

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

(Rupees in Crore)

Friday, August 10, 2001/Sravana 19, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

FDI Inflow

*281. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of FDI approved and actual Foreign Direct Investment inflow during the last three years;

(b) the volume of Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) during the above period;

(c) whether the inflow of FDI and FII are on expected lines; and

(d) if not, the details and reasons therefor?

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

Statement

(a) The details of FDI approvals and inflows during the last three years are as follows:

(Rupees in crore)

Year (Jan. to Dec.)	Approvals	Inflows
1998	30,813.50	13,339.84
1999	28,366.53	16,867.79
2000	37,039.45	19,341.74

(b) The details of net investment by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in equity shares in Indian companies through primary and secondary market acquisition during the last three years are as follows:

Year (Jan. to Dec.)	Net Investment
1998	-930.96
1999	6,422.76
2000	6,202.51

(c) and (d) The inflows of foreign investment which includes foreign direct investment and foreign portfolio investment, are dependent upon various factors, such as domestic economic conditions including capital markets, policy regime governing foreign investment, world economic trends and strategies of global investors. The inflow to approval ratio in respect of FDI has shown consistent improvement from 1992 onwards, increased from 17.37% in 1992 to 56.83% in 2001 (upto June).

With regard to FII investment, there has been a positive trend after the negative growth in 1998.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Our hon. Finance Minister, who can manage everything and anything without UTI, in his visit to different capitals of foreign countries, has explained India's attraction as an investment destination. He also visited Hong Kong and Singapore to talk with the Asian investors. Our Commerce and Industry Minister, despite his ill health, also visited Spain and Germany, perhaps, in the last May. He has also pleaded for India's attraction as a profitable destination for investment. In spite of that, India failed to achieve the target of FDI and FII inflows. He has also mentioned some reasons but he has not replied pointedly. May I know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons for the lack of inflows of FDI and FII? I want to know whether it is due to instability of the present NDA Government or due to the negative approach and intervention of the American Chamber of Commerce.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very relevant question. If all the Members are of this attitude, things would be very happy. The foreign investment is not coming through according to the expected level, in the sense that we have a target of 10 billion dollars per annum. That is the estimate our economy can absorb. But what we are getting is only a pittance of four billion dollars whereas China gets 40 billion dollars. There they want to help. But recently the so-called American Chamber of Commerce and McKenzy

have published a report. What they say is very interesting. But can we adopt it? It is because many of the things are familiar to us. In India, the problem is, we know the problems but we do not know the answers. We also know the answers. We can diagnose the disease but we cannot administer the medicine. For example, the Report says, 'the key barriers to foreign investment are sectoral policy, the policy governing different sectors of a company, restrictions on foreign ownership, red-tape and reform in labour laws.' These things cannot be done immediately. We have to do it at our own pace. If the hon. Member agrees and if hon. Member's Party gives support, then myself and the Finance Minister will come with a slew of proposals.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, China attracts 20 times what India does. We are left far behind the countries like Brazil, Kuwait and Malaysia also. My second supplementary is, it is reported in the Press that at the initiative of our Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee, the American Chamber of Commerce, in association with the global consultant, McKenzy, has prepared a comprehensive report, titled, 'Achieving a quantum lap in India's FDI.'

The same has been presented to the Government a few days ago. It is also reported that this report has come out with far-reaching recommendations to step up FDI and the country's economic growth. If it is true, what are the details of the recommendations made and the Government's reaction thereto?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I am very happy that the hon. Member has asked about the report. I have the report in my hand. I will have it distributed to all hon. Members of Parliament because it is very important.

They say, 'India has the potential to attract as much as US \$ 20 billion in FDI per annum', but what are the conditions? They also say, 'Malaysia has successfully channelled FDI into its economy through exports and has become one of the largest electronics exporters. Brazil has, on the other hand, attracted \$ 30 billion of FDI through privatisation over the past ten years and China has attracted \$ 40 billion per annum in FDI for both the domestic and export sector.' They want us to shift to disinvestment. Are you agreeing? They want us to do labour reforms. Are you agreeing? If there is unanimity in the House, we are ready.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Thank you very much.

I am not agreeing to what the American Chamber of Commerce says, but will the hon. Minister reply whether

one of the reasons for foreign investments not coming to this country is the non-secular image of some of our top leaders and the problem created in the country by various ethnic groups?

Once our country is a signatory to the various declarations of the UN, including the UN Declaration on Human Rights and the declaration of the ILO, what is wrong in agreeing to labour reforms? Why should there not be labour reforms? Why do we want to continue with exploitation of labour? We want more production; we want big factories. But the lowest of the low in Indian factories are not getting what they are getting in other countries.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I will take up the second question first. We are for labour reforms and the hon. Minister of Finance has announced it in his Budget Speech. Very soon, he will bring up labour reforms and I want your party's support to that.

Secondly, you talked about secularism. Ours is a secular country. The Constitution allows the Government to be secular. No non-secular Government can exist in this country. It is what the Constitution provides for. Also, the foreign investors do not care about philosophy, even if it is true. You may remember Deng Xiaoping's famous saying, 'Whether the cat is white or black, the point is whether it will catch mice.' So, foreign investors are interested in getting good return for money and safety, which we are providing. In this sense, I would say, we are better than most countries in the world.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: He has now answered my question on labour reforms. What the hon. Minister of Finance had introduced was an anti-labour policy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I have some experience of being a Minister in the Government, about which he was just now joking.

The main reason for foreign investments not coming in is that when a Department prepares a project report, by the time it matures, various taxes like income tax, railway fares and sales tax in the States, etc. get increased and the project report because invalid. When I went to the UK, they suggested that there should be a norm that when a project report is under consideration,

*Not recorded.

the terms and conditions given should be static and until it is submitted, they should have the same facilities. Otherwise, it become redundant. This is happening in the case of the Dhabol power project now. Considering this and when you have so much faith in the Minister on your left, will you work together and try to see that something is done in that direction so that we can attract more foreign investments?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: First, I am not joking; I am seriously answering Questions.

Secondly, the hon. Member has said that our project reports get outdated. I agree with him that red tape is one of the main reasons. By red tape, I do not mean the officers but the system that we have created and the system that we have inherited from the British. We have to cut it short.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, the answers given by the hon. Minister are not very satisfactory, the reason being that who has to cut the red-tape—whether the Government has to cut the red-tape or the Members of Parliament have to cut the red-tape. Please understand my point. I am not trying to criticise. The answer given in regard to FII also shows that the net investment is also not very attractive and it is on a negative trend. In 1998 it was totally negative; in 1999 it was Rs. 6,422.76 crore and again in 2000 it was Rs. 6,202.57 crore. So, it is again coming down. The hon. Minister of Finance is also here. He was also very angry on these Moody's and other rating people for downgrading India in their credit rating.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Murthi, this Question relates to hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry and not the hon. Minister of Finance.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Yes, sir. I am coming to that. While China was able to attract \$ 40 billion and Brazil \$ 20 billion as direct investment, why is it that India was not able to get even one billion dollars? The reason has to be diagnosed and if need be, you send our Parliament Members' team to China and Brazil along with your officials and along with the Chambers of Commerce so that they can understand the situation and the country will ultimately be benefited. Ultimately we are will worried that even after liberalisation we are not able to attract investment to the extent that is required. So, I would like to know directly from you as to what is the solution for this.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I agree with your suggestion. Hon. Members from all Parties could visit

China. I had been to China and I borrowed the idea of Special Economic Zone even though ours is a pale shadow to it. We can learn a lot. The strange point here is that the extreme right wing and extreme left wing, all see eye to eye.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: It is your duty to bring them together.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: My duty is that I will ask the hon. Speaker that let us take a delegation, as often as possible, to China.

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking for a Government delegation and not a Parliamentary delegation.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir you can be neutral; you can be above politics and that is why I pass on the request to you.

The right question is while China can do it, why not India. That is the question. They are 1.2 billion people and we are also 1.2 billion people.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: We are well-versed in English. Language, is an advantage to us.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Yes, language is an advantage to us, human resource is an advantage to us, but we have the old baggage of ideology on our shoulders. Let us change our mind-set. Unless we change our mind-set we lose out to China.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, it has been said that the inflow of foreign investment, which includes foreign direct investment, depends upon various factors like capital market, domestic economic condition, etc. Our share market is crashing. The answer gives details upto June, 2001. We are now in August, 2001. The whole capital market crashed in July. Will the hon. Minister have a foresight in future to keep up this foreign investment in India by other countries taking into consideration the domestic economic condition and the crashing down of the capital market, including the UTI, because that will facilitate foreign investment in India and that will also facilitate healthy competition with other countries? The hon. Minister should have a foresight —
MANDHIRIKKAZHAGU VARUMPORUL URAITHAL.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member being an advocate, I would like to file a caveat. We get the authority of foreign investment...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I think what is being expressed is unparliamentary...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister can translate it. There is no problem.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: The duty of the hon. Minister is to have a good vision and foresight of the country.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the problem is we all get the authority of the inflow of foreign investment and FII and FEMA.

The FEMA's Schedule I gives the authority to the Industry Ministry, but FII belongs to my distinguished colleague, the Minister of Finance according to Schedule II. Therefore, I can answer with authority about foreign investment. He says how are the conditions. Sir, the conditions are so conducive, I would say, that the meltdown in South Asia did not touch us. Even the share market is doing well in the sense that all over the world the share markets will be going up and down. So, the recent rating by Standard and Poor's and others have been criticised rightly by our hon. Finance Minister. They are mis-statements. The share market is the example. The rupee is stable. We can say that we are the star in South Asia.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: As per the statement of the hon. Minister, the total FDI in the last financial year, 2000-01, is Rs. 19,341.74 crore. I want to know categorically from the hon. Minister how much of this total amount has been invested in the basic manufacturing sector. Secondly, what is the basic barrier in our present condition for the inflow of FDI from the investing foreign countries? Please reply this.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, FDIs are mostly flowing into core sector. Right from the year 1991, when Dr. Manmohan Singh initiated the reform policy and when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister, up to now, that is, 2001, let me read where the FDI has gone. In transportation industry, 36.91 per cent FDI has gone; in chemicals and fertilizers sector, 36.78 per cent FDI has gone; in electronic equipment, including computer software and electronics, 25.9 per cent FDI has gone; and in textile sector, six per cent FDI has gone. I can go on reading. It has gone to the core sector only.

Value Added Tax (VAT) System

*282. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce uniform Value Added Tax (VAT) System in the States from April, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the system and the manner in which it is better than single and first point Sales Tax System so far as volume of collection is concerned;

(c) whether the multi-point sales tax system was done away with because of rampant corruption and resultant evasion;

(d) if so, the present advantages of VAT system over multi-point sales tax system; and

(e) the manner in which backward and poor States, where arrangement for value addition is less, would benefit more from the introduction of VAT?

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

Statement

(a) As per the Entry 54 of the List II of the 7th Schedule to the Constitution of India, sales tax is a State subject. Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories have unanimously decided to shift to a Value Added Tax regime w.e.f. 1.4.2002. Special Category and newly formed States have an option to introduce VAT by 1.4.2003.

(b) VAT is a tax that is levied on the value added along different stages of production and distribution of a commodity or service giving full set-off to tax on inputs at each stage of value addition. VAT permits a larger coverage in as much as it is possible to extend it to value addition at all stages in the production-distribution chain. Therefore, the potential for raising resources in a simple, efficient and neutral manner is high making it a buoyant source of revenue.

(c) There are variations in types of sales-tax in the India State, but there is a pre-dominant reliance on first point sales-tax in preference to multi-point sales tax system, as the latter has more of a cascading effect with larger number of assesseees.

(d) VAT eliminates cascading of taxes by giving set-off on input. It eases administration through self-monitoring feature of invoices. It is simple and transparent as it collects the quantum of tax payable at every stage of transaction. Since VAT permits relatively larger coverage in the production-distribution chain, the potential for raising resources efficiently is generally high.

(e) VAT is an efficient system of commodity taxation with global acceptability and popularity. Geographical location or backwardness is not an impediment for introduction on VAT.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Sir, the questions are specific, but the answers are evasive. I shall confine myself to part (b), (c) and (d) of my Question, in my first part of first supplementary. Then, for part (e), I shall have the second supplementary.

VAT is a multi-point tax. In most of the States, multi-point tax system was done away with because it led to evasion of tax and corruption. Sir, I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister whether it will not be like that. Would it not further complicate the current taxation system and lead to tax evasion? I also want to know whether it would ensure higher revenue collection than that from the current sales tax system.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, there is no reason for the Ministry of Finance, Government of India to be evasive on this question. Let me begin by saying that the introduction of VAT system in this country is going to be a revolutionary step forward in taxation reform, from the Central Government right down to the State Governments.

Secondly, reform in the sales tax structure is entirely within the domain of the State Governments. We are only acting as facilitators, and whatever is being done by way of reform has been entirely conceived by and is being implemented by the State Governments.

With respect to the specific question which the hon. Member has asked, I would like to point out that the difference between a simple multi-point tax system and a VAT system is that VAT tends to capture only the value addition at a certain stage and it taxes that particular value. If I were permitted to give an illustration to make this point clear, suppose there is a primary producer. Now, the primary producer gets certain inputs. Under VAT, ten per cent tax will be paid on the inputs. On the next stage, at the stage of the primary producer, 20 per cent tax will be paid, but this ten per cent tax will be deducted. Similarly, when it comes to wholesale, which is the concern of the State Governments, again there will be a set-off and at the retail level again there will be a set-off. The great advantage of that over sales-tax is that it does not put tax on tax. This is the difference why it is a cleaner system of tax; it is a more reasonable system of tax. It does not lead to cascading effect of the incidence of tax that is why it has been adopted by over 120 countries in this world.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: The first supplementary is also not answered. Sir, I had asked whether it would ensure higher revenue collection. The Finance Minister did not answer that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I will answer that. As far as the question of higher revenue collection is concerned, let me give you again a slight background. The State Governments agreed amongst themselves to have only four floor rates of sales-tax with effect from 1st January, 2000, that was last year. When they agreed to this, there were apprehensions in the minds of some State Governments that this might actually lead to deceleration in the collection of revenue. Actually, it has led to an increase. Similarly studies by expert institutions like NIPFP show that a VAT system, when it replaces the existing sales-tax system, will lead to a larger revenue collection. But there are apprehensions in the minds of the State Governments that it might lead to revenue loss and, therefore, we have appointed a Joint Committee of State Government representatives, Government of India and experts to go into this question and study this because the deadline for the introduction of VAT, which the State Governments have accepted, is 1st April, 2002. So, this is a question which is being studied. The studies so far have shown that it will not lead to revenue loss.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: The apprehension and the fear have become clear from the answer of the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you satisfied or not?

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Sir, I am referring to the apprehensions and fear of the State Governments.

My second supplementary is, this multi-point tax starts from the raw-material producer, then the manufacturer, that is, from A to Z. If there are many manufacturers, then that many taxes would be there because of value addition. Then there is the wholesaler and the retailer. These are the stages under the Value Added Tax. The present system is, when a producer-State sells it to a consumer-State, the CST is being imposed as per the provisions of the Constitution and the law made therein. You have a CST of four per cent on declared goods.

Sir, the producer States while selling their products to some consumer States are now paying sales-tax at four per cent. After the introduction of Value Added Tax, I want to know whether taxes at the producer point would be imposed. Would it not be only advantageous to developed producer States and detrimental to the

interests of the backward States where secondary sector is not developed for value addition? I would like to now whether the production tax at first point would be in addition to CST. That also should be made clear. Let me tell you that the fear and apprehension of the backward States, which will be a fact, is that they are going from firepan to fire.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I would like to hasten to add that the apprehension of the hon. Member, perhaps, is not well-founded in respect of the backward States. Let me say that this is not happening overnight. The process of sales tax reforms in this country started in the year 1994. It is more than seven years old. We are now trying to bring it to its fruition, that is to its final stage. I had a meeting with the State Chief Ministers and the State Finance Ministers and this was, if I am not mistaken, on the 5th of July, 2001 where the Chief Ministers unanimously have agreed to implement the Value Added Tax system in this country from the 1st of April, 2002. They have also given another year to the special category States and the newly formed States, namely, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal. It is because they have to put their systems in place. But all the other States have agreed to go ahead with this. This is based on a very clear understanding that there will neither be any revenue loss in this system nor will there be any disadvantage, let me say, for the backward States.

Sir, in every States, when transactions take place, there are manufacturers, there are wholesalers and there are retailers. As I was trying to explain, it is only value addition at each stage that we are trying to capture for tax. Therefore, this is a very good system of tax. All this is something that is operating in every State even today. Therefore, value addition is not going to result in any particular disadvantage to the State Governments.

Sir, as far as the Central Sales Tax is concerned, this has also been studied and let me also put before the House the fact that we have an Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers - empowered not by the Government of India, by the State Chief Ministers. They have set up an Empowered Committee of the State Finance Ministers, of which the Finance Minister to the Government of West Bengal is the Convenor, and they are the ones who are going into the details of this and making their recommendations.

As far as the Central Sales Tax is concerned, this has also been studied in great detail and we have agreed to bring an amendment to the Central Sales Tax Act. The Government of India has decided on the amendment

and I think, I will be introducing this amendment very soon. But the Central Sales Tax is not a very proper way of taxing...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, as we go along...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: We did that thing in favour of all the developed States at that time in 1956.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am coming to that.

Sir, we looked at, along with this Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, the structure of Central Sales Tax. The Central Sales Tax goes entirely to the States. So, it adds to their revenue collection and, therefore, it was felt that we need not interfere with Central Sales Tax immediately. We will study it as we go along and we are making amendments in the Central Sales Tax Act in order to make it in conformity with the Value Added Tax. This is the limited objective for the time being. But we will study the implications of the Central Sales Tax as we go along.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Sir, some States have expressed fear and apprehension in connection with the introduction of the Value Added Tax. There are some poor States like Rajasthan and they have expressed their resentment over the introduction of VAT. Also, some experts have felt that VAT is no better than the current system of tax. So many meetings have also taken place between the States and the Central Government.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to the advantages and the disadvantages of the respective States in case VAT is going to be introduced.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, let me again clarify before this hon. House that the decision to introduce VAT in this country has been taken by the Chief Ministers of the State Governments unanimously. It is not a decision which is sought to be imposed on the State Governments by the Government of India.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: They are made to agree.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: They have not been made to agree. I will strongly differ with the statement; that is not correct.

Cutting across political party lines, when we had the Chief Ministers' Conference in November, 1999, there were some State Governments which said that they would like to go ahead with the introduction of VAT irrespective

of whether other State Governments fall in line or not. We have the experience of Maharashtra, for instance, which had taken the initiative and gone ahead with the introduction of VAT, but the other States did not fall in line.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: That is what I was referring to.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Therefore, we recommended to the Chief Ministers of the States that it would be better if it is introduced across the board on one day. That is why they decided in the meeting that it should be introduced all over the country, barring some minor exceptions, with effect from 1st April, 2002.

As far as the apprehensions of certain State Governments are concerned, they have been addressed. If there is any other apprehension, we have set up two Committees to look into these issues.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I welcome the initiative taken by the Central and State Governments in this direction. It is a *saralakaran*. Last year when this rationalisation of sales tax was introduced.

[*Translation*]

At that time Sales tax was imposed on essential items, which were exempted in many States. You have shown concern about the 'VAT', which you are going to introduce, that the State Governments should not impose Sales Tax on essential items and Life Saving Drugs through 'VAT' system. What arrangements you have made in this regard and what steps the Governments propose to take with regard to Central Sales Tax Reforms or to abolish it gradually.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, as I have already stated that such decision is not taken by the Government of India, I would reiterate that this is not the decision of the Government of India. We do not decide as to what items should be included in the exempted category. We also donot decide the items which will be included in various slabs. All the Chief Ministers have intrusted this responsibility to a committee consisting of State Finance Ministers. The committee has been authorised so that the Chief Ministers are not troubled again and again and this committee could take decision on their own. I have a list of items of exempted category of Sales Tax Department which include about 49 items. Under 'VAT' system the exempted category which is going to be made, also includes many items. If the honourable member has

any suggestion, I would request him to send the same to me so that I could forward the same to the committee authorised in this behalf.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 283 Shri K.E. Krishnamurthy — not present.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, this a very important thing for Kerala. Let me ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Roy.

Duty Drawback Rates

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*283. SHRI SUBODH ROY:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to review the duty drawback rates;

(b) if so, whether any request has been received from the exporters especially garments exporters to this effect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

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) There is no proposal at present to review the duty drawback rates.

(b) to (d) Several representations were earlier received from various individual garments exporters, number of garment export promotion organisations/ associations as well as Apparel Export Promotion Council, seeking a review of the duty drawback rates announced on 1st June, 2001 for various categories of readymade garments. All these representations were duly considered and taking due note of the fresh data submitted, the duty drawback rates for all categories of readymade garments (including knitwears), were suitably revised upwards by a notification issued on 22nd June, 2001.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has stated in his reply that on the basis of memoranda and suggestions received by him from the exporters upto June 1, he has issued a notification on 22nd June in this regard. I would like to know whether any delegation of Garment exporters, has met him or has given any memorandum to him after 22nd June and whether he has been requested to amend the notification or not? What does your notification say?

[English]

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, so far we have received two or three representations. We are examining the particulars according to the duty drawback rules and we are giving drawback. Those who are manufacturer-exporters are suffering because of duties. If they give their details, we will consider and it will be done.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked the Minister regarding the subject matter of the notification and whether the interest of small exporters has been protected in this notification or not because we have not been provided with the copy of the Notification.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is asking about the protection of the interests of the small exporters.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, it is purely an incentive to boost our exports. It is on the basis of the export incentives that we are giving this duty drawback and to earn more foreign exchange. There is no distinction or discrimination between the small exporters and the large exporters.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it mentioned in the notification? That is what he is asking.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY: What is there in the notification, kindly give its detail.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): As our colleague Minister has said that drawback schedule which is prepared, is a complete book of

notifications and the same is available. According to that we do not differentiate between small and big exporters. Whosoever exports, is provided with the facility of duty drawback. He has to suffer domestic customs and Excise duties and for that we give them concession.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to serious incidents of corrupt practices involving duty drawback? If so, what steps the Government propose to take to plug these loopholes?

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, so far there is no fraud committed in the duty drawback. However, if anything is brought to our knowledge, we will take action.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: There are so many reports with the Government about the corrupt practices involving duty drawback...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I would like to reply to this and set the apprehensions at rest. In the Department, directly and through the Director-General of Revenue Intelligence, we move in wherever we feel that some malpractices are taking place and there are some instances of corruption. We have taken very strong action in a number of cases. We are constantly vigilant as far as this aspect is concerned...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Has any Parliamentary Committee or a financial committee drawn the attention of the Government to serious lapses in this area?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, as I have mentioned, we are ourselves aware of this. We do not need anybody to point out to us these defects. We are constantly monitoring this at all seaports and airports and, we are constantly at the task of controlling such malpractices.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his written reply, the hon. Minister has said: "The incentives are being given to boost the exports." By starting the duty drawback, it is admitted that the Government is not supporting the exporters. I want a clear reply on this point.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, this impression, unfortunately, is not correct. We never stopped duty drawback. The procedure is that after every Budget, when a three-month period elapses, consultations take place with various Export Promotion Councils and other export

promotion bodies. Then the notifications for duty draw back in the light of changes in the Budget are announced.

This year we made these changes. There were representations because this year the changes went a little beyond merely the changes in excise and customs.

In terms of number of categories, there were changes; in terms of caps, there were some changes. Therefore, it created some problems. The exporters came back to us. My distinguished colleague, the Commerce and Industry Minister took up the matter with us. We invited the trade bodies and the Export Promotion Council to give us further information. We examined all the information; and on the basis of the information which was subsequently made available to us, we revised considerably the duty drawback rates on the 22nd June, making them effective from the 7th June, which is what the earlier rates were, so that no disadvantage is suffered by our exporters.

I would like to end by saying that as far as commitment to exports is concerned, the Government of India is strongly committed to export. I am entirely with my colleague, the Commerce and Industry Minister as far as this is concerned.

Trade Agreements with Latin American Countries

*284. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have established trade relationship with Mexico and other Latin American countries after NAFTA came into operation;

(b) if so, the areas in which trade relations were established till March, 2001 alongwith the names of other Latin American countries;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to further expand bilateral trade with these countries;

(d) if so, the areas identified for the purpose during 2001-2002; and

(e) the agreements signed with these countries in this regard?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) India is having trade relations with Latin American countries, from a time much prior to formation of NAFTA. These relations have been further strengthened in the last few years. India has foreign trade with all the Latin American countries. The main trading partners are: Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Panama, Venezuela, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, Dominic Republic and Guatemala. The major areas in which trade has grown with these countries are: Engineering, Drugs & Chemicals and Textiles.

(c) and (d) The Government has started FOCUS: LAC programme in the year 1997 and the exports have gone up from US\$ 611.31 million in 1998-99 to US\$ 981.79 million in 2000-2001. The bilateral trade have gone up from US\$ 1342.00 million in 1998-99 to US\$ 1705.80 in 2000-2001. The focus areas identified for trade promotion are:

- (i) Textiles including ready-made garments;
- (ii) Engineering products including IT software; and
- (iii) Chemical products including Drugs & Pharmaceuticals.

(e) No such agreement has been signed in recent years.

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is an increase in the volume of trade exports or imports with Latin American countries after NAFTA come into operation; and if so, I want to have the details.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: NAFTA came into operation later. Even before that, we are having our trade relations with Latin American countries. Recently our trade relations have reached a peak because we have got a 'Focus Latin American Countries Programme' or 'FOCUS: LAC Programme'. According to the recent figures, up to 2000-2001, our exports have increased by 50 per cent. Even now, we are not complacent; we are doing our best to improve it further.

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: My second supplementary is this. May I know whether India proposes to have bilateral agreement with Brazil for sharing technology for use of ethanol blending in motor spirit? If so, what are the details?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: So far, there is no proposal to have bilateral understanding. But if necessary, we will go in for that.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Today's paper has reported that the American Secretary of Trade had observed that India was being isolated since India was not having better relations with NAFTA and other regional associations. May I know whether the observation is correct, according to the Government of India?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: America has got several regional agreements with Latin America, with NAFTA and with others. We do not have such agreements. We are trying to get preferential trade agreement with countries like Chile, Colombia and Venezuela.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: May I ask the hon. Minister whether India has got any Most Favoured Nation Status with any of the NAFTA countries? Furthermore, what are the items we are exporting to NAFTA countries? Item-wise details have not been mentioned in the statement of the hon. Minister. Which items hold predominant position in our export to NAFTA countries?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: We are having MFN treatment almost with all countries except Pakistan. Regarding exports to Latin American countries, the three product groups, that is, textiles, engineering products and chemicals products, constitute nearly 80 per cent of India's exports.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Have you got any MFN status from the NAFTA countries?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Yes, we have got. I said that except with Pakistan, we have got MFN treatment with all countries, including China.

[Translation]

Bank Loans for Film Industry

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*285. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has recently drawn broad guidelines for film financing suggesting commercial banks to provide finance to projects, where the total cost of production is below Rs. 10 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other suggestions made by the RBI on the film industry;

(d) the names of the banks/FIs which have come forward for providing loan to film industry;

(e) to what extent it is likely to reduce the influence of underworld on film industry; and

(f) the arrangements made to ensure that the loan provided by the banks should not turn into a bad debt?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for financing Film Production to all commercial Banks on 14.5.2001. A copy of the guidelines is attached as Annexure.

(d) Similarly, the Joint Institutional Committee constituted by the IDBI have also framed guidelines for financing of Film Industry. These guidelines have also been circulated to financial institutions for implementation. Most of the Banks/FIs are in the process of adopting the guidelines for implementation after due approval of their respective Boards.

(e) The schemes formulated by RBI/IDBI are expected to enable extension of institutionalized credit to the Film Industry. Further, against the prevailing high cost of funds from informal channels, the institutional credit to the Industry is expected to reduce the cost of funds in film production activity.

(f) The guidelines for financing Film Industry have taken into account the high risk involved in funding this industry and the schemes have built in safeguards regarding security of advances to this sector as well as appropriate mechanism for follow up and monitoring.

Annexure

RBI Guidelines for financing film production

(Valid for Banks)

Introduction

1.1 Film production constitutes the most important part of film industry. Film production involves development

of story, screenplay, dialogue, etc., music recording, film shooting, lab processing and post production activities such as editing, dubbing, re-recording, mixing, taxing final prints, obtaining censor clearance and release of prints for distribution. Under the existing financing practices followed in the industry, the producers normally bring in about 25 per cent of the cost of production of a film and, the balance 75 per cent is met by way of advance payments from distributors and finance from private financiers. A peculiar feature of film production is that the producer recovers the entire cost of production of a film before/at the time of release of the film through sale of distribution rights to the distributors (normally distributors pay up to 40 per cent of the agreed amount when the film is under production and the balance at the time of the release of the film).

1.2 Given the need for institutional finance for film production, the broad guidelines for financing this activity are enumerated in the following paragraphs.

2. Eligibility

- Banks may provide finance to film producers (corporate as well as non-corporate entities) with good track record in the relative field.
- Banks may also provide finance to these entities for production of films in participation with the National Film Development Corporation (please see item 4).

3. Direct Finance for Film Production

3.1 Criteria for financing

- Banks may obtain from the producers a detailed budget for each film, clearly indicating the entire cost estimates for the film and the means of financing the same.
- Ordinarily producers are required to bring in at least 25 per cent of the project cost as promoters' contribution. Producers are also required to tie up the advances from the Distributors in the usual course as per usual practice (sales advances) to cover 35 per cent to 40 per cent of the budget. Thus, bank advances could be for the balance requirement of 35 per cent to 40 per cent of the project cost. However, in deserving cases where the banks are quite comfortable with the project as well as the background of the producers, the financing could be increased up to 50 per cent of project cost on merits.

- Banks may provide finance to such of the projects where the total cost of production of a film does not exceed Rs. 10 crore. The amount sanctioned should be within the overall ceiling of the prudential exposure norms prescribed by RBI from time to time. Banks may also internally prescribe a suitable limit for their overall exposure to the film industry.
- The disbursement of bank loan should ordinarily start only after utilising the promoter's contribution and advance payments from the distributors. There may not, however, be any objection to bank loan being disbursed side by side along with payments by distributors on proportionate basis. The arrangement should be firmed up at the commencement of the project. However, in any case, banks may disburse loan only after the promoter has brought in his contribution to the project.

3.2 Period of Loan

The period of loan may be fixed based on the financing bank's assessment of cash generation of the project.

3.3 Security

- Banks may obtain the Laboratory Letter conveying rights on the negatives in favour of the lenders.
- The Music Audio/Video rights, CD/DVD/internet rights, Satellite Rights, Channel Rights, Export/International Rights, etc. should also be assigned to the banks to serve as main security along with the negative rights in the form of lab letter, through appropriate documentation.
- First hypothecation charge on all the tangible movable assets under the project. Assignment of all agreements and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in favour of the lenders. Lenders to have right in negotiation of valuation of all IPRs.
- Collaterals, if necessary, may be obtained at the discretion of banks.
- A Trust & Retention Account (TRA) may be maintained for all capital as well as revenue inflows and outflows. Thus, receivables on sale of all IPRs may be credited to TRA. The modalities of TRA may be worked out on case-to-case basis to the satisfaction of the lenders.

A No Objection Certificate (NOC) from all concerned parties for the TRA arrangement will be required. The lenders will have first charge on the TRA.

- Banks may look into the legal aspects of the laboratory letter, assignment of music, audio/video rights, etc.

3.4 Insurance

The existing insurance products as acceptable to banks may be obtained from film producers.

3.5 Follow-up/Monitoring

Banks should devise appropriate accounting and information/data submission forms for periodic flow of information from the producers. They should also obtain periodical progress reports, cash flow statements, audit reports and such other reports as are considered necessary. Banks may also consider appointing specialised agencies for monitoring the timely mooted/processing of the film and assessing the reasonableness of the expenditure.

3.6 Risk factors

Production completion risk is one of the major risks in any film production. To mitigate this risk, it would be necessary for banks to carefully appraise the projects having due regard to the track record of the producers as also the distributors. If necessary, banks may also engage industry specialists/consultants for evaluation of proposals. Insurance of risks, key personnel, etc. needs to be organised. Pending development of appropriate risk insurance products, the existing products such as equipment insurance, key personnel insurance, etc. could be availed of.

4. Finance through NFDC/to NFDC

4.1 The National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC) is a specialised agency set up by Government of India for promoting quality cinema. NFDC produces, co-produces and finances films particularly small budget films. Over the years, it has provided a wide range of services essential for the integrated growth of Indian cinema. Considering that appraisal of film projects requires special skills (which all banks may not be equipped with, at least in the initial years), banks, at the request of NFDC, may also consider extending credit for production of films in participation with NFDC. This would be an

additional channel for extending credit to the film industry. The detailed modalities in this regard (including security cover) may be worked out mutually by banks and NFDC.

4.2 Banks may also consider providing reasonable credit facility to NFDC taking into account usual safeguards observed while taking credit exposure.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister in response to my question, and the directions issued with regard to financial assistance to be given to the Film Industry by the Reserve Bank of India.

Sir, firstly through you, I would like to know from the Finance Minister whether the Film producers and Association of Film producers have been placing their demands to the Government from time to time for the last many years and they have discussed their financial problems with them. While issuing the directions regarding funding them, the suggestions and demands put forward by them have been taken into account by the RBI. Whether these directions are in conformity to their suggestions/demands? Whether any survey was conducted to ascertain the amount of finance to be given to the film industry every year? Whether the directions issued to the Bank and other Financial institutions are able to fulfil their requirements?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, it is true as the member has said that the discussions have been taken place at various levels in Film industry for providing these facilities. The Information and Broadcasting Minister is also sitting in the House and when she again became the Minister, she raised this matter strongly and thereafter we had issued notification under I.D.B.I. Action on 16.10.2000 in which it has been stated...

[English]

"Entertainment industry, including films, will be entitled to funding by the financial institutions."

[Translation]

Meanwhile this matter was taken up with the Indian Bank Association. A group of this Indian Bank Associations considered this matter seriously. They gave their recommendations to the Reserve Bank of India. Thereafter Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines in the month of May, this year. Presently we have two types

of guidelines and both of them are similar to each other. IDBI has issued guidelines for the financial institutions and Reserve Bank of India has issued for commercial Banks. Since not much time has passed it is not possible as this stage to assess how far the things have proved successful. According to information available with us, I can say that a new beginning has taken place with more care in financial sector. I am deliberately using the term with more care because the Banks will have to keep in mind their needs and demands while funding to this sector. Besides that they will have to keep their interests in mind also. Whatever the guidelines have been framed, I admit that both the IDBI and RBI have presented a better combination which will provide the facility of loans to banks and financial institution and they will also be able to safeguard their interests.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer to one part of my question has not been given. I had asked whether any survey had been conducted with regard to total annual requirement of the film industry. You have not told any thing about it and probably you may tell later on. I had gone through the guidelines. I would like to ask you a question drawing your attention towards the guidelines issued to the Banks. You told that the first condition of the Bank would be that before sanctioning the loan 25% of the total cost of the project shall be met by the producer. After that, he would make arrangement of 33 to 40% cost of the project from the distributor and from other sources. The Remaining cost i.e. 35% would be given by the bank as an advance loan to the Producer. Whether this loan is sufficient and whether you had discussion with the producers and members of Association? I want to know whether this will meet their requirements and whether this will be practicable. You have mentioned film industry as a high risk industry. In order to cover the risk, whether you propose to give loan at different and higher rate of interest than the rate being charged by you from the other industries?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, firstly, I would like to say that I don't remember about having conducted any survey regarding the total requirement of the film industry. But broadly we shall provide rupees about 100 crore to the Film industry as decided by the IDBI.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: It is like a drop in the ocean.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: We are not saying that we will provide a good amount. You have agreed to this

fact that this is a very risky industry and the past experience of Banks was also not satisfactory. If the bank take steps cautiously then I have no complaint about them. But I would like to say one thing that when you were in power at that time interest rates were deregulated. It is not we who decide at what rate of interest of money should be given to a person or industry. It all depends upon the Bank management who decides and to whom how much amount and at what rate of interest is to be given.

According to you they say that they will invest their own money first and thereafter they will invest money of distributors. This aspect has been studied and it has been found that about 50 to 60 per cent of the amount interested in the film industry either belongs to the film producer or distributor and the remaining amount is required to be financed from other sources. Thus, it has been stated in the issued guidelines that a bank can finance a film industry upto 40% and if found appropriate even upto 50%. It has also been stated in the IDBI's guidelines that they will finance the projects of corporate entities. But the banks have said that they will finance the projects of corporates as well as non-corporates. But the direction we want to decide with the help of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry is that film financing should go for transparency. It should have the same norms as are applicable to the corporate sector and other industries. Corporatisation should be encouraged in Film industry. We want to promote film insurance also so that there is proper insurance at the time of film production and the money invested by the people or banks is safe.

In view of all these things we are trying to move together so that the past bitter experiences are not repeated.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: This reply is totally unsatisfactory because Government has passed all the responsibility on banks and has not kept any role for itself to play. I have repeatedly said in original question that film producers, industries and their associations have expressed their view points. I.B. Minister is sitting beside you. Whether their view points have been incorporated or taken care of. Since the guidelines issued by you are not going to help and the status quo will continue. Now we are making such a hue and cry that money is being invested from underworld. In the absence of proper protection from Government, film producers have no option but to accept the money from such sources. It is only due to wrong policies of the Government that the underworld is able to enter into the film industry. To

check this it is necessary that Government should take initiative of its own and come forward to formulate practicable policies otherwise it will not be possible for you to check the underworld.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now it seems that good deeds are being complained of since earlier there were no guidelines. We are making efforts to streamline this entire system by preparing and issuing comprehensive guidelines. We should not be treated as guilty for this. I have never said that all requirements of the film industry would be fulfilled with these guidelines. All the needs of an industry are not fulfilled by banking sector or financial institutions alone. They have to invest their own money and also to make arrangements from other resources. The hon'ble member must be knowing that there is a National Film Development and Finance Corporation and its only job is to finance and promote good films. Among arrangements with Banks, NFDC will play a vital and important role. It will help in assessment and project appraisal. I would like to submit that after issuing IDBI's guidelines financial institutions have financed four projects. They have so far advanced about Rs. 45 crores and 12 cases are in the pipeline. It is not so that the process has not started. The process has started. We are concerned that money is coming from underworld for film financing. With the co-operation of Shrimati Shushmaji, I am trying to lessen the strangle hold of the underworld and to make arrangement for clean financing. Shrimati Sushmaji and myself went to Mumbai at the time of issue of notification of IDBI. She made an announcement. We met the people of the film industry. Film industry does not come under my Ministry but it is continuously in touch with them. If there is any need to improve this system, then Government and the banks will certainly look into it.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister in brief as is the experience of Government and the people that many difficulties are faced in recovering the loan advanced to this industry. It is seen that generally loans are not recovered. It has been mentioned in the reply of hon'ble Minister that it is peculiar to film industry that film producers recover the entire cost of the film by selling the distribution rights to the distributors while releasing or before releasing a film. He has told it after assessing the situation. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government has issued any directions to the banks that loans should be recovered before the release of a film...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, kindly look at what Shri Kirit Somaiya is doing. He is distributing some papers in the house. This is objectionable...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kirit Somaiya, what is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, please see that Members on your side do not distribute any papers in the House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: You should have objected earlier...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have told him. Why are you raising it again?

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Whether those big producers will also try to get finance who have already produced many films? Whether Government have made any rule to seize the negatives of earlier films of those producers who do not return the loan of the banks?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tried time and again to explain that this system has been adopted by RBI on the recommendations of the Committee. It has been prepared by the IDBI with the help of financial institutions.

12.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has rightly mentioned that there are some precedents when investment has been made in risky industries and the money could not be recovered. So every financial institution will keep it in mind and finance only those projects where it is confident that its money will be recovered. The guidelines made in this regard are very comprehensive. I think these guidelines have been formulated keeping in view of reality of film world. These guidelines will certainly be helpful to film industry in financing the film industry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Loan Repayment liability of States

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

(a) whether the loan repayment liability of the States is very significant and a heavy burden on them;

(b) if so, the broad reasons for this increase in the loan liability;

(c) whether the Government are considering to convert all outstanding loans into a block loan and to re-calculate/reduce interest on the block loan at prevailing bank rates;

(d) whether the Government are also considering to announce a moratorium of five years for repayment of principal on this block loan and one more year for the interest; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The repayment liability of States depends on outstanding amount of debt of the State Governments. As per the Eleventh Finance Commission's Report, the outstanding long-term debt of State Governments has increased from Rs. 37,406 crores as on 31.03.1984 to Rs. 334,666 crores as on 31.03.99. The increased stock of debt reflects the growing gap between States' revenues and expenditure.

(c) to (e) Finance Commission within its terms of reference reviews the debt position of the States while making its recommendations for transfer to States. The Eleventh Finance Commission, has recommended transfer of funds to States and also a scheme for debt relief as a part of its Report. The recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission have been accepted by the Government of India. There is no provision for selective reopening of debt relief beyond the recommendations made by Eleventh Finance Commission.

Programme Advisory Committee

*287. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Programme Advisory Committee of all Doordarshan Kendras/AIR stations have not been fully formed for more than last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons, Doordarshan Kendra-wise and AIR station-wise;

(c) the composition and terms of reference made to the Committee; and

(d) the time by which the PAC would be fully constituted?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Prior to the formation of Prasar Bharati, Programme Advisory Committees for AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras were set up as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. These committees were last constituted in 1995/1996 for a period of two years, for 74 All India Radio Stations and 13 Doordarshan Kendras. In the guidelines, there was a provision that the Committees could continue to function even after the expiry of the term till the new Committees are notified.

The composition and terms and reference of the Committee, as laid down in the guidelines, are given in the enclosed statement.

After the formation of Prasar Bharati, a view had been taken particularly as regards the functioning of Doordarshan that in view of the fact that programme content creation in a highly competitive environment is a viewer-ship driven activity requiring high professional and technical evaluation, these Advisory Committees may not be of much relevance in programme decisions. This has since been reviewed and the entire matter will shortly be placed before the Prasar Bharati Board for a decision.

Statement

Composition

The Committee shall have the following composition:-

(a) Chairman: Station Director of the AIR Station or Director of the Doordarshan Kendra as the case may be.

(b) Non-Official: The Committee shall have a maximum of 25 non-official members out of which 50% shall be women. There will be at least one member representing the following discipline/interest groups:

(i) Dance/Music.

- (ii) Drama/Theatre.
- (iii) Film/Folklore.
- (iv) Art and Culture.
- (v) Women and Children Welfare.
- (vi) Youth Welfare
- (vii) Medical Science.
- (viii) Environment.
- (ix) Social Welfare including welfare of Scheduled Castes & other weaker sections.
- (x) Tribal Welfare.
- (xi) Science.
- (xii) Sports
- (xiii) Literature.
- (xiv) Linguistic Minorities (This is applicable where a Station/Kendra produces programmes in languages other than the main language of the area.)
- (xv) Humour.
- (xvi) Agriculture and allied sectors (Preferably from Krishi Vidyan Kendra/Extension Centre).

(c) Ex-Officio-Members:

1. Engineering Head of the Station/Kendra where Director of the Station/Kendra is from Programme service and vice-versa.
2. The Director of Information/Publicity to the State/ Union Territory or his nominee.
3. The News Editor/Asstt. News Editor of the AIR Station/Doordarshan Kendra to which the committee is attached.
4. Senior-most ASD/PEX of the Station/Kendra will be Secretary to the Programme Advisory Committee.

Note: DG or his nominee may attend any of the meetings.

Functions of the Committee:

The Committee will review the programme broadcast/ telecast since the last meeting and discuss the programme plans for the ensuing period. The Committee will also make suggestions for the improvement of programmes and advice in such matters concerning the planning and presentation of the programme of the Station/Kendra to which it is attached.

Restrictions on Cooperative Banks

*288. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Credit Policy declared by the Reserve Bank of India in the 1st week of April, 2001 stipulates many restrictions on co-operative banks which are adversely affecting the performance of these banks;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra and any other State Governments have requested the Union Government to remove these restrictions; 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) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced certain measures for urban co-operative banks in the Monetary & Credit Policy, 2001-02, as detailed below:

- No fresh proposals for lending directly or indirectly against securities of shares either to individuals or any other entity with effect from 19 April 2001 to be entertained;
- Borrowing in the call/notice money market on a daily basis not to exceed 2.0 per cent of their aggregate deposits as the end March of the previous financial year;
- No increase in term deposits with other urban co-operative banks. Present term deposits to be unwound before end of the June, 2002;
- Government securities component of Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) for non-scheduled urban co-operative banks with Net demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) of Rs. 25 crore and above raised from 10.0 per cent to 15.0 per cent and from nil to 10.0 per cent for UCBs with NDTL less than Rs. 25.0 crore. SLR for scheduled UCBs increased from 15.0 per cent to 20.0 per cent (increased levels to be achieved by end March 2002);
- With effect from April 1, 2003, the scheduled UCBs will need to maintain their entire SLR assets of 25.0 per cent of NDTL only in Government and other approved securities.

The policy measures were initiated keeping in view the recent developments in the urban banking sector and

are essentially aimed at strengthening the urban co-operative banking sector. RBI feels that there may not be any adverse impact of these measures on the urban co-operative banking sector.

(c) RBI has reported that no request from any State Government has been received for removal of these restrictions.

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

[Translation]

Impact on Economic Reforms

*289. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the achievements under the basic economic reforms programmes have not been upto the expectations;

(b) whether the foreign companies have gained more from these economic reform rather the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The economic reforms have had a favourable impact on the growth of the economy. With an annual average GDP growth of 6.3 per cent during 1992-93 to 2000-01, India has emerged as one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Allocation of Foodgrains under PDS

*290. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) on the basis of population projection of which year essential commodities are allocated to States for Public Distribution;

(b) whether the Government propose to revise the allocation on the basis of the latest census; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The allocation of foodgrains for families below the poverty line (BPL) under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is being made on the basis of the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission based on the methodology of the Expert Group on estimation of proportion and number of poor and taking into account the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. The allocation of foodgrains for families above the poverty line (APL) under TPDS is transitory. At the time of introduction of TPDS in June, 1997, the allocation of foodgrains for APL families in a State/UT was fixed on the basis of the average annual lifting of foodgrains during the past 10 years minus the allocation for BPL families @ 10 kg. per family per month. The allocation for APL families is being maintained at the same level.

There is no proposal under Government's consideration at present to revise the basis of allocation for BPL & APL families.

Guidelines for Disinvestment Process

*291. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued guidelines on the qualifying criteria for advisors and bidders in the disinvestment process; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Copies of the guidelines issued on 13.7.2001 regarding qualification of Advisors for disinvestment

process and Bidders seeking to acquire stake in public sector enterprises through the process of disinvestment, are at statement-I & statement-II respectively.

Statement-I

No.6/4/2001-DD-II
Government of India
Department of Disinvestment

Block 14, CGO Complex
New Delhi.
Dated 13th July, 2001.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Guidelines for qualification of Advisors for disinvestment process

Government has examined the issue of framing comprehensive and transparent guidelines defining the criteria for selection of Advisors, so that the parties selected through competitive bidding inspire public confidence. Earlier, a set of criteria like sector experience, knowledge, commitment etc. used to be prescribed. Based on experience and in consultation with concerned departments, Government has decided to prescribe the following additional criteria for the qualification/disqualification of the parties to act as Advisors to the Government for the disinvestment transactions:-

(a) Any conviction by a Court of Law or indictment/adverse order by a regulatory authority for a grave offence against the Advising concern or its sister concern would constitute a disqualification. Grave offence would be defined to be of such a nature that it outrages the moral sense of the community. The decision in regard to the nature of offence would be taken on a case to case basis after considering the facts of the case of relevant legal principles by the Government. Similarly, the decision in regard to the relationship between the sister concerns would be taken, based on relevant facts and after examining whether the two concerns are substantially controlled by the same person/persons.

(b) In cash such a disqualification takes place, after the entity has already been appointed as Advisor, the party would be under an obligation to withdraw voluntarily from the disinvestment process, failing which the Government would have the liberty to terminate the appointment/contract.

(c) Disqualification shall continue for a period that Government deems appropriate.

(d) Any entity, which is disqualified from participating in the disinvestment process, would not be allowed to remain associated with it or get associated merely because it has preferred an appeal against the order based on which it has been disqualified. The mere pendency of appeal will have no effect on the disqualification.

(e) The disqualification criteria would come into effect immediately and would apply to all the Advisors already appointed by the Government for various disinvestment transactions, which have not yet been completed.

(f) Before disqualifying a concern, a Show Cause Notice why it should not be disqualified would be issued to it and it would be given an opportunity to explain its position.

(g) Henceforth, these criteria will be prescribed in the advertisements seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the interested parties to act as Advisor. Further, the interested parties shall be required to provide with their EOI an undertaking to the effect that no investigation by a regulatory authority is pending against them. In case any investigation is pending against the concern or its sister concern or against the CEO or any of its Directors/Managers/Employees, full details of such investigation including the name of the investigating agency, the charge/offence for which the investigation has been launched, name and designation of persons against whom the investigation has been launched, and other relevant information should be disclosed, to the satisfaction of the Government. For other criteria also, similar undertaking will be obtained along with EOI. They would also have to give an undertaking that if they are disqualified as per the prescribed criteria, at any time before the transaction is completed, they would be required to inform the Government of the same and voluntarily withdraw from the assignment.

(h) The interested parties would also be required to give an undertaking that there exists no conflicts of interest as on the date of their appointment as Advisors in handling of the transaction and that, in future, if such a conflict of interest arises, the Advisor would immediately intimate the Government of the same. For disinvestment proposes, 'conflict of interest' is defined to include engaging in any activity or business by the Advisor in association with any third Party, during the engagement, which would or may be reasonably expected to, directly or indirectly, materially adversely affect the interest of Government of India or the Company (being disinvested)

in relation to the transaction, and in respect of which the Advisor has or may obtain any proprietary or confidential information during the engagement, that, if known to any other client of the Advisor, could be used in any manner by such client to the material disadvantage of Government of India or the Company (being disinvested) in the transaction. The conflict of interest would be deemed to have arisen if any Advisor firm/concern, has any professional or commercial relationship with any bidding firm/concern for the same disinvestment transaction during the pendency of such transaction. In this context, both Advisor firm and bidding firm would mean the distinct and separate legal entities and would not include their sister concern, group concern or affiliates etc. The professional or commercial relationship is defined to include acting on behalf of the bidder or undertaking any assignment for the bidder of any nature, whether or not directly related to disinvestment transaction.

(i) On receiving information on conflict of interest, the Government would give the option to the Advisor to either eliminate the conflict of interest within a stipulated time or withdraw from the transaction and the Advisor would be required to act accordingly, failing which Government would have the liberty to terminate the appointment/contract.

(A.K. TEWARI)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

To

The concerned Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India

Statement-II

No.6/4/2001-DD-II
Government of India
Department of Disinvestment

Block 14, CGO Complex
New Delhi.

Dated 13th July, 2001.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Guidelines for qualification of Bidders seeking to acquire stakes in Public Sector Enterprises through the process of Disinvestment

Government has examined the issue of framing comprehensive and transparent guidelines defining the criteria for bidders interested in PSE-disinvestment so that

the parties selected through competitive bidding could inspire public confidence. Earlier, criteria like net worth, experience etc. used to be prescribed. Based on experience and in consultation with concerned departments, Government has decided to prescribe the following additional criteria for the qualification/disqualification of the parties seeking to acquire stakes in public sector enterprises through disinvestment:-

(a) In regard to matters other than the security and integrity of the country, any conviction by a Court of Law or indictment/adverse order by a regulatory authority that casts a doubt on the ability of the bidder to manage the public sector unit when it is disinvested, or which relates to a grave offence would constitute disqualification. Grave offence is defined to be of such a nature that it outrages the moral sense of the community. The decision in regard to the nature of the offence would be taken on case to case basis after considering the facts of the case and relevant legal principles, by the Government.

(b) In regard to matters relating to the security and integrity of the country, any charge-sheet by an agency of the Government/conviction by a Court of Law for an offence committed by the bidding party or by any sister concern of the bidding party would result in disqualification. The decision in regard to the relationship between the sister concerns would be taken, based on the relevant facts and after examining whether the two concerns are substantially controlled by the same person/persons.

(c) In both (a) and (b) disqualification shall continue for a period that Government deems appropriate.

(d) Any entity, which is disqualified from participating in the disinvestment process, would not be allowed to remain associated with it or get associated merely because it has preferred an appeal against the order based on which it has been disqualified. The mere pendency of appeal will have no effect on the disqualification.

(e) The disqualification criteria would come into effect immediately and would appeal to all bidders for various disinvestment transactions, which have not been completed as yet.

(f) Before disqualifying a concern, a Show Cause Notice why it should not be disqualified would be issued to it and it would be given an opportunity to explain its position.

(g) Henceforth, these criteria will be prescribed in the advertisements seeking Expression of Interest (EOI)

from the interested parties. The interested parties would be required to provide the information on the above criteria, along with their Expressions of Interest (EOI). The bidders shall be required to provide with their EOI an undertaking to the effect that no investigation by a regulatory authority is pending against them. In case any investigation is pending against the concern or its sister concern or against its CEO or any of its Directors/Managers/employees, full details of such investigation including the name of the investigating agency, the charge/offence for which the investigation has been launched, name and designation of persons against whom the investigation has been launched and other relevant information should be disclosed, to the satisfaction of the Government. For other criteria also, a similar undertaking shall be obtained along with EOI.

(A.K. TEWARI)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

To

The concerned Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India

Export of Gems and Jewellery

*292. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether gems and jewellery exports have registered declining growth during the current year;

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

(c) the remedial action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the provisional data of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai (GJEPC), the export of gems and jewellery at Rs. 9317.15 crores or US \$ 1995.34 million during the period April 2001 to July 2001 has shown a decline of 7.62% in rupee terms and 13.26% in US dollar terms over the corresponding period of the last year. However, export of gold jewellery at Rs. 1229.60 crores or US \$ 263.52 million has registered a growth of 5.18% in rupees terms and a slight decline of 1.54% in US dollar terms during the above period. The reason for decline in exports include economic slow down in the

markets of the developed countries such as USA and Japan etc. and fall in gold price in the international market resulting in corresponding decrease in export value in the gold jewellery. In order to improve exports of gems and jewellery, the Government and the GJEPC have undertaken or have proposed to undertake several actions in the short/medium term, some of which are given below:-

- Have got prepared a medium-term export strategy;
- Exploring the possibilities of direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries;
- Have provided funds under Critical Infrastructure Balancing Scheme to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture under the auspices of Indian Diamond Institute at Surat to give a fillip to jewellery design and manufacturing;
- Promote the image of India's gems and jewellery abroad through frequent advertisements/publicity campaigns in international trade journals; participation in international fairs, buyers sellers meet, direct approach to mass retailers etc.;
- Explore and identify new markets by undertaking market studies through expert consultants and by deputing Indian designers to various international trade fairs and exhibitions for on-the-spot study for latest trends in designs;
- Newer markets in the Latin American Countries are also being closely analysed for evolving a strategy for promotion of gems and jewellery exports from India;
- Suitably promote exports of Hall Marked jewellery from India through publicity campaigns so as to promote made in India as a hallmark of quality;
- Based on the feedback and requests received from the exporters and GJEPC, necessary amendments were carried out in the Exim Policy effective from 1/4/2001 with a view to facilitate exports.

[Translation]

Loan from LIC by UTI

*293. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are seriously pondering over any proposal to get a loan from the Life Insurance Corporation of India besides other options to bail out the UTI from the financial crisis and to provide relief to the investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India has informed that there is no proposal to give loan to UTI.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Restructuring of UTI Mutual Fund

*294. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme to restructure the UTI Mutual Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) On the suggestion of the Government, UTI set up a Committee on Corporate Positioning under the Chairmanship of Shri Y.H. Malegam, to review its competitive and commercial positioning in the light of the financial sector reforms and developments in the mutual fund industry.

UTI has intimated that the Committee is in the process of submitting its report.

[English]

Rate of Interest on Export Credit

*295. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for reducing the rate of interest on export credit is under consideration in order to make Indian exports competitive in the world market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) In the Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2001-02, announced by the RBI on 19th April, 2001, the export credit interest rate policy has been modified. Accordingly, effective from 5th May, 2001, it has been decided to specify only the ceiling rates for rupee export credit which will be linked to the Prime Lending Rate (PLR) of individual banks. The new rate for rupee export credit is capped at PLR minus 1.5%. Similarly, the export credit in foreign currency has been reduced from 1.5% point over the LIBOR to "not exceeding 1% points over LIBOR".

As export credit interest rates will vary from bank to bank depending on respective PLRs, it is expected that competition will result in both lowering and convergence of rates in future. The Reserve Bank of India reviews the interest rate structure from time to time on the basis of the macro-economic situation and the suggestions received from the trade and industry.

IDBI and IFCI's Amount Involved in the Invoked Guarantees

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

(a) whether a huge amount of IDBI and IFCI Limited have been involved in Central Government and State Government guarantees already invoked but not honoured;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases;

(c) whether this step of Union and State Governments have an adverse impact on the profitability of domestic financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government for realising the amount involved in the invoked guarantees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As on 31st March, 2001 IDBI invoked guarantees in respect of 57 cases involving an amount of Rs. 213.6 crore whereas IFCCI invoked guarantees in respect of 64 cases involving Rs. 320.84 crores. All these cases except one relates to State Government guarantees.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) IDBI has issued letters to various State Governments giving detail of loans where State Government have issued guarantees and are in default to IDBI to negotiate for One Time Settlement (OTS) in order to reduce NPAs. IFCI have also initiated legal proceedings to recover dues from State Government where they have guaranteed the loans.

