

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 24, 2001/Bhadra 2, 1923 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Central Bank of India's NPAs

+

*461. SHRI R.S. PATIL :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of Non-Performing Assets of Central Bank of India as on date;

(b) whether the bank has decided to file cases against three big defaulting companies;

(c) if so, the names of three companies;

(d) whether Central Bank of India has launched any drive to collect its NPAs; and

(e) if so, the results achieved therefrom ?

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

Statement

(a) Central Bank of India has reported that, as on 31st March, 2001, its gross non-performing assets (NPAs) were Rs. 3253 crore, constituting 16.06% of its gross advances.

(b) and (c) Central Bank of India has reported that the Central Bureau of Investigation has registered cases against two defaulting companies viz. M/s. Mistry Prabhu Dass Manji and M/s. Steel Tube India Ltd. and the Bureau is investigating the account of M/s. Belgundi Cement Ltd., which have substantial outstandings in their accounts with the Bank. Bank has also filed a large number of cases in Debt Recovery Tribunals against defaulters.

(d) and (e) Central Bank of India has reported that it has launched drive to recover the amount in NPA accounts under the Reserve Bank of India's schemes as well as its own recovery schemes and it had recovered Rs. 368.54 crores during the year 2000-2001.

SHRI R.S. PATIL : In our country at present UTI scam and the Central Bank scam are taking place simultaneously as a result of which the growth of the Indian economy is in jeopardy. The hon. Prime Minister, instead of blaming the previous Governments and the Finance Minister, should take serious look into the condition of the country's economy.

I would like to know the total amount of Non-Performing Assets of the Central Bank of India as on date.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The total net NPA of the Central Bank of India is Rs. 1,830 crore. Percentage-wise in the last three years it has been declining from 13.49 in 1995-96 to 9.72 in 2000-2001.

SHRI R.S. PATIL : I would like to know whether the Bank has decided to file cases against the three big defaulting companies; if so, the names of the three companies.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Already in the written reply we have given the names. Cases have been registered by the CBI and they are in progress. These are also in the DRT for their recovery.

SHRI R.S. PATIL : I would like to know the names of the three companies.

MR. SPEAKER : Names are there in the reply.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The names of the companies are; M/s. Steel Tube India Limited, Corporate Finance Bank and the Mumbai Branch of the Bank of India. It is a four-bank consortium in that company.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total net non-performing assets which the hon. Minister has mentioned, is Rs. 1830 crore. Sir, it is a huge amount. It has been my experience that when a farmer from a rural area or a small cultivator goes to a bank for loan, he is asked to fill up many forms and he has to go through many formalities and he is asked to submit various documents and even then he is not given loan by the bank. Therefore through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the names of the persons who have benefitted from the amount of non performing assets and what steps have been taken by the Government against the guilty officers? I would also like to know whether the Government propose to conduct a CBI enquiry into this matter? The number of such cases with the CBI? I would like to know about them in detail.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, overall eight cases are with the C.B.I. I fully agree with your first question that a common man has to face so many problems when he goes to bank for loan. The Government has made efforts that they should get loans easily. But it happens sometimes that they have to face problems in getting loan and many times they do not get it at all. The Government is taking strict steps in this regard. The Government has announced many schemes for common man in the budget and after the budget so that they may get loans easily and quickly. Your third question is about court cases. It was decided to bring in a proposal towards the end of June regarding entire NPA. Cases will be ready in DRT towards the end of September for these from whom proposals have been received. Certain cases are still under negotiation due to which they are not ready for litigation in DRT.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This consortium is saying that the Central Bank of India is applying different standards in the matter of one-time settlement of the dues to the banks for some unknown or rather I may say questionable reasons. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Bank of India or for that matter any other PSU Bank follow the decision of the related lead institution as a major guideline for one-time settlement?

I would also like to know whether the Government's attention has been drawn to any recent case of discrimination in the matter of one-time settlement by the Central Bank of India; if so, what steps the Government proposes to take in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : As we have explained on earlier occasions in this House, the RBI had issued what was described as non-discretionary, non-discriminatory guidelines for the settlement of outstanding dues which had formed NPAs. This was done in order to ensure that individual bank employees/officers did not take to differential treatment in the settlement of dues. That is why these guidelines were issued.

We have reviewed the implementation of these guidelines in some of the meetings that we have taken with the Bank Chairmen. So, the question of discrimination between one type and another should not normally arise

As far as part (b) of the question of the hon. Member

is concerned, there is one instance which the hon. Member has brought to my notice through a recent communication. I am having the matter looked into. I shall get in touch with the Member as soon as I get the facts.

[Translation]

DR. JASVANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, situation has deteriorated due to increase in NAP in various banks of the country. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it has affected the financial condition of the Central Bank also and whether the Government propose to take any new steps to improve the condition?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Hon. Member is right in saying that overall, NPA is increasing but when we come to the percentage against total advance then it can be said that certain banks are showing improvement and I am happy to share it with you that the Central Bank is also showing improvement and the Bank has not registered any loss this year. Even after making a provision of Rs. 462 crore for VRS the bank has earned a profit of 16 crore rupees that is why I do not see any necessity of helping them.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Sir, through you, I would like to ask one question to the hon. Finance Minister. What percentage of this NPA is accounted for by normal rate of interest which should have been imposed initially and how much is accounted for penal interest, interest on interest and all those kinds of things? My feeling is that, very often, NPAs grow in a formidable manner because people, for good reasons, are also unable to pay in time and then the institution from day one goes on levying penal interest, interest on interest and all that. So, Rs. 10 lakh can become Rs. 10 crore practically in no time. And that is very unrealistic kind of approach when it is a question of getting that money back.

My question to the hon. Minister is, whether any assessment has been made or can be made of how much of that NPA would be on account of normal capital as also the interest which was originally charged, and how much on account of penal interest and extra charges levied after the default occurred.

Secondly, will the Ministry of Finance consider to have some kind of a Settlement Commission or something where the institution or bank and the person concerned can sit together and come to an agreed solution by which they can repay it?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : This House has expressed concern repeatedly about the rising NPAs. It is a very legitimate concern. And it is for this reason that during the last 14 months, at my level, I have held four meetings with Bank Chairmen in order to ensure that we attack the problem of NPAs as effectively as possible and bring it down. There are internationally-defined norms and we generally follow those norms. There are NPAs which include interest, penal interest and interest on interest, as the hon. Member has said. There are some deviations in certain other respects. But we are trying to catch up with international norms. As far as the question of exact amount of penal interest and interest on interest is concerned, I do not have the figure. We will collect that figure and supply it to the hon. Member.

There was a question which the hon. Member raised about Settlement Commission. As far as the Settlement Commission is concerned, I do not see the need for overall Settlement Commission because we have experimented with settlement mechanism within the banks in the past and they have served a useful purpose. Then we came out with a circular from the Reserve Bank of India. The circular from the RBI has lapsed on the 30th June this year. The follow-up action is supposed to be taken by 30th September. We will sit down and review with the banks again after 30th September. But is our impression that perhaps the bank approach might be useful. So, we will keep this suggestion of the hon. Member in mind when we discuss this issue with Bank Chairmen.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : There is an indication for performance and non-performance of banks. The Central Bank of India is the single bank showing non-performance. Why three big companies have been allowed to default? When a common man goes to a bank just for drawing Rs. 1000 or Rs. 5000 or Rs. 10,000, he is required to undergo so many formalities and is being humiliated. He is not even allowed by the Managers to enter the bank whereas big people, sitting over a cup of coffee or lunch or dinner, take money from the bank. When they are not able to repay it, why should we allow them to draw thousands of crores of rupees? The interest of the common man is in jeopardy.

The poor people and the people belonging to SC and ST do not even know as to how to avail of these loans. Rs. 5,000 is given for group housing. Even that money is not being given. In Tamil Nadu, the TADCO, has sanctioned the houses and they were informed that they can avail of loans from the banks. But that is not being given. Even Rs. 5,000 is not being given. When that is the fact, how

is the Government allowing big people and big companies, especially the ones which are not performing, to default? I would like to know from the Minister as to what guidelines have been given to not only recover the money but also to facilitate the poor people, who constitute nearly 80 to 85 per cent of our population, to avail of the loans . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your exact supplementary?

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government is going to take to not only recover money from the big defaulters but also to facilitate the poor people to get the loans.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, the House also deeply shares the concern of the hon. Member regarding growing NPAs and how the poor men in particular and the consumers in general should get justice in the delivery of the banking system. These three banks have NPAs because some cases have been registered because somebody has siphoned off and misused the money. So, the cases have already been registered against them by the CBI. The bank has also initiated actions against them. I am very happy that he has suggested some thing for the common man. We are taking criminal action also against the defaulters. Nobody will be spared, howsoever big he may be. So, naturally the money will be recovered. If somebody tries to circumvent the rules and siphon off the funds, he would be penalised immediately and criminal action will be taken against him . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is replying.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I fully agree with the hon. Member's views. That is why in the beginning itself I said that this House deeply shares the concerns of the hon. Member. We have already asked the banks twice or thrice to follow the guidelines strictly. If necessary, we will do so again. We are already reviewing PMRY, *Jawahar Rozgar Yojana*, and other social security schemes. We are reviewing them from time to time. I agree with the hon. Member that bank managers, at the Branch Manager's level, do this. We would ask the CMD to visit the village branches and remote branches to take stock of the situation. We cannot say everything is all right. This is a vast country and there are so many branches. I agree that there are shortcomings. But sometimes the managers are very cordial also with the common man. Hon. Member's suggestion is well taken.

If the Speaker agrees, we can discuss this issue for one or two hours and see as to how this problem could be solved. The House can arrive at a consensus on this issue.

RBI's Observation on Government Finances

*462. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently pointed out certain areas of concern regarding the stability and sustainability of Central Government finances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India in its monthly Bulletin for July 2001 in an article on "Finances of Government of India: 2001-02" has observed "The Budget has envisaged fresh impetus to fiscal consolidation. There are, however some areas of concern regarding stability and sustainability of Central Finances. First, the revenue base of the Centre continues to be weak with stagnation of revenue-GDP and tax-GDP ratios. Second, going by the past experience, any shortfall in the realisation of disinvestment receipts may put pressure on the fisc in achieving the deficit targets. Third, the gross market borrowings of the Centre has been persistently rising over the years."

(c) The long-term sustainability of the fiscal policy rests upon the complete elimination of revenue deficit and containment of fiscal deficit within a manageable level. 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, revision in user charges for services provided by the Government and its agencies keeping in view the increased cost of these services etc. Further, with a view to reducing 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.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Budget projections and Revised Estimates are likely to be achieved. If not, whether the Government plans to further recast the Budget projections; whether the Government has assessed the extent of loss because of the Harshad Mehta episode, UTI-64 and security scam; and whether It would be possible to regain the momentum of the economy.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, as far as the Budget projections are concerned, these are constantly reviewed in the Ministry of Finance. As far as Parliamentary procedures are concerned, we come with the Revised Estimates at the time when the next Budget is presented. In the meanwhile, as I have presented before this House, we come with Supplementary Demands.

Despite the fact that there are some lags in the collection of tax within the first quarter of this year, I am still hopeful that as we make progress and as we go along in the course of the year, things will improve. But what exactly will be the picture, this is something that we will share with the House when we come before the House with the next Budget.

As far as stock market scam, UTI and other things are concerned, they will not have a direct impact on the fiscal deficit of the Government because this is not factored into the fiscal deficit. This is outside the Budget.

As far as the question of economic slow down is concerned, we are acutely aware of this. There is a slow down the world over. As far as we are concerned, in this country, we have taken a number of steps. We will continue to review the situation and take steps to see that we get out of the slow down.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : What are the reasons for the down-trend of the plan expenditure? I would like to know whether this would affect the overall development of the country. If it is so, to what extent would it affect? I would also like to know whether the Government of India has worked out the plans to combat the strains in the devaluation of the rupee.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : As far as the first part of the question is concerned, we have noticed a very

marginal decline in the plan expenditure during the first quarter of this year. I do not think it is a cause for concern. I have personally met my ministerial colleagues who are responsible for the large part of the expenditure of the Government of India in the Budget. I have pleaded with them to expedite investment expenditure and capital expenditure which have been provided for. Therefore, I am quite confident that as we go along and as the working season begins from next month, this expenditure, as has been the experience in the past years, will pick up.

There was a second part of the question which, I think, is about devaluation of the rupee. I would say that as far as the value of the rupee is concerned, it is market-determined. We have a system which has been in vogue for quite some time and the rupee responds to the laws of supply and demand in the foreign exchange market.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The hon. Minister in his reply has mentioned about the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill. Once the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill is passed, it will become a law. Then, many citizens can move the court for the implementation of the law if the Government fails to do so. If that be the case, there is a possibility that the courts might determine the fiscal policy of this country. Has the Government thought of any such eventuality? If any such thing happens, what is the Government going to do about it?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : This is a legitimate concern. I am aware of the fact that this concern has been voiced by the Members of the Standing Committee. Our officials have been in constant touch with the Standing Committee. I am sure, the Standing Committee will also take care of this problem. We are awaiting the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : You said in your reply that due to the shortcomings in the realisation of disinvestment proceeds, there could be pressure on meeting the fiscal targets and yesterday when there was a discussion being held on disinvestment, the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development had said that the funds received from disinvestment would be spent on rural development. There is a big difference between your reply and the reply given in this very House by the Minister of Rural Development yesterday. I request you to first explain

that difference and secondly explain the measures the Government would take for strengthening the weak revenue base of the Union.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINGH : As far as the first part of the question is concerned, my colleague, the Rural Development Minister, was quite right in saying in this House that larger proceeds from disinvestment will be used to ensure that many of our rural projects get more funds for implementation.

Sir, you will recall and the House will recall that in the Budget which I have presented before this House, I have repeatedly said that the disinvestment proceeds would be utilised for basically three purposes.

[Translation]

The first one is that we would liquidate the interest bearing loans. The second thing I have said is that we would try to get more proceeds from disinvestment to invest the fund in the public sector restructuring programme which is being funded through the budget by the tax payees' money.

Thirdly, I have said that we should invest this fund on programmes mainly related with rural development and social welfare. We have kept these three targets mainly for disinvestment proceeds. Therefore, there is no contradiction between what the Rural Development Minister has said and what I am saying.

The second thing I would like to put forth before the House is that as the House is aware, we have put in one category fund of Rs. 7000 crore and in another category Rs. 5000 crore in this year's budget. The main reason as I have told is that if the amount of Rs. 12000 crore indicated in the budget is realised fully we will provide Rs. 5000 crore rupees to the planning Commission so that the Commission could allocate it for expenditure on Rural Development. We have kept these targets in the budget and if there is consensus among all in the House the major portion of the funds to be realised this year will certainly go for rural development.

[English]

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Sir, in a monthly bulletin of July, 2001, it has been pointed out that the finances of the Government of India are not stable and sustainable.

I would like to know as to what steps the Government has proposed to take to increase the cost of services provided by the Government and as to what steps the Government have taken for reducing the interest burden. I would also like to know as to in how many ways the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill could improve the situation. Would the Minister be pleased to tell us as to whether there was any direction from the World Bank to get the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill passed?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I begin with the last part of the question first. There was a wrong report in a section of the media that I had conveyed to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, who is sitting in this House, that I was under pressure from the World Bank and the IMF to get the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill passed as quickly as possible. When I came across the news item, I immediately got in touch with Shri Shivraj V. Patil, - I remember that he was in his constituency, I spoke to him, and I said that to the best of my recollection, I have not ever said this to him. He agreed with me and said that I had never said this. I am glad the hon. Member has given me this opportunity to clarify this matter on the floor of the House because this has been the subject matter of a great deal of misunderstanding in the media. I would like to take this opportunity to say emphatically that the Government of India is under no pressure from the World Bank, the IMF or anybody else as far as the passage of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill is concerned.

It is in our own interest to ensure that we bring the fiscal deficit down; it is in our own interest to ensure that we borrow less from the market; and it is in our own interest to ensure that we go for fiscal consolidation. It is with these objectives that we have brought before the House the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill. There should be no doubt that it is in the national interest to control fiscal deficit, not at all because somebody is putting pressure, which also is not true.

