakhs considering the demands from other States and the overall Central allocation made under the scheme during 2001-2002.

Mediclaim Insurance for Ayurvedic Treatment

6709. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have studied the problems of ayurvedic treatment and non-availability of that facility under Mediclaim Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether Medicalim policy covers all types of allopathic treatment to patients but denies the same benefits under ayurvedic and naturopathic treatment;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to protect and support ayurvedic treatment by getting it included under Mediclaim Insurance Policy;

(d) if so, the time by when it is likely to be done; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Both, Allopathic and Ayurvedic treatments are covered under the Mediclaim Policy. However, Naturopathy treatment is not covered since it is a specific exclusion under the Mediclaim Policy.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Pension Scheme for IDBI

6710. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present management of IDBI has decided to change the pension parameters approved by its earlier Board on August 9, 1997 and ignore the policy guidelines of the Central Government for uniform pension scheme for the financial institutions and the nationalised banks including IDBI and RBI;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the pension scheme is likely to be introduced in the IDBI without truncating the basic structure of the scheme?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The pension scheme was introduced in Industrial Development Bank of India with the approval of Government of India with effect from 1.11.1993. The scheme is broadly in line with the pension scheme prevalent in Reserve Bank of India.

Principal Accounts Offices

6711. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Principal Accounts Offices did not review the balances as brought out by the C&AG in its various reports and Report No. 1 of 2000 in paragraph 8.3 on page 99;

(b) if so, whether the Government has gone into the reasons for flouting the Civil Accounts Manual provisions and had taken any action in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Many Principal Accounts Offices have since completed annual review of balances for the year 1999-2000 and submitted the reports. Instructions have been reiterated to the remaining Principal Accounts Offices for completing the annual review of balances.

[*Translation*]

Investment in Infrastructure Sector

6712. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert group on commercialization has emphasized the need for huge investment in the infrastructural sector;

(b) if so, the quantum of foreign and domestic investment made in the country during the last three years till date; and

(c) the investment made during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Expert Group on commercialization of Infrastructure Projects has estimated that the total infrastructure investment requirements would be about Rs. 4,300 billion between 1996-97 to 2000-01 and about Rs. 7,500 billion during 2001-02 to 2005-06.

(b) Details of domestic and foreign investment are given below:

Year	Domestic Investment (Rs. Crore)	Foreign Investment (US\$ Million)
1998-99	243697	2401
1999-00	268374	5181
2000-01	274917	5099

(c) Details of State-wise investment intentions are provided in Statement enclosed.

Statement

Yearwise and Statewise breakup of Domestic Investment Intentions

Name of the State	1999 (IEM+LOI)		2000 (IEM+LOI)		2001 (IEM+LOI)		2001 (upto March) LOI+IEM	
	Nos	Inv	Nos	Inv	Nos	Inv	Nos	Inv
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	205	3943	207	2222.93	258	46494	95	1429
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	2	1	27	0	0
Assam	10	102	20	581	71	1413	21	147
Bihar	7	82	14	101	7	23	0	0
Chhattisgarh	62	4085	33	2257	7	25	7	74
Chandigarh	4	188	2	11	45	2268	0	0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	129	1787	81	1069.7	114	2112	42	254
Daman & Diu	61	377	35	139.2	45	166	19	90
Delhi	5	19	10	52.41	0	0	1	0
Goa	25	212	39	355.15	60	1058	10	103
Gujarat	246	15066	282	10153.7	285	11596	72	1499

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	116	1217	200	3594.05	148	778	51	184
Himachal Pradesh	17	260	17	557	26	470	5	16
Jammu & Kashmir	6	114	4	40	7	141	2	6
Jharkhand	23	505	99	5606	15	66	3	7
Karnataka	144	2985	146	3853.28	182	4307	49	1184
Kerala	32	1388	26	316	32	533	2	4
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	126	4164	110	1060.8	84	771	14	24
Maharashtra	877	51338	756	22182.4	646	7554	206	3972
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	9	55	14	68.19	49	331	10	33
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	1	49	0	0
Orissa	28	7253	25	1899	39	1289	6	78
Pondicherry	33	202	41	1587	41	253	10	52
Punjab	113	13722	171	2382.31	89	1239	29	10354
Rajasthan	92	2002	221	4938.98	108	2255	27	1229
Sikkim	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Tripura	1	1	0	0	9	789	4	4
Tamil Nadu	259	6472	286	3892.91	264	2147	69	1622
Uttar Pradesh	228	5355	252	1938	238	2260	66	465
Uttaranchal	11	131	15	88	21	553	3	24
West Bengal	209	6661	149	2401.59	206	1608	76	475
More than One State	2	33	3	20.28	0	0	0	0
Total	3080	129719	3261	73373.8	3098	92575	899	23329

Note: Investment is in Rs. Crore

IEMs: Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda

LOI: Letters of Intent

Welfare of Minorities

6713. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether measures have taken by the Government in compliance of the 15 point programme aimed at welfare of minorities so as to enable the unemployed belonging to this community to get the employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) state-wise position of employment-oriented programme launched for the unemployed minority students?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. All the State Governments have been advised to give special consideration to minorities in the recruitment to the State Police Forces and to ensure that the composition of the Selection Committees is representative and steps are taken for proper representation of minorities in the State Police Forces/ Armed Battalion. The Central Police Forces have also been asked to ensure representation of minorities by making the minority community candidates aware of the employment opportunities/recruitment programmes. The Recruitment Boards for Central Police Forces send information to minority community institutions/organizations to encourage the candidates to apply for recruitment in Central Police Forces.

Instructions have been issued making it mandatory to have a member belonging to minority community in Selection Committees/Boards constituted for making recruitment to 10 or more vacancies in Group 'C' or Group 'D' posts/services under the Government of India and public sector undertakings and the public sector banks.

A scheme for pre-examination coaching classes for weaker sections including minorities is being implemented by this Ministry to prepare the candidates from minority communities for successfully competing in the examinations for recruitment in services. A similar coaching scheme is also being implemented by the University Grants Commission for weaker section amongst educationally backward minority communities in Universities/Colleges.

Under the National Minority Education Programme, a scheme of community Polytechnic is being implemented in select Diploma-level institutions to encourage rural youth in non-formal job-oriented trades.

[English]

Shortage of Revenue Stamps and Postal Stamps

6714. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI S. MURUGESAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of acute shortage of revenue stamps and postal stamps in the country specifically in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to meet the shortage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The India Security Press, Nasik which supplies these stamps to State Governments has intimated that there is some shortage of Revenue stamps and postal stamps in Tamil Nadu. Indent and supply position of these stamps in Tamil Nadu is given below:—

All Figures in Thousand in Issue Sheets

Year	Indent Annual	Supply Annual
2000-01	8168	3926
2001-02	6405	3988

(c) and (d) Necessary steps have been taken by India Security Press, Nasik by diverting the capacity of other stamp printing to the printing of Revenue Stamps.

Excise Audit Structure

6715. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to revamp the excise audit structure of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have found any bottlenecks in the existing excise duty structure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the latest excise duty structure would be more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE. N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However it is proposed to strengthen audit organization by posting more officers.

(c) and (d) reforms of excise duty structure is continuous process aimed at simplifying the duty structure, reducing exemptions and bringing more items under excise net and CENVAT chain with the objective of improving revenue collection and encouraging tax compliance.

Export of sandalwood and its products

6716. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

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

(a) the total quantity of sandalwood, Agarbatti, Sandal perfume, Sandalwood oil and Sandal soap exported from the country particularly from Karnataka during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is any decline in the quantity of export of the above items during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Total quantity of Sandalwood oil, Agarbatti and Sandalwood exported from India during the last three years are as under. State-wise export data are not maintained for any of the products.

Product	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Sandalwood oil	7387 Kg	8484 Kg	10308 Kg
Agarbatti	7503265 Kg	8431799 Kg	13264835 Kg
Sandalwood	Nil	Nil	22 Cum

Source : DGCI & S

District export data in respect of Sandalwood soap and sandal perfume are not available as there are no separate ITC (HS) classification for these products.

(b) to (d) As per the above data, there is no decline in the quantity of export of Sandalwood oil, Agarbatti and Sandalwood.

Rehabilitation of Scavengers

6717. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched the concept of sanitary marts to liberate and rehabilitate the scavengers;

(b) if so, the number of sanitary marts set up during the last three years alongwith financial assistance provided, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for very slow pace for setting up of sanitary marts; and

(d) the fresh steps taken for proper and expeditious implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise details of financial

assistance provided and sanitary marts set up during the last three years are given in enclosed statement.

(c) The sanitary mart concept involves group approach in rehabilitation. It has taken time for this approach to gain acceptability.

(d) A flexible approach regarding number of scavengers in the group and nature of economic activity is helping in improved implementation of the programme.

Statement

Rehabilitation of Scavengers

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Amount sanctioned during the last three years (Rs. in crore)	Total Sanitary Marts set up
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.41	241
2.	Assam	3.72	NA
3.	Chhattisgarh	15	6

1	2	3	4
4.	Gujarat	11.61	5
5.	Jharkhand	10.85	NA
6.	Karnataka	4.67	1
7.	Madhya Pradesh	8.83	7
8.	Maharashtra	15.81	1
9.	Orissa*	0.00	3
10.	Rajasthan	16.62	NA
11.	Tamil Nadu	22.53	128
12.	Uttar Pradesh*	0.00	151
Total		120.05	543

Note:-*Out of the previous unspent balance available with the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs)

NA-Information not received from the State SCDCs.

Rural Branches of Multinational Banks

6718. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rural branches of multinational banks at present functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is fact that multinational banks are opening their branches only in the cities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether they do not have any obligation to open the branches in rural areas; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) According to Reserve Bank of India as on 30th April, 2002, 40 Foreign Banks were operating in India with 191 branches. None of these branches are in rural areas. These banks have branches only in metropolitan, urban and semi-urban centres and their State/Union Territory-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Foreign banks have not been insisted upon to open branches in rural areas because they are allowed to operate only limited number of branches and their presence is aimed at utilization of their core competence in corporate finance, treasury management, export financing and international loan syndication etc.

Statement

Position as on 30.04.2002

State/Union Territory-wise presence of foreign bank's branches in India

Sr. No.	Name of State	Name of centre	*Type of centre	No. of foreign banks	No. of branches	Total No. of branches
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	M	8	8	
		Visakhapatnam	U	1	1	9
2.	Assam	Guwahati	U	1	1	
		Siliguri	U	1	1	2
3.	Chandigarh (UT)	Chandigarh	U	1	1	1
4.	Delhi	Delhi	M	20	34	34
5.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	M	6	6	
		Baroda	M	2	2	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Simla	SU	1	1	1
7.	Haryana	Gurgaon	U	1	1	1
8.	Karnataka	Bangalore	M	12	12	12
9.	Kerala	Ernakulam	U	1	1	
		Kochi	U	2	2	
		Thiruvananthapuram	U	1	1	4
10.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	M	36	56	
		Pune	M	6	6	62
11.	Punjab	Amritsar	U	1	1	
		Ludhiana	M	1	1	2
12.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	M	1	1	1
13.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M	13	16	
		Coimbatore	U	3	3	19
14.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	M	2	2	2
15.	West Bengal	Calcutta	M	11	32	
		Darjeeling	SU	1	1	33
16.	Arunachal Pradesh			—	—	—
17.	Bihar			—	—	—
18.	Manipur			—	—	—
19.	Meghalaya			—	—	—
20.	Mizoram			—	—	—
21.	Madhya Pradesh			—	—	—
22.	Nagaland			—	—	—
23.	Orissa			—	—	—
24.	Rajasthan			—	—	—
25.	Sikkim			—	—	—
26.	Tripura			—	—	—
27.	Andaman & Nicobar			—	—	—
28.	Goa			—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu			—	—	—
30.	Lakshadweep			—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli			—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry			—	—	—
	Total			40	191	191

*M = Metropolitan

* U = Urban

* SU = Semi Urban

d/Position as on 30.4.2002 of foreign bank's branches

*[Translation]***Investment by LIC In Companies**

6719. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the companies in which the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been advised by the Union Government to invest alongwith the company-wise, details of amount which has been invested;

(b) whether the companies in which LIC has invested are in existence at present;

(c) if not, the authorities responsible for such investment; and

(d) the steps taken by the LIC realise the invested money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) According to the provisions of Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, the Corporation is fully empowered to invest its funds. In terms of Section 19 (2) of the said Act, the Corporation has constituted an Investment Committee for the purpose of advising it on matters relating to investment of its funds. As such the Union Government does not advise the Corporation to invest in any specific company.

*[English]***Publicity of SC/ST Schemes**

6720. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether schemes extended for the benefit of welfare of Scheduled Castes are not given adequate publicity as a result of which Scheduled Castes are not aware of their rights and privileges;

(b) if so, whether his ministry has approached the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to give adequate publicity in the electronic media;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is giving publicity to all schemes and programmes including those meant for the benefit to welfare of Scheduled Castes through various Media units of Information & Broadcasting Ministry. A weekly radio programme *Sanwanti Jaayein Jeevan Ki Raahein* is broadcast over All India Radio's 30 commercial broadcasting stations (Vividh Bharati), 73 local stations and 15 primary channels/stations of the North-East in Hindi and 19 regional languages. Apart from this, radio spots/jingles have been produced which have been broadcast through the national Channel of All India Radio. In addition, video films produced by the Ministry on the schemes and programmes are being telecast on Doordarshan national network and over its regional kendras. These films are also being screened in rural areas through the Field publicity Units of the Directorate of Field Publicity, a Media Unit of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

(d) Does not arise.

Duty free Market Access to Certain Items from Bangladesh

6721. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to allow duty free market access to 40 items under 16 categories from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bangladesh Government have requested for addition of some more items in the list;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) The Government of Bangladesh has been seeking duty free access on 191 tariff lines at six-digit HS level corresponding to 25 categories. During the Trade talks held at Commerce Secretary level between India and Bangladesh in Dhaka on April 8-10, 2002, the Indian side agreed to provide duty free access to 40 tariff lines at the six-digit Harmonised System (HS) level, corresponding to 16 categories of Bangladesh products, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement. However, the actual notification of these 40 tariff lines would be done only after the Government of Bangladesh restores the land route for India's cotton yarn exports.

Statement

*Items for consideration to provide zero
Duty Access to Bangladesh*

Sr.No.	HS Code	Description
1	2	3
1. Prepared food		
1.	1905.30	Sweet biscuits; waffles and wafers
2.	1905.40	Rusks, toasted bread and similar toasted products
2. Glands and Vaccines		
3.	3001.10	Glands and other organs, dried, whether or not powdered
4.	3001.20	Extracts of glands or other organs or of their secretions
5.	3001.90	Other
6.	3002.10	Antisera and other blood fractions and modified immunological produces, whether or not obtained by means of biotechnological processes

1	2	3
7.	3002.20	Vaccines for human medicine
8.	3002.30	Vaccines for veterinary medicine
9.	3002.90	Other
3. Pharmaceutical products		
10.	3004.40	Containing alkaloids or derivatives thereof but not containing hormones, other products of heading No. 29.37 or antibiotics
11.	3004.90	Other
12.	3006.40	Dental cements and other dental fillings; bone reconstruction cements
13.	3006.60	Chemical contraceptive preparations based on hormones or spermicides
4. Cosmetics		
14.	3304.10	Lip make-up preparations
15.	3304.30	Maincure or pedicure preparations
5. Toiletries		
16.	3305.30	Hair lacquers
17.	3305.90	Other
18.	3306.10	Dentifrices
19.	3306.20	Yarn used to clean between the teeth (dental floss)
20.	3306.90	Other
6. Soap		
21.	3401.11	Sopa toilet use
22.	3401.19	Other
7. Leather Products		
23.	4202.32	With outer surface of plastic sheeting or of textile materials
24.	4202.39	Other
8. Artificial Flowers		
25.	6702.10	Artificial flowers, foliage and fruits; articles made artificial flowers, foliage and fruits—Of plastics
26.	6702.90	Artificial flowers, foliage and fruits; articles made artificial flowers, foliage and fruits—Of other materials

1	2	3
9. Electrical wires		
27.	8544.60	Other electric conductors, for voltage exceeding 1,000v
10. Aluminium products		
28.	7610.10	Doors, windows and their frames and thresholds for doors
29.	7610.90	Others
11. Transformers		
30.	8504.33	Having a power handling capacity exceeding 16 KVA but not exceeding 500 KVA
31.	8504.34	Having a power handling capacity exceeding 500 KVA
32.	8504.40	Static convertor-UPS
12. Battery		
33.	8506.90	Dry cell battery
13. Electrical goods		
34.	8520.90	Plastic cabinet of television
14. Carbon Rod		
35.	8545.90	Carbon rod UM-1, UM-2, UM-3
15. Voltage stabiliser		
36.	9032.89	Other-automatic regulating or controlling instruments
16. Furniture and parts		
37.	9403.30	Wooden, furniture of a kind used in offices
38.	9403.40	Wooden furniture of a kind used in the kitchen
39.	9403.50	Wooden furniture of a kind used in bedroom
40.	9403.60	Other wooden furniture

[Translation]

Strike by Bank Employees

6722. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
 SHRI A. NARENDRA:
 SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a nation-wide strike of the employees of banks, insurance companies and PSUs, on April 16, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for the strike;

(c) the total loss incurred on account of this one-day strike; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the demands of these employees?

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

(b) The strike was to protest against some of the policies of the Government like disinvestment of shares of Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) The loss cannot be quantified.

(d) Policy decisions are taken on reasonable demands of the employees after due deliberations and in the interest of the nation.

[English]

World Bank Loan

6723. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world bank has rejected the proposal of Government of India for aid US \$ 9 million out of the loan amount for installation of Doppler Weather Radar (DWRS) along Andhra Pradesh coast;

(b) if so, the main reasons for rejection;

(c) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have requested the Union Government to again taken up the matter with World Bank for three DWRS for installation in the coastal Andhra or enhancing of early warning capabilities of Indian Meteorological Department; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. World Bank has cancelled an amount of US\$ 9 million earmarked for the installation of Doppler Weather Radars (DWRS) along Andhra Pradesh coast. The main reason for the cancellation is evaluation of bids not being carried out with due diligence, and the

process of evaluation not being completed on time resulting in inordinate delay in award of contract.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. On the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh Government of India had taken up the matter with the World Bank. The World Bank has, however, not agreed to revoke their decision.

[Translation]

Craft Bazars

6724. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have accorded its sanction to open craft bazar in the trade fair organised in Gwalior;

(b) if so, whether this crafts bazar is playing a pivotal role in according a separate identity to the products of craftsmen and artisans in the field of handicrafts and providing market to them;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide the remaining part of the sanctioned funds to Madhya Pradesh Government for this bazar; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The remaining part of the amount due to the Madhya Pradesh Hasthshilp and Hathkargha Vikas Nigam, Bhopal towards organising Crafts Bazar in Gwalior shall be released during the current financial year i.e. 2002-2003, as the audited accounts were not received during 2001-02.

[English]

Storage of Foodgrains

6725. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether even while Minimum Support Price for Wheat has been raised, the storage space in FCI and other Government godowns is far too short of requirement;

(b) if so, the available space for storage, the existing stocks as on April 1, 2002 and the estimated storage space requirement for newly procured foodgrains this year, State-wise;

(c) whether surplus of wheat from wheat producing States have been recently shifted to Bihar, and other States leaving no further storage space for the new yield of the current season; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As on 1st April, 2002, the total storage capacity available with FCI is 358.40 lakh tonnes against the total stocks of 293.00 lakh tonnes leaving a vacant space of 65.60 lakh tonnes.

Storage capacity requirement of FCI depends upon the inflow & outflow of foodgrains in a particular area. Additional storage requirements in procuring States are met by hiring suitable storage facilities till such time the stocks are issued/moved out to the consuming States.

A statement showing the State-wise storage capacity (Owned & hired/Covered and CAP), stocks held, vacant space available with FCI and procurement target as on 01.04.2002 is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) A statement showing the details of stocks moved from procuring States to Bihar from November, 2001 to March, 2002 is given in enclosed Statement-II. A statement indicating the movement of foodgrains from procuring states to various States is Given in enclosed Statement-III.

The stocks from the procuring States are moved in accordance with the movement plan drawn up every month, taking into account the vacant storage capacity available, stocks held, off-take, requirement of buffer stocks and other relevant factors.

Statement-IAs on 1st April, 2001
(in lakh tonnes)

S. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Total Storage Capacity of FCI (Covered & CAP/Owned & Hired)	Stocks Held by FCI	Vacant Space with FCI	Procurement Target of FCI for Rabi Marketing Season 2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bihar	5.28	3.11	2.17	1.00
2.	Jharkhand	1.09	0.62	0.47	—
3.	Orissa	5.65	5.83	—	—
4.	West Bengal	10.44	5.81	4.63	—
5.	Sikkim	0.08	0.01	0.07	—
6.	Assam	2.95	1.16	1.79	—
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	0.05	0.13	—
8.	Meghalaya	0.19	0.06	0.13	—
9.	Manipur	0.19	0.08	0.11	—
10.	Mizoram	0.17	0.10	0.07	—
11.	Nagaland	0.31	0.17	0.14	—
12.	Tripura	0.31	0.18	0.13	—
13.	Delhi	3.75	3.26	0.49	0.50
14.	Haryana	27.10	22.66	4.44	9.00
15.	Himachal Pradesh	0.23	0.13	0.10	—
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.20	0.90	0.30	—
17.	Punjab	131.81	109.42	22.39	34.00
18.	Chandigarh	1.48	0.67	0.81	—
19.	Rajasthan	18.64	15.60	3.04	7.50
20.	Uttar Pradesh	39.67	33.28	6.39	Decentralised Procurement
21.	Uttaranchal	2.32	2.01	0.31	0.30
22.	Andhra Pradesh	29.13	23.93	5.20	—
23.	Kerala	6.12	6.14	—	—
24.	Karnataka	8.36	7.68	0.68	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	10.95	10.84	0.11	—
26.	Pondicherry	0.98	0.93	0.05	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Gujarat	10.55	7.37	3.18	—
28.	Maharashtra	20.69	16.65	4.04	—
29.	Goa	0.15	0.12	0.03	—
30.	Madhya Pradesh	9.86	6.35	3.51	1.00
31.	Chhattisgarh	8.57	7.83	0.69	—
Grand Total (All India)		358.40	293.00	65.60	

Statement II*Details of Stocks moved from Procuring States to Bihar*

(in lakh tonnes)

Month	Storage Capacity	Stock Position			Movement Planned			Actual Despatches		
		Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total
November 2001	5.30 (as on 31.10.2001)	1.78	1.95	3.73	0.80	0.20	1.00	0.75	—	0.75
Decemebr 2001	5.28 (as on 30.11.2001)	1.82	1.93	3.75	0.60	—	0.60	0.66	0.02	0.68
January, 2002	5.28 (as on 31.12.2001)	1.55	1.76	3.31	0.90	0.10	1.00	0.76	0.09	0.85
February, 2002	5.28 (as on 31.1.2002)	1.23	1.64	2.87	0.70	0.20	0.90	1.19	0.20	1.39
March, 2002	5.28 (as on 28.02.2002)	1.18	1.70	2.88	1.50	0.30	1.80	1.07	0.39	1.46
April, 2002	5.28 (as on 30.3.2002)	1.23	1.82	3.05	1.50	0.00	1.50	—	—	—

Statement III*Inter-State movement of Foodgrains Ex-North, Ex-M.P., Ex-A.P. and All India*

(in Lakhs tonnes)

W=Wheat R=Rice T-Total	Punjab Qty. Moved			Haryana Qty. Moved			Total Ex-North Qty. Moved			Ex-M.P. Qty. Moved			Ex-A.P. Qty. Moved			(Provisional) All India Qty. Moved		
	W	R	T	W	R	T	W	R	T	W	R	T	W	R	T	W	R	T
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1998-99																		
Total	32.18	47.09	79.27	20.26	8.64	28.90	57.09	62.00	119.09	1.00	5.85	6.85	2.57	14.68	17.25	75.60	86.81	162.41
Avg./Month	2.68	3.92	6.61	1.69	0.72	2.41	4.76	5.17	9.92	0.08	0.49	0.57	0.21	1.22	1.44	6.30	7.23	13.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1999-2000																		
Total	75.71	39.16	114.87	36.40	4.63	41.03	112.47	48.23	160.70	0.34	4.41	4.75	0.02	28.26	28.28	114.15	83.83	197.98
Avg./Month	6.31	3.26	9.57	3.03	0.39	3.42	9.37	4.02	13.39	0.03	0.37	0.40	0.00	2.36	2.36	9.51	6.99	16.50
2000-2001																		
Apr-00	5.73	3.04	8.77	2.26	0.41	2.67	8.00	3.91	11.91	0.00	0.49	0.49	0.00	2.46	2.46	8.00	7.03	15.03
May	3.27	4.43	7.70	1.46	0.14	1.60	4.72	4.89	9.61	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.00	1.14	1.14	4.72	6.51	11.23
June	3.73	6.52	10.25	1.21	0.05	1.26	4.94	6.63	11.57	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00	1.15	1.15	4.95	7.97	12.92
July	4.11	4.75	8.86	1.84	0.01	1.85	5.96	4.93	10.89	0.00	0.27	0.27	0.00	0.80	0.80	5.96	6.09	12.05
August	2.21	2.58	4.79	1.52	0.10	1.62	3.73	2.86	6.59	0.00	0.22	0.22	0.07	1.16	1.23	3.80	4.27	8.07
September	2.30	3.31	5.61	1.12	0.10	1.22	3.43	3.56	6.98	0.00	0.17	0.17	0.00	2.00	2.00	3.42	5.83	9.25
October	2.91	3.51	6.42	1.39	1.05	2.44	4.30	4.55	8.85	0.00	0.20	0.20	0.00	1.49	1.49	4.29	6.35	10.64
November	2.68	2.36	5.04	1.76	0.37	2.13	4.42	2.72	7.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.93	2.93	4.44	5.75	10.19
December	3.62	2.95	6.57	1.65	0.33	1.98	5.27	3.28	8.55	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.00	4.03	4.03	5.27	7.42	12.69
Jan. 2001	3.23	2.36	5.59	2.12	0.34	2.46	5.35	2.70	8.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	4.56	4.58	5.38	7.36	12.74
February	2.85	2.71	5.56	1.85	0.57	2.42	4.60	3.31	7.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	3.68	3.70	4.77	7.06	11.83
March	4.29	2.60	6.89	1.85	0.87	2.72	6.14	3.46	9.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	3.39	3.45	6.23	7.02	13.25
Total	40.93	41.12	82.05	20.03	4.34	24.37	60.85	46.80	107.65	0.00	1.86	1.86	0.17	28.79	28.96	61.23	78.66	139.89
Avg./Month	3.41	3.43	6.84	1.67	0.36	2.03	5.07	3.90	8.97	0.00	0.16	0.16	0.01	2.40	2.41	5.10	Total	11.66
2001-2002																		
April	3.99	2.76	6.75	1.58	0.38	1.96	5.96	3.14	9.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	2.97	3.09	6.47	6.14	1.261
May	4.32	2.54	6.86	1.73	0.34	2.07	6.56	2.87	9.43	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.06	2.94	3.00	6.79	5.99	12.78
June	2.52	2.27	4.79	1.11	0.29	1.40	4.74	2.96	7.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	3.02	3.06	4.94	6.21	11.15
July	4.54	1.73	6.27	1.21	0.14	1.35	6.49	1.86	8.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	2.02	2.04	6.54	4.00	10.54
August	3.48	3.09	6.57	1.38	0.34	1.72	5.52	3.56	9.08	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.48	2.53	3.01	6.11	6.37	12.48
September	4.08	2.82	6.90	2.15	0.29	2.44	6.53	3.63	10.16	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.07	2.24	2.31	6.76	6.05	12.81
October	5.75	2.36	8.11	2.38	0.80	3.18	9.44	3.87	13.31	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.03	1.94	1.97	9.68	6.23	15.91

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
November	5.23	2.55	7.78	1.68	0.46	2.14	8.04	3.43	11.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	1.76	1.99	8.73	5.36	14.09
December	6.00	2.97	8.97	1.95	0.45	2.40	8.75	4.04	12.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	2.59	2.84	9.39	6.87	16.26
January	7.63	3.75	11.38	2.09	0.39	2.48	10.74	4.77	15.51	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.05	2.68	2.73	11.08	7.88	18.96
February	7.17	3.11	10.28	2.49	0.24	2.73	10.63	3.81	14.44	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.20	3.47	3.67	11.02	7.72	18.74
March	7.43	3.78	11.21	3.02	0.54	3.56	11.92	4.89	16.81	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.05	2.38	2.43	11.99	8.32	20.31
Total	62.14	33.73	95.87	22.77	4.66	27.43	95.32	42.83	138.15	0.00	0.28	0.28	1.60	30.54	32.14	99.50	77.14	176.64
Avg/Month	5.18	2.81	7.99	1.90	0.39	2.29	7.94	3.57	11.51	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.13	2.55	2.68	8.29	6.43	14.72

Evil of Begging

6726. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to root out the evil of beggary from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total work centres established in all over the country, State-wise;

(d) the total financial assistance/grants-in-aid provided to the State Governments during each of the last three years for the purpose;

(e) whether any time frame has been chalked out by the Government to abolish beggary from the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has advised the State Governments and U.T. Administrations for enactment and implementation of Prevention of Begging laws for their States/UTs. 17 State Governments and 2 U.T. Administrations have enacted such laws.

(c) and (d) Central Sector Scheme for Beggary Prevention has since been discontinued.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Welfare and Rehabilitation of Mentally Handicapped

6727. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for setting up of new projects for the welfare and rehabilitation of mentally handicapped from the State Government of Maharashtra during the last two years till December 31, 2001;

(b) the number of projects cleared so far;

(c) the financial assistance provided for these projects;

(d) the number of applications still pending for approval; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) 10 applications have been received till December of 31, 2001 of which 7 projects have been sanctioned for a total amount of Rs. 6.95 lakhs and 3 applications are pending. The remaining proposals are pending for want of documents and clarifications on certain points etc. These will be considered for clearance when all deficiencies are removed.

Excise on Filmt

6728. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flint are coming from foreign countries with cheaper rate of imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the domestic flint industry?

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

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

Rehabilitation Centres for the Disabled

6729. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rehabilitation Centres set up by the Government for the physically disabled in the country alongwith the locations thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more such centres in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) There are 82 rehabilitation centres [11 District Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs) and 71 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs)] functioning in the country.

The location of these centres is shown in enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, the proposal is under consideration.

Statement

State-wise list of District Rehabilitation Centres/Districts Disability Rehabilitation Centres

State	District
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1. Vijayawada
	2. Anantpur
	3. Vishakapatnam
	4. Krishna
Arunachal Pradesh	1. Itanagar
	2. Dibang Valley

1	2
Assam	1. Dibrugarh
	2. Silchar
	3. Tejpur
Bihar	1. Chapra
	2. Dharbhangha
	3. Gaya
	4. Nawadha
	5. Muzzafarpur
Chhattisgarh	1. Bilaspur
	2. Raigarh
Gujarat	1. Ahmedabad
	2. Baroda
	3. Jamnagar
	4. Surat
	5. Rajkot
Goa	1. Panaji
Haryana	1. Bhiwani (DRC)
	2. Kurukshetra
	3. Sonapat
	4. Bhiwani (DDRC)
Himachal Pradesh	1. Shimla
	2. Dharamsala
Jharkhand	1. Ranchi
	2. Hazaribagh
Karnataka	1. Mysore
	2. Gulbarga
	3. Bellary
	4. Manglore
	5. Tumkaur
	6. Belgaum
Kerala	1. Kozhikode
	2. Thrissur
	3. Thiruvananthapuram

1	2
Meghalaya	1. Shilong
Maharashtra	1. Virar
	2. Wardha
	3. Aurangabad
	4. Kolhapur
	5. Latur
	6. Buldana
Madhya Pradesh	1. Gwalior
	2. Indore
	3. Rajgarh Biaora
	4. Ujjain
	5. Sagar
	6. Jhabua
Nagaland	1. Dimapur
Orissa	1. Bhubaneswar
	2. Koraput
	3. Phulbani
Punjab	1. Patiala
	2. Ferozpur
	3. Sangrur
Rajasthan	1. Kota
	2. Udaipur
Sikkim	1. Gangtok
Tamil Nadu	1. Chengalpattu (DRC)
	2. Thoohukudi
	3. Madurai
	4. Selem
	5. Virudhu Nagar
	6. Chengalpattu (DDRC)
Uttar Pradesh	1. Jagdispur (Sultanpur)
	2. Sitapur
	3. Pilibhit

1	2
	4. Balia
	5. Allahabad
	6. Jhansi
	7. Farukabad
Uttarnachal	1. Almora
	2. Tehri Garwal
	3. Haridwar
West Bengal	1. Midnapore
	2. Dakshin Dinajpur
	3. Jalpaigudi
	4. Murshidabad

Procurement of Levy Sugar

6730. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government procure a certain percentage of sugar at fixed price from the sugar mills in the form of levy;

(b) if so, the amount of sugar procured as levy sugar during each of the last three years;

(c) the total production of sugar in each of the above mentioned years; and

(d) the rate at which the Government procured the levy sugar alongwith the production cost of sugar in the above years?

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

(b) and (c) The sugar season is reckoned from October-September. Accordingly, the sugar production as also the accrual during the sugar seasons 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (upto 31.3.2002) is given below:

(in lakh tonnes)

S.No.	Season	Total Production	Accrual of levy sugar
1.	1998-99	154.52	45.30
2.	1999-2000	181.93	50.16
3.	2000-2001	184.21	37.53
4.	2001-2002 (upto 1.3.2002)	158.46 (P)	20.83 (upto June, 2002)

(d) The ex-factory levy sugar price/procurement price are fixed by the Central Government on the zonal basis taking into account all relevant factors. Accordingly, the average levy sugar price/procurement price for the sugar seasons 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 was Rs. 1050.99 per qt. Rs. 1110.71 per qtl. Rs. 1165.79 per qt. and Rs. 1191.72 per qt. respectively. The zone-wise cost of production of levy sugar is determined after taking into account the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) notified for sugarcane, the manufacturing cost of sugar i.e. conversion cost, the duty of tax, if any, paid or payable thereon and a reasonable return on the capital employed. However, the mills are paying cane price(s) more than the SMP and therefore, the actual cost of production may be higher than the ex-factory levy sugar prices. Further, the actual cost of production of sugar, as incurred by various sugar mills, is not maintained by the Government.

Corporate Debt Restructuring Forum

6731. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the guidelines of RBI only "Standard" assets can be referred to the Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) forum;

(b) if so, the definition of Standard assets according to RBI;

(c) in what manner will this definition help companies which require debt restructuring;

(d) the number of such cases which have been referred to the CDR Standing Forum for settlement of debt since its inception; and

(e) the other steps RBI taking to simplify the whole process of Corporate Debt Restructuring?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As per guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), both

Standard and Sub-standard asset can be referred to the Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) forum.

(b) Standard asset does not carry more than normal risk attached to the business. Such an asset is not a non-performing asset (NPA). An NPA is defined as a credit facility in respect of which the interest and/or instalments of principal has remained overdue for 180 days.

(c) This will ensure a timely and transparent mechanism for restructuring of the corporate debts of viable entities facing problems, outside the purview of BIFR, DRT and other legal proceedings, for the benefit of all concerned. In particular, the CDR framework aims at preserving viable corporate that are affected by certain internal and external factors and minimize the losses to the creditors and other stakeholders through an orderly and co-ordinated restructuring programme.

(d) As on 30th April, 2002, sixteen cases have been referred to CDR System since its inception.

(e) As per the announcement of Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2002-2003, RBI has constituted a high level group under the Chairmanship of Deputy Governor, RBI to review the operation of the CDR Scheme, to identify the operational difficulties and to suggest measures to make the operation of Scheme more efficient.

Global Survey

6732. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a global survey conducted by London Business School and Babson College (USA), India fares poorly in terms of its attitude towards entrepreneurship and the fear of failure of start ups;

(b) if so, whether lack of proper physical infrastructure and outdated policies and programmes are the major factors; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2001, a joint initiative of the London Business School and Babson College (USA), has assessed the level of entrepreneurial activity in twenty-nine national economies of the world, including India. While India's level of total entrepreneurial activity (11.2 per cent) is high relative to other countries covered by the Survey, the Report mentions that less

than 1 per cent of the adult population invests in start-up businesses in India, which is among the lowest in the countries covered.

(b) inadequate physical infrastructure, high cost of working capital, administrative hindrances, and lack of quality research and development have been mentioned as key issues for India.

(c) Development of infrastructure has been one of the key priorities of the Government. Enabling policies have been adopted for enhancing private participation and foreign investment in key infrastructure sectors. The Union Budget for 2002-03 has substantially enhanced budgetary outlay for infrastructure sectors. The Government is also making sustained efforts for introducing efficient regulatory practices in key infrastructure sectors.