Consultation with States for Disinvestment

*297. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consultation is done with the concerned State Governments regarding the disinvestment in projects located in their respective States; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Disinvestment in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU) involves sale of equity of the Government of India in these Companies. While undertaking such disinvestment, Government of the States, where the CPSUs are located, are normally consulted on such matters where the intervention and assistance of the State Governments are considered necessary. For example, on matters regarding lease of land and other land-related issues, Mining lease, maintenance of law and order, environment and forests, services and utilities provided by the State or local authority etc., consultations with the respective State Governments are necessary. The consent of State Government is not necessary for carrying out disinvestment of Government of India's equity in a Central Public undertaking. Besides, certain PSUs have their plants/units located in various States. In such cases, consultation with all the States would also pose practical difficulties and result in avoidable delay. Nevertheless, at appropriate stages of disinvestment of CPSUs, the State Government are kept informed of the developments and wherever necessary, consultations on relevant issues are also carried out. State Governments also do not consult the Central Government when they carry out disinvestment in their public sector undertakings unless required by law.

Sale of Air India and Indian Airlines

*298. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed the sale price of Indian Airlines and Air India at Rs. 2000 crores, while the market price is substantially high;

(b) if so, the reasons which prompted the Government to sell both the airlines at low price; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Government has not yet fixed any reserve price for disinvestment of its equity either in Air India or Indian Airlines.

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

Flour Mills

*299. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether flour mills in the North are facing difficulty in the procurement of wheat at affordable prices and whether 70 out of 120 flour mills have closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the facility of FCI's Open Market Sales Scheme is extended to flour mills also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are allegations that the price structure evolved by FCI for its Open Market Sales Scheme (for wheat) is discriminatory; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps initiated by the Union Government?

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

(a) and (b) It is not correct that flour mills in the North are facing difficulty in procurement of wheat at affordable prices. Information relating to closure of flour mills is being collected.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The rates fixed for various Zones under the Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) are indicated below:-

Zone	Rate per quintal
North	Rs. 650/-
South	Rs. 720/-
West	Rs. 695/-
East/North East	Rs. 705/-

(e) and (f) As authorised by the Government, open sale rates of wheat are fixed by the High Level Committee (HLC) of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) on monthly basis after reviewing the lifting position. These rates are being fixed Zone-wise after taking into account the Zonal economic cost of wheat as maintained by FCI and other relevant factors like carrying costs, tax components, transportation charges, etc. However, a proposal to streamline the basis of rate structure further is under consideration.

Meeting of Chief Ministers for Domestic Tax Reforms

*300. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had recently convened a meeting of Chief Ministers to discuss the Domestic Tax Reforms;

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether some Chief Ministers had expressed apprehension to adopt value added tax (VAT) due to possible loss of revenue; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Sir. A Conference of Chief Ministers/Finance Ministers of States and Union Territories was convened on 5th July, 2001 to discuss domestic tax reforms and value added tax.

(b) The following decisions were taken in the Conference:

(i) The Conference accepted and adopted the report of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers for introduction of VAT w.e.f. 1st April, 2002. The Conference also accepted the VAT design recommended by the committee including the use of PAN as the common Business identifier. It was decided that Special Category States and newly formed States, would have an option to introduce the VAT regime by 1st April, 2003. However, there should be no further delay in the implementation of uniform floor rates and all States and UTs should comply fully in the implementation of these rates by 31st July, 2001. The Conference noted that in the event of any State/UT not complying with the regime of floor rates, Government of India would be taking steps to withhold Central assistance and grants to such non-complying States/UTs. Similarly action will be taken if any State or Union Territory does not withdraw sales-tax incentives for industries by 31st July, 2001.

(ii) It was decided that a Committee of State Finance Secretaries and Officials of Finance Ministry would develop clear and measurable criteria for judging revenue loss, if any, due to introduction of VAT and would recommend the manner of compensation as well as the extent/quantum.

(iii) It was decided that the issue of levy of VAT on services would need to be studied further. Finance Ministry along with State Finance Secretaries would, taking into consideration the Govinda Rao and Parthasarathi Shome Reports, examine the feasibility and modalities of these suggestions and submit a report by 30th September, 2001. The levy of VAT on imports and commodities under AED would be examined separately by Government of India. These will not be a pre-condition for introduction of VAT.

(iv) State Finance Secretaries would supervise training and computerisation in the States for the purpose of introduction of VAT. Assistance will be rendered to the States/UTs by Government of India, modalities of which will be finalised in consultation with the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers.

(c) An apprehension was expressed that there might be revenue loss due to adoption of the VAT system.

(d) As per decision taken in the conference, a Committee of Finance Secretaries of six States and officials of Finance Ministry has been constituted to develop clear and measurable criteria for judging revenue loss, if any, due to introduction of VAT and decided about the manner of compensation as well as the extent/quantum of compensation. The Committee is to submit its report by 30th September, 2001.

Drinking Water to Villages

2935. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has sought loans from NABARD to meet expenditure for supply of drinking water to all villages; and

(b) if so, the action taken to provide the financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought loans for supply of drinking water for 1071 villages in the State.

(b) The details of the loans sanctioned by NABARD from Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) — VI and VII to Government of Andhra Pradesh for supply of drinking water are given below:-

Tranche	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Crore)	No. of Villages Covered
RIDF-VI	8	45.11	239
RIDF-VII	487	64.90	832

[Translation]

Tax Exemption to Steel Industry

2936. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel industries manufacturing steel pipes meant for export are availing hundred percent

exemption on import of the raw material for manufacturing the said pipes;

(b) if so, the total number of steel companies and their names which imported raw material during the last two years and total quantum of raw material imported and the value of the exemption given by the Government on such imports;

(c) the number and the names of the steel companies, which availed of the exemption but pipe specimens of which were rejected by other countries, which placed order with these companies for pipes earlier also;

(d) whether the Government are providing exemption on import of raw material even now to the steel companies, whose specimens have been rejected; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Request of Kerala Government for Enhancement in PDS Allocation

2937. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received request from Kerala Government to enhance the quota of ration items distributed through Public Distribution System during the coming festival seasons; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No request has been received from Government of Kerala for enhancement of quota of rice and wheat for distribution through Public Distribution System during the festival season. The Government of Kerala has requested that the system of issue of Sugar to all families as was prevalent earlier may be restored. In order to enable the Government of Kerala to meet the additional demand for

sugar during the festival season, it has been decided to allocate a quantity of 6616.7 MTs of levy sugar in lieu of the equivalent quantity which remained unlifted against their levy sugar quota of February, 2001.

[*Translation*]

Hindi Steno in Banks

2938. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the posts of Hindi Stenographers/Hindi Steno typists lying vacant in various nationalised banks and their Administrative Office located in Delhi/New Delhi and the dates since when these posts are vacant, Bank-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) One post of Hindi Steno typist has been lying vacant in New Delhi Zone of Bank of India since 31.3.2001.

(b) Bank of India has reported that they are taking steps to fill up this post by conducting a test from the existing clerk-cum-typists having knowledge of Hindi Stenography.

[*English*]

Indian Investment Centre

2939. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether re-structuring of Indian Investment Centre have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of employees affected due to re-structuring process; and

(e) the steps being taken for their deployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) has presented reports concerning restructuring of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the Ministry of

Finance. This report also covers the redefined role, functions and restructuring of the Indian Investment Centre (IIC). The recommendations of the ERC are under the consideration of the Government.

Audit Recovery Waived by GIC

2940. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 6054 on April 27, 2001 regarding audit recoveries waived by GIC and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been obtained;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in obtaining the information; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be obtained?

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

(b) Information is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

The requisite information as asked for in the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6054 for 27.4.2001 is given as under:-

(a) and (b) There are no specific guidelines for holding responsible the Divisional & Branch Heads for recoveries pointed out by the Internal Audit Department & Government Audit Department. However, the four Companies have elaborate procedure for looking into the audit queries and audit recoveries are very closely monitored by Internal Audit Department headed by Company's Financial Adviser and by the Sub-Committee of the Board of the respective Company. In the Annual Confidential Report of the Divisional & Branch Heads, there is also a specific column mentioning the progress with regard to settlement of both Government Audit & Internal Audit queries. The progress shown is assessed at the time of their promotion. In respect of repeated cases, if any, responsibility is fixed and appropriate action is initiated against concerned Officers.

(c) The details of recoveries waived by GIC & its Subsidiaries during the last three financial years are as under:-

Company	No. of queries waived	Amount in Rupees
GIC	NIL	NIL
National	19	18.27 Lacs
New India	33	241.61 Lacs
Oriental	4	100.88 Lacs
United India	1670	216.43 Lacs

(d) The waiver is undertaken only as a last resort after exhausting all avenues for recovery. Considering the volume of the business being underwritten all over India and considering the complex nature of general insurance business as such, the queries and the recoveries waived form a very small percentage of the business written.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance Projects in J & K

2941. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes in Jammu and Kashmir for which assistance is being provided through the World Bank along with the location-wise details thereof;

(b) the amount provided by the World Bank; and

(c) the location-wise work undertaken so far with the assistance from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There is no World Bank assisted scheme in the Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Consumer Welfare Fund, Bihar

2942. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up Consumer Welfare Fund for the welfare of consumers in the country, particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations to which assistance has been provided from this fund, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which consumers would be benefited by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) A Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF) was created in 1992 with the objective of providing financial assistance to promote and protect the welfare of consumers, develop consumer awareness and strengthen the consumer movement in the country as a whole. Under the Consumer Welfare Fund Rules, any agency/organization which is engaged in consumer welfare activities for a period of three years and is registered under any law for the time being in force, is eligible to seek financial assistance from the Fund.

(c) A State-wise statement of the number of Non-Governmental Organizations to which assistance has been provided from this fund is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The grants have been utilized for promoting consumer awareness and creating infrastructure facilities, thereby strengthening the consumer movement in the country.

Statement

Number of Non-Governmental Organizations that received financial assistance from Consumer welfare fund

State/UT	No. of NGOs
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	74
Arunachal Pradesh	—
Assam	1
Bihar	32
A & N Islands	—
Chandigarh	3
D & N Haveli	—
Daman & Diu	—

1	2
Delhi	35
Goa	—
Gujarat	15
Haryana	4
Himachal Pradesh	5
Jammu and Kashmir	2
Karnataka	18
Kerala	8
Madhya Pradesh	12
Maharashtra	7
Manipur	6
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	1
Orissa	61
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	18
Sikkim	—
Tamil Nadu	62
Uttar Pradesh	75
Uttaranchal	1
West Bengal	13
Total	456

[English]

Export of Meat

2943. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the members of Meat Exporters Association are NRIs and none from India;

(b) if so, the names and addresses of members of Meat Exporters Association;

(c) whether large quantities of meat/meat products exported from India are rejected;

(d) if so, the quantities of each exporter which have been rejected during the last three years alongwith the value thereof, year-wise; and

(e) the realisation of Indian meat as compared to international prices?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the information available only insignificant quantities of meat/meat products were reported to be rejected.

(d) The Bahrain Ministry of Health had rejected one exporter's 100 cartons of mutton cubes amounting to US \$ 5860.60 in December 1998. However, the claim in this regard has been settled with the importer in January 2001.

(e) Essentially two varieties of meat viz. Frozen buffalo meat and chilled & frozen meat of sheep/goat are exported from India. As per FAO trade data 1999, the average realisation of buffalo meat and sheep meat for various regions including India is as follows:-

Region	Buffalo meat realisation Per MT in US \$	Sheep meat realisation Per MT in US \$
India	1021	2140
Africa	2298	2722
Asia	2000	2061
Europe	2370	3321
South America	2094	2108
North & Central America	2533	3035
Oceania	1683	1848

*[Translation]***World Bank Aided Projects in Gujarat**

2944. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes launched in Gujarat with the assistance of World Bank, location-wise;

(b) the amount of assistance provided by the World Bank for the purpose; and

(c) the work undertaken so far with the assistance of the World Bank, location-wise?

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

Registration Certificate of Non-Banking Financial Companies

2945. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Registration Certificate of some Non-Banking financial institutes of Rajasthan have been cancelled by the Government recently;

(b) if so, the details of these non-banking financial companies, district-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the cancellation of the registration certificate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India have reported that Registration Certificates of two NBFCs of Rajasthan were cancelled by them. Details of these two NBFCs are as under:-

Sr. No.	Name	Reasons for cancellation of Registration Certificate
1.	Autolite Capital & Finance Ltd. Jaipur.	Changed main business activity from Hire Purchase/Leasing to Information Technology.
2.	Kaizen Organics Pvt. Ltd. (Formerly known as Gopal Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.) Jaipur.	Changed main business activity from Loans & Investments to oil manufacturing.

*[English]***Exemption Given by SEBI for Public Issue**

2946. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has exempted public and private sector banks from fulfilling eligibility norms in order to come out with public issues;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to review the above decision of SEBI;

(d) the recommendations made by J.R. Verma Committee for risk containment measures for derivative tradings;

(e) whether these recommendations have been accepted by SEBI and are being implemented; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Commercial banks in the private and public sector are subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Pursuant to a suggestion from RBI, in 1996, SEBI exempted public and private sector banks from fulfilling eligibility norms for public issues, namely the requirement of track record of divided payment for at least three years out of the immediately preceding five years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The main recommendations of the J.R. Varma Committee on risk containment measures for stock index futures markets include methodology for initial margin computation and margin collection, specification of liquid worth and exposure limits of clearing members and position limits.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Long Term Foodgrain Policy

2947. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed export target for foodgrains in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this target will be sufficient for tackling the problem of surplus; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) F.C.I. has been permitted to offer 50 lakh MTs of wheat and 30 lakh MTs of rice for the current financial year.

The above quantities are considered to be adequate.

FCI Godowns in Assam

2948. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether godowns of FCI in Assam are not functioning;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether FCI has initiated remedial measures so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. All the godowns of FCI in Assam are functional.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Licences for Industrial Development Programmes

2949. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas for industrial development programme in India where licences are essential to obtain from the Union Government and where restrictions are still there; and

(b) the number of licences of such areas and the number of letters of intent issued till 30th June, 2001 to various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) At present, there are six industries under compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. These are: (i) Distillation and brewing of alcoholic drinks, (ii) Cigars and Cigarettes of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes, (iii) Electronic Aerospace and defence equipment: all types, (iv) Industrial explosives including detonating fuses, safety fuses, gun powder, nitrocellulose and matches, (v) Specified hazardous chemicals, and (vi) Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (according to modified Drug Policy, 1994 as amended in 1999). Besides this, an industrial licence is also required when a project attracts locational restrictions applicable to large cities with population more than 10 lakh (according to 1991 census), or when an item reserved for small scale sector is intended to be manufactured by an undertaking other than small scale industrial undertaking but excepting those operating under the Export Oriented Undertaking Scheme, the Export Processing Zone and the Special Economic Zone Schemes.

(b) During the period, August, 1991 to June, 2001, the total number of Industrial Licences and Letters of Intent issued to entrepreneurs were 987 and 3654, respectively.

[Translation]

Non-Functioning Joshpur DD Kendra, Chhattisgarh

2950. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days during which the Doordarshan relay Kendra at Joshpur Nagar, Chhattisgarh remained non-functional during the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for not being able to keep this kendra functional; and

(d) the action being taken to make this kendra functional?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The TV transmitter at Jashpur Nagar remained non-functional for about 10 days on five occasions during the last three years due to certain faults in the equipment. The faults were attended to promptly, and the transmitter is now reported to be functioning satisfactorily.

This is an unmanned installation, and it takes sometimes for the staff to be deployed from the Maintenance Centre at Bilaspur, which looks after the maintenance of this transmitter. However, efforts are made to keep it functional continuously.

[English]

Inspection of Banks

2951. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6185 on April 27, 2001 regarding inspection of banks by RBI and state:

(a) whether the said information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action initiated by the RBI against banks for frauds and scams?

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

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that certain irregularities revealed in its earlier inspection reports such as inadequate credit appraisal, lax post-supervision follow-up of credit and divergence in asset classification and consequential short provisioning, non-adherence to prescribed guidelines/instructions on bills discounting liquidity and funds management, system and internal control, computerization of banks' operation etc., still persist. These shortcomings/deficiencies are closely monitored by RBI through issue of supervisory letters to the Chief Executives of banks concerned and also

discussions with them to ascertain the latest position and the action taken/proposed to be taken to rectify the deficiencies within a stipulated time period. RBI has further reported that the banks have been responding positively to the advice tendered during the discussions and furnish satisfactory compliance to the findings of the inspection team.

RBI places before the Board for Financial Supervision the memorandum based on the findings of inspection reports of all banks, together with the Monitorable Action Plan agreed to by the banks during the annual financial inspection discussion. RBI monitors the compliance furnished by the bank in this regard.

RBI has reported that the major factor that contributed to perpetration of fraud were non-adherence to the prescribed procedures, negligence of staff, inadequate supervision exercised by the banks' controlling offices over their branches, encashment of forged instruments, violation of systems and procedures in conduct of loan accounts, establishment of letters of credit in excess of the sanctioned limits and discounting of bills there-against, granting of clean overdraft, issue of banker's cheques and drafts without corresponding credit leaveings unauthorized accommodation for a few days on each account, lack of follow-up of the credit facility at branch and controlling office level, absence of periodical verification of security items like bank demand draft, cheque books etc.

(c) The Public Sector Banks in conjunction with the Government and RBI have taken a number of steps for prevention of frauds. These steps include strengthening of the internal control machinery, review of fraud cases on continuing basis, advising banks of modus operandi in ingenious cases along with required safeguards to prevent their recurrence, proper training of operational personnel, investigation and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds, snap inspection covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in fraud prone areas, obtaining control returns and scrutiny thereof and improving house keeping. Banks also undertake concurrent audit covering 50 per cent of their business, scrutinize cash deposits and withdrawals of Rs. 10 lakhs and above. Besides, banks take regular departmental action and punish officials found involved in cases of frauds. Banks also file civil and criminal suits and seek appropriate relief. Cases are referred to CBI and Police wherever considered necessary.

Defaulting Non-Banking Financial Companies

2952. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated action against 20 major defaulting NBFCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of 50 major NBFCs having mobilised deposit of more than Rs. 20 crores from the public and the present status of these NBFCs; and

(d) the action taken by RBI/Company Law Board against CEAT Financial, Indian Seamless Financial and other companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) As per Reserve Bank of India, there are 50 major NBFCs holding public deposits of more than Rs. 20.00 crore as on 31.3.2001. Out of these, RBI has taken action against 17 major defaulting NBFCs in the form of rejection of their applications for Certificate of Registration, issuing prohibitory orders, institution of Criminal complaints, winding up petition, etc. Among the remaining 33 companies, functioning of 27 companies is normal, 6 are facing certain temporary liquidity problems but are not defaulting in repayment of public deposits. Details of 50 such NBFCs including 17 major defaulting NBFCs, are at enclosed statement. Action taken by RBI/Company Law

Board against 17 major defaulting NBFCs is shown against each company in this Annexure. The Eastern Region Bench of Company Law Board had passed 9 orders in respect of CFL Capital Financial Services Ltd. (Formerly known as CEAT Financial Services Ltd.) up to 18.4.2001 covering amounts aggregating Rs. 51,47,307.00 for 194 depositors. Company Law Board has further issued an order on 26.6.2001 prescribing a schedule of repayment covering a total of 93501 depositors with outstanding deposits of Rs. 1,58,99,62,756.00 (includes interest up to maturity) maturing between 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2005. The Company's position is closely monitored by the Bank. The Indian Seamless Financial has merged with one of its associate companies, viz. Indian Seamless Securities Ltd. in terms of the final order passed by the Hon'ble High Court on 23.11.2000 on the scheme of amalgamation. The Company had outstanding deposits of Rs. 3.11 crore as on 31.10.2000. The Company Law Board had passed orders on 14.2.2000 and 23.2.2000 for 7 deposits of Rs. 0.78 lakh and 21 deposits of Rs. 2.43 lakh respectively. The Company has complied with the Company Law Board orders by effecting payments as per the Scheme of Arrangement approved by the High Court vide its orders dated 23.11.2000. However, it has not submitted affidavits of compliance with the Company Law Board orders so far.

Statement

NBFCs holding public deposits more than Rs. 20 crore (As on March 31, 2001)

Name of the Company	Public Deposits (Rs. Lakhs)	Status	Action taken against defaulting NBFCs
1	2	3	4
ICDS Ltd.	13631	Temp. Liquidity problem	Nil
Maha Rashttra Apex Corpn. Ltd.	15308	-do-	-do-
Manipal Finance Corpn. Ltd.	3575	-do-	-do-
Vijaya Commercial Credit Ltd.	3458	Defaulting company	Application for Certification of Registration Rejected and Prohibitory Order issued.
Vijaya Leasing Ltd.	2449	-do-	-do-
Kirloskar Investment & Fin. Ltd.	9804	-do-	Application for Certification of Registration (COR) rejected and winding up petition of the company filed in the

1	2	3	4
			Hon'ble Karnataka High Court. Criminal proceedings also have been initiated against the past Directors for violations of the RBI Act/Directions issued thereunder, as also for diversion of funds.
Samrudhi Saving & Inv. (I)	3919	Defaulting company	-do-
Sundaram Finance Ltd.	67877	Normal	Nil
Ashok Leyland Finance Ltd.	22436	-do-	-do-
Cholamandalam Inv. & Fin. Co.	18510	-do-	-do-
First Leasing Co. of (I) Ltd.	8998	-do-	-do-
T.N. Transport Dev. Finance	26096	-do-	-do-
Lakshmi General Finance Ltd.	13141	-do-	-do-
Annamali Finance Ltd.	5645	-do-	-do-
T.N. Ind. Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	16848*	-do-	-do-
T.N. Power Fin. & Infra. Dev. Ltd.	24308	-do-	-do-
Integrated Finance Co. Ltd.	6424	-do-	-do-
India Cements Cap. & Fin. Ltd.	4230	-do-	-do-
Fidelity Finance Ltd.	2400*	Defaulting company	Show Cause Notice issued for non-payment of matured deposits. Bank has given six months time for repayment of deposits.
The Investment Trust of India Ltd.	3157	Normal	Nil
Sahara India Fin. Corpn. Ltd.	3950	-do-	-do-
Krishi Export Comm. Corpn. Ltd.	5656	Defaulting company	Application for COR rejected and Prohibitory Order issued. Winding up petition filed.
Kuber Mutual Benefit Ltd. (Denotified Nidhi)	19279	-do-	Denotified Nidhi. Bank has filed winding up petition.
In Can Mutual Benefit Ltd. (Notified Nidhi)	6658	-do-	Being a Notified Nidhi, the Bank has taken up the matter with DCA who is in the process of denotifying it.
Peerless General Finan. & Investment Co. Ltd.	792225	Temp. liquidity problem	Nil
Ceat Financial Services Ltd.	12534	Defaulting company	Supervisory letter issued.
Nicco Ucom Alliance Credit Ltd.	10006	Normal	Nil

1	2	3	4
Janapriya Fin. & Inds. Investment	3855	Defaulting company	Application for COR rejected and Prohibitory Order issued.
IFB Finance Ltd.	2721	-do-	Application for COR rejected and Prohibitory Order Issued.
West Bengal Industrial Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	8180*	Normal	Nil
West Bengal Infra. Dev. Corpn.	2380*	-do-	-do-
Prudential Capital Markets Ltd.	4767	Defaulting company	Application for COR rejected and Prohibitory Order issued. Criminal complaint was filed for violation of CLB Order.
Sanchayani Savings & Inv. Co. Ltd.	59972	-do-	Prohibitory Order issued, against which company has filed cases in various Courts.
Rapti Nidhi Ltd.	6266	-do-	Application for COR rejected and Prohibitory Order issued.
Tata Finance Ltd.	92842	Normal	Nil
Infrastructure Leasing & Fin. Services Ltd.	32235	-do-	-do-
Kotak Mahindra Finance Ltd.	17344	-do-	-do-
Alpic Finance Ltd.	3248	Defaulting company	Company stopped accepting public deposits. It has approached CLB for reschedulement for repaying deposits.
Birla Global Finance Ltd.	5258	Normal	Nil
L & T Finance Ltd.	8743	-do-	-do-
Lloyds Finance Ltd.	27965	Defaulting company	Observer appointed, CLB has passed Order rescheduling repayment of public deposits.
Mahindra & Mahindra Fin. Services Ltd.	4142	Normal	
Kinetic Fincap Ltd.	3019	-do-	Nil
SICOM Ltd.	3906	-do-	-do-
Wall Street Finance Ltd.	2019	-do-	-do-
Jayabharat Credit Ltd.	2995	-do-	-do-
Escorts Finance Ltd.	22115	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
DCM Financial Services Ltd.	6285	Defaulting Company	Observer appointed. Company submitted plans for reorganization to the High Court at Delhi.
MGF (I) Ltd.	3225	Temp. liquidity problem	Nil
Motor General Finance Ltd.	10355	-do-	-do-

* Provisional.

Medical Reimbursement in UTI

2953. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of claiming medical reimbursement fraudulently by the officers and staff of Unit Trust of India (UTI) during the last three years have come to the notice of the UTI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the persons concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) UTI has intimated that one of the officers of the Trust has been alleged to have claimed medical reimbursement for the purchase of medicines in excess of the quantity prescribed during the period June 1999 to November 1999.

(c) The employee has been charge-sheeted.

World Bank Aided Projects In U.P.

2954. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of World Bank aided projects and schemes being undertaken in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the extent of financial assistance provided by the World Bank for the said projects and schemes;

(c) the targets achieved so far under these projects and schemes; and

(d) the details of the work done so far with the World Bank assistance, project-wise and scheme-wise?

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

S.N.	Name of Project	Date of signing/closing	Loan/Credit amount committed by the World Bank (in US\$ min)	Cumulative utilisation (as on June 01, 2001) (in US\$ min)	Progress of work in the Project
1	2	3	4	5	
1.	UP Health System Development Project	19.5.2000/ 30.12.2005	110	2.840	The institutional arrangements envisaged under the project are nearing completion. Project activities in respect of delivery of services, surveillance, drug procurement are underway.
2.	UP District Primary Education Project	23.2.2000/ 26.3.2005	182.4	35.560	The institutional arrangements have been completed. Activities related to civil works, community mobilization, child care education programmes are continuing space.

1	2	3	4	5
3. UP Sodic Land Reclamation Project	4.2.99/ 30.9.2005	194.1	29.690	The selection of works has been completed. Activities relating to reclamation of land, borings, organizations of water user groups are in progress.
4. UP Forestry Project	30.12.97/ 31.7.2002	52.80	19.980	The activities relating to training/capacity building, financial management and procurement have been affected. Necessary notifications to strengthen the institutional arrangements have been issued by the Group.
5. UP Diversified Agriculture Support Project	30.7.98/ 31.3.2004	129.9	22.680	Works relating to components on rural infrastructure development, technology development, technology dissemination, formation of self-help groups in an advanced stage and work is continuing apace.
6. UP Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	22.7.96/ 31.5.02	52.40	19.36	Work related to drainage schemes, sanitary latrines, soak pits, garbage pits, composite pits, hand pumps etc. in the selected villages is under progress.
7. UP Power Sector Restructuring	19.5.2000/ 31.2.2004	150.00	15.928	The institutional arrangement for the project implement are in the process of implementation. Bidding procedures for the various work packages for transmission and distribution are under process.

'Z' Group Companies

2955. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5348 regarding 'Z' Group Companies on December 22, 2000 and state:

(a) the details of name of each company placed in 'Z' group;

(b) whether the Bombay Stock Exchange have taken any fresh initiative regarding delisting/suspension of trading in a large number of companies in the 'Z' group;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the name of companies which have not paid listing fees during the last three years and the action taken against the Company Promoters/Directors, company-wise?

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.

Market Borrowings

2956. PROF. UMMAREDDY VANKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has issued a cautionary note to the Government on market borrowings;

(b) if so, whether the Government have resorted to market borrowings to finance expenditure in the last two years;

(c) if so, the extent of increase in market borrowings during the last two years, year-wise;

(d) whether any efforts will made to reduce dependence on market borrowings by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Government raised market loans from time to time in order to meet the gap between receipts and expenditure.

(c) The details are as under:-

(Rs. Crore)	
Year	Increase over Previous year
1999-2000	2877
2000-2001	13553

(d) and (e) The Government has taken several expenditure management measures and is making all efforts to increase tax revenues with a view to containing revenue and fiscal deficits. The Government has introduced a Bill titled 'Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill' in the Lok Sabha on 21st December, 2000. The Bill provides, *inter-alia*, for a legal and institutional framework to eliminate revenue deficit, bring down the fiscal deficit and contain growth of public debt as proportion to GDP within a time-frame.

Submission of Utilisation Certificates

2957. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 7343 utilisation certificates are outstanding submission as on March 31, 1998 aggregating grants to Rs. 548.52 crore as brought out by the CAG in its report No. 5 of 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the Ministries/Departments from whom these certificates are to come alongwith reasons for not submitting the same; and

(c) the time by which all these certificates are likely to be submitted?

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

(b) and (c) The Ministries/Departments from whom Utilisation Certificates are to come are:

(1) Atomic Energy (2) Environment and Forests (3) Ocean Development (4) Space (5) Geological Survey of India, Ministry of Mines (6) Information Technology (7) Non-Convention Energy Sources.

Receipt of Utilisation Certificates from their Grants-in-aid institutions is required to be monitored by the concerned Ministries/Departments. Ministry of Finance have advised the Ministries/Departments to ensure that fresh grants are not released unless Utilisation Certificates in respect of the earlier grants have been obtained.

[Translation]

Request of Chhattisgarh for Allocation of Rice

2958. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh have requested the Union Government for additional allocation of rice on regular basis till June 30, 2001;

(b) whether utilisation certificate pertaining to 1.60 lakh metric tonne rice given to Chhattisgarh Government on earlier occasion have been received by the Union Government;

(c) whether the Union Government have released foodgrains as per the request of State Government; and

(d) if not, the time by which allocation is likely to be made alongwith the quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) The release of foodgrains (rice) was made to Govt. of Chhattisgarh under Food for Work Programme (FFW) on the request of the State Govt. The FFW launched by Govt. of India in the drought affected rural areas of drought affected States including Chhattisgarh was scheduled to be in operation till 30.6.2001. It has since been extended upto 30.9.2001.

A quantity of 1.60 lakh tonnes of rice was allotted free of cost to the Chhattisgarh Government on 12.01.2001 for Food for Work programmes in the drought affected areas of the State.

The State Government requested in February 2001 that besides the 1.60 lakh tonnes of rice allotted free of cost for FFW in January 2001, further additional quantity of 50,000 tonnes of rice for March 2001 and 4.00 lakh

tonnes of rice for April, May and June 2001 free of cost for employment generation programmes in drought affected areas may be allotted. The State Government again demanded a further allocation of 1.00 lakh tonnes of rice free of cost for FFW in July, 2001 since the earlier allocation was fully lifted by them.

The date-wise allocation of rice to the State Government free of cost for FFW/employment generation programmes is as under:

Date	Quantity allotted (in tonnes)
12.1.2001	1,60,000
23.3.2001	37,000
30.3.2001	10,000
27.4.2001	2,00,000(*)
1.8.2001	1,00,000
Total	5,07,000

* The State Government was actually allotted 2,98,507 tonnes of paddy in lieu of 2,00,000 tonnes of rice at their request.

The utilization certificates in the prescribed format are awaited. However, the progress reports received from the State Government that 5.05 lakh tonnes of rice has been lifted and utilized for generation of employment opportunities.

Profit Earned By IDBI

2959. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the profits earned by the IDBI during the year 2000-2001 and profit earned during the previous year;

(b) whether the profit margin of the IDBI bank has fallen;

(c) if so, the extent thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) the measures taken to increase the profit on this bank;

(e) whether IDBI bank made efforts to mobilize resources from the market at the minimum rates following the recommendations of the Narsimahan Committee; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) During the year 2000-2001, IDBI made a profit before tax of Rs. 734 crores as against Rs. 1027 crores in the previous year. After providing for tax of Rs. 43 crores the profit after tax amounted to Rs. 691 crores as against Rs. 947 crores in 1999-2000.

Increase in the cost of funds due to recourse to market based borrowings and decline in lending rates, increased level of NPAs leading to higher provisioning, write-off as also reversal of unrealized income put the margins of IDBI under pressure.

(d) IDBI has taken several measures including NPAs containment, retiring high cost borrowings and new business initiatives with a view to increase its profitability.

(e) and (f) IDBI raised resources from market at optimum rates through various products and schemes for both wholesale and retail segments. The details of resources raised through various instruments is given below:

	(Rs. in crore)
	2000-2001
Fixed Deposit	147
Certificate of Deposit	1512
Term Money Bond	14
IDBI Corporate Deposit	533
Omni Bonds - on Tap	3122
Omni Bonds- Pvt. Placement	1198
Capital Gains Bonds	10
Flexibonds	1161
Total	7727

The resource mobilization by IDBI is done on purely commercial considerations and Government has no role in the matter.

Bonus to LIC Policy Holders

2960. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India has refused to increase the bonus of its policy holders;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the expert Committee constituted by the Life Insurance Corporation of India had made any recommendation to set up LIC Banks;

(d) if so, whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India has not accepted the said recommendations; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has intimated that they have decided to maintain the bonus rate for the year ended 31st March, 2001 at the same levels as in the previous year except for short term policies of 10 years or less. This decision was taken on the basis of actuarial valuation of the business as at March 31st, 2001.

(c) to (e) LIC has intimated that M/s Booz Allen & Hamilton, Consultants appointed by them have not recommended to start a new bank on its own. Accepting their recommendation to form strategic alliances LIC is considering strategic alliance with Corporation Bank, a public sector bank.

[English]

Inspection of Banks

2961. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private sector banks inspected by the officials of Reserve Bank of India during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the details of shortcomings/irregularities noticed by the officials of RBI during their inspection; and

(c) the action taken by the RBI against the private sector banks for committing irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that all the private sector banks were covered by RBI's Financial Inspection during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, except IDBI Bank Ltd., which

was inspected during 1999-2000 with reference to its position as on 31st March, 2000.

(b) RBI has reported that the irregularities noticed during the inspection generally relate to deficiencies in appraisal of credit proposals, lack of post-sanction/disbursement supervision, laxity in recovery of non-performing assets (NPAs) delay in review/renewal of credit limits, non-observance of instructions/guidelines issued by RBI/Head Office, arrears in balancing of books of accounts etc.

(c) The irregularities/deficiencies observed by RBI's inspection team are brought to the notice of the respective banks for corrective action and compliance is closely monitored through RBI's Regional Offices. Discussions are also held with the banks' Chief Executive Officers and Directors. A summary of the findings of RBI's inspection of banks is placed before the Board for Financial Supervisions (BFS) and necessary follow-up action is taken on the advice/directions of the BFS.

Uplinking Facilities

2962. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow foreign investment in the field of satellite channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of foreign investors alongwith terms and conditions of such investment;

(c) whether the above move will improve the functioning of broadcasting sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per existing guidelines, the Government only accords permission for the uplinking of satellite channels from India. The companies incorporated in India, with the foreign equity holding including NRI/OCB/PIO not exceeding 49%, are permitted to set up uplinking hub (teleport) in India. However, all TV channels, including foreign satellite TV channels, irrespective of ownership (including equity structure or management control), are permitted to uplink from India subject to certain terms & conditions which, *inter-alia* include the following:

- (i) Comply with the Programme & Advertising Code.
- (ii) Security clearance by Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (iii) To maintain records of materials uplinked for a period of 90 days.
- (iv) To provide the necessary monitoring facility, at its own cost, for monitoring of the programme or content of the channel.
- (v) To uplink in C band only.

(c) and (d) The liberalized uplinking policy facilitates Indian news agencies and private Indian companies to be more effective and competitive in the global scenario. Setting up of uplinking hub (teleports) in India would create a lot of employment opportunity and state-of-the-art communication infrastructure. It would bring such TV channels (Indian and foreign) under the ambit of Indian laws.

Expansion of Bilateral Trade

2963. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to expand bilateral trade with some foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of such countries with objectives;

(c) whether such expansion will hit the domestic market in any manner;

(d) if so, the details thereof with preventive steps to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the steps to be taken to continue the process of expansion with other foreign countries?

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

(a) The Government has always endeavoured to expand bilateral trade with all the countries in the world except those with whom trade is banned.

(b) The Government has entered into bilateral agreements with various countries to increase trade with them.

(c) and (d) The objectives of the bilateral trade are broadly to meet other's requirements and mutual benefits. Since expansion of bilateral trade is for mutual benefit, no adverse effect on the domestic market is apprehended. However, provisions like anti-dumping duty, customs tariffs etc. are available to prevent unfair practices.

(e) In order to expand trade with various countries, the Government has initiated several measures which include regular review of trade issues with various countries through meetings of the Joint Commissions, Working Groups and Joint Business Councils, broad-basing the basket of tradable goods, evolving mechanism for banking and trade institutions, participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and buyer-seller meets, exchange of delegations and sharing of economic and commercial information, etc.

HDFC Loans to State Governments

2964. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main function of the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC);

(b) whether HDFC has been extending loans assistance to the State Governments for acquiring and developing plots and building houses; and

(c) if so, the total amount of loan sanctioned by HDFC to different States for the above purpose during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB -VIKHE PATIL): (a) According to the information furnished by the Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC), the main function of the HDFC is to enhance residential housing stock in India through the provision of housing finance on a systematic & professional basis and to promote individual home ownership. The Corporation provides housing finance to individuals, co-operative societies and the corporate sector.

(b) and (c) HDFC has not extended any loan assistance to the State Governments for acquiring and developing plots. As regarding loan for building houses, the HDFC has advanced loan of Rs. 48 crores only to the State Government of Rajasthan in December, 1997 towards the construction of houses for its employees.

Surplus Stock and Starvation Deaths

2965. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
 SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
 SHRI SUBODH ROY:
 SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
 SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
 SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) whether starvation deaths have occurred in Rajasthan, Orissa, Bihar and in other States also because of failure of FCI to provide foodgrains in drought hit and famine hit areas, despite record buffer stock of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether a public interest litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court alleging starvation deaths;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Supreme Court has issued any guidelines to the Union Government; and

(i) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the action taken to implement the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Governments concerned and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken a number of measures to utilize the stocks of foodgrains with it. These include *inter alia*, increase in the allocation of foodgrains for BPL families under TPDS, downward revision of Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice, open market sale of wheat and rice at reduced prices, allotment of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes and exports of wheat and rice.

Besides the above measures, Food for Work Programme (FFW) has been launched in the drought affected rural areas of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan, 21.19 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allotted so far to these States, free of cost for FFW.

The Government has also decided to make special additional allocation of foodgrains to the drought affected States at BPL rates for distribution to the drought affected families (both BPL and APL) at the rates of 20 kg. per family per month for a period of 3 months. So far about 13.07 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allotted in favour of Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh on this account.

In addition to above, feed category foodgrains have also been made available to drought affected State free of cost.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196/2001 has been filed by People's Union for Civil Liberties Vs. Union of India and others. The petition refers to the stocks of foodgrains lying with the Government and relief measures undertaken in drought affected areas, especially in Rajasthan. The petitioners have prayed to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for issue of directions to respondents to enforce the Famine Code, 1962 drawn up by Government of Rajasthan; release of surplus foodgrains for drought affected areas; frame a fresh scheme for public distribution for scientific and reasonable distribution of foodgrains; and pass such other order or orders as the Hon'ble Court may deem fit.

(h) and (i) The write petition was called for hearing by Hon'ble Court on 23.7.2001. The Hon'ble Court in its interim order *inter-alia* directed the States to see that all PDS shops, if closed, are reopened and start functioning within one week from the date of order and regular supplies are made. Two weeks time was granted by the Apex Court for filing of reply affidavits by Union of India, FCI and concerned State Governments. Orders have been issued by the Government on 27.7.2001 for opening of all Fair Price Shops.

[Translation]

Violation of Essential Commodities Act, 1980

2966. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have not been able to receive informations regarding blackmarketing and violations of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 from several States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the names of the States, which did not furnish information regarding blackmarketing despite being asked by the Union Government to do so; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard so that blackmarketing could be effectively checked?

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) Under the provisions of the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, when any order is made or approved by the State Government, the State Government is required to report the fact to the Central Government within seven days together with the grounds on which the order has been made and such other particulars as, in the opinion of the State Government, have a bearing on the necessity for the order.

(d) The State Governments/UT Administrations have been impressed upon from time to time to take appropriate action under the Act to curb blackmarketing and hoarding of essential commodities.

[English]

Illegal Tobacco Transportation

2967. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI:

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

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding illegal and unauthorised tobacco transportation from Karnataka to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Karnataka has cultivated illegally 8 million kgs. of tobacco affecting the Andhra Pradesh farmers of their produce; and

(d) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Tobacco Board received a complaint from the Virginia Tobacco Growers' Association of India, Guntur, on the basis of a news item that appeared in a vernacular newspaper, that Karnataka tobacco was allegedly being stored illegally at certain villages of Andhra Pradesh. Surprise checks conducted by the Tobacco Board have not so far revealed any stocks of illegally transported tobacco of Karnataka origin in Andhra Pradesh. The complaint cannot be treated as well-founded since 17.61 million kgs of the 18.25 million kgs. of unauthorised tobacco in Karnataka in 2000-01, was allowed to be sold on the auction platforms of the Tobacco Board, subject to a penalty of 5% and an extra fee of Rs. 2 per kilogram. The vigilance squads of the Board prevented attempts to illegally transport 64,012 kgs. of Karnataka tobacco to AP. There is no restriction on the movement of *legally* produced and auctioned tobacco across State borders.

(c) and (d) Despite well-publicised appeals by the Board to restrict production, farmers both in Andhra Pradesh and in Karnataka have been cultivating tobacco in excess of their registered quantity. In the State of Karnataka, the excess production in the year 2000-2001 amounted to 18.25 million kgs. However, this excess production cannot be deemed to have affected the interests of AP farmers since the quality of, and market for, the AP and Karnataka crop are substantially different.

[Translation]

Valuation of Air India and Indian Airlines

2968. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to disinvest the Indian Airlines and Air India was followed by the valuation of these two companies;

(b) if so, the names of the institutions that have been assigned the job of valuation and the amount of remuneration paid to each of those institutions;

(c) the total worth valued for the above two companies, separately; and

(d) the reasons for selecting these particular institutions for valuation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The valuation of the business of both Indian Airlines and Air India has not yet been completed.

(b) Indian Airlines — In the case of Indian Airlines, the business valuation would be carried out by the Advisors to the transaction, viz., ANZ Consortium (comprising ANZ Investment Bank Division in cooperation with Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank Limited, Industrial Development Bank of India and British Airways plc. acting through its Speedwing Division). On successful completion

of the transaction, the Advisors would be paid a success fee, inclusive of all applicable taxes, equal to 0.294% of the sale proceeds from the disinvestment of the Company. The job of valuation of the assets of Indian Airlines has not yet been assigned to any valuer.

Air India — The Advisors to the transaction, viz., JM Morgan Stanley Limited, would carry out the business valuation of Air India. On successful completion of the transaction, the Advisors would be paid a success fee, inclusive of all applicable taxes, equal to 0.30% of the sale proceeds from the disinvestment of the Company. Apart from the Advisors, two other reputed valuers would be appointed to carry out independent valuation of the Company. These two valuers have not yet been appointed.

Asset Valuation of the properties in India — M/s V.K. Kharbanda & Associates has been appointed as the Asset Valuer for a lump sum fee of Rs. 3 lakhs (all inclusive).

Asset Valuation of the properties abroad — The properties owned by Air India overseas (London-1, Singapore-2, Mauritius-1, Nairobi-2, Paris-1 and Hong Kong-2) have been got valued by the valuers selected by the Indian Embassies/Consulates in the respective countries. The names of the valuers and the amount of fees paid for the valuation are detailed below:-

S.No.	Property Location	Name of the Valuer	Fees
1.	London	M/s Michael Richman Property Services	£2,291.25 (INR. 1,55,759)
2.	Singapore	M/s Chesterton International	Singapore \$ 1,545
3.	Mauritius	M/s Raj Ramlackhan Valuation Consultant	Mauritius Rs. 6000
4.	Nairobi	M/s Mwaka Musau Consultants	Ksh. 30,000/- (INR. 18,215/-)
5.	Paris	M/s Geometre - Expert Foncier	FF 5,980.00 (INR. 36,000.00)
6.	Hong Kong	FPDSavills (Hong Kong) Limited	HK\$ 30,000.00 (INR. 1,81,000 approx).

Valuation of Aircrafts — In order to establish the fair market value of the fleet of aircraft (including spare engines) of Air India, M/s Boeing India of Boeing

International Corporation and M/s Airbus Industries were separately requested to submit their valuation reports. No remuneration has been paid for the assignment.

(c) The total worth of Indian Airlines and Air India would be known only after completion of business valuation of the Companies.

(d) Selection of Advisors — In the cases of both Indian Airlines and Air India, public advertisements were issued in national and international Newspapers/Magazines inviting Expressions of Interest from merchant/investment bankers for acting as Global Advisors for assisting the Government in the transactions. Both the Advisors were recommended for selection separately by the duly constituted Inter-Ministerial Groups (IMG) on the basis of the presentations made by the interested parties and their financial bids.

Selection of Asset Valuer — Valuation of the properties of Air Indian Ltd. in India has been carried out by a Government approved Asset Valuer selected by an inter-ministerial Selection Committee, on the basis of presentations and financial bids.

[English]

Smuggling of Cellular Phones

2969. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of smuggled cellular phone instruments seized and confiscated in various ports air terminals in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to curb smuggling of cellular phones into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The number of cellular phone instruments seized and confiscated by the field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in various ports and air terminals in the country during the last 3 years & current year (upto June, 2001) is as follows:-

Year	No. of Cellular Phone instruments seized	No. of Cellular Phone instruments confiscated
1998-99	4717	4233
1999-2000	13326	9936
2000-2001	24890	13222
2001-2002 (upto June, 2001)	6810	5078

(b) All the field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) are alert & vigilant to prevent smuggling of contraband goods, including smuggling of cellular phone into the country.

Foreign Direct Investment in Housing Sector

2970. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) whether housing development in facing huge gap of funds;

(b) if so, whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has requested the Government to allow foreign direct investment in the housing sector to bridge the gap;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have agreed to allow FDI in the housing sector; and

(e) if so, 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 (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (e) At present only NRIs/OCBs are permitted to invest in housing and real estate development sector, subject to 16% cap on repatriation of profits and a lock-in period of three years.

Requests have been received from different quarters to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in housing sector with a view to bridging the huge gap of funds in this sector. Government have permitted FDI up to 100% on the Government approval route, vide Press Note No. 4 (2001 Series) dated 21.5.2001, for development of integrated townships comprising housing, commercial premises, hotels, resorts, city and regional level urban infrastructure facilities such as roads and bridges, mass rapid transit systems in all metros and manufacture of building materials. Development of land and providing allied infrastructure will form an integral part of the township development, subject to guidelines/norms relating to minimum capitalisation, minimum land area, etc.

International Flower Auction

2971. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) whether Government propose to set up International flower auction centre at Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether State Government has given green signal in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation would also participate in the project;

(d) whether KAIC has received financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 3.57 crore from the Agriculture and Processed Food Export Development Authority;

(e) if so, whether this international auction centre at Bangalore would place firmly on the global floriculture map;

(f) if so, whether this auction centre would be the first of its kind in this part of Asia and serve to bridge the gap between Europe and South-East Asia; and

(g) if so, the time by which this centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The State Government of Karnataka has approved the setting up of an International Flower Auction Centre at Bangalore by the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation (KAIC), Bangalore, a State Government of Karnataka organisation.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir.

(g) By the end of year 2002.

[Translation]

Loans at Concessional Rates to Farmers

2972. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide loans at cheaper rate of interest of the farmers to construct godowns for storage facilities in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps in this direction so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) A new scheme in this regard is presently under formulation.

[English]

Nexus Between Customs/Security Officials and Passengers

2973. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed customs officials at Indira Gandhi International Airport to search all passengers being escorted by policemen;

(b) if so, whether security/police officials are in nexus with the passengers and are smuggling dutiable goods worth crores of rupees; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken to ensure that customs/security officials nexus with passengers is broken?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A careful watch is being kept by supervisory officers on the activities of personnel of various agencies operating at Airport including Customs staff deployed for passenger clearance. Surprise visits by senior officers from the Custom House are being paid, and periodic

rotations of officials of Customs in sensitive assignments being effected to prevent any nexus as feared. Instructions also issued to initiate stringent penal action if any official is found helping a passenger in smuggling of any dutiable goods.

[*Translation*]

Hindi Publications

2974. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Government departments including the publication department which bring out books and magazines;

(b) the names of the books brought out by each of these departments in Hindi and English during 2000-2001;

(c) the procedure laid down for accepting the manuscripts in Hindi and English for publication; and

(d) the step proposed to be taken to increase the Hindi publications in these departments and to avoid the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

IDBI's Stake in BITCO

2975. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has 49 per cent stake in the Bihar Industrial and Technical Organisation (BITCO);

(b) whether the condition of the above organization has deteriorated;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) and (c) BITCO has been incurring losses continuously from 1996 onwards and did not finalise its accounts from 1998-99 onwards. Continued poor performance of BITCO is attributed to following reasons;

(i) Poor flow of assignments due to slow pace of industrial activity in Bihar coupled with infrastructure bottlenecks;

(ii) BITCO is unable to get sufficient assignments from the State Government; and

(iii) TCOs in general are overstaffed.

(d) IDBI had commissioned a consultant to carry out an independent study of TCOs and suggest measures for arresting decline in most of the TCOs including BITCO. The report of the consultant has since been received by IDBI and suggested measures were discussed with TCOs. All the 17 TCOs were asked to submit a brief on revival of non-performing TCOs. Most of the TCOs have already submitted their briefs on restructuring/revival to IDBI and a view would be taken by IDBI on receipt of briefs from remaining TCOs.

[*English*]

Import of Palm and Soya Crude Oil

2976. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that adulterated edible oils are being supplied in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated remedial steps to safeguard the consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) According to the information made available by the Food (H) Authorities of the States/UTs, the number of samples of edible oils, fats and vanaspati examined in the country under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 are as under:-

Year	No. of Samples examined	No. of Samples found adulterated	Remarks
1997	14132	823	Excluding information from Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry
1998	23880	2009	Excluding information from Haryana & U.P.
1999	18918	1533	Excluding information from Haryana, U.P. and Pondicherry.

(c) and (d) The quality standards including safe limits of contaminants, have been laid down for all edible oils under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The edible oils marketed for sale for human consumption have to meet the quality and safety specifications prescribed under the aforesaid rules. The Food (Health) Authorities of States/UTs who are responsible for administration and implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 within their respective jurisdiction have been requested time to time to keep a strict vigil on the quality of the various food products including the edible oils.

Consumer Organisations

2977. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of voluntary consumer organisations presently functioning in Bihar;

(b) whether Government have formulated any criteria for the grant/allocation of funds to these organisations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) As per information available with the Department, there are 30 Voluntary Consumer Organizations (VCOs) presently functioning in Bihar. A list of these organizations is given in statement-I.

(b) and (c) VCOs which have been registered for at least three years and have undertaken consumer protection/awareness related activities during each of the last three years can apply for assistance from the Consumer Welfare Fund for projects which will promote consumer welfare.

(d) A list of organizations of Bihar that have received financial assistance from the Consumer Welfare Fund during the last three years is given in statement-II.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement-I

List of Voluntary Consumer Organizations Presently Functioning in Bihar

1. President,
Consumer Guidance Society of Jamshedpur.
Awatar Building,
Bishtupur, Jamshedpur, Bihar-831 001.
2. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Singhbhoom District Road No. 1,
Quarter No. L-4/2 Farm Area, Kadama
Jamshedpur, Bihar-831 005.
3. President,
National Consumer's Union for Legal Association,
Laxmi Mansion Bishtpur,
Jamshedpur, Bihar - 842 001.
4. President,
Bihar Pradesh Upbhokta Sewa Sangh,
Trishul Mandir Lane, Purani Bazar,
Muzzafarpur, Bihar-842 001.
5. President,
Mahila Upbhokta Sewa Sangh,
Gopaldas Sangat,
Prabhat Cinema Road,
Muzzafarpur, Bihar.

6. President,
Bihar Rajya Consumer Federation,
Chhatth Bhavan, Dakshini Mandiri,
Patna, Bihar - 800 001.
7. President,
Bihar Rajya Upabhokta Sangh,
24-C, Kankar Bagh Colony,
Patna, Bihar - 800 020.
8. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat-III,
A-716, Bokaro Steel City,
Bokaro, Bihar.
9. President,
National Consumer Union for Legal Association,
Shimla Bhavan, Paschimi Lohani,
Patna, Bihar-800 003.
10. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
F-10, Tato Colony,
Post Gamahria, Singhbhum, Bihar.
11. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
N.F. 3/6, Maubhandar,
Singbhum, Bihar-832 303.
12. President,
Katihar District Upabhokta Sangramme Sangh,
Mangal Bazar, Bara Chowk,
Katihar, Bihar.
13. President,
Kosi Division Consumer Protection Organization,
Nootan Press, Katihar,
Bihar-854 105.
14. President,
Gramin Upbhokta Sagram Gram Mankari Ismil,
Post Ladorpatti,
Muzzafarpur, Bihar.
15. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
M-34/5, Telco Colony,
Jamshedpur, Bihar.
16. President,
Mahila Upabhokta Sewa Sangh,
C-27, Punaichak,
Patna, Bihar
17. President,
Priti Mahila Sahkari Upbhokta Bhandar,
Abulas Lane, Machhuatoli,
Patna, Bihar.
18. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Grahak Bhawan, 64/2/3, Panhera Colony,
Post - Tatanagar, Jamshedpur,
Bihar.
19. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Gram Panchayat,
Ramresaghar, Buxar, Bihar.
20. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Binyapur Prachand Gram, Chesanchhapra,
Post Pukhari, Saran, Bihar.
21. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Paru Prachand, Village & Post,
Debaria Kothi,
Muzzafarpur, Bihar.
22. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Shahsupan Mohalla, Naka No. 5,
Darbhanga, Bihar.
23. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Gram & Post Sidhuvedi,
Pumia, Bihar.
24. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Tola, Katihar, Bihar.
25. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Post - Viadhyanath Dham,
Deogarh, Bihar.
26. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Satyamkutir, Palisaria & Marg,
Pitwarpur, Mungher, Bihar.
27. President,
Centre for Consumer Study & Research,
Rental Flat No. 344,
Kankar Bagh Colony, Patna, Bihar.
28. President,
Jila Upbhokta Sangh Rohtas,
3/57, Karansarai, Post Sasaram,
District Rohtas, Bihar — 821 115.
29. President,
Chamber of Consumer's Grahak Bhavan,
64/2/3, Bagbera Colony,
Jamshedpur, Purvi Singhbhum, Bihar- 831 102.
30. President,
Upbhokta Sanrakshan Sansthan,
Gram — Gopalpur (Purantola)
Post Mathar, District Navada, Bihar.

Statement-II

List of Voluntary Consumer Organizations of Bihar that Received Financial Assistance from Consumer Welfare Fund during last three years

(Amount in Rupees)

S.No.	Name of the Organization	Year	Amount sanctioned
1.	Rural Ladies Welfare Society, Village-Dharampur, Post-Nikashi, Via-Pindharuch, Distt. Darbhanga	1998-99	27,000
2.	Jan Jagaran Samiti, Yarpur, N.C. Ghose Lane, Near - Kailash Bhawan, M.O. - Yarpur, Post-G.P.O., Patna - 800001.	1998-99	8,100
3.	Lok Manglam, Mohalla-Gudri, P.O.-Laheriasarai, Distt. - Darbhanga.	1998-99	22,500
4.	Seva Sansthan, C/o Rambilash Roy, (Chandwara) Kanhauli Math Road, PO-Ramma, Distt. Muzaffarpur,	1998-99	18,000
5.	Vikasayan. Vill. P.O. Sheikhpur, Akharaghat, Muzaffarpur.	1998-99	22,500
6.	Daroga Prasad Ray Mahila Prashikshan Evam Audyogik Kendra, Sutihaar, Nawadah (Saran)	1999-2000	27,000
7.	Mahila Avam Bal Vikas Kendra, Jayprakash Nagar, Patna-800001.	1999-2000	13,500
8.	North Bihar Samaj Kalyan Sangathan, Paigamberpur via Silout, Dist-Muzaffarpur.	1999-2000	22,500
9.	Radhika Sewa Sansthan, Vill. Partapu, P.O. Mehshi (thana), Distt. East Champaran.	1999-2000	22,500
10.	Bhartiya Gramothan Avam Janhit Seva Sansthan, Bokaro (Bihar)	2000-2001	45,000

*[Translation]***FDI Projects in Various States**

2978. SHIRMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be
pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of Foreign Direct Investment cleared for various States during each of the last three years till May, 2001;

(b) the number of the approved proposals on which work has started in each State alongwith their locations;

(c) whether work on several proposals have not been started; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The year-wise details of FDI proposals approved for the last three years is as follows:-

Year (Jan to Dec.)	Number of proposals	Inflow in Rs. crore
1998	1191	30813.50
1999	1726	28366.53
2000	1726	37039.45
2001 (Jan. to May)	942	14086.73

The State-wise details are incorporated and posted on the SIA Website (<http://www.nic.in/indmin>) and also in the Monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which is widely circulated, including the Library of the House.