As far as the other part of the question is concerned, I had already mentioned in my Budget speech the number of steps that we are taking to raise the user charges and to reduce the interest burden on the Government. Those are in public domain and I do not want to take the time of the House in explaining the same.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I am not standing to put a question to the hon. Finance Minister but I am standing

to endorse the first part of his reply to this question that he did not tell me that he had asked me to get this Bill approved by the Standing Committee quickly under the pressure of the IMF or World Bank or any other international organisation.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am extremely grateful to Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

Restructuring of Income Tax Department

*463. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have carried out restructuring of the Income Tax Department.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recent restructuring has converted the Department to Officers Oriented as against Staff Oriented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Income-tax Department is in the process of implementing the restructuring plan approved by the Cabinet. The objective behind the restructuring of the Income-tax Department is to increase the productivity of the Department through induction of technology, re-designing business process through functional specialisation and right-sizing of manpower.

(c) and (d) The manpower of the Department has been right-sized in the light of the current needs to induct skill and technology. The ratio of staff to total strength has gone down marginally from 0.88 to 0.86 but significant additional promotional prospects have been provided for the staff.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, what is laid on the Table of the House is not one-fourth of our requirement. The hon. Finance Minister is also a Member of the Union Cabinet. According to my information, the proposal for restructuring of the Income-tax Department was approved by the Union Cabinet on 31st August, 2000. Certain instructions were given to the Income-tax Department. Firstly, an Implementation Cell should be created within

seven days from the receipt of the Cabinet order. Secondly, all orders of new jurisdiction, promotion and placement should be passed within four months from the receipt of the Cabinet order. Thirdly, training of all officers and staff in computers will be completed within 12 months from the date of the Cabinet order. The approval was granted on 31st August, 2000. Today, we are in August, 2001. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the instructions of the Cabinet were not implemented by passing orders within four months and by providing training to the staff in the Income-tax Department.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : There were certain commitments which had been made by the Ministry of Finance when the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had taken the restructuring proposal to the Cabinet. It is true that under the instructions of the Cabinet, we were required to enter into an MoU. The CBDT was supposed to have entered into an MoU with the Department of Personnel and Training to fulfil those targets. Now, what I would like to say is that there might have been slippages here and there but, by and large, we are on track. We had a Cell to look after restructuring. We have been able to reconstitute the Cell. Orders have been issued recently and three Commissioners of Income-tax have been given the responsibility to ensure that the restructuring programme is carried out in the best possible manner and within promotional prospects of the officers. We have also set up a Committee separately to look after the training of the staff members, who will get promoted when they complete this training. The work is going on in all these aspects, which the hon. Member has mentioned. I just got a note saying that out of 5,885 Lower Division Clerks, 4919 have been trained in computer by 31st July, 2001.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I am not agreeing with the answer which is given by the hon. Minister. In fact, he has used the word 'right-sizing' in his reply. In fact, it is not right-sizing but improving the prospects of senior officers and removing the prospects of the staff working in 'C' and 'D' categories. According to the information available with me, on the one hand, the increase in the posts of the Chief Commissioner is to the extent of 230 per cent and the increase in the posts of the Commissioner is to the extent of 23 per cent. On the other hand, the employees of Group 'C' and 'D' categories in the Income-tax Department are reduced in number by 6,033, that is, 14 per cent of the overall strength in the Department. If this scheme is given the name of right-sizing, I am afraid, it is nothing but downsizing. However, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when the orders of more than 1,000 Income Tax Officers to the cadre of Assistant Commission-

ers will be issued and when the order of the resultant vacancies arising out of the promotion of Income Tax Officers, particularly the Inspectors, PAs and UDCs will be issued by the Income Tax Department because it is already more than one year has passed, as required, from the date of the order.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the first part of the comment of the hon. Member is concerned, I am afraid, I am unable to agree with it. If there is any appropriate case in which the word 'right-sizing' would be used, it is this. It is because what we have done is we have looked at the work of the Department at this point of time; we have looked at the work of the Department in the future; and in view of the responsibilities and the work of the Department, we have tried to re-adjust it within the various groups so that the Department becomes more than effectively functional. This is the reason why restructuring was done.

As far as the question of the staff-side is concerned, let me share this information with the House that this has created a win-win situation for everyone. It is not merely that senior officers will get more promotions. Everyone in this is going to get something more than what he has. This applies to Group C and Group D as well. Therefore, before the restructuring proposal was approved by me, I made sure that all categories of officers and staff of the Income Tax Department were fully in the knowledge of it; it was done with their approval or with their involvement. So, all categories of staff have blessed this restructuring proposal.

As far as the second part of his question is concerned, I can only say that all these promotional processes are in motion and I am quite sure that for all categories, promotional opportunities will be realised very soon.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the restructuring which he has talked about or the changes made in jurisdiction, reallocation of which has created difficulties to the income tax payers and the staff strength has been reduced considerably and they are being transferred to other places. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has received such representations from the income tax payers and income tax consultants particularly from the Ratlam, Mandsaur, Neemuch and Ujjain districts of Madhya Pradesh to overrule this decision? And if so, the steps taken by the hon'ble Minister keeping in view the difficulties faced by the income tax payers.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is true that after restructuring we are making readjustments in several jurisdictions. What we are trying to do is that, since more number of officials are available now, therefore, it will be proper if we can solve the problems of taxpayer making close contact with them. The people of my constituency have also demanded for making some re-adjustment in jurisdiction. My friend Shri Kirti Azad has also just now brought to my notice the problems faced by the people of his constituency. By taking immediate action I ensured that no such step should be taken by the Department which might aggravate sufferings of tax payers. Therefore, if there are any anomalies being brought to my notice we are trying to remove them immediately because the main objective of this restructuring is to provide more facility and convenience to taxpayers by making close contact with them.

Hon'ble Pandeyaji has brought some points into my notice which are under my consideration.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Finance Minister said that the restructuring of the Income Tax Department has given a win-win situation to everybody – the officers and staff. He also said that he had consulted everybody before he did it. If that is so, why is there dissatisfaction among the staff now?

11.40 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

As far as I understand, they are on a pen-down strike. I do not know whether it is on an 'all India' basis, but in Kolkata I know that the income tax payers were unable to submit their returns since there is pen-down strike. The staff comes to office, but does not work. Are you aware of the pen-down strike? Are you negotiating with them? Otherwise, the innocent income tax payers will be penalised for that. It is possible that the innocent income tax payers will be penalised, although it is no fault of theirs. What is the situation of the strike and the dissatisfaction among the staff now?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The dissatisfaction was not on account of restructuring. It was not because the Department was restructured in a certain manner that this discontent arose. I am aware of the fact that there has been pen-down strike in Delhi for one or two days.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : But it is still continuing, as far as I know.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I will check up, as far as this is concerned. But as far as my information goes, there has been some dissatisfaction precisely because of the reason that the hon. Member Shri Pravin Rashtupal mentioned – that there has been some delay in promotion in certain categories. As I said, we are expediting all the processes so that this is taken care of as quickly as possible.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Hon. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has agreed with his friend. He said that Shri Kirti Jha Azad is a friend of him. But I am not his enemy. I have given a written letter to him. Sir, the Minister in his answer today said that the idea was to reach the customers as soon as possible.

The People of Silchar, Karimganj, Hailakundi and Dibrugarh have either to go to Guwahati or to Shillong for income tax appeals. The hon. Minister said that he was restructuring the Department. Two centres should be opened at the Commissioner level, in Silchar and Dibrugarh where the tax-payers are the highest. We have the tea industry in Dibrugarh, we have the tea industry in our area and we also have businessmen. He told me that he would look into it. As he has assured his people, like Shri Kirti Jha Azad, please tell me something about these two centres.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, all the hon. Members are the hon. Members of this House. They do not consist of my people and other people. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is a very dear friend of mine. Therefore, it is not a question of obliging only one side of the House and not the other side of the House. He has brought this matter to my notice. Silchar is very important not only because it grows tea, but also it is important because it returns Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to this House. That matter has been brought to my notice. He wants a new jurisdiction to be created in Silchar; he would like the presence of Income Tax Department to be upgraded. As I have already told him – he has mentioned it on the floor of the House also – this matter is under my active consideration.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : It is a very important subject. Hon. Prime Minister is aware that the posts in Groups C and D have come down substantially and only posts of officers are increasing. He said that it was right-sizing. I cannot dispute it because he is a very well-versed financial

management expert. But right-sizing would not create only officers! The posts of Groups C and D have come down substantially. We have checked it up also.

The other thing is that all the officers are concentrating themselves only in the metros. Wherever there is laxity in collection, they are not going; they are not being rotated. May I know whether the Finance Minister will rotate all these officers according to the standard formula? If some proposals to take certain steps to rotate them were on the cards, I would like to know that from him.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, first of all, I would like to clarify, as I have already done before this House, that the strength has been right-sized and wherever we have reduced the posts, we have created more promotional opportunities and the Group 'C' and Group 'D' staff have far more promotional opportunities today, after restructuring, than they had before.

The other point is about rotation. Let me assure this House, through you, and the hon. Member, that we have very clearly laid down norms for transfer and we have a strict period which is prescribed, beyond which no officer can stay in the metros, whether it is Mumbai or Delhi, which are two of the most preferred stations for these officers. It has been my constant endeavour to ensure that we stick to the norms and not violate the norms. We will continue to stick to the norms even in future.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the hon. Minister thinks of right-sizing, I think, he should think of left-sizing also. Many people are afraid to pay tax, not because they do not want to pay tax, but because they are afraid to go to the officers or the concerned persons. I am not blaming the officers for that, but when he restructures the Department, I think, this is one of the most important aspects that should be borne in mind. The hon. Minister had already broad-based the tax net, but the collections should improve and most of the people who are not paying tax should come forward to pay tax. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether there is any scheme or any appropriate method, when he restructures the Department, adopted to see that both officers and staff concerned will deal with the people in a better way so that the collections, *ab initio*, will improve on their own.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, this is a very important point which the hon. Member has raised. It has been our constant endeavour to ensure that the Department is

perceived to be a tax payer-friendly one and it is not perceived to be a department which is only meant to harass tax-payers. This is a very important aspect, and, therefore, on the 31st of July this year, and in earlier years, on the last date for filing returns for personal income-tax, we made sure all over the country that we set up special facilities to ensure that the large number of tax-payers who came to file their tax returns were not only given facilities to file their returns quickly, but they were also looked after in other ways. I must point out here that there have been media reports which have suggested that in many places people have gone back, especially senior citizens, very happy with the treatment that they received.

Now, as far as widening of the tax base is concerned, I would like to share some figures with the House. I have figures for the last four years and I would like to quote them. This is very important because my worthy predecessor in this office had introduced a 2/4 formula, and as a result of the introduction of the 2/4 formula, in 1997-98, the number of tax-payers went up by 23,32,000, as compared to only 15 lakhs in the previous year. I converted it into 1/6 formula. I came out with other devices to capture the tax-payers within the tax net, as a result of which, in 1998-99, the number of tax-payers increased by 41.68 lakhs, in 1999-2000 it went up by 33.08 lakhs and in 2000-01 it has gone up by 36.29 lakhs. Today, the number of tax-payers is 2,74,42,000. This is a massive increase in the number of tax payers in this country and, as you are aware, I have, in this year's Budget, extended the 1/6 formula to all the urban settlements in this country; every town, which is described in the Census as 'urban', has been included. Therefore, it was necessary to restructure the Department to be able to take on these challenges and it is with this view that the restructuring has been done. We are getting now crores of returns, which have to be looked after.

We have to make sure that we capture within the tax net the entire population of this country that should be within the tax net.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : They should start believing the taxpayer. Normally, they do not believe the taxpayer. Therefore, nobody is in a position to give the correct picture. The correct returns will not be believed. So, they will have to downsize.

This must be borne in mind by the staff as well as the officers.

[Translation]

Customs Duty on Betel Leaf

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*464. DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of betel leaf to Pakistan has been affected due to hike in customs duty on it, whereas smuggling of betel leaf has increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard in view of loss of revenue due to above said reasons?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) There is no Customs duty on the export of betel leaf out of India. Therefore, the question of any increase in smuggling of betel leaf to Pakistan due to hike in Customs duty does not arise.

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

[Translation]

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Finance Minister about the total quantity of betel leaf produced in the country at present and which State is the largest producer of betel leaf. The yearwise details of quantity of betel leaf exported to Pakistan during the last three years and the foreign exchange earned from it.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present, I don't have with me the figures of the total quantity of the betel leaf produced in the country. I will make it available to the hon'ble member by collecting figures from the concerned Ministry. But, the quantity of betel leaf exported to Pakistan in the year 1998-99 is 1144 metric tonnes.

[English]

The value is Rs. 2,05,00,000. In 1999-2000 it is 1,039 metric tonnes and the value is RS. 2.37 crore. In 2000-2001, it is 929.1 metric tonnes, and the value is Rs. 2.52

crore. In 2001, 2002 the provisional figure for April-May is 252.7 metric tonnes and the value is 0.92 crore.

[Translation]

It also shows that the unit value of betel leaf being exported to Pakistan is constantly increasing.

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the variety of betel leaves which are maximum in demand in Pakistan and to what extent India is able to meet that demand.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question was whether customs duty is imposed on betel leaf or not and I have said that we do not impose this duty on the export of betel leaf. Finance Ministry does not deal in Paan industry. It is dealt by some other Ministry therefore, I do not have full information about it. I can give you information pertaining to my Department. But I can only tell you that export of Paan is mostly done to Pakistan and only a small quantity is exported to other countries. So far as I know, the Paan grown in South, North and Eastern India is liked by the Pakistan. As liking for Paan varies from area to area in our country, the same can be said about Pakistan also.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister has told about export of betel leaf to Pakistan just now. I would like to know from him about the names of the countries, excluding Pakistan, to whom betel leaf is exported alongwith the quantity thereof exported from Mahoba and Benaras of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I have said that this question is related to the Ministry of my friend Shri Digvijay Singh. Because matter of export-import falls within the purview of Commerce and Industry. My Ministry is concerned with export-import duty only. Therefore, I have no information about the countries as well as the variety of betel leaf being exported. After getting this information from the Ministry of Commerce, I will send it to the hon. Member.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, the question relates to the hike in customs duty on betel leaf to be exported to Pakistan and other countries. Of course, the hon. Minister said that his *Mantralaya* deals only with the tax aspect of the matter, like customs duty and things like that and not with import or export. The hon. Minister said that it is dealt with by a separate Ministry altogether.

Incidentally, during the course of discussion on the Budget, we have come across matters relating to not only subjects like betel leaf, but betel nut also. Actually, their rates have come down considerably.

I would request the hon. Minister to take up this matter of export of betel leaf and betel nut also because only leaf is not eaten. Betel leaf is eaten along with betel nut. The customs duty on betel leaf and betel nut is too heavy. We were exporting betel leaf and betel nuts to Pakistan and other countries, but it has now been almost stopped or something like that. The rates have completely dropped like anything, if you take the case of Karnataka and other areas also. Therefore, I am appealing to the hon. Minister of Finance to take up this matter with the Ministry of Commerce about not only betel leaf but also betel nut, including the hike in the customs duty on both the items.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, there are only 26 items on which we impose customs duty and that is with a view to ensuring that finished products are exported from India rather than products in their raw form.

I was quickly checking up with my list and I find that betel nut is not an item on which there is any export duty. So, it is not export duty which is preventing the export of betel nut from India. If the hon. Member thinks that there is a market, my colleague, Shri Digvijay Singh, is sitting here. *(Translation)* Digvijay Singh ji, kindly take notice of it. *(English)* he will also take notice of this.

Sir, Let me tell you that Paan, apart from Pakistan which is the main consumer, is generally exported to countries where we have large ethnic population of Indians or Asians. I have got the figures and some of the information here with me, that is, about other destinations to which Paan is exported. These countries are Canada, the UK, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. These are the countries to which exports have taken place.

As far as betel nut is concerned, it is an accompaniment of Paan, and I am sure, the Minister of Commerce will take notice of it and make sure that those who import Indian Paan also import Indian betel nut.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, betel leaf is being exported from India to Pakistan, it is good. My submission is that there is need to export more betel leaf in order to make Indo-Pak relations more cordial.