Pending Cases with Policy Relaxation Committee

6733. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending with the Policy Relaxation Committee for disposal;

(b) whether many cases are pending for more than six months for action;

(c) if so, the reasons for their long pendency;

(d) the time by which pending cases are likely to be disposed of; and

(e) the steps being taken for their speedy disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Paragraph 2.5 of the Exim Policy provides for relaxation of the provisions of the policy or any of the procedure on the ground that there is genuine hardship to the applicant or that a strict application of the Policy or the Procedure is likely to have an adverse impact on trade. As can be seen from the provision, this is a provision to be used only exceptional cases with due prudence and circumspection. The exercise the powers provided under this provision, Director General of Foreign Trade is to consult Policy Relaxation Committee (PRC).

During the previous financial year, the committee met sixteen times and in the current year the Committee has already convened two meetings in April and May 2002 and the committee considered all the cases presented before it as on date.

Benefits of Export Promotion Schemes

6734. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a specific export promotion scheme to focus on cottage and handicrafts sector;

(b) if so, the relaxations for entitlement of benefits under the scheme proposed to be extended to these sectors;

(c) whether the Government have decided to extend the benefits of Exim Policy schemes to common service providers belonging to certain towns in specific geographical locations contributing to exports;

(d) if so, the towns identified for this scheme; and

(e) the benefits proposed to be extended to exporters from these towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the government has announced a specific export promotion package for the cottage and handicrafts sector in the new Exim Policy 2002-07. This includes the earmarking of Rs. 5 crore under the Market Access Initiative (MAI) for the cottage sector exports coming under the Khadi Village Industries Corporation (KVIC). In the case of exports under the handicrafts sector, the policy provides access to funds under MAI for development of a virtual website and duty free import entitlement of an enlarged list of items as embellishments upto 3% of FOB value of their exports. The units in both these sectors would not be required to maintain average level of exports under the export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme and would also be entitled to recognition as Export Houses on achievement of a lower average export performance of Rs. 5 crores as against Rs. 15 crores in other cases.

(c) to (e) The Government has identified three towns of export excellence which include Tirupur for hosiery, Panipat for woollen blankets, and Ludhiana for woollen knitwear. The common service providers in these towns would be entitled to the facility of the EPCG Scheme. The other benefits proposed to be extended to these towns are the accessibility of MAI funds to the recognized industry associations of these towns and priority for export infrastructure development under the Assistance to the States for Infrastructural Development of Exports (ASIDE). The small scale units in these towns would also be able to attain the Export House status on achievement of a lower average export performance of Rs. 5 crore.

Discontinuation of Tobacco Cultivation

6735. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of health hazards, the Government propose to discourage tobacco cultivation and suggest growing alternate crops to reduce tobacco cultivation and help the farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Government does not have any scheme for promoting cultivation of tobacco crop in the country. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research advises the tobacco farmers about alternative crops that can be grown by them.

Decline in Export of Carpets

6736. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented decline in the export of carpets during the year 2001-02;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for sharp declines in their exports;

(c) the specific steps taken to boost the export of carpets; and

(d) the value of carpets exported from Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal during the current year and the percentage of revenue earned from the export of carpets in the total export earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The specific steps taken to boost the export of carpets include: organization of buyer-seller's meet; overseas publicity; organization of workshops on design development; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad and organization of Indian Carpet Expo by Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) annually in New Delhi.

(d) No state-wise data is maintained on export of carpets from the country. However, during the year 2001-

02, India exported handmade carpets and other floor covering worth Rs. 2436.13 crores i.e. 514.07 million US \$ which constitutes 1.2% of the total exports of the country.

[*Translation*]

Outstanding dues by Super Bazars

6737. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount payable to suppliers against their supplies to Super Bazar;

(b) whether the Government propose to pay the above amount;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to absorb the employees of Super Bazar elsewhere; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Super Bazar, Delhi has reported that the dues of suppliers as on 31.3.2001 are Rs. 32.50 crores (unaudited).

(b) and (c) The Super Bazar is a Multi-State Cooperative Society having its own Board of Directors to decide its day to day affairs. The dues of suppliers are paid by the Super Bazar itself.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

NGO's for Street Children

6738. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Institutions permitted by the Ministry to adopt and nurse the street children in the State of Kerala;

(b) whether the Government have verified the activities of these institutions frequently;

(c) whether any type of mis-handling is reported so far from Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have fixed criteria to select the institutions or to issue the license; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) While there is no programme for giving permission to Institutions for adopting and nursing Street Children, the Ministry is implementing a Scheme called "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" under which grant-in-aid is given to NGOs working for the welfare of street children. During 2001-02 one organization in Kerala, received grant for running a street children project. The grantee organizations are inspected and evaluated a regular basis by the State Government and Ministry's own Nodal Agencies.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Through the Ministry does not issue any license to institutions to run the street children projects, certain criteria have been fixed for selection of organizations for grant-in-aid to run a street children project which inter alia, are that the organization should be registered under an appropriate Act with a duly constituted managing committee and should not be run for profit to any individual or a body of individuals.

Website Facility for Exporters

6739. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DGFT has put a WEBSITE to assist big exporters in the country;

(b) if so, the way in which this WEBSITE would help the exporters;

(c) whether DGFT is reducing its contacts with exporters directly;

(d) whether applications-on-line have been accepted by DGFT;

(e) if so, the extent to which this online system of accepting applications has been effective and fool-proof; and

(f) the details of the results of such innovations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. DGFT has launched Website Viz. <http://WWW.nic.in/eximpol> which caters to all users including small and medium exporters. On the website, it hosts the Exim Policy and its procedures. Amendments made in the Export and Import Policy vide Notifications, Public Notices etc. are also placed simultaneously on the website for immediate and instant circulation. All the rules and notifications are available real time on the DGFT Website which is being accessed by more than a million times every year by the exporters.

As a fully computersied organisation, DGFT provides facility to registered exporters for on-line/off-line filing of applications for licences with any one of its 31 Regional Offices and get the status back on the same website in a matter of hours. This has resulted not only in savings in terms of transaction time and cost for the exporters but also reduces physical interface between the exporters and the DGFT staff. The applicants filing their applications by 12.00 hrs. on any working day, can collect their licences the same day. This facility is so popular that during the Licensing Year, 2001-2002, more than 60% of the applications were filed through this mode.

Evasion of Excise Duty

6740. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that presently many industries in the country are evading Central Excise duties on the sales invoices/consignments of Cone Yarn and Hank Yarn; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken to generate the revenue share of the Union Government from the Central Excise pool on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Some cases of duty evasion have been noticed.

(b) Whenever duty evasion is noticed the same is investigated and steps are initiated in accordance with legal provisions to recover the duty and safeguard revenue.

Bilateral Trade with Pakistan

6741. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether bilateral trade between India and Pakistan has registered any impressive growth in the first six months of 2001-2002 as compared to the corresponding period of last year;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan exports to India went up by 7.38 percent and Pakistan imports from India increased by 17.87 percent during the above period;

(c) if so, the major items which have been exported to and imported from Pakistan during the above period; and

(d) the extent to which the overall Indo-Pak trade has been increased during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Bilateral trade between India and Pakistan has increased from Rs. 440.58 crores during April-Sept. 2000 to Rs. 583.10 crores during the period April-Sept. 2001 i.e. the first six months of financial year 2001-2002.

(b) Pakistan's exports to India i.e. India's import from Pakistan was Rs. 150.79 crores during the period April-September, 2001 as compared to our imports of Rs. 151.01 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year i.e. April-Sept. 2000. Therefore, there was no significant change in the level of Indian import from Pakistan during this period. On the other hand, Pakistan imports from India have increased to Rs. 432.31 crores during April-Sept. 2001 as compared to their import of Rs. 289.57 crores during the corresponding period in the previous year i.e. April-Sept. 2000 showing an increase of 49.29%.

(c) Major items of imports from Pakistan during the period April-Sept. 2001 were pulses, fruits and nuts

excluding cashew nuts, spices and sugar. Major items of exports from India to Pakistan during the above said period were spices, sugar, oil meals, iron ore, drugs and pharmaceuticals, dyes and intermediates, chemicals, manufactured products of rubber except footwear, plastic and linoleum products,, machinery and instruments etc.

(d) The overall India-Pakistan bilateral trade had decreased to Rs. 791.03 crores during the period April-December in the financial year 2001-2002 (latest available) as compared to the overall trade of Rs. 843.49 crores during the corresponding period in the previous year 2000-2001.

Pre-Examination Coaching

6742. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some requests from the State Governments to release Grant-in-Aid to enable State Governments to run the training centres for SC/ST candidates in order to prepare them for competitive examinations to improve their representations in various posts and services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total Grant-in-Aid provided to each State during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Proposals are received from various State/UT Governments on yearly basis. The details of funds provided to various States/UT Governments for Pre-Examination Training Centres run by them during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of funds released to State/UT Governments under Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs/STs during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.44	Nil	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Chattisgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Haryana	1.54	Nil	2.19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.25	Nil	Nil
11.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Karnataka	1.19	Nil	2.15
13.	Kerala	10.15	8.69	20.86
14.	Madhya Pradesh	66.09	44.03	Nil
15.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Meghalaya	1.79	1.79	Nil
18.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Orissa	4.99	Nil	4.99
21.	Punjab	1.89	2.39	Nil
22.	Rajasthan	Nil	43.10	Nil
23.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	11.15
25.	Tripura	0.67	Nil	Nil
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	2.61
27.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	2.68
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	2.79
30.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Delhi	6.79	2.95	1.90
34.	Lakshdweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		106.79	102.95	51.32

Tax Holiday

6743. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tax holiday under section 80-IA has been given to telecommunications service provider who started the service on or before 1st April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the private investment in the field of telecommunication was allowed in the month of August, 1994;

(c) if so, whether the tax holiday under section 80-IA has been extended to the companies who started the services between September, 1994 and March, 1995;

(d) if so, the time by when said decision has been brought into force; and

(e) the reasons for not extending tax holidays to pioneer in private investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act, 1961 provide for tax holiday to those undertaking providing telecommunication services, whether basic or cellular, which started these services on or after 1.4.1995.

(e) The intention to provide for the tax Holiday was to attract fresh investment in the telecommunication sector and encourage the setting up of new undertaking in the field of telecommunication services both basic and cellular.

[Translation]

Birds Jute and Export Limited

6744. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'The Birds Jute and Export Limited' an ancillary company of National Jute Manufacturers Corporation (NJMC) Limited, has been running in loss for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details of loss;

(c) the reasons for loss;

(d) whether the Government propose to take effective steps for improving fiscal health of the company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Birds Jute & Exports Limited, a subsidiary of NJMC Ltd. is running in loss for the last several years because of reasons like poor condition of plant & machinery, low capacity utilization, erosion of working capital due to continuous cash loss etc. The accumulated loss of the company upto 31.3.2001 was Rs. 3587.70 Lakhs. The losses incurred by the company during 1998 to 2001 are as under.

1998-99	Rs. 398.96 lakhs
1999-00	Rs. 440.51 lakhs
2000-01	Rs. 447.38 lakhs

(d) and (e) The company stand referred to BIFR. The Operating Agency has prepared a Draft Revival Scheme. A final decision is to be taken by BIFR.

[English]

Corruption Cases in NIACL

6745. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials of Public Sector General Insurance Companies being investigated or prosecuted by the CBI at Delhi and Mumbai in the last two years; company-wise;

(b) the number of cases referred by New India Assurance Company limited to the Central Vigilance Commission in the last six months for advices/ investigations;

(c) the number of persons found *prima facie* guilty of misconduct after prolonged investigations by the Vigilance Cell of the Company in the last six months and the number of persons out of them not issued Memorandum of charges till date; and

(d) the reasons therefor and the time by which necessary action is likely to be initiated against the officials for their misconduct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) has reported that there were 38 officials of Public Sector General Insurance Companies who were/are being investigated or prosecuted by the

CBI at Delhi and Mumbai in the last two years, as per Company-wise details given below:

GIC of India	Nil
National Insurance Company Ltd.	17
New India Assurance Co. Ltd.	13
Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.	8
United India Insurance Company Ltd.	Nil

(b) 24 Cases were referred by NIACL to the Central Vigilance Commission in the last 6 months for advice/investigation.

(c) and (d) 41 Persons were found guilty of misconduct after prolonged investigations by the Vigilance Cell of the NAICI in the last six months. Out of these, Memorandum of charges have not been issued to six persons since First Stage Advice has been sought for from the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). Action will be initiated by the Insurance Company on receipt of CVC's advice.

Corporate Tax Assessment System

6746. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the concerned assessment officers dealing with the cases of major textile manufacturers and automobile manufacturers made wrong assessments causing undercharge of tax at more than Rs. 400.00 crores during year ended March 31, 2001;

(b) if so, whether these wrong assessments have been subjected to review;

(c) if so, how much tax was levied from the assesses; and

(d) the steps are being taken to strengthen the corporate tax assessment system of the Income Tax Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The C&AG in their Report No. 12A of 2002 (for the year ended March, 2001) laid down in Parliament on 15th March, 2002 have pointed out certain mistakes in the assessment of some textile manufacturers where according to them undercharge of tax was reported at Rs. 186.09 crore. In the automobile sector they have reported mistakes in assessments resulting in undercharge of Rs. 236.46 crore.

(b) These assessments were subjected to audit review by the C&AG and the same is incorporated in Chapter 4 of Report No. 12A of 2002.

(c) The Report of the C&AG is being examined in the CBDT and also in the field formations to determine the correctness or otherwise of aforesaid audit observations. Remedial action will be taken by the field officers wherever found necessary.

(d) CBDT has already issued instructions to the Assessing Officers/Field Formations to take due care in assessment and to avoid mistakes. There is also a monitoring system where the ledger cards recording mistakes committed are maintained and the explanations of the officers concerned are called for when they are found to have committed such mistakes. The Director of Income-Tax (Audit) oversees the audit work and prescribes checklists for guidance of the Assessing Officers.

Revival of NTC Mills

6747. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to adopt interim plan to revive the ailing NTC units in the short run;

(b) if so, whether any survey about viable, less viable and least viable NTC units have been made;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds proposed to be spent on the revive of the ailing NTC units during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government have decided to revive all revivable mills and close down non-revivable mills after giving VRS to affected employees. Techno-Economic Viability Studies (TEVSs) for NTC mills have been carried out by the Textile Research Associations (TRAs). As per the study reports 53 mills are viable and 66 mills are unviable. BIFR approved rehabilitation schemes for 6 out of the 8 sick subsidiaries of NTC.

(d) Resources for implementation of these plans are to be raised through market borrowings and sale of assets. Actual expenditure will be dependent on resources mobilised.

Old Age Homes in Orissa

6748. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NGOs have been assisted to run Old Age Homes in the State of Orissa during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance given to each organizations;

(c) whether the amount so sanctioned by the Government has been fully utilized by these organizations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Organization-wise details of financial assistance given to run Old Age Homes during the last three years namely 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 are given in statement enclosed.

(c) Grant-in-aid is released only on receipt of the utilization certificate from the organization in respect of the amount released earlier.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Financial Assistance given to Organisations in Orissa to run Old Age Home during last three years namely 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the District	Name of the Organisations	Project	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Angul	Gram Seva Mandal	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	2.76
2.	Balangir	Gram Mangal Pathagar	OAH-1	2.15	3.88	1.38
3.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa Multipurpose Dev. Centre	OAH-1	1.1	0	5.42
4.	Bhubaneswar	Jankalyan samithi	OAH-1	2.38	0	2.38
5.	Bhubaneswar	Organisation for Social Change & Rural Dev.	OAH-1	2.2	0	3.94
6.	Cuttack	Association for Social Reconstructive Activities	OAH-1	2.76	0	4.14
7.	Cuttack	Basudev Pathagar	OAH-1	0.87	2.54	3.42
8.	Cuttack	Dr. Ambedkar Rural Olympic Association	OAH-1	0	0	0.76
9.	Dhenkanal	Adarsh Sewa Sangathan	OAH-1	0.88	2.47	1.38
10.	Dhenkanal	Arun Institute of Rural Affairs (AIRA)	OAH-1	0.74	2.7	1.38
11.	Dhenkanal	Maharishi Dayanand Service Mission	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
12.	Dhenkanal	Society for Rural Advancement & Democratic Humanitarian Action	OAH-1	0.89	2.47	1.34
13.	Ganjam	Institute for Women's Welfare	OAH-1	1.67	0	2.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Kalahandi	Shree Ramakrishna Ashrama	OAH-1	2.76	1.39	2.76
15.	Kendrapada	Jana Seva Parishad	OAH-1	2.13	2.14	3.95
16.	Kendrapada	Indian Village Development Organisation	OAH-1	0	0	1
17.	Kendrapada	Lutheran Mahila Samiti	OAH-1	2.65	—	1.32
18.	Kendrapada	Jankalyan sewa Sanstha	OAH-1	0.88	2.53	1.38
19.	Keonjhar	Bishnupriya Balashram	OAH-1	1.11	0	4.11
20.	Khurda	National Resources Centre for Women Development	OAH-1	0	0	1.25
21.	Khurda	Bhairabi Club	OAH-1	2.33	2.33	2.44
22.	Khurda	Juba Jyothi Club	OAH-1	2.58	0	2.67
23.	Khurda	Union for Learning Trng. & Reformativ. Activ.	OAH-1	2.54	0	2.54
24.	Khurda	Vishwa Jeevan Seva Sangh	OAH-2	5.21	5.52	5.52
25.	Koraput	Gandhian Institute of Technical Advancement	OAH-1	0	0	1.25
26.	Nayagarh	National institute of Tribal Welfare & social action	OAH-1	0	0	6.58
27.	Nayagarh	Janvikash	OAH-1	1.84	4.14	1.38
28.	Phulbani	Banabasi Seva Samithi	OAH-1	2.37	2.37	2.36
29.	Phulbani	Subhadra Mehtab Seva Sadan	OAH-1	4.82	0	2.67
30.	Puri	Association for Voluntary Action	OAH-1	2.63	0.	2.76
31.	Puri	Bankeswari Jubak Sangha	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76
32.	Puri	Nilachal Seva Pratisthan	OAH-2	2.76	2.76	8.28
33.	Puri	Ratnachira	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	1.38
34.	Puri	Jayakishan Youth Club	OAH-1	0	0	1.51
35.	Puri	Adal Badal Mahila Samiti	OAH-1	0	0	1.52
36.	Mayurbhanj	Rural Development Action Cell	OAH-1	1.24	0	4.72

[Translation]

Fake Companies in Rajasthan

6749. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fake companies in Rajasthan which have received funds from small investors during the last five years;

(b) if so, whether any such complaints have been received by the Government from the State Government of Rajasthan;

(c) the authority assigned the responsibility to monitor the activities of such companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that twelve Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in Rajasthan which have mobilized funds from investors, are reportedly not available at their stated office addresses.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on table of the House.

(c) and (d) Financial market entities are regulated by SEBI/RBI/Department of Company Affairs (DCA) depending on the nature of their activities. Appropriate action against entities which fail to meet their obligations is taken by the regulators including debarring them and their promoters/directors etc. from the capital market; prosecution and liquidation proceedings etc.

Seven Task forces have been constituted region-wise to identify "vanishing" companies. The Task Forces are monitored by a Central Co-ordinating Committee with Secretary, DCA and Chairman, SEBI as its co-Chairmen.

[English]

Payment of Brand Name Royalty

6750. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed norms on payment of brand name royalty; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) As per extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, royalty on use of brand name/trade mark without technology transfer is allowed to be paid under the automatic route @ 2% on export sales and 1% on domestic sales, to be calculated as per prescribed formula.

[Translation]

Nagpur Zila Kendriya Sahakari Bank

6751. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam involving Rs. 100 crores has recently taken place in Nagpur Zila Kendriya Sahakari Bank;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry in this regard was conducted by the Reserve Bank of India;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the persons held responsible for this scam and the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that during the course of the inspection of Nagpur District Central Co-operative Bank (DCCB), by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), it was revealed that the bank had failed to comply with RBI guidelines on investment policy and had been trading in Government securities in physical forms through a few broking firms. It has been reported that as on April 29, 2002, securities worth Rs. 153.04 crore purchased through brokers by the banks were not delivered.

(b) and (c) RBI has conducted a scrutiny of the investment portfolio of the Nagpur DCCB which indicated that the bank had neither appointed trained staff for undertaking investment transactions nor prescribed any risk minimizing limits on such transactions. Further there was no system of concurrent audit or internal inspection in the bank. Keeping in view the serious irregularities brought out by inspection/scrutiny and based on the recommendations of the RBI, action to supersede the bank's Board has been initiated and an Administrator has been appointed for the bank.

(d) RBI has reported that Government of Maharashtra has filed FIR against the Chairman and General Manager of the bank as well as the five investment companies from whom government securities were purchased. The Chairman of the bank has since been arrested.

[English]

Sugar Institute

6752. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a Sugar Institute at Mandva in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the cost at which the Institute would be set up there; and

(c) the amount of Central share in that Institute?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Government Expenditure

6753. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether growth in interest payment is higher than growth of revenue expenditure;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the measures taken to reduce the revenue expenditure and to economise in purchases by the Government offices of day to day requirement stationery and other items;

(d) whether the Government have ever made a study of the excess expenditure being incurred on (c) above; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) It is Government's constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. Instructions to avoid wasteful expenditure are issued from time to time to all the Ministries/Departments. These measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses, etc. This is an on-going and continuous exercise. Report of the Expenditure Reforms Commission has already provided inputs in this regard.

[Translation]

Bank Loan Defaulters

6754. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of such account holders in Madhya Pradesh who have taken more than Rs. 5 crore from various nationalised banks and financial institution and enlisted as defaulters;

(b) the number of the account holders out of the above said defaulters whose applications are pending with the banks and financial institution for fresh loans; and

(c) the number of defaulters out of them who have been declared so by more than two banks and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (c) According to information available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as on 31st March, 2001 loans outstanding of Rs. 5 crore and above of 83 borrowers with address in Madhya Pradesh were classified as 'doubtful' or 'loss' or suit field. Out of these 83 borrowers, 20 borrowers were reported as defaulters to more than one bank/ financial institution.

(b) The data reporting system of RBI does not generate the requisite information.

[English]

Residential Schools in Karnataka

6755. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for release of Rs. 400 lakhs towards construction of three residential school buildings in Belgaum, Chikkamangalur and Kodagu districts under reference SWD 6 SLIP 98. dated October 24, 2000 to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether under the scheme, the Union Government was asked to release the maintenance grants of Rs. 50 lakhs in respect of two schools already started;

(c) if so, whether the Government have released the amount;

(d) if not, the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Development of Handicrafts**

6756. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplated to the development of handicrafts sectors in the country particularly in tribal and backward areas;

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

(c) the funds provided for the development of handicrafts sector during the last three years till date, year-wise and scheme-wise; and

(d) the number of artisans/handicraftsmen benefited therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The details of scheme for development and promotion of handicrafts in the country including in tribal and backward areas include: training for skill upgradation; marketing; development support; revival of languishing crafts; design and technology upgradation; setting up of Craft Development Centre and Common Facility Centre; setting up of workshop-cum-housing etc. With a view to ensure sustainable development of the sector the Government has recently launched a new comprehensive scheme named "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp 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. The schemes have been made more comprehensive and generic during the 10th Plan but they are not State/Areas specific.

(c) and (d) The details of funds provided for the development of handicrafts sector during the last three years, year-wise and scheme-wise and the number of artisans benefited therefrom state-wise is as per statement enclosed.

Statement**Handicrafts Sector****Funds released during 1999-2000****Name of the Plan Schemes**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Export	Exhibition	Publicity	Design	Training	Marketing Dev. Support	Marketing Support	Survey Study	C.D.C.	Welfare	UNDP Scheme	Total of all Utilised	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	9.70	—	—	18.62	53.41	—	5.49	—	2.03	—	89.25	89.25
2.	A & N Island	—	—	—	—	—	5.75	—	—	—	—	—	5.75	5.75
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	0.06	6.64	—	—	—	—	—	6.70	6.70
4.	Assam	—	13.70	6.87	14.91	4.59	38.24	10.97	—	8.81	18.61	—	116.7	99.00
5.	Bihar	—	6.57	—	0.50	4.40	53.20	—	—	1.88	—	—	66.55	66.55
6.	Delhi	47.00	22.29	28.09	138.99	15.30	57.09	—	22.62	—	1.90	66.90	400.18	400.18
7.	Goa	—	—	—	—	1.30	6.00	7.50	—	—	—	—	14.80	14.80
8.	Gujarat	—	16.05	1.71	4.50	28.91	10.38	10.50	—	1.98	—	—	74.03	74.03
9.	Haryana	—	4.47	—	—	7.34	60.03	5.00	—	—	2.25	—	79.09	72.34
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	14.26	—	—	0.04	8.59	2.50	—	1.69	—	—	27.08	27.08
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	10.56	1.97	1.90	5.49	56.22	20.45	—	1.88	—	—	98.47	98.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12.	Karnataka	—	1.09	—	3.36	2.71	23.31	6.73	3.55	0.31	24.35	43.00	108.41	88.41
13.	Kerala	—	3.24	—	—	8.13	9.74	2.53	—	0.05	2.11	25.98	51.78	51.78
14.	Madhya Pradesh	—	11.73	10.98	7.58	16.87	32.18	10.50	0.24	6.92	—	—	97.00	97.00
15.	Maharashtra	—	7.36	—	10.00	6.79	42.79	0.85	—	—	—	23.37	91.16	91.16
16.	Manipur	—	—	1.58	0.50	16.79	21.85	9.73	—	4.12	3.78	—	58.35	52.85
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	9.58	—	—	—	—	—	9.58	9.58
18.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	1.30	10.01	—	—	—	—	11.31	11.31
19.	Nagaland	—	8.40	0.93	0.50	5.01	8.09	12.50	—	—	5.25	—	40.68	37.29
20.	Orissa	—	22.95	—	4.68	32.09	20.99	10.32	1.60	3.61	24.20	—	120.44	108.51
21.	Punjab	—	—	—	0.34	3.54	18.34	—	—	2.99	—	—	25.21	25.21
22.	Pondicherry	—	4.69	—	—	4.07	8.57	—	—	—	—	—	17.33	17.33
23.	Rajasthan	—	8.75	8.95	—	2.66	17.56	—	8.92	—	—	10.76	57.6	57.6
24.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	16.16	5.59	—	1.75	0.66	—	—	24.16	24.16
25.	Tamil Nadu	—	15.08	—	1.20	7.54	26.07	10.38	1.44	1.03	0.65	—	63.39	45.89
26.	Tripura	—	5.16	2.55	1.57	2.64	10.80	7.00	—	—	—	—	29.72	29.72
27.	Uttar Pradesh	75.00	21.63	—	4.18	131.48	73.10	20.60	2.06	2.48	15.23	45.02	390.78	380.78
28.	West Bengal	—	14.80	0.80	6.41	4.65	49.87	10.86	1.11	—	3.10	—	91.60	91.60
Total		122.00	222.48	64.43	201.12	347.18	735.28	168.93	48.78	38.41	103.46	215.03	2267.10	2174.33
%age		5.38	9.81	2.84	8.87	15.31	32.43	7.45	2.15	1.69	4.56	9.48		

Note: The above figures are for developmental schemes only released to NGO's/ Corporations.

Handicrafts Sector

Funds released during 2000-2001

Name of the Plan Schemes

S.No.	State	Export	Exhibition	Publicity	Design	Training	Marketing	Marketing Dev. Support	Survey Study	Welfare	UNDP	CDC/CF
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.00	13.65	6.89	—	7.92	32.26	—	0.06	30.13	—	—
2.	A & N Island	—	—	—	—	2.02	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	1.45	—	—	6.00	—	—	—	17.00	—	—
4.	Assam	—	16.45	3.12	29.40	5.53	11.14	21.25	22.94	12.27	—	7.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5.	Bihar	—	1.12	0.21	—	13.40	—	—	—	1.00	—	—
6.	Delhi	651.66	29.33	72.75	125.19	12.89	47.12	—	26.73	1.22	315.85	—
7.	Goa	—	—	—	—	0.85	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Gujarat	—	15.17	—	2.40	13.25	43.54	—	8.00	—	4.00	11.25
9.	Haryana	—	5.47	—	—	1.71	—	2.50	2.12	—	—	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	21.08	3.41	—	10.68	—	12.73	—	—	—	—
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.00	7.87	0.58	0.50	14.19	—	—	—	—	—	3.75
12.	Karnataka	—	6.34	—	7.08	3.39	16.23	7.20	—	9.63	24.00	—
13.	Kerala	—	4.75	0.14	—	3.51	—	5.02	—	1.08	51.15	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2.52	19.52	6.41	3.40	10.79	19.24	27.25	—	—	—	1.31
15.	Maharashtra	—	7.58	—	3.88	7.80	33.14	—	—	—	15.00	—
16.	Manipur	—	3.20	—	15.00	10.61	14.41	—	—	29.33	—	1.07
17.	Meghalaya	6.75	—	2.41	5.00	3.33	4.44	6.25	—	0.04	16.70	—
18.	Mizoram	—	5.71	1.99	—	—	—	7.95	—	0.03	—	3.94
19.	Nagaland	—	4.05	0.58	25.00	5.02	9.91	13.70	—	27.63	—	13.22
20.	Orissa	—	5.26	1.38	0.50	26.46	—	—	—	31.73	—	2.76
21.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	10.38	—	—	—	—	—	1.16
22.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	0.45	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Rajasthan	—	7.00	—	2.40	6.34	—	—	—	1.50	16.38	—
24.	Sikkim	—	—	—	15.00	0.45	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.37	8.53	1.54	—	4.30	22.75	6.33	—	4.40	—	—
26.	Tripura	—	11.37	—	5.50	8.07	—	5.72	—	1.35	—	9.02
27.	Uttar Pradesh	48.80	22.93	5.25	0.74	67.25	45.05	29.22	12.00	24.50	25.75	46.62
28.	West Bengal	—	2.06	6.58	9.16	7.86	14.63	2.73	0.17	7.20	—	14.45
29.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	15.25	—	—	—	3.60	—	—
30.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	6.73	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		723.10	219.89	113.24	250.15	286.43	313.86	147.85	72.02	203.64	468.83	116.20

Note: The above figures are for developmental schemes only released to NGO's/ Corporations.

*Handicrafts Sector**Funds released under Plan Schemes during 2001-02*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State	Export	Mktg. Supt.	Exh.	Pub.	Design	Trg.	Mktg. Dev.	Survey Study	Welfare Scheme	UNDP	CDC/ CFC	AHVV	Total of all Scheme benefited during the last three yrs.	No. of artisan benefited during the last three yrs.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	2.50	11.71	4.59	—	6.21	46.7	4.83	11.14	11.00	—	17.6	102.78	7883
2.	A & N Island	—	—	—	—	—	2.75	—	0.09	—	—	—	—	2.84	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	196.11	—	1.73	197.84	1430
4.	Assam	2.25	18.71	8.22	8.35	10	1.32	24.51	9.19	13.6	—	3.4	34.05	133.6	5828
5.	Bihar	—	—	4.17	0.21	5.5	9.46	2.51	—	—	60.21	—	0.25	82.31	2480
6.	Delhi	243.87	—	29.04	166.33	6.21	21.42	19.17	26.99	0.15	—	—	3.08	516.24	9561
7.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	0.98	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.98	243
8.	Gujarat	—	—	20.62	2.16	21.89	7.02	12.11	5.23	2.25	—	—	12.92	84.2	6465
9.	Haryana	—	—	2.32	—	—	—	19.45	—	—	—	—	12.68	34.45	3006
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	7.5	11.58	1.28	—	10.14	10	—	—	21.7	7.12	26.73	96.05	4064
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	0.94	—	—	0.27	57.92	1.91	1.77	62.81	776
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	14.95	5.86	0.58	0.45	3.38	5.62	—	5.6	—	—	5.6	42.04	5004
13.	Karnataka	—	7.5	2.4	1.91	—	1.49	29.1	—	1.33	40.72	3.62	7.55	95.62	14692
14.	Kerala	—	—	2.39	0.14	—	1.76	9.99	—	0.14	—	—	6.37	20.79	13035
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2.36	10.22	13.72	6.4	9.5	16.49	23.44	—	—	14.95	—	41.62	138.7	7473
16.	Maharashtra	—	—	10.72	—	—	4.37	24.05	—	—	—	—	15.54	54.68	3337
17.	Manipur	—	—	3.2	1.58	1.47	3.34	—	—	21.14	—	3.28	0.54	34.55	2451
18.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	1.03	1.2	—	—	1.2	0.54	—	—	0.45	4.42	495
19.	Mizoram	—	—	3.56	1.98	10	—	3.08	—	—	—	—	1.8	20.42	416
20.	Nagaland	—	3.7	5.6	—	18.7	1.76	7.91	—	17.65	—	1.23	7	63.55	2033
21.	Orissa	—	—	8.71	3.9	2	22.22	2.97	1.22	21.78	—	—	14.62	77.42	15917
22.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	12.68	13.6	—	—	—	—	4.05	30.33	1105
23.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.04	—	—	—	—	0.85	5.89	676
24.	Rajasthan	—	9.44	5.58	2.6	—	0.98	5	0.23	—	—	—	24.65	48.48	13337
25.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	0.34	—	—	—	10.47	—	—	10.81	438
26.	Tamil Nadu	2	—	1.2	—	0.45	1.67	11.02	—	0.74	—	—	18	35.08	8954
27.	Tripura	—	14.68	12.98	—	1	—	—	—	7.35	—	5.3	5.29	46.6	3162
28.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	28.74	9.66	18.8	54.66	74.2	3.19	14	—	7.87	51.82	262.94	10624
29.	Uttaranchal	—	—	2.38	—	—	14.19	5	—	16.7	—	0.46	4.25	42.98	2060
30.	West Bengal	—	1	5.34	3.36	1	2.2	11.72	3.05	2.97	—	9	23.01	62.65	14664
31.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	11.32	—	—	5.36	—	137.35	—	—	31.15	185.18	1595
Total		250.48	87.7	188.33	222.79	108.17	192.81	324.85	50.3	263.56	205.97	43.19	355.62	2293.77	168604

[Translation]

Visit of Canadian Trade Delegation

6757. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether a Canadian Trade Delegation has visited India recently and held discussions with him;

(b) if so, the areas on which discussions were held;

(c) whether trade links between both the countries have further improved;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue to India from the Canadian firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Mr. Pierre Pettigrew, Canadian Minister for International Trade accompanied by a large delegation of businessmen visited India in April 2002. Various aspects of bilateral trade were discussed and it is expected that both the countries now have better appreciations of measures required to be taken for increasing bilateral trade.

(e) This is likely to facilitate an enhanced economic and commercial cooperation between the businesses of two countries for mutual benefit.

Boost of Exports

6758. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) the countries with whom India is having favourable balance of trade during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item Captioned "Africa features as best export destination" appearing in the *Pioneer* dated April 18, 2002;

(c) if so, the data compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics;

(d) the country where the export growth is negative;

(e) whether the Government have assessed the reasons for the same;

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

(g) the further steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to improve the export in these countries and the target set for 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The countries with whom India is having favourable balance of trade are Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Hongkong, Thailand, Canada, USA and Russia.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) The data compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics for the Sub-Saharan-African region are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The countries in sub-Saharan-African region showing negative growth during the year 2000-2001 as compared to previous year are Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Canary Is., Cape Verde Is., Ghana, Liberia, Sao Tome, St. Helena, Chad, Malawi, Rwanda, Zaire rep., Comoros and Somalia.

(e) to (g) The main reasons for negative growth are distance, language barriers, inadequacy of information about business opportunities, higher incidence of civil strife, macro-economic instability etc. The Government has launched "Focus: Africa" programme on 31st March 2002, with a view to enhance the trade with Sub Saharan African Countries. The expected compound growth of exports is at the rate of 20% per annum. It plans to double the exports in the next 4-5 years.