(b) to (d) The data regarding project-wise implementation is not centrally maintained. The translation of approvals into inflows depends on several factors such as market size and market potential, availability of skilled and competitive manpower, return on investment, world economic growth, etc. The inflow to approval ratio has shown steady improvement, increasing from 17.37% in 1992 to 52.22% in 2000 and 56.83% in 2001 upto June 2001.

[English]

Seizure of Gold in Diplomatic Bags

2979. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs Department have seized diplomatic bags containing 100 kg. of gold biscuits alongwith heavy telecommunication equipment from a Singapore Airlines flight at Chennai Airport on July 12, 2001;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against the consignee of these diplomatic bags?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 109.021 kgs of gold biscuits alongwith gold jewellery totally weighing 10.111 kgs, 1100 nos. of RAM chips and 150 nos. of Panasonic GD 90 cell phones, collectively valued at Rs. 5.70 crores, recovered from 12 bags which arrived as 'diplomatic mail' in a Singapore Airlines flight, were seized by the Customs Department on 11.7.2001.

(c) In the follow up action, 5 Indian nationals were arrested under the provisions of Customs Act, 1965 and remanded to judicial custody.

Disinvestment in Hindustan Cables Limited

2980. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to go in for disinvestment in respect of Hindustan Cables Limited, Fibre Optics Unit, Naini, Allahabad, the sole PSU in India manufacturing optical fibre cables and equipments required for DoT, MTNL and a pioneer in cable industry despite its outstanding performance and profits earned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Workers Unions, some other organisations sent representation to Government against the move;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some other PSUs in similar situations like the Hindustan Latex Limited have been excluded from the disinvestment scheme; and

(f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) In the back drop of increasing competition, need for cost effective and latest technology, inability to raise funds and continuous poor performance, the Government, in January 1997 had accorded approval for disinvestment through Joint Venture route in Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL). The company continued to incur losses and the networth of the company as on 31.3.2000 was (-) Rs. 93.03 crore. The decision to disinvest in HCL is in accordance with the policy of the Government that the Government would in generality of cases bring down the Government shareholding in public sector undertakings operating in non-strategic areas to 26% or below. In pursuance of the aforesaid decision, a public advertisement was issued in February 2001 inviting Expressions of Interest from prospective strategic partners.

(c) and (d) Unions of the workers, Associations of the employees and other organizations have represented expressing the views that HCL has in the past two years made a turn around and it should not be disinvested.

(e) and (f) Government has decided not to disinvest in Hindustan Latex Limited for the present. It is

inappropriate to compare Hindustan Cables Limited with Hindustan Latex Limited as HCL is in the telecom sector which is witnessing rapidly changing technology and intense competition. Therefore, the urgency of inducting a strategic partner. On the other hand, Hindustan Latex Limited does not have these compulsions.

Loans Provided Through Banks

2981. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans provided by the public sector banks and financial institution in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu, Sector-wise; and

(b) the specific incentives and concessions extended by the public sector banks and financial institutions for industrial development in Union Territory of Daman and Diu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Sector-wise distribution of outstanding credit by public sector banks for the Union Territory of Daman & Diu as available from Reserve Bank of India as on 31st March 2000 is indicated below:

Sector-wise Distribution of Credit by Public Sector Banks for the Union Territory of Daman & Diu - March 2000

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

Sector	No. of Accounts	Credit Limit	Amount Outstanding
I. Agriculture	564	189	166
II. Industry	844	30180	22019
III. Transport Operators	239	241	152
IV. Professional and Other Services	193	247	217
V. Personal Loans	2104	1010	808
VI. Trade	485	863	506
VII. Finance	15	63	14
VIII. All Others	522	1379	979
Total Bank Credit of Which	4966	34172	24864
5. Artisans & Village Industries	145	31	27
6. Other Small Scale Industries	329	9230	6339

(b) Various steps are taken for increasing the flow of credit particularly to the rural, semi-urban areas. Annual Credit Plans (ACPs) are prepared for each district every year and implementation thereof is monitored by various fora created under the Lead Bank Scheme viz. Block Level Bankers Committee at block level, District Consultative Committee at district level and State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) at State level. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has constituted Rural Infrastructure Development Funds for granting loans to the State Government for development of infrastructure projects in the rural areas.

Disinvestment of Air India

2982. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently disqualified Hindujas from bidding for Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the process of disinvestment is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government has issued a show cause notice to AL Consortium (comprising M/s Ashok Leyland Limited, Machen Development Corporation and Hinduja Finance Corporation Limited) as to why the AL Consortium should not be disqualified from the bidding process for both Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA). The show cause notice has been issued pursuant to the conditions prescribed in expression of interest, 'Request for Proposal' for sale of AI and IA, and guidelines issued by the Government on 13th July 2001, regarding qualification of Bidders seeking to acquire stakes in Public Sector Enterprises through the process of disinvestment.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the time by which the process of disinvestment is likely to be completed.

[*Translation*]

Amount Spent on News Bulletins

2983. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent by Doordarshan to improve the quality of the news bulletins of non-prime time during the last one year;

(b) the details of annual income earned by Doordarshan through these programmes;

(c) whether the quality of the news bulletins has improved; and

(d) if so, the extent of improvement alongwith the number of viewers this programme has attracted?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that about Rs. 3.24 crores were spent in 2000-2001 on overall improvement of all News telecasts. Separate figures are not maintained for prime/non-prime time news bulletins.

(b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that during 2000-2001, Doordarshan has earned a total amount of Rs. 65,32,808 from the news bulletins at non-prime time slots.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There has been a general increase in the viewership as indicated by the Television Audience Measurement (TAM) figures for the months of June-July, 2000 and 2001.

Mechanism to Judge the Facilities of EOUs

2984. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) whether State-wise details of export and import are not maintained;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is no mechanism with the Government to judge the facilities being given to the export oriented units in terms of money; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Maintenance of State-wise details of export and import has not been feasible because export/import takes place through ports and Inland Container Depots (ICDs).

(c) and (d) Mechanism exists for quantification of financial incentives to Export Oriented Units in Rupee terms.

[English]

Payment to the Workers of BSCL

2985. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent upon closure of Refractory of Ceramic Group of units of Raniganj of BSCL 356 workmen on VRS have not yet received their due Payments;

(b) whether 300 workmen on normal retirement are yet to receive their Provident Fund and other dues; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Payments relating to VRS have been made to all 356 Workmen of Raniganj Refractory and Ceramic unit who opted for VRS. However, PF dues which are to be paid by PF Trust are yet to be settled in respect of 209 employees as on date.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Central Agriculture Programme

2986. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether Central Agriculture specific programmes meant for allocation of foodgrains to the States are not suitable according to needs of the States;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have consulted the State Governments while formulating such programmes;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to formulate the programmes according to the needs of the States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (f) The foodgrains are allotted to the States/UTs from central pool for families below poverty line (BPL) and above poverty line (APL) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in June, 1997. The TPDS was launched after extensive consultation with the State Government at various fora. The conference of Chief Ministers on Basic Minimum Services held during 4-5 July, 1996 welcomed the proposal to streamline the Public Distribution System with focus on the population below poverty line and issue of foodgrains to them at specially subsidized prices. The conference of State Food Ministers held on 7.8.1996 to discuss further the question of targeting the PDS also unanimously endorsed the proposal for targeted PDS especially the provision of subsidised foodgrains to the BPL population and recommended that the Central Government bring the targeted PDS into force as soon as possible.

Purchase on Indian Wheat

2987. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indonesia has stopped buying Indian wheat;

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

(c) the total quantity and amount earned for wheat exported to Indonesia during the last two years;

(d) the steps taken to ensure export of good quality wheat;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted to identify the person responsible for export of poor wheat; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No. Sir. However, it has been reported in the newspaper that Bogasari Flour Mills Indonesia, had stopped buying Indian wheat due to quality reasons as the grain had a high dirt content. the newspaper report also states that Bogasari Director did not rule out future purchases from India if the grain quality improved. Indonesia has imported wheat from Indian PSUs, viz. PEC, STC and MMTC, who have reportedly exported 1,66,000 tonnes of wheat to Indonesia during the period November, 2000 to April, 2001.

(c) The quantity and amount earned for wheat exported from the Central Pool to Indonesia during the last two years are as follows:-

1999-2000 (April to March)	Nil
2000-2001 (April to March)	29044 MTs @Rs. 4150 per MT ex-FCI port godowns.

(d) Government has directed the Food Corporation of India to set up clearing facilities at Kandla Port or any other port from which export takes place. The export of wheat has not been directly undertaken by the Food Corporation of India. The exporters have been given the freedom to identify wheat for export.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Closure of PSUs in West Bengal

2988. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down six Central Public Sector Undertakings in the State of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposal submitted by the Union Government before BIFR in regard to these PSUs;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government of West Bengal has submitted a proposal for the revival of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation of Durgapur; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Permission of the Appropriate Government has been received for closure of 3 PSUs viz. Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineering Ltd. (BPME), Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL) and Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (RIC) under the Department of Heavy Industry, located in West Bengal.

(c) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has recommended winding up of BPME and WIL after taking into account the views of all the concerned agencies and exploring all possible options for their revival. RIC is a non-BIFR sick company.

(d) and (e) BIFR, in its meeting held on 29.6.2001, after considering the revival plan submitted by the Unions and submission made by Government of West Bengal, has recommended winding up of Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC).

[Translation]

Consumer Courts

2989. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

(a) the State-wise number of consumer cases pending for disposal before various courts/Forum;

(b) the State-wise number of cases disposed of during the last two years till date; and

(c) the time by which remaining cases are likely to be disposed of?

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

(a) and (b) According to the information provided by the National Commission, the State-wise number of cases disposed of and pending in the consumer courts since inception is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Since, institution of complaints and their disposal by the consumer courts is a continuous process, it is not possible to predict any definite time-frame for disposal of cases. However, among others, the following steps have been taken to facilitate the quicker disposal of cases:-

- (i) To strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer courts, the Central Government has provided a One-Time-Grant of Rs. 61.80 crores to the States/UTs.
- (ii) Monitoring of working of consumer courts through National Commission.
- (iii) States and Union Territories have been requested to take prompt steps to fill up the vacant posts of Presidents/Members of the consumer forums.
- (iv) State and UT Governments are requested from time to time to take steps for ensuring the smooth functioning and monitoring of the consumer forums.

Statement

Cases Disposed of and Pending in Consumer Courts

States/UTs	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases pending	As on
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	119009	17765	31.05.2001
Arunachal Pradesh	173	35	31.03.2000
Assam	6916	1701	30.09.2000
Bihar	38171	20587	30.09.2000
Goa	4265	897	30.06.2001
Gujarat	50632	22647	30.09.2000
Haryana	80456	26522	30.06.2001
Himachal Pradesh	22794	6019	31.03.2001
Jammu & Kashmir	10857	2811	31.03.1999
Karnataka	64486	8569	30.06.2001
Kerala	122576	7836	30.06.2001
Madhya Pradesh	72894	10586	31.03.2001
Maharashtra	88049	28337	31.12.1999
Manipur	815	50	31.05.2000
Meghalaya	259	67	30.06.1999
Mizoram	935	215	31.03.2001
Nagaland	36	64	31.03.2000

1	2	3	4
Orissa	36479	10129	30.09.2000
Punjab	51580	7821	30.06.2001
Rajasthan	145150	28030	31.03.2001
Sikkim	122	9	30.06.2001
Tamil Nadu	62799	9547	30.06.2001
Tripura	981	389	30.09.2000
Uttar Pradesh	183682	89076	31.03.2000
West Bengal	41764	6608	31.03.2000
A& N Islands	210	33	31.03.2000
Chandigarh	18375	3514	30.06.2001
D & N Haveli	23	10	31.12.1999
Daman & Diu	37	30	30.09.2000
Delhi	74699	26349	31.03.2000
Lakshadweep	44	4	30.06.2001
Pondicherry	2314	82	30.06.2001

Loans through RRBs for Installation of Tubewells

2990. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise, number of small farmers especially in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes dominated areas who have been provided loans by the Regional Rural Banks for installing tubewells during the last three years; and

(b) the State-wise amount of loan provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that loans for sinking tubewells are generally availed of by farmers having large holdings, while small and marginal farmers normally avail of loans for other minor irrigation activities such as dug wells and pumpsets.

NABARD extends refinance support to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) against their lendings for minor irrigation purposes including tubewells, dug-wells, pumpsets and other minor irrigation activities in favour of small and marginal farmers constituting their target clientele group. As reported by NABARD the information in respect of loans issued for all purposes including minor irrigation to small farmers for the year 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and loans outstanding there against is given in the statement-I. NABARD has further reported that disaggregated data in the manner sought for particularly regarding Scheduled Caste (SC) Scheduled Tribes (ST) beneficiaries under the category of small and marginal farmers, is not available with them.

(b) The State-wise amount of refinance under minor irrigation activities through RRBs for the last three years is given in the statement-II.

Statement-I**Loans Outstanding and Loans issued by RRBs to Small Farmers during 1997-2000**

(Rs. Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Loans Outstanding to Small Farmers			Loans issued to Small Farmers		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Haryana	12894.26	16017.12	17223.70	7720.63	8376.56	9841.75
2.	Himachal Pradesh	339.28	561.80	0.00	207.06	233.49	0.00
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	2073.08	1597.20	2947.65	131.00	119.20	371.79
4.	Punjab	6710.59	7126.56	5809.81	4525.57	4890.05	3609.79
5.	Rajasthan	22431.06	25840.16	19750.99	7498.54	8369.62	4781.83
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	535.64	613.79	661.44	171.57	163.17	21.25
7.	Assam	7679.35	8602.08	8416.38	673.33	867.03	815.10
8.	Manipur	185.13	183.11	0.00	22.67	23.45	0.00
9.	Meghalaya	931.80	1058.06	1137.87	791.19	881.36	190.97
10.	Mizoram	100.67	101.27	378.29	12.38	36.87	61.21
11.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.46	23.71	0.00
12.	Tripura	2261.83	2298.18	2319.14	138.90	166.37	155.80
13.	Bihar	54413.89	52604.30	45742.62	8539.54	9952.09	8421.13
14.	Orissa	17324.28	17727.82	42952.43	9103.41	11345.29	14043.48
15.	West Bengal	5205.94	6418.93	6483.79	2716.12	4568.57	3436.86
16.	Madhya Pradesh	14292.01	17871.67	26267.51	5758.80	6903.08	7582.55
17.	Uttar Pradesh	25797.35	27526.94	105612.05	26976.78	37551.07	39587.61
18.	Gujarat	7319.43	8789.72	10762.63	4251.33	4855.69	6501.36
19.	Maharashtra	3900.06	4957.07	8379.95	1400.33	2365.59	3183.43
20.	Andhra Pradesh	55136.35	63153.07	57223.74	38837.43	40131.40	45821.29
21.	Karnataka	50677.65	57524.36	55238.09	23041.16	24201.71	28141.77
22.	Kerala	9293.19	23182.75	36334.98	18450.85	21861.08	27576.37
23.	Tamil Nadu	10180.37	10566.20	12458.51	9833.26	9445.23	11972.59
Grand Total		309683.21	354322.16	466101.57	170823.31	197331.68	216117.93

Note: 1. Number of accounts not available.
2. Date not available for 2000-2001.

Statement-II**State-wise Refinance Disbursement to RRBs for Minor Irrigation during the last three years**

State/UT	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
Chandigarh	—	—	—
Delhi	—	—	—
Haryana	3	9	28
Himachal Pradesh	2	0	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1	3	5
Punjab	—	—	—
Rajasthan	464	468	418
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0
Assam	—	—	—
Manipur	—	—	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—
Tripura	—	—	—
Sikkim	—	—	—
Bihar	0	10	1
Orissa	39	28	30
West Bengal	5	6	2
A & N Islands	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	81	160	219
Uttar Pradesh	133	158	283
D & N Haveli	—	—	—
Gujarat	35	56	97
Goa	—	—	—
Maharashtra	80	78	246
Andhra Pradesh	56	59	92
Karnataka	458	403	354

1	2	3	4
Lakshadweep	—	—	—
Kerala	180	131	116
Pondicherry	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	0	6	9
Total	1539	1578	1902

*[English]***Disinvestment of Instrumentation Limited, Palakkad**

2991. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the disinvestment of Instrumentation Limited, Palakkad, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Public advertisement was issued in January 2001 inviting expressions of interest from prospective strategic partners for 51% of the equity in Instrumentation Control Valves Limited (ICVL), Palakkad, Kerala, a Unit of Instrumentation Limited, Kota. The process of disinvestment through joint venture route has been taken up and not yet completed.

Forex Bureau of SBI

2992. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SBI has shifted its Forex Bureau from Kolkata;

(b) whether other Banks are also following suit;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent these banks from shifting their Forex Bureau from Kolkata?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) State Bank of India, (SBI) has reported that while its Foreign Department continues to function at Kolkata, its inter-bank foreign exchange dealing and cover operations functions were shifted to Mumbai with effect from 12th October 1998, as part of the Bank's integration of its treasury operations. SBI has further reported that this has enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of the Bank's treasury operations, substantially improved the yield on the deployment of the Bank's surplus rupee resources and resulted in substantial interest income over and above the foreign exchange income of the Bank. The bank has also reported that its forex turnover has gone up substantially since the re-organization of its treasury operations. According to the information available with Government of India and Reserve Bank of India, no other public sector bank had its Foreign Exchange Division in Kolkata.

(d) Such decisions are taken by Banks themselves in their best commercial interest.

Foreign Fund brought into the Country

2993. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign funds brought into the country by way of borrowings by entrepreneurs to improve liquidity have been getting exemption from withholding tax;

(b) if so, whether foreign funds brought into the country as advances for export are not getting treated in the same way; and

(c) the policy of the Government in regard to such deposit or borrowings brought in for the purpose of improving liquidity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Interest payable on moneys borrowed or debt incurred in a foreign country (external commercial borrowings)/ foreign currency loan agreements approved and or entered into before 1st June, 2001 is exempt from withholding tax under section 10(15) (iv) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(b) Advance deposits for exports are not getting treated in the same way.

(c) Advance deposits for exports are in the nature of securitisation for future export receivables. They do not qualify as external commercial borrowings and hence tax exemption for interest payments is not available.

Export Procurement Scheme

2994. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to start an export procurement scheme for wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to consider the request of the Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh, however, requested in March, 2001 for expeditious export of 20 lakh tonnes of rice.

(c) and (d) F.C.I. was permitted to offer 20 lakh MTs of rice for export @Rs. 6750/- per MT during 2000-2001. For 2001-2002, FCI has been permitted to offer 30 lakh MTs of rice for export to PSUs/private parties @Rs. 5650/- per MT and Rs. 6000/- per MT for raw rice and par-boiled rice respectively. The exports can take place from any State.

Report of Expert Group on Tax Policy

2995. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert group on tax policy and tax administration during the Tenth Five Year Plan has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above said expert group on tax policy and tax administration during the Tenth Plan has estimated that if its recommendations are accepted, the Government could gain an additional revenue of Rs. 22,250 crores every year; and

(d) if so, the view of the Government with regard to the said recommendation of the said expert group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Advisory Group on "Tax Policy and Tax Administration" set up by the Planning Commission submitted its report to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission on 21.5.2001. The Advisory Group which was headed by Dr. Parthasarathi Shome has made recommendations regarding measures for raising additional revenues for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) The Advisory Group has indicated that if the recommendations are accepted and implemented, the tax/GDP ratio would increase by 3.69 percentage points from 14.09 in 1999-2000 to 17.78 in 2006-2007.

(d) It has been decided to constitute a Committee to suggest implementation modalities.

Inadequacies in Anti-Dumping Laws

2996. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are lot of inconsistencies and inadequacies in laws regarding the cases of anti-dumping;

(b) if so, whether a panel has been set-up to look into existing laws which requires change;

(c) whether recommendations has been made by the panel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) A Committee has been set up to look into the adequacy of laws and procedures governing Anti-Dumping investigation. The report is under finalisation.

[Translation]

Wheat Export to Iraq

2997. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the private sector traders who had exported wheat to Iraq have requested for refund of Rs. 1.83 crore to them;

(b) if so, the basic on which they have made this request;

(c) whether some change was effected in the earlier Export Policy for exporting the wheat to Iraq;

(d) if so, the details of the changes in the policy alongwith reasons therefor; and

(e) the additional amount earned by the Government as a result of this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Three private exporters registered with the Grain Board of Iraq, whose consignments were rejected by the Iraqi Authorities, on the basis of presence of inorganic foreign matter and live insects, etc. have requested for refund of the amount of Rs. 190/- per MT charged from them, over and above the FCI issue price for export to Iraq, considering higher realizations from exports to Iraq.

(c) to (e) FCI has been directed to ensure that no consignment is sent to Iraq unless the wheat is cleaned to meet the requirements of the Grain Board of Iraq. FCI has also been directed to set up cleaning facilities at Kandla Port or any other port from which export takes place. No additional amount has been earned by the Government.

[English]

Credit Policy of Co-operative Banks

2998. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any instruction to the State Governments to improve by 5 percent or forgo incentive fund share;

(b) if so, the details of instructions issued to the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the total incentive fund per year calculated by the Eleventh Finance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) on Additional Term of Reference, Ministry of Finance has set up an Incentive Fund for Fiscal Reforms of the States. Given the broad contours of the fiscal objectives recommended by EFC, the States have been invited to draw their respective Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme aimed at improvement in revenue deficit/surplus of the State. The scheme envisages preparing a fiscal reform programme with the objective of yearly improvement of the Revenue deficit as a proportion of Revenue receipts by 5 percentage points for each State. If a State does not achieve this objective of the Reform Programme in any one year, the amount does not lapse, but is carried over to the subsequent year's entitlement to the State. Only in the final year of the scheme, if a State's performance under its fiscal reform programme does not achieve the agreed targets, its entitlement is available for those states which have achieved the benchmark improvements.

(c) The year-wise details of the amount of the Incentive Fund is given in the statement.

Statement

Composition of the Incentive Fund

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Withheld 15% amount of the revenue deficit grants	Matching Contribution of the Centre	Total Fund (Col. 1 + Col. 2)
2000-01	1523.06	598.48	2121.54
2001-02	1080.43	1041.11	2121.54
2002-03	994.64	1126.91	2121.55
2003-04	861.74	1259.81	2121.55
2004-05	843.99	1277.55	2121.54
Total	5303.86	5303.86	10607.72

[Translation]

Indo-Japanese Economic and Cultural Co-Operation

2999. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the Indo-Japanese economic and cultural co-operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main projects aided and approved by Japan and their year-wise progress during the last three years;

(d) the details of the project under consideration of Indo-Japanese co-operation; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to encourage the Indo-Japanese economic and cultural co-operations during the ensuing three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Indo-Japanese co-operation, including economic and cultural co-operation, is reviewed periodically in various bilateral fora. Japan has been the largest bilateral donor for India, third largest investor and is among the top five trade partners of India. With a view to establishing closer economic cooperation, regular dialogues are held on trade, investment, industry and IT with counterpart Japanese Ministries. The visit of Mr. Mori, the then PM of Japan to India during August, 2000 at the invitation of India's Prime Minister, was the first visit ever by a Japanese PM to India in ten years, since 1990. Regular exchange programmes have been held for students, teachers and artists on reciprocal basis for promotion of cultural cooperation between the two countries in the fields of education, sports, science and mass media.

(c) As per statement enclosed.

(d) Since ongoing time slice projects are outside the purview of Japanese economic sanctions, the following projects for subsequent tranches of loan are under consideration of Govt. of Japan:

- (1) Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project-Delhi
- (2) Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project-A.P.
- (3) Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project-W.B.
- (4) Simhadri and Vizag Trans. System Project-A.P.

(e) Celebration of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations and 100th anniversary of India-Japan Association during 2002 and 2003 have been proposed by leaders of both the countries.

Statement*Disbursement for JBIC, Japan assisted projects during the last three years*

JBIC Loan

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	IDP Number and Name of the Project	Disbursement		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	(IDP-40) Teesta Canal HE Project	14.13	10.89	Closed
2.	(IDP-42) Assam Gas Turbine Project	18.74	1.62	Closed
3.	(IDP-43) Srisaillam Left Bank Power Project (I)	14.98	0.00	Closed
4.	(IDP-53) Ghatghar Pumped Storage Project	26.17	27.73	83.02
5.	(IDP-54) Tourism Infrastructure Development Project	46.51	Closed	Closed
6.	(IDP-56) Upper Kolab Irrigation Project	12.51	Closed	Closed
7.	(IDP-57) Upper Indravati Irrigation Project	18.25	Closed	Closed
8.	(IDP-59) Mysore Paper Mill Modernization Project	16.69	6.87	Closed
9.	(IDP-66) Power System Improvement Project	122.18	149.16	108.15
10.	(IDP-72) Teesta Canal HE Project	18.09	19.44	Closed
11.	(IDP-73) Indira Gandhi Afforestation Project	18.35	14.79	22.88
12.	(IDP-74) Quality Control of Health Project	1.38	Closed	Closed
13.	(IDP-79) Urban City Water Supply Project	7.32	19.17	Closed
14.	(IDP-80) Aravalli Hill Afforestation Project	38.40	38.52	Closed
15.	(IDP-81) NH-2 Improvement Project	31.54	35.03	14.38
16.	(IDP-82) Ajanta-Ellora Con. & Tourist Development Project	16.04	10.60	4.23
17.	(IDP-84) Yamuna Action Plan	39.99	86.87	38.92
18.	(IDP-85) Srisaillam Power Transmission System Project	45.28	28.82	0.60
19.	(IDP-86) Gandhar Gas Based Power Project	1.04	Closed	Closed
20.	(IDP-87) Udyogamandal Ammonia Replacement Plant Project	35.09	1.68	Closed
21.	(IDP-88) Anpara 'B' Thermal Power	38.53	33.03	55.40
22.	(IDP-89) Bakreswar Thermal Power Project	313.16	Closed	Closed
23.	(IDP-90) Faridabad Thermal Power Project	93.55	405.36	148.30
24.	(IDP-91) Naini Bridge Over river Yamuna	1.40	0.53	31.73
25.	(IDP-92) Four laning of NH-5	0.37	65.51	54.83
26.	(IDP-94) Srisaillam Left Bank Power Project (II)	85.82	92.48	71.25

1	2	3	4	5
27.	(IDP-95) Srisaïlam Power Transmission-II	69.15	128.05	38.57
28.	(IDP-96) Assam Gas Turbine Project	37.30	17.15	49.60
29.	(IDP-97) Bakreswar Thermal Unit-3	184.76	24.56	Closed
30.	(IDP-98) Purulia Pumped Storage Project	12.97	17.56	64.98
31.	(IDP-99) Kothagudem 'A' TRS	13.79	8.17	26.75
32.	(IDP-100) NH-5 Improvement Project	0.45	10.99	13.22
33.	(IDP-101) NH-24 Improvement Project	0.47	19.48	31.60
34.	(IDP-102) Madras Sewerage Project	2.46	33.65	2.15
35.	(IDP-103) Lake Bhopal Cons. & Management Project	17.65	24.77	35.39
36.	(IDP-104) Rajasthan Forestry Development Project	29.32	29.97	24.24
37.	(IDP-105) Industrial Pollution Control Project	3.20	3.61	2.17
38.	(IDP-106) ICICI Programme	0.00	0.00	47.98
39.	(IDP-107) Dhauliganga HEP	7.88	28.20	57.63
40.	(IDP-108) Anpara Power Transmission Project	45.62	48.99	49.35
41.	(IDP-109) Bangalore Water Supply Project	23.88	105.97	150.03
42.	(IDP-110) Urban city Water Supply Project	33.98	198.63	46.72
43.	(IDP-111) Attapaddy Wasteland Project	0.21	3.82	4.46
44.	(IDP-112) Gujarat Forestry Project	110.04	118.17	119.45
45.	(IDP-113) KC Canal Project	3.56	56.43	58.61
46.	(IDP-115) Pipavav Ship Breaking Project	80.77	69.92	24.95
47.	(IDP-116) Northern India Trans. System Project	0.00	10.79	10.35
48.	(IDP-117) West Bengal Transmission System Project	2.55	25.45	68.05
49.	(IDP-118) Umlam Hydro Power Station Project	0.00	0.62	8.17
50.	(IDP-119) Tuirial Hydro Electric Power Project	1.00	8.15	7.08
51.	(IDP-120) Simhadri Thermal Power Project	239.64	361.51	96.31
52.	(IDP-121) Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project	8.76	41.49	47.98
53.	(IDP-122) Calcuta Transport System Project	2.12	19.46	39.42
54.	(IDP-123) Kerala Water Supply Project	0.00	0.00	0.00
55.	(IDP-124) Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	78.13	84.84	101.87
56.	(IDP-125) Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	58.91	78.13	89.73
57.	(IDP-126) Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	20.19	32.22	55.78
58.	(IDP-127) Simhadri & Vizab Transmission System Project	0.00	2.45	124.28

1	2	3	4	5
59.	(IDP-128) Srisaïlam Left Bank Power Station Project III	48.71	148.38	124.97
60.	(IDP-129) Dhauligange HE Project-II	0.00	76.35	79.58
61.	(IDP-130) Bakreswar Thermal Power Project-II	379.61	438.80	156.33
62.	(IDP-131) Tuticorin Port Dredging Project	0.16	200.65	4.87
63.	(IDP-132) Punjab Afforestation Project	19.53	33.19	80.65
64.	(IDP-133) Madhya Pradesh Sericulture Project	1.77	5.54	4.80
65.	(IDP-134) Manipur Sericulture Project	7.38	6.19	3.27
66.	(IDP-135) Rengali Irrigation Project	21.80	41.28	36.64
67.	(IDP-136) Small Scale Industries Development Programme	300.50	Closed	Closed
68.	(IDP-137) Bakreswar TPS Unit-3 Extension Project-(II)	0.00	167.83	91.02
Total		2941.43	3779.51	2712.69

Disbursement under Japanese Grant in Aid Projects during last three years

Japanese Grant Aid

1.	Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis	11.7	33.15	Closed
2.	Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis	—	—	Closed
3.	Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis	—	—	39.00
Total		11.7	33.15	39.00

The grants for 2 and 3 above were signed between Govt. of Japan and UNICEF. Govt. of India was not a signatory, the money did not route through Govt. of India's account.

[English]

Loans for Women Entrepreneurs

3000. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain banks have drawn out schemes to extend finance to women entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the names of the banks and details of the schemes offered by them;

(c) whether SBI has sponsored an NGO called Samanvita for giving vocational training to tribal women in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the number of women covered by the SBI, profession-wise with amount spent on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain banks have drawn out schemes for extending finance to women. The details of such schemes as available from Reserve Bank of India is indicated below:

- (i) Bank of India Priyadarshini Scheme: Under this scheme women are assisted for setting up small scale industries, village and cottage industries including for purchase of Machinery, shed etc. public transport vehicles etc. The bank is offering 1% concession in rate of interest to limits over Rs. lakh for women.
- (ii) Bank of Baroda: The bank has a special scheme to encourage rural women for dairy pursuit in Gujarat.
- (iii) Central Bank of India: Introduced a scheme viz, Kalyani in 1995-96 for the betterment of women entrepreneurs and for catering to the

requirement of women engaged in different activities.

- (iv) **Oriental Bank of Commerce:** The bank is having a scheme called Oriental Mahila Vikas Yojana exclusively for women. The Scheme covers the credit requirement of women entrepreneurs on concessional terms. These include 2% concession in interest rate for loans above Rs. 2 lakh and upto Rs. 10 lakh and 1% concession in interest rate for loans above Rs. 10 lakh. Concessional margin upto 15% in comparison to the normal margin of 25% is permitted. No process fee/upfront fee is chargeable in such accounts.
- (v) **State Bank of India:** The Shree Shakti Package Scheme formulated by the bank is exclusively for extending credit to women entrepreneurs. Under this scheme there are concession in Promoters' margin and rate of interest. The scheme also aims at imparting entrepreneurial skills to aspiring women and offers a credit package on concessional terms.
- (vi) **Syndicate Bank's Pigmy Deposit Scheme:** Is a daily savings scheme, which caters to a large section of women entrepreneurs.
- (vii) **Union Bank of India's Viklang Mahila Vikas Yojana** envisages financing handicapped women for starting their own vocations. The physically

handicapped women are identified and their aptitude ascertained for starting of suitable vocation in the locality. Finance of Rs. 25000/- is provided for starting expansion of any productive venture.

(c) and (d) **Samanwita Grama Unnayan Samithi (SAMANWITA)** is a registered society formed in 1978 having representation from Government of India, Government of Orissa and State Bank of India (SBI). The management of the Samanwita is looked after by the governing body, which comprises district level officials from the State Government/Bank/NABARD. The project Director who is on deputation from SBI looks after the day to day working on the Samanwita.

Samanwita has manifold objectives of developing socio-economic conditions of the tribal people in Kandhamala district (also known as Phulbani District) of Western Orissa. It undertakes various activities like imparting vocational training, demonstration and processing of locally available forest and agricultural produce, educating tribal people (both men and women) on sanitation, cleanliness and running of non-formal education centers.

(e) The status of the women training programme conducted at Samanwita in respect of women's SHGs/micro entrepreneurs is given below:

Name of the Training Programme	No. of Women	Trade	Amount Spent (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Women Empowerment to SHGs members	1157	Women Empowerment	28925.00
PMRY Training	11	Small Business	4620.00
	133	Leaf Plate Making	4800.00
NABARD Project	512	Spices processing	35000.00
	30	Agarbati rolling	4000.00
Spices Board	682	Organic Spices	105000.00
UNDP Project	438	Capacity Building	23164.00
	33	Sisal Fibre handicraft	39600.00
DRDA Project	02	Tailoring	2400.00
UNICEF Project	15	Masou Training	9000.00

1	2	3	4
Sanitation Awareness Udyogini Project	217 20	Sanitation awareness Micro Entrepreneurship	10850.00 25000.00
ITDA	15 120	Computer Training Typewriting/ Stenography	90000.00 21600.00
HRD	32	Non-Formal Education	92500.00
Total			496459.00

Exemption in Octroi/Entry Duty

3001. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have persuaded State Governments to do away with Octroi/entry and other local levies on foods meant for export;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Union Government has been advocating waiver of state taxes on food products meant for exports so as to make them more competitive in the international market. The reaction from the State Governments has been mixed.

Earnings of PSUs

3002. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) whether Central Public Sector Undertakings have registered a turnaround in their overall performance this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as per the performance budget earnings of 12 profit making units would improve to Rs. 679.96 crore from last year's Rs. 623.47 crore;

(d) if so, to what extent this has given an encouraging trend; and

(e) the details of other PSUs which are also expected to give profit during the year 2001-02?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) As per the Public Enterprises Survey 1999-2000, which was laid in the Parliament on 27.2.2001, the net profit of CPSUs as a whole has increased from Rs. 13203 crore in 1998-99 to Rs. 14556 crore during 1999-2000, till which period the information is available.

(c) As per the Performance Budget 2001-02 of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, the estimated profit of Rs. 623.47 crore for 2000-01 of 12 CPSUs, under the control of this Ministry is expected to improve to Rs. 679.96 crore during 2001-02.

(d) It is too early to work out the trend as the final data on profitability etc. will be available only after close of the financial year.

(e) As per Performance Budget 2001-02 of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, 10 more CPSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry anticipates profit of Rs. 33.37 crore during 2001-02 as against an estimated loss of Rs. 99.49 crore during 2000-01. The PSU-wise details are given in the statement. Information regarding CPSUs under the administrative control of other Ministries/ Departments is not given as such information is not maintained centrally.

Statement

List of loss making CPSUs under the administrative control of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises which are expected to earn profit during 2001-02

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of CPSU	Profit/loss (-) during 2000-01 (Estimated)	Profit during 2001-02 (Targets)
1.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	(-) 6.22	0.27
2.	Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd.	(-5) 4.50	0.59
3.	Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.	0.50	1.50
4.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.	0.29	0.11
5.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	(-) 3.50	0.50
6.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	(-) 52.29	1.83
7.	HMT Ltd.	(-) 14.84	20.27
8.	Instrumentation Ltd.	(-) 20.47	2.45
9.	National Instruments Ltd.	(-) 0.15	0.88
10.	Nepa Ltd.	1.69	4.97
Total		(-) 99.49	33.37

[Translation]

Study Group to Identify Industrially Backward Districts

3003. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report prepared by the study group constituted for the purpose of identifying industrially backward districts has been reviewed;

(b) if so, the State-wise districts identified as industrially backward;

(c) the other features of the report; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement them?

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

(b) The State-wise districts of Category 'A' and Category 'B' are as per enclosed statement.

(c) The Review Group with a view to focus on the more deserving districts recommended modifications in the composite cut-off index. It also recommended inclusion of 'no industry' districts and districts located in inaccessible hill areas based on composite index ratings.

(d) The Government has given effect to the Report by declaring Category 'A' and Category 'B' backward districts. The districts having composite index upto 250 have been put in Category 'A' and those having composite index from 251 to 500 in Category 'B'. The 'no industry' districts, inaccessible hilly area districts and districts having no rail head connections have also been put in Category 'A'. The Government have provided fiscal benefits on the above basis under section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act. Category 'A' districts are entitled to a tax holiday for five years, and a deduction of 25% of profits (30% in case of companies) in the subsequent five years. Category 'B' districts enjoy a three year tax holiday instead with similar deduction for the five years. The benefits may be availed

by undertaking that start manufacture or production on or before 31.3.2002.

Statement

A. Category 'A' industrially backward districts:

1. Godda	Bihar
2. Gumla	Bihar
3. Araria	Bihar
4. Madhepura	Bihar
5. Dumka	Bihar
6. Khagaria	Bihar
7. Kishanganj	Bihar
8. Palamau	Bihar
9. Madhubani	Bihar
10. Jehanabad	Bihar
11. Saharsa	Bihar
12. Nawadah	Bihar
13. Sitamarhi	Bihar
14. Sahebganj	Bihar
15. Aurangabad	Bihar
16. East Champaran	Bihar
17. Purnia	Bihar
18. Siwan	Bihar
19. Vaishali	Bihar
20. Lohardagga	Bihar
21. The Dangs	Gujarat
22. Wayanad	Kerala
23. Idukki	Kerala
24. Gadchiroli	Maharashtra
25. Mandla	Madhya Pradesh
26. Sarguja	Madhya Pradesh
27. Chhatarpur	Madhya Pradesh
28. Panna	Madhya Pradesh

29. Bastar	Madhya Pradesh
30. Phulbani	Orissa
31. Kalahandi	Orissa
32. Jalore	Rajasthan
33. Barmer	Rajasthan
34. Jaisalmer	Rajasthan
35. Churu	Rajasthan
36. Banswara	Rajasthan
37. Sidharthanagar	Uttar Pradesh
38. Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh
39. Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh
40. Maharajganj	Uttar Pradesh
41. Banda	Uttar Pradesh
42. Basti	Uttar Pradesh
43. Chamoli	Uttar Pradesh
44. Uttarkashi	Uttar Pradesh
45. Almora	Uttar Pradesh
46. Pithoragarh	Uttar Pradesh
47. Tehri Garhwal	Uttar Pradesh
48. Murshidabad	West Bengal
49. Cooch Behar	West Bengal
50. Bankura	West Bengal
51. Jalpaiguri	West Bengal
52. Malda	West Bengal
53. West Dinajpur	West Bengal

B. Category 'B' Industrially backward districts

1. Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh
2. Mahbubnagar	Andhra Pradesh
3. Katihar	Bihar
4. Bhagalpur	Bihar
5. Gopalganj	Bihar
6. Darbhanga	Bihar

7. West Champaran	Bihar	40. Tonk	Rajasthan
8. Saran	Bihar	41. Nagaur	Rajasthan
9. Bhojpur	Bihar	42. Jhalawar	Rajasthan
10. Samastipur	Bihar	43. Sikar	Rajasthan
11. Deoghar	Bihar	44. Hardoi	Uttar Pradesh
12. Nalanda	Bihar	45. Lalitpur	Uttar Pradesh
13. Gaya	Bihar	46. Hamirpur	Uttar Pradesh
14. Mazaffarpur	Bihar	47. Badaun	Uttar Pradesh
15. Rohtas	Bihar	48. Fatehpur	Uttar Pradesh
16. Banaskantha	Gujarat	49. Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh
17. Sabarkantha	Gujarat	50. Etah	Uttar Pradesh
18. Bidar	Karnataka	51. Barabanki	Uttar Pradesh
19. Seoni	Madhya Pradesh	52. Etawah	Uttar Pradesh
20. Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh	53. Deoria	Uttar Pradesh
21. Shivpuri	Madhya Pradesh	54. Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh
22. Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	55. Ballia	Uttar Pradesh
23. Jhabua	Madhya Pradesh	56. Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh
24. Sidhi	Madhya Pradesh	57. Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh
25. Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	58. Jalaun	Uttar Pradesh
26. Raigarh	Madhya Pradesh	59. Unnao	Uttar Pradesh
27. Morena	Madhya Pradesh	60. Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh
28. Betul	Madhya Pradesh	61. Kanpur Dehat	Uttar Pradesh
29. Rajgarh	Madhya Pradesh	62. Mainpur	Uttar Pradesh
30. Rajnandgaon	Madhya Pradesh	63. Gonda	Uttar Pradesh
31. Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	64. Farukhabad	Uttar Pradesh
32. Beed	Maharashtra	65. Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh
33. Bolangir	Orissa	66. Mirzapur	Uttar Pradesh
34. Mayurbhanj	Orissa	67. Mau	Uttar Pradesh
35. Balasore	Orissa	68. Purulia	West Bengal
36. Ganjam	Orissa	69. Birbhum	West Bengal
37. Dungarpur	Rajasthan	70. Midnapore	West Bengal
38. Dholpur	Rajasthan		
39. Sawai Madhopur	Rajasthan		

* List of districts has shown States, as they stood prior to the creation of Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and Chattisgarh.

*[English]***Unattended Wheat Stock with FCI**

3004. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "FCI, Government blame each other for rain-soaked wheat" appearing in *Times of India* dated May 18, 2001;

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

(c) whether a large quantum of wheat are lying unattended is open in Delhi;

(d) if so, whether the Government have fixed responsibility for such a loss;

(e) whether the storage system of FCI needs further modernisation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During Rabi Marketing Season 2001-2002, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has procured 50,000 tonnes of wheat at Nazafgarh and Narela Mandies in Delhi. However, some of the procured wheat has experienced unseasonal rain which was shifted to FCI Depot and no damage has occurred to this procured wheat stock.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) In order to reduce storage and transit losses of foodgrains, and to introduce modern technology of bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains, the Government has announced a national policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains. The policy envisages harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to build and operate infrastructure for bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains. The policy also envisages creation and operation of conventional storage godowns by private sector for storage of foodgrains of the FCI on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.

*[Translation]***Vacant Posts of Programmers**

3005. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts of programmers are lying vacant in the National Network of the AIR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to fill up these posts;

(d) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard; and

(e) whether due to these vacancies functioning of the vast network of AIR has been affected?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following number of Programmers posts are lying vacant in All India Radio:

1. Senior Administrative Grade	-	16
2. Junior Administrative Grade	-	52
3. Senior Time Scale	-	100
4. Junior Time Scale	-	106
5. Programme Executive	-	198
6. Transmission Executive	-	736

(c) and (d) These vacancies could not be filled up due to the following reasons:-

(i) As an austerity measure, a ban has been imposed on filling up of vacant posts and there are also instructions to the effect that if a post has been lying vacant for more than one year, the same shall be deemed to have been abolished;

(ii) After establishment of Prasar Bharati, UPSC have dissociated itself from conducting DPCs/Recruitments for the posts in Prasar Bharati and time is required to bring in place the new arrangements for managing the Prasar Bharati establishment.

(e) No Sir. Activities in All India Radio are presently being maintained by redeploying the staff, wherever necessary.

[English]

Disinvestment of Loss Making PSUs

3006. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to go for disinvestment of some loss making public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the public sector undertakings identified so far for the propose; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the disinvestment of those public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Disinvestment is being considered and carried out in various Public Sector Enterprises, on an ongoing basis, in accordance with the declared disinvestment policy of the Government. According to it, in generality of the cases, Government will bring down its equity to 26% or below in all non-strategic Central Public Sector Undertakings. The strategic public sector enterprises are those in the areas of arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipments etc.; atomic energy except in the areas relating to generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation, radio isotopes to agriculture, medicine in non-strategic industries; and railway transport. This policy covers all Central Public Sector Undertakings—loss making or profit making. The following PSUs are at various stages in the process of disinvestment.

Air India, CMC Ltd, Hindustan Cooper Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Indian Airlines, IBP Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd., India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., State Trading Corpn. Ltd., Hindustan Cables

Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Jessop and Co. Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd., HTL Ltd., NIDC, Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels, Hindustan Salts and Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. Of these, those that were making losses as of 31.3.2000 are as follows:

Air India, Hindustan Copper Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Jessop and Co. Ltd., Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd., NIDC Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels, Hindustan Salts and Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.

(c) Disinvestment of PSUs is being carried out in accordance with pre-determined transparent procedure. A typical strategic sale/disinvestment includes *inter alia*, selection of Advisors, inviting Expression of interests from prospective bidders, due diligence of the PSUs, finalization of transaction documents namely, Share Holders Agreement/Share Purchase Agreement, inviting financial/technical bids, evaluation of PSUs etc., before the transaction is concluded. The disinvestment of PSUs is in different stages of implementation.

Filling up of Reserved Posts in IFCI

3007. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) had issued advertisements during the year 2000, to fill up the reserved vacancies/posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities in officer cadres on the direction of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons have been appointed by the IFCI against reserved posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) An advertisement was issued by IFCI Ltd. in October, 2000 for filling up reserved vacancies of SC/ST candidates in officer cadres.

(b) Applications were invited for filling up one post of Assistant General Manager (Law) (SC-1) and six posts of Managers (Finance) (SC-4) (ST-2).

(c) One SC candidate has been appointed to the post of AGM (Law) and six candidates (SC-4) (ST-2) have been selected for the post of Manager (Finance) and appointment letters are being issued to them.

Asian Development Bank Loan

3008. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan taken by the Government from Asian Development Bank (ADB) during each of the last three years;

(b) the States which have been benefited by the ADB loan during those years;

(c) whether the ADB loan assistance for the coming four years has been finalized; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the States which are going to be benefited from the ADB loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The amount of loan taken by the Government from the Asian Development Bank in the last three calendar years is as under:

1998	US \$ 250 million
1999	US \$ 425 million
2000	: US \$ 600 million

(b) The beneficiaries include States of Karnataka, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

(c) and (d) Asian Development Bank finalises the pipeline of projects on calendar year basis sometime between October and December for the succeeding year. During calendar year 2001, ADB has since approved a loan of US\$ 500 million for the Gujarat Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project. The following projects for Calendar year 2001 are at various stages of processing and their details would be known after loan negotiations are held with ADB and the Board of Directors approves these loans:

1. Madhya Pradesh Power Sector Development Project.
2. Madhya Pradesh Power Sector Programme Loan.
3. Western Transport Corridor Development Project.

4. West Bengal Corridor Development Project.

5. Private Sector Infrastructure Facility II Project.

6. Taj Environmental Improvement Project.

Tax Evasion by Japanese Companies

3009. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided not to initiate action against scores of Japanese employees and companies for tax evasion amounting to over Rs. 300 crores;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to persuade foreign nationals working in MNCs in India to pay tax on their salaries under Income Tax Act, 1961?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the Income-Tax laws, all payments made in India and abroad to expatriate employees for services rendered in India, are taxable in India. The employers are also liable to deduct tax at source on such salary, allowances and perquisites paid or provided in India or abroad and remit the same to the Govt. Further, provisions also exist under the Income-tax Act for survey, penalty and prosecution of defaulters. These provisions of the Law are considered enough for compliance of the tax laws by expatriate employees and their employers. The Department also takes action whenever any default in compliance of the tax laws by the expatriate employees or employers is noticed.

Income Tax Laws

3010. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government feels that there is a need to review the existing income tax laws to make

these more and more consumer friendly and to inspire tax payers to pay taxes;

(b) if so the time by which such a review is likely to be conducted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Review of the Income-tax Act is a regular exercise and is carried out every year as a part of budgetary process. Rationalisation and simplification of the Income tax law with a view to inspire the taxpayers to pay their rightful taxes to the Government is also an ongoing process. A number of such amendments were carried out during preceding years. The amendments have been mostly consumer friendly and directed towards improving voluntary compliance. The results of such changes in tax laws are reflected in substantial increase in the number of taxpayers in the last three years.

(c) Therefore, does not arise.

[Translation]

Urban Cooperative Banks

3011. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of Urban Cooperative banks operating in the country;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India keeps any control over operation of Urban Cooperative banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The State-wise details of the number of urban co-operative banks operating in the country, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as on the 31st March, 2000 are given in the statement.

(b) and (c) The Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), along with other co-operative banks, were brought under the regulatory ambit of RBI by extending certain provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As applicable to Co-operative Societies). Primarily, the co-operative banks are registered as co-operative societies under the provisions

of the Co-operative Societies Act of the respective State Governments. The banking related functions such as licensing, branch licensing, area of operation, exposure norms, interest rates, etc. are governed by RBI directives and regulations; functions like incorporation and registration of co-operative banks, audit, management, liquidation, winding up, amalgamation, etc., are governed by the State Governments by virtue of powers vested on them by the respective Co-operative Societies Acts.

Statement

State-wise details of the number of Urban Co-operative Banks in the country (As on 31-3-2000)

S. No.	Names of States/ Union Territories	No. of Urban Cooperative Banks
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	170
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
4.	Assam	13
5.	Bihar	11
6.	Chandigarh	—
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—
8.	Daman & Diu	—
9.	Goa	7
10.	Gujarat	359
11.	Haryana	8
12.	Himachal Pradesh	5
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	4
14.	Karnataka	322
15.	Kerala	64
16.	Lakshadweep	—
17.	Madhya Pradesh	90
18.	Maharashtra	658
19.	Manipur	5
20.	Meghalaya	3

1	2	3
21.	Mizoram	1
22.	NCT of Delhi	21
23.	Nagaland	1
24.	Orissa	14
25.	Pondicherry	2
26.	Punjab	6
27.	Rajasthan	44
28.	Sikkim	—
29.	Tamil Nadu	137
30.	Tripura	1
31.	Uttar Pradesh	82
32.	West Bengal	55
Total		2083

[English]

Bank Frauds

3012. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh systematic changes have been brought about in the banking system to check frauds with the banks;

(b) if so, the details/salient features thereof; and

(c) the total amount involved in frauds with the scheduled banks during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India as a part of its supervisory responsibility, has been advising banks from time to time about the common fraud prone areas and the measures to be taken to prevent/reduce the instances of frauds. These measures include implementation of the recommendations of the Ghosh Committee which reviewed frauds and malpractices in the banking system in 1991, introduction of a system of concurrent audit covering branches accounting for 50 per cent of the business, proper custody and maintenance of security forms, monitoring of cash deposits and withdrawals of Rs. 10

lacs and above and periodical rotation of staff etc. In the context of Bank Financing equities and investment in Shares, RBI as per revised guidelines has prescribed a ceiling of 5 per cent of total exposure including both fund based and non-fund based to capital market by a bank in all forms.

(c) The particulars of frauds perpetrated in public sector banks during the last three calendar years are as follows:

(Rs. in Crores)		
Calendar Year	No. of Frauds	Amt. Involved
1998	1855	481.04
1999	1839	536.63
2000	1858	538.56

[Translation]

Indian Institute of Mass Communication

3013. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Jan Sanchar Sanathan Ka Dikshant Samaroh 37 mein se 15 Chhatron Ka diksha lene se Inkar, Guruon per Aarop Lagaye" appearing in the "Dainik Jagaran" dated April 27, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the allegations levelled against the institute by the students;

(c) the measures adopted by the Government so far to inquire into the allegations levelled by the students; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the resentment among the students in future?

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

(b) The allegations primarily related to the conduct of the Post-graduate Diploma Course of Hindi Journalism.

(c) and (d) The matter was enquired into by the Institute and immediate remedial steps were taken. A

new Course Coordinator has been appointed for the PGD Course for Hindi Journalism for the academic session 2001-2002.

[English]

Growth Rate

3014. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the action taken to arrest the shortfall and achieve the targeted growth rate in the remaining period of the Five Year Plan in respect of domestic saving?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): As per the Mid Term Appraisal of Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) brought out by the Planning Commission, the main shortfall in domestic savings has been in the public sector, which is 70 per cent below the target. This has occurred through both a worsening of fiscal positions of the Centre and State Governments and a lower-than expected generation of internal resources by public sector enterprises. With a view to achieve fiscal consolidation, the Budget for 2001-02 emphasises expenditure management through the process of bringing about structural changes in the composition of Central Government expenditure, economy in non-plan revenue expenditure while improving the quality of expenditure. To this end the Budget contains a number of initiatives which among others include restricting fresh recruitment to one per cent of total civilian staff strength, user charges for services provided by the Government and its agencies to be revised keeping in view the increased cost of these services etc. Further, with a view to reduce interest burden, most administered interest rates were reduced by 1.5 per cent as of March 1, 2001. Besides, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 was introduced in Parliament in December, 2000. This Bill includes provisions, relating to ceilings on debt, deficit and borrowing. Also it is Central Government's endeavour to work jointly with the States to reform their finances. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, an Incentive Fund of Rs. 10,607 crore has been earmarked for the next five years to encourage States to implement monitorable fiscal reforms. For increasing aggregate savings in the economy it is also imperative to improve the parameters which have a bearing on private savings. These include tax policies, monetary policy, inflation, efficiency of the banking system and the capital market and confidence in the economy apart from measures aimed at fiscal consolidation to

improve public savings. The various economic reforms measures undertaken so far and measures announced in this year's Budget to contain expenditure in particular are expected to have a favourable impact on the aggregate level of savings.

[Translation]

Time Slot for regional Language Films

3015. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the duration time of telecasting of films in regional languages with a view to promote regional languages; and

(b) if so, the time duration allotted to the Rajasthani dialect, Marwari, in comparison to other regional languages?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that there is no such proposal presently.

(b) Does not arise. Major DD Kendras telecast films in their respective regional languages on regular basis on both satellite as well as terrestrial channels. Regional language films which have won National and International awards and State level awards are telecast on DD National Network (DD-1).

[English]

Cooperation with EU in Manufacturing Sector

3016. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested to the Government to explore the possibility of co-operation in manufacturing sector with European Union (EU) in engineering goods, capital goods and auto components; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has taken

up the initiative for joint studies along with its EU Counterparts on exploring the possibilities for cooperation in manufacturing sector which includes engineering goods, capital goods and auto components. This is a follow up of the 'agenda for action' of the first India-EU Summit meeting held in Lisbon on 28.6.2000 and the study report is awaited.

[Translation]

'Corruption in Income Tax Department'

3017. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale corruption in the Income Tax Department;

(b) if so, the number of employees and officers of this department against whom complaints have been received during last year;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether for the last one year, CBI has conducted number of raids on I.T. officers;

(e) if so, whether during these raids, the CBI found number of bank accounts, jewellery and huge property owned by these officers;

(f) if so, the number of Income Tax Officers raided;

(g) the action has been taken against them; and

(h) the steps being taken to check the large scale corruption prevailing in the Income Tax Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Sir, some cases of corruption have been reported in the Income Tax Department.

(b) A total of 980 and 453 complaints were received against gazetted and non-gazetted officers of the Income Tax Department respectively during the financial year 2000-01. A large number of these complaints were anonymous and pseudonymous, which are not verifiable.

(c) During the financial year 2000-01 in 255 complaints against gazetted officers preliminary verification were conducted and 46 complaints were taken up for investigation by the Departmental Vigilance Agency. In the case of non-gazetted officers, 107 complaints were taken up for preliminary verification/ investigation. During this period, in 37 cases, disciplinary proceedings were initiated and in 21 cases penalty was levied.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There have been seizure of some valuables. However, the exact detail of the seizures is not available as the Investigation Reports from the CBI are awaited.

(f) Nine officers of Income Tax Department were raided during last year.

(g) Six officers have been placed under suspension. Further action will be taken after receipt of the Investigation Report from the CBI.

(h) In the Income Tax Department the restructured set up has been put in place under which there will be close monitoring by the Supervisory Officers, which will prevent corruption to a large extent. The vigilance machinery of this Department has also been strengthened by upgrading the existing Directorate of Income Tax (Vigilance) to the level of Directorate General of Income Tax (Vigilance). Four Regional Directorates of Income Tax (Vigilance) have been created at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

[English]

Appointments of SCs/STs on Senior Posts

3018. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians has requested the Government regarding placement of persons belonging to the SCs/STs in posts such as Head/ Chief Executive, Functional Director, Official/Non-Official Members on the Board of Management of Financial/ Monetary Institutions under Public Sector;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of persons appointed to the above referred posts/assignments under Reserve Bank

of India, UT, LIC, GIC, SEBI and Foreign Investment Board during the last three years and the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them/their percentage as compared to the total number of posts; and

(d) the nature/composition of the Committee/Boards formed for selection of persons for such posts and provisions made for participation/association of persons belonging to the SCs/STs on such Boards/Committees?

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]

Foreign Direct Investment Targets

3019. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed by the Government for Foreign Direct Investment during each of the last three years and for 2001-2002;

(b) the extent to which the said targets have been achieved;

(c) if the targets have not been achieved fully, the reasons therefor;

(d) the position thereof during the year 2001-2002 upto July 31, 2001; and

(e) the concrete action proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the volume and speed of foreign direct investment during the current year and for the year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (e) Government have not set forth year-wise target for foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, as these are dependent upon several factors, including world economic growth and global investors' strategies. The FDI inflows from 1998, calendar year, onwards is as under:-

Year	Amount of FDI inflows (in US\$ billion)
1998 (January to December)	3.38
1999 (January to December)	4.02
2000 (January to December)	4.50
2001 (January to June)	1.78

The Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan has projected an FDI inflow of US\$ 22.5 billion for the period 2002-07, i.e., an average annual inflow of US\$ 4.5 billion.