Because, India's betel leaf is of better taste and the number of persons eating betel leaf is also higher in Pakistan. Therefore, the way in which Chinese goods are imported and there are made available here at cheaper rates, in the same way attention should be paid to export more betel leaf to Pakistan so that should be made available to the people of Pakistan at cheaper rates. I think it can improve Indo-Pak relations. Therefore, India should initiate to make more quantity of betel leaf available at cheaper rates in Pakistan.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is a very good suggestion and we shall keep it in mind in the next Summit.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance that betel is cultivated under the shadow of bamboo strips. By doing so we get maximum production of betel. But bamboo strips catch fire easily resulting in damage of betel plantation worth crores of rupees every year and affecting its export. Therefore, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any scheme of the Government to provide benefit to betel grower under Crop Insurance Scheme?

12.00 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I would like to tell the hon. Member that Crop Insurance Scheme programme is being run in the country. At the moment, I do not have any information whether betel is covered in the said programme or not. So far as I know, betel is not covered in it. We will keep in mind the suggestion given by the hon. Member and see whether betel can be covered under Crop Insurance Scheme or not?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Domestic Demand for Cement

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

(a) whether the annual production of cement is sufficient to meet the demand;

(b) if so, the annual demand and production of cement in the country during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill the gap between demand and production of cement in the country;

(d) whether the Government have assessed the domestic demand of cement for the year 2001-2002; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Annual production of cement in the country is sufficient to meet domestic demand. The actual production, domestic consumption and exports for the last three years is given in the statement below:

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Production	Domestic consumption	Exports
1998-99	81.67	79.77	2.00
1999-2000	94.21	92.05	1.95
2000-01	93.52	90.22	3.15
2001-02 (April-July)	33.72	32.55	1.06

There is no gap between the domestic demand and supply of cement in the country. On the contrary, there has been surplus for exports as indicated above.

(c) Does no arise.

(d) and (e) The Government have estimated a demand for the year 2001-02 at 109 million tonnes assuming a targeted GDP growth of 6-8% and a growth of 8-9% in the cement sector during the IX Plan period.

[English]

Excise Duty Exemption on Export of Starch

*466. DR.S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether representation has been received from any State Government requesting exempting excise duty on export of starch manufactured from maize;

(b) if so, the names of such States and the details of the requests; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Export of Starch does not suffer any excise duty. However, a representation seeking exemption from excise duty on maize starch was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh before the Budget for the year 2001-2002. Maize starch was exempted from excise duty with effect from 1.3.2001. As such, maize starch sold for domestic consumption also does not attract any excise duty.

[Translation]

Protection of Domestic Vegetable Oil Industry

*467. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that large quantity of Vanaspati and Vegetable oils are coming into India through legal as well as illegal channels from neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the domestic vegetable oil industry has been affected adversely due to this; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the domestic vegetable oil industry from the adverse effect of such huge quantity of vegetable oil coming into the country?

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) Import of vanaspati and vegetable oils from Nepal to India, under the preferential trading arrangements for the articles manufactured in Nepal, provided by the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade, as modified in December, 1996, has increased from 68 MT tonnes in 1996-97 to 90,951 tonnes during the period April, 2000–February, 2001. No complaints have been received in Department of Commerce about the entry of vegetable oil through illegal channels from the neighbouring countries.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received from the domestic vegetable oil industry against imports of vegetable oils from Nepal under the duty - free facility. As provided under the Treaty, initiatives have been taken to

enter into consultation with His Majesty's Government of Nepal for taking appropriate measures to protect the domestic vegetable oil industry.

[English]

**Margin Money for Fair
Price Shops**

*468. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to allow the State Governments to fix margin money for Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have issued some guidelines in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the difference between the present and previous rates of margin; and

(e) the present rates of foodgrains under below poverty line?

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

(a) to (d) Under the Guidelines for the implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the States were required to issue the foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), particularly, to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population at a price not more than 50 paise over and above the Central Issue Price for the BPL population. The Central Government has now given flexibility to the State Governments in the matter of fixing margin for FPSs by removing that restriction. However, this would not apply to the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, where the end retail price is to be retained at Rs.2 a kg. for wheat and Rs.3 a kg. for rice.

(e) The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice for BPL families at present are as under:-

Wheat Rs. 415 per quintal

Rice Rs. 565 per quintal

Upgradation Programme for SBI

*469. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India has undertaken a Rs. 800 crore upgradation programme;

(b) if so, the details of the upgradation works likely to be undertaken, work-wise;

(c) whether the service of SBI is not upto the mark compared to that of private banks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by SBI to improve their services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHAB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The State Bank of India has undertaken an upgradation programme. The aim of the programme is to automate all the businesses of the Bank, network its branches and open new delivery channels. This programme includes:

- Bank-wide Networking,
- Internet Banking
- ATM Connectivity
- Centralized Core Banking,
- Trade Finance,
- ALM, and
- Treasury.

SBI has made significant strides in technology and is investing in a strong technology backbone to harness its strengths. The bank made significant improvements to provide better and efficient banking services to customers through introduction of appropriate technologies. These include.

- Electronic Data interchange projects for handling customer transactions at airports and seaports made operational at 11 centres.
- Introduction of computerised printing of drafts.
- Opening of MICR and ECS centres for Electronic Clearing Service.
- Introduction of extended business hours (7 to 12 hours) and 7 days banking.
- Remote login facilities for corporate customers implemented in over 70 branches covering about 400 customers

Tele banking introduced on a pilot basis at 38 branches in Mumbai Circle of the bank, to be extended to other circles soon.

(c) and (d) SBI's service has withstood the competition of private sector banks well. The technology programme undertaken by SBI will enable it to further improve its service.

Export of Rice at BPL Rates

*470 SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA :
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to export rice at the same price at which it is supplied to Below Poverty Line families;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given by the Government in selling FCI rice to traders for such exports; and

(c) the quantity of rice exported so far, countrywise?

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

(a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been permitted to offer rice for export at the following rates:-

- (i) Raw rice Rs. 5,650 per MT
- (ii) Parboiled rice Rs. 6,000 per MT

The Central Issue Price (CIP) of rice for BPL families is Rs. 5,650 per MT.

The Government does not provide any cash subsidy to the exporters. However, the export prices of rice are lower than the FCI's economic cost, which in Rs.11,760 per MT. The export prices have been fixed keeping in view, inter alia, the international prices.

(c) 1,20,876 MT of rice has been exported so far. Country-wise details are as under:-

Country	Quantity Export (MT)
Bangladesh	60,881
Saudi Arabia	12,260
Kuwait	2,500
African countries	45,235
Total	1,20,876

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

*471. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have notified new guidelines to keep-off economic offenders from the process of disinvestment of public sector undertakings;

(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) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) 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 given in the statement - I and 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

Sub:- 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 and 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 case 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 conflict 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 disinvest-

ment 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.

Sd/-

(A.K. Tewari)

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The concerned Ministries/Departments of Government 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

Sub:- 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 chargesheet 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 apply 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.

Sd/-

(A.K. Tewari)

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India.

[Translation]

Guidelines Regarding Educated Unemployed Youth

*472. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to the big national and multi-national companies to the effect that they should take care of the interests of the educated and uneducated unemployed persons of those States, whose resources are being exploited by them to earn profits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Economic Reforms

*473. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economic reforms initiated by the Government have generated the desired level of employment;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to achieve the targets fixed by the government;

(d) whether the Government are reviewing the economic reforms with a view to accelerating employment generation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Economic reforms are aimed at accelerating GDP growth, particularly in sectors, which are important for employment generation. The level, quality and growth of wages, incomes and employment in the economy is affected by the overall growth in the economy as measured by GDP, as also growth in population and consequent labour force.

The latest data on employment situation in the country, based on 55th Round (July 1999-June 2000) of Survey on Employment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) reveals:

- Employment in absolute numbers rose from 303 million in 1983 to 374 million in 1994 (2.04%) and to 397 million in million in 2000 (0.98%)
- The rate of growth of total employment declined from 2.04 per cent per annum in the period 1983 to 1993-94, to 0.98 per cent per annum in the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000. The labour force participation rates in all age groups declined in 1999-2000 as compared with 1993-94, which is reflected in a sharp deceleration in the growth of labour force from 2.29 per cent in 1987-88

to 1993-94, to 1.03 per cent in 1993-94 to 1999-2000. The deceleration in employment is therefore also associated with the sharp decline in growth of labour force.

(d) and (e) The annual average GDP growth increased from 5.3% during the 12-year period ending 1991-92 to 6.3% during 1992-93 to 2000-01. However, given the current rate of expansion in the country's labour force estimated at 8.7 million annually, the country would need to register at least 8 to 9% GDP growth per annum to bring about a significant improvement in the overall employment situation. A number of employment generation schemes are currently under operation simultaneously to provide short term gainful employment in rural and semi-urban areas, with particular emphasis on creation of assets for sustained employment generation.

Income Tax on Compensation of Land Acquired by the Government

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

(a) whether compensation of more than rupees one lakh to be received by a project affected person for his land acquired for any project is chargeable to income tax at the rate of 10 percent w.e.f. June 1, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project affected persons have made representations in this regard requesting the Government not to charge income-tax on the amount of compensation received by the project affected persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Section 194L of the Income-tax Act, 1961 relating to payment of compensation on acquisition of capital asset was introduced by the Finance Act, 1999 with effect from 01.06.1999. As per provisions of the section, any person responsible for paying to a resident any sum being in the nature of compensation or the enhanced compensation or the consideration or the enhanced consideration on account of compulsory acquisition, under any law for the time being in force, of any capital asset, shall, at the time of payment of such sum deduct an amount equal to 10%

of such sum as income-tax on income comprised therein. No deduction was required to be made under the section where the amount of such payment or the aggregate amount of such payments during the financial year did not exceed Rs. 1 lakh.

However, as a result of subsequent amendment made by the Finance Act, 2000 the provisions of the above section 194L have already ceased to be in force with effect from 1st June, 2000. Accordingly, no deduction under the above section is now required to be made from any payment made on or after 1st June, 2000.

(c) and (d) A number of suggestions are received by the Government every year at the time of formulation of the Budget proposals. The Government had also received a letter from the Chief Minister of Maharashtra regarding reconsideration of the provisions of section 194L of the Income-tax Act so that the project affected persons were not adversely effected.

(e) The provisions of section 194L of the Income-tax Act, 1961 have already been amended by the Finance Act, 2000. Accordingly, no tax is now required to be deducted at source under the said section from any payment made on or after the 1st day of June, 2000.

[Translation]

Import of Tea

*475. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import of tea is increasing over the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of tea imported during each of the last three years together with the price thereof;

(c) whether the import of tea at such a low price and huge quantum has adversely affected the trade of domestic tea;

(d) if so, the details regarding the effect of imported tea on the trade of domestic tea; and

(e) the steps taken / being taken by the Government to safeguard the domestic tea growers?

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) Import of Tea during the last three years has been as follows:-

	Qty. (Tons)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)	Unit Price (Rs./Kg.)
1998-99	9058	6482.75	71.57
1999-2000	5057	2561.05	50.64
2000-2001	6404	4148.92	64.79

(c) to (e) Import of tea during 2000-2001 was 6404 Tons which is only 0.8% of the total tea production in the country. Since the bulk of these imports is for re-export purpose, it is very unlikely that import of tea can have any adverse impact on the domestic tea industry. However, with a view to protect the interest of the domestic tea growers, Government/Tea Board has taken various steps which include the following:-

- (i) In order to compensate the small tea growers for the low price realization at the auctions, Government had implemented a scheme through the Tea Board from 1.5.2000 under which subsidy was provided to the small growers of tea (holding upto 10.12 hectares of tea plantation) for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and Rs. 55 per kg. The extent of such subsidy was limited to a maximum of Rs. 8 per kg of tea.
- (ii) A Quality Upgradation Programme has been launched by the Tea Board in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers.
- (iii) Tea Marketing (Control) Order 1984 has been modified to remove the condition of obligatory sale of 75% of tea production through public tea auctions. The producers of tea are now free to sell any quantity of tea through public tea auctions.
- (iv) The basic customs duty on import of tea has been increased from 35% to 70%
- (v) The sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) has been banned.

[English]

Economic Slowdown

*476. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked all member-countries to resist protectionist measures as a response to the current economic slowdown and instead take steps to eliminate or reduce trade barriers and trade-distorting subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Government have taken on this issue; and

(c) the extent to which they have been successful?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The International Monetary and Financial Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund referred to this issue in their communique of the 29th April, 2001. The Committee was unanimous in its opinion that recourse to protectionism would be the wrong response to the global economic slowdown and the attendant difficulties in particular sectors. The Committee called upon all countries to resist protectionist measures and to reduce or eliminate trade barriers and trade distorting subsidies.

India attaches utmost importance to a rule-based multilateral trading system. As part of the overall process of economic liberalisation and India's commitment to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the EXIM Policy 2001, announced on March 31, 2001, has completed the process of phased removal of the existing Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) as per the agreed time schedule.

(c) As a result of economic liberalisation undertaken over the last decade, the growth performance of the Indian economy has improved exports have gone up and the Indian industry has become more competitive and quality conscious.

Value of Rupee

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

(a) whether the value of the rupee becomes dependent on the inflows of foreign exchange through the Foreign Institutional Investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether value of rupee with dollar is now clearly calibrated with the inflow of money through the Foreign Institutional Investors;

(d) if so, to what extent the Government propose to widen the dependence of the rupee on other factors for determining its value; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that the rupee does not become dependent on any single source of foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) The exchange rate of the rupee in India is largely determined by market forces, and moves in both directions on a day-to-day basis depending upon the demand for and supply of foreign exchange emanating from India's international transactions both on the current and capital accounts of balance of payments, including inflow of funds for portfolio investments by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in India. Therefore, FIIs' investment is only one of the many sources of foreign exchange flows that can affect the exchange rate of the rupee.

(e) The developments in the financial markets in India and abroad are monitored closely both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and appropriate measures are taken, when necessary, to reduce excessive volatility in the exchange rate, prevent the emergence of destabilizing speculative activities, develop orderly foreign exchange market conditions and to help maintain adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

Government Finances

*478. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there has been an all round deterioration in the finances in the first quarter of the current financial year in comparison to the corresponding period of last year;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such an all round deterioration in the finances of the Union Government;

(c) whether the Government have taken/propose to take steps to improve the financial position in the next few months;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The gross fiscal deficit of the Central Government during the period April-June, 2001, at Rs. 42198 crore was 36.3 per cent of the budgeted estimate of 2001-02 compared with Rs. 25073 crore, constituting 22.5 per cent of the budgeted amount for the corresponding period last year. The higher fiscal deficit during April-June, 2001 mainly reflects contraction in net revenue receipts after devolution of Central taxes to the States and also front loading of certain expenditure including advances to States.

(c) and (d) The trends in the Central Government finances are closely monitored, kept under constant review and appropriate measures are taken in the light of emerging trends as and when necessary.

NPAs of LIC

*479. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Non-performing Assets of the LIC have been increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such increase of NPAs of LIC;

(c) whether the steps initiated by the LIC to recover outstanding loans have been ineffective; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to improve overall performance of LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has intimated that the NPAs of the Corporation have declined in the last few years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Constant effort is made by LIC to recover outstanding loans. LIC has informed that they have taken steps to recover outstanding dues by constantly following up with the defaulting corporate entities, concerned State agencies/Governments, etc. A separate monitoring cell has been set up to monitor such recoveries. Action taken includes restructuring of liabilities in consultation with other Financial Institutions, taken up the matter with Debenture Trustees, identification of wilful defaulters as per RBI

guidelines, instituting legal proceedings and linking release of fresh loans with clearance of outstanding loans.