Statement

System on Foreign Trade Statistics of India
(Principal Commodities & Countries)

Page:1
Dated: 09.04.2002

Trade Figures for the Region Subsaharan
(Period: Apr-Mar)

Value in Rs. Crore

Countries & Region	1999-2000			2000-2001			%Growth	
	Exports	Imports	Trd. Bal.	Exports	Imports	Trd. Bal.	Exports	Imports
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Angola	25.31.	0.02	25.29	68.76	—	—	171.70	—
Botswana	9.14	0.00	9.14	25.40	—	—	178.10	—
Lesotho	0.93	—	—	0.36	0.05	0.30	-61.72	—
Mozambique	138.18	146.05	-7.87	145.76	90.63	55.13	5.48	-37.95
Namibia	13.49	0.97	12.52	12.37	1.97	10.41	-8.28	102.04
South Africa	1236.56	8719.20	-7482.65	1411.99	4582.38	-3170.39	14.19	-47.44
Swaziland	4.60	3.89	0.71	6.89	4.28	2.61	49.63	9.91
Zambia	100.71	112.45	-11.74	102.28	52.95	49.33	1.57	-52.91
Zimbabwe	80.05	60.78	19.26	67.75	37.71	30.04	-15.36	-37.96
Southern Africa	1608.96	9043.37	-7434.41	1841.56	4769.97	-2928.41	14.46	-47.25
Benin	122.90	185.21	-62.31	205.22	237.67	-32.45	-66.98	28.32
Burkina Faso	19.01	55.24	-36.23	30.80	38.91	-8.11	61.99	-29.56
Cameroon	26.63	40.93	-14.30	44.82	26.98	17.85	68.34	-34.09
Canary Is.	30.43	—	—	17.41	—	—	-42.79	—
Cape Verde Is.	0.07	—	—	0.07	—	—	-4.26	—
Congo P Rep	96.87	4.21	92.66	180.03	38.38	141.65	85.85	811.68
Equat Guinea	0.08	—	—	1.25	—	—	1483.82	—
Gabon	18.81	22.77	-3.96	22.65	59.58	-36.93	20.44	161.70
Gambia	69.14	2.74	66.40	70.35	1.07	69.28	1.75	-60.94
Ghana	268.34	48.92	219.42	267.66	121.59	146.07	-0.25	148.54
Guinea	41.17	20.65	20.52	61.02	20.53	40.49	48.23	-0.56
Guinea Bissau	38.91	156.39	-117.48	65.96	281.75	-215.80	69.49	80.16
Ivory Coast	149.43	422.39	-272.96	210.04	547.81	-337.77	40.56	29.69
Liberia	53.12	50.88	2.24	47.79	19.72	28.07	-10.04	-61.24
Mali	62.41	37.66	24.75	76.25	71.72	4.52	22.18	90.44
Mauritania	39.81	0.07	39.74	62.46	0.02	62.44	56.89	-64.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Niger	55.85	0.37	55.49	119.55	7.98	111.57	114.05	2081.01
Nigeria	1272.66	12689.52	-11416.86	1734.92	280.97	1453.95	36.32	-97.79
Sao Tome	0.04	—	—	0.02	—	—	-40.98	—
Senegal	86.91	378.34	-291.43	107.92	198.96	-91.04	24.18	-47.41
Sierra Leone	14.33	0.48	13.85	19.10	4.68	14.42	33.34	881.17
St Helena	3.48	—	—	0.20	0.09	0.11	-94.28	—
Togo	69.47	61.67	7.80	180.70	51.92	128.78	160.11	-85.82
West Africa	2539.86	14178.44	-11638.57	3526.20	2010.33	1515.87	38.83	-85.82
Burundi	6.47	—	—	13.83	0.35	13.48	113.87	—
C Afri Rep	1.23	—	—	3.94	0.65	3.29	220.77	—
Chad	25.01	—	—	9.90	0.01	9.89	-60.43	—
Malawi	87.39	2.72	84.67	84.57	1.57	83.00	-3.23	-42.20
Rwanda	15.22	—	—	15.12	—	—	-0.66	—
Uganda	169.18	9.83	159.35	205.54	14.28	191.26	21.49	45.20
Zaire Rep	21.43	0.80	20.63	20.01	1.27	18.74	-6.65	58.11
Central Africa	325.93	13.35	312.57	352.89	18.11	334.78	8.27	35.65
Comoros	6.07	—	—	5.25	0.00	5.25	-13.48	—
Djibouti	47.59	0.97	46.62	95.60	2.08	93.52	100.90	115.04
Ethiopia	248.43	3.76	244.67	299.26	17.50	281.76	20.46	365.24
Kenya	505.45	91.08	414.37	636.16	85.50	550.66	25.86	-6.13
Malagasy RP	39.73	14.63	25.10	48.28	1.74	46.54	21.51	-88.12
Mauritius	734.81	17.01	717.80	910.15	28.67	881.48	23.86	68.55
Reunion	14.38	—	—	17.23	0.92	16.31	19.82	—
Seychelles	22.30	0.07	22.22	35.85	0.09	35.76	60.80	20.21
Somalia	37.35	3.48	33.87	31.75	14.73	17.02	-14.99	323.47
Tanzania Rep	355.24	539.50	-184.27	463.81	271.51	192.30	30.56	-49.67
East Africa	2011.33	670.51	1340.82	2543.33	422.74	2120.59	26.45	-36.95
Total Subsaharan	6486.08	23905.67	-17419.60	8263.99	7221.16	1042.83	27.41	-69.79
India's Total	159095.20	215528.53	-56433.33	202509.76	226773.47	24263.71	27.29	5.22
%Share	4.08	11.09	—	4.08	3.18	—	—	(incnt) MOC-NIC

Data Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

Special Employment Exchanges for Handicapped

6759. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have established Special Employment Exchanges exclusively for the benefit of physically handicapped persons;

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

(c) the financial assistance provided to each State and particularly to the State of Karnataka for establishing such Special Employment Exchanges and establishing a Special Cell for physically handicapped persons in normal Employment Exchanges during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(d) whether these Special Employment Exchanges are functioning effectively; and

(e) if so, the number of physically handicapped registered and provided employment through these exchanges during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a), (b), (d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Statement-I showing the number of persons with disabilities on live register and placements effected (compiled upto 31.12.2000) in Special Employment Exchange is enclosed.

(c) A Statement-II showing the financial assistance provided to Special Employment Exchanges under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of Handicapped during the last two years is enclosed.

Statement-I

State	No. of Special Employment Exchanges (As on 31.12.2000)	1998		1999		2000	
		Live Register	Placement	Live Register	Placement	Live Register	Placement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	01	5059	13	5700	01	6040	09
Assam*	01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	04	6378	193	6684	250	7097	193
Himachal Pradesh*	01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	04	9082	150	8797	92	12309	107
Kerala	04	4126	95	5463	329	5770	258
Manipur	01	1472	12	1599	01	1634	—
Maharashtra	01	4451	39	4898	41	5330	14
Madhya Pradesh	01	2945	28	3025	15	3138	01
Orissa	01	2027	6	2070	04	2037	02
Punjab*	01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	03	6171	93	6293	75	6761	88
Tamil Nadu	01	2401	244	12654	245	13193	242
Uttar Pradesh	10	10790	34	12716	14	11949	23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chandigarh*	01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi	02	6275	89	6929	19	7519	09
Tripura	01	1978	34	1523	55	1167	28
West Bengal	01	8819	11	9013	11	9212	21
Bihar	01	6162	11	6321	01	7914	—

*Only duplicate cards are being maintained at these exchanges.

Statement-II

*State/UT-wise amount released under scheme of
Employment of the Handicapped during the
last two years*

Rs. in lakhs

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Years	
		2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.17	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil	Nil
4.	Gujarat	14.25	Nil
5.	Haryana	0.52	Nil
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
7.	Karnataka	Nil	14.44
8.	Kerala	Nil	64.46
9.	Manipur	Nil	Nil
10.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
12.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil
13.	Orissa	Nil	Nil
14.	Punjab	6.46	6.27
15.	Rajasthan	39.26	10.41

1	2	3	4
16.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil
17.	Uttar Pradesh	17.63	29.05
18.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil
19.	Chandigarh	4.56	5.72
20.	Delhi	Nil	6.03
21.	Tripura	Nil	Nil
22.	Pondicherry	8.71	1.97
23.	Mizoram	Nil	15.21
Total		99.56	153.56

Collection of Cess from Cardamom Cultivators

6760. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board has collected any type of cess from the cultivators of cardamom in Kerala;

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

(c) the total amount of cess collected during the last year; and

(d) the manner in which this amount would be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Export of Banned Items**

6761. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the items exported during the last three years despite ban on their exports;
- (b) the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government are contemplating to conduct any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Most of the items listed in ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items 2002-2007 are freely exportable. Some items are restricted for export and their export is allowed under licence. A very small number of items are prohibited for export. Prohibited items are allowed for exports in exceptional cases by competent authority with the consent of the concerned Administrative Ministry usually for the purpose of meeting diplomatic

and international commitments, like gift of animals to countries, state dignitaries, zoo exchange programmes, etc.

No complaint of prohibited items having been exported without necessary licence has been received in this Ministry.

*[English]***Loss Making Public Sector Undertakings**

6762. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of top ten public sector undertakings which are incurring loss as on 31 March, 2002; and
- (b) the accumulated loss of each such undertaking as on 31 March, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The information regarding names and accumulated loss of top ten public sector undertakings which are incurring loss as on 31.3.2001, the period till which information is available, is given enclosed statement and is also given in Public Enterprises Survey 2002-01 which was laid in the Parliament on 7.3.2002 and is a published document.

Statement*Top Ten Loss Making PSEs as on 31.3.2001*

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Company Name	Net Loss	Accumulated Loss
1.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	1956.58	6149.55
2.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	1276.70	4065.85
3.	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	948.84	6852.95
4.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	917.19	3846.50
5.	Cental Coalfields Ltd.	792.90	991.22
6.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	728.66	753.73
7.	Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.	381.62	1302.46
8.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.	328.16	1474.91
9.	National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd.	320.74	2762.66
10.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	291.30	4906.81
Total		7942.69	33106.64

National Institute of Fashion Technology

6763. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Fashion Technology has entered into any collaboration/co-operation with the leading fashion institutions of the world during the last year;

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

(c) the benefits likely to be achieved through such collaborations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Area under Tea Cultivation

6764. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under tea cultivation in each State of the North Eastern Region;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the under tea-cultivation in these States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The total area under cultivation in the North Eastern States including Sikkim is given below:—

Name of the State	Area under tea# (in thousand hect.)
1	2
1. Assam	269.00
2. Tripura	6.70
3. Arunachal Pradesh	2.25
4. Manipur	0.95
5. Nagaland	1.27

1	2
6. Meghalaya	0.37
7. Mizoram	0.40
8. Sikkim	0.30
Total for N.E.	281.24
All India	509.40
% Share of N.E.	55.21

#Estimated and subject to revision.

(b) and (c) During the Tenth plan period emphasis is being given on improving the productivity and quality of tea from the existing area rather than expansion of tea cultivation in order to maintain a parity between the demand and supply of tea.

[English]

Money Laundering Racket

6765. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the intelligence agencies have unearthed Rs. 350 crore racket in a massive money laundering operation as reported in the 'Hindustan Times', dated April 12, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons/firms found involved in this racket;

(d) the number of arrests made so far; and

(e) the action taken or being taken by the Government against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Investigations have revealed suspicious such deposits totalling over Rs. 333 crores in Mumbai branches of various banks. The amounts so deposited in these banks were then transferred to Kerala and other states by Telegraphic Transfer. These amounts were then withdrawn in cash from these branches.

(c) and (d) About thirteen persons and their business concerns are suspected to be involved in this racket. No arrests have, however, been made till now.

(e) Necessary action under the law is being taken in the matter.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Storage of Foodgrains

6766. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding irregularities in the storage of foodgrains in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India during each of the last three years;

(b) the State-wise details in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on these complaints so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) State-wise number of complaints about alleged irregularities including those relating to the storage of foodgrains received during 2000 and 2001 is given in the enclosed statement-I. For the year 1999 zone-wise information is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) Details of the action taken against the persons responsible for various irregularities in FCI during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-III.

Statement-I

S.No.	Name of State/Office	2000	2001
1	2	3	4
North Zone			
1.	Zonal Office (North)	197	221
2.	Regional Office, Delhi	21	6
3.	Regional Office, Punjab	101	45
4.	Regional Office, Haryana	35	7
5.	Uttar Pradesh	90	147
6.	Rajasthan	24	37

1	2	3	4
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—
Total		468	463

West Zone

9.	Zonal Office (West)	45	12
10.	Regional Office, Maharashtra	52	8
11.	Regional Office, Madhya Pradesh	19	67
12.	Regional Office, Gujarat	4	11
13.	Joint Manager (Port Operation), Kandla	—	32
Total		120	130

East Zone

14.	Zonal Office (East)	7	3
15.	Regional Office, West Bengal	2	—
16.	Bihar	5	—
17.	Orissa	8	3
Total		22	6

North East Zone

18.	Zonal Office (NE)	14	—
19.	Regional Office, North East	8	—
20.	Assam	16	3
Total		38	3

South Zone

21.	Zonal Office (South)	10	126
22.	Tamil Nadu	10	2
23.	Kerala	1	2
24.	Karnataka	—	3
25.	Andhra Pradesh	8	6
Total		29	139
26.	Headquarter	6	5
Category A			
Grand Total		683	746

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of Zone	1999
1.	North	329
2.	West	62
3.	East	2
4.	North East	12
5.	South	83
Total		488

Statement-III

S.No.	Nature of Penalty Imposed	1999	2000	2001
1.	Dismissal/removal/compulsorily retired	3	13	45
2.	Reduction in rank	18	16	50
3.	Reduction in time scale of Pay	126	230	415
4.	With-holding of increment/recovery from pay	679	575	647
5.	With-holding of promotion	13	19	14
6.	Censure	165	140	196
Total		1004	993	1367

*[English]***Money received through Hawala**

6767. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are specific complaints regarding continuous receipt of huge money from abroad through Hawala by the self styled General Secretary of so called Markazi Jamiat Ulma-I-Hind and supply of the same to some terrorists groups operating in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Enforcement Directorate has not received any complaint in this regard.

Export to Latin American Countries

6768. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to increase the export to Latin American Countries;

(b) if so, the possibilities explored in this regard in last three years; and

(c) the new items proposed to be exported in 2002-2003 to those countries?

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

(b) The major product groups having potential for export to Latin America are:

- Chemical Products including Drugs/ Pharmaceuticals
- Engineering Products;
- IT Products;
- Textiles including Readymade Garments, Carpets and Handicrafts.

(c) Some of the new items having potential for exports are: spices, tea, handicrafts, petroleum product, plastic products. Govt is in touch with entrepreneurs in such identification and for taking up trade facilitation measures.

Gold Deposit Scheme

6769. SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has asked banks to utilise their gold deposit schemes to tap the unused gold lying with temple trusts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether banks have so far not made any efforts to collect gold from temples;

(d) whether any incentives will be offered to banks which obtain success through this method; and

(e) if so, the details of incentives which will be given to the bankers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A Gold Deposit Scheme was notified by the Government on 14th September 1999 with a view to, inter-alia, mobilising gold lying idle with the public and putting it to productive use. The Scheme is operated by banks authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and is open to resident Indians including individuals, HUFs, trusts and companies. RBI has been urging banks to work out ways to mobilise as much as possible under the Scheme.

(c) RBI has intimated that besides giving publicity to the Scheme to attract individual depositors, banks have been making efforts to encourage temple trusts to deposit their gold with banks.

(d) No, Sir.

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

Industrial Strike

6770. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether there was nationwide major industrial strike against anti-labour policies of the Government recently;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the loss suffered due to nationwide strike;

(c) if so, the loss suffered by the nation thereby; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government on the demand made by the various trade unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The strike was to oppose the Government policy in respect of sale/disinvestment in PSUs, downsizing, closure of sick PSUs, etc.

The loss on account of the strike is not maintained centrally.

The Government policy is to protect the interests of the labour in the process of restructuring of the enterprise by providing safety net for the benefit of the workers.

Powers to SEBI

6771. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are proposing to bring an amendment to a crucial clause in the SEBI (Amendment) Act, on the search and seizure powers of the regulator and the level of penalties to be imposed thereunder;

(b) if so, whether the Department of Company Affairs has opposed the grant of search and seizure powers under the Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Government has initiated examination of possible legislative changes including grant of search and seizure powers to SEBI with adequate safeguards. These legislative change are aimed at further strengthening provisions in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992 for investor protection and to make SEBI an even more effective body for regulation and development of capital markets.

Indian Economy

6772. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CII has made certain suggestions to overcome the present situation of Indian economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of proposals regarding changes in various sectors of the economy are still under consideration of the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in taking final decisions on those proposals; and

(e) the extent to which the Indian economy has been affected during the last two years due to uncertainty of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) Various chambers of Commerce and Industry including CII submit memoranda to the Government from time to time including the pre-budget memoranda seeking some

concessions and relaxations as also suggesting some measures for improving the economy. Such representations as and when received, are examined by the Government on merit and appropriate action in respect of such matters whenever found necessary far reaching reforms in agriculture, dismantled capital controls for expatriate Indians and has terminated administered pricing mechanism for petroleum products. In the above Budget, several measures have also been around to promote industrial growth viz. production in most administered interest rates by 50 basis points, dereservation of over 50 items from the area reserved for SSI sector, abolition of 16% excise duty on a number of items and reduction of peak customs duty from 35 to 30%. Since various measures relating to economic growth are based on objective criteria and basic direction of reform indicated by the Government, there is no major uncertainty in this regard.

Assistance to Parents of Mentally Handicapped

6773. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any programmes to assist and train parents of mentally handicapped children;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the number of mentally handicapped children below the age of 16 years in the country;

(c) if so, whether any special schools have been set up for them;

(d) whether adequate funding has not been given to the agencies of Government doing work in this sector; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to expand programme for the parents of mentally handicapped children?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Government through National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is providing training, counseling and financial assistance for self employment ventures to the parents of mentally retarded children.

(b) The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) has conducted survey of mentally retarded children in the age group of 0-14 years in the year 1991.

(c) Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Organizations for Persons with Disabilities, NGOs are being given financial assistance to run 320 projects including special schools for children with mental retardation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Convertibility of Rupee

6774. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has cautioned India on convertibility of rupee;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has pointed out on some developing economies that liberalised suffered the disastrous consequences;

(c) whether the World Bank on globalisation favours a caution approach; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The recent World Bank report "Globalization, Growth and Poverty (2002)" argues that while there are large and clear benefits from reducing trade barriers, exposure to world markets carries both benefits and considerable risks. Countries need good institutions and policies for strong and sustained benefits from financial integration. Without a sound domestic financial system, integration with global capital markets can lead to disastrous results as it did in Thailand, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea in 1997.

The Government of India has cautiously and systematically moved, over a period of time, from a comprehensive control regime to current account convertibility and market determined exchange rate. The Government has managed its capital account to ensure growth with stability, while consistently adding to its foreign currency reserves. At the same time the Government needs to guard against periods of exchange rate volatility like the one which had happened in East Asia. Under these situations, the Government follows a co-ordinated policy framework and careful calibration of policy instruments ensuring an effective management of capital flows without intolerable shocks to the performance of the economy.

Exemption of Customs Duty for Basic Telephone Service

6775. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for giving exemption of customs duty on equipment imported by a person licenses by Department of Telecommunications of the Government of India for the purpose of providing Basic Telephone Service;

(b) whether the Government has exempted custom duty on import of equipment for providing International Long Distance, National Long Distance, Infrastructure Provider Category-I and II;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reason for not extending custom duty exemption on import of equipment by ILDO, NLDO, IP-I & II Licensee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A concessional basic customs duty of 5% has been prescribed for specified equipment imported by a person licensed by the Department of Telecommunications of the Government of India for the purpose of providing Basic Telephone Service in order to reduce the cost of telecom infrastructure.

(b) and (c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Dues of UTI with RPG Company

6776. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount of Unit Trust of India (UTI) is outstanding against any of the RPG Transmission Limited Company;

(b) if so, the details of the said outstanding loan;

(c) whether the Unit Trust of India has given notice to RPG Transmission Limited Company for the recovery of the said outstanding amount;

(d) if so, the reaction of the said company in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for the realisation of the said outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) According to UTI, as on May 7, 2002, total outstanding dues from RPG Transmission Ltd. is Rs. 174.67 lakhs.

(c) UTI has intimated that it issued 7 letters between November 2001 and April 2002 to the Company for recovery of dues and also a recall notice on May 2, 2002.

(d) The company earlier requested UTI to consider rescheduling of redemption and reduction in interest rate, which was not acceded to by UTI. The company is yet to respond to UTI's recall notice dated May 2, 2002.

(e) UTI has advised the debenture trustees (ICICI Ltd. New Delhi) to initiate action for recovery of the entire outstanding amount dues to UTI from the company.

[English]

Separate Regulator of Pension Sector

6777. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) have suggested to the Government for setting up a separate regulator for monitoring the pension sector; and

(b) if so, the details of modalities worked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) in their report has suggested that they be entrusted with the task of preparing the regulations for the new pension system for the unorganised sector. The recommendations made by IRDA would be taken into account by the Government while finalising the decisions in this regard.

Leakage of Chlorine Gas from Orissa Cotton Mills, Chandwar

6778. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the frequent leakages of chlorine gas from Orissa Cotton Mills, Chandwar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken to adopt adequate protective measures to stop the leakage of chlorine gas from that mill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. There is no information about leakage of chlorine gas in the Orissa Cotton Mills of NTC (WBABO) Ltd. located in Bhagatpur, Distt. Cuttack.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Sale and Production of HMT Tractors

6779. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) in the production and sale of different models of Tractors during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any higher target has been set by HMT in the production of tractors in 2002-03; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Production and sale of Tractors are as under:

Model	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Prod.	Sale	Prod.	Sale	Prod.	Sale
2511/2522/OS	2513	2255	1410	1462	1067	1254
3022	1213	1131	533	510	146	244
3511/PM	20	26	10	8	35	23
3522/CS/DX	8233	7860	7318	7327	5625	5998
4511/CS/DX	1410	1336	930	904	213	318
4922/DX	—	—	292	84	1216	1391
5911/PS	2936	2872	2901	2669	1450	1747
7511	10	8	65	37	48	76
Total	16335	15488	13459	13001	9800	11051

(b) and (c) Yes, higher targets for 2002-03 have been fixed. Model-wise break up is as under:

Model	2002-2003 (Production) Target
2522 OS/Mark II	3150
3022	500
3522/CS/DX/Mark II	6700
4022	1500
4511	250
4922/DX/CS	3500
5911IV/6522/PS	3200
7911	200
Total	19000

Vinayak Local Area Bank

6780. SHRI RAM MURTI SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Vinayak Local Area Bank, Sikar (Rajasthan) had approached RBI for a meeting with a view to explain their position against RBI decision to close down Vinayak Bank;

(b) if so, whether any meeting was held in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the meeting?

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

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that an appointment was sought by the representatives of Vinayak Local Area Bank Ltd., Sikar with RBI for an oral hearing with a view to explain their position. The meeting took place on 13th November, 2001.

As reported by the RBI, in view of the serious irregularities committed by the bank including diversion of funds, a show-cause notice was issued to the bank. During the oral hearing on 13th November, 2001, while admitting the lapses, the authorized representatives made commitments to rectify the irregularities by 22nd December 2001. The bank at its request was granted further time upto 10th January, 2002 to rectify the irregularities and fulfil the commitment. The bank, however, did not rectify the irregularities and sought further time of one month. As the affairs of the bank were being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the present and future depositors and continuance of the bank would be against public interest, the licence of the bank was cancelled on 16th January, 2002 under the provisions of Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The bank again sought a meeting with the RBI for an appeal pertaining to restoration of the licence of the Bank. RBI suitably advised the bank on 2nd February, 2002 and 13th February, 2002 that no appeal lies to RBI but could be made to the Central Government under provisions of Section 22 (5) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Supply of Essential Commodities to Rajasthan

6781. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the essential commodities being supplied through Fair Price Shops in the Country;

(b) the details thereof, item-wise with price;

(c) whether the Government propose to supply more essential commodities to the Fair Price Shops functioning at present in the State of Rajasthan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The details regarding allotment of essential commodities viz. wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene under PDS through fair price shops in the country during the year 2001-2002 are as under:

(in lakh tonnes)

Commodity	Allotment
Wheat	129.32
Rice	170.76
Sugar	2.69
Kerosene	10.03

Allotment of edible oil is based on the demand received from States/UTs. There was no allotment of edible oil during the year 2001-2002 in the absence of demand from States/UTs.

The Central Issue Prices of foodgrains supplied under PDS are as under:

(In Rs. per kg.)

Commodity	APL	BPL	AAY
Wheat	6.10	5.10*	4.15
Rice	8.30	7.30*	5.65
		6.95**	3.00

* Prices of wheat and rice for APL category have been reduced w.e.f. 1.4.2002.

** Applicable for the States viz, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and NE States.

The ex-storage point price of PDS kerosene is Rs. 6.86 per litre w.e.f. 1.3.2002. The retail issue price of PDS sugar is Rs. 13.50 per kg. w.e.f. 1.3.2002.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The State Governments have been advised that Fair Price Shop owners should be encouraged to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding non-PDS items for sale through PDS outlets to improve the viability of fair price shops through increased turnover.

With the objective of making available quality consumer goods at affordable prices and to improve the viability of fair price shops apart from containing inflation, a scheme titled 'Sarvapria' has been launched. The scheme envisages distribution of 11 selected commodities of daily use namely arhar dal, malka red, urud whole, salt, tea, toilet soaps, detergent cakes, exercise note books, edible oil and toothpaste on no profit no loss basis.

As reported Government of Rajasthan is providing tea, soap, salt, janta cloth, match boxes, exercise books, torch, blade and razer a additional commodities to the beneficiaries through fair price shops.

Income Tax Law

6782. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to rectify the infrastructural weaknesses of Income Tax and Excise Departments to motivate recovery of taxes;

(b) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether the Government thinks of lacunae in the existing Income Tax and other taxes laws; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to remove the bottlenecks in the existing laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Improving the infrastructure of the Income Tax and Central Excise Departments is one of the measures undertaken by the Government for enhancing the collection of tax revenues. The steps taken in this regard include restructuring of the administrative set up of the field offices, strengthening the field offices through provision of additional vehicles, office space, equipment etc., extensive computerization of operations, simplification of the rules and procedures, and training of officers and staff.

(c) and (d) Review of laws is a continuous process and amendments are made therein from time to time, especially at the time of the annual budget exercise, in order to remove the bottlenecks with the aim to enhance collections, improve voluntary compliance and widen the tax base.

Smuggling of Mobile Phones

6783. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chennai has been emerging as a major hub for smuggling of mobile phones;

(b) if so, the total mobile phones seized by DRJ during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop smuggling of mobile phones in Chennai?

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

(b) No, Sir. However, 7410 mobile phones have been seized by DRJ at Chennai during the last three years.

(c) The concerned field formations of the Customs Department including DRJ are alert and vigilant to stop smuggling of contraband goods including mobile phones in Chennai.

Auditors of Banks

6784. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has requested the Union Government not to further delay the appointment of statutory auditors for nationalised banks;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for appointing statutory auditors?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(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 empowerment of Statutory Auditors. Thereafter, Standing Advisory Committee finalise a panel of statutory auditors to be appointed in nationalised banks out of the list of eligible audit firms received from the office of Comptroller & Auditor General and Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

Regional Stock Exchanges

6785. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Regional Stock Exchanges are on verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to bailout these Regional Stock Exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that a number of Regional Stock Exchanges are experiencing dwindling turnover in recent years. In 2001-02, some of the Regional Stock Exchanges had very low or negligible turnover. The details of turnover of

the Exchanges in 2001-02 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) SEBI has taken several steps in respect of the Regional Stock Exchanges. As one such step, these stock exchanges were allowed to form subsidiaries and become members of larger exchanges. Many stock exchanges have availed of this facility and set up subsidiaries. The list of subsidiaries is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Stock Exchanges	Turnover (Rs. Crore)	Turnover (No. of lakhs of shares)	Name of the Subsidiary
NSEI	513166.92	278408.81	Nil
Mumbai	307292.36	182196.00	Nil
Calcutta	27074.71	19547.63	Nil
Delhi	5828.00	6811.00	DSE Securities Ltd
Ahmedabad	14843.54	7622.43	ASE Capital Market Ltd
UPSE	25237.31	7997.00	UPSE Securities Ltd
Bangalore	70.26	34.71	BGSE Financial Services Ltd
Ludhiana	856.61	764.85	LSE Securities Ltd
Pune	1171.03	395.91	PSE Securities Ltd
OTCEI	3.79	5.43	OTCEI Securities Ltd
Hyderabad	41.26	142.51	HSE Securities Ltd
ICSE	55.35	122.76	ISE Securities Ltd
Madras	24.14	51.91	Nil
Vadodara	10.12	6.97	VSE Securities Ltd
Bhubaneshwar	0.00	0.00	Bhubaneshwar Shares and Securities Ltd
Coimbatore	0.00	0.00	Nil
MP	15.93	11.31	MPSE Securities Ltd
Magadh	0.00	0.00	MSEA Securities Ltd
Jaipur	0.00	0.00	JSE Securities Ltd
Mangalore	0.00	0.00	Nil
SKSE	0.00	0.00	SKSE Securities Ltd
Cochin	26.60	29.46	Cochin Stock Brokers Ltd
Gauhati	0.03	0.13	Nil

Overseas Banking Units

6786. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI have come out with guidelines for Overseas Banking Units (OBUs) which will operate in the Special Economic Zones being set up for exports;

(b) if so, the details of such guidelines;

(c) whether RBI is also charging any one-time licence fee for operating in SEZs; and

(d) if so, the details of such fees and other conditions fixed by RBI for OBUs starting operations in SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHAB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) According to Exim Policy 2002-2007, Offshore Banking Units will be permitted to be set-up in Special Economic

Zones. Reserve bank of India is in the process of framing guidelines for setting up such units.

Export of Textile Goods

6787. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of different type of textiles good exported alongwith the names of the countries during each of the last three years, item-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the export alongwith the market explored so far in the world by Apparel Export Promotion Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The value of textiles goods exported during the last three years are given below:

(Value in Million)

Items	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Readymade Garment	4364.7	4765.1	5569.5
Cotton Textiles	2820.9	3107.4	3548.2
Manmade Textiles	719.6	855.1	1095.3
Wool & Woollen	74.6	50.0	63.8
Silk	178.2	245.4	318.9
Total (1-5)	8158.1	9022.9	10595.6
Handicrafts (a+b)	1176.6	1313.7	1249.7
a. Carpet & Other Floor Coverings	543.5	645.1	581.5
b. Other Handicrafts	633.1	668.6	668.2
Coil & Coir Manufactures	75.2	46.1	48.3
Jute	138.2	125.7	203.8
Total	9548.2	10508.5	12097.4

Source : DGCIS, Kolkata

Quantity-wise, item-wise export data of various textile products is not available.

The USA, EU Member State, U.A.E., C.I.S. countries, Japan, Saudi, Arabia, Switzerland, Mexico, Australia, etc are the major importing countries of our textile goods.

(b) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to strengthen and promote textile exports.

Some of the important initiatives are:—

- (i) The Government had de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also announced the de-reserved of knitted segment in the Budget 2002-03.

- (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 importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council had participated in Buyer-Seller-Meets in Latin American Countries, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and had participated in International Menswear Cologne Fair, Germany and Hong Kong Fashion Week, Hong Kong. In addition above, the Council has taken delegation to Latin American countries for exploring the new avenues. The Council has been organizing India International Garment Fair and India Knit Fair for direct marketing and exposure to overseas buyers in respect of garments for Autumn, Winter and Spring Summer sessions separately each year.

Co-operative Societies in Records of Income Tax

6788. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 4,25,000 co-operative societies were identified in the financial year 1999-00 but only a

meagre 18,800 co-operative societies existed in the records of Income-tax department;

(b) if so, whether the Income-tax department has failed to ensure co-ordination with the Registering authority of co-operative societies;

(c) if so, whether there is any proper internal control system to monitor the assessment of the co-operative sector;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to bring all co-operative societies in the net of Income tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) All the co-operative societies registered with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies do not exist in the records of the Income tax Department. Among such co-operative societies are Group Housing Societies, Residents Welfare Societies, Employees Welfare Societies etc. Many societies which have income from certain business activities are eligible for deduction u/s 80P of the Income Tax Act, 1961, as a consequence of which their income is below taxable limit and no returns are filed. A co-operative society in which there is complete identity between the class of contributors and the class of participators is not liable to tax on the principle of mutuality.

(b) At frequent intervals the Department has been obtaining the information/list of the co-operative societies newly registered with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

(c) There is proper internal control system to monitor the assessment of all the cases including the co-operative sector.

(d) No applicable in view of (a), (b) & (c) above.

(e) The Co-operative Societies which are not filing their returns of income while having taxable income are being identified and necessary action as per Law would be taken after the non-filers are identified.

Modernisation of Pay and Accounts Offices

6789. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether computerisation of accounts and modernising of other functions of Pay and Accounts

Offices has not been done in a systematic manner, as a result of which the public is not getting better service from Government in the matter of prompt settlement of claims and pension payments;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to modernise and computerise all the Pay & Accounts Offices in various Ministries/Departments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Computerisation of accounts and modernization of functions of Pay and Accounts offices is being done systematically with the help of National Informatics Centre. In addition to the software packages IMPROVE AND CONTACT in operation for a number of years, a comprehensive package for Pay and Accounts Offices called COMPACT is being developed and tested by NIC. Pension work in the civil ministries is entrusted to the Central Pension Accounting Office which is in existence since 1990 and is fully computerized.

(c) Yes. It is intended that COMPACT will be implemented in all the civil ministries in a phased manner.

(d) Extensive testing of the software COMPACT is in progress.

GMO Safety Certification for Food Products

6790. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government are planning to introduce a GMO safety certification scheme for all food products being imported into the country to ensure correct labelling and protection of consumer health;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also considering to have a law where the Government would be able to easily stem the inflow of any food products without reneging on India's WTO customs tariff commitments;

(c) whether any act is being considered in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) There is no proposal to introduce a GMO safety certification scheme for all products being imported in the country. Rule 11 of the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989 notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 provides that food stuffs, ingredients in food stuffs and additives including processing aids containing or consisting of genetically engineered organisms or cells shall not be produced, sold, imported or used except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee.

Government Cash of LIC

6791. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms to deposit Government cash of LIC companies in Banks;

(b) whether there is any provision to deposit Government cash of LIC without taking security;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that they have laid down certain guidelines and cash limits for carrying premium collections to the banks. These guidelines are strictly adhered to by all branch offices of the Corporation.

(b) to (d) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that they have special arrangement to deploy Officer/higher grade assistant/sr. assistant/cashier to accompany the sub-staff carrying the cash to the bank when the cash exceeds the prescribed limits. In places where the law and order situation is unsatisfactory, the Branch Manager/Senior DM/Manager (F&A) engage the services of external security services with the approval of the Zonal Manager for depositing cash in the bank.

Trade Talks with Vietnam

6792. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand trade relations with Vietnam;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-Vietnam trade relations proposed to be expanded,

(c) whether any joint discussion on expansion of Indo-Vietnam trade was held with the Vietnam delegation when it visited New Delhi last; 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) Both India and Vietnam have, on several occasions, expressed intention to further strengthen and expand bilateral trade relations at forums such as India-Vietnam Joint Commission and the private sector India-Vietnam Joint Business Council. Areas identified for expansion of trade during various inter-actions include iron & steel, two-wheelers, tyres & tubes, auto ancillaries, pharmaceuticals, locomotives, IT products, etc. for exports from India and non-ferrous metals, natural rubber, wooden furniture, handicraft items, construction, materials, tea, rock phosphates, crude oil, coal, etc. for import from Vietnam.

A delegation led by Vice President of Vietnam visited India from 17-19th March 2002. The programme of the Vice President of Vietnam included meetings with President, Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. There was also a business meeting organized by FICCI. During discussions trade and commercial relations were touched up in general terms only.

Expert Committee on Identification of Jobs for Disabled

6793. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee on identification of jobs for persons with disabilities constituted a sub-committee each for three categories of disabilities which are provided under section 33 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and full Participation) Act, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the said sub-committees have submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the detailed recommendations made by the Committee;

(d) whether the disabled persons are not getting jobs in Government services as per their share;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and instruction issued by the Government to its Departments and State Governments in this regard;

(f) the total fund provided by the Government under the scheme Viklang Vandhu Scheme to different States and the funds utilized during each of the last three years; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to give due participation to disabled in the Government services?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Expert Committee has reviewed the identification of posts done in 1986 and over 1900 posts have been identified as suitable for persons with different disabilities. The report of the Expert Committee has been accepted and fresh list of identified posts has been notified on 30.6.2001.

(d) and (e) Representation in identified posts for persons with disabilities in various Ministries/Departments is in excess of 3% in all groups.

(f) Financial assistance is provided under the National Fund for People with Disabilities to voluntary organizations for undertaking training programmes for Vikalang Bandhus. The amount released to the organizations is nil in 1999-2000; Rs. 1.60 lakhs in 2000-2001 and Rs. 81.94 lakhs in 2001-2002.

(g) Special drives for filling up the vacancies reserved for persons with disabilities are undertaken by the recruitment agencies from time to time. Besides, all the Ministries/Departments have been requested to furnish a certificate to the recruiting agencies that the policy relating to 3% reservation for persons with disabilities has been taken care of.

Control Registers

6794. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to ensure proper documentation and to facilitate regular monitoring by higher authorities, a number of control registers have been prescribed but audit scrutiny revealed that many prescribed registers were either not being maintained or improperly maintained thus defeating the purpose of controls as pointed out by C&AG in their report at 12A of 2002;

(b) if so, the details of control registers that have been prescribed and many of them are either not being maintained or maintained improperly;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the measures taken in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir, a large number of control registers have been prescribed to be maintained. The Comptroller and Auditor General has observed in its Report No. 12A of 2002 (Direct Taxes) that no separate control register for receipt of returns of eligible co-operative societies was found to be maintained during audit conducted in certain States.

(b) 127 Control registers have been prescribed. It is not known how many of them are not being maintained or improperly maintained.

(c) and (d) The government have noted the observation of the C&AG seriously and would direct the officers of the Income Tax Deptt. to maintain the control registers properly. The government will also review whether the number of registers required to be maintained can be rationalized.