The FDI Policy is reviewed from time to time to make it more investor-friendly. Government have also set up the Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) to act as a single point interface between foreign investors and various approval authorities, for speedy implementation of FDI projects.

[English]

Computerisation of Banks

3020. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise names of the branches of computerised public sector banks having ATM facilities; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to computerise all the branches of public sector banks and also to provide ATM facilities in them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) A statement indicating the branches where ATMs are already installed is enclosed.

(b) In accordance with direction given by CVC, almost all the public sector banks have captured 70% of their business through computerization as on 30.6.2001. Besides public sector banks have targeted to install about 900 more ATMs at various branches by the end of March, 2002.

Statement**ATMs Installed in Nationalised Banks**

1	2	3
Allahabad Bank	Bihar	Main Branch, Gaya Road, Patna.
	Jharkhand	Gel Church Market Complex Ext. Counter, Ranchi
	Madhya Pradesh	Area Colony, Bhopal
	Maharashtra	1. Juhu Vill-Parle, Mumbai
		2. Peddar Road, Mumbai
		3. Vashi, Mumbai
	NCT of Delhi	1 Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi
		2. Daryaganj, New Delhi
		3. Parliament Street, New Delhi
	Orissa	Temple Marg, Bhubaneshwar
Andhra Bank	Punjab	Civil Lines, Jullundhar
	Uttar Pradesh	1. Main Branch Hazrat Ganj, Lucknow
		2. Gomti Nagar, Lucknow
	West Bengal	Chakraberia, Calcutta
	Andhra Pradesh	1. Saifabad, Hyderabad
		2. S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad
		3. Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad
		4. Intelli Group, Hyderabad
		5. BDL Campur, Hyderabad
		6. Hitech City, Hyderabad
		7. Secretariat, Hyderabad
		8. Ring Road, Vijaywada
		9. Au Campus, Vizag
Bank of Baroda	Maharashtra	Ghatkopar (West), Mumbai
	West Bengal	New Alipur, Calcutta
	Gujarat	1. Alka Puri, Baroda
		2. G.N.F.C., Bharuch
		3. Reliance Complex, Mora, Surat
		4. Mani Nagar, Main, Ahmedabad
	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur Main
	Karnataka	1. PBB & MG Road, Bangalore

1	2	3
		2. Saint John's Med. College, Bangalore
	Maharashtra	1. Marine Drive, Mumbai
		2. Altamount Road, Mumbai
		3. Napean Sea Road, Mumbai
		4. Mumbai Main Office, Mumbai
		5. V.P. Road, Mumbai
		6. Worli, Mumbai
		7. Chakla, Andheri East, Mumbai
		8. Chambur, Mumbai
		9. Santacruz (W), Mumbai
		10. Pune Camp, Pune
		11. Borivili (W), Mumbai
		12. Nasik Main, Nasik
	NCT Delhi	Parliament Street, New Delhi
	Tamil Nadu	1. Mylapore, Chennai
		2. Coimbatore Main, Coimbatore
		3. Nungambakkam, Chennai
	Uttar Pradesh	Abu Lane, Meerut
Syndicate Bank	Andhra Pradesh	Sainik Puri, Hyderabad
	Gujarat	Mothikhavadi, Reliance Complex, Jamnagar
	Karnataka	1. Gandhinagar, Bangalore
		2. Vijaya Nagar, Bangalore
		3. Manipal Hospital EC, Bangalore
		4. Ganganagar, Bangalore
		5. KMC, Udupi
		6. Hampanakatta, Mangalore
	Maharashtra	1. Nariman Point, Mumbai
		2. Mulund, Mumbai
		3. Ville Parle, Mumbai
		4. Vashi Officer Quarters, Navi Mumbai
		5. Boriville, Mumbai
		6. Chembore, Mumbai

1	2	3
		7. Prabhadevi, Mumbai
		8. Malad, Mumbai
		9. Bajaj Auto EC, Pune
	NCT Delhi	1. R.K. Puram
		2. Malviya Nagar
	Tamil Nadu	T. Nagar, Chennai
Bank of Maharashtra	Maharashtra	1. Bandra (E), Mumbai
		2. Gadkari Chowk, Mumbai
		3. Bajirao Road, Mumbai
		4. Deccan Gymkhana, Mumbai
		5. Versova, Mumbai
		6. Borivilli (W), Mumbai
		7. Lokhandwala Complex, Mumbai
		8. ONGC Complex, Bandra E, Mumbai
		9. Oshiwara, Mumbai
		10. Pune Main, Pune
	Uttar Pradesh	Noida
Central Bank of India	Andhra Pradesh	1. Main Office, Hyderabad
		2. Secunderabad, Hyderabad
	Chandigarh	Sector-22, Chandigarh
	Gujarat	Lal Darwaza, Ahmedabad
	Karnataka	BTM Layout, Bangalore
	Maharashtra	1. Khodad Circle, Mumbai
		2. Santacruz, Mumbai
		3. Seven Bungalows, Mumbai
		4. Mumbai Main Office, Mumbai
		5. T.N.C. Ext. Counter, Nai Gaun, Mumbai
		6. Deccan Gymkhana, Pune
	NCT Delhi	Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi
	Tamilnadu	Nungambakkam, Chennai
	Uttar Pradesh	Mohan Nagar, Lucknow
	West Bengal	Camac Street, Calcutta

1	2	3
Corporation Bank	Haryana	Sikanderpur
	Karnataka	1. M.G. Road, Bangalore
		2. Motorola Extension Counter, Bangalore
	Maharashtra	1. Borivili West, Mumbai
		2. Versova, Mumbai
		3. Ville Parle, Mumbai
		4. Kalina Market, Mumbai
		5. Bandra West, Mumbai
		6. Mulund West, Mumbai
	NCT Delhi	1. Laxminagar, New Delhi
		2. Greater Kailash, New Delhi
Dena Bank	Goa	Panaji, Goa
	Gujarat	1. Ashram Road, Ahmedabad
		2. Ram Nagar, Surat
		3. Alka Puri, Vadodra
	Kerala	Ernakulam
	Madhya Pradesh	Palasia, Indore
	Maharashtra	1. Tardeo, Mumbai
		2. Malabar Hills, Mumbai
		3. R R Dadar, Dadar
		4. Napean Sea Road, Mumbai
		5. Kandivili West, Mumbai
		6. Mahim, Mumbai Subarb
		7. Juhu, Ville Parle, Mumbai Subarb
		8. Ghat Kopar East, Mumbai Subarb
		9. Bandra West, Mumbai Subarb
		10. Mulund West, Mumbai Subarb
		11. Maheshwari Udyan, Matunga, MBY
		12. Dharampet, Nagpur
		13. Deccan Gymkhana, Pune
	NCT Delhi	1. Daryaganj, New Delhi
		2. Karol Bagh, New Delhi

1	2	3
Indian Overseas Bank	Tamilnadu	1. T. Nagar, Chennai 2. Alverpet, Chennai
	Uttar Pradesh	Noida
	West Bengal	Rasbehari Avenue, Calcutta
	Andhra Pradesh	Secunderabad, Hyderabad
	Haryana	NHPC Extension, Faridabad
	Karnataka	Jaya Nagar, V Block, Bangalore
	Kerala	Trivendrum Main
	Maharashtra	1. Pune Cantonement, Pune 2. Bandra, Mumbai 3. Mahim, Mumbai
	NCT Delhi	1. Greater Kailash 2. Safdarjung Enclave 3. Punjabi Bagh 4. Gole Market 5. Karol Bagh 6. Preet Vihar 7. Lok Kala Manch 8. New Rajinder Nagar 9. Tolstoy Marg 10. Janakpuri
	Punjab	1. Punjab Tractors Ltd Ext. Counter 2. CMC Extension Counter
Punjab National Bank	Tamil Nadu	1. Indira Nagar, Chennai 2. Besant Nagar, Chennai 3. Gandhi Puram, Coimbatore 4. Maramalai Nagar, Kanchipuram
	Uttar Pradesh	Arun Vihar, Noida
	West Bengal	Salt Lake, Calcutta
	Chandigarh	1. Sector 22D, Chandigarh 2. Sector 17, Chandigarh
	Haryana	NIT Faridabad

1	2	3
	Maharashtra	1. Thane
		2. Bandra
		3. Worli
		4. Vashi
		5. Opera House
		6. Anushakti Nagar
	NCT Delhi	1. Bhikaji Cama Place
		2. Hari nagar
		3. Sansad Marg
		4. Gurudwara Road
		5. D Block, Vasant Vihar
		6. ECE House
	Punjab	1. Lawrence Road, Amritsar
		2. Civil Lines, Jalandhar
		3. Civil Lines, Ludhiana
	Rajasthan	M I Road, Jaipur
	Tamilnadu	T. Nagar, Chennai
	Uttar Pradesh	1. Vidhan Sabha Marg
		2. Hal Township, Lucknow
		3. Swaroop Nagar, Kanpur
		4. Navyug Market, Ghaziabad
		5. Orderly Bazar, Varanasi
		6. Civil Lines, Allahabad
		7. Mau, Mankapur
		8. Birhana Road, Kanpur
		9. E/C Hal, New Chakeri, Kanpur
Oriental Bank of Commerce	Maharashtra	1. Mith Chowki, Link Marve Road Junction, Malad (W), Mumbai.
		2. Versova, Andheri (W), Mumbai
		3. Hiranandan Gardens, Powai, Mumbai
	NCT Delhi	1. Defence Colony, New Delhi
		2. Institutional Area, Hauz Khas, New Delhi

1	2	3
Canara Bank	Punjab	Green Avenue, Jail Road Area, Amritsar
	Rajasthan	MI Road, Jaipur.
	Andhra Pradesh	1. Puttaparthi Branch
		2. Tirumala Branch
	Karnataka	1. Trinity Circle, Bangalore
		2. Malleswaran, Bangalore
		3. Jayanagar, Bangalore
		4. Vijayanagar, Bangalore
		5. Cunnigham Road, Bangalore
		6. Town Hall, Bangalore
		7. Sheshadripuram, Bangalore
		8. Cantonement, Bangalore
		9. Basavangudi, Bangalore
	Maharashtra	1. Sion West, Mumbai
		2. Lokhandwala Complex, Mumbai
		3. Sahar Air Cargo, Mumbai
		4. Kandivili East, Mumbai
		5. Versova, Mumbai
		6. Khar West, Mumbai
		7. Mulund West, Mumbai
		8. Girgaum, Mumbai
		9. Worli, Mumbai
		10. Dadar West, Mumbai
		11. Ville Parle East, Mumbai
	NCT Delhi	1. Parliament Street
		2. Nehru Place
		3. Sector 12, R.K. Puram
		4. Padam Singh Road, Karol Bagh
		5. Hauz Khas Market
	Tamil Nadu	1. Thousand Lights, Chennai
		2. Kellys Corner, Chennai
		3. Ashok Nagar, Chennai

1	2	3
Union Bank of India	Chandigarh	4. Tidel Park, Chennai
		5. TCS Ambattur, Chennai
	Maharashtra	Sector 8-C, Chandigarh
		1. L.D. Ruparel, Mumbai
		2. Prabhadevi, Mumbai
		3. Sion (East), Mumbai
		4. Bandra Hill, Mumbai
		5. Mulund, Mumbai
		6. Tardeo, Mumbai
		7. Mumbai, Samachar Marg, Mumbai
		8. Nariman Point, Mumbai
9. Navy Nagar, Mumbai		
NCT Delhi	Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi	
United Bank of India	Maharashtra	1. Peddar Road, Mumbai
		2. Versova Branch, Andheri (W), Mumbai
	NCT Delhi	Chittaranjan Park Branch, New Delhi
	West Bengal	1. Part Street Branch, Kolkata
		2. Gariahat Branch, Kolkata
3. Salt Lake City, Kolkata		
Vijaya Bank	Karnataka	4. Old Court House Street Branch, Kolkata
		1. Founder's Branch, Mangalore
	Maharashtra	2. Indiranagar, Bangalore
		1. Bandra, Mumbai
		2. Andheri, Mumbai
	NCT Delhi	3. Gamdevai, Mumbai
		1. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi
	Tamil Nadu	2. Greater Kailash, New Delhi
		Egmore, Chennai
		Bank of India
Goa	Margao Branch, Goa	
Gujarat	Navrangpura Branch, Ahmedabad	
Karnataka	Bangalore Branch	

1	2	3
Indian Bank	Maharashtra	1. Church Gate, Mumbai
		2. Electric House Branch, Orminston Road, Mumbai
		3. Girgaum Branch, Mumbai
		4. Ghatkopar West, Mumbai
		5. Sion Branch, Mumbai
		6. Andheri West, Mumbai
		7. Malad West, Mumbai
		8. Thane Branch, Mumbai
		9. Santacruz Branch, Mumbai
		10. Mahalaxmi Br., Mumbai
		11. Laxmi Road Br., Pune
	NCT Delhi	1. Connaught Circus
		2. Nehru Place
		3. Rajouri Garden
		4. Mayur Vihar
	Punjab	Sector 35 C, Chandigarh
	Tamil Nadu	Cathedral Road, Chennai
	West Bengal	Bow Bazar Branch, Kolkata
	Andhra Pradesh	1. Hyderabad Main
		2. Begumpet, Hyderabad
		3. Kakaleeyanagar, Hyderabad
	Haryana	Gurgaon
	Karnataka	1. M.G. Road, Bangalore
		2. Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore
		3. Jayanagar, Bangalore
	Maharashtra	1. Ghatkopar, Mumbai
		2. Prabhadevi, Mumbai
		3. Off sight Location attached to Sion Branch, Mumbai
		4. Chembur, Mumbai
		5. Cumbala Hill, Mumbai
		6. Andheri, Mumbai

1	2	3
		7. Mahim, Mumbai
		8. Nariman Point, Mumbai
		9. Siddharth Nagar, Mumbai
		10. Matunga Main, Mumbai
		11. CBD Belpur, Navi Mumbai
		12. Vashi, Navi Mumbai
		13. Becon Gymkhana, Mumbai
	NCT Delhi	1. Janakpuri
		2. Shantiniketan
		3. Karol Bagh
		4. Hauz Khas
	Pondicherry	Kamraj Salai, Pondicherry
	Tamil Nadu	1. Ramnagar, Coimbatore
		2. R.S. Puram, Coimbatore
		3. P.N. Palayam, Coimbatore
		4. Peelanedu, Coimbatore
		5. Adayar, Chennai
		6. Alverpet, Chennai
		7. Annanagar, Chennai
		8. Harbour, Chennai
		9. Mylapore, Chennai
		10. Purasawalkam, High Road, Chennai
		11. Royapettah, Chennai
		12. T. Nagar, Chennai
		13. Airport, Chennai
		14. Central Railway Station, Chennai
		15. Trichi Main, Trichi
		16. Vellore Engineering College (Ext Counter), Vellore
	West Bengal	Manicktolla, Kolkata
Punjab and Sind Bank	Maharashtra	1. Juhu, Mumbai
		2. Khar, Mumbai

1	2	3
	NCT Delhi	1. Rajendra Place
		2. Vasant Vihar
UCO Bank	Maharashtra	1. Marol-Maroshi Road, Andheri East, Mumbai
		2. Colaba Road, Mumbai
		3. Khar Bandra, Mumbai
		4. S.V. Road, Goregaon, Mumbai
State Bank of India (Local Boards)	Ahmedabad	12
	Bangalore	12
	Bengal	9
	Bhopal	10
	Bhubaneswar	17
	Chandigarh	11
	Chennai	19
	Delhi	14
	Hyderabad	23
	Kerala	3
	Lucknow	4
	Mumbai	38
	North East	1
	Patna	7
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	SMS Highway Branch, Jaipur Rajasthan	1
	Extension Counter, Krishi Bhawan, Delhi	1
	Maharashtra	2
State Bank of Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	5
	Maharashtra	3
	New Delhi	1
State Bank of Indore	Indore	1
	Bhopal	1
State Bank of Mysore	Malleshwaram, Bangalore, Karnataka	1
	Khar, Mumbai Maharashtra	1

1	2	3
State Bank of Patiala	Leela Bhawan Branch, Patiala, Punjab	1
	Cool Road, Jullundhar	1
	The Mall Branch, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	1
	Sec. 8-C, Chandigarh	1
	Shashtri Bhawan Branch, New Delhi	1
State Bank of Travancore	Trivandrum, Kerala	2
	Ernakulam	2
	Calicut	1
	Gurgaon, Haryana	1

Defaulting Non-Banking Companies and Chit Fund Companies

3021. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of defaulting non-banking financial companies i.e. chit fund companies in the country are on the rise;

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

(c) the number of NBFC given permission in Andhra Pradesh since 1996;

(d) the companies that have defaulted in the State during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken against these companies?

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

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the information on defaults' by Chit Fund Companies in the country is not available with them. It may be available with the concerned State Governments as the Chit Fund Companies are regulated by Registrar of Chits of the concerned States. It may be mentioned that only the deposit taking activities of Chit Fund Companies are regulated by RBI.

(c) 87 Deposit accepting/holding NBFC's have been issued the Certificate of Registration since 1998.

211 NBFC's not holding/accepting deposits have been issued Certificate of Registration since 1998 i.e. after amendments to the RBI Act, 1934 in 1997.

(d) and (e) As reported by RBI, the Companies that have defaulted in the State during the last three years and the action taken against these Companies are as follows:-

Sr. No.	Name of the defaulting company	Action taken
1	2	3
1.	Asia Pacific Investment Trust Ltd.	Based on the winding up petition filed by the Bank, High Court of A.P. has ordered liquidation of the company. Official Liquidator has realised an amount Rs. 27.40 lakh and the same is yet to be disbursed among the creditors.
2.	Deepika Leasing and Finance Ltd.	Certificate of Registration issued to the company has been cancelled by the Bank. Order prohibiting from acceptance of

1	2	3
		deposits and alienation of assets has been issued. CLB has passed orders for repayment of deposits vide their orders on three occasions after March 2001.
3.	Elite Global Finance Ltd.	The Depositors Association appointed Arbitrator for out of court settlement.
4.	Elite Finance Services Ltd.	-do-
5.	Genius Financial Services Ltd.	The company is in liquidation. Official Liquidator has been appointed by the High Court of AP on 21-1-1999 to oversee the liquidation proceedings.
6.	Leafin India Limited	Winding up petition has been filed by a creditor against the company. The Leafin Depositors' Association protested the same and prayed the court for appointment of Chairman to the company to look after the affairs, 13 CLB orders have been issued for repayment of deposits.
7.	Midwest India Industries Ltd. (Midwest Finance Ltd.)	The Bank has filed company petition for winding up of the company in the AP High Court. Official Liquidator has been appointed by the court. The Bank has also filed a criminal complaint against the company and directors for violation of CLB orders. The Managing Director of the company is in the Jail since 13, December 1999.
8.	Midwest Mutual Fund Ltd.	-do-
9.	Nagarjuna Finance Ltd.	The company has defaulted in repaying deposits as per CLB orders. The Bank is contemplating appropriate legal action against the company.
10.	Nagarjuna Capital Markets Ltd.	Company has earlier defaulted in repayment of deposits. There have been no complaints from depositors after the year 1998.
11.	S.M. Finance Ltd.	The Company has partly complied with the CLB orders. Proposal to file criminal complaint against the company and its Directors for non-compliance of CLB orders is under Bank's consideration.
12.	Pennar Paterson Ltd.	The company defaulted in repayment of deposits as per CLB orders. On the basis of petition filed by some creditors. High Court of AP ordered liquidation of the Company. Liquidation proceedings are in progress.
13.	Monarch Finlease Ltd.	Company defaulted in repayment of Deposits. As its reply to Bank's Show Cause Notice was found to be unsatisfactory, the Bank is contemplating rejection of its application for issue of COR.

Apart from the above, the following companies have reportedly defaulted in repayment of public deposits. RBI had already rejected the companies applications for issue of COR and also issued prohibitory orders. However, in the absence of significant number of complaints since 1998, no other action has been initiated against these companies.

1. Koratla Leasefin India Ltd.
2. Nice India Savings and Investments Corporation Ltd.
3. Balaji Lockers Benefit Fund Ltd.

Setting up of Custom Entry Points

3022. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to setup custom entry points along the border and opening up of more land routes to enhance Indo-Pak Trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Profit/Loss of Coffee Board

3023. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Coffee Board was constituted and the objectives for which the said Board was constituted;

(b) the details of the profit and loss of the Coffee Board during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of officers and employees working in the Coffee Board;

(d) whether there is any proposal for foreign investment in the Coffee Board; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Coffee Board, a statutory body, was set up in the year 1942 through an enactment of Coffee Act (VII of 1942), for the development of coffee industry in India.

(b) Since Coffee Board is not a commercial organisation and its activities are financed by the Govt.

of India, the question of profit and loss to the Board does not arise.

(c) The total number of officers and employees working in the Board, as on date, is 1053.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Corruption in New India Assurance Company Limited

3024. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons found guilty for the incidents of corruption by the Vigilance Officer in Delhi and Chandigarh Region of Oriental Insurance Company Limited and New India Assurance Company Limited in the last two years;

(b) the number of persons out of them against whom action has been taken by the Chief Vigilance Officers till date, company-wise;

(c) whether large number of proved cases of corruption are pending for action before the CVO of respective company;

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

(e) the time by which the necessary action is likely to be taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The total number of persons found guilty of corruption by the Vigilance Officer in Delhi and Chandigarh Region and against whom action has been taken by the Chief Vigilance Officer, as reported by the Insurance companies, are as under:

Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.

Delhi Region	Chandigarh Region
12	14
Action taken by CVO	
12	14

New India Assurance Company Limited

19 7

Action taken by CVO

13 4

(c) to (e) No case is pending for action before the CVO. Oriental as all the cases have been referred to the Disciplinary Authority for necessary Regular Departmental Action. In the case of New India Assurance Company Limited, 9 cases are pending before the CVO, out of which 1 case has already been referred to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for their first stage advice. 1 case is under further investigation. In respect of remaining 7 cases, investigation reports from Vigilance Officers have been received and these are under examination by the CVO. The examination of the investigation reports is expected to be completed shortly.

NRI Role in Economic Development

3025. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the role of NRIs in the Economic Development in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Investments inflows from the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from January, 1991 to May, 2001 has been about Rs. 82,511 Crores. Amount outstanding on account of NRI Bank Deposits were US \$ 24,032 Million (provisional) as on April, 2001. The response to the Resurgent India Bonds (RIB) floated in 1998 and the India Millennium Deposits (IMD) floated in 2000 resulted in the mobilisation of about US \$ 4.2 Billion and US \$ 5.51 Billion respectively. Recently, a High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora has been constituted in the Ministry of External Affairs under the Chairmanship of Dr. L.M. Shingvi, which would study inter-alia, the role of Non-resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) may play in the economic, social and technological development of the country. Further, in pursuance of the suggestion made by the High Level Committee, an Expert Group has been set up in the Ministry of Finance on "Investment Flows into India: Role of NRIs and PIOs".

Fixation of Price for Open Sale by FCI

3026. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation is facing problems in fixing prices of rice for open sale and to exporters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has made recommendations in regard to fixing of prices by FCI;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed by FCI to clear its buffer stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. The price of rice under Open Sale of Rice Scheme is Rs. 950/- per quintal for the whole country. As regards exports, the price is fixed at Rs. 5650 per M.T. for raw and Rs. 6000 per M.T. for parboiled rice.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has taken a number of measures to clear its buffer stocks. These include, inter-alia, increase in allocation of foodgrains for BPL families under TPDS, downward revision of Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice, Open market sale of wheat and rice at reduced rates, allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates to the State Governments for undertaking "Food for Work Programmes", allotment of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes of the Government, and export of wheat and rice.

Monitoring of Financial Institutions

3027. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a separate department for the supervision of Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the reasons for a separate Department of Financial Institutions;

(c) whether the present administrative machinery has been inadequate to properly supervise and monitor financial institutions;

(d) if so, whether any interim steps are proposed to supervise financial institutions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b), (d) and (e) Does not arise.

Problems of Rubber Industry

3028. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the severe problems being faced by Indian Rubber Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to solve the problems of rubber growers;

(d) whether any proposal formulating a fresh rubber policy is under consideration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Due to decline in prices of Natural Rubber owing to slow down in consumption and recession in the consuming industry, the rubber growers are not getting the price for Natural Rubber which they were getting 2-3 years before.

(c) to (e) In order to stabilise the price of Natural Rubber and to ensure a reasonable price to growers for their produce the Govt. of India had made a market intervention in 1997-2000 through STC and procured around 53687 MT of Natural Rubber. To increase the usage of indigenous natural rubber, the Government of India is promoting a number of value-added rubber items such as Natural Rubber Modified Bitumen for rubberisation

of roads. Import of natural rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme has also been banned w.e.f. 20.2.1999 with a view to enhance the consumption of the domestic rubber by the user industry for meeting its export commitments. All these measures are part of the overall policy for promotion and Development of Natural Rubber Sector.

[Translation]

Cement Plants in Madhya Pradesh

3029. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cement plants functioning in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the number of plants out of them closed down during the above period; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to revive these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Nine cement plants have been functioning in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) The cement plant owned by Cement Corporation of India at Neemuch has gone out of production during the said period.

(c) All the ten plants owned by CCI including their plant at Neemuch, have been referred to BIFR set up under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, for exploring the possibility of their revival.

[English]

Indo-Russian Economic Cooperation

3030. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into an agreement with Russia for economic cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the conditionalities attached to the agreement?

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

The seventh session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economy, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation was held in Moscow on 15 January 2001. At the end of this meeting a Protocol was signed. Both the sides agreed to take appropriate measures towards further expansion and diversification of the trade and economic cooperation between India and the Russian Federation.

Apart from the above, the following agreements had been signed, amongst others, between India and Russia in recent times:

- (i) The Joint Document on Declaration of Trade, Economy, Industrial, Financial, Science and Technology Cooperation in December 1998 in New Delhi during the visit of former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. H.E. Mr. Yevgeny Primakov.
- (ii) The Declaration on Strategic Partnership was signed between India and the Russian Federation on 3 October 2000. This included an article on cooperation between the two countries related to Trade and Economy.

Role of Media at Agra Summit

3031. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the media both press and electronic has played a damaging role so far as India is concerned with regard to Agra Summit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Government of India is committed to the ideals of a free media-both press and electronic, in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution, it is for the media to determine its appropriate role in such circumstances.

Functioning of Financial Institutions

3032. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has sought additional power to monitor the functioning of the financial institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal received by the Government from RBI in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Matter is presently under examination and consideration of the Government.

Separate Department for PSUs

3033. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to form a separate department for Public Sector Undertakings targeted for disinvestment under one umbrella;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department of Disinvestment was set up on 10-12-1999 with the mandate to deal with matters relating to disinvestment of Central Government equity from Central Public Sector Undertakings.

[Translation]

Wholesale and Retail Price of Essential Commodities

3034. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the difference between wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities in the metropolitan cities at present;

(b) the manner in which Government monitors the wholesale and retail price of essential commodities;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to States with regard to the maximum difference between the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) A statement showing the wholesale and retail prices of selected essential commodities as on August 1, 2001 at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai is given in the statement.

(b) The retail and wholesale prices of 12 essential commodities are monitored by the Central and State Governments at the highest level, through the high powered Committees, regularly. The daily retail prices and weekly wholesale prices of 12 selected essential commodities are being monitored by the Price Monitoring Cell in the Department. Daily retail prices for 18 State Capitals and weekly wholesale prices for 37 centres spread all over the country are monitored through the State/UT Civil Supplies Departments. Analysis of the data is made and definite measures are taken to safeguard the interests of the consumers from time to time.

(c) No.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement

Wholesale and Retail Prices of Selected Essential Commodities in the Metropolitan Cities as on 1st August, 2001

(Rs. Per kg.)

Items	Delhi		Mumbai		Calcutta		Chennai	
	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail
Rice	9.75	12.00	10.75	11.50	9.00	10.00	9.00	11.00
Wheat	5.95	7.00	9.25	10.25	NR	NR	8.60	10.00
Gram	22.40	26.00	26.00	27.00	24.25	25.00	24.50	26.00
Sugar	20.00	26.00	22.75	25.00	22.25	25.00	24.00	27.00
Tur	15.70	16.50	15.80	16.50	NR	NR	13.80	14.50
Groundnut oil*	66.00	71.00	47.00	48.00	55.00	72.00	41.00	43.00
Mustard oil	38.00	43.00	NR	66.00	34.50	40.00	NC	NC
Vanaspati	38.00	40.00	41.00	42.00	38.00	42.00	37.00	42.00
Tea (loose)	100.00	115.00	NR	130.00	NR	80.00	116.00	120.00
Potato	6.00	8.00	5.75	9.50	5.10	6.00	8.00	9.00
Onion	4.00	7.00	4.00	6.50	5.00	8.00	4.00	5.00
Salt (packed)	4.60	6.00	6.40	7.00	NR	7.00	5.20	6.00

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments

Note: Wholesale prices are originally reported per quintal and have been converted to Rs. per Kg.

* Retail prices relates to premium brand of 1 kg in Delhi and Calcutta and wholesale price is in respect of 15 kg tin of general brand in Delhi and Calcutta. In Mumbai and Chennai, retail as well as wholesale prices pertain to loose variety.

N.C — Negligible Consumption

N.R. — Not Reported.

*[English]***Financial Assistance From Japan and Germany**

3035. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance provided by Japan and Germany during the last three years for various projects, year-wise, project-wise;

(b) whether the assistance received from these countries have not been utilized properly or monitored effectively;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The total assistance received from Japan and Germany for different projects during the last three years are at Statements and II, respectively.

(b) to (d) Timely implementation of the projects including proper utilisation of funds is monitored regularly through visits to the sites, review meetings, quarterly reports, high level meetings etc. Corrective steps, wherever required, are taken in consultation with the Central Ministries, State Governments and implementing agencies.

Statement-I***Disbursement for JBIC, Japan assisted project during the last three years***

JBIC Loan

(in Rs. crores)

S.No.	IDP Number and Name of the Project	Disbursement		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	(IDP-40) Teesta Canal HE Project	14.13	10.89	Closed
2.	(IDP-42) Assam Gas Turbine Project	18.74	1.62	Closed
3.	(IDP-43) Srisailem Left Bank Power Project (i)	14.98	0.00	Closed
4.	(IDP-53) Ghatghar Pumped Storage Project	26.17	27.73	83.02
5.	(IDP-54) Tourism Infrastructure Development Project	46.51	Closed	Closed
6.	(IDP-56) Upper Kolab Irrigation Project	12.51	Closed	Closed
7.	(IDP-57) Upper Indravati Irrigation Project	18.25	Closed	Closed
8.	(IDP-59) Mysore Paper Mill Modernisation Project	16.69	6.87	Closed
9.	(IDP-66) Power System Improvement Project	122.18	149.16	108.15
10.	(IDP-72) Teesta Canal HE Project	18.09	19.44	Closed
11.	(IDP-73) Indira Gandhi Afforestation Project	18.35	14.79	22.88
12.	(IDP-74) Quality Control of Health Project	1.38	Closed	Closed
13.	(IDP-79) Urban City Water Supply Project	7.32	19.17	Closed
14.	(IDP-80) Aravali Hill Afforestation Project	38.40	38.52	Closed

1	2	3	4	5
15.	(IDP-81) NH-2 Improvement Project	31.54	35.03	14.38
16.	(IDP-82) Ajanta-Ellora Con. & Tourist Development Project	16.04	10.60	4.23
17.	(IDP-84) Yamuna Action Plan	39.99	86.87	38.92
18.	(IDP-85) Srisaïlam Power Transmission System Project	45.28	28.82	0.60
19.	(IDP-86) Gandhar Gas Based Power Project	1.04	Closed	Closed
20.	(IDP-87) Udyogamandal Ammonia Replacement Plant Project	35.09	1.68	Closed
21.	(IDP-88) Anpara 'B' Thermal Power	38.53	33.03	55.40
22.	(IDP-89) Bakreswar Thermal Power Project	313.16	Closed	Closed
23.	(IDP-90) Fardabad Thermal Power Project	93.55	405.36	148.30
24.	(IDP-91) Naini Bridge Over river Yamuna	1.40	0.53	31.73
25.	(IDP-92) Four laning of NH-5	0.37	65.51	54.83
26.	(IDP-94) Srisaïlam Left Bank Power Project (II)	85.82	92.48	71.25
27.	(IDP-95) Srisaïlam Power Transmission-II	69.15	128.05	38.57
28.	(IDP-96) Assam Gas Turbine Project	37.30	17.15	49.60
29.	(IDP-97) Bakreswar Thermal Unit-3	184.76	24.56	Closed
30.	(IDP-98) Purulia Pumped Storage Project	12.97	17.56	64.98
31.	(IDP-99) Kothagudem 'A' TRS	13.79	8.17	26.75
32.	(IDP-100) NH-5 Improvement Project	0.45	10.99	13.22
33.	(IDP-101) NH-24 Improvement Project	0.47	19.48	31.60
34.	(IDP-102) Madras Sewerage Project	2.46	33.65	2.15
35.	(IDP-103) Lake Bhopal Cons. & Management Project	17.65	24.77	35.39
36.	(IDP-104) Rajasthan Forestry Development Project	29.32	29.97	24.24
37.	(IDP-105) Industrial Pollution Control Project	3.20	3.61	2.17
38.	(IDP-106) ICICI Programme	0.00	0.00	47.98
39.	(IDP-107) Dhauliganga HEP	7.88	28.20	57.63
40.	(IDP-108) Anpara Power Transmission Project	45.62	48.99	49.35
41.	(IDP-109) Bangalore Water Supply Project	23.88	105.97	150.03
42.	(IDP-110) Urban City Water Supply Project	33.98	199.63	46.72
43.	(IDP-111) Attapaddy Wasteland Project	0.21	3.82	4.46
44.	(IDP-112) Gujarat Forestry Project	110.04	118.17	119.45
45.	(IDP-113) KC Canal Project	3.56	56.43	58.61

1	2	3	4	5
46.	(IDP-115) Pipavav Ship Breaking Project	80.77	69.92	24.95
47.	(IDP-116) North India Trans. System Project	0.00	10.79	10.35
48.	(IDP-117) West Bengal Transmission System Project	2.55	25.45	68.05
49.	(IDP-118) Umiam Hydro Power Station Project	0.00	0.62	8.17
50.	(IDP-119) Tuirial Hydro Electric Power Project	0.00	8.15	7.08
51.	(IDP-120) Simhadri Thermal Power Project	239.64	361.51	96.31
52.	(IDP-121) Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project	8.76	41.49	47.98
53.	(IDP-122) Calcuta Transport System Project	2.82	19.46	39.42
54.	(IDP-123) Kerala Water Supply Project	0.00	0.00	0.00
55.	(IDP-124) Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	78.13	84.84	101.87
56.	(IDP-125) Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	58.91	78.13	89.73
57.	(IDP-126) Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	20.19	32.22	55.78
58.	(IDP-127) Simhadri & Vizag Transmission System Project	0.00	2.45	124.28
59.	(IDP-128) Srisailem Left Bank Power Station Project III	46.71	148.38	124.97
60.	(IDP-129) Dhauliganga HE Project-II	0.00	76.35	79.55
61.	(IDP-130) Bakreswar Thermal Power Project-II	379.61	438.80	156.33
62.	(IDP-131) Tuticorin Port Dredging Project	0.16	200.65	4.87
63.	(IDP-132) Punjab Afforestation Project	19.53	33.19	80.65
64.	(IDP-133) Madhya Pradesh Sericulture Project	1.77	5.54	4.80
65.	(IDP-134) Manipur Sericulture Project	7.38	6.19	3.27
66.	(IDP-135) Rengali Irrigation Project	21.80	41.28	36.64
67.	(IDP-136) Small Scale Industries Development Programme	300.50	Closed	Closed
68.	(IDP-137) Bakreswar TPS Unit-3 Extension Project-(II)	0.00	167.83	91.02
Total		2941.43	3779.51	2712.89

Disbursement under Japanese Grant in Aid Projects during last three years

Japanese Grant Aid

(Rs. in Crores)

1.	Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis	11.7	Closed	Closed
2.	Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis		33.15	Closed
3.	Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis	39.00
Total		11.7	33.15	39.00

The grants for 2 and 3 above were signed between Govt. of Japan and UNICEF, Govt. of India was not a signatory, the money did not route through Govt. of India's account.

Statement-II**Assistance received from Germany during last three years**

S.No.	Name of the Project	(in DM Million)		
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Fertilizer Sector Programme-VI	70	—	—
2.	Minor Irrigation Project, Maharashtra	45	—	—
3.	Adivasi Development Programme, Maharashtra	28	—	—
4.	HDFC-III	30	—	—
5.	Basic Health Project, West Bengal	—	60	—
6.	Promotion of Renewable Energy through IREDA	—	120	—
7.	Pulse Polio Immunization Programme	—	15	—
8.	Rural Water Supply, Maharashtra	—	—	46.60
9.	National Renewable Fund (SEWA Component)	—	—	2.40
Total		173	195	49

UTI Investments in Share Market

3036. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has completed its investigation into multi-crore Century Consultant (CC) — UTI deals;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on the report of Central Bureau of Investigation;

(c) the policy of the UTI in investing money in stock market;

(d) whether the UTI purchased shares worth crores of rupees ignoring the recommendations of its own research wings;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have identified such top UTI officials involved in the shady deals; and

(g) if so, the action taken against these officials?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) has intimated that nine cases pertaining to Century Consultants have been registered by CBI, Lucknow Branch at the request of the Government of UP. Shri Arvind Mohan Johari, Shri Anand Krishna Johari, main accused and Shri A.K. Shah and Shri P.N. Mathur have been arrested in these cases. Investigation in the cases is continuing.

CBI Mumbai, Branch is separately investigating into a deal of private placement of 345000 equity shares of M/s Cyberspace Infosys Ltd. @ Rs. 930.00 per share with UTI during June/July 2000. The investigation is yet to be completed.

(c) UTI has intimated that it invests in securities of companies which fulfill the investment norms set by its Board and the Executive Committee.

(d) CBI has intimated that UTI had purchased 345000 equity shares of M/s Cyberspace Infosys Ltd. on private placement basis @ Rs. 930 per share ignoring the recommendations of its own research wing i.e., "Equity Research Cell".

(e) CBI has intimated that the Equity Research Cell of the UTI evaluated the offer of private placement of equity shares by M/s Cyberspace Infosys Ltd. @ Rs. 930 per share and submitted a report on 23.06.2000

wherein it was recommended that "we recommend that the Trust may not take up any fresh exposure from the present placement. Infact we may look to book profits in the stock in the positive atmosphere generated when the takeovers are announced". Considering the recommendations of the Equity Research Cell, the management of UTI regretted the offer on 17.07.2000. However, the proposal was revived on 21.07.2000 by Smt. Prema Madhu Prasad, General Manager, Shri M.M. Kapur, Executive Director, Shri S.K. Basu, Executive Director and Shri P.S. Subramanyam, the then Chairman of UTI and purchase of 345000 shares for a consideration of Rs. 320850000 was sanctioned. A cheque for Rs. 320850000 issued by UTI and drawn on UTI Bank Ltd. was hand delivered by UTI to Shri Arvind Johari, Director of M/s Cyberspace Infosys Ltd. on 27.07.2000.

(f) With respect to above transaction, the role of Shri P.S. Subramanyam, Ex-Chairman, Shri M.M. Kapur, Executive Director, Shri S.K. Basu, Executive Director and Smt. Prema Madhu Prasad, General Manager is under investigation by CBI, Mumbai Branch.

(g) CBI had arrested Shri P.S. Subramanyam, Ex-Chairman, Shri M.M. Kapur, Executive Director, Shri S.K. Basu, Executive Director. UTI has intimated that S/Shri M.M. Kapur, S.K. Basu, Executive Directors and Smt. Prema Madhu Prasad, General Manager are under suspension.

[Translation]

Investment by GIC Insurance

3037. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of shares purchased by the General Insurance Company from Mumbai based Sound Craft Limited during 2000-2001 on private placement basis and the amount spent by GIC in this regard;

(b) the value of the shares of the said company at the time when they were purchased;

(c) the present value of shares of the said company;

(d) the total loss incurred by the GIC on the purchase of aforesaid shares; and

(e) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) subscribed to 1,40,000 equity shares of Soundcraft Industries Ltd. in the year 2000-2001 on private placement basis. The Corporation spent an amount of Rs. 645.05 lacs towards subscription of these shares.

(b) The acquisition cost per share was Rs. 460.75 and the market value of the same on the date of purchase i.e. on 30.6.2000 was Rs. 540/- per share.

(c) The market value of share of said company on 02.08.2001 was Rs. 506.60 per share on Bombay Stock Exchange and Rs. 507.10 per share on National Stock Exchange.

(d) So far, GIC has sold 16,846 shares for a value of Rs. 90.99 lacs booking a total profit of Rs. 13.38 lacs. GIC is currently holding 1,23,154 equity shares. Based on the average cost price of Rs. 460.75 and market price of Rs. 507.10 per share, the total appreciation on their holding is Rs. 57.08 lacs.

(e) Not applicable.

[English]

Trade Relations with Neighbouring Countries

3038. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have trade relations with its neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the areas in which trade relations exist at present, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government plan to further expand the trade relations with neighbouring countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas identified for this purpose, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Presently Government is having cordial trade relations with neighbouring Countries in various areas of mutual trade interest. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to expand trade relations with neighbouring countries. Various steps being taken in this direction include exchange of information,

exchange of delegations, participation in fairs and exhibitions, buyers sellers meets etc. The areas of India's export interest to neighbouring countries include agricultural products, minerals and ores, chemicals and aligned products, textile, leather and leather manufactures, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, electronic and computer softwares, handicrafts etc.

Classification of Wilful Defaulters

3039. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI had issued a circular to all the banks and financial institutions classifying six categories of defaulters as wilful defaulters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the financial institutions did not adhere to the guidelines of RBI in regard to categorization of wilful defaulters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by RBI to ensure that guidelines issued by RBI in regard to wilful defaulters are followed by all in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had framed a scheme in 1999 for collection and dissemination of information about cases of wilful defaults of Rs. 25 lakhs and above, whereby wilful default will broadly cover the following:

- (i) Deliberate non-payment of the dues despite adequate cash flow and good network.
- (ii) Siphoning off of funds to the detriment of the defaulting unit.
- (iii) Assets financed have either not been purchased or have been sold and proceeds have been misutilised.
- (iv) Misrepresentation/falsification of records.
- (v) Disposal/removal of securities without bank's knowledge.
- (vi) Fraudulent transactions by the borrower.

(c) to (e) RBI has reported that the banks and financial institutions have been submitting to it information

about wilful defaults identified by them, in terms of RBI's guidelines and no instances of non-adherence to these guidelines have come to its notice.

[Translation]

Appointment of OBC

3040. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati appoints employees belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) as per the rules of the Government of India;

(b) if so, the number of persons belonging to the OBCs category appointed during the last three years, post-wise;

(c) the number of posts lying vacant; and

(d) the time by which these posts would be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Export Performance in Comparison to Neighbouring Countries

3041. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether our total exports do not compare favourably even with much smaller countries like Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore;

(b) if so, the reasons for lagging far behind in the matter of exports vis-a-vis our neighbours; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase our exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) As per the WTO Trade Statistics, the value of exports of Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and India during 1999 are given as below:

	US\$ (Billion)
Singapore	114.7
Thailand	58.4
Indonesia	48.7
India	36.6 (44.1 in 2000-01 per DGCI & S data)

Export performance, inter alia, is influenced by international market conditions, export competitiveness of the domestic industry, and that of the competitors in other countries etc. However, during 2000-01 the total merchandise exports from India has risen by 19.83% over the previous year thereby exceeding the target of 18% set for the year.

A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralization, setting up SEZs, simplification of procedures, extending the EPCG schemes to all sectors and all capital goods without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy which includes setting up of Agricultural Export Zones, Market Access initiatives to assist the industry in R&D efforts, market research etc. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

SBI in Insurance Sector

3042. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India is looking for strategic alliance to maintain its premier position in the Indian Life Insurance market;

(b) if so, the reasons thereto;

(c) whether the State Bank of India or its subsidiary has started life insurance business;

(d) if so, its impact on the business of LIC; and

(e) the measures proposed to remain leader in insurance market by LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation has intimated that they are not looking for strategic alliances in life insurance

business. However, they expect to maintain their premier position in the Indian life insurance market.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) SBI Cardiff Life Insurance Co., a joint venture between State Bank of India and Cardiff Insurance of France has been granted registration by the IRDA on 30th March, 2001 to commence life insurance business.

(d) It is estimated that registration of new insurance companies in private sector will not substantially affect business of LIC.

(e) LIC, to maintain its leadership in insurance market, have taken a number of steps such as prompt settlement of claims, computerisation and networking of all branches, introduction of new products, sharpening of skills of employees by HRD programs, training of agency force etc.

Non-Functioning of Diphu AIR/DD Centre, Assam

3043. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of hours telecasting/broadcasting could not be made from Diphu Kendra of Doordarshan/AIR in Assam during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for such disruption; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure uninterrupted telecasting/broadcasting of national/regional programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The year-wise details of interruption in service from Local Radio Station (LRS) and Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT), Diphu are as under:

Year	Break down period (In Hrs.)	
	LRS	LPT
1998-1999	NIL	29.15
1999-2000	8.30	29.23
2000-2001	26.37	19.20

(b) and (c) Main cause of breakdown was frequent power supply failures and in a few cases, due to failure

of some equipment. Faults in the equipment were attended to promptly. To minimize the interruption in service due to power supply failures, a Diesel Generator has been provided at the Radio Station as well as at the LPT. Minor interruption in service, however, occurs, each time the source of supply is changed from Mains to Generator and vice-versa.

Import of Tobacco Products

3044. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of cigarettes and other tobacco products imported during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the import duty on each of them with the bound limit, if any, and the reasons for less tariff rate than bound the limit;

(c) whether any assessment has been made regarding availability of duty free cigarettes and tobacco products in the internal market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to restrict the duty free tobacco products and cigarettes in the internal market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) As per statement enclosed.

(b) Tobacco products are freely importable. The present applicable basic custom duty on all these items is 35%. In addition, imports of cigarettes are subject to "goods of special importance" duty ranging from Rs. 37/- per thousand to Rs. 495/- per thousand, depending upon the type of cigarettes. Import of cigarettes are also subject to National calamity duty ranging from Rs. 20/- per thousand to Rs. 235/- per thousand, depending upon the type of cigarettes. Bound rate for all these items is 150%. Present duty structure is considered adequate for the present level of imports.

(c) Duty free import of cigarettees and tobacco products is not allowed for sale in domestic market. Limited quantities are, however, allowed for personal consumption under the Baggage Rules.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Statement

Import of Tobacco Products

			Quantity in Tons		Value in Rs. Crore			
			1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001 (upto Feb.)	
Exim Code	Item Description	Countries	Qty.	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24.02	Cigars, Cheroots,	Cuba	1.4	0.57	0.6	0.29	0.5	0.52
	Cigarillos &	Hongkong	4.4	0.33	0.3	0.5	14.4	1.14
	Cigarettes, of	Singapore	41.2	2.34	25.7	1.48	0.9	0.09
	Tobacco or of	Switzerland	1.0	0.04	2.7	0.29	3.6	0.42
	Tobacco	UK	37.0	2.63	58.8	2.47	7.6	0.43
	Substitute	USA	58.6	3.19	15.9	1.38	2.1	0.20
		Others	17.3	0.51	0.7	0.04	2.5	0.16
		Total	160.9	9.61	104.7	6.00	31.6	2.96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24.03	Others Manufacture Tobacco & Manufactured Tobacco Substitute *Homogeni	German Rep.	1.8	0.07	0	0	1.2	0.01
		UK	0.4	0.03	12.3	0.23	0.5	0.02
	Sed* or "Reconstituted" Tobacco; Tobacco	Others	9.0	0.10	15.7	0.14	6.9	0.04
	Extracts & Essences	Total	11.2	0.20	28.0	0.37	8.6	0.07

Non-Filing of Balance Sheet

3045. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4934 regarding SEBI on August 25, 2000 and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for inordinate delay; and
- (d) the time by which the information is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

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

(b) SEBI has neither issued default notice nor prosecuted any company for non-filing of Balance Sheet & Annual Report. The officials of the SEBI are not authorised to initiate action against the defaulting company under section 220 of the Companies Act, 1956. The prosecution of M/s Jayanti Business Machines Limited, under section 162/220 of the Companies Act, however, have been filed by the Registrar of Companies, Mumbai for non-filing of Annual Returns & Balance Sheets for the financial year 1996, 1997 and 1998. As regards M/s Nova Pumech Limited and M/s Uniliv Food Limited, the prosecution has been filed by Registrar of Companies, Ahmedabad, under section 159/220 of the Companies Act, for non-filing of Balance Sheet & Annual Report by the companies for the years 1997-98 and 1998-99.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The information was laid on the Table of the House on 05.12.2000.

Single Window Cell for SEZs

3046. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to set up single window clearance cell for special economic zones;
- (b) if so, whether the States have been asked to firm up their policy framework for SEZs within a fixed time;
- (c) whether the Union Government have drawn up any policy framework for guidance of the States; and
- (d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) In order to provide an internationally competitive and hassle free environment for exports, the State Governments have been requested to provide a single window clearance mechanism for SEZ units. Such a system is yet to be put in place by the States.

NABARD Financing For Housing

3047. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NABARD is diversifying its funding towards housing sector also; and
- (b) if so, the details of the refinance scheme for housing sector worked out by NABARD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that with a view to supplementing the efforts of Central Government, State Governments, National Housing Bank and banking sector in augmenting the resource for the rural housing segment, it has decided to include rural housing as an eligible activity for extension of refinance under investment credit to all eligible banks under Section 25 of NABARD Act, 1981 with effect from 1 April, 2001. The salient features of the refinance scheme of NABARD for housing sector are given in the statement.

Statement

Salient Features of the Refinance Scheme of the National Bank For Agriculture and Rural Development for "Rural Housing"

1. *Area of Operation:* Refinance will be provided to all eligible banks like, Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, State Cooperative Banks, State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural development banks, Scheduled Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks, North Eastern Development Financial Institution (NEDFI) for financing extended by them to housing projects in the 'rural' areas only.
2. *Eligible Borrowers:* Individuals, Cooperative Housing Societies, Public Bodies, Housing Boards/Housing Development Authorities/Improvement Trusts, Local Bodies, Voluntary agencies and Non Governmental Organisations, Housing Finance Companies registered with National Housing Bank.
3. *Eligible Purpose:* Construction of New as well as Repairs/renovation of existing houses in rural areas.
4. *Security Margin:* As per RBI and NHB guidelines issued from time to time.
5. *Ceiling on the Cost:* The cost of a dwelling unit may not exceed Rs. 7.5 lakh. In case land is being acquired the final cost may be reckoned as margin money. Otherwise cost of land should not be included in the project cost.
6. *Quantum of bank loan for individual (maximum):* For new houses: Rs. 5 lakhs and for repairs/renovation Rs. 50,000/-.
7. *Repayment period:* For new houses not more than 15 years and for Repairs/Renovation not more than 5 years.

8. *Rate of Interest on Refinance:* Upto Rs. 50,000/- 9% p.a., Rs. 50001 to Rs. 2 lakh: 10.5% p.a., above Rs. 2 lakh: 11% p.a. (These rate of interests are applicable to all agencies).

[Translation]

Procurement of Paddy

3048. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has requested the Union Government to appoint an agency of Food Corporation of India only for the procurement of paddy and coarse grains on the support price in future; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Settlement Advisory Committee

3049. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Settlement Advisory Committees were formulated by banks for compromise settlement of chronic NPAs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these committees had failed to settle chronic NPAs;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued guidelines to the public sector banks in May, 1999 for constitution of Settlement Advisory Committees (SACs). RBI has reported that the recovery of non-performing assets (NPAs) through SACs was Rs. 668.37 crore, as on 31st March, 2000. According to RBI more recovery of NPAs could not be

made through SACs on account of inflexibility of the indicative parameters relating to settlement formula etc. contained in the guidelines.

(d) RBI has reported that in the light of the feedback received from the banks and in order to arrest the incidence of fresh NPAs, it was decided to revise the guidelines contained in its circular of May, 1999. Accordingly, RBI issued revised guidelines to the public sector banks in July, 2000 to provide a simplified, non-discriminatory and non-discretionary mechanism for recovery of NPAs with outstanding up to Rs. 5 crores. As on 31st May, 2001, the public sector banks recovered an amount of Rs. 1914 crore under the revised guidelines.

Disinvestment of Shipping Corporation of India

3050. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ministry, Disinvestment, Department split over Shipping Corporation of India sell off strategy" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated July 9, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the Ministry of Shipping has taken up the matter with the Department of Disinvestment for off-loading a part of its stake to a strategic partner;

(d) if so, the details therefore; and

(e) the reasons for disinvestment in the profit making Shipping Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news items talks of different ways of disinvestment in Shipping Corporation of India. No final decision has been taken in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Disinvestment of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. is based on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission and the policy of Government that in generality of cases, the Government shareholding in public sector enterprises will be brought down to 26% or below in public sector enterprises operating in non-strategic areas.

NABARD's New Project

3051. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has decided to take up works worth Rs. 135 crore during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, whether the Bank has already taken up works worth Rs. 120 crore last year;

(c) if so, to what extent it has achieved success in the last year;

(d) the works likely to be undertaken during 2001-2002; and

(e) by when they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the works taken up by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). NABARD has reported that it has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 19593 crore under various tranches of RIDF to 28 State Governments and the disbursements to State Governments there against aggregate to Rs. 9784.64 crore as on 3 August, 2001. During the year 2001-2002, creation of infrastructure in various sector viz. irrigation, roads and bridges, mini-hydel, rural water supply, soil moisture conservation, watershed development, primary school buildings, rural markets, flood protection and drainage, information technology and system improvement projects are to be taken up. Further, projects from the State Governments for utilization under the programme are awaited. Loans out of RIDF to the extent of Rs. 3176.85 crore have been utilized by the State Governments during the year 2000-2001 for creation of rural infrastructure in sectors viz. minor, medium and

major irrigation, rural roads and bridges, watershed, flood protection, market yards, primary schools, command area development authority, drainage, fishing harbour and others. The utilization of loan from RIDF have to be completed as per schedule given below:

Tranche	Date of Closure
RIDF-II	31 December 2001
RIDF-III	31 March 2002
RIDF-IV	31 March 2002
RIDF-V	31 March 2002
RIDF-VI	31 March 2003
RIDF-VII	31 March 2004

[Translation]

Arrests Under COFEPOSA

3052. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of arrest made under COFEPOSA during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of persons released till date out of them;

(c) the number of pending cases, where the decision for arrest has already been taken out the concerned party is absconding;

(d) whether the Government are not taking speedy action in such cases; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

'Seizure of Drugs'

3053. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether law enforcement agencies including the State Police, Para Military Forces etc. in the country have

submitted reports giving details about the drug seizures and those arrested for drug trafficking during last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The total seizures in 1999 and 2000 of Opium, Morphine, Heroin, Ganja, Hashish, Cocaine, Methaqualone, Ephedrine and LSD, as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, as on 30th June 2001, were 46751 kgs. and 110581 kgs. respectively. The total number of persons arrested in 1999 and 2000 for drug trafficking as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, as on 30th June 2001, were 13490 and 15065 respectively.

Disinvestment of Air India

3054. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many important world renowned carriers such as British Airways, Emirates, Air France and Delta Group etc., had responded to the expressions of interest for Air India disinvestment issued in September, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of them have withdrawn; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The following carriers submitted their expressions of interest against the advertisement for disinvestment in Air India and obtained Bid Packs:

- (i) Air France - Delta Airlines
- (ii) Swiss Air Group
- (iii) Emirates
- (iv) Singapore Airlines (alongwith Tata)

British Airways-Quantas had also expressed interest in the initial stages. They did not confirm their participation, and later informed that they would in fact not participate.

(c) and (d) The parties at (i) to (iii) above withdrew, without assigning any reason. As British Airways-Quantas had not confirmed their participation, they did not assign reasons in writing for their withdrawal.

[Translation]

Industrial Expansion in Newly Created States

3055. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate specific plan for the industrial expansion in the newly constituted States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which plan is likely to be finalised; and

(d) the financial assistance proposed to be given to newly created States for expansion of industrial projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) Industrial Development including industrial expansion in the States is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. For supplementing their efforts the Central Government provides incentives under various schemes operated by it, such as Growth Centre Scheme to promote industrialisation in backward areas, Transport Subsidy Scheme to promote industrialisation in hilly and remote areas and Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme (IIDs) for development of small scale industries in industrially backward areas. A National Programme for Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) has also been announced to boost rural industrialisation.

[English]

Income Tax Arrears

3056. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total income tax arrears as on March 31, 2001; and

(b) the steps being taken to realise the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Income Tax demands outstanding as on March 31, 2001 are Rs. 59,425.17 crores.

(b) High priority is given to the work of collection/ reduction of arrear and demand and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken to recover the same. Request is made to the concerned appellate authorities for early disposal of cases. Wherever the recovery proceedings are stayed by the courts, steps are initiated to get the stay vacated. Coercive measures are also taken in suitable cases for speedy recovery of demand. In bigger cases, the dossiers are maintained and the recovery position is reviewed regularly.

FERA Violation Cases Referred by RBI

3057. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has sent detailed cases pertaining to FERA violations to Directorate of Enforcement for further investigation and prosecution;

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

(c) whether the Directorate of Enforcement has created a special cell to deal with the pending FERA cases;

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

(e) by when all the pending FERA violation cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has forwarded 35,188 cases. These pertain to non submission of proof of import, in cases where foreign exchange has already been remitted.