[Translation]

Safety of Small Investors

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any new measures for the safety of the investment made by the small investors in the financial institutions operating under the Government control;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken recently in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to make changes in the existing system to bring in transparency and accountability in the management in order to ensure safety of investment made by the small investors in the financial institutions;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether there is a provision of accountability in the present system; and

(e) if so, the level at which the accountability lies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) Participants in the financial sector are regulated by different regulatory bodies such as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) and the Department of Company Affairs (DCA) depending on the nature of their activities under the respective Acts and rules/regulations issued thereunder. For example, commercial banks, financial institutions and non-banking financial companies come within the regulatory purview of RBI, companies which mobilise resources in the form of shares, debentures through public issues and mutual funds come under the regulatory purview of SEBI, insurance products, both life and non-life, are regulated by IRDA and deposit mobilisation by companies comes within the purview of DCA.

These regulatory bodies have issued detailed guidelines for disclosure, capital adequacy, prudential norms,

compliance with regulatory norms, etc. Government regularly reviews relevant legislation, the rules and regulations made thereunder and the administration of the same with a view to protecting the interest of investors.

On-going measures that are being taken include promoting investor awareness of the risk – return relationship between various asset classes through investor education, implementation of a code of corporate governance and modernisation of trading practices on stock exchanges.

A Financial Companies Regulation Bill 2000 has been introduced in Parliament to strengthen the regulatory framework for NBFCs. SEBI has tightened eligibility norms for companies to access the primary market. Further, Government proposes to amend the SEBI Act to strengthen provisions for investor protection.

[English]

Construction of Warehouses

4756. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since decided to build warehouses abroad and enter into joint ventures, established subsidiaries and alliances;

(b) the names of the countries where warehouses would be constructed by CWC and the time by which they are likely to be constructed; and

(c) the benefit that India would derive from the construction of such warehouses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) At present, the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 does not provide for setting up of warehouses abroad by the Central Warehousing Corporation, entering into joint ventures and establishing subsidiaries and alliances. However, the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2001, which was introduced in the Parliament in Monsoon Session, provides for these provisions. The Bill has been passed by both Houses of Parliament. The Lok Sabha passed the Amendment Bill on 20.8.2001. The proposed amendments

would enable the Corporation to explore potentials and possibilities of diversification of its activities.

Pending Cases of UTI

4757. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending in courts as filed by the Unit Trust of India (UTI) under Section 19 B of the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963;

(b) the break-up of these cases according to the monetary value of the relief sought (i) one lakh to ten lakh (ii) ten lakh to fifty lakh and (iii) above rupees fifty lakh by the UTI; and

(c) the names of parties against whom the cases above rupees fifty lakh are pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Unit Trust of India (UTI) has intimated that they have filed one case under section 19B of the UTI Act, 1963 before the High Court of Bombay (Misc Appl. No. 76 of

1990) against Keming Tools Co. Ltd. for Rs. 1,00,29,841.50 (rupees one crore twenty nine thousand eight hundred forty one and fifty paise) in the year 1990, which is pending for disposal.

Private Agencies in Insurance Sector

4758. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private agencies in the insurance field which have so far come forward after promulgation of the decision of free market in this sector; and

(b) the names of such private agencies and capital flow so far invested by these agencies in the open market with State-wise, break-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Only Indian Insurance Company as defined in Section 2 (7A) of Insurance Act, 1938, can transact insurance business in India. A statement indicating number of the private insurance companies registered with the IRDA alongwith their paid up equity is enclosed.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Indian Insurance Company	Foreign Partner's Equity (Rs. in crores)	Indian Partner's Equity (Rs. in crores)	Total Equity (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	HDFC Standard Life Insurance Co. Ltd. Mumbai (Mah)	31.24	89.26	120.5
2.	Royal Sundaram Alliance Insurance Co. Ltd., Chennai (TN)	26.26	74.74	101.0
3.	Reliance General Insurance Co. Ltd. Mumbai (Mah)	No Foreign Partner	100.0	100.0
4.	Max New York Life Insurance Co. Ltd. N. Delhi	27.30	77.70	105.0
5.	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd. Ltd, Mumbai (Mah)	39.0	111.0	150.0
6.	IFFCO – Tokyo General Insurance Co. Ltd. N. Delhi	26.0	74.0	100.0
7.	Om Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Co. Ltd. Mumbai (Mah)	26.26	74.74	101.0

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Tata - AIG General Insurance Co Ltd.	32.5	92.5	125.5
9.	Birla Sun Life Insurance Co. Ltd. Mumbai (Mah)	31.20	88.8	120.0
10.	TATA - AIG Life Insurance Company Ltd. Mumbai (Mah.)	32.5	92.5	125.0
11.	SBI Life Insurance Co. Ltd. Mumbai (Mah)	32.5	92.5	125.0
12.	Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. Pune (Mah.)	28.60	81.40	110.0
13.	ING Vyasy Life Insurance Company, B'Lore (KTK)	28.60	81.40	110.0
14.	ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd. Mumbai (Mah)	28.60	81.40	110.0
15.	Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd. Pune (Mah)	39.0	111.0	150.0
16.	Metlife India Ins. Co. Pvt. Ltd., B'Lore (KTK)	28.59	81.41	110.0

Permission for Milk Export

4759. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some dairies have sought approval of the Government to export milk and milk products;

(b) if so, whether the Government have agreed to give approval to the dairies for such exports;

(c) if so, the names of such dairies and terms and conditions required to be complied so as to complete in the international market;

(d) whether the Government have assessed the demand of milk and milk products in the international market; and

(e) if so, the names of the countries presently importing these products?

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

SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Government of India's Order No.2719 dated 28th November, 2000, it is mandatory for the milk processing units that their milk products be subjected to quality control and inspection prior to export.

(b) Government have given approval subject to implementation of the norms and requirements laid down vide notification No. 2720 dated 28th November, 2000 effective from 16th December, 2000.

(c) As on 17th July, 2001, 14 Dairy Processing Plants have been approved to process milk products for export. They are - Dynamics Dairy Industry Ltd. (Pune), Mother Dairy (Gandhi) Nagar, Mehsana District Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd., Amul Dairy (Anand), Kheda Satellite Dairy (Kheda), Food Complex (Mogar), Baroda District Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd., Sterling Agro Industries Ltd. (Bhind), Ved Ram and Sons (Ghaziabad), Jaagajit Industries Ltd. (Kapurthala), Ludhiana District Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd., Bhatinda Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd., Punjab State Coop. Milk Producers Federation Ltd. (Chandigarh) and Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Ltd. (Delhi).

The terms and conditions required to be complied so as to compete in the international market are laid down in the Govt. of India Order No. S.O.2719 and Notification No. S.O. 2720 dated 28th November, 2000 which have been published in the Gazette of India and effective from 16th December, 2000.

(d) and (e) No assessment is available on the global demand of milk and milk products in the international market. Major countries presently importing Indian milk and milk products are Bangladesh, Germany, Belgium, UAE, Philippines, Canada, Yemen Arab Republic, UK, Saudi Arabia, France and USA.

Procurement of Rice

4760. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had released a loan of Rs. 120 crore to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000-2001 for procurement of rice in the State;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has furnished the details of the procurement of rice made therefrom;

(c) the procurement made variety-wise and district-wise during the above period;

(d) whether any amount of the loan were divested for other purposes by the State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and that action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The variety-wise and district-wise procurement of rice in Andhra Pradesh by the Food Corporation of India is statement given in the statement I and II.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Statement-I

*The Procurement of Levy Rice by FCI in Andhra Pradesh during Kharif Marketing Season
(As on 31.03.2001)*

(Figures in MTs)

Name of the District	Grade 'A'	Common
Adilabad	17232	568
Ananthapur	4392	7
Chittoor	4004	200
Cuddapah	8778	16731
E.Godavari	598030	136325
Guntur	183650	37204
Hyderabad	1354	70
Karimnagar	411903	22243
Khammam	180021	0
Krishna	443435	70444
Kurnool	35503	248
M.Nagar	131658	208
Medak	111890	9057
Nalgonda	539913	55093
Nellore	123529	38098
Nizamabad	214392	10219
Prakasham	58230	2393
Rangareddy	81016	1373
Srikakulam	147495	2868
Vizag	2584	46
Vizianagar	50725	1746
Warangal	256061	6067
W.Godavari	449154	122636
Total	4054859	533844

Statement—II

Procurement of Levy Rice by FCI in Andhra Pradesh during Rabi Marketing Season 2000-2001 (As on 11.7.2001)

(Figures in MTs)

Name of the District	Grade 'A'	Common
Adilabad	446	0
Ananthapur	795	0
Chittoor	1159	36
Cuddapah	4123	1385
E.Godavari	143924	77635
Guntur	68619	9248
Hyderabad	356	0
Karimnagar	198339	1232
Khammam	47013	27
Krishna	162687	65818
Kurnool	9617	244
M.Nagar	56347	0
Medak	50413	1549
Nalgonda	238036	936
Nellore	100877	4879
Nizamabad	124940	186
Prakasham	62000	1132
Rangareddy	35157	47
Srikakulam	19787	242
Vizag	0	0
Vizianagar	10101	647
Warangal	88181	184
W.Godavari	256073	58292
Total	1678992	223919

[Translation]**National Minorities Bank**

4761. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum in regard to opening of National Minorities Bank in the country.

(b) If so, the persons/organization from whom these memoranda have been received; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard to opening of such banks?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]**Demand and Allocation of Rice under PDS**

4762. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the demand and allocation of rice for Tamil Nadu under the PDS during the current year;

(b) whether poor quality of rice was supplied to the Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) With the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from June, 1997, the allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs is made as per TPDS guidelines for families below poverty line (BPL) and families above poverty line (APL); and these are not demand based.

The monthly allocation of rice being given to Tamil Nadu is as under:-

	(in tonnes)		
	BPL	APL	Total
Rice	1,21,570	38,440	1,60,010

(b) No such report has been received by the Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Central Provident Funds

4763. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Accountant General, Gwalior from 1997-98 to 2001-2002 for final payment of amount deposited in the General Provident Fund of retired and expired Government servants;

(b) the total number of vis-a-vis the year-wise details of cases that have been finally disposed of;

(c) the number of cases still pending; and

(d) the details of action being taken to dispose of the pending cases within the time limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The year wise position of total No. of Final Payment applications received in the office of AG(A&E)-II, M.P. and Chhattisgarh from employees of M.P. State Government (including retired and expired M.P. Govt. servants) is given below:-

1997-1998	24219 (OB 4615 + 19604)
1998-1999	12044
1999-2000	6597
2000-2001	12201
2001-2002 (July)	5244
	<u>60305</u>

(b) The year wise position of disposal of Final Payment applications by issuing payment authorities is given below. The figures of 97-98 include disposal of cases of 97-98 and pendency of previous year also.

1997-1998	22964
1998-1999	11719
1999-2000	6449
2000-2001	10287
2001-2002 (July)	4585
	<u>56004</u>

(c) No. of Final Payment Cases pending as on 31.3.2001 is given below:-

No. of cases pending = 4301

Year wise Break-up of Pending Cases

1997-1998	4
1998-1999	117
1999-2000	398
2000-2001	2022
2001-2002 (July)	1760
	<u>4301</u>

(d) These cases are being disposed of as and when necessary particulars are received from the DDOs/ Departments concerned.

[English]

Filing of Income Tax Returns

4764. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1997 regarding filing of Income Tax return by MTNL dated December 1, 2000 and state :

(a) what is the present status of SLP pending in Supreme Court in respect of charging income-tax on licence fee from MTNL;

(b) whether assessment proceedings in respect of MTNL has since been completed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by MTNL in the Supreme Court is not in respect of charging income tax on licence fee from the MTNL.

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has stayed all proceedings regarding the validity of the notice u/s 148 for reassessment for the assessment year 1994-95 in the case of MTNL. Assessment proceedings for subsequent assessment years have been completed. Assessment proceedings for the A.Y. 1999-2000 are pending.

Excise Duty Exemption to Digboi Refinery

4765. DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any recommendation/proposal from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to give excise duty relief to Digboi Refinery on the line of Numaligarh Refinery as part of PM's economic package for North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) the time by which a final decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government has not found it feasible to accept the proposal.

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

Study Loan

4766. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any target has been fixed by the nationalised banks to disburse study loan during the current financial year;

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

(c) the amount disbursed by the nationalised banks so far;

(d) whether there is any limit fixed for disbursement of loan in India and abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No targets have been fixed for the nationalised banks to disburse the educational loan during the current financial year.

(c) According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, under the educational loan scheme upto the end of March, 1999, the Scheduled Commercial Banks had disbursed Rs. 476.66 crores to 1,39,306 beneficiaries.

(d) and (e) The educational loan scheme envisages loans up to Rs. 7.5 lakh for studies in India and up to Rs. 15 lakh for studies abroad.

Bogus Ration Cards

4767. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines to the States to take utmost care in issuing ration cards by involving Panchayati Raj institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the State Governments to these guidelines;

(d) whether it is a fact that detection of bogus ration cards is increasing year after year; and

(e) if so, the number of bogus ration cards detected in different States during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Under TPDS guidelines issued in February 1997 States/UTs have been asked to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the identification of targetted families. States have been instructed to take every care while issuing ration cards against its possible misuse. Guidelines issued for greater involvement of PRIs in functioning of TPDS, issued in June 1999 emphasize the role of Gram Panchayat/Gram Sabhas for checking of ration cards for their genuineness.

(d) and (e) As per records available in the Ministry, it is not evident whether there is an increase or decrease in the number of bogus ration cards in circulation. Details of state-wise, number of bogus ration cards is not maintained in the Ministry.

**State Bank of India Subsidiary
for IT Services**

4768. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Bank of India is planning to establish a subsidiary company for its Information Technological Service;

(b) whether any request has been received by the Government to this effect, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) State Bank of India (SBI) had submitted a proposal to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for setting up an information technology subsidiary to assist the Bank in the implementation of computerization, networking of its branches for various banking activities, treasury solutions, risk management and better MIS and to meet the requirements of the financial industry and the insurance sector. Since the activities proposed to be undertaken by SBI's information technology subsidiary were not covered by section 6 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI had recommended to the Government to grant necessary approval of the same under Section 19(1) (c) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The matter was considered by the Government and it was felt that setting of an information technology subsidiary by SBI would be a digression from the Bank's main activity and envisaged role and the Bank should attempt to build upon existing strength rather than make tentative forays into areas that have witnessed major debacles. It was further felt that the objectives of information technology upgradation of SBI can easily be met by existing arrangements. Government, therefore, did not accord its approval to the above proposal.

Antyodaya Yojana

4769. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether wheat and rice supplied for the poorest of the poor under Antyodaya Yojana is also inferior in quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steps have been taken by the Union Government for the supply of better quality rice and wheat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir. Good quality wheat and rice conforming to the specifications laid down by the Government and the PFA norms are issued to the States and Union Territories for distribution under the public distribution system including the "Antyodaya Anna Yojana"

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are distributed:

- (i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/ UTs to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.
- (ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State 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 jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/ UTs and the FCI during the issue of stocks from FCI godowns for display at the counters of Fair Prices Shops (FPSs)
- (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.

(e) Does not arise.

Advertisements in Marathi Newspapers

4770. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the names of Marathi Newspapers and periodicals to whom advertisements of the Union Public Service Commission were given through DAVP during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : The names of the Marathi Newspapers and periodicals to whom UPSC advertisements were given through DAVP during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (till 20.8.2001)

S.No.	Name and periodicity of the Publication	Place of publication
1.	Danik Lokmat, Daily	Aurangabad, Maharashtra
2.	Gavakari, Daily*	Nashik, Maharashtra
3.	Gomantak, Daily	Panaji, Goa
4.	Janvad, Daily*	Nagpur, Maharashtra
5.	Kesari, Daily	Pune, Maharashtra
6.	Loksatta, Daily	Mumbai, Maharashtra
7.	Lokmat, Daily	Jalgaon, Maharashtra
8.	Lokmat, Daily	Nagpur, Maharashtra
9.	Maharashtra Times, Daily	Mumbai, Maharashtra
10.	Navakal, Daily	Mumbai, Maharashtra
11.	Pudhari, Daily*	Kolhapur, Maharashtra
12.	Sakal, Daily*	Pune, Maharashtra
13.	Sakal Mumbai, Daily	Mumbai, Maharashtra
14.	Sanchar, Daily	Solapur, Maharashtra
15.	Tarun Bharat, Daily	Belgaum, Karnataka
16.	Tarun Bharat, Daily	Nagpur, Maharashtra

* These newspapers are not being used for UPSC advertisements after 30.6.2001 as their Rate Contracts have not been renewed so far.