Loan Policy for Industrial Sector

6795. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has announced a new loan policy for industrial sector to overcome its present situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the relaxation given to industrialists under the recently announced loan policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in the recently announced annual Statement on monetary and credit policy for the year 2002-03, a

number of measures were initiated to improve the credit delivery mechanism and facilitate flow of credit to the industrial sector. Recognising the requirement of providing collateral securities as a bottleneck in the flow of bank credit to very small units, RBI in annual policy Statement of April 2000, announced dispensation of collateral requirement for loans up to Rs. 5 lakh for tiny sector. This dispensation was extended subsequently to all small-scale industrial (SSI) units. In order to further improve the flow of credit of SSIs.

- Banks may, on the basis of good track record of the units and the financial position of units, increase the limit of dispensation of collateral requirement for loans from the existing Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 15 lakh.

Banks are also advised to take a pro-active stance in providing timely assistance for rehabilitation of small-scale units, which are affected by the industrial downturn, and delays in payments against supplies made by them to large-scale and other units. In January 2002, following the report of a High Level Working Group, RBI issued detailed guidelines to scheduled commercial banks for providing timely assistance to potentially viable small-scale units. These guidelines, inter-alia, provide for waiving of penal rate of interest to such units, and for extension of working capital at 1.5 percentage points below the prevailing fixed prime lending rates. Provision has also been made in these guidelines for extension of term loans at reduced rate of interest. Banks are advised to implement these guidelines to assist small scale units.

[Translation]

Foreign Loans

6796. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Banks are refusing to accept deposits of the amount of foreign loan sanctioned to the private companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the external finance companies recognised by the Union Government and the Indian Banks from which foreign loans can be obtained;

(d) whether several cases of bungling in the name of foreign loan have come to light;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to check it?

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

(c) As per External Commercial Borrowings (FCB) Policy, borrowers are free to raise ECB from internationally recognised sources such as banks, export credit agencies, suppliers of equipment, foreign collaborators, foreign equity holders, international capital markets etc. Offers from unrecognized sources are not entertained.

(d) to (f) Government has rejected some applications for ECBs, which were not from internationally recognised sources.

[English]

Grant in Aid

6797. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are releasing grants-in-aid to States, Union Territories and other statutory bodies and non-government institutions;

(b) if so, whether the statutory bodies and non-government bodies are required to submit the certificates of utilisation of grants; but many of them are not submitting the same and yet the grants are released to them; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) As per the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC), grants-in-aid are being released to States by the Ministry of Finance. The EFC has recommended grants-in-aid to States to cover the estimated deficit on non-plan revenue account for each year of the EFC award period 2002-2005. Besides, grants for specific purposes like upgradation and special problems, local bodies, natural calamities and incentive grants for fiscal reforms are also being released to States by the Ministry of Finance. As per the guidelines for utilization of these grants, the releases are to be made subject to fulfillment of certain conditionalities which also include submission of utilization certificates of grants previously released. For release of non-plan revenue

deficit grants, no utilization certificates are required since these are united grants.

Rehabilitation Council of India

6798. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rehabilitation Council of India periodically reviews the functioning of various institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RCI has withdrawn the approval given to training institutes during the last three years for bad performance, etc; and

(d) the steps proposed by RCI to be more demanding in maintaining high standards of training for professionals in the rehabilitation sector?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (d) The Rehabilitation Council of India appoints inspectors under section 15(1) of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 to inspect a University/institution imparting education for rehabilitation professionals on the adequacy of the standards of education including staff, equipment, accommodation, training and other facilities. Approval granted earlier to one training institution to start DSE (HI) course was withdrawn in the year 2000. Mid-Term report in respect of all the approved training programmes is periodically reviewed by the Council.

Technology Upgradation Fund

6799. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Technology Upgradation Fund of Rs. 700 crores for the marine products sector;

(b) if so, whether this fund would finance technology modernisation projects of the marine products sector;

(c) whether any guidelines have been drawn up in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the agency which will administer of this Technology Upgradation Fund; and

(f) the mode of funding for units by this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Sale of Surplus Land

6800. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTC propose to sell surplus land for funding revival plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expected cost likely to be received by selling of land;

(c) whether NTC has appointed some property consultants;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereupon;

(e) whether the sites have been identified for selling;

(f) if so, the details thereof, city-wise;

(g) the number of mills referred for BIFR for revivals;

(h) the NTC mills cleared by the BIFR for revivals; and

(i) the NTC mills proposed to be revived with the fund so realized by selling of surplus land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) NTC proposes to sell the total land of unviable mills and surplus land of viable mills to raise resources for financing

the Revival Plans. The amount estimated to be generated from sale of land and other assets is Rs. 3638.00 crores.

(c) and (d) NTC has appointed 5 Property consultants to assist in valuation and sale of its properties. These are as follows:—

1. Jones lang Lasalle, K.G. Marg New Delhi.
2. Chesterton Megh Raj Connaught Place New Delhi.
3. ICICI Home Finance, Mumbai.
4. Sallmanns India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
5. Knight Frank New Delhi.

The terms and conditions are as follows:—

1. No valuation charge and no advance will be paid by NTC (HC) Ltd.
2. Commission on sale of land would be @ 0.31% of the sale value of the land inclusive service tax and out of pocket expenses.
3. Income Tax and surcharge shall be deducted as per applicable rates by NTC.
4. The fee/commission would be payable only after realization of the sale value.
5. NTC can withdraw any of the mills property for valuation and sale.

(e) and (f) The list of mills alongwith their location and area identified for selling is given in enclosed statement.

(g) and (h) 8 subsidiary corporations alongwith 104 mills were referred to BIFR. The BIFR have given approval for revival of 27 mills in 6 subsidiaries. Revival proposals of two other subsidiaries are yet to be decided by BIFR.

(i) 53 mills are proposed to be revived through mobilization of funds from sale of land and other assets.

Statement

Name of the Mills, Location with area

S.No.	Name of the Mills	Location	Surplus land area (In acres)
1	2	3	4
I. NTC (DPR) LTD.			
DELHI			
1.	Ajudhia Textile Mills	Azadpur, Delhi	8.98

1	2	3	4
PUNJAB			
2.	Dayalbagh Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Putlighar, Amritsar	9.84
3.	Kharar Textile Mills	Kharar	26.38
4.	Panipat Woollen Mills	Kharar	20.29
5.	Suraj Textile Mills	G.T. Road, Malout	7.05
RAJASTHAN			
6.	Edward Mills	Beawar	18.28
7.	Mahalakshmi Mills	Beawar	5.17
8.	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	Bijainagar	7.83
9.	Udaipur Cotton Mills	Udaipur	29.77
II. NTC (MADHYA PRADESH) LTD.			
CHATTISGARH			
10.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills	Rajnandgaon	52.10
MADHYA PRADESH			
11.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	Burhanpur	42.85
12.	Hira Mills	Ujjain	69.20
13.	Indore Malwa United Mills	Indore	103.80
14.	Kalyanmal Mills	Indore	33.57
15.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	Bhopal	79.10
16.	Swadeshi Textile Mills	Indore	15.32
III. NTC (UTTAR PRADESH) LTD.			
UTTAR PRADESH			
17.	Atherton Mills	Kanpur	20.70
18.	Bijli Cotton Mills	Mandu Road, Hathras	5.82
19.	Laxmirattan Cotton Mills	Kalpai Road, Kanpur	13.48
20.	Lord Krishna Textile Mills	Nakur Road, Saharanpur	24.70
21.	Muir Mills	Civil Lines, Kanpur	37.28
22.	New Victoria Mills	14/1 Civil Lines, Kanpur	29.67
23.	Raebareali Textile Mills	Sultanpur Road, Raebareli	30.43
24.	Shri Vikram Cotton Mills	Tulsidar Marg, (Talkatora Road), Lucknow	8.14
25.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau	Maunathbhanjan, Azamgarh	9.20

1	2	3	4
26.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	Juhi, Kanpur	55.86
27.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	Naini, Allahabad	12.62
IV. NTC (SOUTH MAHARASHTRA) LTD.			
MAHARASHTRA			
28.	Apollo Textile Mills	N.M. Joshi Road, Mumbai	9.98
29.	Aurangabad Textile Mills	Kotwalpura, Aurangabad	15.74
30.	Barshi Textile Mills	Barshi (Sholapur)	36.50
31.	Bharat Textile Mills	Ganpat Rao Kadam Marg, Mumbai	8.37
32.	Chalisgaon Textile Mills	Chalisgaon	17.54
33.	Dhule Textile Mills	Dhule	12.80
34.	Digvijay Textile Mills	Lalbaug, Mumbai	9.33
35.	Elphinstone Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Elphinstone Road, Mumbai Dada Saheb Phalke	8.91
36.	Gold Mohur Mills	Road, Dadar, Mumbai	6.52
37.	Jupiter Textile Mills	Corol Road, Parel, Mumbai	10.91
38.	Mumbai Textile Mills	Senapati Bapat Marg, Mumbai	23.83
39.	Nanded Textile Mills	Nanded	91.42
40.	New Hind Textile Mills	Gurupdeo Road, Mumbai Ganpat Rao Kadam Path, Lower	8.33
41.	Podar Processors	Parel, Mumbai	2.39
42.	Shree Madhusudan Mills	Dr. Ambedkar Road, Mumbai	18.05
V. NTC (MAHARASHTRA NORTH) LTD			
MAHARASHTRA			
43.	India United Mills No. 1	Dr. Ambedkar Road, Parel, Mumbai Rambhau Bhogle Marg, Kalachowki,	8.71
44.	India United Mills No. 2	Mumbai	16.04
45.	India United Mills No. 4	T.B. Kadam Marg, Kalachowdki, Mumbai	7.79
46.	India United Mills Dye Works	Veer Sawarkar Marg, Dadar, Mumbai	4.57
47.	Jam Mfg. Mills	Dr. Ambedkar Road, Lalbaug, Mumbai	7.99
48.	Kohinoor Mills No. 1	M.M.G.S. Marg, Dadar, Mumbai	19.39
49.	Model Mills	Umrer Road, Nagpur	33.31
50.	R.S.R.G. Mills	Akola	15.81
51.	Shri Sitaram Mills	N.M. Joshi Road, Chinchpokli, Mumbai	8.43

1	2	3	4
52.	Tata Mills	Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Mumbai	10.62
53.	Vidharbha Mills	Berar, Achalpur	17.05
VI. N.T.C. (GUJARAT) LTD.			
GUJARAT			
54.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills	Dadheshi Road, Ahmedabad	22.44
55.	Ahmedabad New Textile Mills	Outside Raipur Gate, Ahmedabad	7.45
56.	Himadri Textile Mills	Outside Saraspur Gate, Ahmedabad	7.22
57.	Jehangir Textile Mills	Outside Delhi Gate, Ahmedabad	16.30
58.	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills	Vartej Road, Bhavnagar	16.32
59.	New Manekchowk Textile Mills	Outside Idgah Gate, Ahmedabad	8.99
60.	Petlad Textile Mills	Petlad	29.28
61.	Rajkot Textile Mills	Karnasinghji Cross Road, Rajkot	8.72
62.	Rajnagar Textile Mills 1	Outside Idgah Gate, Ahmedabad	12.11
63.	Viramgam Textile Mills	Viramgam	50.91
VII. N.T.C. (APKK&M) LTD.			
ANDHRA PRADESH			
64.	Adoni Cotton Mills	146, Alur Road, Adoni	7.17
65.	Anathapur Cotton Mills	Tadapatri, Annatpur Distt.	9.25
66.	Azam Jahi Mills	Warangal	200.25
67.	Natraj Spinning Mills	Nirmal, Adilabad Distt.	70.00
68.	Netha Spinning & Weaving Mills	Secunderabad	10.84
69.	Tirupati Cotton mills	Renigunta, Thirupathi	47.36
KARNATAKA			
70.	M.S.K. Mills	Gulbarga	205.32
71.	Minerva Mills	Bangalore	57.79
72.	Sree Yallamma Cotton Mills	Tolahunse, Davangere	98.80
KERALA			
73.	Alagappa Textile Mills	Alagappanagar, Trichur	8.06
74.	Kerala Lakshmi Mills	Trichur	30.11
VIII. N.T.C. (WBAB&O) LTD.			
ASSAM			
75.	Associated Industries	Chandrapur	50.00

1	2	3	4
BIHAR			
76.	Bihar Co-op. Weavers Spg. Mills	Mokameh	22.20
77.	Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills	Gaya	32.77
ORISSA			
78.	Orissa Cotton Mills	Bhagatpur Distt. Cuttack	62.17
WEST BENGAL			
79.	Arati Cotton Mills	Dassnagar, Howrah	6.25
80.	Bangasri Cotton Mills	Sodepur, 24-Paraganas	29.08
81.	Bengal Fine S. & W. Mills No. I	Konnagar, Hooghly	18.83
82.	Bengal Fine S. & W. Mills No. II	Kalyani, Katagunj, Distt. Nadia	19.44
83.	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills	Serampore. Hooghly	27.79
84.	Manindra B.T. Mills	Cossimbazar, Murshidabad	35.28
85.	Jyoti Wvg. Factory	48, S.K. Deb Road, Patipukur, Kolkata	4.29
86.	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	Rishra, Hooghly	14.83
87.	Rampooria Cotton Mills	Shree Rampore, Hooghly	30.60
88.	Central Cotton Mills	Belur, Howrah	11.67
89.	Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills	Palta, Barrackpore	11.24
IX. N.T.C. (TN & P) LTD.			
TAMIL NADU			
90.	Sri Rangavilas S. & W. Mills	Coimbatore	17.20
91.	Cambodia Mills	Coimbatore	
92.	Pankaja Mills	Coimbatore	11.07
93.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	Coimbatore	2.31
94.	Om Paraskthi Mills	Coimbatore	14.25
95.	Kishnaveni Textile Mills	Coimbatore	4.52
96.	Poineer Spinners Mills	Kamudakudi	
97.	Balaramavarma Textile Mills	Shencottah	20.20
98.	Somasundaram Mills	Coimbatore	7.43
99.	Kalleswarar Mills 'B' Unit	Kalayarkoil	
X. NTC (Holding Company)			
PONDICHERRY			
100.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills	Pondicherry	
101.	Sri Bharati Mills	Pondicherry	

1	2	3	4
TAMIL NADU			
102.	Sri Sarda Mills	Coimbatore	3.45
103.	Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Coimbatore	20.49
104.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'A' Unit	Coimbatore	16.06

NGO's for Welfare of the Blind

6801. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newstitem captioned "Norms deprive NGO staff of pay" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the April 16, 2002;

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

(c) whether the NGO's working in this field are facing great hardship to get grants from the Government due to lack of transparency in the functioning of the officials entrusted with the task of examining NGO's requests and a time schedule for clearing request; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No application has been filed by All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB) in the Court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities with prayers seeking parity in pay with employees of government establishments. However, a fresh complaint praying for issue of directions to Govt. of India for release of additional grants in respect of their projects for the year 1999-2000 and to implement the norms for sanction of grant-in-aid to non governmental organizations, uniformly, has been filed. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment disposed off a representation on a similar request on the directions of Delhi High Court issued in civil Writ Petition no. 2512/2000 in June 2000. Problems faced by the NGOs with the State Governments and the need to expedite inspection reports is taken up with State Governments from time to time. AICB had been sanctioned grants totaling Rs. 32.28 lacs during the last 3 years including Rs. 13.03 lacs during 1999-2000. The

extent of assistance that can be considered in any particular financial year is limited by the budgetary allocation for the Scheme for that year.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The time schedule for clearance of requests for grant-in-aid depends, among other things, on factors such as timely receipt of requisite information/ documents and inspection reports and recommendations of nodal agencies which may not always be under control of the Ministry. Subject to these constraints it is the endeavour of the Ministry to examine and decide on requests for grant-in-aid within a reasonable period of time. The process of release of grants-in-aid assistance to non-governmental organizations has been streamlined in recent years with measures such as continuous follow-up with the State Governments for expediting inspection reports, using the resources available within the Ministry for quicker inspections, strengthening of the monitoring mechanism, computerized processing of grants-in-aid cases etc.

[Translation]

Nomination of Liaison Officers belonging to SC/ST

6802. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain departments/subordinate and attached offices public sector and autonomous bodies under his Ministry are not nominating the liaison officers belonging to the SCs/STs and OBCs to ensure implementation of the Government's directives relating to reservation for these categories of people in various departments and offices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the names of such offices/organisations; and

(c) the number of Liaison Officers nominated for this purpose till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total number of 'Administrative Units' dealing with establishment and staff matters under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry is 53 and each of them has Liaison Officer.

[English]

Transport Subsidy Scheme

6803. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to place exporters of Assam and other North Eastern States on an even keel vis-a-vis other exporters the Government propose to or has introduced any system of transport subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether transport subsidy has already been in vogue, with respect to Assam Tea; and

(d) the extent to which the Assam Tea exports has benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) To promote industrialization in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas of the country Transport Subsidy Scheme is applicable to all industrial units (barring plantations, refineries and power generating units) irrespective of their size, both in public and private sector. A scheme for assisting tea exporters of India was operated from January to March, 2002. The Scheme also provided for an additional assistance for teas exported through ICD Amingaon, Assam @ Re. 1/- per Kg.

(d) An estimated quantity of 20 Lakh Kgs. Of tea exported from ICD Aminagaon has benefited from the Scheme.

Preservation of Foodgrains

6804. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India had appointed a high level committee in the year 1997 to allot duties and to keep a watch for preservation and safety of the foodgrains stored in the open and based on the study report of the said committee, the Food Corporation of

India has promoted and deployed its officers and employees for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether suitable candidates have not been chosen for the post of Deputy/Joint Manager in quality control section of Food Corporation of India;

(d) whether the preservation/upkeep of the foodgrains has been adversely affected as a result thereof and the FCI has suffered losses due to inadequate number of officers in the quality control section; and

(e) if so, the time by which suitable number of officers in quality control section are likely to be deputed so as to preserve the foodgrains appropriately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (e) No such report of High Level Committee appointed in the year 1977 is available.

The vacant promotional posts of Deputy Managers in Quality Control cadre could not be filled due to non finalisation of seniority of Assistant Managers (Quality Control) owing to a court case which was since been decided on 30.4.2002.

The vacant posts of Joint Managers in Quality Control are being regularly filled up from amongst the Joint Managers in General Administration cadre.

There is no specific report that the work of preservation and upkeep of foodgrains have been adversely affected due to less number of Quality Control Officers.

Poor Road Infrastructure between India and Nepal

6805. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor and infrastructure between India and Nepal is an impediment in promoting trade between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken, if any, to improve the present situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Governments of India and Nepal

are aware that the road infrastructure between India and Nepal requires improvement for promoting bilateral trade. Both Governments have agreed for improving the infrastructure at the four major Land Custom Stations namely, Jogbani/Biratnagar, Raxaul/Birganj, Sonauli/Bhairahawa and Rupaide/Nepalgunj, through which major part of bilateral trade is taking place. Consultants have been appointed for preparing a project feasibility report in this regard.

Sunair Hotels Limited

6806. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IFCI, IDBI and Oriental Bank of Commerce have extended huge loans to a company, Sunair Hotels Limited, Delhi;

(b) if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether the above company has defaulted in its repayment of principal and interest for IFCI:

(d) whether in spite of the IFCI has already granted additional loans to Sunair besides reducing the interest rate and has converted the interest due on its loans into fresh loans, instead of recalling the loan with penal interest;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken against officials responsible for such imprudent investment of public funds;

(f) whether IFCI has ensured adherence and compliance by Sunair to its loan conditionality of depositing the rentals from the Commercial Complex of the project in an escrow account; and

(g) if not, the action taken by IFCI against it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) IDBI and Oriental Bank of Commerce have provided loans to Sunair Hotels Ltd. Though IFCI had sanctioned assistance, the same was not disbursed and subsequently cancelled.

(b) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst the banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions as also the provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information in respect of the constituents of the Banks and Public Financial Institutions, cannot be divulged.

(c) to (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Investment by NRI's

6807. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether inordinate delay is caused by the Indian Government officers in finalising the investment proposals of the Non-Resident Indian as a result of which several NRIs neither make investment in India nor are they interested in doing so;

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

(c) the period of time normally taken in finalising an investment proposal;

(d) whether the Government propose to set a time-limit within which an investment proposal should be either accepted or rejected; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (e) There is no delay in finalising the foreign direct investment proposals, including the investment proposals of Non Resident Indians, as Government has already put in place a transparent and investor friendly FDI policy. Simplification of the approval mechanism is a continuous process and several steps have been taken in that direction, which inter alia include placing most activities on the automatic route, announcement of transparent guidelines for consideration of foreign direct investment proposals by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and 30 days time frame for communicating Government decisions on FIPB proposals.

Export of Coffee to Israel

6808. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

'a) the quantum of coffee exported to Israel during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the foreign exchange earned thereby during the above period;

(c) whether the proposals have been received from other countries by the Government for export of coffee to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The quantity of coffee exported to Israel and foreign exchange realised therefrom during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 are given below:

Year	Quantity (in MT)	Value realised	
		US\$ Lakhs	Rs. in lakhs
2000-01	3954.1	46.71	2067.82
2001-02	2988.1	25.49	1187.38

(c) and (d) With the liberalisation of the coffee industry, the coffee trade is fully in private hands. Over 80% of the coffee produced in the country is presently exported to over 70 countries.

[English]

Dumping of Goods by Foreign Companies

6809. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the name of multi level marketing, some foreign companies like Amway Corporation of USA, Oriflame International of Sweden, Japan Life Insurance, etc. are dumping and marketing their products unethically;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) 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 (e) The Government has granted Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approval on 26.8.94 to M/s. Amway Corporation of USA to set up a wholly owned subsidiary in India to established and develop a

direct selling business of products which shall be sourced from local independent Indian manufacturers, particularly Small Scale Unit by providing technology support. The company has also been granted permission for test-marketing a specified range of Amway Products for a period of two years subject to the condition that it shall have them manufactured by independent manufacturers in India within that period by providing necessary technology support. M/s. Oriflame International of Sweden has also been granted FIPB approval on 15.6.95 to set up a Joint Venture Company to manufacture or to get manufactured from other independent units and market Oriflame's products in India. FIPB has not granted any approval to Japan Life Insurance to undertake multi level marketing in India.

Insofar as dumping of products is concerned, the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) initiates anti-dumping investigation on receiving fully documented petition from the domestic industry providing sufficient evidence of dumping, injury and a causal link between the dumped imports and the injury caused to the domestic industry. The DGAD so far has not received any petition from the domestic industry for initiation of anti-dumping investigations against products involved in multi level marketing by M/s. Amway Corporation of USA, M/s. Oriflame International of Sweden, Japan Life Insurance etc.

Corruption In MMTC

6810. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

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

(a) whether CVC is looking after the case of corruption against few top officials of MMTC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons that CVC/CBI is delaying the matter and it is pending since long back;

(d) whether few tainted top officials of G.M. levels have been promoted to CGM level in last promotion held in February, 2002; and

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

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

(b) During the years 2000 and 2001, the Central Vigilance Commission has advised initiation of major penalty proceedings against two top officials of MMTC, who are of the level of Directors, for the lapses established on their part at the investigation stage.

(c) There is no delay on the part of CVC. Pursuant to the Commission's advice, the disciplinary authority has already issued chargesheet in one case. The CBI to whom the case was also referred has registered a Preliminary Enquiry (P.E.). As regards the other case, the matter is neither pending with CVC nor with CBI.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Agreement between India and Mauritius

6811. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreement have been made between India and Mauritius;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions of these agreements alongwith the duration of period for which these agreements have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India and Mauritius have entered into a trade agreement on 10th March 2000. The Trade Agreement envisages to further strengthen trade, commercial relations and economic co-operation between the two countries on the principles of equality and mutual interest and benefit. It has provision for a forum like Joint Trade Committee to monitor the implementation of trade agreement. Imports and export of goods and services shall take place on the basis of the contracts to be concluded between the natural and juridical persons of the two Contracting Parties in accordance with their laws and regulations and international trade practices. All payments for goods and services between the two contracting Parties shall be made in freely convertible currencies, in accordance with the foreign exchange laws and regulations payment practices, unless otherwise specifically agreed upon between the Contracting Parties. This Agreement also provides safeguard clause. The Contracting Parties agree that the authorities responsible for the implementation of

the provision of this Agreement and other matters relating thereto shall, in the case of Mauritius be the Ministry responsible for International Trade and in the case of India the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce. This agreement came into force on the date of signature and shall terminate on a day three months after the date upon which either Contracting Party has given the other notice in writing of the proposed termination.

[English]

Payment of dues to Workers of Tea Garden

6812. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Trading Corporation of India has prayed before the Honourable Calcutta High Court for liquidation of Putung, Vatukvar and Peshok Tea Gardens of Darjeeling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present liabilities of these gardens on account of dues to the workers, garden and head-wise; and

(d) the time by which the workers would get their legitimate dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI) has prayed before the Kolkata High Court for liquidation of the Company as a whole including its 5 Tea Gardens namely. Potong, Vah-Tukvar, Pashok, Pathini and Looksan.

(c) The liabilities of these three gardens which includes wages & others. CPF etc. are as under:

1.	Potong	Rs. 115.42 lacs (Upto December, 2001)
2.	Vah Tukvar	Rs. 690.63 lacs (Upto September, 2001)
3.	Pashok	Rs. 358.00 lacs (Estimated)

(d) TTCI a wholly owned subsidiary of STC is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. TTCI management has filed a petition in Calcutta High Court for liquidation of the company. The case is pending in the Court. The aspect in regard to payment of dues will

be taken into consideration based on the judgement of Calcutta High Court in the liquidation case.

Norms of SEBI

6813. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 37 listed PSUs, 7 companies did not comply fully with the SEBI's corporate governance norms;

(b) if so, the details of the 7 PSUs;

(c) whether these companies did not increase the strength of independent directors to over 50% in their Boards as envisaged in clause 49 (1) (A) of the listing agreement stipulated by SEBI; and

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

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

Vacation of Leased/Rented Warehousing by STC

6814. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation, now almost defunct with decanalisation of many imported commodities still manages to generate profits;

(b) whether STC is on a spree to vacate leased/rented warehousing accommodation at Sewree in Mumbai, to save on paltry rentals, through an out-of court settlement with owners of such properties;

(c) whether the vacation of leased/hired warehousing facilities at Sewree Godown and Motor House Limited, Mumbai is a matter of legal dispute between STC and the owners of the estates; and

(d) if so, the status of the litigation and the stance taken by STC so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) In spite of decanalisation, STC has been continuously generating profits.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In case of Sewree Godown, owners have filed a suit in the Small Causes Court at Mumbai due to dispute on revision of rent and vacation of premises. With regard to Motor House, STC has filed a suit in the Small Causes Court due to unreasonable demand of rent by the owners.

Supply Orders for Jessop

6815. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether firm wagon orders are being ensured to the prospective bidders of Jessop and other public sector manufacturing units; and

(b) if so, why the same could not be ensured by Government during the implementation of the revival scheme sanctioned by the BIFR for Jessop, Burn Standard and Braithwaite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to extend the present dispensation of Railways placing orders on Jessop for 36 numbers of AC EMU coaches per year and such number of wagons that would constitute 8% of the quota reserved for public sector units in each year for two years after disinvestment. In case of other PSUs, such dispensation would be decided on case to case basis.

(b) BIFR sanctioned rehabilitation schemes of Jessop, BSCL and Braithwaite did not envisage such dispensation. In actual practice, CPSUs have been receiving a fair share of wagon orders from the overall wagon orders being released by the Railways every year.

Benefit to Coffee Growers

6816. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the various schemes introduced or likely to be introduced by the Government for the benefit of the small and marginal coffee growers in the country particularly in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) the financial assistance provided to each State under above mentioned schemes during each of the last three years; and

(c) the further allocation made for 2002-03 State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Coffee Board has been implementing various Coffee developmental schemes covering both small and marginal coffee growers as well as the large growers in the country. The research department of the Board is working on various disciplines viz. agronomy, soil chemistry, plant-protection, post harvest technology, breeding and tissue culture to develop technologies to improve the competitiveness of the Indian coffee. The Board has also been providing extension services for transfer of technology as well as implementation of development schemes. During the 9th Plan period, the Board implemented an exclusive small sector developmental schemes in three traditional coffee growing states viz. Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The scheme envisaged subsidy for water augmentation, quality upgradation and installation of pulping machinery. Further the Board operated another scheme for setting up of Self Help Groups aimed at organizing groups of small growers of a particular region to take up activities like development of community godowns, processing centres, market information cell etc. To set up Self Help Groups, the Board extended an one time grant of Rs. 2 lakhs per group. In addition, during 2001-02, to mitigate the price crisis faced by the coffee growers the Board also provided 5% interest relief on working capital loans availed by small coffee growers.

(b) The financial assistance provided under various schemes to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Karnataka	145.89	115.72	835.58
Tamil Nadu	7.01	4.43	24.54

(c) For the year 2002-03, the Coffee Board has been allocated a sum of Rs. 50 crores for implementing various coffee developmental schemes. The state-wise allocation for the same is yet to be made.

Establishment of Industries

6817. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inordinate delay caused in the establishment of industries following the delay in the clearance of the proposal at various stages;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce a single clearance system to expedite the establishment of industries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) All possible steps are taken for speedy disposal of Industrial Licences applications. Actual disposal of Industrial Licences applications depends on the sectoral policy of the concerned Administrative Ministry and their recommendations in specific cases together with the recommendations of the concerned State Government.

Demands of Coffee Planters

6818. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether coffee growers have submitted any memorandum of demands seeking Governments support to tide over their crisis;

(b) if so, the details of demands made by the coffee growers;

(c) whether the coffee growers have also demanded the waiver of interest on outstanding loans. Rs. 1500 crore stabilisation fund, coverage of plantation workers under the Antyodaya Scheme and Minimum Support Price for four varieties of coffee; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the Government are likely to concede to the demands of the battered coffee industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Various coffee growers organisations/associations have been submitting representations/memoranda to the Govt. of India raising several demands such as some relief package from the banking sector, waiver of loans/interests, fixation of minimum support price for coffee, allocation of funds for increasing domestic consumption of coffee etc.

(d) For the benefit of coffee growers the Govt. of India though Coffee Board has already been operating several plan schemes under which various types of financial and technical assistance are provided to the growers. In addition in May 2001 at the behest of Govt. of India the commercial banks had rescheduled the crop loans of small coffee growers and also extended fresh capital loans to them. The Board has also implemented an interest relief scheme, which provided 5% interest relief to targeted small coffee growers on working capital loans availed by them from the banks. The Coffee Board has also implemented a scheme under which financial assistance @ Rs. 500 per tonne has been provided to Indian Coffee exporters for reducing their handling costs.

Recently once again at the behest of Govt. of India, the Reserve Bank of India has announced a relief package for the coffee growers under which all types of coffee loans (short medium and long terms including re-phased/rescheduled loans) which are outstanding as on 30th June, 2002 and not classified as Non Performing Assets, will be consolidated into a Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTI) with a repayment schedule ranging between 7-9 years and initial repayment holiday (moratorium) of two years subject to certain condition and review thereafter.

Coffee Board is also implementing a medium-term export strategy and gain market share in the key markets and to improve the competitiveness of Indian Coffee in the global markets over the next few years.

[*Translation*]

Export of Leather and Leather Products

6819. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) the targets set by the Government for export of leather and leather products for the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether the above targets has been achieved;

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

(d) the share/contribution of this sector in the total exports of the country; and

(e) the facilities being provided by the Government to the manufacturers/exporters of leather and leather products for the development of this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The targets set by the Government for export of leather and leather products for the year 2001-2002 is US \$ 2223 M.

(b) and (c) As per the DGCI&S figures for the month of January 2002, the export from leather sector during April-January 2002 was to the value of US \$ 1644.29 M recording an overall marginal positive growth of 0.55% in \$ terms. The target achieved up to January 2002 is 74%.

(d) The share/contribution of this sector in the total exports of the country is 4.56% in US \$ terms.

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

[*English*]

Middlemen in Inland Container Depots

6820. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the middlemen charge the trader heavily to get routine information in regard to clearance of trade items from the Inland Container Depot at Tughlaqabad, Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to keep middlemen out of the trading in Inland Container Depot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Customs House agents are authorised to facilitate export-import consignments on shippers' behalf. Customs House agents are licensed under Section 146 of the Customs Act, 1962 and their service charges are also regulated under the Customs Act.

Tax Evasion committed by Sunair Hotel Limited

6821. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the investigation by the Department of Company Affairs U/s 209A and the subsequent Income-Tax Investigation into violation of Companies Act, 1956 and tax evasion committed by Sunair Hotels Limited which *inter-alia* includes questionable allotment of shares worth Rs. 31.75 crores to itself and its subsidiaries; and

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

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

(b) Department of Company Affairs launched prosecutions against M/s Sunair Hotel Ltd. and its officers for violation of Sections 77, 211 and 212 of the Companies Act, 1956. The offences under Section 211 and 212 were however compounded by the Company Law Board on application of the Company. Prosecution for violation of Section 77 is still pending in the Court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate. Further, for violation of the provisions of Section 299 of the Act, the Directors of the Company moved an application u/s 621A of the Act for compounding of the offence and same has also been compounded by the Company Law Board.

There was a search by the Income Tax Department in the case of M/s Sunair Hotel Ltd. on 21.11.2000. Assessment of undisclosed income in a search case is made within two years from the end of the month in which search was conducted. Investigation carried out by other agencies is also examined from tax angle while making the assessment.

[Translation]

Internal Debt

6822. SHRI RAMACHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the alarming fiscal deficit situation in the country has resulted in increased domestic debt; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Fiscal Deficit situation in the country may not be termed as alarming since the said deficit has been contained within 5.19 per cent to 5.7 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product for the last four years i.e., up to 2001-2002 (RE). In the corresponding period the internal debt (net) has increased from Rs. 70699 crore in 1998-99 to Rs. 105355 crore in 2001-2002 (RE) as the growth in Government expenditure has outpaced the growth in Government's revenues and other non-debt receipts.

It is the endeavour of the Government to contain the fiscal deficit at a reasonable level by maximizing non-debt receipts and controlling non-productive expenditure. A close watch is being kept on trends of expenditure with a view to taking corrective action. Instructions for containing the non-productive expenditure have been issued from time to time.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the item regarding election of Speaker is listed at serial No. 10 of today's Order Paper, that is, after Laying of Papers and Statement by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. If the House agrees, we may take up the item regarding election of Speaker immediately and the formal items, that is, Laying of Papers etc. may be taken up after the election of the Speaker is over.

I hope, the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

12.01 hrs.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VJPAYEE): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, I second the Motion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I second the Motion.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balai, Bihar): Sir, I second the motion.

[English]

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL (Khed): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI LAXMANRAO PATIL (Satara): Sir, I second the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, I second the Motion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ADBULLAH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Sir, I second the Motion.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, I second the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[English]

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (Nilgiris): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) Sir, I second the Motion.

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM (Vellore): Sir, I second the Motion.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER (Serampore) Sir, I second the Motion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, I second the Motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the Motion moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and seconded by Shri L.K. Advani is before the House for consideration. I am putting this Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Shri Manohar Joshi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I declare that Shri Manohar Joshi has been chosen as the Speaker of this House.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Hon. Members, before I request the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and other leaders to conduct Shri Manohar Joshi to the Chair, I take this opportunity to heartily congratulate Shri Manohar Joshi on having been elected unanimously to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha. With his election, I feel relieved that the onerous responsibility cast upon me consequent upon the death of Shri G.M.C. Balayogi in running the House has lightened! Nevertheless, I can assure him that he will always have my fullest cooperation as his Deputy in running the House.

It is a creditable achievement in the 50th year of the Indian Parliament that we have elected our Speaker with oneness of opinion.

Sir, you are a first-timer in Parliament. But, you are not new to parliamentary institutions and parliamentary procedures. You have had a long stint in the Maharashtra Legislature holding various positions. This rich experience in the Legislature and the great traditions maintained by your illustrious predecessors will guide you in running the House smoothly.

As I said at the outset, we are celebrating the fiftieth year of our Parliament. This occasion must instill in us a greater resolve to strengthen Parliament. As the Speaker represents the authority of the House and is the repository of its collective wisdom, we all have a common duty to strengthen his hands in upholding that authority and in reflecting that wisdom.

I appeal to all the hon. Members of this House to extend full cooperation to Shri Manohar Joshi as you have all so kindly extended to me while I was discharging the duties of the Speaker. I am grateful to you all for the cooperation shown to me. I wish all the very best to Shri Joshi as the new Speaker of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

Now, the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the hon. Leader of the Opposition and other leaders may conduct the Speaker to the Chair.

(Shri Manohar Joshi was conducted to the Chair by the Leader of the House, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi)

12.11 hrs.

[SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI, MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. SPEAKER: *Mitro*, thank you very much for electing me as the Speaker. May I now request the hon. Prime Minister to address the House?

12.12 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO THE SPEAKER

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many congratulations for getting elected to the post of Speaker, Lok Sabha. You have been elected unopposed. A convention has been followed and we have to further strengthen the democratic conventions. It is very essential that conventions should be established alongwith rules and should be followed strictly. You have taken this seat as a Speaker. This seat is a responsible seat, the responsibility and the prestige of the Parliament is in your hands. Your life has always been full of social activities. You have started your social life at the grass root level. You have been closely associated with education but besides education you have also shouldered the responsibilities of a public representative in politics. You were a corporator, you have worked as a Member of Legislative Assembly. You had a chance to serve Legislative Council. You were a Minister in Centre and State and you were also a Chief Minister. You have shouldered the responsibilities of all these posts with great efficiency. Besides, you always endeavoured in the field of education by starting a campaign, particularly in the field of technical education in Maharashtra, that every person of Maharashtra should take technical education and the State should progress in the field of industry and trade. I was told that in Maharashtra wherever there is a bus stand there is a Khinor technical institute. I am not aware whether the institute was opened by keeping in mind the bus stand or the bus stand was made keeping in mind the institute but both have co-existence.