(c) and (d) Special Cells have been established in Mumbai and Delhi, where large number of cases have been received.

(e) By 31st May, 2002 as provided under FEMA, 1999.

Release of Advertisements

3058. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the advertisements released to daily, weekly and fortnightly newspapers being published from Delhi, Gujarat and Mumbai and January 1, 2001 till date and the amount paid to them therefor;

(b) the advertisements released to the said newspapers from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000 and the amount paid therefor;

(c) the rules and procedure laid down for releasing advertisements to the newspapers;

(d) the method adopted for selection of newspapers for the release of advertisements;

(e) whether the Government have increased the advertisement rates during 2000 and 2001;

(f) if so, the extent thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether some newspapers and newspapers bodies have demanded increased rates;

(i) if so, the details of the newspapers and their bodies which have demanded to increase the rates and the extent of increase demanded;

(j) the decision taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(k) the details of current rates on which advertisements are released to daily, weekly and fortnightly small, medium and big newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The statistical data regarding release of advertisements and amount paid to newspapers is maintained by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) financial year-wise. As such, the details for the financial years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given in the statement.

(c) DAVP releases advertisements to newspapers empanelled with it on the basis of the provisions of the 'Advertising Policy and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP'.

(d) The advertisements to the newspapers are released by DAVP keeping in view the target audience, publicity requirements, recommendations of the client Ministries/Departments and availability of funds.

(e) to (g) The advertisement rates of DAVP are normally valid for a period of four years. The rates were last revised w.e.f. 1.1.1999 and therefore no revision was required in the years 2000 and 2001.

(h) to (j) The Indian Newspapers Society has requested the Government for revision of advertisement rates at-least by 50%. No decision has been taken to set up a new Rate Structure Committee so far.

(k) The advertisement rates in respect of individual newspapers are determined by DAVP on the basis of the Rate Structure Formula devised by the Rate Structure Committee and DAVP enters into Rate Contracts with individual newspapers based on the rates so determined.

Statement

Details of the advertisements released by DAVP to dailies, weeklies and fortnightlies and other newspapers published from Gujarat, Delhi and Mumbai during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

GUJARAT

Newspapers/	1999-2000				2000-2001			
	No. of news-papers	No of insert-ions	Space (in col cms)	Amount Committed (in Rs.)	No. of news-papers	No. of inser-tions	Space (in col cms)	Amount Committed (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dailies	62	5539	378816	34256234	67	6138	353598	30692118
Weeklies	38	117	11473	286896	27	62	6155	146057

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Fortnightlies & others	6	18	1479	36525	8	21	1859	44523
Total	106	5674	391768	34579655	102	6221	361612	30882698

DELHI

Newspapers/ Periodicals	1999-2000				2000-2001			
	No. of newspapers	No. of insertions	Space (in col cms)	Amount Committed (in Rs.)	No. of newspapers	No. insertions	Space (in col cms)	Amount Committed (in Rs.)
Dailies	96	30109	1050592	174034982	78	30363	983087	166876557
Weeklies	109	4576	317194	103696134	65	2614	253272	94629690
Fortnightlies & others	140	453	39136	1575835	102	254	21693	1051187
Total	345	35138	1406922	279306951	245	33231	1258052	262557434

MUMBAI

Newspapers/ Periodicals	1999-2000				2000-2001			
	No. of newspapers	No. of insertion	Space (in col cms)	Amount Committed (in Rs.)	No. of newspapers	No. insertions	Space (in col cms)	Amount Committed (in Rs.)
Dailies	36	9540	408718	65726459	37	9748	371014	57422663
Weeklies	10	27	2429	107723	6	18	1667	72092
Fortnightlies & others	2	6	471	18579	1	2	158	3400
Total	48	9573	411618	65852761	44	9768	372837	57498155

Violation of Transfer Pricing Norms

3059. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to reducing the penalties on the companies which violate the transfer pricing norms;

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

(c) the time by which these reduced norms will come into force;

(d) whether any analysis has been made with regard to the amount of revenue that the Government would get on this account; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Therefore, does not arise.

(d) and (e) The revenue effect cannot be quantified on the basis of available data. Considering the increasing role played by multinational corporations in India, the new transfer pricing norms have the potential for enhancing tax revenues. However, the precise quantification of the increase in revenue on this account is not possible in the absence of adequate data.

Privatization of CCI

3060. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) the yearly production of cement turnover of Cement Corporation of India unit-wise during the last three years;

(b) the actual production loss due to non-availability of power, unit-wise for the same period;

(c) the non-plan budgetary support given by the Government during the same period as well as first quarter of 2001-2002; and

(d) the present status with the BIFR regarding the revival of CCI and its privatization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The yearly production of cement unitwise during the last three years is as per statement-I.

(b) Information is given in the Statement-II.

(c) The non-plan budgetary support given by the Government during the last three years and the first quarter of 2001-2002 is given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. Crores)	Remarks
1998-99	8.31	For salary/wages
1999-2000	36.77	For salary/wages
2000-2001	41.40	For salary/wages
	43.25	For VRS
	0.33	For outstanding statutory dues (Gratuity)
Total for 2000-01	84.98	
2001-2002 (1st Quarter)	6.33	For salary/wages

(d) Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) is under reference to BIFR and has been declared sick. BIFR has directed Operating Agency (OA) to engage Merchant Banker for the sale of CCI units individually or collectively. The Operating Agency (OA) has engaged SBI Capital Markets Ltd. as the Merchant Banker for the purpose.

Statement-I

Unit-Wise Cement Production of Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) for the last three years

(Production in Lakh MT)				
Sl. No.	Unit	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Bokajan	1.27	1.18	1.34
2.	Rajban	1.59	1.62	1.06
3.	Tandur	4.89	3.64	0.36
4.	Adilabad	1.07	0.09	0.02
5.	Kurkunta	0.44	—	—
6.	Nayagaon	0.10	0.02	—
7.	Delhi Grinding Unit	0.11	—	—
8.	Mandhar	—	—	—
9.	Akaltara	—	—	—
10.	Charkhi Dadri	—	—	—
Total		9.47	6.55	2.78

Statement-II

Unit-wise Cement Production Loss of Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) Due to non-availability of Power for the last three years.

Sl. No.	Unit	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Bokajan	23590	36246	26087
2.	Rajban	7650	9373	2417
3.	Tandur	21580	31368	566
4.	Adilabad	6283	*	*
5.	Kurkunta	4851	*	*
6.	Nayagaon	*	*	*
7.	Delhi Grinding Unit	3717	*	*
8.	Mandhar	*	*	*
9.	Akaltara	*	*	*
10.	Charkhi Dadri	*	*	*
Total		67671	76987	29070

*Not in operation due to severe liquidity crunch.

[Translation]

Recovery of Tax

3061. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of tax outstanding against the domestic and Multinational Companies as on 30th June, 2001;

(b) whether the Government are aware that several companies are sending out their products from the factory without paying the excise duty;

(c) if so, the details of such companies and the action taken against such companies so far;

(d) the action taken by the Government for speedy recovery of tax; and

(e) the time by which amount of tax is likely to be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The amount of central excise duty and customs duty outstanding as on 30th June, 2001 was Rs. 10,212.95 crore. The amount of income tax outstanding against domestic and multinational companies having arrear demand of Rs. 25 crores and above, as on 31-3-2001 was Rs. 17,035 crore.

(b) and (c) Details of the cases where companies were allegedly sending out their products without payment of excise duty, are as under:

Financial Year	No. of companies	Amt. Involved (in crore)
2000-01	1573	690.71
2001- upto June, 2001	323	441.85

Departmental adjudication proceedings are initiated by issue of show cause notices, demanding duty evaded and imposition of penalty on the basis of investigation of the cases detected. In appropriate cases, prosecution is also filed against the tax evaders.

(d) The recovery of taxes is a continuous process which involves various statutory procedures. These include attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties; charging of interest for late payment; levy of penalty; etc. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving arrears are made by the higher authorities from time to time for issuing necessary instructions for expediting recovery of taxes. Efforts are also made for getting stays vacated and filing urgent hearing petitions in the appellate bodies for deciding the cases on priority basis.

(e) No time frame can be fixed for the recovery of dues as the parties are entitled to appellate/legal remedies against the recovery action and appellate authorities (including courts) often admit appeals, staying wholly or partially, the duties confirmed or fines & penalty imposed by adjudicating authorities.

[English]

Spurt in Smuggling Activities

3062. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a note of spurt in smuggling activities in the country in the recent

past, especially in gold, sophisticated fire arms, explosives and foreign/fake currency etc;

(b) if so, the number of consignments intercepted/seized during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the value of such smuggled goods/consignments seized/intercepted during the said period;

(c) the number of persons arrested and action taken against them; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it cannot be said with certainty that there is spurt in smuggling activities in the country in the recent past, especially in gold, sophisticated fire arms, explosives and foreign/fake currency etc. However, incidents of smuggling continue to be noticed. The number of seizure cases and value of goods seized by the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and number of persons arrested in this connection, during last 2 years and current year, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002 (upto June, 2001) are as follows:-

Year	Seizure cases	Value of goods seized (Rs. in crores)	No. of persons arrested
1999-2000	41018	1298.71	712
2000-2001	38393	437.54	669
2001-2002 (upto June, 2001)	8943	144.88	173

Penal action and prosecution is initiated against the persons involved under Customs Act and detention under COFEPOSA is also considered in deserving cases.

(d) All the field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods.

External Aid for Super-Cyclone affected Orissa

3063. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance received by the Government till date from various foreign countries

and domestic industries and voluntary organisations for the purpose of rescue, relief and reconstruction in super-cyclone affected Orissa, separately;

(b) the manner in which the money spent/likely to be spent and the mechanism being adopted to keep a check on the disbursement and proper utilization of this aid; and

(c) the total amount required by the Government for the reconstruction work of Government property in Orissa?

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

Subsidy for Green Tea

3064. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of grant/subsidy being given to tea growers for green tea as of now;

(b) whether there is persistent demand to increase the grant/subsidies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Tea Board under the various developmental schemes provides rates of subsidy which approximately form 25% of the unit cost per hectare as assessed in respect of different tea growing areas.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The rates of subsidy given by the Tea Board undergo upward revision from time to time, to constitute 25% of the unit cost per hectare.

[Translation]

Status of CCI

3065. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell/closed down the loss making units of the Cement Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details of such units;

(c) whether tenders have been invited to sell these units; and

(d) if so, the number of the tenders received by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) is a sick company under reference to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi-judicial body under SICA. BIFR has directed Operating Agency (OA) to engage Merchant Banker for the sale of all the CCI units individually or collectively. The Operating Agency has engaged SBI Capital Markets Ltd. as the Merchant Banker for the purpose.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit	Location	Installed Capacity (Lakh tonnes/ annum)	Process	Remarks
1.	Bokajan Cement Plant	Karbi-Anglong Assam	1.98	Dry	In operation
2.	Rajban Cement Plant	Distt. Simur Himachal Pradesh	1.98	Dry	In operation
3.	Tandur Cement Plant	Distt. Ranga Reddy, Andhra Pradesh	10.00	Dry	Plant re-started on 26.4.2001
4.	Mandhar Cement Plant	Distt. Raipur Karnataka	3.80	Wet	Not in operation (6.6.1996)
5.	Kurkunta Cement Plant	Distt. Gulbarga Karnataka	1.98	Wet	Not in operation (1.11.1998)
6.	Nayagaon Cement Plant	Distt. Neemuch Madhya Pradesh	4.00	Dry	Not in operation (30.6.1997)
7.	Akaltara Cement Plant	Distt. Bilaspur Chhattisgarh	4.00	Dry	Not in operation (9.12.1996)
8.	Charkhi Dadri Cement Plant	Distt. Bhiwani Haryana	1.74	Semi- Dry	Not in operation (14.08.1996)
9.	Adilabad Cement Plant	Distt. Adilabad Andhra Pradesh	4.00	Dry	Not in operation (5.11.1998)
10.	Delhi Grinding Unit	Delhi	5.00		Not in operation

Old Stock of Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

3066. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether it is fact that a large quantum of wheat and rice are lying in the godowns of Food Corporation of India for more than three years;

(b) whether the foodgrains lying unused beyond a fixed period do not remain fit for human consumption; and

(c) if so, the said fixed period and the scheme of the Government for the utilization of foodgrains, which are lying in the godowns beyond the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) A quantity of 10.3 Lakh tonnes of wheat and 3.42 lakh tonnes of rice were more than three years old, lying in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 1st July, 2001.

(b) There is no fix period after which foodgrains became unfit for human consumption. Grains can be fit after three years if storage is done in a scientific manner. The F C I undertakes storage of foodgrains in scientifically build godowns, and in a scientific manner. The quality and condition of stocks is monitored by undertaking periodic inspections, and disinfestation treatments at regular intervals.

(c) Some times, inspite of various steps taken, some damage to the foodgrain stocks take place due to long storage as well as natural calamities such as flood, cyclone etc. Such damaged stock retrieved after segregation/salvaging, containing damaged grains beyond 5% are classified as fit for feed, industrial use, manure and dumping etc. and first offered to the State Government/Military firms etc. Thereafter the left over stock are sold through tender/public auction to the registered parties who are bonafide users of these stocks by FCI.

[English]

Economic Cost of FCI

3067. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have received the final report of the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad to suggest ways and means to cut down the administrative and economic and cost of the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken for the implementation of the recommendations of the ASCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad submitted its study report on the "Cost of Acquisition and distribution of Foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India" to the Government on 22nd May, 2001.

(b) The salient features of the study report are given in the statement.

(c) The recommendations made in the report are under examination.

Statement

The salient features of the Study Report of Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad to suggest ways and means to cut down the administrative and economic cost of the Food Corporation of India are as under:

- (a) The autonomous existence in FCI is desirable and dispensing with FCI as an organization will not be in the interest of the nation.
- (b) For making FCI viable, Government of India has to give up control over any two of the three factors consisting of (a) fixation of procurement price; (b) fixing of procurement quantity; and (c) fixing of issue price.
- (c) To reduce stock levels, the FCI may be allowed to carry out open market sale as a routine process.
- (d) The Food security is an important issue and it should not be left to the private traders, who are motivated by profit alone.
- (e) The State Government may be insisted upon to lift the allotted quantity for PDS and for the unlifted stock with reference to the allotment, the State Government be asked to pay storage and interest charges.
- (f) The Railways should take full responsibility of the consignments received for transport. They

should not only issue clear RR, but deliver the consignment in the same condition at the destination to the FCI, fulfilling the obligation of the Bailee under the Contract Act.

- (g) Difficult and hill transport subsidy scheme applicable for NE region and J&K be dispensed with.
- (h) Financing of buffer stocks with borrowed funds from the Banking Sector should be done away with the same be financed through Government grant/equity.
- (i) Decentralized procurement should be encouraged.
- (j) High Cost departmental labour to be dispensed with.
- (k) FCI may sell out all storages assets to Central Warehousing Corporation who can become a prominent storage carrier in the country.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

3068. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to increase the annual allocation of foodgrains for Tamil Nadu for the Antyodaya Anna Yojana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and also the foodgrains allocated State-wise, particularly to Tamil Nadu during the last year?

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

(b) During the year 2000-2001, 15,82,944 tonnes of rice was allocated to Tamil Nadu under Targeted Public Distribution. A statement indicating the State-wise allocation of food grains during 2000-2001 is enclosed.

Statement

Allocation of Food Grains Under TPDS During 2000-2001

(In '000' tonnes)

S.No.	State/UTs	Rice	Wheat
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3179.258	96.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	88.704	8.200

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	788.708	123.600
4.	Bihar	837.444	1256.168
5.	Chhattisgarh	126.417	42.128
6.	Delhi	163.320	511.680
7.	Goa	49.070	23.154
8.	Gujarat	559.526	919.287
9.	Haryana	0.000	184.558
10.	Himachal Pradesh	98.691	106.753
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	262.920	123.840
12.	Jharkhand	82.236	123.352
13.	Karnataka	1485.272	363.068
14.	Kerala	1746.539	452.640
15.	Madhya Pradesh	577.452	814.762
16.	Maharashtra	790.064	1465.140
17.	Manipur	65.534	20.520
18.	Meghalaya	224.770	12.000
19.	Mizoram	95.660	15.120
20.	Nagaland	122.040	23.040
21.	Orissa	994.562	102.300
22.	Punjab	20.160	107.556
23.	Rajasthan	33.062	1251.943
24.	Sikkim	92.556	1.200
25.	Tamil Nadu	1582.944	0.000
26.	Tripura	164.890	15.360
27.	Uttar Pradesh	873.440	1798.576
28.	Uttaranchal	24.760	16.964
29.	West Bengal	874.824	1354.896
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands*	31.804	9.840
31.	Chandigarh	2.520	15.478
32.	D & N Haveli	5.109	1.345
33.	Daman & Diu	1.852	0.748

1	2	3	4
34.	Lakshadweep ⁵	6.540	0.504
35.	Pondicherry	38.568	6.240

NB: Allocation figures for BPL and APL include additional allocations made at BPL and APL rates respectively for various purposes.

[Translation]

Per Capita External Loan

3069. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita external loan burden on the country as on date;

(b) the amount that had to be borne on payment of interest on the said loan during the last three years and during the current financial year; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to reduce it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) India's per capita foreign debt on September 30, 2000 is estimated at Rs. 4504 or US Dollar 97.7 equivalent.

(b) Interest payments on external debt of the country during the last three years are as under:

Year	US Dollar million
1997-98	4391
1998-99	4781
1999-2000	4912

(c) The position regarding interest burden related to India's external debt has considerably improved in recent years. Thus, interest payments to current receipts ratio declined from a high of 15.5 per cent in 1990-91 to 7.2 per cent in 1999-2000. Such improvement has been possible due to a prudent debt management policy followed by the Government that focused on high growth rate of exports, keeping the maturity structure as well as the total commercial debt under manageable limits, limiting short-term debt, and encouraging non-debt creating financial flows.

[English]

Deduction of Tax at Source by BCCI

3070. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Income-tax Act, 1961, an income payable to a non-resident sportsman, not being an Indian citizen is taxed at source;

(b) if so, the reasons for not deducting the tax at source in respect of payment made to various non-resident sports bodies by the BCCI during 1991-92 to 1997-98; and

(c) the action the Government have taken or propose to take against the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Income-tax is deductible at source in respect of income payable to a non-resident sportsman who is not a citizen of India.

(b) The BCCI did not deduct tax at source, in respect of payments made to various non-resident sports bodies, on the plea that the payment of guarantee money to the Cricket Control Boards of foreign countries is not of the nature of the income and accordingly, no income-tax is payable on such payments.

(c) For not complying with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961, BCCI has been treated as an assessee deemed to be an assessee in default. Tax demands have been raised which have also been paid by BCCI under protest.

[Translation]

'Seizure of Drugs'

3071. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of narcotics is going on in the country on the large scale;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the value of narcotics seized by the Government during the last three years;

(d) the number of persons arrested for being involved in the smuggling of narcotics; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to curb smuggling of narcotics drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Drug smuggling and trafficking is a clandestine activity and it is impossible to accurately assess the scale of smuggling. However, the quantity of drugs seized by enforcement agencies can be used in assessing the magnitude of the illegal activity. India accounts for 1.62% of the world's seizures. The major threat of drug trafficking in India arises from its proximity to South East Asia and South West Asia. Good air linkage with other countries also make India vulnerable to drug trafficking.

(c) and (d) Since all narcotic drugs confiscated are liable to be destroyed and no authentic market value exists no precise valuation can be made. However, the total quantity of drug seizures in 1999 and 2000 of Opium, Morphine, Heroin, Ganja, Hashish, Cocaine, Methaqualone and Ephedrine, LSD, as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, as on 30th June 2001, were 46751 kgs. and 110581 kgs. respectively. The total number of persons arrested in 1999 and 2000 for drug trafficking as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, as on 30th June 2001, were 13490 and 15065 respectively.

(e) Government of India has already taken a number of significant steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, notifying certain precursor chemicals viz. Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine etc. as 'Controlled Substances' under the NDPS Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, signing of a bilateral agreement with Pakistan to hold periodic meetings at Secretary level and Director General level, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, signing of a bilateral agreement with Myanmar, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs to Myanmar and training dog handlers of Myanmar.

[English]

New Rules for Stock Exchanges

3072. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government feels that there is a great need for standardisation of the rules, procedures and regulations across the country's stock exchanges;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) SEBI has intimated that SEBI had been examining the Bye-laws, Rules and Regulations of stock exchanges and has amended them to bring about uniformity and make them easier to administer. These amendments have been brought about through a process of consultation with the stock exchanges. According to SEBI, the areas in which the rules, bye-laws and regulations have been amended, inter-alia are:

- Administration and management structure of the stock exchanges — all stock exchanges now have governing bodies which have 50% broker directors and 50% non-brokers comprising of public representatives and SEBI Nominees.
- Appointment of Executive Director, a non-broker, with specific responsibilities of surveillance and day-to-day management of the stock exchanges. The process of appointment of the Executive Director and the broad principles of appointment and removal have also been made uniform.
- Practice of issuance of contract notes to clients with standard features including price, brokerage and time etc.
- All stock exchanges were directed to set up clearing houses or clearing corporations.
- Norms for listing and de-listing were made uniform.
- The requirements of corporate governance was specified for listed companies uniformly for all stock exchanges through listing agreement.
- Rolling settlement has been introduced uniformly for all stock exchanges.

- Uniform norms for derivative trading and model bye-laws for derivative exchanges which have been newly set have been specified.

Labour Laws in EPZs

3073. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the unusual phenomenon of a number of units in the Export Processing Zones defying their obligations to observe the role of labour legislation observed throughout the country;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken to check these units defying labour law; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The units in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are governed by the normal labour laws which are enforced by the respective State Governments. Action is taken against defaulting units wherever warranted by the concerned State Authorities.

Closed Sugar Mills in U.P.

3074. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether several sugar mills in the country have been closed down;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to revive the closed sugar mills;

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

(e) the number of sugar mills set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The number of sugar mills which did not operate during the three sugar seasons viz., 1998-99, 1999-2000

and 2000-2001 were 54, 69 and 70 (Provisional) respectively. The State-wise details of such sugar mills are given in the statement.

(c) and (d) The sugar mills in the country are grouped in three sectors namely, Public, Private and Cooperative. The sick sugar mills belonging to Public and Private sector are covered under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision), Act 1985 (SICA) and are required to make reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The BIFR formulates a revival scheme, wherever feasible, and, if any reliefs in concessions relate to the Government are included in the revival package, the same are considered by the Government to make the revival scheme successful. The sugar mills under the Cooperative sector are not covered by the SICA. They fall under the Cooperative Societies Act of respective states. The State Governments are expected to prepare suitable rehabilitation schemes for the revival of sick cooperative sugar mills, with or without the participation of the financial institutions, including the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Further, a committee has been constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Secretary (F & PD) to examine the cases of sick cooperative sugar mills and to recommend revival packages for potentially viable units.

(e) Number of sugar mills which have gone into production for the first time in the state of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is as under:-

Year (Oct.-Sep.)	No. of Sugar Mills
1997-98	3
1998-99	3
1999-2000	3

Statement

State-wise number of Sugar Mills which have not Operated during the Sugar Seasons 1998-1999, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001.

State	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
Punjab	1	1	1
Haryana	—	—	—

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	10	19	19
Madhya Pradesh	2	2	3
Gujarat	3	4	3
Maharashtra	10	10	7
Bihar	17	18	18
Assam	1	2	2
Andhra Pradesh	5	6	6
Karnataka	2	3	3
Tamilnadu	—	—	—
Kerala	1	1	1
Orissa	1	1	4
West Bengal	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	1	1
Pondicherry	—	—	—
Goa	—	—	—
All India	54	69	70

Open Bidding in Public Sector Undertakings

3075. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to sell their equity in Public Sector Units by open bidding;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of PSUs identified for the purpose;

(c) whether such open bidding is in the interest of country for its smooth and fast development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Disinvestment of Government equity in PSUs is being carried out through a transparent process, which involves open competitive bidding. Disinvestment process is in different stages of implementation in the following PSUs:

Air India, CMC Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd., (Phase-I), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Indian Airlines, IBP Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corpn Ltd., properties of India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., State Trading Corpn. Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Jessop and Co. Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd., HTL Ltd., NIDC, Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd., Engineering Projects (India) Ltd., (EPIL), and Hindustan Salts Ltd.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The open competitive bidding ensures the transparency of the process and realisation of the best price for the stake offered under disinvestment.

Joint Venture Companies

3076. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation propose to form two more joint venture companies with Corporation Bank to manage investments in Government securities and corporate debts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total estimated investment by LIC of its premium collected during a year;

(d) whether the LIC and Corporation Bank also propose to start a merchant bank in joint venture; and

(e) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has intimated that they are not setting up any joint venture with Corporation Bank to manage its investments. However they are proposing to take a 33% stake in the Corp Bank Securities Ltd., which is at present a wholly owned subsidiary of the Corporation Bank, to assist in trading in Government securities.

(c) LIC has intimated that they had invested an amount of Rs. 41,110 crores during the year 2000-2001.

(d) and (e) LIC has intimated that the Memorandum of Understanding with Corporation Bank includes a feasibility study of acquiring or setting up a merchant bank jointly.

Closure of Bank Branches

3077. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to close down four regional offices as well as fifty branches of United Bank of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) In terms of the extant instructions of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Branch Licensing Policy, the banks are free to close down their regional offices and branches at centres, other than rural centres, without prior approval from RBI. However, the banks should ensure that the locality/ward is not rendered unbanked due to such closures. United Bank of India (UBI) has reported that as part of its restructuring plan it has merged four of its regional offices with other regions, reducing its total number of regional offices from 32 to 28. UBI has further reported that it planned to merge 55 of its loss-making and stagnating branches during the period 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, out of which it has already merged 18 branches during 2000-2001 and 27 branches will be merged during the current year.

[Translation]

Monitoring of Subsidies

3078. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to slash or stop subsidy due to mal-functioning of its subsidy providing mechanism;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to extend the subsidies to needy persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal before the Government to do away with the subsidies on items of essential consumption and agriculture inputs. It is, however, the constant endeavour of the Government to contain subsidies as far as possible within the budgetary provisions so as not to put strain on Government's attempt for prudent fiscal management.

(c) Government, in addition to supplying foodgrains to BPL population at 50% of economic cost under TPDS, is also implementing since March, 2001 the Antyodaya Scheme, under which one crore poorest of the poor families in the country would be provided with foodgrains at subsidized rates of Rs. 2/kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/kg. for rice, much below the BPL issue price of Rs. 4.15/kg. for wheat and Rs. 5.65/kg. for rice.

[English]

Stock in FCI Godowns

3079. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO:

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

(a) whether excess stock position has been reported in the godowns of the FCI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the capacity of godowns of FCI, Statewise, alongwith the quantity of foodgrains stored therein till date alongwith their period of storage during the last one year;

(d) the quantity of foodgrains, which has rotten in the godowns during the last one year, State-wise;

(e) the details of the remedial steps initiated to stop rotting of foodgrains in the godowns; and

(f) the amount spent on the maintenance and development of the godowns during the last one year, State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) The information is given in the Statement-I.

(d) Foodgrains are sometimes damaged due to long periods of storage, natural calamities like floods and unprecedented heavy rains with high velocity winds. The total quantity of foodgrains so damaged during the last one year was about 0.70 lakh MTs.

(e) The following measures are taken to prevent rotting/damage to foodgrains:-

- (i) Food Corporation of India stores foodgrains in godowns built on scientific lines, which are rodent and damp proof.
- (ii) Qualified and technically trained staff are deployed for periodical inspection and proper upkeep of foodgrains.
- (iii) Foodgrains are stored on scientific lines and pest control measures are undertaken regularly.
- (iv) Arrangements are made to keep sufficient quantity of chemicals at each depot/storage point for prophylactic and curative treatments.
- (v) Movement of foodgrains from one place to another is done in covered wagons as far as

possible. However, whenever stocks are moved in open wagons, the same are covered properly with tarpaulin etc. to avoid damage in transit.

- (vi) Sometimes, on account of acute paucity of covered storage accommodation as also movement constraints, the Food Corporation of India is compelled to store wheat and paddy in the open under scientifically designed system for temporary storage called CAP (Covered and Plinth). Following steps are taken to protect the foodgrains stored in CAP:-

- (a) Stocks are stored on wooden crates and covered with specifically fabricated low density black polythene covers which are water proof so as to protect the foodgrains from rains.
- (b) Nylon ropes are provided for proper lashing off the polythene covers to prevent damage by ballooning of covers during high velocity winds etc.
- (c) Polythene covers, monofilament nets, cover taps etc are procured in advance so that the stocks kept in CAP are protected from the vagaries of weather.

- (f) The amount spent on maintenance and development of godowns during the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 22.95 crores. State-wise details are as given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Statewise Total Storage Capacity (Covered & CAP), Stocks held as on 01.07.2001 and Stocks Under Storage for Last One Year

(Figures in Lakh Tonnes)

Name of the State	Capacity Covered & Caps)	Stocks as on 01.07.2001	Stocks under Storage for last one year
1	2	3	4
Bihar	5.26	4.72	3.24
Jharkhand	1.09	0.90	0.83
Orissa	6.21	5.42	4.90
West Bengal/Sikkim	10.65	7.39	4.69

1	2	3	4
Assam/	3.16	2.19	1.84
Arunachal Pradesh			
North Eastern States	1.19	0.66	0.54
Delhi	3.74	3.55	0.62
Haryana	24.86	24.37	18.65
Himachal Pradesh	0.25	0.16	0.15
Jammu & Kashmir	1.18	0.67	0.52
Punjab/Chandigarh	123.63	116.86	85.59
Rajasthan	18.78	16.50	6.01
Uttar Pradesh	36.57	35.74	17.64
Uttaranchal	2.93	4.61	—
Andhra Pradesh	34.92	38.95	36.52
Kerala	5.83	6.76	3.82
Karnataka	10.02	10.26	6.09
Tamil Nadu/ Pondicherry	11.76	11.70	7.69
Gujarat	9.98	6.66	2.10
Maharashtra/Goa	20.02	17.32	3.19
Madhya Pradesh	9.95	8.19	2.90
Chhattisgarh	8.57	8.10	3.64
Total	350.55	331.68	211.17
		+3.43(*)	
		335.11	

(*) 3.43 stock in transit.

Statement-II

Amount Spent on the Maintenance and Development of Godowns during 2000-2001.

Zone	State	Amount Spent During 2000-2001 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
North	Punjab	155.74
	Haryana	77.65

1	2	3
	U.P.	194.04
	Rajasthan	46.25
	Jammu & Kashmir	37.98
	Delhi	36.80
	Himachal Pradesh	0.21
	Total	548.67

1	2	3
	Conversion of Weighbridges	53.83
South	Tamil Nadu	84.93
	Andhra Pradesh	242.91
	Karnataka	67.76
	Kerala	129.21
	Total	524.81
	Conversion of Weighbridges	26.75
West	Maharashtra	230.26
	Gujarat	104.39
	Madhya Pradesh	158.53
		493.18
Zone	West Bengal	218.29
East	Bihar	145.75
	Orissa	101.60
		465.64
North-East Assam		146.60
	Shillong	35.70
		182.30
Total		Rs. 22.95 crores

[Translation]

Annual Sales of Super Bazar

3080. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the annual sale of the Super Bazar during the each of last three years;

(b) the year on which the Accounts of Super Bazar have been Audited;

(c) the details of the discrepancies/irregularities noticed by the Auditors in the accounts maintained by Super Bazar during the above period; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The annual sale of the Super Bazar during the last three years are as under:-

1998-1999	Rs. 12,527.27 lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 8,167.35 lakhs
2000-2001	Rs. 3,713.47 lakhs (unaudited)

(b) The accounts of Super Bazar have been audited up to 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) The annual reports and audited statements of accounts, which include the audit reports on the accounts for the above said period are yet to be considered by the General Body of Super Bazar.

[English]

Custom Office at Haldia

3081. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open full-fledged Custom Office at Haldia of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) A Custom House is already functional at Haldia Port. The Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is being introduced at Haldia and M/s CMC has started preparation of site installing the System. Purchase of land for office building is under consideration.

Restructuring of Customs and Excise Department

3082. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to restructure the Customs and Excise Department;

(b) if so, the details of the restructure plan under the consideration of the Government; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government has recently approved the cadre restructuring for the field formations under the Central Board of Excise & Customs excluding certain technical cadres.

(b) and (c) The restructuring plan aims at improved efficiency, additional mobilisation of resources, better accessibility to Trade and Industry, down-sizing of the Department and improved management of career prospects. Action has been initiated to implement it.

Suggestions of Planning Commission

3083. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested radical changes in the food policy and advocated greater role for the private sector and immediate corrections in the distorted PDS;

(b) whether the draft approach paper prepared by the panel has pointed out that the challenge was to reduce foodstocks to roughly half its present level and use it for reducing malnutrition, without adversely affecting the farmers;

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

(d) the details of the other recommendations made by the Commission;

(e) whether the Government have considered these recommendations; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (f) The Planning Commission has explored various approaches of dealing with PDS during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. However, the Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved by the National Development Council and has not been finalised.

Disinvestment of Air India and Indian Airlines

3084. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since decided to sale forty percent share of Air India and Indian Airlines to Singapore Airlines and Tata in the ratio of 26:14 percent at the lower price fixed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Government has not yet taken any decision regarding the strategic buyer and/or the price for disinvestment of its equity either in Air India or in Indian Airlines.

(b) Does not arise.

Damaged Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

3085. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has more than 4,00,000 tonnes of damaged foodgrains in storage which is unfit for human consumption;

(b) whether the foodgrains have damaged because of lack of storage technology with Government;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to upgrade the available technology or to introduce new technology for storage of foodgrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the value of the damaged foodgrains in the godowns of FCI at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. As on 1st of July 2001, the quantity of damaged foodgrains was 1.82 lakh tonnes out of F.C.I.'s total stock of 327.06 lakh tonnes, which is only around 0.56% of the stock.

(b) No, Sir. The FCI undertakes storage of foodgrains in scientifically build godowns and in a scientific manner. The quality and condition of stocks is monitored by undertaking periodic inspections at regular intervals. Necessary, prophylactic and curative disinfestations treatments are undertaken for preservation of the foodgrain stocks.

(c) and (d) In order to reduce storage and transit losses of foodgrains, and to introduce modern technology of bulk handling, storage and transport of foodgrains, the Government has announced a national policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains. The policy envisages harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to build and operate infrastructure for bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains. The policy also envisages creation and operation of conventional storage godowns by private sector for storage of foodgrains of the FCI on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.

(e) The value of the damaged foodgrains in the godowns of FCI at present is of Rs. 6.04 Crores approximately.

Creation of Additional Storage Facility

3086. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to build additional storage capacity for grains and have floated global tenders for grain silos in 20 different locations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the silos will have grading system for different varieties of grains to ensure better quality assessment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) With a view to minimise storage and transit losses and to introduce modern technology in bulk grains handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains, the Government proposes to create bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities at 10 locations in producing and consuming areas through private sector participation. However, International Competitive Bids (ICB) for these facilities are yet to be invited. In the first stage, Expression of interest from interested parties would be invited by RITES on behalf of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) after which ICB from shortlisted parties shall be invited.

(b) The FCI, has identified following ten locations with a total capacity of 21 lakh tons for the creation of bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Place	Capacity
Procuring States			
1.	Punjab	i. Nabha	3 Lakh Tonnes
		ii. Barnala	do
		iii. Moga	do
2.	Haryana	i. Sirsa	3 Lakh Tonnes
		ii. Kaithal	do
Consuming States			
3.	West Bengal	i. Hooghly	1 Lakh Tonnes
4.	Tamil Nadu	i. Chennai	1 Lakh Tonnes
		ii. Coimbatore	do
5.	Karnataka	i. Bangalore	1 Lakh Tonnes
6.	Maharashtra	i. Navi Mumbai	2 Lakh Tonnes
Total			21 Lakh Tonnes

In addition, it has been decided to create facilities for 1 lakh MT at the port town of Pipavav (Gujarat) through Central Warehousing Corporation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) These infrastructures will have modern facilities for monitoring the quality of foodgrains at the time of receipt and despatch. Mechanised facilities for fumigation of foodgrains from insect control, aeration and turnover will also be available.

Betting on Films

3087 SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports have appeared in the press that after cricket betting scandal, bookies have started betting on films;

(b) if so, the modus-operandi of their evil design; and

(c) the steps proposed to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, "Police" is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, as such registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

VRS in LIC & GIC

3088. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce VRS for the employees of GIC and LIC;

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

(c) whether the VRS on the lines of banks; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal under consideration of Government for introducing Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in GIC and LIC.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Problem Faced by Exporters

3089. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading exporters and Chairman of the Export Promotion Councils have complained against some of the recent notification issued by the Central Board of Excise and Customs;

(b) if so, the details of the objections raised by the exporters; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problems faced by the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Subsequent to the announcement of the All Industry rates of duty drawback for various export items notified vide Notification No. 29, dated 1st June, certain representations were received from some Export Promotion Councils/Associations and individual exporters against the inadequacy of All Industry rates of drawback fixed for certain categories of export products. Considering their request and taking into account fresh data submitted by them and further quick studies of the average incidence of input duties suffered, the All Industry rates of drawback were revised upwards in respect of garments, leather Products including footwear and handicraft items on 22nd June, 2001.

Income Tax on MTNL

3090. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the licence fee paid by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to the Government for providing telecom services is not treated as expenditure for deduction and exemption from total income for computing the income tax; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The assessing officer did not allow the claim of deduction in respect of the licence fee paid by the MTNL & BSNL as it was held that such payment is neither on account of overriding title nor, an expenditure incurred wholly and exclusively for the purpose of business under

the facts and circumstances of these cases. It was also held that payment is in the nature of diversion of funds in order to reduce the taxable income. The view taken by the assessing officer has been upheld at the level of first appeal.

Proposals of Bihar

3091. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some proposals from Bihar Government regarding declaration of Bihar as Industrially backward district, providing industrial policy on the line of Northern Eastern States, opening of branch of National Small Industries Corporation, opening of tool room and training centre, opening of Agriculture Research Centre, establishment of export centre and opening of craft export centre; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the relative geographical isolation, smallness of the region, low accessibility to markets outside the region and prevalent extra-ordinary circumstances, a special package of incentives was designed for the development of industry in the North-Eastern Region. It would be difficult to extend the similar package to the other region. The State of Bihar has been sanctioned five Growth Centres under the Growth Centre Scheme of Government of India. Apart from these, 27 districts have been categorised as backward district in the State and thus are eligible for income-tax benefits under section 80-1B of Income-Tax Act, 1961. The State Government has been advised to take full advantage of these schemes.

[Translation]

Loans to Small Farmers

3092. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to lower the rates of interest on the loans to be granted to the poor and marginal farmers for improvement of their economic condition, so that they can repay the amount of loan in time;

(b) if so, the details and the likely date of such announcement; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As per the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the rate of interest by banks on all advances depends on size of the loan. The loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs could be provided at any rate upto Prime Lending Rate (PLR) of the lending bank. In case of loans above Rs. 2 lakhs, the interest rate has been deregulated and the lending banks have freedom to charge interest linked to the overall quantum of loan at their discretion. However, RBI has no proposal to further lower the rate of interest presently.

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

Technical Faults In CNG Auto Parts

3093. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints regarding technical faults in CNG vehicles especially in CNG buses are received in large number causing financial losses to the vehicle owners;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the equipments used in CNG vehicles are very costly and are not generally available in shops; and

(d) if so, the measure taken by the Government to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) From the available records, it appears that while complaints in large number regarding technical faults in CNG vehicle specially in CNG buses have not been received, there have been press reports indicating a number of difficulties like shortage of gas etc. affecting the running of CNG vehicles in Delhi. The emerging issues, so far as they relate to Government of India are being addressed in respective Ministries.

Speeches of National Leaders

3094. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sell taps of speeches of Architects of modern India like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Subash Chandra Bose, Sardar Patel, Ravindranath Tagore for commercial use;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of leaders whose speeches are likely to be sold;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any rate for the recorded taps; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) For providing excerpts from the speeches/talks of VVIPs to the user agencies, to be used on occasions like birth anniversary, death anniversary etc. service charges are fixed by Prasar Bharati. The rates of service charges are periodically revised and the present rates are as under:

	Non Commercial purposes		Commercial purposes	
	Recordings Rs.	Transcription Rs.	Recording Rs.	Transcription Rs.
(i) PM/Presidents speeches (upto 15')	5,000/-	3,000/-	12,000/-	7,000/-
(ii) Reminiscences, Talks (upto 30')	10,000/-	7,000/-	25,000/-	15,000/-
(iii) Interviews (From 30'to 60')	25,000/-	12,000/-	50,000/-	25,000/-

[English]

Export of Electronic Voting Machine

3095. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to export electronic voting machines in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the countries which have evinced interest in purchase of these machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India has intimated the Bharat Electronics Corporation, Bangalore, and the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, that it has no objection to the export of these machines to other countries, subject to certain conditions.

(c) The Election Commission of India has reported that it has received preliminary enquiries for purchase of Electronic Voting Machines from certain countries like Malawi, Kenya, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Debt Recovery Tribunals

3096. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of Debt Recovery Tribunals and DRATs at present functioning in the country;

(b) the total number of cases filed in these tribunals during the last three years and disposed of by the tribunals;

(c) the number of cases pending at present in these tribunals as on July 31, 2001;

(d) whether these DRTs are sufficient to settle increasing number of cases being filed in every tribunal;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to set up some more DRTs in the country for speedy disposal of case and recovery of NPAs;

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

(g) whether settlement of cases by DRTs is time consuming and costly;

(h) if so, whether the Government propose to evolve some alternative channel of justice, which are cost effective and less time consuming; and

(i) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) At present 22 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) 5 in the State of Maharashtra, 2 each in the States of Tamilnadu, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi and one each in the States of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa and UT of Chandigarh and 5 Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs), one each in the States of Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi are functioning.

(b) The total number of cases filed in these Tribunals during the last three years and disposed of by the Tribunals in these years is as given below.

Year ending 31st March	No. of cases Filed (Progressive)	No. of cases disposed of (Progressive)
1998-99	27333	5937
1999-2000	37889	9825
2000-2001	47667	14462

(c) As reported by DRTs, about 35907 cases were pending in these Tribunals as on 31st July, 2001.

(d) to (f) To implement the provisions of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act) initially 10 DRTs and one DRAT were set up in the country. Keeping in view the workload on each DRT Government decided to set up more DRTs. At present 22 DRTs are functioning in the country. To make the DRTs more effective, Government have decided to set up 7 more DRTs, one each at Delhi, Calcutta, Vishakhapatnam, Coimbatore, Lucknow, Ranchi and Pune.

(g) to (i) Under Sub-section 24 of Section 19 of the Act, the application made to the tribunal is dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and endeavour is made by it to dispose of the application finally within six months from the date of receipt of the application. The rate of disposal of cases is not to the desired level on account of certain Court cases filed in various High Courts including the one filed in the Delhi High Court in which

the Hon'ble High Court had declared the DRT Act as unconstitutional and void. DRTs are at present working under a stay order granted by the Supreme Court against the order of the Delhi High Court. To make the DRTs more effective, Government have taken various steps such as amending the DRT Act, raising the number of posts per DRT, increasing the area of office accommodation, delegating additional administrative and financial powers to President Officers and making the DRTs and their officers and staff eligible for office/residential accommodation from general pool maintained by the Central Government at various places.

Corporatisation of Stock Exchanges

3097. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for the Corporatisation of all Stock Exchanges;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) With a view to improving institutional mechanisms and trading practices in the stock markets, Government proposes to demutualise all stock exchanges, by which ownership, management and trading membership would be segregated from each other. This would help towards;

- further professionalisation of the management of the exchanges and elimination of conflict of interests;
- improving adherence to the best practices of Corporate Governance;
- enhancing the ability to stock exchanges to raise funds from the market to modernise the exchanges and provide better investor service.

Government and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have initiated action in this regard.

Statutory Liquidity Ratio

3098. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give Reserve Bank of India more powers to lower the Statutory Liquidity Ratio;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the details of RBI's present powers in this regard; and

(c) the likely impact of such decisions of inflation and working of banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has submitted a proposal for amendment to Banking Regulation Act, 1949 which prescribes, inter alia, provisions relating Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). The SLR is a prescription by RBI under which banks are required to hold liquid assets in the form of Government and other approved Securities as a percentage of their total demand and time liabilities stipulated from time to time under Section 24 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The proposal for amendment to Banking Regulation Act, 1949 is under examination.

Cane Transportation Cost

3099. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pricing bodies such as Tariff Commission and BICP have included cane transportation cost as part of basic conversion cost in their recommendations till 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted their report and the zonal levy prices for levy sugar notified upto the season 1998-99 since 1959 was inclusive of cane transportation cost;

(c) whether the Government have directed the Cost Accounts Branch to recommend cane transportation cost after adjusting the element included in statutory minimum price of sugarcane be included as part of levy price as they had done in the past with BICP since 1992;

(d) whether the Government has included net cane transportation cost so recommended in the levy price notified for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; seasons; and

(e) if not, the manner in which the Government would justify their action in departing from a practice followed for the past 40 years of price fixing by denying net cane transportation cost in the levy prices notified for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 season?

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

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government had, inter-alia, included in the terms of reference for the cost study to be undertaken by the Cost Accounts Branch (CAB) to evolve a system which would determine the element of transportation cost in the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) and the actual transportation expenses incurred by the factories. The difference of the two can form part of the conversion cost.

(d) and (e) The Cost Account Branch of Ministry of Finance in their report of February, 2000 have mentioned that the cost of cane transport has already been included in the SMP of cane as recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) for each sugar season, and as such no further amount on this account becomes payable to the sugar mills in the levy price. If the sugar mills incur some extra cost on cane transportation, it is with a view to enhance their cane availability and sugar production and it results in enriching higher benefit through better free market sale of sugar. The Government after considering the recommendations of the expert body and other relevant factors, decided not to consider the cane transportation cost over and above the cane transportation cost already included in SMP for determination of the ex-factory levy sugar prices for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 sugar seasons.

Permission to States to Export Surplus Products

3100. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the heavy surplus stock of food, fruits and other items available with State Governments;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to permit the State Governments to export the surplus products available with them directly to foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) The policy of the Government to permit exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the

concerns of India's food security, maximizing firm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary, with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable. Export policy is being constantly updated and export regime in respect of agricultural products has been liberalized. Very few items are now either prohibited for exports, or their exports restricted, or are subject to quantitative ceilings. Anyone, including State Governments, can export agricultural products.

[*Translation*]

NABARD Funds for Cattle Projects

3101. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of NABARD to provide finance to purchase cattle has been implemented in various districts/States; and

(b) if so, the names of districts/States, where this scheme has been implemented and the number of persons benefited under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is an apex bank providing refinance assistance for financing agriculture and allied activities including dairy development in all States. NABARD has provided financial support to various financial institutions under dairy development during the last three years as indicated below:

Year	No. of units financed (lakh animals)	Refinance Support (Rs. crore)
1998-99	6.29	457.05
1999-2000	7.42	581.43
2000-2001	5.01	769.39

NABARD has reported that the scheme is implemented in almost all the districts of the country. However, the State-wise/District-wise break-up regarding the number of persons benefited under the scheme are not available.

[*English*]

Sale of Equity of Indian Oil Corporation

3102. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell off 10 percent equity in Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount expected to be raised by sale of 10 percent equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had accorded approval in May 1998 for disinvestment of 10% equity capital of Indian Oil Corporation Limited through GDR/domestic issue. However, in view of the market conditions, the GDR/domestic issue has not taken place.

(c) The realization through sale of the equity in the GDR/domestic market depends on a variety of factors including the prevailing market conditions, attractiveness of the company and its future performance, etc. Therefore, it is not possible to make an estimate thereof.

Separate Industrial Policy for Northern Hilly States

3103. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal are also backward and remote as the States of Northern-Eastern parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether there is separate industrial policy for Northern-Eastern States;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to announce a separate industrial policy for Northern Hilly States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal on the lines of Northern-Eastern States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) the North Eastern Region is one of the least industrially developed regions of the country, the reasons being the relative geographical isolation of the region from the main centres of trade and industry, inadequate physical infrastructure, smallness of the regional market and low accessibility to the market outside the region. In view of the backwardness of the region, a New Industrial Policy was announced on 24.12.1997 to stimulate industrial development of the region.

(c) and (d) Proposals have been received from the State of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal for a separate industrial policy. No proposal from State of Himachal Pradesh for a separate industrial policy has been received.

Export of Indian Vegetarian Foods

3104. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign countries where Indian vegetarian foods are becoming popular;

(b) whether the Government propose to find out the names of Indian vegetarian foods gaining popularity, country-wise;

(c) whether such study will boost export of Indian vegetarian foods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The countries in which Indian vegetarian foods is becoming popular include UK, USA, Germany, Canada Middle East and Far-East.

(b) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has conducted a study to assess the market potential of Indian food items in selected countries namely, Bulgaria, Cze-Republic, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, UK and USA. The vegetarian food items which are popular in these countries include savories, sweet candies, fresh sweets, fresh light meals, instant ethnic snack mixes, ready to cook food items and curries.

(c) and (d) The study report indicates the acceptance of Indian food items in various countries. In that regard, the Government has taken the following steps to promote Indian food items including vegetarian food items abroad:

- (i) APEDA has been participating and encouraging participation of exporters in major international specialised food trade fairs including Ethnic Foods Trade Fair held annually in Birmingham, UK.
- (ii) APEDA has been providing assistance to exporters of Indian food products which include assistance for sending samples abroad, bringing out brochures/advertisement, film, etc., release of advertisement in foreign magazines/publications for greater awareness, development of suitable packaging standards, establishment of ISO or HACCP quality systems and training to the personnel through HRD.
- (iii) In the budget for 2001-02, food preparations based on fruits and vegetables have been completely exempted from excise duty.

Financing Co-Operative Sector Units

3105. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public financial institutions like IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, IRBI, LIC, GIC and UTI finance Co-operative sector units; and

(b) if so, the details of Co-operative sector units financed by public financial institutions so far Financial Institution-wise and Industry-wise during the last two years?

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

Irregularities in Super Bazar

3106. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Super Bazar Officer suspended for graft" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 14, 2001;

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

(c) whether the Government have enquired into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to check recurrence of such irregularities in Super Bazar?

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

(b) to (d) Serious irregularities were detected in the award of contract of "Sant Longowal Tower" in Rajendra Place, New Delhi to M/s V.V. Construction & Company. Tender procedure has been violated and prior approval of Board of Directors of Super Bazar had not been obtained. Taking note of the role of Sh. S.P. Pathak, former Managing Director, Super Bazar and Sh. S.P. Nayyar, Chief Vigilance Officer, Super Bazar and pending initiation of departmental proceedings for major penalty against them, Sh. Nayyar has been placed under suspension and proposal for suspension of Sh. Pathak has been referred to the cadre controlling authority.

CBI have also registered an FIR against Sh. S.S. Dhuri, former Chairman, Super Bazar, Sh. Harcharan Josh, former Member of the Board of Directors of Super Bazar, and Sh. J.S. Sidhu, former Chief Engineer-cum-Security Officer, Super Bazar in this case.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) It is expected that strict action against those involved in irregularities of this nature will check such irregularities in future.

Fraud in Banks

3107. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to unstarred Question Nos. 5050 and 4157 on April 24, 2001 and December 15, 2000 respectively regarding "Fraud in Banks" and state:

(a) whether the Government have received the requisite information from all the concerned banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of money involved in these bank frauds, bank-wise and;

(d) the details of action taken against bank officials including the steps taken to recover the money from them?

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

(b) to (d) A statement showing details of cases of frauds/opening of bogus accounts detected in branches of associate banks of the State Bank of India at Mumbai and Delhi during the year 2000, amounts involved therein and action taken against persons found responsible in each case is enclosed. Banks filed civil and criminal suits against the officials and party concerned for recovery of the amounts involved, besides taking disciplinary action against the officials involved in fraud cases.

Statement

The number of cases of fraud/opening of bogus accounts detected in associate banks of SBI branches of Mumbai and Delhi during the year 2000

S.No.	Name of the Branch	Date of detection	Amount involved (in Rupees)	Action taken against persons found responsible
1	2	3	4	5
1.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur			
(i)	Service Branch, Mumbai	04.05.2000	7,020.00	Administrative warning given to one Officer.
(ii)	Nehru Place, New Delhi	13.06.2000	4,21,28,000.00	One manager was suspended.
(iii)	Nehru Place, New Delhi	07.07.2000	29,30,000.00	One manager was suspended.

1	2	3	4	5
	(iv) Chandni Chowk, New Delhi	13.09.2000	57,13,428.00	One officer suspended.
2.	State Bank of Hyderabad		-Nil-	
3.	State Bank of Indore		-Nil-	
4.	State Bank of Mysore		-Nil-	
5.	State Bank of Patiala			
	(i) Palam Extension, New Delhi	09.02.2000	25,637.50	Two clerks exonerated and charge-sheets issued to two officer for minor penalty proceedings.
	(ii) Palam Extension, New Delhi	05.05.2000	5,538.00	One clerk exonerated and charge-sheets issued to two officer for minor penalty proceedings.
6.	State Bank of Saurashtra		-Nil-	
7.	State Bank of Travancore		-Nil-	

Watchlist of Super 301

3108. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has placed India, European Union, Japan and 10 other countries on the "watchlist" of Super 301 and Special 301 provisions of its trade law for imposing "unfair" trade barriers on American products or for violation of intellectual property rights;

(b) if so, the likely effect of this Super 301 and Special 301 watchlist on the Indian trade;

(c) whether India has lodged a protest against this move; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) In the 2001 Section 301 report of the United States Trade Representative 16 trading partners of the US, including India and the European Union (EU) have been placed under the category of 'priority watch list'. No legal consequences

follow from the placing of any country by the US either in the 'watch list' or in the 'priority watch list'.

Sex In Films

3109. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether sex, violence, vulgarity are on the rise even after the film is certified by Censor Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such scenes in the films are harming the young minds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The guidelines for certification of films, issued under section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, discourage presentation of scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner, scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape or molestation etc. in films. With a view to ensuring exhibition of a film only in its certified form, CBFC has hired, on a test case basis, a

private detective agency, to carry out regular checks in theatres in the four metropolitan cities, and report cases of violation to the concerned State authorities for prompt investigation and possible prosecution.

Public Financial Institutions

3110. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are, two different types of public financial institutions i.e. one under Companies Act, 1956 and the other under Public Financial Institutions (Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a need to have an uniformity in the definition of Public Financial Institutions;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering to amend both the Acts to have uniformity in the definition of PFIs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these amendments are likely to be made?

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

(b) The Public Financial Institutions (PFIs) (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983 provide for obligations of PFIs as to fidelity and secrecy and it prohibits PFI from divulging any information relating to, or to the affairs of, its constituents. The definition of PFIs under the said Act does not include all the institutions names as such under the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) to (f) Ordinarily, a definition in the Act is relevant in the context of the objectives to be achieved. There is no proposal before the Government at present to amend these Acts from the above point of view.

Regulatory Authority for Mutual Fund

3111. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Net Assets Value (NAV) of most of the Mutual Funds are adversely affected as they do not take care of the interest of small investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up regulatory authority for Mutual funds to protect the interest of small investors;

(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) Mutual fund schemes which invest predominantly in debt instruments, are not affected by fluctuations in stock markets. However schemes which invest in equity or equity related instruments, are affected by the trends in stock markets.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that during the financial year 2000-2001 the BSE 30 index and BSE 200 index have declined by 28.91% and 41.98% respectively. This has had an impact on equity-oriented mutual fund schemes.

(c) to (e) In accordance with the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992, SEBI regulates mutual funds. The SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations were notified in 1996. Further, guidelines have been issued from time to time to ensure orderly functioning of mutual funds.

LPT for Jagatsinghpur, Orissa

3112. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that despite the existence of one HPT at Cuttack, DD Metro Channel and twenty-four hours Oriya News Channel are not visible in most parts of Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Government would consider the long pending suggestion for the installation of one LPT at Jagatsinghpur during the current year, 2001-2002; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has reported that apart from the coverage provided by the HPT at Cuttack, a Low Power Transmitter, functioning at Tirtol, is also relaying DD Metro Channel programmes for Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa. Prasar

Bharati does not operate a 24 hours Oriya News Channel. However, it does operate an Oriya Channel in the satellite mode, programmes of which can be received all over the country by using an appropriate dish antenna system or through the cable network.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati does not have any approved scheme at present to set up any TV transmitter at Jagatsinghpur.

Policy on Export of Iron Ore

3113. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated a review of the export policy on iron ore exports;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the total iron ore exports from the country in 2000-2001;

(d) whether the Government are considering putting a cap on such iron ore exports;

(e) the foreign exchange earned from such iron ore exports in 2000-2001;

(f) whether there is a proposal to close down iron ore mines, which are at the end of their utility and very costly from the ecological point of view; and

(g) if so, the details of steps proposed by the Government on iron ore and its exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government reviewed the export policy on iron ore during 2000-01 and decided that Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) would continue to be the canalizing agency for export of Iron Ore with Iron content 64% and above. However, Government has also been allowing private exporters who own iron ore mines to export High Grade Iron ore in order to bring in healthy competition and also in line with progressive liberalized policy.

(c) The total quantity of iron ore exported during 2000-01 is to the extent of 37.29 Million Tonnes.

(d) Under the current policy there exist a cap on the export of High Grade Iron Ore in the following manner which is valid up to year 2005-2006.