Grants to EPC

4771. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether CAG has pointed out several irregularities in making payment of market /Development Assistance grants to Export Promotion Councils as reported in the *Economic Times* of August 12, 2001 under the captioned "Commerce department faces CAG fire over EPC grants";

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

(c) the reasons for releasing grants to the tune of Rs. 36.89 crore to 17 ineligible Export Promotion Councils (EPCs); and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to remove the irregularities pointed out by the CAG?

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

(b) to (d) Principal Director of Audit, Economic and Service Ministries in draft review on Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) in audit observations for comments had, inter alia, pointed out that Rs. 36.69 crore was released to 17 Export Promotion Councils (EOCs) though they were not eligible to get the grant. The position was clarified to the Principal Director of Audit intimating therein that the MDA grants to the EPCs had been released as per the policy decided by the Government from time to time, and that release of Rs. 36.89 crore to the 17 EPCs was made with the approval of the competent authority as per the guidelines of the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme. However, the CAG in its Report No. 2 of 2001 (Civil) submitted recently, has reiterated their observations and these are being re-examined for further action.

Internal Debt

4772. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the internal debt of the Government is on rise during the last three years;

(b) if so, reasons and details therefor;

(c) the comparative figure for the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the internal debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The details of internal debt during the last three years, raised to finance the gap in resources of the Government, are as under:-

	(Rs. crore)		
	1998-99 (actuals)	1999-2000 (actuals)	2000-2001 (R.E)
(i) Market Loans	285585	355862	431809
(ii) 91 days Treasury Bills/Treasury Bills funded into special securities	103319	103575	103575
(iii) Other Internal Debt	106792	254817	269144
Total-Internal Debt	495696	714254	804528

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

Lack of Transparency in Disinvestment of Air India

4773. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "A-I sale caught in Ministry War" published in the *Hindustan Times* (Delhi edition) dated June 29, 2001;

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

(c) whether the bidder, the Hindujas had complained to the Government about lack of transparency in the disinvestment process; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLE-

MENTATION, 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. There are no differences between the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Department of Disinvestment in the process of disinvestment in Air India. All the issues relating to valuation of the bilaterals of Air India and finalisation of the shareholders agreement were discussed and sorted out in the meetings of the Inter Ministerial Group consisting of representatives of several Ministries including the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the Department of Disinvestment.

(c) and (d) The points raised by the Hindujas about the transparency of the disinvestment process have been duly clarified to them.

Increase in Customs Duty on Non-Coking Coal

4774. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the customs duty on non-coking coal used by Thermal Power Plants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this increase has adversely affected the operations of the power plants and lead to rise in the price of electricity;

(d) if so, whether the State Government, especially Maharashtra have requested the Union Government to place non-coking coal at par with the coking coal level;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Basic customs duty on non-coking coal was increased from 15% to 25% in May, 2000 in order to provide adequate protection to domestic coal producers. This has increased input costs of power plants using imported coal.

(d) No such request seems to have been received in the Ministry of Finance from the State Governments in the recent past.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Illegal Trade of Heroin

4775. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal trade of heroin through Southern Coromandal Coast of India meant for Srilanka, is on the rise; and

(b) if so, the stricter vigil proposed on the entire coast to check such illegal trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Drug smuggling is a clandestine activity. The seizure of Heroin in Tamil Nadu in recent years which was destined for Sri Lanka has shown an increasing trend.

(b) Instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, vesting of powers in Coast Guards under the Customs Act, notifying certain precursor chemical viz. Acetic Anhydride etc. as 'Controlled Substances' under the NDPS Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, Indo-Sri Lanka bilateral talks on anti-smuggling and other related matters are some of the steps taken by the Government to check smuggling around the coastal areas of India.

Meeting of International Coffee Organization

4776. SHRI G.S.BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India attended the meeting of the International Coffee Organisation in London;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed in the meeting of ICO;

(c) whether India has sought more time for making a detailed study of the proposal both from the technical and legal implications; and

(d) 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 AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Executive Board meeting of the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) held in May, 2001, the most important subject discussed was diversion of low grade coffees. In the said proposal, a study on improving the global coffee supply/demand balance through measures designed to eliminate low grade coffees

from exports was discussed. Based on the discussion, the ICO adopted a resolution on quality in the Council meeting seeking co-operation of producer countries to reduce availability of low grade coffees from exports and also to continue studies on the diversion proposal.

(c) and (d) India recorded its reservations at the ICO Council meeting stating that more time was required to study the legal, technical and financial aspects of the scheme. The Coffee Board has already discussed the said issue with a cross section of the Indian Coffee industry comprising exporters, traders and growers. The overall view of the industry was that since India's grade specifications for export are quite stringent, export of inferior grade coffees was very insignificant. As such, any export restrictions on the grounds of quality are counter-productive and the market forces should only prevail.

Release of Sugar

4777. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to amend the existing monthly release policy for sugar industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sugar mills of Maharashtra have suggested some changes in existing policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(f) the measures adopted to liquidate surplus stocks of sugar lying in the mills of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to amend the existing monthly release policy.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has received a memorandum from Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Sangh on problems of Maharashtra's sugar cooperative sugar mills. The said memorandum does not contain any suggestion on the release policy of the Government.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) In order to reduce the stocks of sugar laying with the sugar mills, Government has taken the following measures;

- (i) Quantitative ceiling on export of sugar has been removed.
- (ii) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation.
- (iii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) @ 5% value of FOB price of sugar has been allowed.
- (iv) Requirement of Registration-cum-Allocation certificate from APEDA has been dispensed w.e.f. 1.4.2001.
- (v) The quantity of sugar exported is treated as advance freesale release to be adjusted after a period of 12 months from the date of release.
- (vi) The advance releases of freesale sugar are being given to needy sugar mills.
- (vii) The sugar factories have been provided temporary relief in lieu of their un-lifted levy sugar quotas by way of permitting them to sell equivalent quantity in the open market.

[Translation]

Himachal Gramin Bank

4778. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has received any requests from the Himachal Gramin Bank seeking licences for opening its branches;

(b) if so, the dates on which the requests had been received;

(c) the action taken for expanding the network of Himachal Gramin Bank and for opening of its branches in Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh) after the issuance of Government of India Gazette Notification dated April 18, 2000 in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the licences are likely to be issued and branches of the said bank are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had received application from Himachal Gramin Bank (HGB) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

(NABARD) on 30th December, 2000 for issuance of licenses to open new branches in the extended area of operation in Hamirpur, Una and Bilaspur.

(c) and (d) The RBI has authorised Himachal Gramin Bank on 10th July, 2001 to open branches in the above three centres. The branches would be able to function after the Himachal Gramin Bank sets up the necessary infrastructure facilities and thereafter obtains the license from the Regional Office of RBI at Chandigarh.

Claims of Sugar Mills for Levy Difference

4779. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar mills of Gujarat have claimed for levy difference;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of levy difference and since when the said amount is outstanding; and

(d) the efforts made by the Union Government for the payment of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) Out of a total claim of Rs. 870.57 lakhs of 11 sugar mills situated in Gujarat, payment of Rs. 817.16 lakhs has been released in June and July, 2001 leaving a balance amount of Rs. 53.41 lakhs only. The claim of Bileshwar/Kodinar sugar mill amounting to Rs. 44.34 lakhs is held up for want of certain documents from the sugar mill. A part of the claim of Ganesh/Vataria and Bardoli sugar mills amounting to Rs. 8.34 lakhs and Rs. 0.73 lakh respectively is held up for want of reconfirmation of quantity.

[English]

Action against Amara Raja Batteries Limited

4780. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SEBI have launched criminal proceedings against certain market operators for their role in creating artificial market in the scrip of Amara Raja Batteries Limited;

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

(c) whether these accused traded heavily in the scrip with an intention to create false market; and

(d) the results of the investigations conducted against them and the steps taken to guard such illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) SEBI has intimated that it has initiated criminal prosecution proceedings against Hari Narayan Bajaj and his son, R. Bajaj for their alleged role in creating artificial market in the Amara Raja Batteries Ltd. scrip.

(c) SEBI has intimated that Hari Narayan Bajaj and his son, R. Bajaj traded in the shares of Amara Raja Batteries Ltd. with an intention to create false market.

(d) Pursuant to investigations by SEBI, enquiry proceedings have been initiated against members of BSE and NSE. Further, SEBI has initiated proceedings under Section 11B of SEBI Act, 1992 against Hari Narayan Bajaj and his son R. Bajaj.

CRB Scam

4781. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please refer to the reply given to an Unstarred Question No. 5117 dated the April 20, 2001 regarding Refund of matured amount to NRIs and state :

(a) whether the RBI had referred the matter to the Adjudicating Authority/Officer for the recovery of foreign exchange currency;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether C.R. Bhansali group had taken permission from RBI to get conversion of foreign exchange into Indian currency after the expiry of the authorization period in this regard; and

(e) if not, the circumstances under which the foreign exchange was got converted into Indian currency by CRB when the authorization period was over in April, 1994?

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

[Translation]

Increase in PDS Quota for BPL

4782. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have recently increased the allocation of foodgrains under Public Distribution System for the people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise details of the foodgrains allocated to the people living Below Poverty Line during the last three years and the foodgrain actually lifted by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The allocation of food grains for BPL families has been increased from 10 kg to 20 kg w.e.f. 1 April, 2000 and to 25 kg per family per month from July, 2001.

(c) State-wise details of allocation and lifting of food grains under BPL category during the last three years is given in the statement attached.

Allocation and Lifting of Foodgrains Under BPL Category during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(in '000 tonnes)

State	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
	allocation	offtake	allocation	offtake	allocation	offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	442.790	425.457	453.360	433.570	1316.65	923.05
2. Arunachal Pradesh	9.240	9.463	9.240	8.320	20.22	16.11
3. Assam	228.720	214.380	228.720	215.900	457.43	374.14
4. Bihar	1030.800	808.280	1030.800	876.280	1877.10	560.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. Chhattisgarh					127.66	78.96
6. Delhi	17.760	0.000	0.000	0.000	24.54	10.50
7. Goa	4.650	0.623	4.560	8.620	9.10	1.84
8. Gujarat	240.00	238.988	240.000	246.850	908.81	398.39
9. Haryana	87.960	44.787	87.960	80.320	175.92	49.40
10. Himachal Pradesh	50.886	28.319	51.120	24.150	102.32	46.46
11. Jammu & Kashmir	74.160	74.166	74.160	69.180	148.32	87.64
12. Jharkhand					184.50	86.68
13. Karnataka	345.000	344.518	345.000	346.900	710.34	663.41
14. Kerala	184.200	223.255	184.200	182.000	365.14	417.01
15. Madhya Pradesh	640.080	440.141	640.080	537.430	1134.11	556.26
16. Maharashtra	725.520	625.635	725.520	671.610	1490.08	960.36
17. Manipur	15.600	15.000	20.600	21.070	31.21	18.67
18. Meghalaya	17.160	14.278	17.160	17.550	34.35	30.11
19. Mizoram	6.360	6.700	6.360	6.890	13.94	13.94
20. Nagaland	11.520	10.771	11.520	12.650	23.04	20.99
21. Orissa	381.840	384.585	874.715	819.200	1052.22	659.58
22. Punjab	51.600	9.113	51.600	2.650	106.24	11.12
23. Rajasthan	260.400	142.114	260.400	193.060	874.17	322.73
24. Sikkim	4.080	3.399	4.080	4.210	8.92	5.88
25. Tamil Nadu	549.480	479.454	549.480	535.390	1121.66	1131.12
26. Tripura	27.720	26.393	27.720	19.070	55.45	53.57
27. Uttar Pradesh	1146.000	1070.886	1197.300	1203.121	2279.29	1208.62
28. Uttaranchal					34.01	0.00
29. West Bengal	548.640	328.075	548.640	450.170	1253.56	798.96
30. A&N Island	2.200	0.000	2.640	0.180	5.28	4.76
31. Chandigarh	2.160	0.035	2.160	0.210	4.32	0.000
32. D&N Haveli	1.800	1.582	1.800	0.778	3.62	2.44
33. Daman & Diu	0.360	0.255	0.360	0.040	0.80	0.23
34. Lakshadweep	0.120	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.00	0.00
35. Pondicherry	7.800	0.000	7.800	7.320	17.09	7.51
Total	7116.516	5970.652	7659.295	6994.689	15971.423	9520.510

Purchase of Opium

4783. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to purchase bud and dust (Doda-Churra) of opium directly from the farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir. Purchase of bud and dust (Doda-Churra) is regulated by State Government and Central Government has no proposal to buy Doda-Churra directly from farmers.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

World Bank Loan to Karnataka for Poverty Reduction

4784. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned loans to support various poverty reduction programmes in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the amount of loans sanctioned by the World Bank during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have provided the above loan to various poverty reduction programmes of Karnataka;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not releasing the above loans to Karnataka?

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

(b) The World Bank has approved assistance amounting to US\$ 321.6 million (equivalent to approx. Rs. 1500 crore) during the last three years for District Poverty Initiatives Projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Government Administration

4785. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the revenue earned during each of the last three years and the amount spent out of it on running the Government administration and on other facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : The details of revenue receipts and establishment expenditure of the Government during the last three years was as under:

(In crore of Rupees)

Year	Revenue receipts	Establishment expenditure excluding Defence	
		Pay	Allowances
1998-1999 (actuals)	149510	19440	10655
1999-2000 (actuals)	181513	19307	13386
2000-2001 (revised estimates)	206166	17930	12302

The details of other administrative expenditure viz. office expenses, rent, PoL, etc. are not centrally available.

Iraq's Contract Awarded to BHEL

4786. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the contract awarded to BHEL by Iraq for manufacture of gas turbine;

(b) the value of export order received by the Government from Iraq;

(c) the number of gas turbine units for which Government have given permission to export;

(d) the time by which the export order of turbine is likely to be completed as per the said contract;

(e) whether the condition of maintenance and supply of spares for two years is included in the said contract; and

(f) if so, whether India will bear the total burden of supply of spares for two years as per the said terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) BHEL has received two orders, each involving supply of 2 Nos. of V94.2 (Approx. 159 MW ISO rating) Gas Turbine generating units along with associated electrical and mechanical auxiliaries for the Beiji power plant, besides providing expert supervisory services during erection and commissioning of the said equipment. The civil works and erection is being carried out by the client as per the contract.

(b) The total value of the orders is Rs. 870 crore.

(c) The order has been received under the "UN Oil-for-Food Programme". For executing the export order for supply of 4 gas turbines to Iraq, permission of United Nations which was required to be taken under "UN Oil-for-Food Programme", was obtained.

(d) The supplies for both the contracts are to be completed within 18 months from the date of receipt of respective Letters of Credit and fulfillment of other obligations by the customer in accordance with the contract.

(e) The contract includes supply of spares for two years operation.

(f) The contract price provides for supply of spares for two years operations.

[English]

Assistance to Orissa

4787. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance given by public sector financial institutions and NABARD to Orissa during each of the last three years;

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

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and details of such assistance provided to other States; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The State-wise assistance sanctioned by All India financial

institutions during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is given in the statement attached.

Financial Institutions including NABARD provides financial assistance to all viable projects irrespective of their location. However, the extent of assistance in any state depends upon various factors including the flow of support-worthy projects, Infrastructure available, availability of raw material and skilled labour, proximity to market, overall exposure limits set by RBI for individual companies/group, resource constraints.