I was told that while performing the official duties of a Chief Minister. You maintained links with the field of education and you had a class room and a black board, where students could study, in the Chief Minister house 'Varsha' and you used to often work there as a teacher. I was told by some one that you are more popularly known as 'Sir'. You were addressed as 'Sir' just because you are a teacher. Today you are adorning the post of Speaker. It is a very prestigious and dignified post, it is as a throne of Vikramaditya, who ever occupies this has to do justice, he has to be neutral and has to run the House as per the Constitution and the rules, keeping this in view you have great responsibilities and we have full faith in you that you will discharge your duties very smoothly. You will always get full support from us in this regard.

Just now Deputy Speaker Saheb has recalled that the golden jubilee celebrations of the Parliament will be celebrated within few days. A programme was organised on 13th May. If you refer to the proceedings of yester years you will find that approximately during these dates only Shri Dada Saheb Mavalankar was elected as the Speaker of Lok Sabha. You are going to take such a post. It is the need of the hour that the conventions are safeguarded, the dignity of this House is increased and the House should run smoothly. As I have already said that I have full faith on whoever occupies this seat because he has to do justice, he will have to be neutral and has to maintain the dignity of this post.

Due to death of Shri Balayogiji you have taken the responsibility to post of Speaker when he became the Speaker for the first time we were rather uncertain regarding how he will be able to take all of us together. How he will manage to run this House but the way he carried out his duties as a Speaker elevated his stature for that every one remembers him and he will be remembered as a good Speaker. You are having the same reputation as he had. I am fully confident that the House will run smoothly under your guidance. The House will run smoothly and in a disciplined manner under your guidance. Wherever any lacuna is observed you will be putting efforts to settle it by taking the suggestions of one a and all.

After the death of Shri Balayogi as a Deputy Speaker Shri Sayyed Saheb took over the charge and performed the duties efficiently. I whole heartedly appreciate him. Today is his birthday that is why may happy returns of the day to him. Today in the morning, when I telephoned him and conveyed my good wishes to him, he said whatever I have done it is just because of your cooperation. He ran the House efficiently in very odd situations. Now a new Speaker has been elected and he will put efforts to brave such situations. No doubt that we will be able to overcome any sort of crisis with the cooperation of one and all.

I want to congratulate Shri Sayeed Saheb and wish to welcome you also. You have been given a great responsibility. May God give you strength to carry out these responsibilities.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Congress Party and on my own behalf I join the hon. Prime Minister in offering our congratulations and felicitations to you on your election as the Speaker.

Sir, the greatest achievement of independent India is the democratic system that we have established and nurtured. Parliament is the symbol of this democracy. It is the nation's most important institution which guards our freedom and strengthens our polity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a great responsibility devolves upon you for maintaining the highest traditions of our Parliament. You have seen public life at various levels. With your great experience, I am sure, you will not find it difficult to do justice to all public issues and to all sections of the House. This House reflects not only the entire spectrum of political opinion but also our country's diversity. The eminent Speakers of this House starting from Shri Mavalankar have established great traditions. They, on many occasions, not only represented the entire House but also the voice of the people of India. Sir, we look up to you to uphold this time-honoured tradition.

Sir, we, on our part, will extend our full co-operation to you in the discharge of your onerous responsibilities. I also take this opportunity to join the hon. Prime Minister to wish our Deputy-Speaker a happy birthday today.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party and my behalf I felicitate you on your assumption of one of the highest offices of this great country and I wish you well. I also offer my special felicitations to our very dear Deputy-Speaker on his birthday.

The country is passing through trying times; let us not deny that. The very basis of our democratic functioning is under question. There are serious economic issues, serious social issues, which are creating tension within the country. Over and above that there is tension within the country about the country's future, integrity and unity. There are forces that are trying to destabilise the country. All these important issues are casting their shadows within the House itself, as they have to. As Members of the Opposition, we shall be raising these issues from time to time. I am sure, considering the importance of the issues, you will give us adequate opportunity to raise them in tune with the sentiments of the Opposition.

For the last two days, I do not know how much our astute Minister for Parliamentary Affairs had maneuvered it, a lot of unnecessary controversy has been going on as to whether your election is uncontested or unanimous...(Interruptions) Today, you are the Speaker of the House. Why doubts have been raised, everybody in the country knows. It is because of your political association, because of your political affiliation, because

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

of the policies and programmes of the party you have been representing. As a matter of fact, even the Election Commission had to pass certain orders. I am not going into all that controversy....(Interruptions) It was no reflection on any person....(Interruptions) I want to make it clear because everybody is asking us as to what this is....(Interruptions) It was to a reflection on any personality.

Each one of us here represents certain policies, programmes, objectives and attitudes. We have not come here just out of nothing. That is why, certain views had been expressed. But I feel that ultimately this House will have your healing touch. Whether where you are sitting today will be a throne of thorns or a bed of roses will depend upon how all of us conduct within the House; and your leadership will be very important. Our hope is that you will not surrender yourself to any remote control....(Interruptions) I said, I am sure he will not surrender. You should understand the spirit also.

Sir, you should hold the balance even. Rather, we should urge upon you to lean towards the 'left' because the 'left' is always the better side. The hon. Prime Minister referred to your very successful career as a coach. We have also learned that. We are very happy and proud that we have an educationist now presiding over this House. Probably coaching is needed these days inside the House also sometimes, about discipline, about decorum, about respect for others and about how we should remain committed to the basic values of our society. I am told that you were also a successful builder. I am sure you will build up this great institution whenever there are any deficiencies.

My last submission before your is - I am sincerely saying this - that nowadays tension is unnecessarily created as to the way some proceedings are conducted in the House. Nowadays, there appears to be some super-Speakers. A lot of intolerance, interference and disturbance is created.

Speaker's decisions are being challenged as to who will speak. Directions are being given to him as to what he should speak. Therefore, Sir, these are the matters on which, I am sure, you had also expressed your reservations, and this will be rectified.

Sir, what I wanted to say is that now you are my Speaker. You belong to the House; and you are the Speaker of the entire House. This is the glory of this position.

Sir, I am in no manner of doubt that you will be a true soldier of this House under the Constitution and you

will not be a *pracharak*, as the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said, you will be a servant of the society; and a leader of the House.

Sir, we have full faith in you. I can assure you that we shall cooperate with you in all manner in the discharge of your duties.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party and on my own behalf I heartily congratulate you on your election as the Speaker, Lok Sabha unopposed.

The post of the Speaker, Lok Sabha is a very important and responsible one. In our parliamentary democracy, the Speaker is the custodian of all the values and ethics that are crucial for smooth functioning of the democracy. Ours is a pluralistic society. We have different religions, different cultures and different ways of living and thinking characterising our country. Pluralism and secularism are the cornerstones of our parliamentary political system of which Lok Sabha is a part. We have to protect propagate these two ideals.

Whenever there is a problem or crisis in our country, the House seriously addresses those issues.

Sir, though you have been elected as a Member of Lok Sabha for the first time, you are not new to anybody. You have held so many key positions. You were elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Council and Maharashtra Legislative Assembly many a time. You have held the position of a Minister, Chief Minister of a State and the Union Minister at the Centre.

So, you know the problems being faced on the floor of the House. We are hoping that you, as the Speaker, will give chance to all the Members especially the backbenchers and the new Members to speak. Every Member wants to speak and address his local and State issues. You have to give equal opportunity to everybody.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again, on behalf of my party and on my own behalf I congratulate you. I may assure you that we shall extend our fullest cooperation to you in conducting the business of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR (Balija, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, heartiest congratulations on your being elected to this august office.

You are aware of this country's situations, you have handled every situation with efficiency, as the Prime

Minister has said. From the beginning till today yours has been a life of success. Your humble nature and sweet speech attract people quite naturally and this is a quality which will help you a lot in conducting this House. Whatever be the commotion on both the sides. You will be able to maintain your humility, your sweetness, your natural smile and you will be successful in conducting this House in a more efficient manner, I am fully confident of this.

Congratulations, again.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhalishahar): Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate you on your being elected unanimously to the office of Lok Sabha Speaker on behalf of Samajwadi Party and myself.

This is my first term and it is a matter of happiness that this is perhaps the first term in Lok Sabha for you also. I have seen the former Speaker late Shri Balayogi ji and I won't be able to forget him for my whole life for the manner in which he as Speaker, conducted the House with objectivity and justice.

I expect of you also that as Balayogi ji worked objectively irrespective of party or group affiliations, you will also work cutting across party lines, this is the expectation of the entire House including me. The seat you are sitting on is the seat of the guardian of the biggest Panchayat of the country, Lok Sabha. The opposition has always a role to look for a mistake to be committed by the Government and to criticise them. We expect that you will accord full honour to the opposition and allow them to put forth their views from time to time.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the parliamentary system in our country has been derived from the British parliamentary system. There has been a tradition in the British Parliament and many such Speakers have been in the House of Commons who have been elected unanimously by the people. We have just seen some people raise slogans here. We expect that on this post you will set a tradition that would make one feel that you are the guardian not of one party but of the whole House.

Sir, this is the office of a judge also. You conduct the House and you have the power to do justice and nobody can cast aspersions on you. This is the tradition of the House and there are rules also. So when you are in the seat of a judge I congratulate you and expect you to prove as a model not only for the whole House but for the generation to come. This I expect of you and I hope for this. I congratulate you on behalf of my party and myself.

Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Dy. Speaker on the occasion of his birthday. As Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble leader of opposition have congratulated him, I also congratulate him on behalf of my party and myself.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I once again congratulate you on behalf of my party and myself and hope that you will prove to be fully able to conduct the House in an efficient manner.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, before congratulating you I and my party would like to congratulate Mr. Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed. He has done a praiseworthy job while performing his duties as a Speaker in a very difficult situation.

Indian democracy is one of the largest democracy and you are the unanimously elected Speaker of this democracy. I congratulate you on this occasion and submit that the whole House have a lot of expectations from you and I also hope that you will clear the doubts raised by our very senior leaders like Somnath Chatterjee and run the House by taking everybody in confidence. It is unfortunate that thirteenth Lok Sabha...(*Interruptions*). You will also take Shri Somnathji in confidence and he will also start believing that you will be one of the best Speaker that we had till date.

It is unfortunate that in 13th Lok Sabha such incidents have taken place in the House and the country is passing through a difficult phase of communalism it is in its peak, and the economic condition is in its worst. In such circumstances it is the duty of the opposition to raise its voice, but when it feels that its voice is being suppressed, it use another means. I am confident that you will run this House in such a way that the tradition and the glory of the House remains intact. Sometimes many a M.P.s and our senior leaders also use such unparliamentary words which give us pain and all the country as a whole feel ashamed.

Sir, I would like to submit that parents tell their children to follow the footsteps of a particular leader for instance Gandhiji or Baba Ambedkar, but the way we are running the House today for which we ourselves are responsible, no parents would like to suggest his ward to follow present leaders if he or she does so, children would go on fighting with one another. I expect that you will maintain this tradition and also the method of allotting time to each and every party. A member is allotted 10 minutes but he speaks for an hour. I have seen the proceedings of many parliaments of the world. If someone is allotted five minutes, he will conclude his speech one second before the allotted time. We are also responsible

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

for it. Prime Minister is present here, Leader of the Congress and leader of the opposition also sitting here. I request, both of them to evolve a new tradition of selecting the Speaker. Late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi had called a convention in which I had said and I am repeating it even today that Speaker should be selected with the consensus of opposition and the ruling party before the election of the Parliament. In no other candidate contests election against him and he gets elected unopposed then all the House will have confidence in him and he may remain Speaker forever.

I hope your performance in this house will be so good that you may probably be chosen unopposed by the ruling party and the opposition in coming parliamentary election. I, myself and on behalf of my party, assure you that we will fully cooperate you in the functioning of the House.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, till yesterday, you were an M.P. of Shiv Sena in the House but today you are the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. I know that you will discharge your responsibilities impartially at the post you are holding.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank Shiv Sena Chief Shri Bala Saheb Thakre for granting permission to accept the post which you are holding now. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee proposed your name for the post of Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Home Minister Shri L.K. Advani seconded it. Similarly, members of different parties proposed and seconded. I also thank them. Besides, you were elected unopposed and I thank the Opposition and the whole House for that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have been associated with Mumbai Mahanagar Palika, Legislative Council, Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha. You have experience of holding different posts. You held the post of Mayor. You were Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council. You were Chief Minister in the Maharashtra Government and a Minister at the Centre. Today, you have been elected Speaker to the highest House of our democratic tradition. You have been associated with public life and the last more than 40 years of your life had been a public life. Therefore, we are sure that you will conduct the business of the House successfully. You will conduct the business of this House efficiently and I assure you of your cooperation in your success.

My Speaker, Sir, Deputy-Speaker Shri Sayeed Saheb conducted the business of this House after the death of Balayogiji. The Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition have thanked him for the same. I also thank

him on behalf of my party. I congratulate him on his birthday too. The post you are holding here, I repose my confidence once again in your ability that you will be successful in maintaining the dignity of the House and enhancing the pride of this post.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of my Party-AIADMK, on behalf of my leader, Dr. Purachithalaivi, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and on my own behalf congratulate you, on your election as the Speaker of this House.

Sir, India is the tallest and the biggest democratic country. The Speaker is the heart-beat of Parliament and Parliament is the heart-beat of the people of India. Sir, when we compare the Speaker's Office in India with the Speaker's Office in House of Commons, we find that it is complex. When I visited the House of Commons about 15 years back, I saw a bag hanging on the back of the Speaker's Chair. I asked the Clerk of the House of Commons, what is this bag? He said that it is Petitions Bag. Then I asked the Clerk: 'What for?' He replied that the Members can put petitions in that bag and the people can also put petitions, through the Member, into the bag, and the Speaker will examine those petitions by himself and will accordingly direct the Executive. Sir, here, I was able to see for the last two and a half years the accountability of the Executive to Parliament. There was no command or demand by the Chair to the Executive. It cannot say that you must do this or that and you should refrain from doing this or that.

Sir, the dignity and the tradition of Parliament is in your hands. Sir, I am sure, with your smile, you will be able to take us along. I know even if there is any storm, you will be calm because you have seen many offices. You have occupied a number of positions. You adorned the office of Chief Minister. Sir, you know the acts of the Executive and how the Executive should perform. Sir, if the Executive fails the people, the judiciary comes in. Today morning, I saw a news item in a paper saying that CNG buses case has been heard by the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has directed the Government. Sir, without any accountability to Parliament, there cannot be any order. It is my view. Without any accountability to the legislature, no court on earth, including the Supreme Court, can direct either the Executive or the Parliament to do this or not to do that.

Sir, we pass laws. Prof. Dicey had said that the British Parliament has got the power to make any law except to make a man a woman, and a woman a man.

It has got that amount of power. The Parliament has got that much power. Do we enjoy that power now? Does this Parliament exercise its power?

Parliament is the mirror of the people. Parliament satisfies the aspirations and the needs of the people. Parliament feels the pulse of the people. Sitting on an ivory tower, you cannot deliver justice to the people.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): What did you do when you were the Speaker of Tamil Nadu Assembly?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I disposed of 17,000 petitions in the Legislature as the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when your name was mentioned to me by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, I was happy. He asked me to convey it to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and I conveyed it. When the process of consultations was going on in the matter of selection of a candidate for the post of Speaker, she was not consulted. As the Chief Minister of a State if she had been consulted, she would have been much happier. This is a happy occasion; we feel happy because you are our Speaker.

From today you are the Speaker of the House. We have the faith and confidence in you. This is the only day when we can talk about the Speaker; there is no other day when we can do so. This is the only day when we can talk about the functioning of Parliament. If there is a bad day for the removal of the Speaker, that is different. Only on two days one can talk about the Speaker.

The Constitution says that a Speaker can also speak, but he cannot participate. We know that your functions are complex. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said in this House while felicitating Shri G.V. Mavalankar on his election as the Speaker:

"Speaker represents the House. The House represents the nation and as such a person of impartiality and sturdy independence should occupy that Chair."

So, I should remind the House of that speech at this juncture. In this House only the Speaker's chair is elevated. The Prime Minister is powerful outside. Ministers are powerful outside. Inside the House, only your writ runs. Ivor-Gerring has said: "Whatever the Speaker says within the four walls of the House is the word of law". Whatever he says, like 'look here, you must do it, you must execute that project, you must answer like that'. That is the functioning of a Parliamentary democracy. Whoever occupies the Chair enjoys that power.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He removed a Minister.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: That is when one contravenes the Constitution.

I have been watching the functioning of the Speaker in this House for the last two and a half years. It has been smoothly going on. The Speaker has not resorted to any police power. In Legislatures they immediately name them, call them and then they will be out. Here we see a spirit of democracy and I appreciate it. This is the place where the spirit of democracy must prevail and where hon. Members should be able to express the views of the people they represent. If the people are hot outside, we are hot inside. If the public is cool outside, we are cool inside. If there is a problem outside, we are facing a problem here. We are not ventilating any of our personal grievances here. There are no different motives with different Members. There are no different motives with Ministers or with anybody else.

We congratulate you and wish you a good tenure of office. On my own behalf and on behalf of my Party, we extend the fullest cooperation to you. You can underline this word. Sir, we know that you will rise to the occasion whenever injustice is being done elsewhere or wherever injustice is found because you had been a Mayor, a Chief Minister and a Leader of the Opposition. So, you know how the Opposition will behave and the Government will behave. Let the ruling party have their way and the Opposition have their say. The Opposition should have precedence in speaking and in getting more time. That is my view because the ruling party frames policies through the Ministries and while the Government, through the Ministers, is speaking here, and it consumes more time.

On my own behalf, I wish you all success and good health.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I felicitate you and congratulate you on being elected unopposed and unanimously to the post of Speaker of the Lok Sabha which is the highest and the most powerful post of this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have a lot of experience of efficiency in your public life. You have made your own identity while discharging your duties as a Minister or as a Mayor or in various capacities and today you have got an opportunity to conduct the business of this House. I am sure that the post occupied by you is a seat of justice. I am fully confident that the scales of the balance

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

will tilt neither towards the ruling party nor towards the Opposition but towards justice. We will cooperate with you with this firm belief and faith.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will urge upon you only one more thing. There is majority of many members in the ruling party but the number in Opposition is also not less. I am sure that you will give due weightage to the voice of such parties in the democratic set up and parliamentary democracy which have few members. I am sure that you will pay special attention to strengthen the democracy, enhance the dignity of the democracy and give supreme importance to this House. With this hope, I congratulate you and I wish happy birthday to the Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker Sayeed Saheb, whose birthday falls today.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, on behalf of my Party, DMK, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your unopposed election as the Speaker of the highest forum of democracy. I also wish the hon. Deputy-Speaker very many happy returns of the day on his birthday.

Sir, you have started your career right from the local body. To become a Member of Parliament is easy but to be a member of the local body or the Chairman of the local body is very difficult. It is because you have to feel the pulse of the people there and come upto their expectations. You have reached the high office of the Speaker stage-by-stage. So you know the need of the people and the mood of the people. And you also know how to convince the Members of Parliament. We hope that you will be very much impartial and keep up the traditions of the House.

I congratulate you on behalf of my Party DMK and on my own behalf. On behalf of my Party, I assure you the fullest co-operation. Once again, I congratulate you, Sir.

[Translation]

13.00 hrs.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate and felicitate you personally and on behalf of my party, Shri Om Prakash Chautala, Chief Minister of Haryana and the people of Haryana on your election to this post unanimously. I hope that the way Maharaja Vikramaditya did justice to his seat, you will also continue to act accordingly rendering justice to your seat.

Sir, you are closely associated with grass root level. You know the ground reality. You are seated on the highest seat of this Parliament elected by the people's representatives under democratic system. You have been through varied experiences of life. You have drawn attention of all the sections towards you. I hope that will take care of all sections and especially of MP's of smaller parties such as ours from your seat. The glory of this House will go up under your efficient leadership and you will establish your own identity.

Associating our party and the Chief Minister of our party Shri Om Prakash Chautala with Prime Minister, I congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed on his birthday and express my gratitude of keeping the dignity of the House as its Speaker.

Hoping that you will care about everyone's feeling, I congratulate you once again.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, on behalf of Trinamool Congress, we convey our warm greetings to you and to your family members. Today, we miss Shri Balayogi who performed very well. This is the tradition of the House. You are the pillar of the House. Now, you have become a friend, philosopher and guide of this House. You will guide us. At the same time, now you are not a Member of any party but you belong to the whole House. Above all, you will be required to strengthen the democratic, moral and the secular spirit in this House. We will cooperate with you from our side. I remember one instance. When you were the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, at that time minorities were tortured. I sent a team at that time. You gave full protection to them. That is why we want to congratulate you. I believe that you will work impartially and everybody will be happy to see you as the Speaker.

I would like to congratulate hon. Deputy-Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed, on his birthday today.

[Translation]

"Phanoos bankar jiski hifazat hawa kare,
Woh shama kya buhje, jise roshan khuda kare."

May God bless you with a very long life.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Sir, we the PMK Members of Parliament extend our heartiest congratulations to you. We are very happy that you have been unanimously elected to the exalted position of

Speaker of this august House. Your election is especially a unique one as this is the golden jubilee year of not only this Parliament—after the first elections in 1952—but also of the Office of the Speaker.

You will be an important link in the golden chain of Speakers of the past and the future of this House. As you carry the richest experience of public life and legislature experiments, we are sure that you will certainly steer this House clear with astuteness and aplomb.

As we expect you to conduct the business of this House with utmost impartiality, we shall certainly extend all our unflinching cooperation in maintaining the dignity and sanctity of this august House.

Sir, we, the PMK, on behalf of our beloved founder leader Dr. Ramadoss and party, and also on our own behalf congratulate you and wish you all the better than the best.

We also join our illustrious leaders in this House in wishing Shri P.M. Sayeed, the hon. Deputy-Speaker, very many happy returns of the day on his birthday. We wish him all the best of things in his life.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today you have been unanimously elected to the most dignified position of this august House of the largest democracy of the world, for which I extend my warm welcome and heartiest congratulations to you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the post you have occupied, requires minimum of three qualities and these are impartiality, ability and experience. I understand that you are well equipped with all these qualities and in fact it is a very difficult position with arduous job requirements. The manner in which Late Shri Balayogiji executed his duties with impartiality, we remember him for that. After that, hon'ble Deputy-Speaker had to execute that responsibility for some days, that period would also be remembered for impartiality and enhancing the dignity of the House. I also believe that the manner in which you have been elected unanimously, all the leaders expect that they would get the opportunity to highlight the problems of the public under your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present the country is passing through a very difficult situation. Communalism and terrorism are at their peak and to curb these and also to raise those issues here, hon'ble Members would get ample opportunity under your leadership. You are the

custodian of the rights of all the hon'ble members. The roots of democracy should be strong in the country and you are the person to take care of this issue also. You have been elected in this crucial time and we wish for your success and hope that you would take all the members with you and safeguard the interests of the members and we would get strength under your leadership to highlight the problems of the people. With these words, I again extend my warm greetings and heartiest congratulations to you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, there are only two Members to speak and the last Member would be, as usual, Shri Ramdas Athawale. So, before I announce Shri Ramdas Athawale's name, there are two Members to speak. The first one is hon. Member Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party, the RSP, I warmly congratulate you on your election as the Speaker of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. You are occupying the high Office of the Speaker following the tragic death of Shri G.M.C. Balayogi.

Sir, you know the composition of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. There are many smaller parties. I firmly believe that you will give more time to them to air their views on various burning issues. I hope that you will safeguard the right of the Members and the dignity of this august House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I once again assure you my party's fullest cooperation in conducting the proceedings of this House in an orderly and impartial manner. I wish you a very-very successful tenure. Thank you.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate you. Yesterday, you had been the leader of the Shiv Sena and also a Minister from the NDA. But today this is your position. Today, you are the Speaker of the entire House—not only of Shiv Sena or NDA but also of the entire House.

You are the custodian of this House. You are the custodian, not only of the Members but also the entire staff of Lok Sabha. I hope that you would perform the duty successfully.

Sir, on behalf of my party, and myself I wish to give you the fullest co-operation to run this House and in maintaining decency, decorum and the dignity of the House. One thing I would like to tell you is that there

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

would be a lot of trouble in the House. During such times you will have to keep an eye towards your right side and an eye on your left side. But, I would request you to please keep your third eye towards us because we are the smaller parties and groups.

In the democracy, we cannot say as to what would happen in future. Today, one party, which had two seats, has improved its tally to 182. Tomorrow, its strength may be reduced from 182 to two or may be another party may increase its tally from two to two hundred. With this expectation, you would look after us.

Thank you, and through you, we would like to extend thanks and congratulations to the hon. Deputy-Speaker on his birthday.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, on behalf of my party, the Communist Party of India, we convey our heartiest congratulations to you as you are chosen as Speaker of this House. Sir, we hope that you would discharge your noble functions very efficiently, impartially and above party lines. As custodian of this House, I hope that you would not only maintain dignity and tradition of this House but also follow the traditions of this House, which were set by your predecessors.

Sir, on this happy occasion, I would like to remind you that this House belongs to all the Members, not a few leaders. I would humbly submit to you that you would give due opportunity and scope to the junior Members, backbenchers and new comers also. We can assure you that we would extend our fullest co-operation for the smooth running of this House. I hope you would be the ablest and successful custodian of this House, which has created precedents in the Indian parliamentary democracy.

On this occasion, I would like to convey our heartiest congratulations to our hon. Deputy-Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed, on his birthday. He has discharged his noble duty very efficiently, and in a very dignified manner. Again, I convey our heartiest congratulations to you with an assurance that we would extend our full co-operation to you.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I congratulate you, on behalf of myself, and on behalf of the Indian Federal Democratic Party and Associates. In fact, as all the Members have opined, this is the highest office in the democratic polity. I am sure that with your long experience and special nature, you would be able to succeed as one of the foremost men who have adorned this very throne. As has been opined, this is not a throne of roses, this is going to be a throne of thorns. I am

sure that as many of our speakers have said, the opinions of all are to be taken. India is a federal country. We have to substantiate things through the federal way.

For example, there may be only one Member from Sikkim, but you cannot treat him as just one Member. The number of Members of a party is the main consideration while allotting time to each party to speak in debate in the House. But there could be another way of giving preference, a better deal for the smaller parties, by way of giving the opportunity to them alternatively. So, I would like to make a suggestion that, at least sometimes when subjects are taken up for discussion in the House, the smaller parties, which may be representing an area, may be given the first chance to speak on the House. Though the time allotted to the debate may be less, the smaller parties may also be considered alternatively for allotting time to them when we take up debates in this House.

Sir, I would also like to extend my good wishes to the hon. Deputy-Speaker, on his birthday.

I, once again, congratulate you on your election to the office of the Speaker of this House and wish you all success.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir,

"Speaker ban gaye hain Manohar Joshi, Aap hai Mumbai-wasi

Isiliye mujhe hai bahut bari khushee.

Jab janata ke prashano ko dee jati hai phansee,

Tab hangama khara karke hum ban jate hai doshi.

Main bhi hoon Mumbai-wasi, mujhe nahin samajhna doshi.

You are holding the highest position of Speaker. Baba Saheb Ambedkarji framed the Constitution and according to the provision of the Constitution you are gracing the highest position of the House. There is no need to say much about you. You have a lot of experience. You have also been a corporator, Mayor, a member of Legislative Council, a member of Legislative Assembly, leader of Opposition and Chief Minister. We were wishing that your five years tenure of Chief Ministership should have been complete but some problems arised in between.

The figure of 13 is not lucky for Atalji. This is the opinion of the people. This Government lasted for

13 days for the first time and second time for 13 months. Therefore, the figure of 13 is not good for you,...'you may for 13 years...*(Interruptions)* If it would be possible in the democracy, it would also happen. Here, Mr. Deputy-Speaker also expressed his views. He has promised to give co-operation but if you want to run the House peacefully, we should also get your co-operation.

I want to tell a poem of Atalji to the people of Gujarat. "Main geet naya gata hoon" is a good poem of Atalji. We have a lot of expectations from him. His poem should be like this—

Main nahin geet gata hoon,
main pahle Ahmedabad jata hoon,
Modi ka isteefa leta hoon,
phir main Dilli aata hoon,
Phir main geet gata hoon
aur main Sansad ka neta hoon.

It means that if you want to run the House peacefully, peace should also prevail in Gujarat. I have told to the people of Gujarat that there is nothing like that. We would extend you our full co-operation. We would get your co-operation and you would get ours. If we couldn't get your co-operation then. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, we would continue to get your co-operation beyond party lines. You are holding a very high position, you are from our Maharashtra and now it does not matter to which party you belong. Shri Mohan Rawle of your party was making applauding shouts. You don't raise such applauses here, make them outside the House. If Bala Saheb had not wished so you would not have been the Speaker but now Bala Saheb has given 'Green Signal' and this green signal should continue till the end. Whatever happened to the Chief Ministership should not be repeated here.

We expect that you would do justice with all parties. Injustice should not be done with our small party. A big party emerges from a small party. There were only two members of your and we have only one member in our party. Our party can also become a big one. Therefore, ample time should be given to the members belonging to small parties. However, you give us time, everybody use to give us time and if they don't give us time, we take it from them. Therefore, you keep on co-operating us.

With these words, I extend you my heartiest congratulations.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heartly congratulate you on being elected unopposed as Speaker. Sir, your gentleness, all round knowledge, indepth experience will definitely increase the respect and dignity of this august House. I

hope that you will pay special attention to newly elected Members and also the Members occupying back benches in the House.

I once again assure you that I and my party will always extend you full co-operation.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, MDMK, on behalf of my leader. Shri Vaiko, and on my own behalf I congratulate you for occupying this high position in Parliament.

On behalf of my party, I assure you that we will give full support to you and we hope that with your good manners you will be impartial.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister, hon. Leader of the Opposition, hon. Leaders and hon. Members,

[Translation]

I thank all of you whole heartedly for electing me to the high constitutional post of the Speaker of Lok Sabha and thereby honouring me. A great responsibility has been entrusted to me and the fact that I am the unanimous choice of the entire House makes the responsibilities even greater.

[English]

Let me at the outset wish a happy birthday to hon. Deputy-Speaker of the House, Shri Sayeedji. All the best to him and we are thankful to him for conducting the House after Shri Balayogi.

I thank everyone of you wholeheartedly for electing me to the high constitutional office of the Speaker.

A great responsibility has been entrusted to me and the fact that I am the unanimous choice of the House makes the responsibility indeed onerous. I hope, I would be able to discharge my duties with your co-operation.

As you are aware, at times the election of the Speaker was done by contest. It is a reflection of the maturity of our system that, in this Golden Jubilee year of Parliament, the House has unitedly come to oneness of opinion in choosing a Presiding Officer. I consider it a great personal honour that I am that choice despite being a first time Member of the House. I accept this

[Mr. Speaker]

responsibility with humility and I pledge that I shall uphold the trust you have reposed in me by discharging my duties impartially.

Friends, you are aware of the tragic circumstances under which the vacancy had arisen. Just when the nation was recovering from the shock of the dastardly attack on our Parliament, the demise of Shri G.M.C. Balayogi came like a bolt from the blue benumbing the nation. Shri Balayogi has charmed every section of the House with his unassuming manners, unmistakable humility and ungrudging accessibility. It would be very difficult to fill the void left by his tragic death. I am sure his benign spirit will guide us in the right direction.

Hon. members, you are all aware of the critical situation the nation is passing through in various respects. We are confronted with the menace of State-sponsored terrorism from across the border. We are a united nation of diverse languages, cultures, religions and regions. In this context, Parliament has to play the role of an integrating institution more consciously today than ever before.

Our Parliament has come to be seen as the highest forum of democratic debate and the nation looks upon us for a sense of direction and clarity of view, particularly in times of challenges and crises. We must not let down the nation by losing direction ourselves. Our Parliament is viewed as a role model by all State Legislative bodies in India. So, we have a responsibility to set a right example worthy of emulation by our State Legislatures. It is true that Parliament is a political institution and political parties take stands on various issues in accordance with their ideological convictions. And, that is what democracy is all about. Democracy is not always about unanimity. It is about resolving differences through debate and cultivating the ability to understand an alternative point of view, if not to necessarily agree with it. In this context, we must realise the need to rise above political considerations in addressing the core issues confronted by the country today.

By our conduct, we should be able to send out a message to the nation that the problems confronted by the nation are being addressed by Parliament with commitment and concern. And, this requires a peaceful atmosphere in the House. We should respect the rules of procedure to run the House smoothly. The temptation to disrupt the entire business of the House to register protest must be avoided as it sends a wrong message to the people that while they are confronted with countless problems, their representatives are wasting the precious time of Parliament. In this context, the endeavours of

late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi to evolve an effective code to deal with disruptions and disturbances must become a guide to all of us. This is the best tribute we can pay to the memory of the departed leader.

We must be fully conscious of the fact that crores of our countrymen are deprived of the basic necessities of civilised life such as food, shelter and clothing. In this context, what Mahatma Gandhi must guide us in our thinking. The Mahatma said and I quote: "Whenever you are in doubt or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the most helpless man you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he be able to gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to *swaraj* or self-rule for the hungry and spiritually starved millions of our countrymen? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melting away". Gandhiji's talisman should ever guide us whenever we set out on any task in the cause of the nation.

Friends, I have no qualms to admit that I am a first timer to Parliament. But I am not very new to parliamentary culture. I had a long legislative stint in the Maharashtra Legislature in various capacities, including the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. The high traditions maintained by my predecessors from G.V. Mavalankar to G.M.C. Balayogi and my long exposure to the Legislature in Maharashtra would guide me in upholding the traditions of this House and the dignity of this Office. The Speaker represents the authority of the House while enforcing the procedure and is the first servant of the House while addressing the concerns of the Members. My approach would be friendly and persuasive, rather than rigid and strict. Therefore, I will make myself available to the Members at all times. It will also be my constant endeavour to protect the rights and privileges of the House and of its hon. Members.

I seek the cooperation of the Media in projecting the right image of our Parliament to our countrymen. I am sure their meaningful cooperation will ever be forthcoming.

Dear sisters and brothers, I thank you all for felicitating me. I look forward to your generous cooperation in the days ahead. Together we should be able to make our parliamentary system far more stronger in this 50th year of our Parliament. It is a milestone that we have reached, withstanding so many challenges. The road ahead is not smooth. But we will succeed in our journey by our determination and resolve. Let us all come together

to walk together in our march to build a stronger and better India.

Thank you once again.

13.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

14.51 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at Fifty One Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in library See, No. LT 5656/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. BALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Yantra Nigam and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in library See, No. LT 5657/2002]

Sir, I congratulate you on assuming the office of Speaker, Lok Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the government of the working of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in library See, No. LT 5658/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:—
 - (i) The Bank of India Officer (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. TBD: PC: 2001-02/1 in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2002.
 - (ii) The Bank of India Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. 1/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2002.
 - (iii) The Allahabad Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. HO/Legal/0303 in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2001.
 - (iv) The Andhra Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 666/3/IR/410 in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 2001.

- (v) The Canara Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. IRS 124A 1589 NAK 01 in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2001.
- (vi) The Central Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. CO: PRS: LEGAL: MISC-3623: SAK: 01-02:322 in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2001.
- (vii) The Corporation Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PAD:IR:OSR Amend: 297:2001-2002 in Gazette of India dated the 13th October, 2001.
- (viii) The Dena Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. IR/Amend-3/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2001.
- (ix) The Indian Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. F. SRC/223C in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2001.
- (x) The Oriental Bank of Commerce Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 3934 in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001.
- (xi) The Punjab National Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PNB/DAC/P/1/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2001 together with an corrigendum thereto (in Hindi version only) published in Notification No. 44 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 2001.
- (xii) The Syndicate Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 1871/0089/PD:IRD (O)/Reg.20 in Gazette in India dated the 30th June, 2001.
- (xiii) The United Bank of India Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 2/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2001.
- (xiv) The UCO Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. OCR/2/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 2001.
- (xv) The Vijaya Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PER:IRD: 2258:2001 in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2001.
- (xvi) The Bank of Baroda Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. HO:OSR & IR:27/107/1971 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2001.
- (xvii) The Union Bank of India Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 3 (a)/30.8.2001 in Gazette of India dated the 13th October, 2001.
- (xviii) The Central Bank of India Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. ZO/Secy./2001-2002/463 in Gazette in India dated the 23rd November, 2001.
- (xix) The Canara Bank General Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. RW:LEGAL:143:KS in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2001 together with a corrigendum thereto (Hindi version only) published in Notification No. RW:LEGAL:32:1290 in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2001.
- (xx) The Corporation Bank General Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. GR/1998 Corp. in Gazette in India dated the 13th March, 1999.
- (xxi) The Bank of Baroda General Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. CO/LEG/MTU/91/410 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 1999.
- (xxii) The Bank of India General Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. HO:LGL:VNC:17 in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 1999.
- (xxiii) The United Bank of India General Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. 5/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2001.
- (xxiv) The Punjab and Sind Bank General Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. PSB/Board/Gen./Reg/1999 in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 2000.
- (xxv) The Bank of Maharashtra General Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. 1-08 in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 2000.