	(Qty. in Million Tonnes Per Annum)	
Bailadila Lumps	-	3.0
Bailadila Fines	-	3.8
High Grade Lumps		
(Bellary Hospet Sector)	-	1.2
High Grade Fine		
(Bellary Hospet Sector)	-	3.0

(e) The foreign exchange earned from Iron ore exports in the year 2000-01 is estimated at US \$ 620.50 Million.

(f) Government has no proposal to close down any such iron ore mines at present.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

FDI in Coal Mining Sector

3114. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the response of private entrepreneurs after allowing 100 percent FDI in private captive coal mining operations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) FDI up to 100% in coal mining activity was opened to private Indian companies in March 2000. This facility was earlier open only to electricity generation companies for captive consumption. Subsequent to this, no proposal for FDI in this sector has been approved.

[Translation]

Publication of Newspapers

3115. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI:
SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government have received requests in regard to publication of some new daily, weekly, fortnightly newspapers in the country during the last year;

(b) if so, the details of the number of requests received from January 1, 2000 till date, State-wise;

(c) the details of number of newspapers for which approval has been accorded, the number of requests still under consideration and the number rejected alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the number and the names and addresses of the dailies, weeklies and fortnightlies being published as on July 15, 2001 State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) During the period from 1st January 2000 to 1st August 2001, the Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) received 28,128 applications for verification of titles. Out of which, 18,852 were approved; 1,801 are under consideration and 7,475 were rejected, due to non-availability of titles in terms of provisions of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. State-wise break-up is given in the statement.

(d) As on 31.12.2000, a total number of 5,364 dailies, 17,749 weeklies and 6,553 fortnightlies were registered as newspapers with the RNI. The State-wise break-up and the details regarding the names and addresses of these publications to the extent normally compiled by RNI are available in the Annual Reports of the RNI titled 'Press in India'.

Statement

State-wise Break-up of Applications Received, Approved, Pending (as on 1.8.2001) and Rejected for Verification of Titles Between 1st January, 2000 to 1st August, 2001

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Received	Approved	Rejected	Pending (As on 1.8.2001)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	35	25	10	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1146	894	243	9
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	4	4	—
4.	Assam	145	90	53	2
5.	Bihar	225	159	56	10
6.	Chandigarh	109	87	9	13
7.	Chhattisgarh	111	75	32	4
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6	4	2	—
9.	Daman & Diu	4	2	2	—
10.	Delhi	3712	2284	928	—
11.	Goa	52	32	18	2
12.	Gujarat	1081	935	146	—
13.	Haryana	380	254	96	10
14.	Himachal Pradesh	98	63	33	2
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	102	91	8	3

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Jharkhand	35	16	14	5
17.	Karnataka	2369	1679	1160	30
18.	Kerala	1152	826	264	62
19.	Lakshadweep	3	2	1	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1685	1197	424	64
21.	Maharashtra	8111	4614	2237	1260
22.	Manipur	32	17	14	1
23.	Meghalaya	29	9	18	2
24.	Mizoram	69	52	16	1
25.	Orissa	565	424	138	3
26.	Pondicherry	35	23	8	4
27.	Punjab	335	228	98	9
28.	Rajasthan	525	444	60	21
29.	Sikkim	21	11	9	1
30.	Tamil Nadu	1820	1689	130	1
31.	Tripura	31	9	21	1
32.	Uttaranchal	145	75	34	36
33.	Uttar Pradesh	2994	1822	1010	162
34.	West Bengal	978	716	179	83
Total		28,128	18,852	7,475	1,801

*[English]***Fiscal Responsibility Programme**

3116. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the MOU system which set the tone for State level reforms, the Centre is now finalising an ambitious State Fiscal Responsibility Programme, which would dramatically change the State finances by 2004-05;

(b) if so, whether this scheme of expenditure is a good opportunity for States that wish to reform;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the core of the proposed State fiscal responsibility programme is the recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Centre is likely to implement this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) State Governments are autonomous under the Constitution and fiscal responsibility of the States is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments for which they are responsible to their respective legislatures. The State Governments take measures of their preference from time to time to improve their financial status.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, a scheme for the State's Fiscal Reforms Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05) has been drawn up to encourage them to draw medium term fiscal restructuring policy aimed at improving their financial position in the medium term. If the trend of improvement

as suggested in the scheme continues, the State Sector as a whole is expected to come into revenue balance by the Financial year 2005-06.

[*Translation*]

Proposals from foreign countries for Setting up of Industries

3117. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from foreign companies till date for setting up industries in India alongwith the names of those countries which propose to set up joint ventures;

(b) the total investment proposed to be made by these companies;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to find out the results in totality of setting up of these industries in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The Government has approved a total number of 12,907 proposals (including proposals for setting up joint ventures) involving Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amounting to Rs. 2,60,789.26 crore during the period August, 1991 to June, 2001. Country-wise break-up of FDI approvals is published in the monthly SIA Newsletter, which is widely, circulated to various establishments, including the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India conducts eight-yearly census survey on foreign collaborations in Indian industries. The last survey, which is the sixth in the series, covered the period 1986-87 to 1993-94. The findings of the Survey have been published by RBI in their publication entitled "Foreign Collaboration in Indian Industries - Sixth Survey Report", which was published in 1999.

[*English*]

Foreign Training Programmes

3118. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount has been spent on training programmes in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the amount spent on foreign training programmes for officers of his Ministry and undertakings during the last three years;

(c) whether it is prudent to spend such a huge amount on training programmes; and

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

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 House.

Import of Sugar From Pakistan

3119. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have imported sugar from Pakistan despite record domestic production during 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has not imported sugar from any country including Pakistan during 1999-2000.

As import of sugar in under Open General License (OGL), importers can import sugar from any country as per their commercial judgement. As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata during the 1999-2000 financial year, a quantity of about 54,826 MTs of sugar has been imported from Pakistan.

Money received through Disinvestment

3120. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money received so far and likely to be received by the end of current financial year by disinvestment of Public Sector undertakings;

(b) whether the money so realized is proposed to be utilized for clearing outstanding loans debts and other liabilities of the Government; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the money has been spent so far and proposed to be spent during this financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The receipts from disinvestment over the years, are given below:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Receipts from Disinvestment
1991-92	3,038
1992-93	1,913
1993-94	Nil
1994-95	4,843
1995-96	168
1996-97	380
1997-98	910
1998-99	5,371
1999-2000	1,829
2000-2001	1,869
Total	20321

For the current year, the target is fixed at Rs. 12,000 crore. However, the amount realizable from disinvestment would depend on factors like market conditions, financial performance of the companies under consideration, terms and conditions of sale, interest of bidders, attractiveness of the company and its future prospects. The process involves competitive bidding by different bidders. Thus, it is not possible to precisely estimate the receipts from disinvestment.

(b) and (c) As announced in the budget speech for the year 2001-2002, the receipts from disinvestment will be used for providing restructuring assistance to PSUs, safety net workers, reduction of debt burden as also for social and infrastructure sectors. The disinvestment

proceeds have been deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India like other receipts of Governments of India. The expenditures out of the Consolidated Fund of India include outlays for infrastructure sector, restructuring of Public Sector enterprises, social sectors like education, health and family welfare etc. The total expenditure incurred for these purposes had been much higher than the receipts from disinvestment.

Willful Defaulters

3121. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Debt Recovery Tribunal Act, 1993;

(b) if so the time by which this act is likely to be amended; and

(c) the amendments likely to be carried in the aforesaid Act?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Excise Duty Exemption for Jute Mills

3122. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether jute mills have been exempted from payment of excise duty for sale of jute bags;

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

(c) the revenue losses to the Government from above exemption per year since the exemption given;

(d) whether the Government propose to withdraw this exemption as the State Government of West Bengal continued to levy sales tax even when Government of India withdrew excise from jute mills 4-5 year back;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard from various Members of Parliament and other organizations;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) 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) All jute and jute products were exempted from excise duty in the budget 1997-98 to revive and give a thrust to the ailing jute industry.

(c) When the exemption was given in 1997-98, the revenue loss estimated was of the order of Rs. 65 crore a year.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present. The grant of excise duty exemption on a product does not depend entirely on the fact whether sales tax is leviable on that product or not. All relevant aspects are taken into account.

(f) No such representation for withdrawing exemption from excise duty on jute products appears to have been received in the Ministry of Finance.

(g) and (h) Does not arise in view of reply to part (f) above.

[Translation]

Production/Consumption/Export of Salt

3123. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production, consumption and export of salt during each of the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of employees engaged in salt works in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Gujarat is supplying about 3 lakh tonnes salt to Maharashtra, whereas Salt Commissioner, Jaipur has allowed only 58,000 tonnes;

(d) if so, whether regional officer, salt growers association and public representatives of Maharashtra have urged the Salt Commissioner to take immediate action in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The State-wise production, despatches and export of salt during the last three years are given in Statements-I, II and III respectively.

(b) The statistics with regard to the labourers employed in the salt industry are not centrally maintained. However, as per the information available with the Salt Commissioner, the number of labourers engaged in the salt industry and particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years was as under:-

	1998	1999	2000
All India	1,10,845	92,773	1,00,034
Maharashtra	3,698	2,798	4,290

(c) to (e) In the Zonal Scheme 2000-2001, originally there was a provision for movement of 25 BG rakes (equivalent to 58,000 tonnes) of salt from Gujarat to Maharashtra. The salt production in Maharashtra up to October, 2000 was estimated at about 1.5 lakh tonnes as against the total requirement of 7.5 lakh tonnes (including industrial use) of the State. Keeping in view the shortfall in salt production in the State, movement of 111 BG rakes (equivalent to 2,57,000 tonnes) of salt was allowed by the Salt Commissioner from Gujarat to Maharashtra up to December, 2000 to avoid scarcity of salt and to keep the prices under control. The salt manufacturers of Maharashtra, however, represented against this excess movement. The position was, therefore, reviewed by the Government and further movement of salt rakes under priority traffic from Gujarat to Maharashtra was stopped from January, 2001 to protect the interest of the local manufacturers.

A new Zonal Scheme for the year 2001-2002 issued by the Salt Commissioner in consultation with the salt manufacturers of Maharashtra, Gujarat, etc. in March, 2001 in which a provision of 72 BG rakes (equivalent to 1,67,000 tonnes) has been made for movement of edible salt from Gujarat to Maharashtra during the period between April, 2001 and March, 2002. In addition, it is estimated that about 293000 tonnes of salt may move from Gujarat to Maharashtra by road during the said period.

No representation has been received by the Government from any quarter after the Zonal Scheme for 2001-2002 was issued.

Statement-I**State-wise Production of Common Salt During 1998, 1999 & 2000**

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

S. Name of the State No.	1998	1999	2000
1. Rajasthan	1120.5	1711.1	1228.5
2. Gujarat	8716.8	10048.3	11588.4
3. Maharashtra	218.7	157.6	154.2
4. Karnataka	14.1	12.0	14.8
5. Goa	0.2	2.0	2.2
6. Andhra Pradesh	238.2	278.1	204.8
7. Tamil Nadu	1565.6	2159.9	2359.7
8. Orissa	38.4	29.2	12.2
9. West Bengal	6.8	13.2	11.2
10. Himachal Pradesh	2.4	3.0	2.6
11. Diu & Daman	42.7	38.3	72.7
Total	11964.4	14452.7	15651.3

Statement-II**Despatches of edible/non-edible salt from various production Centres to different consuming States**

(Figures in '000 Tonnes)

S.No.	Name of the State	Despatches		
		1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	916.9	692.9	643.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.8	4.7	4.5
3.	Assam	208.8	253.1	226.8
4.	Bihar	626.6	713.4	751.0
5.	Goa	2.3	3.2	3.8
6.	Gujarat	4084.9	4159.0	4904.9
7.	Haryana	73.4	112.6	154.2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10.0	9.3	7.3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	26.2	24.0	34.2

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	173.5	224.1	195.3
11.	Kerala	266.2	286.3	332.2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	543.6	594.0	580.8
13.	Maharashtra	533.7	507.0	655.7
14.	Manipur	4.2	1.8	0
15.	Meghalaya	10.4	2.9	0
16.	Mizoram	1.2	0	4.7
17.	Nagaland	4.6	7.1	10.8
18.	Orissa	219.3	213.7	221.9
19.	Punjab	169.1	236.4	211.7
20.	Rajasthan	261.6	245.8	228.3
21.	Sikkim	4.0	6.6	4.7
22.	Tamil Nadu	431.4	582.0	584.3
23.	Tripura	26.6	6.3	19.8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	974.9	1068.9	1141.7
25.	West Bengal	618.5	624.5	677.6
26.	Delhi	268.6	334.5	339.6
27.	Chandigarh	32.2	28.9	36.6
28.	Defence	5.3	10.3	7
29.	Pondicherry	59.4	53.6	47.6
30.	Diu & Daman	—	0.2	0.1
31.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.8	0.9	0.6
Total		10568.0	11008.0	12031.4

Statement-III*Export of Salt from Different States*

(Figures in '000 Tonnes)

S. No.	Name of the State	1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Gujarat	328.04	426.34	677.90
2.	Maharashtra	—	0.2	—

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Tamilnadu	78.81	402.44	371.97
4.	Rajasthan	—	—	6.96
Total		406.85	828.80	1056.83

[English]

Next Generation Reforms

3124. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated work on drawing up the blue-print for the next generation reforms in the foreign investment arena, which may further liberalise sectors such as telecom, DTH and civil aviation, besides modifications in guidelines on dividend repatriation by MNC, subsidiaries;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has constituted a high power committee, which will review the whole lot of policy measures taken so far and recommend new policy measures; and

(c) if so, the time by which Reserve Bank of India is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) As part of the ongoing reforms Government have permitted FDI up to 20% in DTH broadcasting subject to licensing, security requirements and broadcasting code; FDI up to 100% in airports; and FDI upto 74% in ISP with gateways, radio paging and end-to-end bandwidth subject to licensing and security requirements.

The dividend balancing condition hitherto applicable in 22 notified consumer goods industries has been removed with effect from 14th July, 2000. In other words, dividends declared on or after this date are fully repatriable.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

PDS and Sugar Industry

3125. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New PDS a boost to sugar industry" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 4, 2001;

(b) if so, the quantity of sugar released by the Government for free sale; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help the industry to clear the sugarcane dues?

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

(b) The monthly free sale quota for the period January-September, 2001 during the current sugar season 2000-2001 and the corresponding period in the previous sugar season 1999-2000 was as under:-

Months	Monthly Free Sale quota in Lakh Tonnes	
	Season	
	1999-2000	2000-2001
January	8.00	8.25
February	8.25	8.50
March	8.50	9.00
April	9.00	10.50
May	9.50	11.00
June	9.00	10.50
July	8.50	9.50
August	8.50	9.50
September	9.00	10.00
	78.25	86.75

(c) This additional quantity of 8.50 lakh MTs. of free sale sugar was released in the open market during January — September, 2001 over the corresponding period in the last season with the objective to help sugar industry realize more and return clear the cane price dues in time.

Auction of Nepali Tea

3126. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Nepal is selling cheap Darjeeling tea overseas posing a threat to Indian tea industry;

(b) if so, whether many plantations have come up in Terai region of Nepal growing Darjeeling type tea which sell at 1/3 the price at which Indian Darjeeling tea is sold abroad;

(c) if so, whether the Tea Board has sought the permission of the Government to conduct auction in Kolkata for Nepal made tea thereby ensuring a better price and quicker payment for Nepali tea growers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government/Tea Board do not have any such information. However, in order to prevent the entry of Nepal Green Tea Leaves into Darjeeling Plantation District, Tea Board has requested Government of West Bengal to take necessary measures to see that green leaves from Nepal are not used in the manufacture of Darjeeling tea. Further, to avoid any possible infringement in relation to teas produced in Darjeeling District in the State of West Bengal, Tea Board has introduced the Darjeeling Certification Trade Mark to maintain the distinct identity of Darjeeling tea. With the formation of National Tea and Coffee Development Board in Nepal in the year 1988, new tea plantations have started coming up in the Terai region of Nepal. The Government/Tea Board does not have any information on the sale price of Nepal Teas in different markets abroad.

(c) and (d) In the meeting of the Indo-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee held in December 1999, the issue of allowing participation of Nepalese tea producers

in Kolkata tea auction was discussed. Different Tea Producers' Associations of India have objected to the proposal of allowing participation of Nepalese tea in Indian auction including Kolkata auction. Hence the Tea Board/ Govt. of India have not decided to allow the auction of Nepalese Tea in India.

Raids on Hawala Dealers Financing J & K Militants

3127. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether massive raids have been conducted in Delhi to unearth and identify Hawala dealers who have been financing J & K Militants;

(b) if so, the details of such hawala dealers and the kind of incriminating documents recovered from them;

(c) whether the Red Fort operations was planned with the hawala money; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Raids were conducted by the Police to unearth and identify hawala dealers suspected of financing J & K militants. Assistance was rendered by the Directorate of Enforcement in these operations whenever intimated.

(b) to (d) Investigation has revealed that Mohd. Arif, Mohd. Ashfaq and Abu Hamid, who are allegedly involved in the Red Fort operation had received over Rs. 37 lakh as hawala money. In another case Feroz Ahmed and Sayed Tantrik have been identified as recipients of hawala money to the tune of Rs. 15 lakh.

Rice Stock in Tamil Nadu

3128. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice stock in the godowns of Tamil Nadu are unfit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove this fallacy and provide good quality rice?

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

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As on 1st July, 2001, the damaged rice unfit for human consumption in FCI godowns of Tamil Nadu was 513 MT., out of a total stock of 9.7 lakh M.T., which is only around 0.05%.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are distributed:

- (i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Government/ UTs to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.
- (ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UTs that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.
- (iii) The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UTs and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops for the benefit of consumers.
- (iv) The Officers of the State Governments and the Ministry pay surprise checks of the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.
- (v) The officers of the Department designated as 'Area Officers' for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.

Money Laundering Activities

3129. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of United States of America categorising India as a country of primary concern;

(b) if so, whether the USA has passed observations regarding money laundering activities in India;

(c) if so, the details and observations;

(d) whether India is used as a money laundering activities by various persons, drug curtailers, etc;

(e) if so, whether India is unable to check financial abuse from tax evasion;

(f) if so, the observations passed by the USA and OECD; and

(g) the steps Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government is not aware of any official communication in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The possibility can not be ruled out.

(e) The intelligence/enforcement agencies concerned in the matter take appropriate action under the FERA/ FEMA, Income Tax Act and other Acts.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(g) A comprehensive legislation in the form of Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, to provide a deterrence to money laundering has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 2nd December, 1999. Subsequently, the Bill was tabled in the Rajya Sabha which referred to the Select Committee. The Select Committee has submitted its report, which is under consideration.

Task Force on Credit Requirement of Sea-Food Industry

3130. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether special task force on credit requirements of sea-food industry has submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any of the recommendations has been implemented so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) The Working Group set up by the Special Task Force on credit requirements of seafood industry has submitted its Report to the Government. The recommendations inter-alia cover bank

finance to marine products and sea food industry, creation of infrastructure with a view to provide hygienic fishing harbours/landing centres, setting up of a reconstruction fund for the marine products sector etc. The recommendations relating to bank finance have been forwarded to the Indian Banks Association and to various Banks financing seafood industry for adoption and application in individual cases. MPEDA has taken up the issue of improvement of hygiene and maintenance of fishing harbours/landing centres with several State Governments. The matter of creation of a reconstruction fund for the marine products sector is under Government's consideration.

[Translation]

Consumer Forums

3131. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to make changes in the functioning of the consumer forums;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for bringing about the changes;

(c) whether a provision is being made as per new changes being brought in the Government, wherein the consumer is to pay heavy fee for getting his complaint registered;

(d) the justification for charging heavy fee by the Government from the consumer for registration of his complaint for suffering the financial loss by accepting the sub-standard item after paying full price;

(e) whether the amount of fee is proposed to be uniform in all the States/Union territories; and

(f) the estimated revenue likely to be earned by the Union Government and State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) To facilitate the quicker disposal of consumer complaints, streamline the procedure and strengthen the powers of the consumer disputes redressal agencies, Government propose to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Some of the important amendments proposed to improve the functioning of the consumer disputes redressal agencies are as follows:

- (i) Creation of benches of the National Commission and State Commissions and holding of circuit benches;
- (ii) Prescribing time-frame for admission of complaint, issue of notices and disposal of complaint;
- (iii) Recovery of compensation amount ordered by the redressal agency through certificate case as arrears of land revenue;
- (iv) Provision for issue of interim orders by the redressal agencies.

(c) and (d) To discourage the filing of frivolous complaints and also to cover part of the expenses on service of notice, etc. an enabling provision for the payment along with the complaint of such amount of fee as may be prescribed in the Rules, has been included in the proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(e) The amount of fee is yet to be prescribed.

(f) This will depend upon the amount of fee prescribed.

[English]

Economic Law Panel

3132. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up an Economic Law Panel;

(b) if so, the main objective for the establishment of that Economic Law Panel; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Problems of Share Brokers

3133. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind strike observed by the share brokers recently;

(b) whether the Government are considering the demands of the share brokers on priority basis;

(c) if so, the time by which their demands are likely to be met;

(d) whether it was the ripe time to introduce the rolling system in the share market, whereas the economies of the several countries including India is in the grip of recession;

(e) whether the turnover of the share market has been affected adversely after introduction of the rolling scheme;

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

(g) the measures being taken by the Government to remove the cash crunch in share market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The representations made, inter alia, by brokers were to review: (i) introduction of rolling settlement, (ii) ban on deferral products, (iii) bank finance for brokers and investors. (iv) turnover fees.

Government has requested SEBI to examine the demands made by the brokers and to send SEBI's recommendations on the same.

(d) to (g) On March 13, 2001, Government had announced that rolling settlement would be extended to 200 category 'A' stocks by July, 2001 as a measure to improve institutional mechanisms and trading practices in stock markets. From July 2, 2001, rolling settlement has been introduced in scrips which includes all scrips which had the facility of Carry Forward. Rolling Settlement is an important capital market reform measure which brings in certainty of trades, reduces risk and delay in settlement and keeps "undue" speculation under control. Introduction of rolling settlement and abolition of badla are consistent with and a logical extension of the reforms that have taken place in the stock markets in the 1990s. Most of the decline in trading turnover occurred in March-April, 2001. The trading turnover has come down relatively less between June and July, 2001.

[English]

LIC and GIC Investment in Stocks and Shares

3134. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to investigate the investments made by LIC, GIC in the stocks and shares keeping in view the recent UTIs, US-64 scam;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any major irregularities in following investment norms by LIC and GIC have come to the notice of the Government;

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

(e) the details of investment made by LIC and GIC in stocks and shares and their present holdings, company-wise; and

(f) the policy of LIC and GIC for purchasing stocks and shares?

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

(b) Since no irregularities relating to investments by LIC and GIC have come to notice of the Government, the question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

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

(f) The investments of LIC and GIC are governed by the provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, the regulations for investments issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority and are regularly monitored by the Investment Committee of the Corporations.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan

3135. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total World Bank loan outstanding against India as on date alongwith the interest payable thereon;

(b) the time period within which the said loan is to be repaid including interest thereon;

(c) the scheme-wise, details of total loan amount utilized in various anti-poverty schemes during the last three years alongwith the results thereof;

(d) whether the funds meant particularly for poverty alleviation schemes have been diverted or misused; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The outstanding debt to the World Bank as on 31.3.2001 was Rs. 114021.30 crore. The interest payable depends on the movement of London Inter-Bank Offer Rate (LIBOR) from time to time. Based on past trends, Budget Estimates for 2001-2002 are Rs. 2162.13 crore towards payment of interest to the World Bank.

(b) Credits from International Development Association are repayable over a period of 50/35 years (depending upon the year of credit) including 10 years grace period while loans from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development are repayable over a period of 20 years with a grace period of 5 years.

(c) Poverty alleviation is one of the primary objectives of all World Bank assistance to India. In the last one year, however, three specific projects which seek to directly attack poverty have been taken up. These are the District Poverty Initiatives Projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. These projects seek to improve opportunities for the rural poor to meet priority social and economic needs through community driven participatory approaches and demand based investment decisions. The total assistance for these projects amounts to USD 321.6 million (equivalent to approx. Rs. 1500 crores). Since these projects have started recently, it is too early to evaluate them for results.

(d) No such instance has come to notice.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Transport Subsidy Scheme

3136. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of transport subsidy scheme in existence and locations thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend the scheme to some outer areas in the country especially in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The details of the Transport Subsidy Scheme are as contained in Notification No. F 6 (26)/71-IC dated 23.7.1971, amended from time to time.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal to extend the Transport Subsidy Scheme to any other areas/regions in India.

Deficiencies in PDS

3137. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have identified several deficiencies in the implementation of the present Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of PDS;

(d) whether the Prime Minister has advised certain changes in the system;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent of changes incorporated in the Scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Centre and State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the designated depots and making them available to the States, the responsibility of distribution of the essential commodities to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations.

As multiple agencies including a large network of FPSs are involved in PDS operations, the possibility of deficiencies in the implementation of the PDS cannot be ruled out. The State Governments have been requested to closely monitor the PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPS) and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the implementation of TPDS as a measure of social audit will make the system transparent and accountable.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Urban Cooperative Banks

3138. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has recently taken some monetary measures in regard to urban cooperative banks and export refinance facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other decision taken by RBI to improve liquidity of banks on CRR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has announced several measures specific to urban co-operative banks (UCBs) in the Monetary & Credit Policy, 2000-2001. These are:-

- (i) Prohibiting the urban co-operative banks from lending directly or indirectly against securities of shares either to individuals or to any other entity from 19-4-2001;

- (ii) Restricting their borrowing in the call/notice money market on a daily basis to 2.0 per cent of aggregate deposit of the bank as at the end March of the previous financial year;
- (iii) Restricting them to keep fresh term deposits with other urban co-operative banks;
- (iv) The proportion of Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) holdings in the form of Government and other approved securities as percentage of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) to be maintained by urban cooperative banks has been increased as detailed below:

Category of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)	Investment in Government and other approved securities as percentage of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL)	
	Present	Revised
Scheduled UCBs	15%	20%
Non-Scheduled UCBs		
UCBs with NDTL of Rs. 25 crore & above	10%	15%
UCBs with NDTL of less than Rs. 25 crore	Nil	10%

The measures relating to export refinance facility announced in the Monetary & Credit Policy do not relate to urban co-operative banks but for scheduled commercial banks only.

(c) In pursuance of the Monetary & Credit Policy, 2001-2002, the daily minimum requirement of 65% of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) has been reduced to 50% for the first seven days of the reporting fortnight; while continuing with the minimum requirement of 65% of the rest of the fortnight; this minimum requirement will be applicable to all seven days including the reporting Friday without any exception.

This measure will come into effect from the fortnight beginning August 11, 2001.

[Translation]

Reward to Informers

3139. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to give award to persons who provide information about defaulters of income tax, Excise and Custom duties and those who violate 'FERA'.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise number of persons who were given award in this regard during the last two years and the State-wise amount spent thereon as award?

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

(b) Guidelines are in force which provide for grant of reward to informants who furnish specific information of undisclosed income, wealth, gift and estate duty. Rewards are also given to informers, if the information leads to seizure and/or detection of evasion of duty under the Custom Act and Central Excise Act. There is also a scheme to give rewards to persons who provide information about defaulters under FERA.

(c) The State/Zone-wise details of rewards given during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 relating to income tax and FERA cases, are as follows:

(i) Income Tax cases:

State	No. of persons	Amount Sanctioned/ paid (Rs.)
Gujarat	49	22,15,600
West Bengal	68	40,87,697
Bihar & Jharkhand	12	15,61,409
Maharashtra	66	63,36,111
Goa & Karnataka	48	48,03,402
Andhra Pradesh	28	16,97,881
Punjab	10	5,05,200
Kerala	26	29,53,000
M.P. & Chhattisgarh	7	2,63,895
Tamil Nadu	70	33,42,000
U.P. & Uttaranchal	17	6,02,000
Delhi	35	37,11,000
Rajasthan	42	24,25,000

(ii) FERA Cases:

Zone	No. of persons	Amount Sanctioned/ paid (Rs.)
Ahmedabad	5	3,64,200
Bangalore	1	1,28,000
Calcutta	3	1,75,700
Chennai	5	1,42,700
Delhi	7	33,18,620
Jalandhar	1	21,800
Mumbai	2	1,15,100

[English]

Production and Supply of Sugar

3140. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production and supply of sugar in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the sugar factories in private sectors are performing better than the Public Sector and Co-operative sector sugar companies;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government have any plans to assist the public and Co-operative sector in the production and sale of sugar in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The requirement of sugar of the States/UTs is met with partly from the sugar distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS) which has a fixed quota for each State/UT and partly from the free sale sugar available in the open market for which there is no restriction of movement, and as such, it is not possible to assess the State/UT-wise domestic demand/requirement of sugar. Statements I and II showing State/UT-wise production of sugar and allotment of levy sugar for the sugar season (Oct.-Sept.) 1999-2000 are enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Government of India does not maintain profit and loss account of the sugar mills and

as such, it is not possible to comment upon the performance of the various sectors of the sugar industry.

(d) and (e) The production of sugar depends upon various factors like availability of sugarcane, quality of sugarcane, recovery percent cane, technical efficiency of the sugar mills etc. The Government of India provides financial assistance to the sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) on soft terms for cane development and modernization/re-habilitation as well as for expansion of capacity.

The sale of sugar is the responsibility of individual sugar mills. The Government of India does not provide any assistance in this regard.

Statement-I

State-wise Production of Sugar

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

State	Sugar Season 1999-2000* (P)
Punjab	3.90
Haryana	4.75
Rajasthan	0.14
Uttar Pradesh	45.76
Madhya Pradesh	1.03
Gujarat	11.41
Maharashtra	64.68
Bihar	3.70
Assam	0.04
Orissa	0.53
West Bengal	0.07
Nagaland	—
Andhra Pradesh	11.78
Karnataka	15.78
Tamilnadu	17.08
Pondicherry	0.48
Kerala	0.13
Goa	0.15
All India	181.41

* P- Provisional

Statement-II

State-UT-wise levy sugar quota of the Sugar Season, 1999-2000.

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Quota in Tonnes
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	367087
2.	Andaman Nicobar	4123
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	8059
4.	Assam	186706
5.	Bihar	482076
6.	Chandigarh	4641
7.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	860
8.	Delhi	169094
9.	Goa	6997
10.	Daman	640
11.	Diu	
12.	Gujarat	227616
13.	Haryana	92722
14.	Himachal Pradesh	45755
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	69949
16.	Karnataka	249794
17.	Kerala	158382
18.	Lakshadweep	1211
19.	Madhya Pradesh	377398
20.	Maharashtra	431191
21.	Manipur	17093
22.	Meghalaya	16491
23.	Mizoram	6438
24.	Nagaland	11428
25.	Orissa	175641

1	2	3
26.	Pondicherry	6837
27.	Krikal	
28.	Mahe	
29.	Yanam	
30.	Punjab	110934
31.	Rajasthan	251208
32.	Sikkim	3807
33.	Tamil Nadu	301093
34.	Tripura	25647
35.	Uttar Pradesh	801512
36.	West Bengal	375996
Total		4988426

Say: 49.88 Lakh Tonnes.

Amendment in Income Tax Act, 1961

3141. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Committee to suggest necessary changes in the Income Tax Act, 1961 so as to tax e-commerce companies;

(b) if so, whether the said committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the main recommendations of the said committee; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to incorporate such recommendations in income tax laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A Committee was constituted to examine inter alia the position of e-commerce transactions under the existing law and the changes that may be required in the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the tax treaties with other countries.

(b) The Committee submitted its final Report on the 6th of August 2001.

(c) and (d) Comment of the public would be invited. The Report of the Committee will be examined along

with the suggestions received from the public thereafter necessary consequential action shall be taken.

Economic Liberalisation

3142. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he attended the meeting of the World Bank-IMF and conveyed India's intentions of economic liberalisation;

(b) if so, whether he has urged Japan to reform its financial sector and the European Union to relax its rigid labour markets to stave-off a global economic slowdown;

(c) whether India has also urged the West to more generous in providing foreign aid; and

(d) the extent to which India has got response in these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Finance Minister attended the Spring Meeting of the World Bank/IMF held on 29th and 30th April 2001. The Finance Minister pointed out that India was firmly settled on a high growth trajectory and was well into the agenda for the second generation of structural reforms. The economy had successfully overcome the difficulties of the early 1990s through a calibrated programme of far reaching structural adjustments. The Finance Minister had also urged that the structural weaknesses in the banking sector in Japan should be redressed. He also pointed out that the European Union should address removal of labour and product market rigidities.

(c) The Finance Minister also urged the industrialised countries to take steps to increase development assistance.

(d) These meetings are an opportunity to express India's viewpoint and thus seek to influence the working of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Import of Edible Oil

3143. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for imported edible oil has declined considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the quantity of edible oil imported during the last two years; and

(c) the edible oil proposed to be imported during the year 2001-2002?

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) As per the EXIM Policy import of edible oils except coconut oil is under Open General Licence (OGL). As such, the quantity of import would depend upon the commercial judgement of the importers.

Export Growth Target

3144. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

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

(a) whether the Government have slashed export growth target during current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether exporters have been consulted before slashing the export growth target;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the target of exports fixed for the year 2000-2001 could not be achieved;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the export growth target during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) During the year 2001-02 the export target has been fixed at US \$ 49733.15 million which is a growth of 12.19% over the total merchandise export recorded in 2000-2001. This target for India's

merchandise export has been fixed after extensive consultation with various Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and Commodity Boards and taking into account the prevailing international economic conditions and the likely prospects for global trade growth.

(e) No, Sir. The total merchandise exports during 2000-2001 were valued at US \$ 44327.99 million which is a growth of 19.83% over the value of exports during the previous year. Thus the actual export growth rate during 2000-2001 exceeded the target of 18% set for the year.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralization, setting up SEZs, simplification of procedures, extending the EPCG schemes to all sectors and all capital goods without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim policy which includes setting up of Agricultural Export Zones, market access initiatives to assist the industry in R&D efforts, market research etc. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

Regional Rural Banks

3145. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RRBs are also given the facility of extending only 40% advances to priority Sector in which 18% to agriculture sector on par with National Bank Branches;

(b) if so, it is not against the very philosophy that the RRBs are the exclusive financial institution meant for agriculture and rural development; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for maintaining RRBs as exclusive institutions for rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are required to lend at least 40% of their outstanding advances to priority sector. Within the priority sector, RRBs are required to provide finance for agriculture as well as indirect finance to agriculture for various activities to the extent of at least 18% of the net bank credit on the lines of commercial banks. The above percentages are minimum to be achieved.

(c) The RRBs as an integral part of the rural credit delivery system continue to meet all genuine credit requirements of the borrowers in their respective areas of operations. The RRBs have been providing production as well as investment credit for agriculture and allied activities. They are also playing a crucial role through an innovative credit delivery mechanism by promoting the concept of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and linking them with bank credit, provision of agriculture crop loans through Kisan Credit Cards etc. The RRBs are also providing loans for rural industries, artisans, retail trade/business, small transport operation professional/self employed persons, consumption and other purposes in rural areas. The RRBs have been actively participating in various Government sponsored programmes viz poverty alleviation, employment generation etc.

Nominee on the UTI Board

3146. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the UTI Board of Trustees and their background;

(b) whether the Government have forfeited its right to have a nominee on the UTI Board of Trustees; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The present composition of Board of Trustees of UTI and their background is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) As per the UTI Act, Government appoints the Chairman in consultation with IDBI. Other Trustees are nominated by RBI, IDBI, LIC & SBI. From May, 1997 till 21 July, 2001 Government did not have a nominee on the UTI Board. IDBI has nominated Dr. J. Bhagwati, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on the Board of Trustees with effect from 21 July, 2001.

Statement

Sr. No.	Name of the Trustee	Nominating Institution	Educational qualification & Experience
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri M. Damodaran Chairman	Central Govt. (in consultation with IDBI)	Graduate in Economics & Law. IAS (1971): held various administrative posts.
2.	Shri K.L. Khetarpaul	RBI	B.Sc. (Hons), MA, Diploma in Journalism, CAIIB. Presently working as ED, RBI.
3.	Dr. J. Bhagwati	IDBI	M.Sc. (Physics), M.S. (Finance) Ph. D. (Finance). IFS (1976): held various assignments in India and abroad including the World Bank Treasury, presently Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance.
4.	Shri Rajendra P. Chitale	IDBI	Graduate in Commerce & Law, Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Practicing Chartered Accountant.
5.	Dr. V.V. Desai	IDBI	M.A, Ph. D (Economics). Presently working as Adviser, ICICI.
6.	Shri GN Bajpai	LIC	M. Com., LL.B. Presently working as Chairman, LIC.

1	2	3	4
7.	Shri Janki Ballabh	SBI	M. Com., CAIIB Presently working as Chairman, SBI.
8.	Shri D T Pai	Elected under section 10 (e) of UTI Act	M. Com., CAIIB Presently working as Chairman & MD, Syndicate Bank.

[Translation]

FICCI Observation on Indian Economy

3147. SHRI SADASHIVRAO:
DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has hinted that there is no sign of substantial improvement in the Indian economy in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the FICCI has suggested a four point scheme to tide over the economic recession;

(d) if so, the details of the said scheme and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to tide over the above situation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) have observed that the chances of a firm recovery are very elusive at least in the short term. A significant pick up in consumer demand would have to await a good khariff harvest in the second half of the fiscal year and prospects of a firm revival of investment demand hinges very much on boosting business confidence.

(c) and (d) The chamber has called for a four pronged strategy to reverse the slow down in the economy and to boost growth. The four points in the scheme are:

- (i) Implementing the promises made by the Finance Minister in his budget speech.
- (ii) Reviving Investment prospects through rationalisation of the corporate tax, abolition of Minimum Alternative Tax and restoration of investment allowance.
- (iii) Faster spending of the unutilized funds lying with the various ministries to help improve investment demand.

(iv) Stepping up the pace of disinvestments to help improve business confidence.

(e) Trends in the economy are closely monitored and steps taken to improve the growth prospects of the economy. These include removing bottlenecks in growth and development, rationalising and restructuring taxes, giving boost to infrastructure and industry and liberalising domestic and external sectors of the economy to enhance their growth potential.

[English]

Single Department for Rubber

3148. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to bring Rubber Board and Indian Rubber Manufacturers Association under one single department in order to cut down the losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in its 47th Report on Demands for Grants 2001-02 (Demand No. 10) of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) have recommended that the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion should explore the possibility of bringing the Rubber Board and the Indian Rubber Manufacturers' Research Association under one single Department to minimize costs and ensure greater coordination and efficiency in their operations. A final decision on the recommendation will be taken by Government (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) after considering various aspects.

Revival of Disinvestment Commission

3149. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to revive the Disinvestment Commission with new members;

(b) if so, the salient features of revival;

(c) the number of members appointed alongwith their qualifications;

(d) the extent to which the Government have agreed to take a decision on the disinvestment of major PSUs;

(e) the PSUs which are to be disinvested during the current year; and

(f) the methods adopted by the Disinvestment Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Disinvestment Commission has been reconstituted on 24-7-2001. Dr. R.H. Patil, Chairman, Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. has joined as the Chairman of the Disinvestment Commission. His earlier assignments included Executive Directorship of the Reserve Bank of India. He was the first Managing Director of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. Shri G. Ganesh, an IAS officer, is the Member-Secretary of the Disinvestment Commission. Other members have not yet been appointed.

Disinvestment Commission is an advisory body and its role and function would be to advise the Government on disinvestment in public sector units and other matters that are referred to it by the Government. It shall also carry out any such other activities relating to disinvestment as may be assigned to it by the Government. In making its recommendations, the Commission will also take into consideration the interest of workers, employees and other stakeholders, in the public sector unit(s). The final decision

on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission will vest with the Government.

(d) The Government's declared policy of disinvestment, as stated in the budget speech for the year 2000-2001, is to bring down the Government equity to 26% or below in non-strategic public sector undertakings, in the generality of cases. In cases of PSUs involving strategic considerations, Government will continue to retain majority holding.

(e) The following PSUs, which are at different stages, are expected to be disinvested in this year:- Air India, CMC Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd. (Phase I), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Indian Airlines, IBP Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., properties of India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., State Trading Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Jessop and Co. Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd., HTL Ltd., NIDC, Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd., Hindutan Salts Ltd., and Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.

(f) Disinvestment Commission did not adopt any methods for disinvestment. It had only recommended different methods or a combination thereof, for various PSUs it had examined. All disinvestment decisions are taken and implemented by the Government.

Trade With Iran

3150. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade with Iran is lagging behind due to lack of credit facilities;

(b) if so, whether during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Iran, the Indian businessmen met him and requested for providing credit facilities to them;

(c) whether BHEL has been the first credit line which is bidding for 400 MW power plant in Iran; and

(d) if so, the steps so far taken by the Government to boost trade between India and Iran after the visit of Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Despite complementarities in Indian and Iranian economies, the volume of trade between the two countries, excluding crude oil trade, is miniscule. Since 1997-98, India's commodity exports to Iran are on the decline mainly due to uncompetitive prices and lack of export credit. As regards other products like capital/engineering goods, textile and printing machinery, electronics, etc., despite Iranian businessmen's inclination for sourcing their requirements from India, the potential could not be exploited mainly because of absence of offer of export credit, medium to long-term (5-8½ years), by India. In contrast, western countries and some of the Asian countries have stepped up their exports of capital goods, services, projects and commodities through offer of credit facilities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present BHEL is not in the process of bidding for any 400 MW power plant under a Line of Credit. However, BHEL would like to utilise the Line of Credit of US \$ 200 million announced during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Iran, for power project supplies, as and when it is operationalised.

(d) Pursuant to the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to Iran, action for all the measures discussed during the visit, has been initiated and is in progress. BHEL, Embassy of India, Tehran, FICCI etc., have been discussing with various Iranian Organisations and apprising them of India's capabilities in various fields and also intensified efforts to convey emerging opportunities in the Iranian market. The Line of Credit announced during Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit shall further give boost to bilateral trade.

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

3151. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the companies, public sector undertakings that are under negotiations for disinvestment process during 2001-2002; and

(b) the market value of those properties as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The process of disinvestment is currently in progress in the following (PSUs):

Air India, CMC Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd. (Phase I), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Indian Airlines, IBP Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., properties of India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., State Trading Corp. Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Jessop and Co. Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd., HTL Ltd., NIDC, Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels, Hindustan Salts and Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.

A typical strategic sale/disinvestment includes, inter alia, selection of Advisors, inviting Expression of interests from prospects bidders, due diligence of the PSUs, finalization of transaction documents namely, Share Holders Agreement/Share Purchase Agreement, inviting financial/technical bids, evaluation of PSUs etc., before the transaction is concluded. The disinvestment procedure involves open competitive bidding to ensure transparency and does not involve any negotiations. The disinvestment of PSUs is in different stages of implementation.

(b) The valuation of the PSUs is undertaken in accordance with the standard national & international practices. The market value of the properties of each undertaking will be assessed before strategic disinvestment in the PSU is completed.

Directors of Banks Boards

3152. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether quite a number of banks both in the private and public sectors have stock brokers on their Board of Directors;

(b) if so, the names of banks having stock brokers on their Board of Directors;

(c) whether in the light of collusion between the stock broker directors and the bank management, stock brokers on the banks siphon off the large amounts from the banks for their illegal personal gains;

(d) whether the Government propose to ban the appointment of stock broker directors on the banks; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(d) and (e) A proposal has been received from Reserve Bank of India to debar stock brokers to become directors on the boards of Public Sector Banks. The matter is under consideration.

Tyre Production

3153. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tyre production during 2000-2001 has declined as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has further declined during April-May 2001 as compared to corresponding period of last year;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the production of tyre for better development of domestic automobile sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The total production of tyres has shown an increase of 3% during 2000-2001 (424.71 lakh nos.) as compared to 1999-2000 (414.13 lakh nos);

(c) and (d) During April-May, 2001 production of all categories of tyres put together has dropped by 3% (35,25,617 nos.) as compared to the same period in 2000 (35,44,752 nos.). This is largely on account of fall in production of commercial vehicles and in transportation of goods by road during this period;

(e) In the Union Budget 2001-02, Government has announced a reduction of 8% Excise Duty in the case of passenger cars (from 40% to 32%) and scooter/motor cycles (from 32% to 24%) which is likely to boost demand in the automobile sector. This, in turn, would provide an impetus to tyre industry by way of growth and demand from the original equipment segment.

Modernisation of Banks

3154. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Vasudevan Committee has recommended modernisation of the banking services for rendering more effective services to customers;

(b) if so, to what extent it has been achieved by the National Banks;

(c) whether any rating system for banks with regard to customers service has been instituted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Vasudevan Committee's recommendations mostly pertain to communication infrastructure in banks. Accordingly a satellite based network for the Indian financial sector, Indian Financial Network (INFINET) was commissioned by RBI in July 1999. It has about 643 VSAT. Meanwhile in accordance with direction given by CVC almost all the public sector banks have captured 70% of their business through computerization as on 30.6.2001.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Direct Investment Policy

3155. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's policy in regard to Foreign Direct Investment in the country;

(b) the details of sectors which have been opened for FDI, till date alongwith the percentage of FDI sanctioned for each sector;

(c) the details of sectors, which have not been opened for FDI till date;

(d) the details of sectors, which are under consideration of the Government for opening them for FDI; and

(e) the time by which decision on these sectors is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Foreign direct investment is encouraged to supplement Government's effort in domestic investment. Government has already put in place a transparent, dynamic and investor friendly FDI Policy thereby placing almost all activities under the automatic route for FDI up to 100%. The detailed guidelines, including terms and conditions of foreign direct investment (FDI), are duly notified by the Government from time to time. Based on these notifications the FDI policy and procedures are also published in the form of a Manual for the convenience of investors. The Reserve Bank of India in exercise of powers conferred on it by Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) has framed and notified the rules and regulations governing foreign direct investment. As part of the progressive liberalisation of the FDI regime, most activities have been placed on the automatic route under which the investing company only has to notify RBI within 30 days of inward remittance of funds as also issuance of shares.

(c) As per the extant policy FDI is not being permitted in the sectors of Agriculture and plantation, print media, atomic energy, railway transport, legal service, retail trade and real estate business.

(d) and (e) FDI policy liberalisation is an ongoing and consultative process involving consultations among various Departments and Ministries of the Government based on the sector specific requirements for FDI. Government have set up a Group of Ministers on FDI, which periodically reviews the FDI Policy, considers proposals for further liberalisation of the FDI regime, and recommends policy changes for the approval of the Cabinet.

Banks Investments and Advances in Capital Market

3156. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the recommendations made by the RBI-SEBI technical committee in respect of banks

investments and advances in capital markets, the RBI has announced certain amendments in its guidelines;

(b) if so, the main amendments made in its guidelines;

(c) to what extent these steps will prevent irregularities in investment norms;

(d) whether these guidelines with amendments are strictly been followed by the banks;

(e) if so, whether any monitoring committee by the RBI has been set up to monitor the results; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) RBI has intimated that based on the recommendations of the RBI-SEBI Technical Committee and comments received from experts, market participants on the Committee's Report, RBI has issued Revised Guidelines on Bank Financing of Equities and Investment in Shares, vide its circular No. DBOD BP. BC. 119/21.04.137/2000-01 dated 11th May, 2001.

The important amendments made in the guidelines relating to bank's investment in and advances to capital market are as under:

(i) The above circular dated 11th May, 2001 superseded the earlier circular DBOD BP.BC.51/21.04.137/2000-01 dated 10th November 2000. (ii) The ceiling of 5% prescribed for investment in shares/debentures etc. would henceforth apply to total exposure (including fund based and non-fund based) to capital market by banks in all forms. (iii) Non-fund based facilities and investment by banks in non-convertible debentures and other similar instruments (excluding CPs) would not be included in computing banks' total outstanding advances. (iv) For computing the ceiling on exposure to capital market, direct investment in shares by banks would be calculated at cost price of the shares. (v) Banks should not extend finance to corporate for investment in IPOs of other companies and NBFCs should not be provided finance for further lending to individuals for IPOs. (vi) In order to avoid any nexus emerging between inter-connected stock broking entities and banks, the board of each bank would fix within the overall ceiling of 5% a sub-ceiling for total advances to stock brokers/makers (both fund based and non-fund based i.e. guarantees) and to single stock broking entity including its associates/inter-connected companies. (vii) Instead of the existing margin of 25%

and 50% on advances against demat and physical shares, respectively, a uniform margin of 40% would be applied on all advances/financing of IPOs/issue of guarantees. A minimum cash margin of 20% (within the margin of 40%) would have to be maintained in respect of guarantees issued by banks. (viii) Bank should not undertake arbitrage operations themselves or extend credit facility directly/indirectly to stock brokers for arbitrage operations in stock exchanges. (ix) Banks should not undertake sale transactions in shares without actually holding the shares in their investment account. (x) There would be clear separation of decision making with regard to banks' investment in shares and advances against shares.

(c) to (f) RBI has intimated that CMDs/CEO of all banks have been advised to bestow their personal attention to implementation of the guidelines issued by RBI, particularly to the provisions relating to putting in place the risk management and internal control system in the bank. Further, the surveillance and monitoring of Banks' investment in shares and advance against shares would be done by the Audit Committee of the Board. In each of its meetings, the Board would review the total exposure of the bank of capital market in different forms (fund based and non-fund based). The Board has to ensure that the guidelines issued by RBI are complied with both in letter and spirit. Further, the Audit Committee of the banks should keep the Board informed about the banks' overall exposure to capital market and its

compliance with the RBI/Board guidelines, adequacy of risk management and internal control system.

Impact of Economic Reforms on Poverty

3157. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of impact of the recent economic reforms programme on the incidence of poverty in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): The average annual real GDP growth increased from 5.4 per cent during the 12 year period ending 1991-92 to 6.3 per cent during 1992-93 to 2000-01 based on revised estimates of GDP for 2000-01. Higher growth in GDP is the key to poverty reduction since the level, quality and growth of wages, incomes and employment in the economy is significantly affected by the overall growth in GDP.

The incidence of poverty expressed as the percentage of population below the poverty line declined from 54.9 per cent of the total population in 1973-74 to 36 per cent in 1993-94, and to 26.10 per cent (on a 30 day recall basis) in 1999-2000. (Statement showing table is enclosed). There is thus evidence of a substantial decline in overall poverty ratio in the country during the 1990s consequent to the higher growth rates registered during the period.

Statement

Estimates of Poverty

Year	All India		Rural		Urban	
	Number (Million)	Poverty Ratio (%)	Number (Million)	Poverty Ratio (%)	Number (Million)	Poverty Ratio (%)
1973-74	321	54.9	261	56.4	60	49.0
1977-78	329	51.3	264	53.1	65	45.2
1983	323	44.5	252	45.7	71	40.8
1987-88	307	38.9	232	39.1	75	38.2
1993-94	320	36.0	244	37.3	76	32.4
1999-2000						
30 day recall	260	26.10	193	27.09	67	23.82
07 day recall	233	23.33	171	24.02	61	21.59

Growth Centres

3158. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering to establish some more growth centres in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether allocation for the growth centres has been highly inadequate; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to increase the allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The criteria and guidelines for selection of a Growth Centre were decided by a Committee of Secretaries and representatives of All India Financial Institutions constituted in 1988 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission. On the basis of the criteria, finalised, 71 growth centres have been allocated to various States. Since then no additional growth centres have been allocated to any State.

Financial Transparency

3159. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Advisory Group on Fiscal Transparency has recommended that States may adopt a minimum set of rules for financial transparency to be achieved within a period of three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the other recommendations made by this Advisory Group;
- (d) if so, whether the International Monetary Fund has insisted that different States should adopt a code of conduct in this regard;
- (e) whether IMF has indeed pointed out that the States in India are lagging behind in meeting the standards of such a Code of Conduct;
- (f) if so, whether any high level meeting of officials has been called by the Government in this regard; and

(g) if so, when was the meeting held and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Advisory Group on Fiscal Transparency constituted by the Reserve Bank of India has recommended that the State Finance Secretaries' Forum could review the Report of the Advisory Group on Fiscal Transparency and determine a set of minimum standards on transparency which all State Governments should achieve within a three - year period.

(c) The main recommendations are as under:

- (i) the State Governments should be encouraged to increase the extent of reporting on contingent liabilities, major tax expenditures and on quasi-fiscal activities;
- (ii) the tax structure be simplified with greater use of information technology;
- (iii) the major categories of expenditure and revenue be projected for two years ahead from 2002-03;
- (iv) additional information on previous year data on both Revised Estimates and actuals should be provided in the Budget at a Glance;
- (v) the external liabilities in the Receipt Budget should be reported at the market exchange rate;
- (vi) a start should be made in presenting the information on fiscal risks based on the uncertainties inherent in the basic macro-economic projections.

(d) and (e) The report has not been submitted to the IMF and hence the issue of IMF response does not arise.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Loss of Trade Between India and Nepal

3160. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the border trade with Nepal has suffered a huge loss in crores of rupees after the killing of Nepal King;
- (b) if so, the total estimated loss as a result thereof;

(c) whether the normalcy has been restored in the border areas between India and Nepal; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the border trade has regained its original position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) As per media reports, there were some disturbances in Nepal including the areas close to the Indo-Nepal border which might have resulted in a slow down in the commercial transactions across the border. As there is a time lag between the commercial transactions taking place the figures of trade being compiled by the DGCIS, Kolkata, it is difficult to compare, at this stage, the quantum of flow of trade during this period and the corresponding period in the previous year.

(c) and (d) Department of Commerce have received no reports to the effect that bilateral trade between India and Nepal is presently not being conducted as it was done prior to the sad recent happening in Nepal.

World Bank Report on Fiscal Deficit

3161. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has expressed serious concern over India's fiscal deficit;

(b) if so, the details of the contents of the annual global development finance report;

(c) the details of fiscal deficit of the States;

(d) the details of the current account deficit of the country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Global Development Finance Report, 2000 published by the World Bank has drawn attention to recent developments in South Asia during 1999. As regards India's fiscal deficit the Report has observed that "the budget deficit of the Central Government (5-6 per cent of GDP) is likely to have well exceeded the Government's target (4.4 per cent of GDP). The large fiscal overruns of the States are also worrying."

(c) As per the Reserve Bank of India, the Gross fiscal deficit of all State Governments was Rs. 90,092 crore in 2000-01 (BE) compared with Rs. 94,739 crore in 1999-2000 (RE).

(d) The current account deficit, which was only about 1 per cent of GDP in 1999-2000, narrowed down to just 0.5 per cent of GDP in 2000-01. This is attributed to the dynamic growth in exports, sustained buoyancy in invisible receipts combined with the decline in growth of non-oil imports.

(e) With a view to achieving fiscal consolidation the Budget for 2001-02 emphasises expenditure management through the process of bringing about structural changes in the composition of Central Government expenditure, economy in non-plan revenue expenditure while improving the quality of expenditure. To this end the Budget contains a number of initiatives which among others include restricting fresh recruitment to one per cent of total civilian staff strength, user charges for services provided by the Government and its agencies to revised keeping in view the increased cost of these services etc. Further, with a view to reduce interest burden, most administered interest rates were reduced by 1.5 per cent as of March 1, 2001. Besides, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 was introduced in Parliament in December 2000. This Bill includes provisions relating to ceilings on debt, deficit and borrowing.

Wasteful Expenditure

3162. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines formulated to curb wasteful expenditure in the Ministries and Ministers offices; and

(b) the steps taken to implement these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) It is Government's constant endeavour to curb wasteful expenditure. In this context, instructions for austerity in Government expenditure are issued to all the Ministries/ Departments from time to time. The austerity measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses, reduction in per diem allowance for travel abroad, etc. Instructions have been issued at the level of Prime Minister to all Ministers

prescribing various austerity guidelines and calling for their strict observance.

[Translation]

Foreign Visits of Ministers

3163. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to notice of the Government that there has been spate of foreign tours organised for undertaken by various Union and State Government Ministers in violation of the guidelines laid down by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of foreign tours undertaken by the Central and State Ministers during the last 15 months ending December 2000;

(c) the expenditure incurred on each tour and outcome of tours;

(d) whether the P.M. Office has issued any afresh instructions in this regard in view of the precarious condition created by such action on the part of the Central and State Ministers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

India's Rank of Global Competitions

3164. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's rank has slipped to 41st position in the latest global competitiveness ranking for 2001 against the 39th position in 2000;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the India's ranking in global competitiveness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) According to the Global Competitiveness Report 2000, brought out by the World Economic Forum, India's growth competitiveness ranking (which summarises the factors contributing to future growth of an economy) improved to 49 in the year 2000 from 52 in the year 1999. The current competitiveness index ranking (which summarises the factors underpinning high current productivity and economic performance) also improved to 37 in 2000 from 42 in 1999. The improvements in rankings were due to the fact that India is ranked 5 in openness on export promotion, 1 in licensing of technology, 8 for availability of suppliers in quality of business environment, 3 in income tax rate, 2 in road infrastructure and 12 in value added tax (VAT). Besides, India's ranking has improved from 46 to 39 in finance and from 38 to 26 in technology transfer.

(c) Since 1991, India has undertaken credible reforms in industrial, trade, financial fiscal and public sectors for improving efficiency and productivity of Indian industries, and for imparting dynamism to the overall growth process. The improvements in various aspects of global competitiveness rankings are the results of the ongoing economic reforms in India.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, on behalf of DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See LT No. 3928/2001]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, on behalf of SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India — Union Government — (Civil) (No. 1 of 2001) — Accounts of the Union Government for the year ended the 31st March, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3929/2001]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India — Union Government — (Civil) (No. 2 of 2001) — Transaction of Audit Observation for the year ended the 31st March, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3930/2001]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India — Union Government—(No. 5 of 2001) (Scientific Departments) for the year ended the 31st March, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3931/2001]

- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India — Union Government—(No. 11 of 2001)—(Indirect Taxes—Central Excise and Service Tax) for the year ended the 31st March, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3932/2001]

(2) A copy of the Union Government Finance Accounts for the year 1999-2000 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3933/2001]

(3) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for the year 1999-2000 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3934/2001]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 293 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 17/2001-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2001.