Statement

State-wise Assistance sanctioned by AIFIs during April-March 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(Rs. Crores)				
S. No.	State	April-March 1998-1999	April-March 1999-2000	April-March 2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5795.4	8636.4	5328.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22.5	1.5	1.7
3.	Assam	98.3	316.4	257.7
4.	Bihar	1119.9	964.5	238.5
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	207.5	303.00
6.	Delhi	5478.2	9181.9	11602.4
7.	Goa	436.8	247.1	153.1
8.	Gujarat	10315.7	12628.4	12793.1
9.	Haryana	1777.3	1823.1	4915.3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	448.4	708.2	485.6
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	45.5	326.4	216.4
12.	Jharkhand	—	56.2	13.00
13.	Karnataka	5316.6	5303.5	5771.4
14.	Kerala	1094.4	559.8	642.4
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2606.2	2044.1	2254.1
16.	Maharashtra	24586.0	21961.2	30166.9
17.	Manipur	3.7	4.8	15.00
18.	Meghalaya	4.8	4.1	24.2
19.	Mizoram	1.0	1.1	—

1	2	3	4	5
20. Nagaland	1.5	1.5	6.90	
21. Orissa	1194.6	2776.4	1148.4	
22. Punjab	1918.8	1806.6	2820.6	
23. Rajasthan	1875.4	1640.4	2308.4	
24. Sikkim	7.0	2.5	1101.1	
25. Tamil Nadu	9449.2	8031.7	6352.3	
26. Tripura	3.9	5.1	2.5	
27. Uttaranchal	—	63.4	45.00	
28. Uttar Pradesh	3838.4	3356.7	4263.3	
29. West Bengal	3510.4	3679.5	4764.4	
30. Union Territories and Others	731.7	539.6	566.4	
1. Andaman & Nicobar	0.1	—	—	
2. Daman & Diu	84.0	104.6	143.4	
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	446.2	306.9	142.9	
4. Chandigarh	141.1	46.4	128.2	
5. Lakshadweep	—	—	—	
6. Pondicherry	60.3	56.5	129.6	
7. Others	—	25.2	22.3	
31. Multi-State/Non-Specific Areas	3306.6	5362.4	9747.5	
Total	84988.2	92242.00	108309.1	

Metro Prime Time Slot

4788. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether reputed broadcasters and film makers have lost several crores of rupees by way of telecast fee on Metro Prime Time (MPT) of Prasar Bharati during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of prime time slots given to various producers/broadcasters during the last two years;

(c) whether the credibility of Prasar Bharati has declined due to low content and non-viable projects; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to enhance the image of Prasar Bharati?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that they have no such information.

(b) Details of prime time given to various producers/broadcasters during the last two years are given in the statement attached.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Doordarshan has taken several steps to improve its image and to ensure telecast of quality programmes on national channels. Doordarshan has revised the guidelines for sponsored programmes, revised the commercial rate cards of Doordarshan national, metro and regional channels, and restructured slotting of programmes. The revised guidelines also provide for concessions to talented young producers to supply quality programmes for Doordarshan channels.

Statement

Details of prime time slots given to various producers/broadcasters on DD Metro during the last two years

Sl. No.	Name of the programmes	Name of the producers	Time slot
1	2	3	4
1.	NYAY	M/s. Nimbus Communications	8.00 P.M. Monday to Friday Later shifted to 2.00 P.M.
2.	DHOOP CHHAON	M/s. Sonu Films	9.30 P.M. Monday

1	2	3	4
3.	MUQADDAR	M/s. Arora Films	9.00 P.M. Monday
4.	IN TOUCH	M/s. Denim Enterprise	9.30 P.M. Friday
5.	BHABHI MAA	M/s. Hansha Vision	8.30 P.M. Tuesday
6.	AAJA HASA JAA	M/s. Bisawa Creations	9.30 P.M. Tuesday
7.	JUHI	M/s. Airtime	8.30 P.M. Sunday Later shifted to Wednesday and again shifted to Thursday.
8.	FRONT PAGE	M/s. Nimbus Communications	8.30 P.M. Thursday
9.	AGNIPATH	M/s. Expression Films and Video Unit	9.30 P.M. Thursday
10.	WE LOVE YOU	M/s. Sood Telefilms	10.00 P.M. Sunday Later shifted to 9.30 P.M. Friday
11.	SHOW NO. 1	M/s. Ad Impact Communications	8.30 P.M. Saturday
12.	ALL IN ALL	M/s. Guruji Films	8.15 A.M. to 9.00 A.M. Sunday
13.	BOLLYWOOD MAIL	M/s. Indradhanush TV	-do-
14.	THE COMPUTER SHOW	M/s. Moving Pictures	11.30 A.M. Sunday
15.	FAMILY FIT GAANE HIT	M/s. Radical Entertainment	9.00 P.M. to 10.00 P.M. Sunday
16.	HUNGAMA UNLIMITED	M/s. Pritish Nandy Communications Pvt. Ltd.	9.00 P.M. to 10.00 P.M. Sunday
17.	DR. DELTA	M/s. Today Vision	9.00 A.M. Sunday
18.	ZENITH COMPUTER SHOW	M/s. Zenith Computer Ltd.	11.00 A.M. Sunday
19.	SATYA	M/s. UTV	9.00 P.M. Thursday
20.	BULK AIR TIME	M/s. Nine Network Australia Pty. Ltd.	7-10 P.M. (daily)

[Translation]

Unemployment due to Disinvestment Policy

4789. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether feeling of despair is being created among labourers and farmers due to new disinvestment policy in the country;

(b) whether unemployment has increased in the country due to the said policy of the Government; and

(c) the corrective measures initiated 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 GRIEV-

ANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no indication of increase in unemployment due to the disinvestment policy of the Government. The Government is committed to protect the interests of the workers, as mentioned by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2000-2001.

[English]

Financial Irregularities in Import of Aircraft

4790. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any complaints against M.P. Flying Club, Indore in connection with the financial irregularities in the import of 3 aircraft and 2 engines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the aircrafts and engines have been bought for Rs. 42,15,077.00 against Rs. 78,40,018.00 and balance of Rs. 36,25,004.00 has been shown as excess charges towards the cost for aircrafts as an advance in the balance-sheet of year 1999-2000;

(d) if so, whether this practice is against the rules and regulations of FERA and Income Tax Act; and

(e) 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) The allegation included suspected over-invoicing in the purchase of three aircrafts imported during 1997.

(c) and (d) The auditors had taken the value of the imported aircrafts at Rs. 41,19,647/- provisionally, on the basis of report of the Flying Club Board Members, whereas scrutiny of the file/evidence on record suggests that the aircrafts were imported at CIF value of US\$ 1,84,569/-, which corresponds approximately to Rs. 73,45,000/-. The aircrafts were imported at the value at which they were indented. No over-invoicing was noticed.

(e) Since there was no over-invoicing, no action was taken.

Interest Rate on Small Savings

4791. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a Committee to review the existing system of administered interest rates of small savings schemes including Public Provident Fund under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.V. Reddy;

(b) if so, the details thereof including terms of references of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted any report or made recommendations to the Government;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Government has set up an Expert Committee to review the system of administered interest rates and other related issues.

(b) The Committee is chaired by Dr. Y.V. Reddy, Deputy Governor, RBI. The terms of reference of the Committee are as under :-

- (i) To suggest criteria for bench-marking of administered interest rates;
 - (ii) To suggest the periodicity of revision of administered interest rates;
 - (iii) To examine the feasibility of transferring the entire net proceeds of small savings to the State Governments on a back-to-back basis;
 - (iv) To make recommendations on other aspects of small savings like designing of instruments, engagement of agents and rules governing the deposits and withdrawals;
 - (v) To make recommendations on issues related to the interest rates; and
 - (vi) To make such other recommendations as the Committee may deem appropriate on the subject.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Wahi Committee Recommendations on Black Money

4792. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Wahi Committee had made some recommendations in regard to black money;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not accepting these recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) This Ministry is not aware of any such Committee which had made recommendations on Black Money.

Shortage of Coins

4793. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of coins and circulation of soiled and mutilated currency notes in Maharashtra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There are some reports about shortage of coins and circulation of soiled and mutilated currency notes in certain parts of the Maharashtra State.

(b) The offices of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at Mumbai, Belapur and Nagpur have been directed to ensure regular and adequate supply of coins to respective currency chest branches of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) for ensuring equitable distribution of coins throughout Maharashtra. All the branches of Public Sector Banks in Maharashtra have been instructed to exchange the soiled notes freely and to ensure that soiled notes are not issued to the public. These soiled notes are ultimately disposed of at the RBI after due examination. Similarly, all the currency chest branches of PSBs in Maharashtra have been delegated full powers for adjudication of mutilated notes presented by members of public.

World Bank Aid for Canal/River Development Projects

4794. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds provided by the World Bank during each of the last three years for Canal/River development projects in Tribal areas in various States;

(b) the State-wise and location-wise details of such Canal/River projects;

(c) the work-wise and expenditure-wise details of the work undertaken so far;

(d) the State-wise details of the achievements; and

(e) The time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There is no World Bank-supported project for Canal/River development specifically in Tribal areas.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Loans for Rice Export

4795. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the limit of advance amount fixed by the nationalised banks for rice exporters to buy rice for export from FCI since April, 2001 to till now;

(b) whether the given limit was against the policy formulated in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India and not the nationalised Banks authorises credit limit to various State Governments, Union Territory Authorities and Food Corporation of India (FCI) for procurement of food grains under the public distribution system; Credit limits are also authorised to FCI for buffer stocking. These limits are disbursed through a consortium of banks led by State Bank of India under single window schemes. Nationalised Banks liberally provide credit to rice exporters after proper credit evaluation, for purchase of rice from any source for exports.

[English]

Board for Banking, Commercial and Financial Frauds

4796. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Board for Banking, Commercial and Financial Frauds is in existence since March, 1997;

(b) whether this Board has been reconstituted by the Central Vigilance Commission following a Court directive to this effect; and

(c) if so, the members of the reconstituted Boards and the investigative role the Board on the stock market, UTI and related scams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Vigilance Commission has reported that the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds was reconstituted w.e.f. 01.07.2001 on the expiry of the term of the existing Board. The Chairman and members of the reconstituted Board are as under :

1. Shri S.P. Talwar, Rtd.-Deputy Governor RBI - Chairman.
2. Justice A. Siddiqui, Rtd Judge, Delhi High Court - Member

3. Shri A.V. Gokak, Rtd. Secretary Govt of India - Member
4. Shri R.K. Raghavan, Rtd. Director CBI - Member
5. Shri Y.H. Malegam, Chartered Accountant and Sr. Partner in M/s Billimoria and Company - Member
6. Shri S. Doreswamy, Ex. CMD Central Bank of India - Member

The Board's function is only advisory in nature and it has no executive or investigative powers. No case relating to recent Stock Market/UTI Scam has been referred to the Board so far.

Demand of Indian Goods in Nepal

4797. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand for India-made electronic goods such as VCRs, Television sets and an array of consumer items like textiles and garments is decreasing day by day in the markets of neighbouring countries particularly in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this situation has arisen due to flooding of cheap and duplicate Chinese goods in these markets; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Indian Government to reestablish 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) It may be observed from the enclosed statement that during the period 2000-2001 export of electronic goods has increased to Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan whereas there was a down trend in export to Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh as compared to the level of exports during the previous year, 1999-2000. Similarly, export of textiles and garments etc., to Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives has increased during 2000-2001 while it has gone down in the case of exports to Bhutan and Pakistan. A mixed trend has also been noticed during the month of April 2001 as compared to the corresponding period previous year i.e. April 2000.

(c) It is not possible to attribute the trend in our exports to the neighbouring countries to their imports from other countries since the data of trade among third countries is not maintained in India.

(d) Efforts made by Government of India to promote exports to neighboring countries namely Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan who have organized themselves into the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), include gradual reduction in tariffs and removal of other non - tariff barriers, sharing the knowledge of the potential for intra - regional economic exchanges through SAARC Trade Fairs, exchange of business delegations and bilateral trade reviews to address the policy and procedural issues periodically with the aim to promote intra-regional investment, harmonization of customs procedures and standards.

Statement

A: Export of electronic goods from India to the neighbouring countries :

(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Period	Nepal	Bhutan	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Maldives	Pakistan
1999-2000	1379.10	380.23	4931.00	3752.31	40.13	173.15
2000-01	1306.42	5.39	4326.69	4684.72	138.15	253.37
April 2000	89.64	Nil	140.30	440.62	5.14	12.52
April 2001	33.93	2.17	708.90	308.84	0.43	11.71

(Source : DG, CIS, Kolkata)

B: Export of Textiles including Ready Made Garments (cotton, woolen, silk) and cotton yarn, fabrics, carpets etc. to the neighbouring countries.

(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Period	Nepal	Bhutan	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Maldives	Pakistan
1999-2000	2602.56	161.57	105919.31	51442.61	621.50	566.40
2000-01	6936.43	4.00	112041.20	59623.73	1713.59	350.13
April 2000	604.82	Nil	7356.19	4271.21	205.78	Nil
April 2001	170.79	8.69	2375.64	3846.24	148.62	10.51

(Source : DG,CIS, Kolkata)

UK Assistance for Setting Up of a Centre for Good Governance

4798. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have requested to approve the proposal for assistance by UK Department for International Development for setting up of a Centre for Good Governance at Hyderabad; and

(b) If so, the action taken for issuing necessary clearance at the earliest?

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

(b) The matter is under active consideration of the Government and a decision thereon will be conveyed to the State Government shortly.

[Translation]

Filling Up Vacant Posts in BHEL

4799. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the category-wise, number of posts lying vacant in various units of the Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited as on March 31.2001 and since when these posts are lying vacant;

(b) the details of action taken to fill up the vacant posts; and

(c) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) BHEL follows a need based system except in case of Executive Directors and General Managers where the number of posts has been fixed. As on 31.3.2001, there was no vacancy of Executive Director and there were two vacancies of General Manager w.e.f 25.2.2001 and 25.3.2001 respectively. These posts are likely to be filled up by internal promotions, this year.

[English]

Intellectual Property Appellate Board

4800. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to establish an Intellectual Property Appellate Board;

(b) if so, the objectives of the proposed board;

(c) whether nearly 2.6 lakh applications are pending for trade mark registration;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce the pendency of un-examined applications; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to strengthen the trade mark registry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up an Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) as required under Section 83 of the Trade Marks Act 1999. The objectives of the IPAB is to hear appeals against the decisions of the Registrar; to provide a mechanism for quick disposal of cases; to develop sound precedents and practices; and to ensure that appeal from the Registrar's decision is dealt with by judicial and technical experts promptly.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. To augment the capabilities of the Trade Marks Registry, a project for Strengthening the Infrastructure of Trade Marks Registry under the 9th Five Year Plan period was approved by the Government. The estimated cost of various activities envisaged in the project is Rs. 8.60 crores. The thrust of the project is to eliminate the backlog of pending applications, augment the staff resources of the Registry, modernize the registry and its branches through IT support and strengthen the available infrastructure apart from improving public utility services. The work on the various activities is under progress.

Bail Out Package for IFCI

4801. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI REMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL .

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved a bail out package for the crisis ridden Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Limited;

(b) if so, the details of the package approved therefor;

(c) whether the Government have worked out the modalities for the bail out package; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Government has decided to shore up Tier-I capital of IFCI by subscribing Rs. 400 crores to the 20 years convertible debentures to be issued by IFCI. Major FIs/Banks who are the main shareholders of IFCI have also agreed to consider favourably IFCI's request to infuse further capital of Rs. 600 crores.

IFCI has also been asked to take several measures including steps to expedite cases pending with BIFR and Courts, particularly involving large NPAs, exploring the possibility of roll over/refinancing of foreign currency and domestic lenders, exploring the possibility for a strategic partnership with foreign lenders (after

its financial health is restored), vetting of the projection of IFCI's profitability and business plan by a reputed and independent agency, undertaking study to assess the impact of the NPAs in IFCI's portfolio with a view to consider sector-wise approach for resolving the problems etc.

[Translation]

Pending FDI Proposals

4802. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the sector-wise and company-wise details of the proposals in regard to direct foreign investment pending with the Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(b) since when these proposals are pending and the reasons for pendency of each proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) As per the guidelines for the consideration of Foreign Direct Investment proposals by Foreign Investment Promotion Board, proposals are to be considered by the Board keeping in view a time-frame of 30 days for communicating Government decision. Accordingly, majority of the proposals are disposed within the prescribed time-frame except for a few cases that get delayed due to request for deferment by the administrative Ministry concerned or want of further information from the applicant. Such proposals are disposed as and when required inputs are received. All proposals are considered on first-come-first-serve basis.