- (2) Eight statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned from Item No. (xviii) to (xxv) of (1) above.

[Placed in library *See*, No. LT 5659/2002]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 277(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (ii) G.S.R. 282(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 85/98-Cus., dated the 5th November, 1998.

[Placed in library *See*, No. LT 5660/2002]

- (4) 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. 279(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2002, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 73/2001-Cus., dated the 28th June, 2001.
- (ii) G.S.R. 280(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 7/2000-Cus., dated the 7th January, 2000.
- (iii) G.S.R. 281(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt goods mentioned therein when imported from Nepal in the terms of Indo-Nepal Treaty.
- (iv) G.S.R. 283(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 72/2001-Cus., dated the 28th June, 2001.

[Placed in library *See*, No. LT 5661/2002]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) G.S.R. 210(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 2002, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 16/2001-Cus., dated the 26th March, 2001.

- (ii) G.S.R. 234(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2002, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification mentioned therein.

[Placed in library *See*, No. LT 5662/2002]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:—

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 219(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 2002.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers and Sub-Brokers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 220(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 2002.
- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Insider Trading) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 221(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 2002.

[Placed in library *See*, No. LT 5663/2002]

- (7) A copy of the Notification No. SBD No. 7/2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2001 making certain amendments to Regulation No. 62(4) in respect of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur/Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/Patiala/Saurashtra/Travancore Officer's Service Regulations, 1979 under sub-section (4) of section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in library *See*, No. LT 5664/2002]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:—

- (i) The Income Tax (First Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 152(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

- (ii) The Income Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 356(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in library See, No. LT 5665/2002]

[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 Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Export of Fresh, Frozen and Processed Fish and Fishery Products (Quality Control and Inspection and Monitoring) (Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 415 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

[Placed in library See, No. LT 5666/2002]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in library See, No. LT 5667/2002]

14.53 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following two Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on 23 April, 2002:—

1. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2002.
2. The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2002.

14.53½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

NINTH REPORT

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of members from the Sittings of the House.

14.54 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 13th May, 2002 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
3. Consideration and passing of following Bills as passed by the Rajya Sabha:—

(i) The Haj Committee Bill, 2002

(ii) The Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002

(iii) The Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002

4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:—

(i) The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002

(ii) The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2002

5. Consideration and passing of the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2001

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. The Central Government's Ministry of Water Surface and Road Transport has sanctioned Kanpur-Sagar-Devas Road as National Highway No. 86. The condition of this road is very bad. It is, therefore, requested to repair this road immediately in order to save the time as well as the unnecessary expenditure incurred on the repair of the vehicles.
2. Regarding completion of the pending irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh by allotting adequate funds through Department of Water Resources so that the farmers can get the benefit of these projects.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (i) Except a few, rivers originating from Bhutan and flowing through Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar cause severe flood in a routine manner from last two decades. The rate of siltation enhances these types of devastations due to unscrupulous and indiscriminate mining of Dalomite mines and deforestation in Bhutan. To tackle this grave problem, Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission should be constituted urgently.
- (ii) Regarding discussion on the Constitution (85th Amendment) Bill (Women's Reservation Bill), for consideration and passing in Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Regarding sanctioning of funds for the construction of residential houses for Judges, Officers and the employees and granting permission for the construction of the High Court building at Bilaspur of Chhattisgarh State.
2. Regarding granting a sanction for the widening of air strip at Bilaspur (Chakurbhatha) and to reintroduce Vayudoot Service from there.

SHRI RAM MURTI SINGH VERMA (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. The river Ganga flows through many States including Uttar Pradesh. Due to pollution its water is contaminated and is not fit for drinking, resulting into a drinking water crisis in this area.
2. The water of Yamuna river in Delhi has polluted. Similarly the other rivers of our country are getting polluted day by day. Therefore, it has become very essential to save our rivers from being polluted.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

1. A heavy downfall in the ground water level has been recorded in Madhya Pradesh which has created a severe drinking water problem. Most of the cities including Bhopal are facing the acute shortage of drinking water due to which river Narmada is also in danger.
2. Government of India should issue directions to the Survey of India for the publication, circulation and selling of National and other Maps and also to make arrangements to make these available to the public at large.

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT (Dhule): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Toranmal is a hill station in Nandoorbar district of Maharashtra. Every year a large number of tourists from various states visit this place. Therefore, a need has arisen to develop this hill station.
2. A survey has been conducted by the Government to lay a new railway line between Manmad-Malegaon-Dhule-Sirpur-Mahu-Indore but no construction work has been started till now. Lakhs of people will be benefitted by it and it will also help in the development of this area. It is, therefore, requested to construct this railway line immediately.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (i) The coconut farmers are facing a deep crises. The procurement agencies have opposed procuring copra from the market. Hence, the farmers are not getting the minimum support price. I request the Central Government to take remedial measures.
- (ii) It has been reported in the Press that widespread forest encroachments are taking place in Kerala. This has resulted in the violation of Forest Conservation Act and is also violating the law relating to wild life and protection of animals.

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Requirement to make proper utilization of Rs. 320 crore released to the Government of Bihar by Finance Commission for the effective operation of Fast Track Courts and to remove ban on the expenditure of the allocated amount by judges of the concerned court.
2. Requirement to give right to the judges of fast Track Court to settle the civil appeals revisions and criminal appeals and to impose ban on the appointment of aged retired judges and staff so that the objectives of fast track courts could be achieved.

15.01 hrs.

DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VALIDATION OF ELECTRICITY TAX) ACT AND OTHER LAWS (REPEAL) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): On behalf of my senior colleague, Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act, 1966, the Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act, 1966, the Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Act, 1989 and certain other enactments which are in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act, 1966, the Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act, 1966, the Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Act, 1989 and certain other enactments which are in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.02 hrs.

LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Legal Services Authority Act was legislated by this hon. House in 1987. One of the principal purposes of this Act was to provide free legal aid to the poor people. The second object of this Act was to create an institutional mechanism of *Lok Adalat* and National Legal Services Authorities across the country.

The experiment of the last 13 years shows that in both areas, the implementation of this Bill has made a considerable headway in terms of legal assistance given in various forms. About 40 per cent litigants have benefited from that.

There is a National Legal Services Authority, which was created at the Central level, and whose patron is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Committee is headed by a Judge of the Supreme Court. Then, there is a State Legal Services Authority, which is headed by the Chief Justice of the High Court. Then, there is a District-level Legal Services Authority. Now, these Authorities have been organising *Lok Adalats* in order to

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 10.5.2002.

*moved with the recommendation of the President.

reduce the arrears and encourage out of court settlements, and the success of these *Lok Adalats* is evident from the fact that almost one crore thirty-six lakh cases have been settled in the last 12 years by the *Lok Adalat* process itself. This has helped us in considerably bringing down the arrears in regard to these cases.

There are several merits of this *Lok Adalat* System, which we have seen from our experience of the last 12 years or so. There are also some areas where this experiment needs to be strengthened. For instance, one area is that *Lok Adalats* are held only periodically either at the level of a State or a District and then they are held after some time. It has been suggested by those who have been working in this field that in some areas you need these *Lok Adalats* to work on a permanent basis.

The second drawback which has been seen is that *Lok Adalats* under the original Act bring about resolution of disputes only by conciliation, and when conciliation fails, the experiment does not succeed. The other drawback which has been seen is, when it comes to dealing with various public utilities and Government Departments—normally, various financial concessions are to be made in favour of a citizen, let us say, defective telephone bill or electricity bill—officers are not prepared to take the responsibility on their own shoulder and make concessions, even though concessions would be due.

Therefore, after a considerable discussion with various sections, the Act is now sought to be strengthened further by adding a chapter VI-A and providing that in all public utilities a permanent *Lok Adalat* mechanism should be in operation. Public utilities are defined under this Act to include various forms of transport, postal and telephone services, electricity companies, municipalities, public conservancy and sanitation, hospitals and insurance companies.

Sir, now we have seen a large number of cases in our courts relating to disputes with these public utilities because every citizen has to deal with them. The proposal is that in each public utility or in smaller places, or for a several cluster of public utilities, a three-Member *Lok Adalat* headed by a retired or a sitting Judicial Officer and two other Members, who are experts in public utilities, be constituted and facilities be given to those categories of persons who instead of going to courts want to avail of this fast track route. They can take their grievances and disputes to them and they would try to bring about, after hearing both the sides, a conciliation and if a conciliation is not possible, then the independent *Lok Adalat* would also make an Award and that Award would

be enforceable as a decree of the court itself. So, the power to adjudicate the powers to the *Lok Adalat* itself is given. The advantages of this would be that citizens, instead of spending years, for settlement of small disputes, in courts can use this alternative forum. The merits of an alternative dispute redressal system has been realised by us even in the conciliatory *Lok Adalats* that we have had. This would be a cheaper remedy. It would be a very low cost remedy that would be available and it would also be a quicker remedy. The litigants would not have to wait in queues in the courts for a very long period of time. Therefore, it would be a litigant and citizen-friendly measure and would also help us to bring down the arrears of cases as far as the courts are concerned.

Sir, having said that I would commend this to this House to consider this amendment to the 1987 Act and also approve the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to this Bill states and as the hon. Minister also, while making his opening remarks, has stated that the Legal Services Authority Act of 1987 was enacted to constitute a legal service for providing free and competent service to the weaker sections of the society to organise *Lok Adalats* for expeditious disposal of smaller matters without the authority being bogged down by the rigid procedural road blocks. Gaining from the experience of the working of the *Lok Adalats*, it is a major step that we are taking today to include in that act a chapter dealing with setting up of permanent *Lok Adalats*.

Sir, I would agree with the hon. Minister that this would enable quicker disposal of matters pertaining to disputes relating to public utility services that have been enumerated here in this Bill. What is particularly welcome about this Bill is, I would say, the willingness on the part of the Government not to really work as an impediment in the path of the ordinary people seeking justice and instead of rather encourage early disposal of such matter. It is because in most of the public utility services mentioned in this Bill, it is generally an official authority, a Governmental authority that, in fact, is the service provider. It has been our experience to the chagrin of each one of us, this has been the approach of the officers concerned in all the authorities providing these services—that whenever a dispute arises, in case of very genuine

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

ones also, between a poor consumer and the mighty edifice of the authority, the poor man has to run from pillar to post for getting his matter settled. On quite a few occasions he is forced to pay the amount of inflated bill before he could really take up his matter. I think that now it would be a matter of the past. One would certainly welcome it.

Much of what we all would have wanted to say on this Bill has been said by the hon. Minister. I would not really like to take much of the time of the august House in referring to the idealism that ought to prevail today in dispute settlement procedure, particularly at a time when the Government is the biggest litigant in the country. The Government not only spends a lot of its own scarce resources in taking a matter of very petty nature right up to the Supreme Court because no officer at a time would be willing to take the risk and say such and such matter be stopped here. Or at times he would like to, in his own words, teach a lesson to the person who chooses to question his judgement. The net result was that such matters took years and years together for arriving at a final decision thereon. Now that the permanent Lok Adalats are being put in place, I am sure all those delays would be cut down and without really being bothered about, or having had to comply with all the detailed procedures which in fact contribute significantly to the delay in the decision of the cases, one would expect a quick result.

I would only like to refer to some matters. I have not submitted any amendment thereto but I would like to bring those matters to the notice of the hon. Minister. They are not really important but I think those are the questions one could think of when one goes through the Bill. One is the very title of Chapter 6-A which is currently being introduced. It says, 'pre-litigation conciliation'. I think it should have just been 'Permanent Lok Adalats'. Pre-litigation conciliation postulates that after the first stage there has to be a second stage and then the final stage whereas, as the hon. Minister himself said, this is all compacted and put into one. That is, firstly the permanent Lok Adalat tries to bring about an amicable settlement between the parties, failing which it decides the matter. I welcome that step. That is the end of the matter. The title should have been changed.

I do not find a mistake in any Bill which is drafted by Shri Arun Jaitley, but I do not know whether he has really drafted this or not. For instance, this new Section 22-B, which is now sought to be incorporated in the law, and sub-clause (ii) thereof is all repetitive. It says:

"Every permanent Lok Adalat established for an area notified under sub-section (1) shall consist of a judge,

etc., two other persons having adequate experience in public utility service to be nominated by the Central Government or, as the case may be, the State Government on the recommendation of the Central Authority (that is NALSA) or, as the case may be, the State authority and finally appointed by such authority."

This could have been made very simple. That is another effort which one should make. We should not try to complicate the phraseology of the law but to make it indeed very simple. We can say, 'There are two persons to be nominated on the recommendation of the relevant authority'. That is all. That could have been stated here.

It is good that the jurisdiction of the permanent Lok Adalats is confined to matters which are not compoundable under law and the jurisdictional value of which at the moment does not exceed Rs. 10 lakh. This is fine. But, Sir, there is one doubt which comes to my mind. This Section 22-C(1) opens with the word 'any party to dispute before the dispute is brought before any court may make an application to the permanent Lok Adalat for the settlement of the dispute'. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what would be the position regarding the litigation in such cases. Suppose a matter finally falls and the Permanent Lok Adalat is not able to really decide, would the person lose on the limitation clause in case the limitation has run out in the meanwhile?

Or will this be not subject to the law of limitation notwithstanding the limitation on the subject?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, there are three more speakers to participate in the debate on this Bill. We have to pass it by 3.30 p.m. also. Please conclude.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I think that I was not really being dilatory on anything. I was not repeating even a single word anywhere. But if you say, I will sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are still three more speakers. If we have pass this Bill today by 3.30 p.m., speakers will have to be very brief.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, we would certainly want to pass this Bill but there are just one or two suggestions only which I would be wanting to make on this matter. I think, this is what we are really held guilty of outside. When certain matters come up before the courts, they say that we did not take any time in passing the Bill.

Sir, I think, we should not be really in any hurry. Certainly, we have to pass the Bill but at least, some time should be given to say a few words on the matter.

If you permit me, I would only very briefly like to refer to some other provisions to seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to finish your speech as quickly as possible.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Yes, Sir.

There is a new section 22-C, sub-section (4) which says:

"When additional statement is made, it shall conduct conciliation proceedings between the two parties to the application in such manner as it thinks appropriate taking into account the circumstances of the dispute."

It is fine. But I would like to know that: is it something going to be entirely different from the Arbitration Act? It is because there are cases where the service providers have a clause in their agreement which the members of the public have to sign without even having to read it. There are clauses of arbitration. Now, will it be exclusive of that? Or will in such cases, the Arbitration Act apply?

Sir, I would personally want that in all these matters in should be simply the provisions of this law that should apply and nothing else should apply because this is the simplest form, which I must accept.

But I could not understand one thing. While constituting the permanent Lok Adalat, why does he want to confine the jurisdiction of such a Lok Adalat to a particular service only? Why should the Lok Adalat not, *ipso facto*, cover all these public utility services? He has provided here that Lok Adalat may be set up for one or two or many services as may be notified in the services. Why should it just not have been that the permanent Lok Adalat set up would deal with all the matters relating to public utility services?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I see the anxiety on your face. I did not want to take some time on this. But I would only end up by making two small observations.

One is that it is said in sub-section (8) of section 22, which I quote:

"Where the parties fail to reach at an agreement under sub-section (7), the Permanent Lok Adalat shall, if the dispute does not relate to any offence, decide the dispute."

Now, what about the cases involving road accidents? There is one part of it, which says that it becomes a criminal offence also. What would happen to those cases? Well, I would only want the hon. Minister to clarify this point. I would certainly want that all motor accident cases should be covered by this provision. He should rather give us the undertaking that the Government agencies will not go and appeal in these matters against the decision of the Lok Adalat.

Finally, Sir, I go to Section 22-E. I think that it is not really a fine piece of drafting. The word 'decree' has been used at a number of places. They have said that every award shall be 'deemed to be a decree', then 'as if it were a decree for execution'. Then somewhere, in between, sandwiched between the two, you find that 'the award shall be by a majority'. That should have been number one. Subsequently, other provisions should have followed.

Sir, I really do not have to say much on that. But I think, it could have been happily worded. All said and done, I support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the first objection from my side in the Bill introduced by Hon'ble Minister is about its definition. Definition means that any lay man could understand it by reading or hearing it. It has been said in its definition that temporary Lok Adalat means any temporary Lok Adalat established under sub section (i) of section 22 (B) of Temporary Lok Adalat. Can anybody understand as to what Lok Adalat is? Naxalites also run Lok Adalat, make big decisions and implement it themselves and hang the people. Definition should be in such a way which could be understood by a common man. They have mentioned 22(B) which creates more confusion than clarification about Lok Adalat. So there must be a clear cut and simple definition so that any common man could read and understand about Lok Adalat. Section 22(B) creates only confusion. What is the definition of man? Let any one say whatever looks like a man, is its definition then can it be termed a definition? So definition is the basic thing and it must be clear and simple. What is difference between Lok Adalat and permanent Lok Adalat must be made clear which has not been defined by you. A Law having middle in its definition itself can not be beneficial to the people in the long run. But Hon'ble Minister has claimed that 1 crore 36 lakh cases have been settled in 13 years. "Justice delayed, Justice denied." people want the Lok Adalats should solve their cases at the earliest.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

We have an old tradition of Panchayat where five spiritual, good men used to sit together and took big decisions. Following the same tradition he has taken the decision to include two men alongwith judge and added it in the new law. They have been empowered to give majority decision if the case is not settled by Lok Adalat. It seems that those cases will also be solved which were delayed by courts. This appears to be good and they have been empowered to do so. He has told in the beginning that poor and hapless will get justice. I say that no one cares for hapless and poor people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was a case of a poor man in the Supreme Court. The poor man requested to argue his case himself as he had no money to pay to a Lawyer. Judge told him to discuss in English as he himself does not comprehend Hindi. The poor man asked for time, but the court dismissed the case. 34 men got land in that case. They produced imposters in the court and got the judgement in their favour. The case came for hearing in the Supreme Court but once the poor man can not afford lawyer, how can he get justice. Poor men are not getting justice even today. There may be public courts, Lok Adalats but poor and hapless are not getting justice. Government claims that poor, hapless and landless have got the land, formalities are completed. Allahabad court case came to us, we contacted lawyers. Lawyers told that there is no court above Supreme Court and when Supreme Court has dismissed the case, there will be no review or hearing anywhere else and no lawyer can do anything. So like this we are hearing that Lok Adalats will be converted into permanent Lok Adalats but poor men are not getting justice anywhere. We have an old system of judgement. There is a philosophy of Nyay (justice) amongst all philosophies. The old justice (Nyay) system existed since the time of saints like Gautam, Kapil but there too people especially poor people did not get justice thereon.

Hon'ble Minister has claimed to make it more useful through amendments and to make it more pro-poor and less time consuming. I wish him success but have doubts. Poor men have many problems and no one hears them especially from Government side. They get fed up with petition and finally go to court. It is costly and time consuming.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he should allow the Bill to be passed...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Please do not say it like this. He is not coming in the way of the Bill...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: After his speech, we will pass the Bill. My name is also there but I will not speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU: You may tell him to cut short this speech...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Do you want this Bill to be passed without discussion? Today you have the majority and can get it done but this is a wrong tradition. Will your orders prevail? We are in minority. We will speak while in opposition. You want to abolish our right to speak. Your behaviour and way is not correct. How will you deliver justice to the poor? Poor men have no right to speak. This has to be made pro-poor and useful to the public because poor want justice. Those who are strong, get their job done by hook or crook but poor run from post to pillar. This has to be made practical. We should build such Adalats when poor could get justice without any expenditure. I conclude with this suggestion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, we are also a party. We have to speak on this Bill...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: In that case, we will continue with it next week. Still one minute is left for Private Members' Business, I call upon Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat to speak.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I strongly support. The Legal Services Authorities Amendment Bill, 2002 introduced by the Minister of Law. In fact, it is a new changed form of easy and alternative solution for providing justice to poor and weaker sections of the society. People have intention for outside court settlement. It has been said that

[English]

'Justice delayed is justice denied'.

[Translation]

Delay in justice means denial of Justice, But it is also said that

[English]

'Justice delayed is Justice buried'.

[Translation]

If there is delay in providing Justice it means the efforts are being made to bury the Justice. As I think there are lakhs of cases in the Courts and need was felt to set up Lok Adalats to dispose off them. In 1987, Legal Services Authorities Bill was passed.

15.29 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

As the Hon'ble Minister has told that 40 Lakh persons were benefitted during the 10 years and one crore thirty six lakhs of cases were settled. It proves as to how much these Lok Adalats are useful. Lok Adalats are held in cities and towns. It would be better if 'Nyaya Panchayats' are made stronger along with 'Gram Panchayats' in rural areas. It will facilitate easy disposal of cases of villagers on the basis of mutual understanding.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Legal Services Authorities at District level appoint advocates for poor. Since these lawyers are paid a meagre amount, they do not pay their attention towards them. When lawyers are called either they are absent or they do not present themselves. Consequently the very objectives of providing justice to poor by setting up these courts are not met. I request the hon'ble Minister that it would be better to increase the fee of lawyers who attend the courts since Legal Services Authorities working in State and district level, are doing very good job.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is half past three and there is one more member to speak. If House agree, time may be extended till the Bill is passed.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I think you should extend the time and allow one or two Members to speak. We could pass the Bill.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: House is agree. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnanji may now speak.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, at the outset, I may state that I support the Bill. Now, before I go into the details of the Bill, I have to say something.

Sir, Lok Adalat Bill was passed with a particular purpose. The purpose was to do justice to the weaker sections of the people. We all know that justice is very costly in India. It is the costliest, if I may say so. The poor man cannot get justice at his door step. We cannot speak of democracy until and unless the man in the street gets justice at his door-step. Now, for getting a final decision, a man from Kanyakumari will have to come to Delhi to the Supreme Court. It is very costly. The first thing that we will have to do is to decentralise the judicial powers. There is a need to see that local disputes are decided at the district level; the State-level disputes are decided at the State-level, and only national-level disputes will have to come to the Supreme Court. But, unfortunately, even the civil matters, property disputes, etc., by raising a question of law, the matter comes to the Supreme Court for a final decision. The poor man from a corner of the country find it very difficult to get justice in the Supreme Court because he cannot afford to pay. The Law Minister will tax him lakhs of rupees. How can he come over to Delhi and get justice? Unless and until, there is decentralisation of judicial powers, we cannot claim that democracy has reached the poor man; we cannot boast that justice is at the door-step. So, the ultimate aim is that the poor man gets justice at his door-stop. With this ultimate aim, this Lok Adalat Bill was passed. Where have we reached? It is a time for an overview. That is why, we make amendments.

Now, the Lok Adalats was also a statute with inherent weakness because even local disputes could not be decided by the Lok Adalat. It was more or less only an arbitrary or a conciliatory body in its functioning. So, even in petty disputes, if one party is not agreeable to a decision, there will be no end of the matter. Suppose some dispute is pending before the Munsif Court or before the Magistrate Court, the parties can take the matter to the Lok Adalat. There, they do not come to an agreement after passing some six months or more due to procedural wrangle in the Lok Adalat, like issuance of notices, services or summons; scheduling of witness, summoning of witness, etc. For completing all these processes it may take at least six months for a Lok Adalat before coming to a decision. After taking all these measures if the complainant or the defendant or the aggrieved party does not agree to the decision taken by the Lok Adalat, then the entire process will be reverted back to the court

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

from where it was taken. It was taken out from the Munsif Court, the case will be referred back to the Munsif Court. If it was taken out from the Magistrate, the case will be referred back to the Magistrate Court for further decision. There, advocates would be engaged, summons would be issued, evidence will be taken and there will be a lengthy process of hearing. The Presiding Officer himself will take a month to deliver the judgement. That will take a major portion of the life of a litigant. Not only that, the aggrieved party can go in appeal up to the Supreme Court. How can we claim that we are getting justice to the poor man?

I support this Bill for the simple reason that at least for the time being there will be an end of the matter. Even if the parties do not come to an agreement, the Lok Adalat can give him an award. But I have a doubt about the enforceability of the award. My brother will have to hear me. How is to enforce an award given by a Lok Adalat unless it is clearly stated that it is having the force of a court decree? It will have to be enforced. If it has to be enforced, it must have the power of a court decree and it must be specifically stated that no appeal or revision will lie against the award of the Lok Adalat. I think there is such a provision in the statute. It is good.

Another point is whether it is permissible for legal people or advocates to appear when it is referred back? In the Lok Adalat the services of an advocate is not very much required. Without an advocate we can discuss matters in a Lok Adalat, one can have conciliation proceedings, mutual discussions and bring evidence even on a chit. All these measures are permissible there. But, when it becomes a matter of legal procedure, when the Lok Adalat is following the Civil Procedure Court of the Criminal Procedure Court, as the case may be, then the legal evidence will have to be taken. Summons will have to be issued to the witnesses. Warrants will have to be raised. All these measures will have to be taken when it is referred back to the court because there matters are decided under the provisions of the Civil Procedure or Criminal Procedure, as the case may be, and not as an arbitrator. That will definitely take some time.

I fear that there will have to be a specific provision that if the matter is taken back to the court, all these procedures need not be followed. But that is not the present procedure. If it is not taken back to the court and the issue is taken by the permanent Lok Adalat itself, if I may put it, it must be decided within a specific time. You may put six months. But, it must be decided within six months at the most. But it is no impediment for deciding earlier. So, it must be decided because time

factor is the primary concern in all these matters. Unless it is promptly administered, there is no end of the matter.

Now there is another difficulty which is about duplicity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: These matters are very important. If you put it, then I will just sit down...*(Interruptions)*

There is another matter. The hon. Minister is a very efficient person and a lawyer. He is our Law Minister. I am also very happy to be here. Now I put it like this. There are some public utility services mentioned in the Amendment Bill like transport, air service and sanitation. Suppose there is a court, the consumer protection court. It can decide all these matters. Now, in this Amendment Bill, public utility service means any transport service for carrying passengers or goods by air, road or water. Postal, telegraphic and telephone service, supply of power and water come within the purview of the consumer court. They are deciding all these matters...*(Interruptions)* There are consumer protection courts throughout the country. The very same matter is referred to that court also, namely, the consumer protection court. The matter is decided there. Suppose it is referred to *Lok Adalat*, then there will be duplicity. All these matters like transport and sanitation come before the tribunal appointed under the provisions of the consumer court. You ask the *Lok Adalats* to deal with these matters. So, there must be clear division of powers. Therefore, I have my own doubts regarding these matters...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If you say, I will just sit down. Please understand that these are legal matters. If the Minister is in a hurry, let him pass it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Since he is a senior advocate, he has to give some valuable suggestions to the hon. Minister. So, let him continue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am not in a hurry. Please continue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am speaking from my own personal experience. If you do not allow me, then I will sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I advise you to conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am coming from a village where these courts are functioning. Everyone of us is like that. But I am connected with the functioning of family courts. Industrial tribunals are functioning in our State with a specific purpose. Now, *lok adalat* is one among them. It is more or less a conciliatory court functioning till now where no decisions are taken. Now, by the amendment, some decision will come forth and when that decision is taken into consideration, there are certain matters which we will have to take into account.

One aspect which they have already dealt with is the functioning of the consumer protection tribunals. Those are functioning in our country where all these matters are decided. Decisions are given and they are implemented also under the provisions of the Consumer Act.

Now, what is the meaning of *lok adalat*? If we are interested in giving justice to the poor man, we must have some definite idea in all these matters. That is why, at the outset, I have told you that there must be clear decentralisation of judicial powers.

Until and unless that is done, it would not be beneficial. It is because the powers are all centered in the Supreme Court as well as in the High Court. The only solace or the only solution or the only blessing that we now have is the Public Interest Litigation. Justice Krishna Iyer has evolved a new dictum in our country, which is not available everywhere, that if a persons sends even a post card or a letter addressed to the Chief Justice, that would be treated as a writ petition. The person who is sending that letter need not be an aggrieved party. Any person who is interested in any public matter can do that. This is the only solution that we have now. Thanks to new dictum evolved by the Supreme Court. But that is also being misused. That is another matter. I am not going into the details of that.

If you are very particular, I will stop. It is because you are like me. I will have to obey you. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I take your advice. I will deal with all these matters when I speak on the Civil Procedure Code. On that day, I will deal with all these matters. I support the Bill. This is a very good provision. It has to be developed. The poor man must be helped to the extent possible.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am grateful to the hon. Members who have raised some very valie issues, even

while supporting this Bill. Let me just clarify as to the system under which these permanent *Lok Adalats* in public utilities are proposed. Shri Bansal made a very detailed analysis of this Bill. One remedy which is available to the citizen is to go to a Civil Court. He has the remedy to go to a Constitutional Court under article 226. Therefore, those set of citizens who want to go to courts, engage lawyers, spend years, file appeals and go right up to the Supreme Court, that remedy is open to them. That remedy is in no way taken away by this law.

Then, there are certain specialised remedies which are created under the law which are available to citizens. If you feel that, as a customer, your rights are better protected under the Consumer Protection Act, then you are welcome to go under the Consumer Protection Act, file an appeal in the State Consumer Forum or in the National Consumer Forum and pursue your remedies in those forums. You can do that if you think that they are better. This particular Bill is the part of the National Legal Services Authority Act. Under the NALSA Act, there is a Chapter, Chapter VI, which deals with *Lok Adalats*. That is a pre-existing Chapter. Under the Chapter, a citizen whose case is already pending in the court, either on the direction of the court, where both the parties agree or one party moves the court, then the court makes a reference to the *Lok Adalats*. In regard to those cases which are sent by the courts to the *Lok Adalats*. *Lok Adalats* try and bring about a conciliation. If conciliation takes place, it is well and good. If conciliation does not take place, they go back to the courts and pursue their remedies. Even today that remedy is open to citizen. If he does not want to come under this Chapter, then he can go before the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal. Those are the forums which are available to him. In addition to that, there is a forum under Chapter VI, which is a conciliatory *Lok Adalat*. There an effort will be made for settlement. If the effort does not succeed, it does not succeed. This Chapter is in addition to and not in substitution of the existing remedies. So, as per Shri Bansal's example, if there is a clause in a bill, where it is written that the matters will be decided by arbitration, then those arbitration procedures under 1996 Arbitration Act will continue to apply. That is an independent remedy available. This is Chapter which will protect those categories of citizens who have to deal with Departments of the Government, Municipalities, Housing Boards, Insurance Companies, Telephone Companies where lakhs and lakhs of disputes come up every year. For that, one may not want to spend time, money, and years altogether. For a small electricity bill or for a water dispute, he does not want to go to a Civil Court and avail of those remedies. For example, there are water disputes and telephone disputes. A litigant does not want to go to a

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

civil court and avail of those remedies. He is entitled to it as you are. Can he take his lawyer? We have not forbidden taking lawyer. He can take his lawyer there. But he need not take him if he does not want to. He can simply move an application. Once he goes to this particular forum, he can get redressal.

The object is obvious. Therefore, in all these cases, we have kept, for the present, the upper limit of Rs. 10 lakh. In some cases, we have said that the State Government or the Central Government may extend that limit. The reason why we have said is this. For example, there is a problem relating to a middle income group apartment. In a place like Delhi or Mumbai, that costs more than Rs. 10 lakh. In such cases, we have to make an exemption beyond Rs. 10 lakh. These kinds of disputes arise. If he chooses not to go to a court, not to go to a consumer forum or any tribunal, if he does not even want to go to a conciliatory *Lok Adalat* and if he wants this dispute to be settled once and for all, then he goes to this particular forum. It will be an independent forum. It will be available throughout the day, in all working days of the week, throughout the year. Instead of going to the normal court, he goes and settles his dispute here. If the settlement takes place, it is well and good. Otherwise, this body, after hearing both the parties, following the principles of natural justice, will decide this dispute. We have said that once it is decided, it becomes final. Thereupon, the principles of constructive *res judicata* will be applicable. That is, you have your dispute settled in these forums.

As the hon. Member, who is in the Chair now, has mentioned, this really should bring expeditious, cheaper and quicker remedy to a poor citizen. That is the object. It is an optional route. It is not a compulsory route. So, you are providing to a litigant cost free optional route which is not time-consuming, where he can go and have his disputes settled. This is in addition to the optional route of the conciliatory *Lok Adalat*. This is in addition to civil court remedies, in addition to all remedies. If he does not choose to go to this forum, he can go to any of these forums and avail of the remedies. But for those who want to avail of these remedies, it is one extra optional forum which has been made available. I have not the least doubt that there will be a large number of litigants, particularly in respect of small issues where they have to go to courts and spend years. They have to undergo embarrassment. It is only those who will choose this particular route as far as the route is concerned.

A few comments have been made about the manner of drafting and certain other suggestions were made. One

issue raised by Shri Bansal was why other services have not been added to it. This is a new experiment which we are trying. We have said here that the following public utilities are automatically covered. For the other ones, we have said that the Central Government and the State Governments, after they see that this experiment functions, can keep adding further services if the need for the same arises. He also asked us whether criminal cases arising out of road accidents would be covered under this. They would obviously not be covered because those are matters of the jurisdiction of a criminal court, which is a sovereign jurisdiction, which cannot be taken away and given to a *Lok Adalat* as such.

With regard to the procedure, the *Lok Adalat* would follow their own procedure. Obviously, when they going to decide the disputes in accordance with the normal principles of administrative and judicial principles, they will follow the rules of natural justice.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: When I was talking of the utility services, what I said was this. Kindly see clause 22B, particularly the last line.

"Notwithstanding anything contained in section 19, the Central Authority or, as the case may be, every State Authority shall, by notification, establish Permanent *Lok Adalats* at such places and for exercising such jurisdiction in respect of one or more public utility services and for such areas as may be specified in the notification."

The areas are understandable. When you are going to set up the Authorities, when you are going to set up permanent *Lok Adalats*, you would say well that this is only for power or electricity matters and for nothing else. In that context, I have made a suggestion. any permanent *Lok adalat*, which is set up under this Act, should cover all these services which you have enumerated.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am grateful to the hon. Member for having raised a very valid issue. It would be different. We have given flexibility under clause 22B. For instance, take a place like Delhi or Kolkata or Mumbai. I may inform the hon. Member that in Delhi, pursuant to a direction of High Court, one thing has been done. The Delhi Municipal Corporation is such a large body that there is one permanent *Lok Adalat* which is functioning. The Delhi Vidyut Board is such a large body that there is already one *Lok Adalat* which is functioning. In a place like Delhi, *Lok Adalat* itself is having thousands of cases. Then the Municipality may probably require a *Lok Adalat* in respect of some of these bodies. DDA may require a large body. But if you go to a small town, you may find that the number of cases are not so many.

Then, for every utility, you do not need the extra expenditure of having one separate *Lok Adalat*. For a cluster of five or six such utilities, you can have a *Lok Adalat*. Therefore, in 22 (b), we have said that State authorities will notify either for a public utility separately or a number of them taken together. We have given this administrative leverage depending on the quantum of work. That is the reason why we put that.

I am very grateful to you for having taken away some time of the Private Members' Business. This is something which every Member would support, particularly, since it is citizen and litigant-friendly.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I want clarification on two things. Firstly, what happens if the respondent refuses to comply and submit before the authorities, and second, whether the order is appealable.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I may clarify both the disputes. As Shri Bansal himself had given answer to the first question, in most public utilities, it is the citizen who is at the receiving end and the public utility which is really the respondent. Therefore, party to the dispute, and any party to the dispute would ordinarily be the citizen against the public utility brings the dispute before the authority. So, the municipality of the telephone company cannot say: "We refuse to submit." The language is, any party can bring a dispute, the respondent then has to comply and that is the reason why we have not brought here disputes between the citizen and citizen. We have only brought disputes between citizen and public utilities because we do not want the respondent citizen to be compulsorily brought in, but we do not bind by law telling a public utility if a citizen avails of a expeditious forum, at least you and me should not seem to say no.

Secondly, we have said that once you choose the *Lok Adalat* route and if they give an award, then the award is final and binding. The only remedy which is seriously considered is, should we cluster the courts again and say after losing here start going to courts? So, instead of cutting the litigation, we are in fact doubling it. Probably the only remedy which would be available would be a constitutional remedy under Rule 226.

With these words, I commend to the House that the Bill be adopted by the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House would now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.59 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

**Re: Policy for All Round Development of
Backward People-Contd.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up further discussion on the Resolution regarding policy for all round development of backward people moved by Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

Shri Punnu Lal Mahale.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this House urges upon the government to formulate a comprehensive policy for all round development of economically, socially and educationally backward people of the country, particularly the people of Chhattisgarh State and implement the same within a period of five years.

[Shri Punnu Lal Mohale]

There are reasons for presenting this Bill, and I would like to place some statistics in this regard. I would like to tell about the educational institutions. There are 29 integrated Tribal development projects in Chhattisgarh. I would like to tell the statistics of whole of the country. Population of India is 102 crore whereas the population of Chhattisgarh is 2.07 crore. The population growth rate of Chhattisgarh is 18.06 percent while population growth rate of the country is 21.34 percent. Sex ratio in Chhattisgarh is 990 women at per thousand men against national ratio of 993 women per thousand men. The Literacy rate in Chhattisgarh is 65.18 percent whereas all India literacy rate is 65.38 percent. Percentage of working population in Chhattisgarh is 50.7 percent while its all India percentage is 37.6 percent.