- (ii) G.S.R. 399 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2001 together with an

explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 29/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.

- (iii) G.S.R. 400 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 48/99-Cus., dated the 29th April, 1999.

- (iv) G.S.R. 401 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 50/2000-Cus., dated the 27th April, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3935/2001]

(5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 396 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2001 notifying the changes in the location of the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Aurangabad, under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3936/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Recruitment Regulations, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. APEDA/SEC/GENL/30 in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2001 under section 34 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3937/2001]

12.01 1/2 hrs.

[*English*]

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Current Session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on 24 July, 2001:—

- (1) The Vaccination (Repeal) Bill, 2001
- (2) The U.P. Sugarcane Cess (Validation) Repeal Bill, 2001
- (3) The Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2001
- (4) The Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Decision (Repeal) Bill, 2001.

12.02 hrs.

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to inform that the following Government Business will be taken up in the House for the week commencing from Monday, 13th August, 2001:-

Consideration of any remaining item of Government Business listed in today's List of Business;

Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Indian Council of World Affairs Order 2001 and consideration and passing of Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2001;

Consideration and passing of the Bills mentioned below:-

(A) The Energy Conservation Bill, 2001.

(B) The Government of Union Territories and Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

Consideration and passing of the Bills mentioned below, as passed by Rajya Sabha:-

(A) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

(B) The Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

(C) The Indian Railway Companies (Repeal) Bill, 2001.

(D) The Railway Companies (Substitution and Parties in Civil Proceedings) Repeal Bill, 2001.

(E) The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

(F) The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2001.

(G) The Warehousing Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

(H) The Sugarcane Cess (Validation) Repeal Bill, 2001.

(I) The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2001.

(J) The Influx from Pakistan (Control) Repealing (Repeal) Bill, 2001.

(K) The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2001, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

Discussion on Resolution seeking adoption of the recommendations made by Railway Convention Committee (1999) in their Second Report on 'Rate of Dividend for 2001-02 and other ancillary matters'.

Discussion on Resolution seeking approval to the rejection of the Award of Board of Arbitration on OTA as required under the JCM Scheme.

Discussion on Resolution seeking approval to the rejection of the Award of Board of Arbitration on upward revision of pay scale in the grade of Stenographer Grade D in CA reference number 11 of 1992.

Discussion on Resolution seeking approval of the rejection of the Award of Board of Arbitration for grant of special pay to Private Secretaries (merged grades 'A' and 'B' of CSSS) in CA reference number 2 of 1991.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

(i) Need to discuss security cover of VVIPs and VIPs in the capital city of Delhi.

(ii) Regarding steep fall in the price of coconut due to non-procurement by NAFED.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur): Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The Centre-State relations are not conducive now. Therefore, it is an imperative need to have an elaborate discussion in this regard.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the List of Business for the following week:-

1. Uniformity in Ayurvedic system of medicine and consideration of establishment of a Central Ayurvedic University with a view to make it relevant with various other systems of medicine.
2. Reconsideration of norms for establishment of and admission in Central Schools and Navodaya Schools in view of the increasing attraction towards these schools but at the same time due to inadequate number of seats in these schools students are getting attracted more and more towards Private Coaching Institutions.

[*English*]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (i) Non-payment of wages to workers in Durgapur Unit of H.S.C.L. for 25 months and shifting of Head Office from Kolkata to Bangalore and threat by the management to enforce the Voluntary Retirement, otherwise payment will not be made.
- (ii) Revival of IISCO with immediate effect as per proposed revival plan by the officers' association and the Union.

[*Translation*]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the List of Business for the next week:-

The evaluation done by an international agency about the credit worthiness of India has tarnished the image of India. This issue may be discussed.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the List of Business for the next week:-

1. According to the World Bank's Report published in January, 2000, the number of child labourers in India is six crores, which is the highest in

the world. There is a need to make amendment in the concerned Act as it is not possible to punish most of the guilty employers as per the existing acts and laws to prevent child labour in India.

2. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sampark Sadak Yojna is a hundred percent centrally sponsored scheme of the Central Government. So, there is a need to ensure active and effective participation of the Members of Parliament in every constituency as public representatives, so that the Members of Parliament, like M.L.As can get construction work done worth one crore rupees in their respective constituency under Gram Sampark Sadak Yojna.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): The following items may definitely be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (i) To discuss the need to develop the sports infrastructure in the country with a special reference to the State of Bihar after division.
- (ii) To discuss the issue of giving additional support to primary health centres located at block and village level and build up more centres for referral case and raise the standard of health care in the country.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (i) Formulation of Coastal Zone Policy, i.e. CRZ.
- (ii) Formulation of policy for shifting people affected by resettlement projects and settled in slums in Mumbai and other metro cities.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the List of Business for the next week:

1. A great deal of difficulty is being faced in road transport due to very poor condition of state highways in Chhattisgarh State. The State Government is not getting it repaired. So, the Central Government is requested to immediately sanction the Bilaspur to Podi Mandla State Highway as National Highway.
2. The survey work for laying new rail line from Bilaspur to Mandla-Jabalpur in Chhattisgarh has

[Shri Punnu Lal Mohale]

been completed. That report may be sent to the Planning Commission and the Central Government may give it immediate sanction.

12.09 hrs.

[English]

CENTRAL SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a very important matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, we must also be given a chance...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shall I go according to the list or not?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a very important matter relating to UTI...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give a chance to everybody.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a very important matter relating to UTI. I would

like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister and the entire House to this important matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling all the hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during my intervention in the UTI debate, I made a specific reference to the letters which reached the Finance Ministry on 18th May, 15th June and 30th June...(Interruptions) Thereafter, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we came to know from the media reports, which is on record, that the Finance Minister has said that he was not in the knowledge of anything...(Interruptions) Now, I waited for a week after report came in the Business Standard...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, Shri Dasmunsi, we had a discussion on UTI. The JPC is also examining the matter. The CBI is also examining the matter. You are raising this matter again and again. We had a discussion in this House on UTI for about four to five hours.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We had a discussion on the same subject during the Adjournment Motion last week. The JPC is also examining the matter. Shri Dasmunsi, you are raising this matter in the House again and again. I do not think any relevance is there.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you are a senior Member. You are supposed to assist the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Naresh Tripathi.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today is the last day of the week. I have forty notices. Please allow other Members also to speak. They have notices on various subjects. They have given notices on very important subjects.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We want an objective investigation. How can the CBI investigate if the Finance Minister is sitting there...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notices for 'Zero Hour' from Ram Naresh Tripathi and Shrimati Jayashree Banerjee, Members of Parliament, regarding their arrest by police while protesting against death of a person due to police firing in Seoni, Madhya Pradesh. I am calling for a final factual note in the matter from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

...(Interruptions)

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER: Please co-operate with the chair.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a news item saying that one former hon. Member and Minister has been found guilty...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Thirty-seven hon. Members have given notices. Today is the last day of the week. They want to raise very important matters. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, former Minister of Congress government have transferred money in his foreign accounts...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya, please raise your 'Zero Hour' matter.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while drawing your attention to an article published in the Indian Express I want to submit that a former Minister of Congress Party...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise your 'Zero Hour' matter.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: In Mumbai, 7 persons died in a plastic factory...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Mr. Finance Minister, do you want to say anything about the issue which Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi raised?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): They did not allow the Finance Minister to reply to the Adjournment Motion on UTI...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, first of all, I would like to say that because the House was not in order and there was a great deal of noise, I have not been able to hear what the hon. Member Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was saying. But I

would like to add from my side that it is extremely unfair on the part of the Opposition not to allow me to reply the Adjournment Motion...(Interruptions) Now, he has raised the issue fresh. It is very unfair...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): We did not allow you because you were discourteous to a senior hon. Member of this House...(Interruptions) That is why we objected to it.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if opposition have the courage, they should listen to my reply.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister is saying that he did not hear what I tried to say...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the government to take the notice of transferring of money in foreign accounts by a Former Minister of Congress party and also conduct an enquiry and take action in this regard...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing anybody.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, that is not proper. Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

12.21 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

12.21 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the clock.*

14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Four minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, presentation of BAC Report.
Shri Rupchand Pal.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-fourth Report

14.04 1/2 hrs.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[English]

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA (Arunachal East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a matter which is of very urgent public importance. This is in regard to Manabham Oil Field in Arunachal Pradesh, which has stopped functioning for the last 10 days because of the extortion note received from the underground people.

The incident took place on 25th July, 2001 at about 2100 hours. Six underground extortionists visited the oilfield, Manabham, and demanded Rs. 10,000 from each

of the employees. The employees had been threatened with dire consequences if the matter was reported to the Police or the Administration. On 26th July, the underground insurgents again visited the oilfield, met the Administrative Officer and advised him to inform the oil Management to arrange an amount of Rs. 60 lakh on or before 1st August, 2001.

Again on 27th July, a letter was dropped through a messenger to the Management repeating that the amount should be given to them on 1st August, 2001. It was written on the letter-head of Government of the People's Republic of Nagaland. The Administration was not informed about what had happened. On getting the information from its sources, the Arunachal Police officers contacted the Administration and assured the employees full protection and also requested the employees to help them in organising a trap to nab these extortionists. But unfortunately, the oil employees declined to help the Administration. On 29th July, the Administrative Officer of that area, along with a platoon of Police personnel, went to that place to give protection to the oil employees. However, the oil personnel abandoned that place.

I would like to mention that all these matters have been brought to the notice of Home Minister's office telephonically.

I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government of India that we are totally helpless to give protection to the oilfields because this is not the only oilfield. We do have other oilfields. We are anticipating such kind of incidents in other oilfields also. So, we request the Government of India to give us sufficient force in order to prevent such type of incidents.

Prior to 1988, the Arunachal Police had been supplemented with five battalions of CRPF. But after 1998, we see that the Arunachal Police has been left with only two battalions of CRPF. So, as you are all aware, this is not at all adequate in such a disturbed area that is filled with the insurgent activists.

I would also request the Government of India to help the Government of Arunachal Pradesh by deploying more battalions in these areas in order to safeguard the lives and property of the people living in that area that is infested with insurgents.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the Government should respond to this since it is a serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who will respond from the Government?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs is here. It is really concerning the security of people of Arunachal Pradesh and other people there. If I may also say that his life is also at stake and he has revealed this with a great difficulty.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, since you have directed me, I would like to say that I have taken note of the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (Thiruvananthapuram): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter regarding the problems facing the developments of Karakuttam and Chiwla, that is, Trivandrum National Highway 47 in my constituency. Construction of Karakuttam and Chiwla bye-pass having a distance of 42 kms. parallel to National Highway 47 is an ambitious scheme implemented with the aim of overall development of whole of the Southern State of Kerala.

NH 47, which connects the Kerala State to Tamil Nadu is one of the roads in which heavy traffic is recorded. NH is the main entry for the traffic between Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The construction of the bye-pass was started in 1980. The construction of the bye-pass from Karakuttam to Valzhamuttam, having a distance of 20 kms., is already over. Even though, further construction of the bye-pass from Valzhamuttam to Kovalam has already started, the construction is now stopped for unknown reasons. By stopping this work, even the existing road also cannot be used. This causes untold miseries and hardship to the people of my constituency. The entire traffic has to be diverted to NH-47, which causes heavy traffic jam between Parasalam and Trivandrum city every day.

It is pertinent to note that even the preliminary work to start the land acquisition of the bye-pass from Kovalam to Inchiwada is also over. The proposal for Rs. 12 crore in this regard is pending before the Ministry. I would request the Government that clearance may be given for this without delay. I would like to bring to the notice of the House that funds allotted for the State of Kerala is very low compared to other States. So, I would urge upon the Government that a criteria be adopted for granting funds for the States on population basis.

I would request the hon. Minister to personally look into the matter and immediate steps may be taken in this regard.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to raise an issue of national importance. In our country, it is estimated that about ten per cent of the population of global reservoir for Hepatitis B carriers is from our country and about four per cent is the prevalence rate of Hepatitis B carriers. So, the problem is very much on the agenda. It is also a dreadful disease, no less dreadful than HIV AIDS.

Unfortunately, for HIV AIDS we have our national programme but there is no definitive treatment for HIV AIDS or prophylactic management. But for Hepatitis B, definite Prophylactic measures are there and already WHO had recommended for mass immunisation for the citizens. This immunisation programme should be brought to the universal immunisation programme of our country.

Till date, the Government could not do it, they have so many pleas. In one of today's newspapers I read that the Government of Delhi have already initiated the programme on their own. As a token gesture, they have already made a provision for immunising the newly born children with Hepatitis B vaccination. That is a good gesture and I congratulate them on taking this decision.

Sir, it is an enormous task for the nation.

The States cannot do immunisation of Hepatitis B on their own because it is very much costly till today. So, the Central Government should come out with a definite programme to include Hepatitis B immunisation as a mass vaccination programme and this mass vaccination programme should be brought under the Universal Immunisation Programme Schedule of our country.

This is increasing the health problem in our country. Sir, I have a document. It gives an alarming picture. One epidemiological study has been made by a voluntary organisation in my district very recently. The facts have been revealed that about 6.21 per cent population are having Hepatitis B carriers. It was a community-based study. This disease is prevailing throughout the country and particularly in the rural India among the tribals, among the backwards and those who are very much habituated of taking injection for their trivial medical course. So many quack physicians are there in our country and unfortunately, our people have to depend on them. They are not responsible for this. They have the minimum

[Dr. Ram Chandra Dome]

access to the modern health care facilities. Ignorance is also there. Due to use of contaminated injection, glass injection, syringe and needle, this sort of infection is progressing.

Therefore, it is a tremendous health problem coming up for the future and we have to protect our children from this dreadful disease, which is no less than HIV AIDS. Now, the time has come that the Government should come out with a concrete programme to bring Hepatitis B vaccination programme under the Universal Immunisation Programme Schedule of our country.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, if a person suffers from Hepatitis-B, his four months treatment costs him Rs. 1600/- per day. So the Government should make arrangements for the vaccination of this disease. But Government is indifferent to this problem. If any poor suffers from this disease he has no way but to die.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, now it is your turn, you may speak now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the scam of UTI has not cooled down, it is still in focus, but Government institution IDBI always bails out it by providing money. There is Koshika Telecom, whose licence was cancelled. It was provided a loan of Rs. 100 crores. There are also some irregularities in IFCI. IT has also been bailed out by providing funds. LIC is also going the same way. All institutions IDBI, IFCI, UTI are running into loss and their non-performing assets have increased to Rs. 80 thousand crores from Rs. 62 thousand crores. Who is getting this money and who is providing it? Tehelka Tapes have exposed the persons involved in brokerage. These greedy persons, capitalists and industrialists of the country are usurping the savings of the poor. If Government does not make clarifications about these charges, it means our charges stand correct.

These persons are plundering the nation. Economic condition of the nation is worsening. Recently, an international agency-'Standard and Poors', has done the rating of India and has commented that economic condition of India is grave. We demand a statement from Government in this regard. It am bringing this to notice of the House, so that the Minister may not say that he

is not aware of it. How could Koshika Telecom get Rs. 100 crore after the cancellation of its licence? The Government should make statement in this regard. If it fails to do so, we shall ask for its resignation. Then they will say that they would not resign. We have brought it to the notice of the House. The Government should come out with all the facts in this regard. It is said that it is an autonomous body. You are unaware of the happenings in the name of autonomous and make here a false statement. Plundering is going on, corruption is rampant, there are scams after scams. I ask how long these scam will go on? There have been so many scams like share scam, UTI scam and LIC scam. The Government should give statement in this regard. Otherwise people will say this Government is a Government of scams. Today poor is getting poorer and rich is getting richer. Credibility of India is getting eroded and economic condition is going from bad to worse. So, Government should make a statement in this regard. Otherwise, it will be self-evident that this party is linked to scams and its leaders are behind the scams. They are behind the plundering of the nation. We are to save this country. United opposition is going to push them out. They are going to be out of power in U.P. As soon as they are out of power in U.P., they will not be able to keep their Government stable in centre.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonipat): I want to draw the attention of Government to a very important issue. Delhi, which is the national capital territory, is surrounded by Haryana from three sides. Supreme Court's verdict to shift factories out of Delhi, have compelled factory owners to shift their factories in neighbouring states.

14.15 hrs.

[Dr. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

As Haryana is closer to Delhi most of the industries are being shifted to Haryana. Government of the border states of Delhi viz Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh or Haryana are acquiring the agricultural lands of farmers. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are also a farmer. Lands of farmers are being acquired at very low prices and it is being sold at very high prices. State Governments are trading in it as business. Today farmers are in great trouble. You may visit any side of Delhi border and you will find it true. Farmers' lands are being acquired in Haryana. Lands are being required at the rate of Rs. 1.90 lakh per acre in the border areas and it is being sold at the rate of rupees five thousand per yard.

But for the land falling in the areas of Delhi state near the border of Haryana a compensation of Rs. 23 lakh per acre is given. But in the border areas of Haryana state, lands are being acquired, at a meagre rate of Rs. 1.90 lakh per acre. Thus, farmers who have only one or two acres of land are getting landless. This is causing panic in them. They are worried and have become shelterless.

This is my submission to the Government, through you, that the Land Acquisition Act should be amended, in which provision should be made to pay market price for the acquired land if centre or State Government does so. It has been noticed that State Governments are trading in it as a business by acquiring land on low prices and then selling it on very high prices. The Government should take notice of it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, eighty per cent of the wagons required by the Indian Railways are manufactured in West Bengal. Traditionally the wagons are manufactured in West Bengal. There are a number of wagon-manufacturing units located in the State of West Bengal, both in the public sector as well as in the private sector. These wagon-manufacturing units are set up to cater to the needs of the Indian Railways, to supply the wagons. Their main product is railway wagons.

I submit that four months have already lapsed in the current financial year and the orders for the current year have not been released. In the Budget for this year it has been shown that the Indian Railways will be requiring 23,000 wagons this year. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of State for Railways sitting here to this aspect. The Indian Railways planned to acquire 23,000 wagons in the current year. But the orders for the current year have not yet been released. I know at least about four units in West Bengal where the order book position is nil today. Since April, 2001 their order book position is nil. For the first time the Ministry of Railways has not placed orders for the acquisition of wagons. It is already four months now into the current year.

Sir, I have been here in the Lok Sabha for the last twenty-one years. I have not seen such a situation earlier. For the first time, even after passing of four months in the financial year, the Railways have not placed the order for the wagons. As a result of this, the wagon-manufacturing units of West Bengal — at least four out

of seven of them — have been closed down. The workers have not received their salary for the past four months.

There was a meeting in the chamber of the hon. Minister of Railways in the Parliament House. All leaders from all Parties — Congress, Left including CPI (M) attended the meeting. Hon. Minister of State for Communications, Shri Tapan Sikdar also wanted to accompany us. He expressed his support also. We all met the hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar. In that meeting the Railways officials were there. Both the Chairman, Railway Board and the Member (Mechanical) of the Railway Board were there. In that meeting the hon. Minister of Railways very categorically told the officials that the orders should be released within one week.

Sir, the meeting was held on 25th July. Today, I got the information from the Railway Board that they are still discussing it.

[Translation]

We are discussing it, we are talking over it. I asked how long these deliberations will go.

[English]

Sir, there are some officials in the Railway Board who do not want to release the order.

Sir, there was a complaint against the use of inferior quality of steel. We also want that an inquiry should be conducted. We know under whose tenure that happened. Whoever might be the Railway Minister, when some - not all - wagon manufacturing units have used inferior quality of steel and sold out the carton steel in the open market, it should be inquired. The former Railway Minister was aware of this fact. We brought this fact to her notice, but no action was taken and no inquiry was ordered. If the inquiry had been ordered one and a half years back, it would have completed by this time and the people of our country also has been able to know who were responsible for that.

Sir, an inquiry should be held and whoever is responsible should be punished, but pending the inquiry, why should order not be issued? The inquiry was ordered by the present Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar. All the things which have happened in the passed should be inquired into.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

When I was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways, we objected to cent per cent tendering system. In 1997, the Ministry of Railways adopted the policy of cent per cent tendering system. Prior to that, there was Wagon India Limited. Wagon India Limited was an umbrella organisation. The main function of the Wagon India Limited was to distribute order among public sector and private sector wagon manufacturing units. Wagon India Limited was wound up during the tenure of the previous Minister. With what motive was it wound up? When Wagon India Limited was there, there was no complaint.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have just started...*(Interruptions)* Today 'Zero Hour' can continue till 3.30 p.m.

Sir, when Wagon India Limited was there, there was no complaint. Who took the decision to wind up Wagon India Limited should also be inquired into. What was the motive behind that?

Shri Tapan Sikdar has also demanded, I read his statement in the newspapers, that there should be an inquiry in respect of corruption during the tenure of the previous Minister of Railways, the predecessor of Shri Nitish Kumar.

What has happened to that? What we discussed with the Minister is that the inquiry should be held, but the placement of order or the release of order should not be delayed and the Minister agreed with it. Wagon manufacturing units should not suffer for lack of order. This is not the problem of wagon manufacturing units alone where thousands and thousands of workers are engaged. Wagon industry is one of the important industries of West Bengal. There are a large number of small and medium ancillary industries, which are dependent on wagon industry. We had experienced this crisis in wagon industry for five years back, and we had seen the plight of the workers. We have not only seen the problems of wagon manufacturers but also of ancillary units.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Tell your expectations from the Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND THE MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): They know everything. Not a single thing is hidden from them.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want to know the obstacles in implementing the principle of releasing orders of wagon within a week which Shri Digvijay Singh and the Railway Minister advocated in the All party meeting.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: There is no obstacle. Legal opinion is being sought on that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You can seek it.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We will bring it before you as soon as it will be possible.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Hon'ble Barrister Somnath Chatterjee of our country was present in that meeting. He gave his legal opinion at that time without any fee. Now you are seeking legal opinion by paying fee but Shri Somnath Chatterjee did not charge a single paisa and yet gave legal opinion to the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: As soon as legal opinion is received, we will work accordingly.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want that work to be completed within a week. Whether this work can be completed within a week, because.

[English]

The phrase 'as soon as' is very vague.

[Translation]

Say that the order will be released atleast within a week. Speak Digvijay Singh ji.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Even earlier than a week if legal opinion is received sooner.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Digvijay Singh ji has said that the order will be released before a week.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the serious problem faced by small-scale industries which are supplying spare parts of arms and ammunition to Ordnance Factories under the Ministry of Defence. There are thousands of such units and lakhs of workers are

working in those units. Earlier, when they were supplying to the Ministry of Defence, there was no excise duty, but in the last Budget, the Government has levied 32 per cent excise duty on those small scale industries which are supplying to the Ministry of Defence. Earlier, there was exemption up to one crore rupees, but now the Government has imposed a duty on them and because of that these industries are facing a serious crisis. Those units which are producing luxury goods have been exempted; even there is no duty on those things which Ordnance Factories are importing from foreign countries. They are duty-free. Now, those small-scale industries in our country, which have developed expertise in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and supplying spare parts for the last several decades, will be affected by this.

Sir, thirty-two per cent duty has been imposed. It is creating a serious problem for them. I would like to request the government that this Excise Duty should be withdrawn and the small scale units should be allowed to supply spare parts to the Defence stores without any duty being imposed on them.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, drawing attention, through you, of Heavy Industries Minister in the Central Government to Rajasthan I would like to say that the Rajasthan Government entered into an agreement with farmers and handed over 240 bighas of acquired land to M/s Rajshri Cement Company in 1984. That factory is running from 1995-1996. Now the Government is handing over 242 more bighas of land to the same company after acquiring it from farmers. The cost of that land is approximately rupees 250 crores while the Rajasthan Government is giving it to that private company just for rupees 50 lakhs. It is great injustice to the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the land which Rajasthan Government, after acquiring, is going to give to that Cement Company is very fertile land of the farmers and it has wells, that is, it is an irrigated land. There is barren land also near that land. The Government can give that land to anyone after acquiring it but the Rajasthan Government has rejected this proposal of farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, that factory is running since 1995. The factory owner has constructed the factory building, its compound and even quarters for staff and officers. It seems that the factory does not require more land. Through you, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of

the Government that the factory owner has sold one bigha land out of the land, acquired by the Rajasthan Government and given to it for the construction of a factory, to another factory owner for 1.5 lakh rupees. This shows how important and costly that land is and the Government wants to procure it at throw away prices. Acquiring irrigated land of farmers will render thousands of farmers unemployed and lead them towards starvation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request through you to the Central Government to issue directions to the Rajasthan Government not to acquire acquisition of 242 bigha 2 biswa fertile land of farmers since it is a very serious matter. The Central Government should immediately give directions to the State Government in this regard.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I draw the attention of the House to an important matter. Today, in newspapers you might have seen that an Office Secretary of an organisation has been arrested for spreading communalism.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House and all the parties should take a note of it. Recently a rumours of Quran burning was spread in my Chandni Chowk constituency of Delhi and after than an appeal to Shahi Imam and Muslim people was made that they should come out with that organisation. This is not a new organisation. All the parties have expressed almost correct views about it. The name of the organisation is Students Islamic Movement of India, i.e. SIMI.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is necessary to think very seriously over the ways this organisation has strengthened its roots in whole of India since 1977 and the way it is working, the way it is spreading terrorism, the way it has connections with Pakistan, the way it is connected with Dawood Ibrahim and the way it is being funded.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have risen to demand that the Central Government should immediately ban the SIMI organisation. I want to thank Maharashtra Government. It is worthy of praise though there is Congress regime. They have written about this organisation - the Maharashtra Government has informed the Centre that the involvement of SIMI has been found in many cases of disturbing the communal harmony in Pune and Aurangabad in March this year. In view of this, the Maharashtra Government has sent details of 21 cases to the Central Government wherein 206 party workers of SIMI have been arrested. The Maharashtra Government has demanded to ban this organisation on the basis of these arrests.

[Shri Jaswant Singh Bisnoi]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this year Gujarat has taken an important step by speeding up this anti-terrorism campaign in Ahmedabad. In view of the alleged anti-national activities of the Students Islamic Movement of India in the State, a ban in whole of India has been demanded from the Central Government. The Uttar Pradesh Government has already demanded a ban on SIMI organisation. This has been written by an important organisation such as India Today. I am just reading the last para, it is very important.

[English]

"It all began in Beconganj's narrow, congested alleys when a group of 500 people came out of the Jama Masjid that Friday afternoon, protesting against the alleged burning of the Quran in Delhi. They had allegedly been instigated by the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI)".

[Translation]

Now the net of SIMI is spreading in the whole country and these people consider Dawood Ibrahim and Laden, the top terrorists, as their ideal and Heroes...(Interruptions) Are you asking for supporting me?...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I want to say that all the parties should take up this matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs at the centre because we see that when the issue of imposing ban on such organisations comes, many a times it is politicised. But as soon as I praised...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not become a precedent. This chance has been given during Zero hour under special circumstances. Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have put your demands.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I will speak only two more lines...(Interruptions) I want to say only this that you talk about all the organisations even when I am praising. If you want that this organisation...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not address the members. You have put your demands, please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): I agree with the hon. Member. I demand that all communal organisations be banned.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: First of all communal aggression, which is involved in the terrorism, should be banned and SIMI organisation should be banned immediately ... (Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): We support your demand... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. All hon'ble Ministers are listening. We can not pressurise them to reply. Please take your seat. Please take your seat... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: If he can make a statement he may do so... (Interruptions) He is ready to make a statement. It is an important matter... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the members are insisting on it and government are listening to them. The chair can not compel.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: If he wants to give statement then he may be allowed to do so... (Interruptions) He is ready to give statement. It is an important issue.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody can disallow him.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Please ask him whether he wants to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If any Minister wants to speak then there is no problem.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Sir, if all the hon. Members are insisting then the hon. Minister of State of Home Affairs must say something in this regard... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the Members are insisting but the Government is silent. Chair can't compel the Minister to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, I have taken note of all the things which have been said by the hon. Members.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your matter is in first place.

[English]

Copy sent to privilege Branch. Please also see SI. No. 19.

[Translation]

Both have been settled.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni): This matter has been referred to Committee on Privilege previously also, but nobody is talking about it. Firing is going on there and the party workers are being killed...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please talk to the hon'ble Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is in your favour. The matter is very serious. You, please talk to hon'ble Speaker.

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE: Alright Sir.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is heavy burden of cases on Allahabad High Court of U.P. There is shortage of Judges and the problem in work related to law suits is increasing. At present there are about eight lac pending cases in Allahabad High Court. It will take centuries to dispose of these disputes. Due to this burden, on 14 March, 1981 U.P. Government requested the Government of India for setting up a Bench of High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh. To decide its place, Government of India, may constitute a commission. On September 4, 1981, Government of India constituted Jaswant Singh Commission headed by Justice Jaswant Singh. After finding out all the probabilities, Jaswant Singh Commission submitted the report that Agra is the most suitable place in western Uttar Pradesh. Commission said:

[English]

"Taking into consideration the totality of the conditions and circumstances peculiar to Agra, we find ourselves impelled to agree with aforesaid views of the eminent Judges and others that Agra would be suitable place for the location of the Bench."

[Translation]

After the lapse of such a long period the report was placed on the Table of the House in 1986. Not only in U.P. but in different states of India, people are continuously demanding, a streamlined and more inexpensive and more accessible Judicial system. Madhya Pradesh High Court is situated at Jabalpur. People wanted to have a Bench at Raipur, but due to formation of a separate state of Chhattisgarh, now it will be set up at Bilaspur. In Tamilnadu, High Court is in Chennai and there was a demand for it. Now a building has been built at Madurai and a Bench of High Court is being set up there...(Interruptions) I will conclude in half an hour, it is a very serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a very important matter. Advocates of Meerut and Agra have stopped work from 26th ...(Interruptions) Mr. Bhadana I have no objection, if the Bench of High Court is set up at Meerut. Even I want them in every District. But it is the report of the Jaswant Commission which have considered Agra most suitable place for setting up a Bench. If Government sets up a Bench at Meerut, I have no objection, but Meerut is the most suitable place. The Chief Minister of U.P. have protracted the dispute by saying in Meerut that the Bench should be set up here and in Agra he said to advocates that you are saying the words my heart wants to speak. It is a very serious matter. After 26th work in Agra and Meerut High Courts are held up, that is why, I want that the Bench be setup at Agra...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everyone will be given a chance to speak.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As soon as your turn comes you will be given a chance.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: There is a scam of Rupees 150 crores in the purchase of computers during the year 1999-2000 in agriculture sector. It is for the first time in the history of ICAR and 'Krishi Bhavan' that an officer of the level of Director General has been suspended for corruption. This year enquiry by CBI and CVS is going on against Director General. He has been given voluntary retirement and he is leaving the country.

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mohale]

But some politician are trying to save him and send him safely out of the country.

It is my request, through you, to the Minister of External Affairs that he should not be given visa and not be allowed to go out of the country.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a notice on two matters but I am now raising the matter relating to my constituency first.

Sir, the Government of India had sanctioned an FM station in my constituency Manjeri way back in 1996.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the second matter, i.e., commission of FM radio stations at Manjeri, Kerala, which you are raising now.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Yes, Sir. I am raising the issue pertaining to my constituency first. Then I will go to the matter relating to communal situation in U.P.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India had sanctioned an FM station in my Constituency Manjeri in 1996. But till today, the work has not been completed on this project. This shows the callousness of the Government of India, especially this Government, in implementing the development project.

Sir, I have been running after every Minister since 1996 for the completion of this project. There have been five to six Ministers between 1996 and 2001 dealing with this project. It was sanctioned during the time of the then Minister Shri K.P. Singh Deo. Then came Shri P.A. Sangma. When he was the Incharge of the Ministry, the entire money was allotted. Then came Shri C.M. Ibrahim, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and Shri Arun Jaitley respectively. Now, again Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is there as the hon. Minister.

Every Minister gave me assurance after assurance, but that FM Radio Station has not been commissioned so far. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government, the reply given to an Unstarred Question of mine, which I raised on 4th August 2000. The Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley gave the reply as:

"There are a few FM projects including Manjeri where the progress has been slow."

He is very honest Minister. He further said:

"Some of the main reasons for slow progress of the projects are delay in handing over of site, slow progress of civil work, delay in supply of equipment, local law and order problem.

In the case of Manjeri, the site was handed over by the State Government in February 1997. The progress of civil works has also been slow. Technical area of the building is expected to be ready by August 2000."

Sir, today is 10th August 2001. Nothing is ready so far. To whom should we go and plead? In every Session I have been raising this issue. Why is the Government neglecting the backward areas? They are taking a lukewarm attitude towards the backward and minority areas. They are not implementing the projects that have been sanctioned by the previous Government. Money has been allotted; everything has been done; but the Government is not commissioning it. It is a very sluggish progress.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I would like to inform the Government that if the Government further delays the matter, the people of Kerala know how to react and to react in several methods. We are law-abiding people; we are the people who want to cooperate with the Government, whatever the nature and the colour of the Government be. The progress of the country would benefit all the people.

Therefore, I urge very humbly, very earnestly, very sincerely and very strongly that the Government may please make some moves in that direction. At least somebody should be sent there to see it. If any Minister is here who can understand the feelings and sentiments of the hon. Members, he may please convey this to the Minister concerned without further delay.

I must have some assurance. The project is there for five years, but they are doing nothing. At least, let the Government say something. It is the responsibility of the Government. This shows the callous attitude of the Government, the lukewarm attitude of the Government, and it is a failure of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Narmada Yojana is being constructed in Gujarat. Not only our entire country but the entire Asia knows about it. But Medha Patkar is spreading a network in the name of saving Narmada by disguising herself as a public agitator through out the country. She has around

30 organisations. Besides such net work is also in 10 other countries. For this she is getting lakhs and crores of rupees from foreign institutions such as Right Livelihood Foundation, Goldman Foundation. These institutions are creating unrest in Madhya Pradesh. Not only this she is doing the work of spreading anarchy. She is giving training to lay explosive mines to the tribals and Rifles are also being given to them. Recently rifles were found in the houses of tribals. It is a conspiracy against the country. Lakhs of rupees which she has withdrawn from the Bank is being used to provoke the people. This work is being carried out throughout the country. Recently Medha Patkar carried out a 'satyagrah' in five districts of Narmada valley in which only 48 people participated. Out of which 3 were foreigners when 400 tribal people under the aegis of "Nivad Sarvodaya Manch" opposed it, they were beaten up in their houses. The people who took money for their rehabilitation were also beaten up for doing so and for going to the Government. It is my request that the activities which are being done in the name of Narmada Bachao agitation should be stopped. In the Mehadi Khed firing incident which occurred recently and in which four people were killed no one was a local person. She brings the people from outside for taking part in the satyagrah and is stopping development activities in Gujarat in the name of environment. It is my request through you to the Government to stop such activities and take action against her.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also support it.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): May I draw the attention of the House into the most squalid plight of the widows in India. When we are pleading for the women's liberation and are advocating for the elimination of the male chauvinism, a large part of our society, that is widows, are thrown into oblivion. They are being treated as an ostracized community in our society. Widows, old or young, are often discovered themselves in the prostitutes of our religious cities like Varanasi, Mathura or Vrindavan. It is a shame for us that those widows, who have brought up their children by the sweat of their brow now eke out their livelihood in an undignified way. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to give minimum support to them so that they can make their livelihood with dignity and honour. Instead of constructing Ram Temple or spilling the blood in the name of religion, we should concentrate on the

welfare of the widows.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Thank you for the opportunity given to me. Today, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister towards the difficulties being faced by the freedom fighters of Kerala. Sir, the applications of the heroes who participated in the well known freedom struggles of Kerala, like Kayyur, Karivellur, Kavumbai, Morazha, Punnappra-Vayalar, M.S.P. Rebellion, are being rejected by the Central Government because they could not produce the jail record or other required materials. It is true that the Congress Government, for several years denied pensions to these heroes because the struggles were fought under the Communist Party leadership. With the strength of these struggles the Britishers ran away from our country. The UF Government, under the Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda, and Home Minister Shri Indrajit Gupta, recognised these struggles. But the present Government is taking dissatisfactory and half-hearted approach to sanction pensions to these heroes or to the relatives of the martyrs. So, I request the hon. Home Minister and the Government of India to look sympathetically towards this. All such persons, very few are now alive, who are getting pension from the State should get pension from the Centre also. A sympathetic view may be taken towards these heroes or towards the relatives of these martyrs.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, whatever Railway project are laying with the Government of India must be sanctioned immediately. If these projects are not sanctioned immediately, their would be more cost escalation which has already gone and a half times or two times. Now it will increase to three times. Then the Government will say that they cannot complete these projects. Dausa-Gangapur city, Ajmer-Pushkar, Ramganj Mandi-Bhopal, Varamgaon-Jodhapur-Bhiladi-Samadad-Luni, Luni-Badmer-Munabao, Rewari-Sadulpur, Shri Ganganagar-Saroopser, Luni-Jodhpur, Luni-Marwad, Phulera-Jodhpur-Pipar Road-Bilada, Ajmer-Udaipur-Chittorgarh, Agra Fort-Bandikuni, Phulera-Marwad-Ahmedabad, Neemuch-Ratlam, Mildi-Biramgaon, Gandhidham-Palampur are the various Rail projects. Agri-Bandikui is the biggest project. Recently Pakistan's President Mussarrat Saheb was to come to Jaipur. In my opinion it was good that he did not go there and returned to Pakistan. Whatever possible he could do, he did and went away after saying his words. He did not give any thing to the country.

[Shri Girdharilal Bhargava]

He came to Agra. The construction of the track between Agra-Bandikui was started when Shri Devagowda was the Prime Minister of the country. At that time hon'ble Kalmadi was the Railway Minister. He inaugurated the construction work but still the project is incomplete.

Similarly the estimate of Bhilwara Ajmer track was sanctioned but budget provisions has not been made. The survey work of Dausa-Gangapur is going on for a long time and a provision for rupees 10 lakhs has been made in this financial budget to acquire land but rupees 17 crores is required to acquire land. The rest of the projects are also very important for the development of the state. It appears that token provisions have been made for most of these projects. Since the projects were sanctioned, for the timely completion of these projects it is essential to increase the budget provisions. Budget provisions are to be increased particularly for the Agra-Bandikui, Ajmer-Dausa-Gangapur city projects. Similarly providing rupees 10 crores for the gauge conversion work of Agra Fort-Bandikui is a very nominal amount. A zonal office was to be set up there and the then Prime Minister Shri Deva Gowda inaugurated that work. At that time, I asked him whether he was laying a foundation stone or inaugurating an office. It is essential to set up a zonal office at Jaipur. Our Department has provided land for it. There is land for quarters and we have provided land near Jawaharnagar for the zonal office. 17.44 hectares of land has already been acquired for the residential project of North Western zone and Railway has requested to allot land near Jawaharnagar circle for the headquarters of the zone. The state government has agreed to give land at very cheap rate for it. The proposals for the land of the Autonomous Department have been sent to the Railway and the clearance of the Railway Board is essential. It is my request that the projects of the Government of India must be completed immediately otherwise there would be cost escalation and the projects would not be cleared.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Chinab river passes through the Jammu and about 15 lakhs of people are living near it and a large number of security forces is also there. There are 3 districts there and there is only one national highway to connect these districts and in order to cross the Chinab river there is only one bridge. This bridge has already collapsed twice. This bridge is so weak that heavy traffic cannot flow over it. Every day traffic is stopped twice to carry out the repair work of the bridge only after that traffic flows. The conditions are very bad and there can be accident any time. Pakistan can also cause any accident any time. Under such conditions it is very

essential to construct an alternative bridge from the point of view of the security. I have been requesting for many years to repair properly this bridge and construct a new bridge so that people can be safe and they can get facility. If this bridge collapses, the people will die of shortage of essential items and our security would also be at stake. Therefore, I urge to construct a pucca bridge from the point of view of security also.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to a very big and important issue. The population of the country is increasing rapidly and it had crossed the figure of one billion. The population of the country is increasing more rapidly than the production in the country. There is quartet (Chaupayee) in the Ramcharitmanas "Jas jas surasa badlanu badhava, Tasu doon kapi roop dikhava." In this context, I want to say that mere making of plans will not lead to success but we have to control the increasing population. Today the population is increasing at a very fast pace. We have only 2.4 per cent land area of earth but 16 per cent of world's population. We shall surpass even China's population by the year 2045 if the present growth rate continues. Our population is increasing at the rate of 1.55 crore per year which aggravate family feud and discontentment and it is causing the shortage of electricity, water, employment, medical facilities, health and transport etc. So, I would like to draw the attention of the Government for checking population growth and bringing happiness and qualitative change in the lives of the people.

We must control population for bringing happiness in the country and necessary steps must be taken for it. Family planning has not been successful in our country. So, law should be enacted in the country for controlling population. We should rise above politics for taking steps in our national interest.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to an issue of public importance. Nowadays, there is a growing tendency to nominate bureaucrats as the Chairmen of various Boards and Corporations of public sector undertakings. Members from both the Houses are nominated to these boards and Corporations. The members nominated to these Boards/Corporations have their own efficiency, experience and importance in their respective fields but their nomination to these Boards/Corporations as Members, where the Chairman are bureaucrats, is the insult of public representatives. The Government is going to reconstitute various Board and Corporations like Shipping Corporation. I would like to

request that the Government should consider over giving priority to public representatives while constituting these Boards and Corporations.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the permission to raise a very sensitive issue. Rajasthan is famous for its historical buildings all over the world. Historically famous Teemangarh Fort is my parliamentary constituency. One of its characteristics is that there is not even a single stone in it which does not reflect the beautiful and unique sculpture. There are innumerable statues which can fetch very high price in international market and there are many international gangs who are stealing the statues from that place for selling it abroad. A statue stolen from that fort on 6th August was worth two crore rupees in international market. The thieves, who stole that statue, landed in that fort by helicopter and stole the statue. On being informed about the incident, Rajasthan Government committed atrocities on the poor labourers. They did not even spare the women belonging to Gujjar community. The excesses committed by the police led to a big agitation. No one tried to apprehend that gang of international thieves. They are committing atrocities on the poor. It will be a grave mistake if the archaeological department does not take over this historical building. Many statues are being stolen by international gangs of thieves, but the poor are being victimised. Special attention should be given to this issue and the fort should be taken over by the archaeological department.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I am trying to draw your kind attention to a very grave matter.

The CBI has found documentary evidences of dubious foreign exchange transactions involving foreign bank accounts and evidence of alleged money laundering by...
* ... an MP and former Minister. Sir, a letter was forwarded to the Government by Shri N. Vittal from the Vigilance Commission...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, if any allegation is to be levelled against a particular Member, then one has to give notice the hon. Speaker with a copy to the concerned Member to give him a right to defend himself. Without that, nothing can be said about him here. He is a sitting Member...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to the rule, papers are sent to the Member before an allegation is levelled against him. So, the name will not go on record.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Everything has come in the newspapers...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, it is not so. May times it has happened in the House that allegations have been levelled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down as you have not taken the permission. Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the pitiable condition of the farmers of the country, especially of Uttar Pradesh, is due to the wrong policies of the Government of the country. The former of the country is on the brink of ruin. Instead of providing the farmers with water, electricity and subsidy attempts are being made to kill them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh are dependent on sugarcane cultivation. The farmer can get his daughter married and provide education to his son only when he gets money from the sugar-mill for his only when he gets money from the sugar mill for his sugarcane. But, due to the laws framed by this Government, he just makes frequent visits to the bank.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please tell as to what should be done in this regard.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: I would like to say that there should be such policies for the farmers which can make them prosperous. In addition to it, I would like to draw your attention to the issue of the farmers' land acquired by DCM Group in Moukhas for their proposed mill. But the mill has not been set up there till date. I have already drawn the attention of the Government twice. I would like to know whether the proposed DCM mill on the land acquired from the farmers is being set up or not. If the mill is not being set up, the land should be handed over to the farmers so that they can earn their livelihood.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am opposing the statement made by an honourable Minister in this House. I would like to say that this Government has tried to instigate communal riots especially in Uttar Pradesh...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bhadanaji, no discussion is allowed on any other issue except the issue of farmers. Please take your seat.

Shri Sukdeo Paswan.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, people belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and people of upper castes living below poverty line are given Rs. 20 thousand under the Indira Awas Yojana for constructing house, but no house can be constructed with such a meagre amount. Earlier also I had raised this matter twice that this amount may be raised from Rs. 20 thousand to Rs. 40 thousand. This amount of 20 thousand rupees is the same for the last many years whereas the rates of brick, cement, and vis-a-vis labour wages are all increasing day by day.

I therefore, through you, demand from the Government that this amount may be increased from Rs. 20 thousand to Rs. 40 thousand. A progress report should be sought from each State Government with regard to the Indira Awas Yojana as in the case of MPLAD Scheme wherein an assessment report, or a progress report is asked for from the State Government. This is the only demand which I want to make to the Government through you.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the conditions of famine, starvation and floods in Bihar. Our hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, had promised and assured the House that one crore people would be given employment within one year. I ask the Government as to what happened to this promise given by the hon. Finance Minister.

Secondly, I want to say that we have provided work to unemployed persons with great difficulty. But due to the policy of disinvestment they are again on the road. I ask the Government as to what concrete steps have been taken for Bihar State which could give some positive indications to the Industries, Small Scale Industries and Cottage Industries there and may imbibe a day of hope in them.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I wish to inform the Government that in Bihar 280 teachers have been transferred by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, out of which 130 are women teachers. In these transfers this fact has not been kept in view whether these women teachers are sick, or handicapped, or are suffering from blood pressure or diabetes or any other disease. These women teachers have been transferred to terrorism affected States like Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to ask the Government whether they do not want these lady teachers to continue with their job? Whereas, it is a rule that the wife and husband would be posted on the same station. Husbands of these lady teachers are working in Bihar and they have been transferred to the aforesaid areas. Sir, through you, I wish to say to the Government that on the one hand, they are observing women Empowerment year, and are talking about protection of women vis-a-vis progress and development and on the other hand, they are giving no consideration towards their present condition. I, therefore, demand that the Government may direct the officials of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to stop such transfers and call back the women who have been transferred keeping in mind their present condition and this may not be repeated in future.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards a few problems. Survey work of Daniyama to Sheikhpura-Rayabarbigha scheme has been completed in Bihar. But the work has not yet been started. I request the hon. Minister to get this work started immediately.

My second request is that the Railway Standing Committee has recommended that computerised Reservation facility may be provided in Sheikhpura. Sheikhpura is the district headquarter of my constituency. I request that computerised reservation facility may be provided there.

My third request is that, the hon. Minister of State for Railways and Shri Nitish Kumarji were sitting here, now he has left from here. Many people of my constituency and also Nawada, work in Kolkata. They have to travel from Gaya to Howrah via Kiul. There is no express train from this place. I request the hon. Minister of Railways to start an express train from Gaya to Howrah via Kiul. People of this area would conveniently go to Howrah and thus manage to earn their livelihood. With these words I, extend my thanks to you for having given me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is quite heartening to observe that the roaring lion is sitting on the high pedestal and controlling others from roaring and making them whimper.

This is regarding the exodus of people East Bengal in the aftermath of the Partition of India. They were accommodated in refugee camps in West Bengal for a pretty long period. Between 1962 and 1967, some of them were sent to erstwhile Koraput district in Orissa and Bastar district in Madhya Pradesh, now in Chhattisgarh. They were accommodated in Koraput district in Malkhangiri and Umarkot tehsils. They were given two to seven acres of land to start their work....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please delete the comment if any, made for the Chair, from the record.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: At that time, what Dandakaranya project had missed was to look after the tribals. Tribals were not given any land at that time, although, three to seven acres of land were given to the Bengali settlers who settled in that area. Over the years, a large number of illegal immigrants came from Bangladesh and started taking, by dubious or devious means, the land of the tribals. The second generation tribals were up in arms against the Bengali settlers and the illegal immigrants who have come to that area.

This scheduled area comes under Schedule V of the Constitution of India. It is the imperative duty of the Governor of the State to see as to how the problem of land and law and order should be solved which is prevailing there. Land of the tribals have been taken away by some means or the other, although three to seven acres of land had been given to these settlers.

May I urge the Central Government to direct the Governor of Orissa, as an independent body, not through the Council of Ministers, to exercise his original jurisdiction under the Constitution of India, make a study of the situation, ensure that the tribal lands should be restored to them and there is no law and order problem.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Sir, the naxalities, burnt to death passengers of a State transport bus in Durg on the Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh border. The important fact is that this incident took place

at 3.30 in the afternoon and the Home Minister of the Madhya Pradesh Government and DGP were inspecting a check post just four kilometers away from the site of incident. Both the States could not decide till 12.00 o'clock in the night that this incident took place in which of the two States and these incidents have repeatedly been mentioned in the House. Even the Chhattisgarh State police has blown hundreds of lay this on me. And recently our Jabalpur lady M.P. have raised a matter of privilege in Sewani in Madhya Pradesh and I have also raised it. We are treated very harshly and the police acts as if they are the most powerful agency to keep control on us, but there is no restriction on PWG in the places where such incidents take place, be it Chhattisgarh or Madhya Pradesh. The questions of security as also tackling such problems are raised several times in the House. But this incident is pertinent because the naxalities created havoc more or less in the presence of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs of the State and DGP and even after 12 hours of the incident, both the States could not decide that this incident took place in which of the two States. Under such circumstances, I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and I have also written many letters to the hon. Minister that he may take cognisance of the matter and enquire it from the Chief Ministers of States.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I draw the attention of this august House regarding the Budget allocation for the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. The recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission are causing financial constraints to the tune of Rs. 3,000 crore for the period 2000-2005.

Sir, Dr. *Puratchi Thalaivi* has taken over as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu now, with a liability of Rs. 700 crore. I would also like to mention that the Government of Tamil Nadu is running short of funds even to execute the Plan schemes in the normal course. So, I urge upon the Government of India to allow additional market borrowing to the tune of Rs. 500 crore to execute the Plan schemes.

MOTION RE: SIXTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

15.31 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Private Members' Business. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your consent I beg to move the following:-

"That this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 8th August, 2001."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 8th August, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

15.32 hrs.

STREET CHILDREN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS) BILL*

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Sir, I beg to move for leave the introduce a Bill to provide for protection of the rights of the street children.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for protection of the rights of the street children."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 15, etc.)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO: I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Substitution of new article for article 120, etc.)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 130)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

15.35½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL***(Substitution of new Schedule for Seventh Schedule)***[English]*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

**WOMEN AND GIRLS (PROTECTION OF
PROPERTY RIGHTS) BILL****[English]*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to protect the property rights of women and girls and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to protect the property rights of women and girls and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I introduce the Bill.

15.36½ hrs.

UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of section 10)*[English]*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Insertion of new section 21A)*[English]*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I introduce the Bill.

15.37½ hrs.

UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Insertion of new Chapter IIIA)*[English]*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

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15.38 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES)
ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL***
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: I introduce the Bill.

15.38½ hrs.

**PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF
WOMEN AT WORK-PLACE BILL***

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for prevention of sexual abuse of women workers at their work-place by employers or colleagues and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prevention of sexual abuse of women workers at their work-place by employers or colleagues and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

15.39 hrs.

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR DISASTER
MANAGEMENT BILL***

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Commission for Management of National Disasters and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Commission for Management of National Disasters and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

RAPID ACTION FORCE BILL*

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Rapid Action Force to control communal riots in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Rapid Action Force to control communal riots in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

15.41 hrs.

JUTE PACKAGING MATERIALS (COMPULSORY USE IN PACKAGING COMMODITIES) (REPEAL) BILL

[English]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before the Bill is introduced, I have to inform the hon. Members that Shri Basudeb Acharia has given a notice of his intention to oppose the Bill.

Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Bill was passed by this House in 1987 to protect the jute industry of our country. Lakhs and lakhs of jute workers as well as jute growers are involved in jute industry.

When we achieved Independence and Bengal was partitioned, jute industry remained with West Bengal whereas the jute growing land remained with East Pakistan. The first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru appealed to the people, particularly the farmers of West Bengal, to grow jute so that the jute mills of West Bengal could be saved. The farmers of West Bengal took the challenge and started growing jute and we became self-sufficient. The majority of the workers in the jute mills are either from your State, Mr. Chairman Sir, or from Orissa.

This Act was enacted to protect the jute industries to face the challenges of the plastic bags. The Act was enacted but there is a lobby which is pressurising the Government — the hon. Minister is here and he knows about it — to withdraw the mandatory order which is there since 1987. So, if this Bill is passed, the entire jute industry of not only West Bengal but also of Bihar as well as Orissa and Andhra Pradesh will be at stake...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Even the people in his State also will be affected...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, Sir. The livelihood of lakhs and lakhs of people will be at stake. This bill is against the interest of the people of our country. Hence, this Bill should not be introduced. I appeal to hon. Member to withdraw this Bill.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I strongly support the views expressed by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I oppose it tooth and nail....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We all support the views expressed by Shri Basu Deb Acharia and request the hon. Member to withdraw this Bill in the interest of the working class of this country...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, It is not my aim that jute mills be closed down and people incur loss. Presently, I have information that all over the world it has been agreed that packing of 100 kg. or in excess of it should not be lifted by labourers. ILO has also accepted this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Jute Bags of 50 kg are being manufactured now and there is no difficulty about that.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: A 100 kg jute bag is still in use for sugar in Uttar Pradesh. Labourers face difficulty in lifting them. If a 50 kg, a bag is used, then I have no objection and I withdraw my Bill. But I have objection against 100 kg bag. A jute bag of 100 kg only for sugar is used in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, a jute bag should not weigh more than 50 kg.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILE (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to clear the misunderstanding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But, he wants to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The statement that the 50kg bag is used but it is not used for sugar. The 100 kg bag is still used for sugar.

[English]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I seek leave of the House to withdraw my motion for introduction of the Bill.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

15.47 hrs.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (REGULATION) BILL**[English]*

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the adoption of children and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the adoption of children and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I introduce the Bill.

15.48 hrs.

**COMPUTER TRAINING CENTRES
(REGULATION) BILL****[English]*

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate computer training centres and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate computer training centres and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I introduce the Bill.

15.49 hrs.

**RESERVATION IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
(FOR CHILDREN OF PARENTS LIVING
BELOW POVERTY LINE) BILL****[English]*

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

of seats in all educational and technical educational institutions for children whose parents are living below poverty line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of seats in all educational and technical educational institutions for children whose parents are living below poverty line."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I introduce the Bill.

15.50 hrs.

WOMEN (RESERVATION IN SERVICE) BILL**[English]*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation in posts and appointments for women under the State and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation in posts and appointments for women under the State and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51 hrs.

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES BILL****[English]*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the rehabilitation and welfare of the persons with disabilities including the

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

mentally and visually disabled persons and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the rehabilitation and welfare of the persons with disabilities including the mentally and visually disabled persons and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.52 hrs.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (REPEAL) BILL

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to repeal the Official Languages Act, 1963...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House should be told the reasons of withdrawal...(*Interruptions*). A Bill is the property of the House.

[*English*]

It is the property of the House. We should know the reason. The House has the right to know...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): This is a very good Bill. Why is the member withdrawing the Bill? We all welcome the Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Whenever an hon. Member withdraws a Bill then he has to tell the reason...(*Interruptions*). He should atleast tell the reasons?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It could have been considered if there was a notice against it.

[*English*]

The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to repeal the Official Languages Act, 1963."

The motion was adopted.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I withdraw the Bill.

15.52 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

USE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES IN COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS AND ON PACKAGES OF CONSUMER GOODS BILL

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the compulsory use of Hindi language and one of the other Indian languages specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution in all commercial advertisements and on packages of consumer goods and for matters connected therewith."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the compulsory use of Hindi language and one of the other Indian languages specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution in all commercial advertisements and on packages of consumer goods and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I withdraw the Bill.

[*English*]

15.53 hrs.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND THE SCHEDULED TRIBES (RESERVATION IN SERVICES) BILL-Contd.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item No. 51.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Sir, in continuation of what I said on the 27th of last month in support of my Bill, I want to quote article 46 of the Constitution so that the House can appreciate the responsibility of the State as far as educational and economic promotion of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are concerned. I quote: "The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation."

15.54 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

Sir, you know, this is one of the articles in the Indian Constitution under which all the State Governments, and the Central Government in particular, are supposed to take various measures in the interest of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I shall not talk about the promotion of education today, but I shall restrict myself to the economic promotion of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. For the promotion of any class, that class must own property, that class must have land for agriculture or that class must have business.

Or, lastly, that class must at least have an opportunity to work. We know, traditionally, in our country, people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes do not own any property. They were not allowed to own any property 100-200 years ago. Also, they do not own any industry in this country. The people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes do not own any business. So, the only opportunity for economic promotion for them in nothing but service.

Incidentally or accidentally or unintentionally, we are following the same *chaturvarna pratha* of *Shudras* for service, *Brahmanas* for education, *Kshatriyas* for arms and *Vaishyas* for business. I was going through the list of Ministers in the Union Cabinet. I am not alleging the hon. Prime Minister but incidentally or accidentally, the Minister of Education is a Brahmin, the Minister of Defence is a Kshatriya and the Minister of Labour and the Minister of State in that Ministry are from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It has accidentally so happened that the Minister of Labour is Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya and his Minister of State is Shri Muni Lall; Shri Jaswant Singh is the Minister of Defence; and Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi is the Minister of Education. There may not be any intention behind this but it has so happened.