[English]

Export Price of Sugar

4803. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present export prices of sugar are less than that of production costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large quantity of sugar stocks are lying in India as there is no market for its exports;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering any steps to weed out these stocks; 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) and (b) There has been wide fluctuation in the prices realized by the sugar mills/exporters of sugar on account of export of sugar to different countries. During May 2001 to July 2001, the export price of sugar (F.O.B) ranged from US \$ 214.5 to US\$ 327 per tonne. The actual cost of production of sugar, as incurred by various sugar mills, is not maintained by the Government. Hence, no comparison between the two sets of prices is feasible.

(c) to (e) Due to high level of production, during the three consecutive sugar seasons, viz. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, the level of stocks of sugar held by sugar mills have also increased. In order to reduce the stocks held by the sugar mills the Government has taken the following measures :

- (i) Quantitative ceiling on export of sugar has been removed.
- (ii) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation.
- (iii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) benefit @ 5% value of FOB price of sugar has been allowed.
- (iv) Requirement of Registration-cum-Allocation certificate from APEDA has been dispensed w.e.f. 1.4.2001.
- (v) The quantity of sugar exported is treated as advance freesale release to be adjusted after a period of 12 months from the date of release.
- (vi) The advance releases of freesale sugar are being given to needy sugar mills.
- (vii) The sugar factories have been provided temporary relief in lieu of their un-lifted levy sugar quotas by way of permitting them to sell equivalent quantity in the open market.

Revenue from Corporate Taxes

4804. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBÉDKAR :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total revenue collected by way of Corporate Taxes during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and during 2001;

(b) the public sector contribution to Corporate taxes during the above period;

(c) whether there is any unrealised Corporate tax;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to realise the same with the action taken against defaulters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The revenue collected from Corporate Tax for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is Rs. 24529 crores, Rs. 30692 crores and Rs. 35656 crores respectively.

(b) No separate statistics are maintained for Public Sector Undertakings and Other Companies.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The total amount of unrealised Corporate Tax as on 31.12.2001 is Rs. 23899 crores.

(e) Income Tax prescribes a statutory procedure for collection and recovery of taxes. The recovery of the outstanding tax is a continuous process. The process starts after the demand falls due after 30 days of the service of the Demand Notice. Thereafter, action is taken by Assessing Officer in respect of unstayed demand by attaching bank accounts, charging interest, levying penalty etc. In difficult cases matter is referred to Tax Recovery Officer who takes various coercive measures as per the Act like attachment and sale of defaulter's movable and immovable properties, arrest of defaulter and his detention in prison, appointment of receiver for the management of the defaulter's movable and immovable properties. The recovery action taken by the Assessing Officer and TRO's is closely monitored by the higher Income Tax Authorities. Further dossier cases having outstanding demand of Rs. 10 lakhs and above are monitored by higher Authorities

on a regular periodic basis and necessary instructions are issued for taking various coercive measures for effecting the recovery of demand.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Consumer Courts in Rural Areas

4805. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up consumer courts in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the necessary steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides for the establishment of a District Forum by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in each district of the State/UT. The State Government/Union Territory Administration, if it deems fit, may also establish more than one District Forum in a district.

[English]

Export of Sugar

4806. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of Indian sugar has suffered a set back with Yemen and Iraq rejecting two cargoes because of poor quality;

(b) whether the Government have enquired into this; and

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry and the steps taken to ensure good quality of Indian sugar is exported to these countries in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The export of sugar is being undertaken by various sugar mills/exporters as per the requirement of the foreign buyers

based on their commercial judgements. This Ministry has no information about the rejection of cargoes of sugar by Iraq and Yemen.

Hiring of Private Godowns by FCI

4807. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI) is hiring private godowns for storage of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the number of private godowns hired during the last two years and in the current year, capacity-wise and the amount spent thereon, year-wise;

(c) the quantum of foodgrains destroyed in storage, transportation and pilferage and losses suffered as a result thereof during above period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to avoid losses of foodgrains?

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

(b) The number of Private godowns hired by FCI during the last two years and the current year, capacity-wise and year-wise amount spent thereon is given below:

(In lakh tonnes)		
Year	No. of hired godowns (Covered & CAP)	Storage capacity (Covered & CAP)
1999-2000	361	52.59
2000-2001	425	77.34
2001-2002 (30.6.2001)	492	93.01
Year wise amount spent		-
Year	Amount in Rs. Crore	
1999-2000	22.40 (Provisional)	
2000-2001	27.10 (RE)	
2001-2002	33.00 (BE)	

(c) The storage and transit losses for the FCI as a whole during the last two years are as under:-

Storage Loss

Year	Quantity of loss in Lakh MT
1998-1999	1.51 (Prov.)
1999-2000	1.60 (Prov.)

Transit Loss

Year	Quantity of loss (In Lakh MT)
1998-1999	2.66 (Prov.)
1999-2000	2.89 (Prov.)

State-wise breakup is being collected.

(d) Food Corporation of India has taken the following measures amongst others to avoid losses of foodgrains:-

- (i) Adoption of 50 kg. Packing in phased manner.
- (ii) Installation of weighbridges.
- (iii) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks at the loading/unloading points, ensuring regular stock verification etc.
- (iv) Encouraging machine stitching of bags.
- (v) Induction of Central Industrial Security Force at vulnerable depots to curb theft and pilferage.
- (vi) Special squad checking at selected railhead transshipment and destination points.
- (vii) Identification of vulnerable points.
- (viii) Speed up of write off cases and fixation of responsibility wherever called for.
- (ix) Not to place the godowns under the charge of officials whose antecedents are doubtful.
- (x) Inspection of depots and record by Senior Regional Manager/District Managers.
- (xi) Inspection of weighbridges by Joint Manager (Mechanical) and District Manager.

(xii) Double line machine stitching of bags.

(xiii) Reduction in open wagon movement to the extent possible.

(xiv) Improvement in the size and quality of gunnies.

[Translation]

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

4808. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Cement Corporation of India;

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study before introducing VRS; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) introduced a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in March, 2001 to rationalize manpower in different units. Under the scheme, 855 employees of the company opted for voluntary retirement and were relieved after paying them voluntary retirement benefits. This has resulted in saving of Rs. 90 lakhs per month in salary/wages besides savings in other personnel costs. CCI have invited fresh applications for Voluntary Retirement against which 735 employees have applied.

[English]

Disinvestment of IBP Co. Limited

4809. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to disinvest Indo-Burma Petroleum Company Limited (IBPC);

(b) whether the Government have considered the recommendation of Nitish Sen Gupta Committee for merging IBPC with either Bharat Petroleum Corporation or Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited; and

(c) if not, the basis of rejection of these recommendations?

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 had recommended that Government, while retaining 26% equity in IBP, might offer the balance to an Indian oil company or joint sector oil company or foreign oil companies, through an international global bidding process. After considering various options including the one recommended in Nitish Sengupta Committee Report and all aspects, Government decided that Government would retain only 26% equity in IBP Co. Limited and disinvestment of the balance 33.6% would be carried out through international competitive bidding in which the domestic oil companies can also participate.

Local Area Banks

4810. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new private local area banks have since been set up in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof with their location, district-wise, functions and criteria fixed for mobilization of rural savings; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No local area bank has been set up in the State of Bihar so far.

(c) Reserve Bank of India have not received any proposal/application for setting up local area bank in Bihar so far.

[Translation]

Losses suffered by Super Bazar

4811. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee has been set up to look into the causes of loss suffered by the Super Bazar;

(b) if so, whether it has presented its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

(d) the action taken so far/proposed to be taken on the report of the Committee; and

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) to (e) An inquiry under Section 69 and 73 of Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 1984 was held into the affairs of Super Bazar. Central Registrar of Cooperative Society (CRCS) is inquiring into the conduct of persons who took part in management of Super Bazar resulting into losses to the Super Bazar, if any.

[English]

Demand and Supply of Edible Oil

4812. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gap between the demand and supply of edible oil in the country during 2000 and in the current year was estimated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the edible oil was imported to meet the demand during the above period, separately; and

(d) if so, the total quantity of edible oil imported through public sector during 2000 and current year, separately?

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

(b) The gap between demand and indigenous supply of edible oils in the country during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is estimated to be 35.36 lakh MT and 46.42 lakh MT, respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The import of edible oils during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 has been 41.96 lakh MT and 39.74 lakh MT (Provisional), respectively. This includes import of edible oils through STC for Public Distribution System (PDS) and commercial purposes as under:-

Year	Quantity in lakh MT	
	PDS	Commercial
1999-2000	0.82	0.81
2000-2001	Nil	1.71

[Translation]

Smuggling from Nepal

4813. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of smuggling from Nepal to India have come to the notice of the Government during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have collected the figures regarding the incidents of smuggling during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the smuggling of various items from Nepal to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details of cases of smuggling detected by the Customs Department including Directorate of

Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at Indo-Nepal border during last 2 years and current year (upto July, 2001) are as follows:

Details of seizures	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 (upto July, 2001)
No. of cases booked	4422	6405	1654
Value of goods seized (Rs. in crores)	58.14	53.21	9.66

(e) All the concerned field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) are alert and vigilant to prevent smuggling of various items from Nepal to India.

Funds for Panchayati Raj

4814. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of funds recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission to be allocated to Maharashtra for Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(b) the amount of funds released by the Union Government to Maharashtra for this purpose, so far;

(c) whether the allocated amount has not been fully released to Maharashtra;

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

(e) whether the Union Government is likely to release the remaining amount; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) had recommended total grants of RS. 347.01 crore to Maharashtra for Panchyati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for the period 1996-97 to 1999-2000. Grants amounting to Rs. 216.88 crore had been released to the State Government during the same period.

The balance amount of PRI grants could not be released because the Government of Maharashtra had not furnished complete details of utilization in time in respect of the grants released by the Centre and had also not fulfilled the guidelines prescribed for the purpose.

Entitlements to grants recommended by any Finance Commission lapse after the period of its recommendations get over.

Travelling Allowance

4815. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on travel allowance of Central Government employees during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount, spent on it during the current year in comparison to that in April-July last year after imposing ban on Leave Travel Concession, since April, 2001;

(c) the reasons for sudden increase in travel allowance;

(d) whether the Government propose to ban the travel allowance also for two years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The total expenditure on travel expenses for the last three years is as under:

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|---|----------------|
| (i) | 1998-1999 (Actuals) | — | Rs. 1191 Crore |
| (ii) | 1999-2000 (Actuals) | — | Rs. 1193 Crore |
| (iii) | 2000-2001 (RE) | — | Rs. 1152 Crore |

Expenditure on Travel Expenses, includes Travelling Allowance but not Leave Travel Concession and as such, no comparison can be made of such expenditure before and after imposing ban on Leave Travel Concession.

(d) and (e) Since Travelling Allowance is granted for official journeys carried out in public interest, there is no proposal to ban Travel Allowance.

[English]

Under-Invoicing by Edible Oil Importers

4816. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several cases of under-invoicing by Indian edible oil importer for duty evasion have been reported;

(b) whether the Union Government have initiated measures to check under-invoicing by edible oil traders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) to (d) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence was asked and has initiated detailed investigations into the propriety of prices declared by a number of importers of Palm Oil and RBD Palmolein imported mostly after February, 2001 for taking necessary action to safeguard Government revenues. All the Chief Commissioners were also alerted in April, 2001 to guard against any attempts of under-invoicing by the importers of edible oils. Further, Government has fixed Tariff Values for Crude Palm Oil and RBD Palmolein effective from 3rd August, 2001 for assessment of Customs duties leviable on ad-valorem basis on these oils.

Outstanding Income Tax and other Taxes against Corporate Houses

4817. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total Income Tax and other taxes outstanding against ten top corporate houses, separately, as on 31st March, 2001;

(b) the percentage of tax returns in India as against percentage in U.S.A. and South Asian countries; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the tax recovery/return from the rich/high income groups and companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Income Tax Department does not maintain details of constituents of corporate houses and outstanding taxes separately against a Corporate House. The total Corporation Tax, Wealth Tax and Interest Tax outstanding against the ten companies against whom maximum outstanding taxes are there – is Rs. 7286.13 crores as on 31.3.2001.

(b) The total number of Income Tax assesseees in the country is 2,46,04,621 as on 31.5.2001. The data in respect of the tax returns etc. regarding USA and South Asian countries is not maintained in the Income Tax Department.

(c) High priority is given to the work of collection/reduction of arrear 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.

The steps taken for recovery of the tax are the same for rich and high income group and companies as for others.

Pre-Emptive Purchase of Immovable Property

4818. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pre-emptive purchase of immovable property is made under Chapter XXC of the Income Tax Act, 1961 by Appropriate Authority;

(b) if so, the details of properties acquired under this Chapter in the country especially in Mumbai during the last three years;

(c) the details of total investment made in such acquisition of properties in India and especially in Mumbai;

(d) the number out of them disposed;

(e) the financial gain acquired by the income tax department in these transactions;

(f) whether any properties were returned to the original owners after the notification of acquisition; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last three financial years i.e. 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-01, a total of 24 properties were acquired under Chapter XXC. Out of these, only one property was acquired in Mumbai.

(c) A total investment of Rs. 20.13 crores was made in acquiring these 24 properties. Out of this, an investment of Rs. 2.68 crores was made in acquiring the property at Mumbai.

(d) Out of these 24 properties, so far 6 properties have been disposed of till 31st March, 2001.

(e) A financial gain of Rs. 1.56 crores has been made in selling off these 6 properties.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Out of these 24 properties, 3 properties were returned to the original owners after the purchase orders were passed. In 2 cases, the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax was of the opinion that the circumstances surrounding the properties were such that their saleability was questionable and they may not fetch a good price in the market and accordingly no payment was made in respect of these 2 properties. In the third case, the property was returned to the original owner on the directions of the High Court.

[Translation]

Facilities to Bureaucrates

4819. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken measures to curtail the facilities available to bureaucrats and reduce the administrative expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the expenditure on this account has reduced during each of the last three years?

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

(b) Government have taken decision to keep the Leave Travel Concession in abeyance for two years; reduce per diem allowance by 25% for travel abroad; permit only such official tours abroad as are absolutely essential; increase in license fee on Government accommodation, in order to reduce administrative expenditure;

(c) the information is not centrally maintained.

Liberalisation Policy

4820. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are reconsidering the existing structure of liberalisation policy in view of the economic recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are studying the economic model of China in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the other steps taken by the Government to improve the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Liberalisation policy of the Government is a continuous process wherein constraints, bottlenecks and other hindrances to development are identified and steps are taken to remove them. The Central Budget for 2001-02 has announced various policies to boost up growth in agriculture, industry and infrastructure sectors and for improvement in overall economic environment.

(c) and (d) Successful economic development models of both developed and developing countries including China are kept in view while formulating appropriate economic policies for India, which are most suitable for its own socio-economic and political structure.

(e) Since 1991 Government has been undertaking credible reforms in industry, trade, fiscal and financial sectors to improve competitiveness of Indian economy and to impart dynamism to the overall growth process. Ongoing economic reforms are expected to have favourable impact on economic growth.

[English]

Monitoring Financial Institutions

4821. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to monitor the working of financial institutions quarterly as reported in the 'Indian Express' on July 14, 2001

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which these steps are likely to strengthen the condition of the public financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In a meeting taken by Finance Minister on 13.7.2001 with the Heads of Financial Institutions, it was decided to hold such meetings on quarterly basis for better interaction between Government and Financial Institutions. This would help the financial institutions to bring out major issues concerning all the FIs which requires solution at Government's level.

Overseas Activities of BHEL

4822. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has proposal to expand its overseas business;

(b) if so, the strategy adopted and plan drawn up thereon;

(c) whether the Information Technology (IT) and IT enabled services proposed to be introduced as part of expansion strategy; and

(d) the details of the plan of BHEL in that regard?

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

(b) The strategy primarily revolves around the following:

- Consolidating of references already built in target countries.
- Enhancing visibility through opening of offices overseas.