16.00 hrs.

Percentage of urbanisation in Chhattisgarh is 19 percent against all India percent of 27.8. In Chhattisgarh, 12.3 percent people belong to Scheduled caste whereas 15 percent people of the country are from this category. The percentage of scheduled tribe population in Chhattisgarh is 32.46 against all India percentage of 8.

I would like to tell something about Chhattisgarh. There are 3 divisions, 16 districts, 97. Tehsils, 20,308 Villages, 18,070 electrified villages, 1,0263 hand pumps, 701 water supply schemes, 44 percent forest area. 5409 Metric ton of agricultural production, 22 percent irrigated area and length of road is 33.182 K.M. in Chhattisgarh. My submission is that even after 55 years of independence of the country, the economic, social and educational condition of the people is weak. I would like to produce statistics of Ministry of Social Justice.

In addition to welfare programmes for the scheduled castes, religious and linguistic minorities and educationally backward classes, old people, physically handicapped people, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has taken social security and juvenile social adjustment related programmes in land. Allocation of 6,194 crore rupees is available under the ninth five year plan. The total outlay for the Ministry during the year 2001-2002 is 1,332 crore rupees which does not include animal welfare which is under plan scheme. There is a provision of special central assistance for the special constituent plan for the welfare of the scheduled castes. An amount of 407 crore rupees had been released under this scheme during the year 2001-2002 out of which 205 crore rupees have been utilised till November, 2001. The State Governments prepare Project Report through income generating activities for providing assistance to the families living below poverty line and for the improvement in the

structural development in scheduled castes dominated areas. A face lift has been given to the national scheme for the amelioration and rehabilitation of scavengers so that the poorest of scavengers having minimum employment can organise themselves for getting alternative jobs. Sanitary marts have been set up for organising scavengers in groups, co-operatives in towns having population of more than one lakh and these marts, set up in large number for the scavengers will also become the production centre also. These Marts will meet the sanitary requirements of the common man and will be operated on commercial basis.

I would like to give an example. Till November, 2001 an amount of rupees 6 crore was disbursed to 450000 beneficiaries under Central Government Sponsored pre-matric scholarship. Scheme for children of families engaged in the scavenging profession. Under this scheme, 46 crore rupees were disbursed to 1,55,1000 scheduled castes students. Out of 79 crore rupees allocated for the year 2001-2002 for the schemes related to backward classes, 29 crore rupees were released. In the year 2001-2002, out of 40 crore rupees allocation, an amount of 12 crore rupees was released for the welfare schemes for the minorities. Out of 39.10 crore rupees allocated for the year, 16 crore rupees were released for the construction of hostels for boys and girls belonging to scheduled castes. Funds were also released for Books Bank for scheduled castes students, increasing their qualifications and schemes related to their coaching and other related activities. In the year 2001-2002, enhanced central pool of 926 crore rupees was released against 801 crore rupees provided for the welfare of the scheduled castes, other backward classes and minorities for the year 2000-2001. I would like to say that in the present situation their development, whether social, economic or educational is not taking place. I would like to give example of some schemes being run by the Government of India. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee introduced the Pradhan Mantri Sarak Yojana. The scheme for construction of coal tar roads in the entire country by 2007 is included. There is a scheme to provide houses to the poor in the whole country within 5 years by making a Housing scheme. There is a scheme to provide rice at the rate of rupees 3 per kg and wheat at the rate of rupees 2 per kg to the 7 crore people living below poverty line. Why the Government of India does not introduce more such schemes? The Government of India has a scheme to ameliorate the condition of the people who are weakest socially and are lagging behind. There is a need for making such schemes for their welfare.

Many people who are educated have their families but no shelter. They live in slums near sewage drains

and their culture, their condition, their plight is not hidden from anyone. Such things can be found in the constituency of every member of parliament. These people have to work so hard to make their both ends meet. They are unable to purchase medicines and visit to a doctor. Many a time untimely death takes place in their families. Owing to large family, they have to live their life by eating rice only. To purchase vegetable is a dream for them. And if they get it somehow, they are unable to get complete nutritious diet. In such a situation, there is need of uplifting of such people by the Government. You must have seen that instead of making jhuggis every other day, some people live near railway track or in the parks nearby and even on the corner of the streets. They are handicapped, blind persons. Such people suffer from leprosy or are handicapped and it is our first duty to serve them. It is said that food given to a hungry person is like food offered to God. But the Government has not paid attention to them till now. Poverty is on the rise. Even in the field of education, literacy campaigns are being organised. The Government claims to have made 52 to 57% of people literate. Can teaching people upto first or second class lead to their development. What they can achieve even if they study upto fifth class.

If they are educated upto class Xth level, they do not get any job according to their qualification, generally they are not able to fulfil the rules and regulations of various employment schemes and they are fortunate enough if they get Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 as wages. Thus, instead of benefiting them, these schemes are proving disastrous for them. In this situation, I request the Government of India to pay attention to these problems. The criteria for an unemployed educated person must be lowered to include even those persons who have studied upto class VIIIth only. There is a need to launch a time-bound programme in this regard. The Government of India should implement a guarantee scheme for five years to strengthen their economic growth.

Among the newly created states of Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand, I would like to give an example of Chhattisgarh, as all these states have been created. Keeping in mind their poverty and circumstances. The people of Chhattisgarh are becoming disillusioned even from this new State. The Government of India should care for the development of Chhattisgarh and the entire country. How can we achieve the goal of their economic upliftment if untouchability, discrimination and tension of various kinds exist and mutual coordination is lacking. As the villages and even towns lack employment opportunities, the people indulge in drinking to ease their tensions and end their lives. They get trapped in gambling also and unnecessarily enter into discords. Due to

Unemployment either they become terrorists or cut off from the society.

They can not do proper farming as they possess little land to cultivate and it often leads to their involvement in brawls which hinders their development. There are no irrigation, electricity and loan facilities available to them. They find themselves in a dark alley. Their land holding decreases in course of time as they are compelled to sale part of their land to survive. They migrate to other places in order to earn their bread. In these circumstances, it is our first duty to take some welfare measures for the poor educated unemployed persons and semi-literate persons so that there is some improvement in their social condition. Why the Government of India do not implement a scheme for them in the same zeal with which it is implementing other schemes. I would like to say that keeping in mind the state of poverty, the Government needs adequate fund to improve the situation. The data produced by me show the way in which the five year plans have been implemented. The tenth five year plan is in progress. But the condition of the poor has not improved upto the desired level. Neither their educational condition nor their economic condition has improved upto the required level. Only the persons with political patronage, the intellectuals and the manipulators could improve their lot. The condition of the rest of the people have worsened. Inequality and hunger is prevailing. There is a need to strengthen their educational and economic condition. In this session itself, the Government of India has enacted a legislation to provide free and compulsory education to all the children upto the age of 14 years, so they should implement a policy to provide a loan of Rs. one lac to three lac for self employment to matriculates or persons having studied upto 8th class. The provision of loan is still there but the rules are such that the persons in need of a loan for self-employment, can not get it easily. He goes from pillar to post for getting a loan and spends a lot of money in giving bribes to the officials. Some part of his money is spent in buying essential items. I would like to cite an example. A matriculate student from my constituency belonging to the Scheduled Castes community wanted to start a factory for manufacturing plastic shoes. A loan of rupees 85,000 was sanctioned to him. The whole amount was spent in buying machines. He approached the bank again for further loan to buy other materials. But, the bank refused to sanction any more loan. He came to Delhi to buy materials but could not do so for lack of money. He stayed in Delhi for one two months and at last I and some friends of mine arranged for his return ticket and he went back to his home town. He could not establish the industry as he could not make arrangement for other essential materials. I approached the bank but they simply

quoted the rules and refused to pay further loan. At last, they agreed to pay another rupees 15,000. In this situation, one can imagine the lot of the downtrodden. Economic condition of this category is not sound. Although the issue of my discussion is concerned with the condition of backward people. But I want to say that be it any class, higher or lower, Scheduled Caste or Scheduled tribe, they all need attention for their all round development. The amount of Rs. 85000/- granted as loan today is not sufficient. They need material, men and machines too. For adequate resources they need adequate money too. So if anybody is given any type of loan there is a need to make it mandatory. Unless the money lender is not held responsible, unless there is a provision to punish him, the development of backward caste can not take place. Whoever official or staff issues the loan whether on social basis or economic one they should make time bound programme in this regard and that should be mandatory. The government may implement such scheme for a period of five years that whoever belongs to backward class, weaker class of the society and who is in need of a job should be asked, should be surveyed that what type of jobs are suited to them well. What kind of work they would like to do. Just like a student has a choice to tick right option out of the four options given, like-wise these people should be given four or five options of jobs in order to select a job best suited for themselves. Then it should be reviewed. There should be monitoring in the districts Panchayat Raj has arrived, there should be a time bound scheme ready for these people. This should also be made mandatory. There should be a provision of loan in order to improve their educational, social, legal and economical condition. If a person is granted a loan then it should be released to him within a stipulated time because at present such is a situation that these people run from pillar to post for months together but do not get loan and their economic condition gets worsened. So the guarantee scheme should be started. In the field of education, those who have passed class X, they get loan whereas there should be a provision for a loan upto Rs. 25000/- or Rs. 50000/- for those also who are educated upto class VIII only, so that they can become self dependent. After improvement in social and economical condition there should be an arrangement for a proper place for running cultural activities too. Besides, they do not have a place to live in. Besides, there is a provision for providing electricity within seven years for the families living in small hutments and groups. Those are living in small hutments and groups generally belong to scheduled castes scheduled tribes, backward classes, minority groups. There are people who do not have enough place to live in because of large size of their families. Therefore, the guarantee scheme should be launched so that people can make

progress. Those who are living in slums can live in well maintained houses. at present there is a provision for a school in the villages having a population of 200. Such provision should also be make for area having a population of 50 and a distance 1 Km. There should be teacher and all basic facilities required for running a school smoothly. Unless facilities are made available, their economic condition can not improve. During next five year we should work in such a way that social, economical and educational improvements are visible.

I would like to make a request to the government of India to launch a scheme at economic, social and educational level for improvement within a period of five years. As our growth rate has been 12% in irrigation, 16% in other works and 44% in other fields; like-wise government of India should also target a growth rate for 50% welfare activities so that they can also make progress. They do not have water to drink, food to eat. They get rice at the rates of Rs. 2 to 3 per Kg but can they survive on rice only? We have enough food to cater to our needs for the next seven years. Instead of allowing our foodgrains to rot we should provide it to the people living below poverty line, who comprise 32% of our population. Besides, Kerosine oil and clothe can be distributed in villages by forming societies so that they can survive with their meagre income and thus can strengthen their economic condition.

Lastly, I would like to make a request to the government of India that keeping the above in view, they should launch a scheme to improve the economic, educational and social level of villages within five years. With this I conclude.

*SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Today the Resolution moved by Shri Mohale is very important. I was waiting for such resolution. We have achieved independence for 55 years. In these 55 years the population has reached the figure of 102 crore. When we used to sing *Vande Mataram* song during freedom struggle we used to utter the word *Dwisaptakoti* that is double of seven crore. It means our population during the time of freedom struggle was from 14 crore to 20 crore. Today the population is 102 crore. The means this figure of 102 crore population is scattered all over India. Before we discuss the resolution we must have a look in the background. We achieved independence after struggling hard for freedom. Before we were independent what was the situation prevailing in our country? We had the strong British rule for 200 years and unfortunately this foreign rule had crippled our system totally. The British

*English translation of the speech orgginally delivered in Bengali.

just wanted to develop one particular system that to for their own self interest. This was in the field of education. If we traverse through the pages of our history we will find that before the British rule it was the Moghul rule, preceded by the Pathan rule and before that it was the feudal system prevailing in our country. The relation in the feudal system between the ruler and ruled was that of a subject and king. The history of relationship between the ruler and the subject in our country was occasionally bad and sometimes good. Words are not sufficient to describe the way exploitation, oppression, suppression used to happen in the past. After citing an example from modern India I shall start discussion. We always proudly declare that Bengal is very progressive, there is no communal tension, no casteism, no untouchability, no religious fanaticism in Bengal. But in that very Bengal before freedom struggle in India some incidence need to be mentioned. We the students of politics were taught that untouchability, discrimination and exploitation were widespread in our land. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was busy in social reform and Vidyasagar was also engaged in social reform through the spread of education. We have seen that there was a practice among upper caste Hindus to marry the young girls at a very tender age. It was a compulsory evil custom prevailing among the upper caste Hindus during those days. When those girls happened to lose their husbands and become widows their life totally shattered. Raja Ram Mohan Roy protested against the evil practice in Hindu society. Vidyasadar raised his voice against the injustice committed against the young girls and advocated widow remarriage. Young girls after the death of their husbands used to be burnt alive on the pyre of the husband in the name of sati. Raja Ram Mohan Roy raised his voice against this evil practice too and stopped this through legislation. This was the picture on one side. There was another picture on the other side. All of us know that Dakshineswar Kali temple has a special significance among the Bengalis. Anybody with the religious bent of mind visiting the city of Calcutta will always express the desire to visit Dakshineswar. This Kali temple was built by Rani Rashmoni—a member of fisherman community. She wanted to construct the temple on the other side of Ganga that is Bali. But the upper caste Brahmin of Bali did not allow Rani Rashmoni to build the temple there because she belonged to the lower caste. So she built the temple at Dakshineswar on her own land. After the construction of the temple she was not allowed to take prasad from the front row in the queue because of her caste. She had to take the prasad from somebody else although the land where the temple was constructed belonged to her. This was the very place where Ramkrishna performed his penance, tapasya of Kali and Vivekananda became his principal disciple. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this was the social custom at that time

when Rani Rashmoni because of her low caste was treated so outrageously by the upper caste. Sir whom we call the backward, the underprivileged, the exploited, the oppressed, the Dalits, the SCs have remained the target of injustice for more than 500 years all over India. Gandhiji realised that until these oppressed and suppressed class is liberated, there is no meaning of the country being free. He considered these people as the men of God-Harijan. The word he coined for them raised protest among some people now a days. But he thought about them, remained with them planned to bring some change in their lives and published a magazine also in that name. It is true that even after 55 years of independence we have not been able to attain success as far as development is concerned. At the time of independence we got some agricultural land—the owner of the land were the zamindar, the Raja Maharaja the feudal lords. Jawaharlal Nehru realised that if the ownership rights of land, the arrangement for tilling of the land is not settled, if the rights of the poor are not re-established the first step of Gandhiji's dream would get a setback. It is true that there were many disputes, difference of opinion in the Congress party. Even then when zamindari system was abolished, rules were established to distribute land among the poor. Then it was found that through the legal loopholes, secretly the land was transferred in one's own name or in some fictitious name and that was how the poor were deprived of their rights. Who reaps harvest for us? Who catches fish for us? Who weaves clothes for us? Those whether Hindu or Muslim who give us food, cloth and provide us the essential necessity for life have remained the most backward and most suppressed. It is unfortunate that they have never got back their rights as human beings. In spite of land reform after necessary legal procedure, these people did not get back the ownership rights of land. As a result there were many repercussions in the country. Today we are condemning the Naxal movement, we are discussing how to finish the PWG. We may not share their viewpoint. We may not believe in violence. We may not trust weapons. But we have to admit the truth. When the deprived people, the deprived farmer find that they have no share in the crop they produce with so much labour, they do not get back their rights after the laborious hard work, his mortification, mental agitation goes on fomenting and after sometime explode and turns into fire. Then we send the CRPF or the BSF to check that explosion. The area from where Naxal movement originated in West Bengal is very near my district, my constituency. I have gone to the villages and after study found out that the movement would not have originated if land reform was properly implemented. We have adopted land reform only in paper. We have failed to implement it in the right direction. Even today disturbance is continuing in the surrounding

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

area of Sarika Kalam district of Andhra Pradesh. Our party was in power for many years there. There also I have found out that if proper implementation of land reform was followed, if the poor, the backward, the SC got back their rights of the land, they would not have opted for weapon, they would not have taken the path of violence.

It is unfortunate that we raised this issue once or twice in the House, conduct seminar or discussion but there ends the matter. We never try to go deep into the problem. Today this resolution is before the House and I have found an opportunity to speak on these issues.

16.27 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

At the outset, through you Sir, I would remind the hon. Minister that planning was initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru. He said that without planned economy India cannot progress. Before Jawaharlal Nehru, before independence, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was the first in Congress party to mention planning at Haripura Congress. He started working in Planning Commission after choosing Meghnad Saha as Chairman. After independence, Nehruji found out that he had inherited a country which had feudalism, he had got a country which had been totally ruined by the British and left the country after creating division among the Hindus and the Muslims, resulting in partition and refugees pouring in like tidal waves. He got a country which was attacked in Kashmir front at the very hour of independence, it was a country which within a few years of independence got first shock of attack by the Chinese in 1962. Jawaharlal Nehru inherited a country which had no industry, no irrigation system. He was at a loss to decide on the list of priorities. Should it be agriculture or industry, irrigation or education, health or power. That period during his tenure as Prime Minister, from 1948-1952, from 1952-57, was very crucial. During that period, on the one side, refugees were arriving in large number, on the other side Kashmir was attacked and tint of riots was still lingering. The foodstuff was far from adequate in the country. We had to import food from outside. Against this scenario, Nehru initiated planning. He knew that if we fail to bring infrastructure in industry, in irrigation, we would fail miserably. Today we are providing food through food corporation. Whenever the need arises, we have enough foodstuff to give to the States. But there was a time when we were not able to go to ration shop without the rice from Rangoon or wheat from Ford Foundation. Nehruji dreamt at that time that he won't be able to bring green revolution in one day.

He knew that he could not usher in green revolution just in one day in Rajasthan, Orissa or Kerala. He was aware that he had to start green revolution from a particular area. He started from Bhakra Nangal, he started green revolution from Punjab, Punjab showed the way and after Punjab whole of India became green. The green revolution was complete, the white revolution was complete. We have enough food, we have enough milk. We have enough of everything. Even then why we have so much unrest so much agitation so much sectarian conflicts? What is the reason behind this? The people of Vidarbha feel that why they are being ignored, why Puna is ok? Why Chattisgarh is shouting to get justice and feeling Bhopal to be ok? Why I am feeling that North Bengal is sidelined? Why Orissa is shouting today, why coastal line is suffering although Bhubanesar is prospering? Why Andhra is raising its voice? We have to go deep into the reasons behind all these shoutings and grumbling. The reason is that planning is not formulated from New Delhi alone. If New Delhi allocates some fund for the development of the SCs the backward community of certain States, that fund is decided and shared by both the Centre and the State. The Centre can raise fund because it has the capacity to do so. But when the State fails to raise fund for its share, the scheme, the total plan goes haywire. As a result inequality goes on increasing and it creates such a huge gap such a situation that demand for separate State for Jharkhand and for Chattisgarh for Vidarbha gets momentum and a prolonged agitation starts.

Now actually the fact is that the proper formulation of the economic infrastructure of the State and the Centre fails to deliver because the political party whosoever may be in power for 55 years fails to play its role and then the development scheme is shelved. This hard fact must be admitted candidly. Today the Chief Ministers of different States assemble at Vigyan Bhawan and meet the Prime Minister. They present their different programme and ask for fund. Some want money to construct a bridge for the backward in Himachal Pradesh. Some want money to work for the backward in North Bengal and some want money for developmental work for the backward in Orissa. But when the Chief Ministers go back to their respective States after settling the allocated fund for the particular scheme, they face bottleneck for raising their share of fund through revenue, the whole scheme gets spoilt. The fights starts again after a decade crying hoarse for the backwardness of one's States. This has been going on for all these years.

Therefore, the first question that comes to our mind is this—whether there is any shortcoming in the attitude of the Centre and the States regarding collecting

revenues. The States have been getting subsidy in many essential sectors. Free power supply and free supply of many things are being provided by almost all political parties in power with an eye on vote bank. As a result we are not only unwittingly helping the States to become backward we are also striking a blow to the basic structure of planning of our country dreamt by Gandhiji. As a consequence there is discrimination, inequality cropping up in various States. Today I shall cite some examples of discrimination before the House. The question of Chattisgarh has been raised. We must think about it.

Sir, after 55 years, 10th five year plan is going to commence. Can't we adapt a new direction in the 10th plan? Can't we say that all these 55 years we have been listening of the States, we have been listening to Delhi? Now it is the time to ponder about the areas still backward even after 55 years in the map of India. Let us make a list. Who is lagging behind in Madhya Pradesh? Who is lagging behind in Rajasthan, who is lagging behind in Orissa and in West Bengal? After preparing the list let us find out the reasons for their backwardness? Is it due to the fact of non-implementation of the allocated fund or non-realisation of revenue earmarked for developmental programme? Or is it due to the failure on the part of the State Government to present the developmental programme in time? So two sets of State Government to present the developmental programme in time? So two sets of list are necessary. One list would point out the failure of the State Government in their priorities to deal with the problem resulting in backwardness. The 2nd list should point out the fact that the State Government gave priority to the problem and the Centre also agreed and earmarked the allocated fund and gave the money. But the State Government failed to raise their own share. So the whole programme went haywire. The Planning Commission should prepare a report on the basis of a thorough study of these two reasons pertaining to every State. There is no reason for dispute. Whichever party may be ruling anywhere we must collect information and take a decision of giving fund. We must point out the particular area in Orissa, or in Madhya Pradesh or in West Bengal or Allahabad which requires more fund for development. If we can do it with courage with determination convincing New Delhi and get this approved by Parliament, then the 10th five year plan will get a new chapter, a new direction. This argument, this dispute of discrimination will come to an end. If we fail to do this, then I am scared, I am frightened about our future. There is a line in the Brahma Sangeet. "Remember the last day is very terrible." I am afraid with apprehension that we may face one day when we won't able to maintain our integrity. We may have tall talks. But the truth however unpalatable is that people have become disillusioned regarding development.

I shall particularly mention about one area in West Bengal. I have mentioned about it the umpteen times. Today again I shall repeat West Bengal does not mean Calcutta, West Bengal does not mean Durgapur, as Orissa does not mean Bhubaneswar or Cuttack, Rajasthan does not mean just Jaipur, Jodhpur or Bikaner. We see India through the mirror with some names of developed cities. Madhya Pradesh means Indore, Gwalior, Bhopal, Bihar means Patna, Bhagalpur, Jharkhand means Ranchi, Bengal means Durgapur, Siliguri, Calcutta. This is not proper. Because of this attitude we fail in our priorities. The States have to be seen on the basis of their districts and the districts have to be seen on the basis of their oppressed, neglected interior blocks. If we fail to look at the problems of the neglected blocks we cannot get the clear assessment. That is why we have failed in our planning exercise. Today Sundarban is in West Bengal, Bankura is in West Bengal, Purulia is in West Bengal, Birbhum is in West Bengal, and the whole of North Bengal comprises of Coochbihar, Jalpaiguri, two Dinajpurs—North and South, Malda, some part of Murshidabad and Darjeeling. All these areas have been passing through terrible times. I can't explain their pain in words, Everybody has the tendency to go to Calcutta, to go to Delhi, to go to Bangalore because of job certainty, because of money. Nobody wants to go to any other place. This is because of the fact that due to faulty economic infrastructure in our planning the people in backward areas become backward socially, economically and educationally as well. This resolution of Mohaleji too mentions about the socially economically and educationally backward.

Mr. Chairman Sir, there is a community in North Bengal known as Rajbanshi. They are SCs. The word Rajbanshi sounds well. It means descendants of the rajas. Yes their origin was from the royal family. But unfortunately today this community is in a wretched condition, you can call them the real destitute. One cannot understand the helpless condition of these people until one visits their villages. They have Singho, Roy, Burman, Choudhury, Sarkar as their surnames. They had their own agriculture land. Today an attempt is there to assault their culture. This community Shaivo, Shakto or Vaishnava cult, they embraced Vaishnava Dharma—the religion of tolerance, of non violence. This community is very much oppressed and exploited in all these districts because they have accepted the basic norm of our country. They have accepted the flow of the refugees after partition. They wanted to live peacefully with others. Today they feel discriminated. The border of the area is with Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh. You cannot go to Assam, Meghalaya or North East sans this area. But this area has become so backward after 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th five

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

year plan that I am scared of another agitation like Naxalbari movement. The word Naxalite originated from North Bengal. What I am scared of is that if we do not redress their grievances immediately and redeem their lot, then the magnitude of the explosion may one day be much higher than what happened during the Naxal movement. How many girls schools for the SCs have been set up here? How many good hostels for the adivasi boys and the girls are there in the whole of North Bengal? There was a Khatri Hostel in the city of Raiganj. This too the Government has failed to maintain and the hostel is totally neglected. I have travelled from village to village. There is no roof on the top in the primary schools meant for the advisees.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I had a 1400 km padayatra of West Bengal in 1993. I used to start at 6 in the morning and walk till sunset. I have travelled 1400 kms from village to village on foot. I did not have any publicity, no TV crew or journalists accompanied me in my walk. As a student of politics I started this journey to get the first hand knowledge of happenings in the villages. After the demolition of Babri Masjid I took a journey of love and friendship in the villages. I kept a diary also writing about my experience on the 1400 route. I shall publish it—the Padajatrir Diary next month.

Mr. Chairman Sir, on my route I have visited the villages of the SCs, the villages of the adivasis, the villages of the backward. I have seen the primary schools of the adivasi girls sans roof, sans teachers. I have submitted a report also. But no action has been initiated so far. No school has been set up, even now the students are attending schools without roof without teachers. There is no primary health centre have aside hospitals for pregnant women. When there is flood they depend on god or quack because there is no hospital nearby. There is a place called Bhakti. During flood more than ten thousand people take refuge on the ridge whose area is smaller than this hall. These helpless people encounter the poisonous snakes and fury to floodwater.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I shall take only 2 minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken more time than the mover.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I shall complete just within 2 minutes.

Sir, if the allocated fund for the particular scheme is not spent properly and on time, the phase of development suffers, the developmental programme is also hampered.

The resolution moved by Shri Mohale is very important I have no objection about Chattisgarh. Through you Sir, I shall request the Hon. Minister to consider the resolution sympathetically and take appropriate measures. But what we need is to know about the number of economically socially and educationally backward persons increasing in various areas. We must prepare a data in this regard. This collection of data would help to formulate 10th Five Year Plan in such a way that we will not need to bring another resolution like this in the 11th Five Year Plan.

With these words, after thanking you to give me an opportunity to participate in the discussion, I end my speech.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Sir, I must congratulate Shri Punnu Lal Mohale for having brought forward this timely Resolution on the all round development of the backward people, backward economically, socially and educationally. Although he had made extensive reference to the State of Chattisgarh but what he has said about the State of Chattisgarh is also true of the entire country and of the areas that are backward, both economically and socially. I would not like to deal much on educational backwardness.

Sir, when we are thinking of the backward people and the backward regions, we must appreciate the yeomen service that had been rendered by Kaka Kelkar in the year 1955 on this front. He had made a comprehensive study of the backwardness of the people of India. Although at a later stage, the Mandal Commission had created a bundle by confining itself to the caste system only, but Kaka Kelkar's report, you would kindly appreciate, did not confine itself to caste alone. It had taken into consideration economic and social backwardness. Even at that point of time he had said that women also are backward. Even today women are backward. But look at the perception this man had when he had categorised backwardness.

Sir, what were the criteria that he had indicated for backwardness in those days of 1955? What he said then stands out to be correct even today. In categorising backwardness, he enlisted a few criteria. First, persons who work with hands; second, persons who work under the Sun and the open air; third, landless people. When he talked of landless people, he took into consideration the factors like tenancy rights and the alienation of land. The reason as to why he took into consideration the factor of alienation of land in those days could be well appreciated by the fact that even today, the land of the tribal people are being grabbed by the greedy people, who are not agriculturists, by devious means. They take away their land, they possess the land but they do not till the land. That is the reason as to why he took this factor of land alienation for measuring backwardness of people.

Sir, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was talking about the Naxalite movement. It started because of agrarian reasons in the Naxalbari region. Even today some people—may be, rightly or wrongly—are pursuing this ideology in different parts of our country thinking that, by arms struggle, they would be able to get the rights that are due to the people who are landless, who are economically backward and who have been deprived from time to time.

Sir, Shri Kelkar had also set another criteria for this and that was about the unskilled labourers and those who are doing mental jobs. Even geographical considerations, like those living in inaccessible areas, were also taken into consideration for deciding whether a particular group of people was backward or not. He had indicated about the nomads and also about the people who are occupying low positions in the society. When we are talking of the people occupying low positions, even today there are certain groups amongst the *harijans* who would not touch water from other groups of *harijans*. I know of a peculiar case in my State. There was a peculiar case in Cuttack when I was the Superintendent of Police there. A hotelier was serving tea to a person belonging to a particular *harijan* community. He served tea to that *Harijan* and asked him to clean the glass afterwards. That *Harijan* took umbrage and filed a case. The hotelier was put in jail for about five to ten days. When he came out on bail, he hit upon a beautiful, or a mischievous, idea. He hired a low-community *Harijan* and had tea served to the high-community *Harijan* who had earlier started a case. The high-community *Harijan* refused to accept tea from the low-community *Harijan* and a case was sought to be filed against the high-community *Harijan*. However, the case could not be filed because both the parties involved belonged to the *Harijan* community. What I mean to say is that even now this type of discrimination is continuing in my State.

You would appreciate the fact that among the Scheduled Castes, the upper strata of the Scheduled Castes are taking away all Government jobs and the people belonging to lower strata are not getting any privilege or facility of Government jobs. In Orissa, even among the tribals there is a particular remote tribal community called Didayi. The Bondas are very backward people but Didayis are further backward than Bondas. They are living in the southern parts of Orissa in Koraput District. They are totally backward. We are taking tribals as a group but among them also there are further backward people and among them also there are deprived people.

Kaka Kelkar had taken nomads also into consideration. In my State Orissa there are cattle grazers. They do not have any grazing grounds. There is shrinkage of the grazing land. Cultivable land has come up in big way. They are the deprived people. They go from place to place and in the process they are impoverished. Who is thinking of them? Go to Jammu. Shri Chowdhary is here. He would be able to appreciate this better. The shepherds the Bakarwallahs who remain in the upper regions of Jammu are the most backward people although they might be having hundreds of sheep or enough cattle with them. I had been to Kutch and I have seen the camel tenders there. They do not have grazing land. Although they may be having hundreds of camel, they are not able to make both ends meet because of the geographical situation prevailing in those areas. So, the criteria that have been fixed by Kaka Kelkar have to be taken into consideration.

We think that people who have taken to other religions like Islam, Sikhism, or Christianity are better off. I will give you the instance of my State itself. Those *Harijans* who became either Muslims or Christians are still backward. They are not being taken as a part of the Muslim community or the Christian community because of their earlier ways and their lineage, etc. The Buddhists who became Muslims at a later stage, are well off. They are well off because they came from different strata of society. Even now there are backward classes among the Muslims, among the Christians, and among the Sikhs. In Uttar Pradesh and Kerala some initiative has been taken for the upliftment of these backward Muslims.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sahu, please be brief and do not go into the details. You have already taken ten minutes.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: I will be absolutely brief, Sir. Kindly give me five minutes more.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

I am not going into the details of the economic backwardness or the regional backwardness of people because of the time constraint. But I will definitely take you to Sharma Committee's Report of 1997. Sharma Committee had decided on three criteria to decide the backwardness of people. The Sharma Committee Report had suggested three indicators. One was deprivation in society; the second was social infrastructure; and the third was economic infrastructure. I am not going into the details. On the basis of the indicators he had indicated a hundred backward Districts in this country.

Because of this social and economic infrastructure, he had laid more stress on the backwardness of the community itself in such a manner that it could be got over.

Now, if we think of getting over the backwardness of any community or region, it has to be an economic consideration first to see as to how they can go up, they can make both ends meet to get a fair share of the developmental work of the society.

So, firstly, for the rural people to get over the difficulty of backwardness, there has to be a reform in the agriculture sector. As I had indicated earlier, the persons who are not cultivating the land should not be allowed to buy land. There must be some restriction on them so that, at least, people who cultivate should be in possession of land in that particular area.

Secondly, a large amount of subsidy is to be given to those people who are landless or marginal farmers, in order to see that their backwardness is not due to economic consideration but they can grow in a steady manner to come at par with other groups of people in society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since there is no time at all, I immediately and abruptly stop here and conclude my speech.

17.00 hrs.

[Translation]

*SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Kannur): Respected Chairman Sir, today we are discussing a resolution which proposes a comprehensive developmental policy for all the backward villages of our country including even the villages in Chhattisgarh. This resolution is highly relevant these days. Even after 50 years of independence, the majority of our population live under the poverty line.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

The wrong economic policies of the Congress Government and the present NDA Government has resulted in such a situation. The only solution is a basic social change in the perspective of our people. The Annual Report published by the Home Department says that in the last one year itself, in more than 500 villages, caste based violence occurred and more than a hundred were killed. Whether it is in Bihar, in Orissa or in Andhra, the landless poor is dying fighting with the landed class for the ownership of the land. The first and the foremost remedy for the backwardness in our country, is the implementation of proper land reforms. The State of Kerala gives you the best example for this. The basis of all those socio-economic developments in the State of Kerala today is the land reforms which were done long back in 1957 to 1959 by the then Chief Minister late Shri E.N.S. Namboodirippadu. For the first time, the common man became the proud owner of a piece of land because of those reforms. As a result of this, the State could attain its present heights in the social and educational arenas. But today, unfortunately our State is lagging behind other States in its economic and developmental indexes. Especially the Malabar area which is the northern part of Kerala, is really backward.

The tribals of my State still remain in the poorest of the poor condition and now they have come out voicing their protest. They are fighting for their right to their own land. The way those protesters were treated by the Congress Government in the State was unfortunate and hundreds of tribal women including some pregnant women and children are still languishing. I raised that issue in this august House. I have even brought this to the notice of the hon. Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram through a memorandum and hence orders were issued to conduct an inquiry into this.

What I mean to say is that the adivasis or the tribals of many States in our country are still fighting for the ownership of land. The need of the hour is not just a policy but a comprehensive scheme of programmes.

Kerala is one State which was always been neglected in the scheme of developmental programmes. Its clear example is the national highway NH-17 which is passing through the State of Kerala. It is in such a bad shape without proper maintenance. Whether it is in the case of Railways or any developmental work or electrification of the villages or any other aspect for that matter, Kerala's concerns were always put to the back burner by the successive Central Governments. Hence while supporting this resolution I urge upon the Government to come out

with a comprehensive package and a developmental scheme for the all out progress of the backward people and the backward areas in our country.

I once again hope and wish that such an outlook would bring progress to my State and especially the northern parts of the State. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Thank you. I must congratulate Shri Punnu Lal Mohale who has moved the Resolution to formulate a policy for all round development of backward people of our country is general and particularly in Chhattisgarh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please keep the constraint of time in mind.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: How much time can I take?

MR. CHAIRMAN: About ten minutes.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: The name backwardness always conjoures up the *dalit* people of our land. In spite of all our endeavours, still we have not been able to shed off the social stigma, and we have not been able to shed off our archaic mindset.

Our Constitution has enshrined under article 15 (2) that:

"No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to—

(a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or

(b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of general public."

The National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Sheduled Tribes has admitted that untouchability is still prevailing in our country. In the Ninth Plan, the Government has adopted a three-pronged strategy. They are: social empowerment, economic empowerment and social justice. However, we know that we are not able to achieve that objective, in spite of our endeavours. If we look to the state of the people of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes of our country, there is no doubt that we will be depressed. Can you imagine that half of

the Scheduled Caste population, that is 48.37 per cent, is still living below the poverty line and as far as the Scheduled Tribe population is concerned, 51.14 per cent is still living below the poverty line? The general population living below poverty line is 35.97 per cent. However there is no denying that we have made great strides in this area and we cannot but remain content. We know that as far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned, they have got services to the tune of 16.9 per cent. This is more than their population ratio. As far as the Scheduled Tribes are concerned, they are now hovering around in the region of 5.5 per cent. They have yet to reach their population ratio in so far as service is concerned. What is interesting to note is that in spite of their employment, the presence of Scheduled Castes in decision-making body is very dismal.

Sir, I must congratulate the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Digvijay Singh, for recently holding a congregation of formulate a strategy. The Bhopal Declaration was conceived with 21-point charter of demand. This situation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes reflects that we are having the hidden apartheid, which may be very precisely called the generational and cultural *dalitcides*. Still the atrocities and discrimination against the backward people are continuing on.

Sir, our Reservation Policy has made a significant effect but the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes still cannot be accommodated to their desired level. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to ensure equitable distribution of public resources and capital among the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people. As far as the Scheduled Tribes are concerned, it is their traditional right to have *jal, jamin and jungle*. The right has to be restored. Due to deforestation, or destruction of forest ecology, these tribal people are subjected to eviction or displacement. They are being subjected to discrimination. Can you imagine, Sir, till now 50 million people have been displaced due to construction of huge dams or various other developmental projects? Out of these displaced persons, 40 per cent belong to the backward community. Therefore, the Minister should come out with a clear strategy so that those displaced persons could be properly rehabilitated.