Those who were allowed to take up education a hundred years ago are naturally learned and are in charge of the affairs now. The only opportunity left to the Scheduled Castes was service. So, when the founding fathers of the Constitution met during 1946-48, they decided that this class could be economically promoted if they were allowed to join the Government services. As a result, article 335 was introduced in the Constitution. That article is very simple. It provides that the class, which is not adequately represented, should be given adequate reservation in the service of the States and the Union.

What is adequate reservation? It means, minimum equal to their figure of population as compared to the total population should be represented. As a result, the population, of the Scheduled Castes is 15 per cent and they must get a minimum of 15 per cent reservation; the population of Scheduled Tribes is seven and a half per cent, so they must get a minimum of seven and half per cent reservation. In fact, such a restriction is not there for other classes and castes. Some of them may get even more. But a recent judgement of the Supreme Court, when the post-based roster was introduced, was that in a post if 15 members of the Scheduled Casters were there, a 16th person would not be taken in. That anomaly has been created by the Supreme Court in one of their judgements.

Another anomaly was created when the Indira Sahni judgement was delivered by the hon. Supreme Court. This House should appreciate that reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is one thing and reservation for other backward classes is another. Ms. Indira Sahni was not a Government employee. There was no loss to her. She was an advocate. She went to court and opposed the reservation for other backward classes. She never opposed the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The court did not give an opportunity to the then National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or to Members of Parliament belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It decided the matter against the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. With the highest respect to Supreme Court and with the highest respect to the Indian Judiciary, I would state that the court had erred. They had committed a mistake. They had confused between article 16(4), article 16(4) (a), article 335, article 38 and article 46 of the Constitution of India. I do not want to go into those details today.

I would submit to the House why I introduced this Bill and why I want the hon. Minister of Personnel and

Training to simply agree with me and accept my Bill. It is because I am doing the job of the Government as desired by the hon. President of India. When this Lok Sabha was constituted, His Excellency the President of India delivered a speech on the 25th October and I would read only one para from his speech. It is a very beautiful lecture prepared by the Government of India but I would read only one para, that is, para No. 39 from the speech of the hon. President of India.

16.00 hrs.

I quote from it:

"We are committed to safeguard the interest of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and the minorities through appropriate legal, executive and societal efforts. Our focus will be on large-scale education and socio-economic empowerment. We are determined to wipe out the last vestige of untouchability from our society. The reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes will be extended for another ten years and reservation percentage above 50 per cent followed by some States will be sanctified through legislative measures."

The hon. President of India was referring to the political reservations when he said about extension for another ten years. Sir, this is an assurance given by the hon. President of India. When I became a Member of this august House in October, 1991 I had a high hope. I waited for two to three months. But no legislation came from the Government as far as the issue of safeguarding the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is concerned.

Luckily, again in the month of December, 1999 the Government called a Seminar of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes M.Ps. We are in all 135—120 in this House and a few in the Rajya Sabha. The Seminar was arranged by the Government of India in the Parliament House Annexe which was addressed by the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Law and Justice, hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. In fact, the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment is supposed to be present here. But she must be busy with some very important subject not concerning the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and so she is not here. The hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs also should have been present here. He is not here. It is because for them this is not an important subject.

I am quoting from the decisions taken in that Seminar. I am quoting all Government documents. In that Seminar a Committee of eight Members of Parliament was formed and it was named as the Drafting Committee to find out as to what are the issues concerning the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which the Government of India should take care of. I am telling you about the composition of the Committee. It is very interesting. The Committee comprised of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, a Cabinet Minister of the Government of India; Kumari Mayawati, a very senior Member of this House; Shri Karia Munda who is also a very senior Member and who is presently the Chairman of the Committee for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes; Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, a senior Member; Shri K.H. Muniyappa; Shri Ratilal Verma, who is also a very senior Member of the ruling party Gujarat; Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria, who is also a senior Member and — last but not least — I was also a Member in the same Committee.

These eight senior Members and some who are junior like me — because I could join this Parliament only after retirement from Government service — pointed out that there are 20 issues concerning the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in this country where the Government of India should take action. The very first item of these 20 recommendations was:

"At present the policy of reservation is governed by executive instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training from time to time on this issue and it has not proved effective. It is recommended that a law should be enacted for giving statutory basis to this policy as a provision for punitive action against persons or authority responsible for its non-implementation and this law should be kept in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution."

This is not my opinion. This is the opinion of eight senior Members of Parliament, including one Cabinet Minister.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has informed us officially that this is a matter pertaining to the Department of Personnel & Training. In the footnote it is written — 'action : Department of Personnel & Training'. Mr. Chairman, Sir, till date the Department of Personnel & Training has not taken any action, any care or any step to introduce this very first recommendation — out of the 20 recommendations. These were out of a Seminar which was not a private seminar but a seminar which was organised by the Government

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

of India and a Seminar which was addressed by the hon. Prime Minister of India on the very first day and on the concluding day the hon. Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Ram Jethamalani also addressed it.

Shri Bhuria, the Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also addressed it. After this, the Members from both sides, belonging to BJP, Congress and other parties — Shri Ashok Pradhan, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Shri Ramdas Athawale and myself - made a mention of it in the House. I have got copies with me, but I do not want to bother the House by quoting those sentences. Every time we raised this issue in this House, an assurance was always given not by any Minister but the first person of the House, the hon. Prime Minister. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had given the assurance. I have got official letter from the hon. Minister of State in the Department of Personnel and Training who is right now not listening to me. She is talking with another Member of Parliament from my party. This is a habit among women that when you talk on trivial subject, they talk among themselves. Hon. Prime Minister has given assurance in this House three times during Zero Hour.

When the hon. Prime Minister came to the Seminar, there also he had given assurance. I think, I must read at least the assurance he gave in the Seminar. He said:

[Translation]

"The constitutional bench of the Supreme Court has in its recent judgement, repeated its earlier judgement regarding determination of the principle of seniority on promotion of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees. My Government propose to bring a constitutional amendment for restoring the Seniority Principle which was in existence before these judgements."

[English]

The hon. Prime Minister also stated when he came to that Seminar:

[Translation]

"The evaluation of this fact in this great moment of history after Independence would be useful. To what extent, we have succeeded in achieving the goals of social equality and social harmony and"

[English]

The Prime Minister was talking of the next three weeks from the date of that speech. That speech was delivered on 5th December, 1999. It means that he wanted to take some action within three weeks from 5th December, 1999 what he wanted? He said:

[Translation]

"to prepare an outline for the progress in the coming century in the next three weeks so that we can create a socialist society."

[English]

I want to know what happened to that *samatawadi samaj* which a person like Prime Minister had assured to the Members of Parliament belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Not only that, I want that there should be a Reservation Act. I have got the copies of the Reservation Acts of different States. Government of Orissa has an Act, Government of Tripura has an Act, Government of Bihar has an Act, Government of Karnataka has an Act, Government of Madhya Pradesh has an Act. There are six States where there is a Reservation Act. What is the advantage of having a Reservation Act? Once all these provisions concerning the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are placed in one Act, it becomes a powerful instrument and nobody can challenge the Act in any court. Another thing is that there will be punishment for an officer who is implementing the provisions of reservation because they are incorporated in an Act. I have got copies of all these Acts passed by different States. The best thing is that the Act of the Tamil Nadu Government is included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Once an Act is included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India, it becomes justifiable and action can be taken against the officer who is not implementing the policy of reservation.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to inform the hon. Minister in this House that the reservation in this country came not because Rashtrapal, Shri Shinde or Shri Ratilal Varma wanted it; the reservation in this country came because Mahatma Gandhi wanted it, Dr. Ambedkar wanted it, Pandit Nehru wanted it, Rajendra Babu wanted it, Jagjivan Ramji wanted it. They all were there as members of the Constituent Assembly. People belonging to all caste and

communities found that there was a class of people who had lived lives as untouchables.

They were not allowed to go to school, temple or what on a particular street. In one of the Southern States, they were not allowed to come out of their small hutment before sunset. The fathers of the Constitution appreciated all these problems and, therefore, they incorporated articles 15, 16, 17, 38, 46 and 335 in the Indian Constitution. I want to complain to the Minister of State in the Department of Personnel and Training that her Department has violated the Constitution of India. I quote article 338 (9) of the Indian Constitution. What does the article say? It says:

"The Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission (that is, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

Now, when these five DoPT circulars were issued in 1998, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was not consulted. Then the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes complained, and when the matter came up before the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which is a Parliamentary Committee, which is a mini-Parliament, the Committee wrote a letter to the Department of Personnel and Training and the reply from the DoPT was the that 'once a judgement is announced by the Supreme Court, it becomes a law of the land' and they have quoted article 141 of the Indian Constitution. If article 141 is important according to them, then article 338 (9) is equally important according to me. Even number-wise, article 338 (9) is more than article 141; 141 is small figure when compared to 338. Article 338 (9) says:

"The Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission..."

I want to know what steps have been taken against those officers, that is, the Secretary of DoPT or whoever they may be, who have issued those anti-SC/ST DoPT circulars in those days without consulting the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? Otherwise, the Commission becomes redundant. The Commission is not appointed by any Tom, Dick and Harry. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is appointed by the hon. President of India under the

directive of Indian Constitution. All this mess can be cleared only by legislating an Act.

I want to say that this Bill is not only in the interest of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but also in the interest of the Government because they have given assurances, they have given guarantees, but they have no time to implement them. I have consulted a retired Supreme Court Judge, and I have consulted the best advocate in the country. I introduced the Bill in April 2000. I have been told privately by several officers who have gone through my Bill No. 24 of 2000 that it is a comprehensive Bill because it takes care of all anomalies created by the Supreme Court and various High Courts, as far as articles 16(4) and 16(4)(a) are concerned. Article 16(4) gives powers to the Central Government to give reservation for Backward Classes. Article 16(4)(a) gives powers to the States to make any provision for any class. It is not restricted to the lower rung, say Grade I or Group A. The Supreme Court said that the reservation could be given only up to the lower rung. Where can I go:

The Bill empowers the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of reservation. It defines what 'establishment' is. You will appreciate that because of the new economic policy and because of disinvestment, various public sector units are being handed over to the private sector. Many mills are being closed right now. For example, my hon. friend was talking about a particular jute mill.

I am aware of the conditions of the textile mills in Gujarat. The factories are closing down. The mills are closing down. Even in Government offices there are no advertisements for fresh recruitment. With the introduction of computers in Government offices, as against ten vacancies in the clerical section, only one data entry operator is being recruited. Where would the young boys who have done matriculation or graduation or masters degree or MBA go? It is a problem not only for the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community, it is a problem for all. But the problem is more so for the students from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community because they do not have reservation for jobs in the private sector. I have incorporated an article in this Bill that there should be reservation for the students from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes community in those private establishments that have flourished and have come into existence with the help of infrastructure provided by the Government. The Industrial Estates provide

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

Government land. The Government provides them electricity, water, the entire railway network, postal services, public finance and satellite communication facilities. These factories of the private entrepreneurs come up with the help of 90 per cent loan either from the Central Government or from the State Governments. I have provided for a definition of 'establishment' in this Bill.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): That Bill was not allowed to be introduced by this Government.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, how is seniority to be fixed? This is very simple. All rules under the Central Government are framed under article 309. Who is senior in a family — the boy who is born in the month of January or the boy who is born in the month of December? Who occupies the throne after king dies — the elder brother or the younger brother? The natural choice is the elder brother. Now, the court says that if a general category employees is promoted after eight years and if he is senior in the feeder cadre, then he will become senior. I do not understand the logic behind this. I cannot criticise the Supreme Court. I do not want to criticise the Supreme Court. But I do not understand how rules of seniority, rules of promotion and rules of recruitment prepared by the Government of India under article 309 of the Constitution can be changed by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has no authority to make amendments in the rules that have been framed by the Government of India unless they go against the security of the country. But it is deciding on the seniority also.

Sir, my Bill empowers the State to conduct special recruitment drive. At present there is no special recruitment drive for the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Rashtrapal ji, two hours are allotted for this Bill. You have taken nearly half an hour. Be brief if you want to take the cooperation of other hon. Members.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon. Member would also like that other members get chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not stopping them. I am saying that he should be brief if he wants the cooperation from other members.

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I would also like to speak on this subject but I will withdraw my name in his favour. Please, allow him to speak for another five to ten minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I want to say that atleast a minute be left for me so that I can start my Bill.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: You will speak for five minutes.

[English]

Sir, my Bill has fixed responsibility for implementing the Act. My Bill also levies a penalty for contravention of the Act. The Bill also takes care of caste certificates. Myself, Shrimati Jaskaur Meena, Shri Kalidas Ratilal Varma are touring all parts of the country as Members of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Welfare Committee. We have come across hundreds of cases of false caste certificates in banks and in other public sector organisations. It is because there is no provision for that. They get their caste certificates from the MLAs, the MPs and even from the *tehsildars* and they join the public sector undertakings. The Bill also takes cognizance of offences under the Act.

The Bill clarifies the issue of powers of the Central Government. The Bill gives power to the Government to frame rules. All the provisions in the Bill are in the interests of the Government as well as of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

I want to refer to one more document. This is a special report given to the hon. President of India on 22nd January, 1998, by the Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It says and I quote:

"That Commission, for the first time, is using this option under article 338(5)(d) of the Constitution since the matter is very important and urgent. It goes to the very roots of the provisions envisaged in the Constitution. The benefits which were being enjoyed by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people for decades have been jeopardised by the action of the Government of the day."

This was stated in the letter written to the President of India by the Chairman of the Commission, Shri H. Hanumanthappa, on 22nd January, 1998. Naturally, the

letter must have gone to the Prime Minister from the President and to the Minister concerned. I would like to know from the Minister, as to what action the Government of India had taken on this letter written by the Commission which was appointed by the same Government. We have been crying hoarse that what we got because of Dr. Ambedkar, what we got because of Mahatma Gandhi, is snatched away by this Government or the previous Government in the name of a Supreme Court judgement or a High Court judgement.

You will kindly appreciate the fact that reservations came into being because of the Poona Pact. The word 'pact' is normally not used in the case of an agreement between two individuals. It is used in the case of an agreement between two nations. Gandhi was not another nation, but that was a pact between two nationalities. Dr. Ambedkar represented the exploited and the untouchables. Mahatma Gandhi was a great man, but by mistake he represented only 'touchables'. Dr. Ambedkar demanded a separate electorate. Gandhi believed that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were a part and parcel of the Hindu society, and so he was against a separate electorate. He went on a fast which was followed by a compromise. It was that compromise which was named as the Poona Pact. It was a pious agreement. It was the agreement because of which reservations came into being. What right do the courts have to snatch away this fundamental right of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes? The court has not given any reason for doing this. Seniority is changed and our roster is changed. Roster is the right of Government of India. In what manner I should enter this House will be dictated by your good self, Sir. The court cannot decide as to which dress I should wear as a Member of Parliament in this House. Parliament is supreme in this country. Parliament has created the Supreme Court; Parliament has created the High Courts; and Parliament has created the National Commission. They are all creatures of Parliament. How can the courts challenge the fundamental rights of crores and crores of people?

My request is that the Bill be passed. Otherwise, the situation of which Dr. B.R. Ambedkar warned the country while introducing the Constitution on 25th November, 1949, might come true. If the Government does not amend its recruitment methods, if the Government promises that it would do something in three weeks but takes three years — the last circular was issued in 1998 and today we are in 2001 — that warning would hold even today. The Government does not seem to have any time to deal with this important issue. Government is giving false assurances. This situation was taken care of by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He said and I quote:

"On the social plane, we have in India a society based on privileged equality which means elevation for some and degradation of others. On the economic plane we have a society in which there are some who have immense wealth as against many who are living in abject poverty. On the 26th day of January, 1950 we are going to enter into a life of contradiction. In politics we will have equality, and in social and economic lives we will have inequality. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment. Or else, those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of the political democracy which this Assembly has so laboriously built up."

Sir, I am worried about this House. I am worried about this beautiful democratic system incorporated by the Father of our Constitution. I do not want to challenge as to what happens in foreign countries.

Sir, if these unemployed people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not given reservations in employment, they will rush to Parliament. The Government had promised to give employment to one crore people but they have not even given the employment to one lakh people belonging to SCs and STs.

What will they do? A revolution will come out of hunger. We, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, persons have remained hungry for the last 2005 years. We started getting something only 1950. Why should it be snatched away by the courts in the year 1997, 1998 and 1999? Why is the Government of India not helping us?

Sir, in fact, I have got many more things to say but due to paucity of time I am not going to touch everything. I have got copies of the letters from the hon. Minister. I was informed in the month of October, 2000 that one Circular would be withdrawn. In May, she said that the matter was under examination. Sir, a doctor takes hardly half an hour for examination of his patient. But here, in this matter, the DoPT is taking one year for examination!

This will not work. I am not talking here on my behalf. I am talking on behalf of 25 crore people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I am talking out of agony. I am talking on behalf of those who are suffering. We want employment. Otherwise, what is the use of this Constitutional guarantee? Only because of the confusion created by the courts, the Government of India should not become helpless.

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

Sir, with due respect to the Supreme Court, I say that this House has powers to undue all wrong judgments given by the Indian courts. We should all seriously think about the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. In fact, I have many things to say but I should also appreciate that there are, at least, 10-15 speakers present in this House who will support my Bill. I am sure that the good Minister of the DoPT will agree with me as to what I have said. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhanduka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my friend Shir Pravin Rashtrapal, a Congress MP elected from Gujarat has presented the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Services) Bill, 2000. I appreciate the feeling he has expressed for the society and the ache of his heart while presenting it. I felicitate his statement. But I feel sad to say that his feelings and desires for the upliftment of the Dalit are very painful to me because he is a member of Congress. He spoke about Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. The Congress troubled Baba Saheb Ambedkar so much. The Congress insulted Baba Saheb so much. The Congress tried to stop Baba Saheb's entry in the Lok Sabha the representative of that Congress speaking to day. The representatives of that Congress is speaking today. I, therefore, feel sad for this. I am happy that he was elected for Lok Sabha but the party to which he belongs has done a lot of harm to the Dalits in the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: You please speak on the Bill. It is immaterial to which party I belong to...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Shri Rashtrapal spoke about the assurance given by the Prime Minister. It is a matter of pleasure that as per the assurances given by the Prime Minister, two ordinances have been withdrawn. But during whose term this happened. During whose time atrocities against Dalits took place? It happened during the tenure of former Prime Minister Shri Devegauda, Shri Gujaral. With whose help they became Prime Minister? Who were helping them? These Congress people were helping.

These people were sitting and this anti-Dalit ordinance was presented and passed with their help only. Had they

been aware at that time and if they had true feelings for the Dalits and wanted welfare of the Dalits, then they could have withdrawn their support at once from the Gujaral and Devegauda Government.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: You can reply when you will get the chance for giving reply. You can note for now...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I do not want to interrupt him; but at the same time, I want to tell him one thing. The Bill that I moved is regarding reservation as a whole and not just regarding the DOPT's circular...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: I would like to take some time. D.O.P.T. has come into existence recently. The special session was called on completion of 50 years of Independence. In that special session I was given an opportunity to speak at midnight. On that day also I remembered and saluted Baba Sahib Ambedkar and said that during these fifty years after independence rule of the Congress was the longest. Did the dalits get upliftment? Has there any change in their living standard. Even today dalits live in the same Jhopris and dilapidated houses and they have been doing the same dirty work of others houses. They have not got jobs even today. They are jobless. Today they are not getting promotion. Even today the percentage of reservation which should be fulfilled, is not fulfilled. Congress ruled the country for fifty years. Had they wanted, the reservation could have been fulfilled. Today we talk about backlog. Has this backlog arised in three years. Has it arised during the regime of hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Has it happened during NDA regime. Had the Congress honestly wanted the upliftment of dalits and intended to give them the right jobs and grade one posts, it would have been fulfilled. They say something and do other thing. It has been said:

"Kathani Meethi Khaand si, Kami Missi hoya

Kathani Jaisi Kami Kare to Visha bhi amrit hoya."

Congress has made speeches and statements only. Congress have shown sympathy to dalits. Congress considered dalits mere voters not human beings. Had they been considered as human beings, they might have progressed. Today the dalits would have been in good

positions and they would have been big industrialists. Today, dalits are facing atrocities in villages as well as in cities. They are being insulted, It would not have happened if they had good intentions.

The Poona Pact has been recalled by him, it is a good thing. Who opposed the Poona Pact of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, who didn't agree to that who were those, and whose supporter were they? All of you know it. My submission is that today there is B.J.P. Government, today there is N.D.A. Government B.J.P. is linked with smaller organisations. I would like to mention here the name of R.S.S. R.S.S. took the dalit youth to small centres run by them and got them sit with other people, R.S.S. worked for the removal of untouchability. It pumped a new enthusiasm in youth. Dr. Baba Saheb had to resort to 'satyagrah' to enter the temple. Atrocities were committed on him while going to the temple. Once he was lathi charged on drinking water from a pond. Vishwa Hindu Parishad has been working for their entry in the temples where they are prohibited to enter. Jagatguru Shankaracharya sit with dalits during their meetings and encourage them. He visit their houses and take food with them. Vishwa Hindu Parishad is trying to abolish this practice which has been continuing for so many years.

There is a Vanaswasi Kalyan Parishad for the welfare of Adivasi people. Its members are serving Adivasi people at their homes in jungles. If the Government which ruled about 50 years had done this job, they would have been in better condition today. When I visited Madhya Pradesh I saw that even today ladies have only one sari.

Women collect some material from jungle and then buy flour by selling it. They are in such a condition today even after 50 years. You can guess that who is responsible for that? If the Baba Saheb Ambedkar had not made a provision for reservation, their condition would have been more pitiable. So, I support what Shri Rashtrapal ji has said. But that time it was your Party which supported that Government. That was your mistake. I have been a member of this House since ninth Lok Sabha. Earlier I used to sit that side and raise the issue whenever atrocities were committed on dalits but no steps were taken to stop it. A dalit was murdered in south India where the killer D.S.P. and even the Chief Minister belonged to Reddy caste.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): His speech has nothing to do with this Bill.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Shri Rashtrapal ji has mentioned some things of the earlier time. Therefore I had to say this. It has been done by my colleagues. When special session of Parliament was summoned, members of Congress and other Parties rising above Party line said unanimously that dalits have not been uplifted and even today there is no change in their condition.

Proper representation has not been given to the people of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in reservation and promotions. Reservations policy has been absolutely changed by issuing five orders by the Department of Personnel and Training in 1997. The facilities being given to the people of the Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes have also been withdrawn by that ordinance. I feel pained by it. Due to this ordinance these facilities have been stopped. Officers should have consulted the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes before issuing three of the ordinances but they did not do so and these were issued. These ordinance would not have been issued if the National Commission was consulted. As per the article 338(9) of the Constitution it is required to consult the commission but it was not done. In other cases the commission was consulted several times. Not only this the commission had met the then Prime Minister but nothing had been done. After that as per the clause five of the said article the commission sent a comprehensive report to the President for his comments. The department of Personnel and Training has changed the whole process of direct recruitment and maintaining roster in the Government of India by issuing office memorandum dated 2-7-1997. This order has caused a great loss to the people of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. It was mentioned in the order that it was based on the verdict of the Supreme Court in the R.K. Sabarwal case. The R.K. Sabarwal case was related to the people of the backward classes and not related to the people of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It was not the issue. There was no discussion in this regard. The people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were affected as a result thereof whereas it is not applicable to us because there was no hearing about us. It was not in accordance with the verdict of the court. There was an anomaly in it due to which the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are suffering today. The earlier roster system can be continued till that time. The earlier roster should have been maintained till the representation of the people related to the reserved categories in the cadre reach the prescribed percentage but before doing so, the roster itself was changed. Due to change of roster they are not getting promotions.

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

Sir, I feel pained to say that without giving serious thought to the observations of the court. The Department of Personnel and Training hurriedly started post based roster for all categories of posts. With this we can not do justice with dalits. They should be given jobs and promotions on right time. The DOPT did not even go into the facts to know whether the representation has been given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes according to the prescribed level. It did not try to know as to what extent the new roster would harm those people. They should have confirmed whether the earlier roster had been completed.

My submission is that after introduction of new roster as per the judgement of the Court the post-based roster in place of vacancy based roster was to be prepared after filling up prescribed posts under reservation. It has prepared in haste. So far as 'reservation' is concerned, some senior officers seem to be against it. If something is in favour of dalit people they do not implement it rather they ignore it and if it is against them they implement it immediately. This type of several senior Officers are punishing and harassing the entire society. The Department of Personnel and Training not only tried to create a vacancy based roster in haste but has also not made any provision to ensure this fact.

Sir, before providing reservation in reservation related roster, the Government should have ensured the Scheduled Castes have been given prescribed 15% reservation and the Scheduled Tribes 7.5% reservation. These orders will divest the SCs and STs of employment opportunities. In view modern roster, a provision should be made for reservation in direct recruitment and promotion....(Interruptions) As compared to previous roster, in new roster priority has not been given to reservation....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Varmaji, since this subject is very important, you please speak in brief.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: The first and third point of previous roster relate to direct recruitment and 3rd and 4th point relate to promotion of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes....(Interruptions) In comparison to previous roster upto 13 points Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were losing just one point. In the SC/ST Committee, we witness that great injustice is done to such employees. They are transferred to far flung areas in the name of promotion due to which they are forced to tender their resignations. I met a number of female employees who are transferred to place where they are unable to go and thus they resign from their job. Finally, I would only like

to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the Bill, moved by Shri Rashtrapal, is a very good Bill and our Government is making efforts in this direction. The hon'ble Prime Minister is committed to protect the interests of the SCs and STs. We also want that a law should be enacted but the way the members of Congress Party are raising objection is not correct, why they could not enact a law when they were in power during the last 50 years. Now, they are talking of the Ninth Schedule. Why did not they include it in the Ninth Schedule when they could do? They are demanding this now because there is BJP Government today. Atalji, is a magnanimous persons. While giving speech, I had said that.

"... lekin Atalji ka dil hai bhahut bada,

veh jarur hatayenge beech mein pada roda,

arey oh Deve Gowda"

Atalji has already removed two impediments and he will also remove the third one. We will mitigate your sufferings but you will have to cooperate with us. I had said another thing that-

"arey o pradhan mantri Gujral,

anamat ke naam par daliton ke kheench nikale baal,

aur unko kar diya behaal,

Lekin bhajpa ki sarkar karegi, dalito ka nihaal,

arey o pradhan mantri Gujral."

What will you do, you just talk. You have no sentiment and if you have sentiment then you should cooperate with NDA Government which is working for the upliftment of Dalits.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I support the Bill introduced by Shri Pravin Rashtrapal. This Bill is a well-intentioned Bill. The main intention of bringing this Bill is to bridge the gap and remove the lacunae and anomalies which are still there even after 52 years of our independence.

Sir, the reservation which was enshrined in our Constitution was to bring the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at par with the other sections of our population. But, even after 52 years of Independence, that purpose has not yet been achieved.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

This is mainly because of the lack of political will on the part of the Central Government. There are a number of articles in our Constitution. Article 46 of our Constitution says:

"The State will shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them for social injustice and all forms of exploitation."

This is very important. the exploitation is continuing even after 52 years of Independence. That aspect has been ignored by all the Governments. I am not blaming any particular Government. Exploitation of people, belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Backward communities, is still continuing. Article 335 says:

"The claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.

In the Central Government service, even in Group 'D' posts, vacancies exist. The backlog has not been filled up. In Group 'C' posts also, the reserved posts have not been filled up in the Central Government Departments. leave alone Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts. Why is this happening? It is mainly because no sincere efforts have been made to implement the mandates of the Constitution. That is the main reason. Due to this reason, the backlog vacancies have not been filled up. This problem has been raised a number of times.

Now disinvestment is taking place. The public sector is now being converted into private sector. The public sector undertakings are being sold out. Where is the guarantee for reservation in private sector? When public sector is being converted into private sector and the public sector undertakings are being sold out, is there guarantee for reservation in private sector? There is no guarantee. Then, how can the Government follow the mandates of the Constitution?

Another problem is that the Supreme Court has given a judgement that there cannot be any reservation in single-cadre posts. In West Bengal, we are facing this problem. The West Bengal Government had passed the Reservation Act in 1989. In West Bengal, ninety per cent

of the schools are Government aided schools and hardly ten per cent of them are Government schools. The State Government provides the entire fund for the payment of salaries of teachers and for running the schools. But we are not able to provide reservation for single-cadre posts. For the post of Principal, Headmaster etc., we are facing the problem of reservation.

What I want to ask is that when there is a Supreme Court judgement, why has the Government of India not immediately come forward with a constitution amendment? If a Constitution Amendment Bill is brought forward and enacted to nullify the effort of some people who do not want to maintain the reservation, it would help the reserved category people. Unless that is done, the whole purpose of reservation to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people will be defeated. So, I urge upon the Government to think of bringing forward a legislation to amend the Constitution in the case of single-cadre posts.

In the case of education, particularly medial education for the tribal students, there is a regulation issued by the Medical Council of India in 1976. In the case of Scheduled Tribe candidates seeking admission in the medical course, what is the regulation which was issued in 1976? The regulation is that in the case of general candidates the percentage of marks fixed in respect of different subjects is 50, which is the overall minimum percentage. In the case of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes candidates, the minimum is 40 per cent marks. I have already written to Health Minister as well as the Tribal Affairs Minister about this. Because of this regulation, this year, in West Bengal, in the Government Medical Colleges, 45 seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Tribe candidates. How many Scheduled Tribe candidates could get admission? Only five candidates could get admission. Out of the 45 seats which have been reserved for the Scheduled Tribe candidates, only five candidates could get admission because of this regulation which says that the Scheduled Tribe candidates should get 40 per cent marks. Here, I am not talking of the Scheduled Caste candidates. I am talking of the Scheduled Tribe candidates. Unless there is a relaxation, the reservation for Scheduled Tribe candidates in the case of medical education will become meaningless. So, I urge upon the Government to consider this. I have already written to the hon. Minister. He has agreed that something should be done, as has been stated in article 46 of the Constitution, so that the reservation in medical course and in other educational institutions can also be maintained.

This is a well-intentioned Bill. I request the hon. Minister of the Department of Personnel and Training to

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

consider this. It may be a Private Members' Bill. But the intention of the Bill is to bridge the gap, to remove the lacuna, the anomalies and the exploitation that are still continuing. If this Bill is accepted, it is all right. Otherwise, the Government should bring forward a legislation to protect the rights of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people, to maintain the reservation and to end exploitation of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people which is still continuing.

With these few words I conclude.

17.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill brought by my colleague Shri Pravin Rashtupal. This Bill provides for reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services in the subordinate offices of Central and State Government and private sector as well and also deals with cohesive or incidental matters. My colleague is not present here perhaps he has not paid attention towards the purpose of this Bill. There is no need to mention as to which Government have contributed what. The purpose of this Bill is to implement the reservation policy according to the provisions made in the Constitution. I am speaking on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Services) Bill, 2000. First, I associate my views with the views expressed by Hon'ble Pravin Rashtupal. Constitution maker Hon'ble Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, had made the provision of reservation in Government services for backward classes. In our Constitution, there is a provision that the period of reservation will be extended after every 10 years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today 53-54 years have passed since we achieved our independence. But during this period the backlog of reservation has increased in all departments and undertakings of the Central Government. I have not some figures which I would like to mention here. In Group 'A' services, reservation for SC is only 12% and ST is 3.57%. In Group 'B' services, reservation for SC is 12% and ST is 2.65%. It is sad to note that the Government is not taking any concrete step to implement the reservation policy. Whichever party is in power in the country they have to work according to Constitution. We are demanding what is provided in the Constitution and nothing else. Whichever Government is in power, it is its responsibility to see that the provisions of reservation for SC, ST and backward classes as laid down in the Constitution, whether it is in the field of

education, to improve their economic condition, in services or in any other sector, is being implemented properly. There is reservation in politics also, that is the purpose that I am speaking here today. I would like to say that the provision of reservation, in any field, should be implemented properly. Just now someone has said that the Congress has done this. We demand that, whichever Government is in power, should give Justice to us which we have not got so far. That is why we are requesting time and again for reservation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request the hon'ble Minister through you that this Bill may be brought forward by the Government and this reservation act may be implemented in such a manner that even the court of law could not change it. Enactment of Reservation Act would mount pressure on the officers.

Your officers cannot avoid it either. There should be such a provision in the Bill that legal action could be taken against the officers, who try to avoid it.

There is a lot to speak on this Bill, but due to paucity of time I would like to mention some of the main points only. There is a Committee of Parliament on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Hon'ble Rashtupalji and myself are the members of that Committee. The Committee visit the undertakings of the Government of India and State Governments and we have visited many a places in India. We found that somewhere reservation is 1% and somewhere it is even 0%. Therefore, the Government of India should bring forward a legislation in order to implement the reservation completely. In some places, the officers in the Government undertakings say that they are not aware of the reservation. The arrangement of reservation in the Constitution has been made but the officers while giving evidence before the committee say that they were not aware of the reservation. There are a number of corporations municipal corporations, municipalities in Government of India and State Governments in the country where reservation is negligible. Many people say that the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have advanced a lot by way of reservation provided to them by the Constitution. I want to say humbly that it is not so that we have got a lot. It is not true.

Sir, reservation in promotion was banned in 1997. A meeting of SC/ST Forum of Members of Parliament of all the parties was held and we put forth a demand there. Then, two orders were taken back and two orders are pending in Supreme Court. For those orders, many of our friends have met the hon'ble Prime Minister and

have demanded that these should be disposed of as early as possible. I demand that the reservation in promotion, which has been banned since 1997 should be continued again from very that day.

There is reservation for SC/ST in education, Medical Colleges, Engineering Colleges but it is irony of our fate that bogus people manage to get admission there in our names. The verification of Caste certificates is not done. Injustice is done with us there also. Therefore, there is a need for the Government to make this law more effective. While not taking more time, I support the Bill, brought forward by Shri Praveen Rashtrapal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I demand from the Central Government through you that the Reservation Act may be brought as early as possible, in this session itself. I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, when the Government of citizens of India was formed after the independence, it was considered that the country has been a slave for many years. Firstly it was under the rule of Mughals and then under the rule of British. Now, when our own rule has come, Constitution was framed in order to ensure the speedy development of our country. Many things were incorporated in the Constitution of our country by making a study of the constitution of other countries but there were a lot of things which were being done here continuously and certain provisions were made with a view to rectify them.

Hon'ble Praveen Rashtrapalji has presented Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Service) Bill, 2000 in order to maintain reservation in service for the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I support his present Bill emotionally. There is no doubt that provisions have been made in the Constitution by its makers for the upliftment of the down trodden and as a result thereof upliftment is going on slowly. I want to say that upliftment is not going on at the required speed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can say to the extent that Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar said during the course of discussions at the time of framing Constitution that upliftment of the oppressed classes will not be ensured by merely making the provision of reservation or providing them reservation. I have gone through the proceedings of Constitution making. According to that it was discussed and a point to point discussion on this issue was done at that time. I have read therein that Ambedkarji also opposed the reservation at one place and I understand

that he might have opposed this keeping in mind that he also got education when perhaps there was no arrangement for reservation or he might have thought that could he become an esteemed lawyer after getting education and also a member of the Constituent Assembly of India. Moreover when the Constitution was being passed he was the Chairman. This Constitution was passed in his Chairmanship. At that time, there were leaders like Jag Jiwan Ramji who used to think that all of us can perhaps become like them by working hard. This truth might be behind their thinking. That's why they had partially opposed the reservation in Constitution but there were Nehru and Sardar Patel among the framers of Constitution, they favoured the provision of reservation in the Constitution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when it was decided that the provision of reservation should be there in the Constitution then its time frame was considered. Everybody emphasized that this provision should be made for 10 years because at that time everybody was of the opinion that after installation of our Government there would be concerted efforts for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and then there would be harmonious atmosphere in whole of the country and no need would be felt for such type of reservation. Perhaps they had made this provision by keeping this fact in mind. But it is very unfortunate for our country that the need for reservations is being continuously felt even today after fifty years of independence and the time limit for reservation is being increased after every 10 years for further 10 years in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies.

The period was extended upto fifty years. It is also mentioned in Article 334 of the Constitution that this provision of reservation will not continue after fifty years of the implementation of the Constitution. I think that the intention behind this provision would be to extend the same after every ten years upto 50 years and by then such a situation would arise when there would be no untouchability, no haves and have nots and no discrimination. In such a situation the people of other classes may not have a feeling of unpleasantness, that is why a restriction was imposed that this provision would not be in force after fifty years and the same situation will not be kept continuing. But I wanted that Rashtrapalji should also thank the Government of Atalji, for this issue since it is a national problem. The task of upliftment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and oppressed classes, and bringing them in the stream of harmony and equality is not the problem of any particular political party rather it is a problem of the nation, it is the problem of the Government and it is the problem of all the

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countrymen. That is why this Government has removed the restriction of fifty years by making an amendment in the Constitution and made a provision that the reservation will continue further. I thought that they would thank but they didn't. It is my duty to thank and so I am thankful to this Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: It is a different subject. What he is talking is political reservation. My Bill is regarding reservation in service.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: You need not worry, I am saying the same thing and coming to that point only. But my submission was that you would have extended you thanks. Suppose, you did not do it. Hon'ble Shri Ratilal Verma has said that in 1995-96-97 the then Government running with your support issued five office memorandum in pursuance of orders of the Supreme Court which caused ban on the reservation in service for the persons belonging to SC, ST category and also a ban on providing relaxations in reservation. In fact, the Government should have taken a decision in the cabinet in this regard before issuing such a order and should have requested to the Supreme Court that all this has been done under constitutional provision. If the words used in the definition given in the Constitution were creating any misinterpretation, the same would be suitably amended in 4-6 months and the same would be informed to the Supreme Court. Government should have made such a request, but it has not been done. Instead, Government immediately issued five office orders which caused ban on the relaxations provided in the reservation in services. If any person, officer or employee belonging to scheduled castes is promoted today, and a senior person of upper caste is promoted later on, then that person of upper caste would resume his seniority automatically and the person from SC, ST category will remain Junior. Government should have deliberated on this issue and they should have convinced Supreme Court in this regard instead of issuing orders. Government should have continued the earlier provisions regarding reservation in promotions for Scheduled Castes. But they did not do so. You supported it, we kept on watching and opposing it. But this Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji withdrew those two office orders which were not under consideration of the court. Because of that, backlog accumulated by more than fifty percent and it went up 70 to 75 percent. Now restrictions over them have been lifted. Now the orders have been issued for recruitment. I do not want to waste the time of the House

by reciting that order as we all are aware of that. Those two orders have been issued and action have been initiated on them. Yet we all feel that administrative officers are not implementing these orders properly. Infact, all of us are responsible for that. But as you have mentioned that you are talking of reservations in services only, then you should thank Government atleast for the withdrawal of the order. Why do you reserve the thanks, I think you should thank the Government in this regard without hesitation. We are thankful to Ambedkarji, Nehruji, the then Government which implemented the Constitution. We are thanking them time and again. But you have reservations in advancing thanks to a Government whose performance is exemplary. You should thank it. Now onward there should be a mechanism that every body should think over a national problem with open mind.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: We shall extend our thank when this Bill is passed. We shall also honour Madam after the Bill is passed.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Whether this Bill should be passed or not, I shall also express my views on that issue. I am already extending my emotional support to the Bill. In my opinion, it is not sufficient to pass the Bill. Those definitions and wordings are needed to be amended which are given in the Constitution in this regard. If they are not amended then more passing of the Bill will not serve the purpose and Supreme Court, on the basis of definitions given in the Constitution, would go on interpreting it in its own way, and thus compelling Government to obey their orders. That's why, instead of passing this Bill, there is need to bring an amendment in the Constitution.

I had read out the earlier amendment that have been brought in article 335, wherein it was proposed that the Government could enact such laws which may provide reservation for the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but will not ignore efficiency. Now the Supreme Court have interpreted the word efficiency, that people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are backward since ages, they are down-trodden, they are not properly educated they have passed with very low percentage of marks, they could succeed because of scholarship, they are not broad minded and in view of the above situations if they are provided with reservations and they succeed to hold higher posts, then their work efficiency would not be upto the mark. Supreme Court passed orders keeping these points in view. If any amendment is not brought in such type of language, then Bill being introduced by you would be negated. I read out the article 335:-

"335. *Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts*— The claims of the members of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State."

This last word 'maintenance of efficiency' has been interpreted by the Supreme Court and reservation in promotion to the members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been rejected on this basis. All of us are facing problems because of this. If these words are not amended suitably, then the Bill introduced by you may not bring desired result in this regard, even though it may be passed by this House. Constitution makers have provided various articles in the Constitution of India to make the status of equality swiftly, Article 16 provides:-

"16 Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment."

There shall be such provisions in public employment and I would like to read article 16(4) with it, because of which we are facing these problems. This article provides as under:-

"(4) Nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which in the opinion of the state is not adequately represented in the services under the state."

That is, no one shall check you from enacting law in this regard. It denotes this meaning and you enacted the law accordingly but they did find out a flaw in that law as per meaning of the Constitution.

We are also going to enact the same law and again there will be same flaws and we shall have to face the same consequences. In the same way, it is given in article 16-4(A).

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: You are pointing out a different thing. Article 16-4 is not for SC and ST. My Bill is only for SC & ST. Article 16-4 is for other backward castes so do not mix up these things together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rashtrapalji, you explain these things while giving reply on this Bill.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: We have made amendment in Article 16-4(a) regarding restoring of facilities to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Community. I would like to read out it.

"Nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any provisions for reservations in matters of promotions to any class or classes of posts in the services under the state in favour of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes which in the opinion of the state are not adequately represented in the services under the states". This type of definition is there and this is the terminology. They have interpreted it and had imposed restrictions on us.

It has been written in the directive principles also. I would like to read out Article 45 of the Constitution. If it would have been implemented, the present condition of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, Dalits and Minority community which is prevailing in the country for which we all are concerned would not have been so. It is as follows:-

"*Provision for free and compulsory education for children*". The state shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years."

Every body knows as to what endeavour was made in this regard. Now-a-days education has become so costly that we can not afford to educate our children in schools. If we send our children to Government schools, there are no teachers there. They don't have carpets, there is no proper place to sit and there are no black boards. If we send our children to private schools, we have to pay lakhs of rupees as fees. We have got educated by putting efforts and reached this place but it is a matter to be considered as to how our children will get education. It has not been implemented till now, no one tried to implement it. Keeping in view all these things it is essential to bring out a comprehensive legislation in this regard.

You may see article 46 also. It is also written there that the educational and economic interests of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other weaker sections shall be promoted but till today it has not been done and even if it has been done it was at a very low speed. Tortoise won the race with rabbit. So we can not say that it was a tortoise speed. Similarly in article 47 there is a provision for raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living and for improving public health. If this provision would have been implemented the benefits of

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

all these schemes and provisions would have reached poor, Dalit, SCs & STs. But these were not implemented honestly. Although laws are adequate but the effort to implement them were not made honestly. That is why such situation is prevailing. We can feel the necessity of passing this bill. But this bill would not supersede the provisions of the Constitution. Only the legislation would be implemented which has been made by amending the Constitution and which is in accordance with the spirit of the construction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I will conclude within 2-3 minutes. In point 15 you have mentioned that if for filling the posts or classes of posts reserved for the scheduled tribes the required number of candidates of that class are not selected or are not available, these shall be filled up by the candidates of scheduled castes. Similarly if for filling the posts or classes of posts reserved for scheduled castes, the required number of such candidates are not selected or are not available, these shall be filled up by the candidates of scheduled tribes. I would like to say in this regard and you are also aware that there is a provision that if there is a vacancy for scheduled castes and even after 3 advertisements the post is not filled, the post may be filled up with the candidates belonging to scheduled tribes community. You have further written that if there is a vacancy for S.T. community and that is not filled up efforts may be made to fill up that post by issuing 3 continuous advertisements and completing the interview process. If even after issuing three advertisements the posts are not filled up, those posts can be filled up by the people of scheduled castes community. This is a rule. It is a Government order. This has been implemented and many posts are being filled up in such a way. We all attend the meetings of the committee on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and there we find that in many places if suitable candidates of this community are not available after three advertisements, these vacant posts are filled up by the candidates of other community and if suitable candidates are not available in this community, vacant posts are filled up with some other community by completing the same process. Now you have written that this should be followed whereas the provision is already there and it is not being implemented. There are orders to implement them. There is reservation and special recruitment drives have also been launched. This provision is in item no 33 and it has been provided in section 5. In this regard, I want to say and we all know that special recruitment drives have been launched and these drives have been launched repeatedly.

In 1951, this implementation order was issued and later on this was withdrawn. Before that we have enquired from the officials in meetings and they have told that special recruitment drives were launched during 2-5 year and lakhs of vacant post were filled up throughout the country. This provision is already there. Then what is the rational behind bringing this provision in this Bill? Besides there are other provisions also and there is also Law but even then they are not being implemented. Therefore some-where or the other there is lack of will power. I would also like to say that existing laws should be implemented strictly and the responsibility should be fixed in this regard and there should be a provision to punish them. You have included it in this Bill and I support this but there are a number of things in this Bill which are already in practice, which are already in regulation. That is why I feel the there is not much necessity for this.

You have not mentioned about the reservation in High Courts and Supreme Court. It has been left out.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Kindly read out the full definition of Establishment.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: It may be possible that I may not have understood as you have but it appears that there is no mention about the reservation in High Courts and Supreme Court whereas the people of the country wish to have reservation in Judiciary. It is there up to session courts but there is no provision in it for this. I am mentioning this because an incomplete Bill would not fulfill our wishes. After telling few more things I will conclude. We have to withdraw there implementation orders since the last December session. We have made continuous efforts of this. Efforts have also been SC/ST forum of our Parliament in this direction, efforts were also made by the political parties. This issue was also raised in the parliamentary meeting and hon'ble Prime Minister had announced in the December session that one implementation order is left which is not subjudiced. I am telling the same thing which was told at that time. Presently there is only one implementation order which is subjudiced. There are two orders, which are not subjudiced which have been withdrawn. When Shri Atalji announced it during the December session only one or two days were left of the session and the session was interrupted. He wanted to do some thing but he could not do.

We tried to do something in the next session but due to Tehalka episode, we could not do anything

concrete in that session. We are trying again in this session. The Prime Minister has held a meeting with some officers. Pramodji has been authorized for that. Vasundharai has also been instructed to solve it as soon as possible. She is acting in this regard. I believe that except for the office order dated 13th August, 1997, which is pending in court and in which some clarifications have been asked on the basis of 77th Constitutional Amendment, action is being taken for withdrawing the other two office orders dated 30th January 1997 and 2nd July 1997.

Sir, Atalji wants to restore these facilities with an open mind. So, he is trying to solve the problem as soon as possible. He did not get the opportunity to do so as the parliamentary session was not going on. Constitution is also being reviewed and a commission will be constituted for it. The Supreme Court and High Courts explain the definition or wording of the Constitution in their own ways. We should present these issues before the Constitutional Review Commission to correct this practice of interpreting the Constitution. I think that there cannot be any correct and good judgement without it; otherwise problems would continue to crop up even after amendments are made. In the order dated 13th August, there are words 'As at present'. It has created difficulty for us. The then Government made 77th amendment in the Constitution for withdrawing that order. Someone has filed the writ petition by interpreting 'As at present' as the facility to be provided as on date but not from the back date. Now the issue is being decided in the court. So, I request that the Government should bring forward a bill in elaborate form. I demand that the Government should put-up this issue before the Constitutional Review Commission so that the Constitution may be reviewed smoothly, if there is any need. An illusion is being created all over the country that this Government is against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This Government will protect the interests of the people by clearing these illusions. It has been proved by two points. They could have discontinued the practice of providing reservation after 50 years of independence as the fathers of constitutions have written so in the Constitution...(*Interruptions*) It has been written in it, I have quoted Article 334....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I want to submit to the hon. Member that this Bill is for reservation in services and not for political reservations...(*Interruptions*)

The reservation in services is permanent and there is no time limit for it...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

There is no connection between political reservation and reservation in service...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I am talking about the will power of the Government. Had they not intended to protect our interests, they would not have taken decision about political reservation after 50 years...(*Interruptions*) The order, withdrawn by the Government, proves that this Government is the benefactor of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities and the Dalits and it will keep on working of their interest. Thank you, Jai Bharat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support Shri Pravin Rashtrapal's Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Services) Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe in positive approach. Instead of discussing the past actions, we should think about doing something better in future. I think that some good results can be attained if the Government also acts in this direction. The promises and commitments of the Government are reflected in President's address and the resolve for welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has been reiterated in this address. The Government convened a conference of the Members of Parliament belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and it was addressed by the Prime Minister also. The resolution for the welfare of the weaker section was reiterated in it. Recently, a conference of the Governors was held and the President expressed his deep concern and said that the weaker section should get justice. A committee under the chairmanship of the Governor of Maharashtra was also constituted in this regard by the President. I mean to say that this is a big problem. The neglected section of the society should be helped. Thus, we should seriously ponder over the drawbacks in the process for implementing reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and about the persons responsible for it and also about the provision of punishment in law.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the birth centenary of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar was celebrated for three years and three Prime Ministers and three Ministers of Welfare were its Vice-Chairman. I am fortunate for being the Vice Chairman

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

of this Centenary Committee when I was the Minister of Welfare. I have the agenda of Dr. Ambedkar centenary celebration status of programme, recommended for planning which has 45 points. It has been accepted by the Government of India and by the Cabinet. Its 30th point provides legislation on reservation for SCs and STs. It has been accepted by the Government but the Government of India has not been able to make adequate progress in this regard. Shri Rashtrapalji has just told about the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Act which is in force in 6 States. Actually it is in force in 7 States. It is in force in West Bengal since 1989 and there is the provision of imprisonment for three months in Madhya Pradesh. It is in force in Orissa since 1975, in Tripura since 1991 and in Bihar since 1992. I would like to congratulate the Government of Tamilnadu not only for drafting the bill for reservation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes but also for including it in the 9th schedule.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A time of two hours was allotted for discussion on this subject. I move a motion before the House for extending this time by one hour more as there are still ten members to speak on this issue.

MANY HONOURABLE MEMBERS: We agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House agrees. The time is extended by one hour more.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: The time must be extended by one hour but the time should be extended in such a way that the proceedings of the House does not go beyond 6. p.m.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It should be extended by one hour in such a way that the next bill is declared as protected and that bill will be introduced later on. Please inform the Chair about it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I would like to make another request through the Chair. This bill was drafted with the concurrence of the Ministry of Law, Department of Personnel, Ministry of Welfare and the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Its draft is in my possession. I would like to request Vasundharaji to look into it and find out as to where the draft paper has gone. Its draft was prepared in 1996. The Ministry of Social Justice is responsible for looking into this matter. This is a very grand Ministry. This Ministry is more concerned about the problems of animals than that of human being. That draft is traceless. "The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

(Reservation in appointments, posts and seats in educational institutions) Bill, 1997."

The most vital issue is that the Government is not showing serious concern towards discussing this issue. The Vajpayee Government had promised to provide one crore jobs every year, but the jobs are decreasing in our country. The number of workers is decreasing in those public sector undertaking which have been handed over to private sector. The concept of disinvestment has been borrowed from America and European countries. Government of India has publicize that public undertakings are running into loss and it is our compulsion to sell them. There is no dearth of capital in public undertakings. Disinvestment is not being done because of their poor economic conditions. These public undertakings are in loss because of mismanagement. The most significant thing is that as per new strategy for disinvestment, 49 percent shares are with the Government and the remaining 5 percent shares have gone to private sector. The first priority of public sector is the social liability whereas the priority of private sector is to earn profits. When these public undertakings will be sold to private sector, they will act arbitrarily. There is no provision for reservation of jobs in private sector. They take guarantee of only one year of service. Thereafter, the employees could be retrenched on the basis of VRS and new recruitment could be made. Thus reservation in jobs in being phased out in the country. I want to say our friends, sitting on this side that no new job opportunities are being created. In the changed scenario of the country, private sectors are being encouraged. Because of this, of opportunities are also decreasing. Union Government has announced reduction of 5 percent jobs in Government offices in current financial year. Government of Uttar Pradesh has also announced to cut 5 percent jobs in Government offices. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is great one. Reserved seats for dalits and backwards in Uttar Pradesh have not been filled up. There is no act in U.P. to provide reservation to the members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, but they are talking to provide reservation to the people of backward castes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to know when there will be no new job opportunities, as to where jobs will be made available and as to where the reservation will be provided. Tall claims will not serve the purpose.

Mr. Chairman Sir, in the last I would like to say that this effort of Shri Rashtrapalji is a good one. This is my request to the Government of India that the law, enacted

by it to provide reservation to the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, should be included in the 9th schedule of the Constitution and provisions should be made for punishment accordingly. Until there is psychological pressure on the implementing authorities, no justice could be done to SC, ST and poor people. No good can be done to this country unless the officials responsible for not completing the reservations are put behind the bar.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur): Mr. Chairman Sir, today I am going to express my views on such sensitive issue which has been brought forth by our experienced colleague Shri Rashtrapal Ji in the form of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Services) Bill, 2001. I express my sentiments in the favour of this Bill but in view of the present status of reservation to SC and ST and the way reservation is being disregarded, I would like to add that this bill has been resorted to save and protect the cause of reservation.

Mr. Chairman Sir, there are some flaws in this Bill. Though a very hard work has been done in drafting of this bill but inspite of that equal provisions on reservation quoted in article 16(4) and 16(4)(A) of the Constitution of India is going on only based on interpretation. The meaning that is derived from article 16(4) and 16(4) (a) is just like couplet of Hindi poet Bihari, which has a literal meaning as well as inherent meaning. Reservation cannot be protected on the basis of this inherent meaning. In this situation I would like to request hon'ble Minister through you if he wants to protect reservation for the officials and employees of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, then he should bring forth a third amendment in this regard as our Government had earlier brought first and second amendment and it should be included in 9th schedule of the Constitution. If we do not include it in the 9th schedule of the Constitution then it will be dangerous for itself and nobody can protect it at that time. The same situation will arise for the officers and employees of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as educated youths who will not be able to get benefit of the vacant posts under this system.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, earlier to me, a very experienced colleague of mine has said that candidates are not available even at 40 percent of minimum qualifying marks, causing the posts to be remained vacant. This is the 54th year of India's independence but there is a lot of difference between rural India and Urban India. This situation can be best described in these two lines of a progressive poet of Hindi language:—

Shwano ko milta doodh, Bhukhe balak akulate hain,
Maa ki chhati se chipat-chipat, Jade ki raat bitaate hain.

Mr. Chairman Sir, this is the factual position of the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living in villages and jungles of India. Though our Government has made arrangements for their education in Government schools, but it was never assessed whether the education system in these institutions is favourable to the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes that they could get minimum qualifying marks. Without proper education health and employment, how can we think of a society based on equanimity and how can we be able to get the advantage of reservations unless there is proper arrangement for education health and employment. After facing so many hardships dalits of rural and remote areas educate their wards and try to make them engineer or doctor. But the persons who evaluate their examination papers belong to other class. They do not evaluate it fairly and thus the mentality, sensitivity and will power of the SC and ST students cause a violent stroke over their hard work. I myself had been the victim of this system. Whenever some arrangements are made to provide reservations in promotions, jobs or admissions for higher education they are specifically categorised SC and ST. This gives impression that he would have been definitely weak and inefficient in his studies and works. He should not be promoted to higher class. He should not be got through from first year in the medical education. In this situation stricken with fear when these students of SC and ST search for a job, they are ill-treated. Some times even their certificates are torn off, so that there are no claimants for the reserved post of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Thus a situation of not-available is created and when this happens they do not carry forward that post, but fill up with the candidates of non-reserved category.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank my Government who has introduced a bill in this House to strengthen the position of backlog and which have been vehemently supported by hon'ble member for protection of our posts in case of backlog. But this is very unfortunate, that though our position has been strengthened in the situation of backlog but the mentality of those persons is till vitiated who are to implement these orders. Because of that thinking I am compelled to say that protectors are victimising us. It will be very fruitful if some arrangements are made to bail out SC/ST candidates from this situation. In my opinion we have to

[Shrimati Jas Kaur Meena]

make amendments in Constitution to get rid of this problem. Makers of our Constitution had never thought that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be mislead like this for the sake of votes only. Even today innocent, illiterate dalits of village and persons of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living in jungles say that Congress have given us this dose that "what will happen to our fate, it will continue to happen." Our children go to the same Government schools where as children of well-to-do families are going to the computer age. Thus, the person having the degree of M.A., B.Ed will remain in the situation of illiteracy because they do not know computer language.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to say that coming time of liberalization is more dreadful as industries, corporations and multi-national companies will be coming to this country, then M.A. degree holders and graduates will be wandering in search of jobs and ultimately they will be compelled to the menial works. If we do not think in this direction at this stage, then after the arrival of multinational companies in the country, they will recruit only highly qualified persons in their companies, which may not be available in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That is why I say that hon'ble Minister should take a decision immediately in this regard in view of the above situation and find out a way for employment security for the 25 crores population of SC and ST.

I also want to speak on five O.M. which are impeding reservation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much more time you will take now?

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: I want to continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member Smt. Jas Kaur Meena will continue her speech in next sitting.

[English]

Now Message from Rajya Sabha—Secretary General.

[English]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha:-

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on Friday, the 11th August, 2001, adopted the following motion in regard to the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2000 which was passed by the Lok Sabha on the 18th December, 2000 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 2000:—

MOTION

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith which was passed by the Lok Sabha on the 18th December, 2000 and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 2000."

2. Thereafter, the Bill was withdrawn.'

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 13th August, 2001.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 13, 2001/
Shravana 22, 1923 (Saka).*

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Ninth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