Sir, without social democracy, political democracy has no meaning. So far as our country is concerned, still the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people belong to the lowest strata of our caste pyramid. Actually, the traditional Hindu caste system has legalised the caste discrimination. Sir, the essence of caste in India is the arrangement of hereditary groups in hierarchy.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

Sir, the Ninth Plan had proposed 62 lakh scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I do not know—the Minister will answer—how many scholarships have been given to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community during the Ninth Plan period.

Sir, I may suggest to the hon. Minister that in India 75 primitive tribal groups are there spreading over 15 States. They are really subjected to severe discrimination everywhere. In Bengal also some tribes are on the verge of extinction. Therefore, the Minister should formulate a comprehensive strategy so that the tribal identities of our country could be protected.

Sir, as far as education is concerned, the gap of education between Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes people and general population remains constant. They should be given education which may protect their art, literature, culture and could also restore their unsung past. Sir, some times the contents of the education are not at par with the socio-economic set up of those tribal people.

Sir, according to Dr. Ambedkar:

"Mere equality of opportunity is not sufficient. There should be equality of result to ensure honest implementation of the policy of reservation."

Still we are hearing the news from Durban and other international for a that not only in India but also throughout the world, in the name of caste and descent, discrimination is continuing unabated.

Sir, before concluding, I may quote one line of poet Tagore:

"In the splendour of a new Sun rise of wisdom,
Let the blind gain sight.
Let life come to the souls that are dead."

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to urge that my motion is not limited to only backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is also for the people who are economically backward in India. It appeared to me from the speeches of Members that this is probably related to backward castes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your motion is all right that it is not only for the backward classes. It is also for the people, who are socially and economically backward, in which SCs and STs are included. That can be referred.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the resolution moved in the House by the Hon'ble Member Shri Punnu Lal Mohale is regarding formulation of comprehensive policy for the all round development of the backward classes. As has been said, backward classes have no castes. This resolution is for the people who are economically and socially backward.

Sir, 54 years have passed since our country got independence. Even after so many years of independence how many persons have been given economic justice, social justice and education? In fact there is no caste of hunger. Hunger is hunger and it is the same in all. Whether it is hunger of a Hindu or Muslim or Christian or a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe community. I mean to say that backwardness should not be fixed on the basis of caste. In reality, we must treat those persons backward who are economically and socially backward and who could not get education and a comprehensive policy must be formulated for their all-round development. The resolution brought out by the hon'ble Member is particularly related to the Chhattisgarh State. India is geographically and from other point of view, a vast country. Our population is about 103 crores. The persons belonging to different castes are living in remote areas; they do not live in villages. They do not have any particular 'Basti'. Normally, they live in forests. That is why there is no proper arrangements for their shelter and food. The people of our country need food, houses, clothes and drinking water. In reality, we have formulated such an economic policy which in the present circumstances, made the rich more richer and the poor more poorer. I am not able to understand the economic policy which have been formulated after 54 years of our independence. We are still following APL and BPL. Only God knows the time when the people of BPL will be at par with APL. That is why we must formulate a comprehensive policy, not only for the Chhattisgarh State but also for the entire nation. In Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha are among backward areas. The population of eight district of Marathwada is around two-two and half crores. There are 11 districts in Vidarbha region where there is no proper facilities of drinking water, education and roads. There is no medical facilities there. People residing in remote area are fully dependent on agriculture. Small artisans and farm workers have no resources to educate their children. They work daily to earn their livelihood. They feed their children from the money earned by them by doing day long work. They can not provide proper clothes, shoes and even books for their children. When they can not provide the essential items how can they provide education to their children. A large number of children are deprived of education, irrespective of their caste. Is this the progress we are making? I am not able to understand.

Sir, this is the 21st Century. This is the age of free economy, globalisation and computers. What can we do if we are unable to provide education to the children. That is why I fully support the motion moved by Shri Punnu Lal ji. There are no school buildings and even if there are school, they are in very bad condition. There is just one teacher for 50-100 students. This is our education system. We have to think about as to how to live in 21st century and as to how to progress. In Maharashtra, Lamani, Bhoi, Pangul, Bhil, Anda, Gaur, Koli, Mahadev Koli, Pardi etc are the castes, who frequently keep on moving. Their names are not in voter list. How can we develop these castes, how can we make arrangements for their livelihood and education? What are we going to do for them. This is a matter to be considered.

Sir, through you, I would urge upon the Government of India. I have just said that the rich have become richer and the poor have become poorer there are artisans, who are earning their livelihood by working in the fields. The backward people residing in remote areas. They are so poor that they can not perform the marriage of their daughter. They do not have proper house. They can not educate their children. Therefore, there is need to think seriously about this. The population of this country is 103 crores and if the development is made only for handful of persons, it does not mean that the development of the country has been made. If we can not provide economical, social and educational justice to 103 crores of people, we can not claim that we are developing. At least, the basic necessities of life should be provided easily to all the people irrespective of their religion and caste. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the Government of India to bring forward a comprehensive Bill. There are no proper roads and drinking water in Marathawada and Vidarbha region. When Shiv Sena and BJP were in power in Maharashtra, we tried to provide drinking water, education, medical facilities to Marathawada and Vidharbha region for four and half year but the backwardness of this area has not been yet removed. I urge upon the Government that a development policy for five and half crores people of Marathawada and Vidarbha should be formulated as properly by Shri Mohale ji who has asked for money for the development of Chhattisgarh and for all round development of backward people. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I would like to compliment the Mover of this Resolution, Shri Mohale, for this very thought-provoking subject, not only to formulate but also to implement the same in five years. He has given a time

limit. I think this is a very good thing because over the years we have been discussing various things but we have never set a time limit to ourselves. I do not know what would be the fate of this Resolution? I do not know whether it going to be like 184 of Lok Sabha or 170 of Rajya Sabha. I am sure the Government can rise to the occasion and be gracious enough to accept the hon. Member's Resolution. It will send a right message to the Planning Commission. I seek this because I am sure the Government has the intention to do something for the economically, socially and educationally backward people. But why is it that we have not been able to do it for the last fifty-four years? It is because the bug does not stop with the Central Government, no matter who the Government is. Whether it is the Congress Government, or the United Front Government or the BJP Government or the NDA Government, the bug does not stop here in Parliament. There is a cutting edge level of administration. Every question you ask here, whether it is related to water resources, agriculture, health, sports or environment, everything lies with the State Governments. Yet, we keep on bashing our heads here. Here, tempers and emotions run high. We have become a Resolutionary body instead of becoming a revolutionary body.

What is backwardness? One can take Birbal's example as to how to make a line short without erasing it. It is by drawing a longer line. So, relatively it becomes a shorter one. So, what is backwardness? There are economic indices, and economic parameters, like production of steel, production of power, production of cement, health facilities, telephones, shipping, irrigation, education bridges, rail, road etc. Yet these are all set by the Planning Commission. It has authority without responsibility. It is responsible to none and accountable to none. But we the 750 Members of both the Houses are accountable to the people after every five or six years. For Lok Sabha Members, it becomes even shorter if the House is dissolved before. The hon. Member Shri Mohale, who moved this Resolution, was speaking about Chhattisgarh. It reminded me of Amartya Sen's developmental economics treatise for which he got the Nobel Prize. He said that development and growth must be easily affordable and accessible to the population. Now, 58 per cent of the population is supposed to be living below the poverty line. It is now being contested by the hon. Finance Minister. He says that it has come down to 26 per cent in one year. I do not know whom to believe.

Shri Kharabela Swain and Shri Anadi Sahu are here. They know about one thing. We have letters from our own Chief Minister Shri Navin Patnaik. He was a Minister here. He has written about some railway lines. He has

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

written that there should be more investment in railway lines in Orissa. Today, I received the information in respect of my own Unstarred Question. It is said that Government of Orissa have not written anything to the Railway Ministry for allocation of more resources. Who do I believe? Should I believe the Railway Minister or my own Chief Minister? The same is the case in respect of the Eleventh Finance Commission. Shri Ramakrishna Patnaik, the Finance Minister gave an assurance to all the 31 MPs of Orissa...(Interruptions) I am concluding in a few minutes. Shri Yashwant Sinha said that all these States have agreed to it. We really do not know who to believe and who not to believe.

When the hon. Member was talking about Chhattisgarh, I was wondering whether it is two sides of the coin or it is a part of the same coin because half of Chhattisgarh was part of Orissa up to 1936. Orissa was created on the 1st April, 1936 like Sind was created on the 1st of April. It was done due to the divide and rule policy of the British. It is a paradox that there is poverty amongst plenty. We have 33 per cent of coal resources; 90 per cent of bauxite; 90 per cent of chromite, iron-ore, manganese and limestone. Yet there is hardly any cement plant. All the Steel Plants of the country are either in Chhattisgarh or in Orissa or in Jharkhand. All the three are the most impoverished regions of the country. Of course, a portion of West Bengal, where Birbhum and Dhalbhum come, is also impoverished. We are the most impoverished.

I would like to commend to my peers one thing. There is one booklet written by Ranajit Roy, who was a very senior correspondent. I am sure, he must have been here during the time of the Second Lok Sabha. He had written the agony of West Bengal in which he has spoken about the entire Bengal Presidency. He had also said how the systematic loot and transfer of wealth from Eastern and North-Eastern India has come to Delhi and to certain parts of India. Tripura, Manipur and other places were under the Bengal Presidency. We have not been able to correct in the last 54 years. I am not apportioning blame on anyone. We are talking about the digital divide between India and the rest of the IT world. But there is a digital divide within the country. There is discrimination within the country. There is discrimination in Parliament also.

Sir, you know that I am associated with a Committee of Parliament dealing with MPs and Ex-MPs. There are 971 ex-MPs. Some of them are breaking roads in Bihar. Jamuna Devi, also who was with us as a Member of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, is breaking stones on the roads of Bihar. There is a former Deputy Minister who is selling

second-hand books in the streets of Patna. We cannot give them pension. But we can give it to the Members who had been in the Constituent Assembly who completed two years, two months and 14 days. The provision is there for three years, three months and 19 days. In respect of the ex-Members of Independent India, they had to complete four years and two terms. The Supreme Court has also given a ruling on that.

Then, we have the strange thing. Anything which is doing well is privatised nowadays. BALCO and NALCO are there in Chhattisgarh and Orissa. BALCO was sold off. NALCO is earning a profit every year and this year it has earned a profit of Rs. 658 crore. Instead of declaring it as a *mini-ratna*, it is being disinvested. 89 per cent of its equity is disinvested. I have raised this issue many times under Rule 377 and during various debates also. So, we are very fond of formulate. I am glad that the hon. Mover has asked for the formulation of a policy to be implemented in five years.

There is a great Planning Commission, which has got formulate, sub-Plans, Plans, Gadgil formula, modified Gadgil formula, Mukherjee formula, Bharadwaj formula, sub-category States, sub-components, tribal special plans, etc. God knows the latest would be K.C. Pant formula! For North-East, you have a special Ministry, which does not find a mention in the Finance Commission and the Planning Commission. But the hon. Prime Minister has thought that the North-East requires the Central Government intervention in spite of being a special category States. Then Uttaranchal was a special category State, which requires more focussed attention. When you have the Ministry of the North-East, why can you not have the same thing for areas like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and portions of West Bengal, portions of the agency area of Andhra Pradesh, Vishakapatnam Vijayanagaram and Sriakulam districts, which are totally impoverished—be it in regard to the facility of rail, road, irrigation, drinking water, schools and hospitals. Today, if you go to the State Governments, we find 'in Government'. In Oriya, we say, *nahe sarkar*. When we ask for teachers, doctors, medicine, water replacement of tubewells, they say that we cannot give, we cannot do it because we do not have resources. All these areas have a history of disasters and exploitations. We were exploited by invaders, then by Indians. Today also we are exploited by Indians. We used to pay one-fourth revenue-*chouth*. Then, the British took over. Orissa was the last State of India to fall to the British Empire in 1803. Today, it is still the most backward State because there has been no investment and none of these Plans and formulae of the Planning Commission or the special packages have helped them.

In 1999, Orissa was affected by Super cyclone. We could not declare it into a national calamity because the Eleventh Finance Commission did not have the *paribhasha* or the definition but the United Nations declared 1999 as the Year of Disaster for the whole world. Then came Super hailstorm, Super droughts, and Superfloods. Even with regard to the status of special category State, all my colleagues from both the sides of the House have been demanding it. In fact, it was also in the election manifesto of NDA in the last two elections. But, we get a response that since Orissa is not situated on the border, we cannot declare it as a special category State. Please think of some special programme by which you can have accelerated growth and more investment in Orissa so that it catches up with the rest of the country. Along with Orissa, I would include Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and some of these agency areas so that it can also come up.

You may have the intention, but you may have to or you shall have to take initiative to implement it. For that, you require human resource development. The hon. Minister is also the Minister for Personnel and Administrative Reforms. The cutting edge level of administration is practically zero. When Shri Deve Gowda visited Orissa in 1997, he found BDOs and agricultural officers missing in Bolangir. Bolangir, a part of KBK, a part of it is in my constituency.

We have found that from Rajiv Gandhi up to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee have been promising us many things but our own Chief Minister of Orissa writes that nothing has been done so far. I have quoted his writing on the floor of the House during the President's speech. So, it is no use just enunciating or announcing certain policies, you must have the will and intention to implement it in time, with accountability and responsibility.

Also, we are living in an age of convergence. So, people demand it. We, in Parliament, reflect it. I am sure, the Government has the intention but the Planning Commission has to converge with this. Otherwise, we would think that this Government is only for disinvestment and privatisation of its Departments and all its administration.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7-8 hon'ble Members still remain to speak and mover of the resolution has to give reply also and the hon'ble Minister will also speak. I would request all the hon'ble Members to be brief.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please remove my name from the list.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am only requesting you to be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, before this, the Members of Congress party have spoken for half an hour each. Remaining Members will speak for 15 minutes each, would B.J.P. be in loss if you sit that side?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can take your share, but it will be better if you can be brief.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Punnu Lal Moahle has brought a Resolution which requires the Government to bring a comprehensive policy for all round development of economically, socially and educationally backward people of the country. He wants the Government of India to bring about a comprehensive policy for this purpose within five years. He has recommended that loans should be given. He has also recommended that rice should be given to such areas. He has given such ideas to the effect that by giving loans and rice to the economically, socially and educationally backward people, their lot could be changed. We have given loans and such other things, as he has demanded, for the last 54 years, but the situation has not changed yet.

Sir, if we really want to improve the lot of the backward people, we should change their mindset. Let us take the example of backwardness. I do not think there is any economical, social or educational backwardness in India. There is backwardness only in the mindset of the people. For example, people of all castes are vying with each other to be declared as Backward Classes or to be declared as the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes. At the time of independence, if there were 1,000 castes in the list of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, now the number has gone up to 5,000. So, there is a competition for backwardness in India. Everybody wants that he should be a backward person. If a person does not want to improve his standard of life and if he wants to remain backward throughout his life, how can we change him? If the Government really wants to do something in this regard, they should try to change the mindset of the people. The mindset of the people now is that development is something which should come from the top. They think that the Government would do everything for them and all the development would depend

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

upon Government patronage and Government subsidy. So, my point is that development of an individual in India now depends upon improving his economic condition. If we change the economic condition of a person, his social condition will change within a very short time.

Sir, everybody is talking about caste system in our country. I do not know what happens in North India, but if you come to our State, Orissa, you can see Brahmins washing the dishes of MLAs and MPs belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This is the truth. Let us take the example of I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Most of them are married to girls belonging to the upper castes and Brahmin community.

Sir, everybody is talking about caste system in our country. I do not know what happens in North India, but if you come to our State, Orissa, you can see Brahmins washing the dishes of MLAs and MPs belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This is the truth. Let us take the example of I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Most of them are married to girls belonging to the upper castes and Brahmin community.

So, change in the economic status is the most important thing. I do not think there is any formula available with the Government of India for this. There is one very old classical formula which is available at all times and that is, to improve the infrastructure, open more schools, educate the people, build very good roads as other countries of the world have done, provide quality power supply without any fluctuation and uninterrupted power supply, 24 hours a day and provide telecommunication facilities. If the Government of India provides these four things, we do not require anything else. The economic condition of the people from the backward areas would automatically improve.

Take the example of Poverty Alleviation Programme. Now, what is there in that programme with regard to loans? Everybody wants a loan so that he would not repay it. This is the mindset. This must undergo a change. Take another example. In every Poverty Alleviation Programme, there is something like training. But the Poverty Alleviation Programme should not be treated as a job-creating programme. It should be treated as means for economic growth. Why I am saying so is that it is treated as a job-creating programme.

Now, take the examples of TRYSEM and DWACRA. Under these programmes, training is given to the ladies. It is given to women and unemployed persons. But do

they take this up as training? They take it up thinking that they would get Rs. 600 or Rs. 1,000 per month, and would get a job for one year. In fact, he does not learn. He goes there just to collect the salary. So, this system of salary and the job from this training should be delinked.

The Base Paper published by the Planning Commission says that by 2012, 80 per cent of the people below the poverty line would remain only in six or seven States like Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and some of them in Rajasthan and West Bengal. In other States almost all the people below the poverty line will be wiped out. That means, the States like Delhi, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Maharashtra would have merely two per cent of persons below the poverty line. If they can do it, the other States can also do it provided they are given the infrastructure.

You take the example of loans. The loans are given only to the unskilled people. He takes a loan. He does not go for training. He does not know how to utilise that loan. He does not have the managerial capacity. So, he only wastes that loan. There are excessive loans. In some areas, like the dairy products, millions and millions of people have been given money to keep cows. Everybody thinks that he is getting a cow but the milk is not being sold, and that area is totally overcrowded. So, the Government should make a provision for this that no loan giving area should be over-crowded. There should be a practical approach in which the loan should be sanctioned. Everybody should not be sanctioned a loan.

I would like to bring to your notice that the KVK area in Orissa is one of the most backward areas of Orissa. The people living there are socially and economically very backward. Where there is a large-scale deforestation, that should stop. The transfer of land belonging to the Scheduled Tribes must be stopped. The watershed project management should be given a boost. There should be agricultural universities to advise the farmers in that area about crop rotation.

Last but not least, the hon. Minister of Tourism is present here. I have already made an appeal. Even now, I am going to make an appeal to kindly include Orissa as another tourist circuit, as has been declared by the hon. Minister of Finance during his Budget speech. Orissa should be included in the tourist circuit. It should be developed according to the international standards. Tourism has got a lot of capacity for employment generation.

If you kindly allow Orissa to be a tourist circuit of international standards, then naturally, the infrastructure

will build up. It will give an economic boost to Orissa. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important issue. Therefore, time should be increased for that.

I am very thankful to Shri Punnu Lal Mohale ji. I think he has moved this resolution after giving it a serious thought. There has been social, economic and educational disparity in this country for thousands of years. This very disparity is the root cause of the malady of this country. He has said that a policy may be formulated for the development of socially, economically and educationally backward people by making programmes in five years. This is a very good Bill and I think that it should be passed. The Government should agree to it but I know that it will claim that it is fulfilling this purpose by launching public welfare programmes, it should therefore be withdrawn and it seems to me that the hon'ble Member will withdraw it.

I would like to say that disparity is the biggest problem of this country due to which India is backward as compared to the other countries of the world. Crores of people are affected by social, economic and educational disparity, casteism, untouchability and discrimination prevailing in our society. If we see it from economic point of view, we will find that on one hand, there are rich people in a large number but on the other hand, there are poor people and they do not get even one time meal. Most of them are unemployed and suffering a lot. Similarly, if you see from educational point of view, you will find that on one hand, there are children of rich people who are getting education in good schools but on the other hand, there are children of poor people for whom there are no schools and if school is there, there are no rooms, teachers and books. This is the position. Therefore, the hon'ble Member Shri Punnu Lal Mohale has said that a policy should be formulated by the Government and disparity should be removed at all the three levels within five years by implementing it. He has raised a very good issue.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many people may not be aware of the reality. In this connection, I would like to mention here an old tale. Once upon a time, there was a barber and a king. The barber had got a cow and rice of worship from somewhere and he used to eat 'Khira' daily. When, king asked him about the condition of the public, he replied that the people were living happily and had no hardship whereas people were living in a very bad

condition and they were suffering very much. When some people told the king about the real condition of the public the king did not believe them because he thought that the barber must be aware of the reality as he meets people every day to shave them. The barber told the king that the people were very happy. The king was not convinced with the other people because he thought that the barber must be aware of the reality. There was a wise person. He knew that someone had donated a cow to the barber and he had also got some rice of worship, that is why he ate 'Khira' everyday. Therefore the barber thought that the condition of the public was good. He thought a plan. He requested the king to ask the barber to give his cow to the king. One day the king ordered to do so and the barber gave the cow to the king. Now the barber was not happy. Now he was not able to drink milk or eat rice. Next day, the king again asked about the condition of the public. Barber said that the people are suffering a lot and they are dying of hunger.

Sir, the condition of this Government is also like it. The Government is not aware of the hardships of the people. How the people who have not seen poverty, can know the hardships. How can they know the condition of the crores of the people of the country. 'Jake pair Na Fati Biwai, Wo Kya Jane Pir Parai'. You may know about the sufferings of the people and the actual condition of the country only by visiting the villages. People are landless. If anyone makes his hut on others' land, his hut is burnt. The land of the poor is encroached and they do not have any source to earn their livelihood. All members of the family live in one hut. This is the condition in the villages. They work very hard. They produce and this is the real work. But there is an old malady in our society that a person who works hard is considered as lower and one who does not work is considered as higher. I would like to give an example that washerman, who washes clothes of all is considered as lower but on the other hand, one who wears these clothes and makes them clean is considered as higher. Similarly, a sweeper who cleans is considered a lower person but those who spread filth are called higher. This social malady is very old in our society. We would have to remove this disparity.

In this way, there are many people who are economically poor. The labour class is poor socially as well as economically. The Supreme Court has also given its verdict in this matter. Who are economically and educationally backward? Only those people are backward who belong to backward class. The people belonging to the scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes or Backward class are backward from social or economic point of view. So, I request that the above mentioned resolution should be adopted. If the Government implements it, the malady of this country can be rectified.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvanshji, the time allotted for this Resolution is almost exhausted. If the House agrees, the time allotted for the discussion may be extended for half an hour.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, the allotted time should be extended to the extent that all the Members willing to express their views on this issue may do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, the time allotted for this Resolution is extended by half an hour.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a vital issue. The main problem of the country can be solved only if it is adopted. We are lagging behind as compared to the other countries of the world. My argument is that if social, economic and educational development of the backward people is accomplished, our country will stand first among developed countries. Crores of people in our country belong to untouchable community. How can you develop those persons who are afflicted with social inequality, who are poor and unemployed? We have to think unitedly to make our country progressive, strong and to bring it on equal footing with other countries. So, I say that the Resolution should be adopted.

In the year 1997, the Government considered to develop the lot of the socially, economically and the educationally backward people. Our Constitution also directs that the Backward Class people school get reservation in jobs and other facilities. It is also the main aim of our Constitution. So, the Government should not feel any difficulty in formulating the policy. Only the formulation of policy is not enough. It should be implemented also. No much progress could be achieved so far in the implementation. If we take the people living below poverty line, state wise, their number is very large.

A new state of Chhattisgarh was formed recently. The aim of division is to spur the development of the region. After division the State of Uttar Pradesh was also bifurcated and that state was granted special status. The Government adopts the policy of discrimination. Why did Chhattisgarh not get the status of a special state? It is a tribal dominated area. They are exploited politically. There are four or five districts remaining in Madhya Pradesh. Balaghat and Mandla are among those...*(Interruptions)* I had discussed this matter. Perhaps, you have forgotten about it. There are many tribal-dominated districts which have not been included in Chhattisgarh. It derives its name from 36 forts. But, there are only 24 forts included in it. Where are the remaining

12 forts? Shahdol, Mandla are those tribal dominated districts which have not been included in it. Now, you know that BJP does not permit its members to express their views. Gentleman do not have any regard there. All the people are feeling there suffocated...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Raghuvansh ji, you should do something worth while for us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is giving false information. He does not know anything. The people, who wanted a separate state, got Chhattisgarh and the people, who did not want a separate state, are with us. You are giving a false information. Both things are not related with each other...*(Interruptions)*

18.00 hrs.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You can see it area-wise. There are signatures of so many Hon. Members who have written about it. Many M.L.As have written about the districts which should be included. I have all the records which I shall show to you. He raised the issue of Chhattisgarh which is proper. Why is there any discrimination? The National Development Council arbitrarily decides about granting special status to any of the districts. Is special status given in any Constitutional article? So, special status for development should be granted to those states which are socially, economically and educationally backward. This discussion is concerned with Bihar also. If the proposal is accepted, Bihar, too can get benefits because it is also a backward state. The backward castes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes dominated states are the regions which are socially and economically backward. With strenuous efforts the Government collected data in 1997 regarding backwardness of some districts and thus decided to declare 100 districts in the country as backward districts. A plan was formulated for the development of these districts so that the regional disparity can be wiped out and no region is left behind. Regional and economic disparity is very harmful for the country and special provision should be made to wipe it out.

I would like the government to clarify as to why the scheme, in which hundred districts chosen by officers and experts for special development of backward areas were to be developed, was kept in abeyance. You should pay close attention to the decision taken by the then government if you want to remove regional, social and economic disparity. Who are preventing the implementation of that scheme? Only those people do these kinds of

things, who oppose development...(*Interruptions*) The decision was already taken by the Government but the present government has stopped its implementation. I demand that this resolution should be adopted, it should be supported and the government should also make a scheme for its implementation. I would like to seek a specific answer about these, hundred districts. Where its implementation has been prevented. They do not want the development of backward areas. So, I congratulate Shri Punnu Lal Mohale for bringing forward a good proposal. May good sense prevail upon the government so that it can implement these policies...(*Interruptions*)

With these words, I thank you again.

CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN (Jammu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the resolution placed before the House is an important resolution and it needs ample time to have discussion. In brief, I would like to say that our Constitution provides a guarantee to this effect that weaker sections of the society and persons of remote areas should be provided special grants and special provisions should be made for their development and progress.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, my name is also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I had called your name but you were not present in the House.

[*Translation*]

CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN: Our Constitution gives it's guarantee, but it is unfortunate that when its proper implementation does not take place then the dream of social justice or the job to provide equal opportunities can not materialise.

The most blood shed by man in this world took place either in the name of religion or faith or land. Within our society unless equal distribution of land takes place in the society or in this world, distribution of our other resources can not be made in reality. Distribution of other resources can not take place also. As long as inequality and of the system of Government continues, cruelty, violence and social injustice will continue. I want my Government to understand our Constitution and implement it fully. If we abide by our Constitution all our social evils and social injustices will be removed and the social justice, the dream of equal opportunity and equality of India will be fulfilled. We see today that a war is being fought for

social justice within India. It is a fact that mindset of our society is not mature enough. We are not fully prepared to end the war between haves and have not or between ruler and ruled. As some poets has said in favour of this philosophy "There is no revolution greater than thought of action. This land belongs not to the kings but God. Unless the principles are not converted into practice, unless this revolutionary step is not taken, the whole land belongs to God and not to the Kings" Unless there is a change in our thinking, our thoughts, our ethos, our culture, we shall continue to shackle the world with injustice and this can not be removed unless we take a revolutionary step of converting our thought and deed.

This earth does not belong to kings, it belongs to God. Unless we shall be able to think that this land belongs to God or the Supreme Being and we all have an equal right to it. By land I mean resources and unless all resources of the country are equally distributed even amongst the remote or backward states or people, unless they are given more capital and when States demand more funds from Centre and they are unwilling to distribute it to their regions or areas and if regional administration do not utilize their resources properly then discriminatory system of functioning will continue and the danger of violence will also continue. But it is heartening that the system of governance adopted by India is the democratic system of Government and democratic governance and democracy guarantees that any state or sources of earnings of the country should be equally distributed. If we are not able to distribute our wealth equally, the inequality will continue and what we term as social justice will not be available to the people. We are lucky to have progressive constitution and our leaders have given us such a constitution that if we implement it properly, if our administration, our bureaucracy.

18.10 hrs.

[*DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair*]

is determined to impart justice to all, they can distribute the capital equally, but they can pay more attention to those areas which have remained backward, they can pay more attention to those classes which have remained backward. As far as merit is concerned, it is not due to the fact that a particular person has become more intelligent because he is born to a special class, he has got the serving aptitude but merit should be based on it equal opportunities. If a rich man's child is educated in convent and has become IAS or officer then how a poor man's child educated in rural area can compete with him? He has to be provided with an equal opportunity. If we fail to provide equal opportunity to society to various

[Chowdhary Talib Hussain]

factions of society, then they will remain backward and our law, our constitution and the dream of that architect will remain unfulfilled. I emphatically appeal the House that e.g., we have certain remote areas and Jammu and Kashmir as a whole has remained backward it is passing through a phase which needs special attention. I want to vouch for the fact that the peace loving people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir believe in the democracy of India. They are the people who believe in the Indian Constitution, Indian justice and equality. But unfortunately no attention is being paid towards Jammu and Kashmir at present in terms of resources. I want to make a request to the government through you that it is mandatory under the prevailing conditions to make the conditions better in Jammu and Kashmir that State must be provided with more and more funds especially in social sector. Unemployment should be abolished from there. At present there is no industry, nor it can be established. There is no raw material too. If any thing can be done there at all it is generating of government jobs. If we can not provide government job to these youths, if we can not improve their social and economical status, this problem will persist in one form or the other. I request you that the Central bureaucracy, that is administration of the Centre, especially the leaders, they must look towards backward areas, toward backward states and those backward states towards backward areas, administration there must look towards those classes, if this does not happen, then our India can not fulfill the dream waved by our constitution and its architects.

With these words, I support this resolution and hope that we shall let it run according to our constitution, we shall act according to our law and we shall implement our democracy whole heartedly which will ensure social justice.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Punnu Lal Mahaleji has moved a resolution in the House, and whatever concern he has shown therein is worth while. In fact the persons, who fought the freedom struggle who had a dream to built the future of the nation, framed the Constitution of India after detailed discussions. There are number of provisions for the economical, social and educational development in our Constitution. Based on these provisions a number of schemes were formulated in the last 54-55 years. Huge amount was spent on these schemes. But it could not be utilised properly. We should have spent this amount judiciously. The things, which are to be followed in the schemes could not be followed and that the only reason the provisions of our Constitution are said not to be effective. Right to equality i.e. equal legal right to all is enshrined in our Constitution but practically it is not so.

similarly it is mentioned in our Constitution that there will be no discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, gender but this is happening and during last 10-15 years the number of such incidents have increased. Prior to the year 1960 and 1962, Gandhivadi Congress people and their Government tried honestly and with dedication to follow strictly the provisions of our Constitution. But lateron politics began to be played in the name of the all these people. Just because of politics whatever schemes were to be implemented could not be implemented. Under Article 16 right to equal opportunity in employment and services has been referred. We noticed that there is a provision of reservation in services even then equal opportunities are not provided in service. During the last five to seven years, because of the order of Supreme Court and other reasons the vacant posts reserved for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Backward classes could not be filled. Under Article 17 there is a provision for the abolition of untouchability. But even today we are witnessing that in rural areas if a bridegroom of a Dalit community tries to ride on a horse and takes out his barat procession his barat procession in halted and the number of such incidents are increasing in comparison to that of past days. Whosoever, he may be, a Dalit, or from a socially, and economically backward class has the right to freedom of speech just as a person from a higher class. But normally we observe that the voice of a backward class person is being suppressed. But the voice of the person who raise his voice vehemently cannot be suppressed. A wretched and suppressed person tolerate silently every thing. Similarly a provision of freedom of religion is also enshrined in our Constitution but off and on efforts are being done to dilute this freedom also. In the Constitution of India there is a provision of Uniform civil code for all but this has also not been implemented so far. This is the reason due to which atmosphere of inequality among a particular class or in a very big section prevails. Similarly under Article 45 and 46 there is a provision of free education for the children till they attain the age of fourteen years. What I mean to say is that had the previous Government implemented these provisions effectively, our country would have achieved the cent percent literacy rate. Having achieved cent percent literacy our country would have developed rapidly.

All are aware of the fact that if majority of the people are educated the nation will develop rapidly. But even today our country has only 52% literacy rate. The rate of literacy among women is 16% only and their literacy is such that they can just read letters, when the question of reading a word comes they are unable to read fluently. To know the meaning of that word is out of their reach. Such is the kind of literacy in our country. We all are

well known to the fact that in building the future of the children mother's role is important. Mother is first teacher for a child. If they are illiterate or their literacy is of aforesaid percentage how can we think of development of our country? There are number of provisions which are not implemented. Take the example of our Budget, normally Central and State Government sanction number of schemes for the construction and development of basic amenities and their account is also being maintained. Across the country we would have had metallic roads, there would not have been a single village where hospital and other facilities would have not been available, infact they would have had all the facilities, had we amended our departmental Budget. But as you all are aware of the fact that the then Prime Minister Shri Rajeev Gandhi also expressed his concern and said that if Central Government sends rupees 100/- or 100% to the State Government by the time this amount reaches the scheduled destination the amount remains just 15% or in other words 85% of the amount is swallowed. In order to overcome such situation we will have to come forward with determination otherwise whatever policies have been framed or which are to be implemented, if they are kept unchanged, in my opinion this particular resolution will also be unable to solve any problem or improve the situation.

Sir, a lot of things have been said by several speakers earlier. I do not want to go in to details as time is short. But I would like to submit that perhaps a Committee of Governors was constituted by the Central Government headed by the Governor of Maharashtra Shri Alexander Saheb. Perhaps the Committee comprised of seven Governors. They have discussed the issues relating to backward people and also made certain recommendations. If the Central and State Governments make efforts to implement these recommendations, a lot of things can be done for these people. For example, they have told that thousands of acres of land is lying abandoned out of which most of the land is cultivable. Some people have encroached upon it. If this land is given to the backward people, they will get work and it will also help in removing their backwardness. If Government plans to allot this land to these people, they may also be given financial assistance so that they can make the land productive. Because the ground reality is that many people have been given the land on lease but they are not able to use it because either it is occupied by other people or it is uneven or they do not have other instruments to cultivate the land as a result of which they are not able to use the land. So, something should be done in this regard.

Sir, I think that today, the main problem is that people are not able to get Government jobs. Be it Central or the

State Government. This is computer era. The work, which was earlier done manually, now it is being done with the instruments. The number of jobs does not match the number of persons, seeking employment. In such a situation, employment opportunities are reducing. Since 1990-91, efforts are being made to increase it in private sector also. Reservation will be made in private sector also for dalits, backward people who are economically, socially and educationally backward as a result of which their condition will improve to some extent. A plan should be made to give employment to each one and to provide irrigation facility.

Sir, I do not want to deliver a long speech. My only submission is that first priority should have been accorded to agriculture sector in the country but it was not done. First priority has been given to the industrial sector but we have not been able to make progress even in industrial sector. Even today, we are not able to produce such goods as are produced in foreign countries. Thus, we have neither succeeded in industrial sector nor we have made such efforts in agriculture sector so that a boost could be given to the developmental activities in the country and socially, economically and educationally backward people could be uplifted. Today, I can claim that almost 35 per cent people are living below poverty line. Now Government has fixed a criterion that a person earning rupees upto one thousand, will be treated as below poverty line but rupees one thousand is a meagre amount. In present times if a person has two children and his wife, he should be given atleast Rs. 2500-3000 per month but it is not so. Almost 35 per cent people are living in such situation. In this country, 33 crore people are living below poverty line but on the other hand, there are ten-twenty per cent people who earn from Rs. 500 to 1000 crore as net profit per day. The ratio of rich and poor people was not so high at the time of Independence but today it has become much higher. Necessary steps should be taken to remove it. I heartily support the resolution moved by hon'ble Punnu Lal Mohale ji and urge upon the Government that active efforts may be made in this regard so that socially, economically and educationally backward people can be uplifted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the house agrees, time may be extended further for half an hour. Still there are five speakers and hon'ble Minister also has to give a statement. With the consent of the House, the time of the House is further extended for half an hour. Shri Subodh Roy.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Shri Punnu Lal Mohaleji for making efforts to draw the attention of the Government as well

[Shri Subodh Roy]

as the entire House towards the ground realities and most burning problem of our country. Any Government which is sensitive to this problem will be committed to the interests of the socially, economically and educationally backward people and will definitely agree to this fact.

Sir, all of us know the situation through which our country is passing. The way in which the problem of Chhattisgarh State has been mentioned raises the question as to why this problem has arisen. After Independence, Centre as well as State Governments have been working under the pressure of big landlords and capitalists and native-foreign princely states. Consequently, backward people remained backward and they were even joined by well to do people. This is due to capitalistic development only that people in a large number are becoming educationally and economically backward every year. The condition of the people who are socially

backward, has been worsening. Thus, socially backward people are being exploited and harassed. The way, commercialisation of education is increasing and it is being expensive, the poor people as well as socially backward people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech will continue. Now time is over. The reply by the hon'ble Minister will also be given that day.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, May, 13, 2002 at Eleven of the Clock.

18.28 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, May 13, 2002/Vaisakha 23, 1924 (Saka).

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