- To promote target product exports aggressively and generate a minimum level of business through such product exports.
 - Become a regular sourcing center for OEMs, IPPs, EPC contractors, etc. for stand-alone equipment, systems, products as well as intermediate products.
 - Establish joint ventures overseas to make use of preferences for local produces and also enhance visibility.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

MoU for Fiscal Reforms

4823. SHRI V.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have signed MoUs on fiscal reforms with Assam and Nagaland;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also considering to follow the same procedure in regard to Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and other North-Eastern States;

(c) whether the traditional MoU route has been given a quite burial with the new mechanism proposing to bring all States under its net;

(d) if so, the extent in which this new tradition of MoU will give the States to be part of the fiscal reforms programme; and

(e) the time by which the Government are likely to sign this MoU with Karnataka and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) In 1999-2000, Government of India had signed a Memoranda of Understanding on fiscal reforms with 13 States including Assam and Nagaland. Consequent upon the acceptance of the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission on its additional term of reference on States' Fiscal Reforms and subsequent issuance of guidelines to States in this regard. States should draw a Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme (MTFRP) delineating steps to improve their revenue balances. This would form the basis of a fresh Memorandum of

Understanding to be entered into between each State and Government of India.

(d) The States' Fiscal Reform Facility and the MTFRP is essentially the States' own programme. Considerable flexibility in designing the policy framework has been left to the initiative of the State Governments. 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.

(e) The Government of Karnataka and some other States have submitted their Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme (MTFRP) for the period 2000-01 to 2004-05 to the Government of India.

Investment by LIC

4824. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation purchased the shares of Cyberspace Infosys Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for going in for large scale buying of the shares at premium of the company when the market price of the shares of company were going down rapidly;

(c) whether the LIC still retains a nominal holding in the scam-tainted company; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the market price of each share of this company?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

NPA's of Financial Institutions

4825. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial institutions are facing sickness because of non-recovery of huge payments made to the corporate houses in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated advance made to the companies by each of the financial institutions during

the last three years and the outstanding loan against the companies at the time of making fresh loans;

(c) the reasons for non-recovery of the outstanding loans from the companies; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to recover the outstanding dues from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The details of loan disabused and Net Non Performing Assets (NPAs) by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), IFCI Ltd., ICICI Ltd., Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (IDFC), Exim bank, Industrial Investment Bank of India Ltd. (IIBI Ltd.) for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Institution	Disbursement			Net NPAs		
	1998-99	99-2000	2000-2001	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
IDBI	14470	17059	17498	6490	7675	8371
IFCI LTD.	4829	3272	2121	4258	4103	3937
ICICI LTD.	19225	25836	31965	3733	3959	2982
EXIM BANK	1271	1730	1896	407	374	407
IIBI	1688	1440	1710	480	641	662
IDFC	374	642	762	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) Recessionary conditions in major industrial sector resulting from excess capacity creation, increased competition from imports and slowdown in exports affected the recovery by the Institutions. There are also certain industry/unit specific and management related problems which has adversely effected the profitability of FIs. Some of the financial Institutions (FIs) have suffered losses due to bad investment decisions and asset liability maturity mismatch.

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

Report of DTT Service

4826. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received feasibility Report on Prasar Bharati's planned Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) service;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the main recommendations of the said report; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has received the feasibility report on introduction of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) service in India, prepared by M/s BBC Resources. The study has concluded that a Public Service-led Digital Terrestrial Television proposition is strategically important, technically deliverable, operationally challenging and financially justifiable.

(c) The report is under consideration of Prasar Bharati.

New Public Distribution System

4827. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal for new Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the Union Government have also decided to re-induct the subsidies through P.D.S.;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government have received any proposal in this regard from the Government of Kerala;

(d) whether the Union Government have allocated subsidised Kerosine to Kerala for distribution through P.D.S.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Subsidised foodgrains are provided for the Below Poverty Line families in the country under the TPDS introduced in June 1997. With effect from July, 2001 a discount of 30% on the economic cost of FCI has also been given on the foodgrains for APL families till 31.3.2002 or till excess stocks last.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. 269497 MT of kerosene has been allocated to the Government of Kerala for the year 2001-2002.

Financial Package to Uttaranchal

4828. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the newly created special category State of Uttaranchal is in dire need of a financial package for economic development keeping in view its special requirements;

(b) whether the Central Government are also considering to extend the Income-tax- and Excise Relief Schemes to Uttaranchal like other Special Category States for encouraging Industrial Development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Uttaranchal, after its creation on 09.11.200, has been receiving funds from Government of India on both plan and non plan accounts. Financial needs of the States for their overall economic development are posed by

the State Governments at the time of finalisation of their Annual Plans. Annual Plan of Uttaranchal for 2001-02 is yet to be finalised. However, Union Cabinet has approved granting of Special Category Status to Uttaranchal. This decision will be implemented after the same is approved by the National Development Council subsequent to which the State Government would receive Central Assistance for their Annual Plan in the shape of 10% loan and 90% grant in place of 70% loan and 30% grant.

(b) and (c) Section 80-IB of the Income Tax Act provides two tier tax holiday to industrial undertakings including cold storage plants set up in an industrially backward State as specified in the 8th Schedule of the Income Tax Act, or in notified industrially backward districts if these commence operation on or before 31.03.2002. All parts of Uttaranchal, except the districts of Nainital, Pauri, Udhamasinghnagar, Dehradun and Hardwar, are notified as industrially backward districts for purposes of this section.

As regards Central Excise Relief, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Serial on Rath Yatra

4829. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government plans to make a full serial on the famous 'Car Festival' or 'Rath Yatra' which is being held every year at Puri in Orissa State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that there is no proposal to make a serial on the 'Car Festival' or 'Rath Yatra' since the event is telecast live by Doordarshan every year.

Seizure of Cocaine

4830. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Cocaine

worth Rupees 4 crore seized in the Capital, 4 Nigerians held" appearing in Indian Express dated the August 07, 2001;

(b) If so, the details/facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the quantum of drugs such as cocaine, hashish, heroin etc. smuggled into the country every year;

(d) the details of smugglers arrested dealing in drugs during the last two years and the details of drugs seized from them indicating the value of the drugs;

(e) the route through which these drugs are being smuggled into the country; and

(f) the action/measures taken by the Government to check their smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Unit of Narcotics Control Bureau exposed a drug trafficking racket involving some Nigerian Nationals spread across Pakistan, India and Europe with the arrest of four Nigerians and seizure of 396 gms. of high quality cocaine.

(c) and (d) Drug smuggling and trafficking is a clandestine activity. The total quantity of drug seizures in 1998, 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 83335 kgs., 46751 kgs. and 110581 kgs. respectively. Since all narcotic drugs confiscated are liable to be destroyed and no authentic market value exists, no precise valuation can be made. The total number of persons arrested in 1998, 1999 and 2000 for drug trafficking, including smugglers, 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 13243, 13490 and 15065 respectively.

(e) The Indo-Pak border, the Indo-Myanmar border, the Indo-Nepal border and the Indo-Sri Lanka border are the identified routes through which the drug are being smuggled into the country.

(f) 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 order 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.

Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank

4831. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during 1998 RBI inspected Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank (MMCB) and found major irregularities in its functioning;

(b) if so, the details of the irregularities noticed during inspection;

(c) the reasons why no action was taken on RBI inspection report; and

(d) the action the Government have taken/propose to take against RBI's officials, who has not acted on RBI inspection report on MMCB during 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank (MMCB) Ltd., Ahmedabad was not inspected in the year 1998. The previous inspection of the bank was conducted under Section 35 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies) from September 30, 1999 to October 20, 1999

with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 1999. Some of the major irregularities/shortcomings noticed during the course of inspection included inadequate internal control system, absence of critical scrutiny of loan applications, renewal of cash credit accounts in a routine manner, defective loan documentation, unsatisfactory follow-up of post disbursement supervision, non compliance with the requirement of 15% of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) in Government and other approved securities, non-review of large borrowal accounts and position of accounts by the Board of Directors and higher share of institutional deposits in the total deposits of the bank.

(c) RBI had asked the MNCB to furnish an item-wise compliance for each of the defects pointed out in the inspection report to its Ahmedabad Regional Office. The Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, one of the Directors and the Branch Manager of Mumbai branch of the bank were called to discuss the major findings of the inspection by Chief General Manager at Mumbai. During the course of discussion the officials of the bank assured that all the defects/deficiencies noticed during the course of inspection would be rectified.

(d) The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is enquiring into the matter.

Setting Up of Industries under Indo-French Collaboration

4832. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries set up in the country in Indo-French collaboration during the last three years, Sector-wise;

(b) the details thereof alongwith the location of those units; and

(c) the employment generated by those units so far unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The number of FDI proposals from France approved during the last three years along with the total amount of investment proposed is as under:-

Year (Jan to Dec)	No. of Proposals	Amount in Rs. Crore
1998	43	513.56
1999	69	1448.62
2000	60	202.07

The details of approvals are published in the monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, which is widely circulated to various establishments, including the Parliament Library. The information is also posted in SIA Website (<http://www.nic.in/indmin>).

(c) The data regarding employment generation is not centrally maintained.

Privatization of PSE's under Ministry of Coal

4833. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatize some PSE's under the Ministry of Coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the privatization of such PSEs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir. Currently, there is no proposal to privatise coal sector PSEs.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in the Prices of Edible Oil

4834. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the prices of edible oil and selected vanaspati have increased;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for increase in the prices of edible oil;
- (d) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to prevent the frequent increase of the prices of edible oil; 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) and (b) The prices of major edible oils and vanaspati during the last one year are mentioned below:-

(Price in Rs. per quintal)

Type of oil	Price as on 20.8.2000	Price as on 20.8.2001	% variation over 20.8.2001
Groundnut Oil	3950	3950	Nil
Mustard Oil	2600	3120	+16.67
Soyabean Oil	2330	3030	+23.10
Sunflower Oil	2520	3900	+35.38
Vanaspati (15Ltr. Tin)	455	580	+21.56

(c) Price rise in the international market, decline in production of domestic oilseeds, upward revision of custom duty on edible oils, etc. are some of the reasons for increase in the prices of edible oil.

(d) and (e) Some of the steps taken by the Government to prevent frequent increase of the prices of the edible oils are :-

- (i) Import of edible oils on OGL has been allowed.
- (ii) The State Governments/UT Administrations have been addressed to maintain vigil on the prices and availability of oils.

- (iii) Government is keeping a watch on the price and availability situation of edible oils in the country.

Telecast of Regional TV Channels

4835. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Regional T.V. Channels telecasting their programmes in Delhi;
- (b) whether the Government have a proposal to permit all the Regional TV channels to present their programmes in their languages;
- (c) if so, the proposal submitted in this regard for Oriya language; and
- (d) the steps taken to clear such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Doordarshan is presently operating 21 channels (including 11 regional channels). Programmes of all these channels can be received anywhere in the country with the help of an appropriate dish antennae system / cable network. A number of cable operators in Delhi are distributing regional channels of Doordarshan over their networks.

(b) In addition to the 11 regional channels of Doordarshan, permission for uplinking has been accorded to a large number of private companies having regional language channels.

(c) and (d) The proposal for uplinking of ETV Oriya channel of M/s. Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd. has been approved.

World Bank Loan for Drinking Water in Andhra Pradesh

4836. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Mehboobnagar and Nalgonda districts of Andhra Pradesh are severely fluoride affected areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received a proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh covering 24.70 lakh population in these two districts seeking financial assistance from World Bank for provision of drinking water;

(c) if so, whether the proposal has been examined and forwarded to the World Bank for consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh was forwarded to the World Bank seeking financial assistance in January 1999. The World Bank launched an Identification Mission in November 1999 and suggested to the Government of Andhra Pradesh some modifications in the proposal. Government of Andhra Pradesh is yet to submit a revised proposal incorporating the suggestions given by the World Bank.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Wheat

4837. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ASSOCHAM) has submitted any representation to the Government to announce the wheat export policy for the year 2002-2003 in advance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action thereon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ASSOCHAM has made the following suggestions for causing exports to make a quantum jump this year:-

(1) Export price of wheat and rice be reduced.

(2) Freight should be paid/deducted by FCI.

(3) Letter of undertaking (LUT) be accepted instead of Bank Guarantee.

(4) 25-35% allowance in broken be permitted.

(5) Port godowns weight should be final.

(6) Transit loss of 1% should be allowed to exporters.

(7) No Octroi/handling tax/market fee be charged for export.

(8) FCI should accept H-form within 90 days from the date of Bill Lading.

(9) Refund of unlifted quantity upto 5-6% be made within 7 days on transaction to transaction basis.

(c) and (d) The decision on export of foodgrains on Government Account is taken after constantly reviewing the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis-a-vis the prescribed buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend for procurement for Central Pool, requirement for public distribution system (PDS) and other welfare schemes, open market prices etc.

[English]

Customs Duty on Aluminium

4838. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Mines, the administrative Ministry for aluminium metal has repeatedly recommended to the Government for reducing customs duty on import of aluminium;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received several representations from various secondary manufacturers and associations of Cable and Conductor Manufacturers as also Aluminium Extruders Council of India and Pressure Cooker Manufacturers giving full justification recommending reduction/abolition of Import Duty on Aluminium; and

(c) if so, the reasons/justifications for not reducing/abolishing customs duty on Aluminium?

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

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

**Loan to Dabhol Power
Company by FIs**

4839. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banks and financial institutions have made any representations to the Government for amicable settlement of Dabhol Power Company disputes with the India authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the public and private sector banks, institutions that have advanced loans to Dabhol Power Company; and

(d) the amount of such loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Financial Institutions are presently discussing among themselves various alternatives for restructuring the Dabhol Power Project. In this regard, IDBI being the lead institution is also in touch with all concerned viz. the sponsors, Dabhol Power Company, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Government of Maharashtra, Government of India alongwith Indian and foreign lenders in order to work out an acceptable package. All the lenders including the Indian Financial Institutions have constituted a Steering Committee to discuss various options available and making recommendations to the broad lender group for resolving the current impasse. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Janata Deposit Scheme

4840. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India has closed the Janata Deposit Scheme; 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Consumer Courts

4841. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Consumer Courts functioning in Delhi and other parts of the Country;

(b) the number of cases referred to these Courts during 2000-01 and 2001-02 (upto July 31, 2001) with details and the cases disposed of during the above periods; and

(c) the pending cases in each court and steps being taken to expedite disposal of pending complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Nine District Forums, the Delhi State Commission and the National Commission are functioning in Delhi. In all, besides the National Commission 31 State Commissions and 496 District Forums are at present functioning in the country.

(b) and (c) As per the information made available by the National Commission, as on 31st July, 2001 1664661 cases had been filed in the National Commission/State Commissions/District Forums since inception, of which 1318511 cases have been disposed off and 346150 cases are pending. The following steps, among others, have been taken to facilitate the quicker disposal of cases:-

- (i) To strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer forums, 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 taken prompt steps to fill up vacant posts of President/Member in the consumer forums.

Global Trust Bank

4842. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Global Trust Bank has a shortfall of Rs. 40 crores in collateral value against loans to the capital market sector;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to recover the great loss to the exchequer; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken so that such loss do not recur in the future?

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.

Interest Rates on Farmers Loan

4843. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI SURESH KURUP :

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments of Karnataka and Chhattisgarh have demanded waiver of interest on farmers loans;

(b) if so, whether some other States have also demanded that the Union Government should waive the loans of farmers where drought and floods have occurred;

(c) whether any final decision has been considered by the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Government are considering to provide help and assistance or increase the period of recovery of loans?

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

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued standing guidelines to banks in August 1984 to be followed by them for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities such as floods, droughts, cyclones, etc.

without waiting for instructions from RBI each time. These guidelines have been issued to enable banks to take uniform and concerted action expeditiously, particularly to provide the financial assistance to agriculturists, small-scale industrial units, artisans, small business and trading establishments affected by natural calamities. These guidelines envisage, inter-alia, conversion of short-term production loans into medium-term loans; rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan instalments; provision of additional need-based crop loans/working capital, relaxation in security and margin norms, etc. These guidelines were further modified in June 1998 with a view to allow more discretion to banks to decide upon the quantum of relief assistance to be provided to the affected farmers. The modified guidelines, inter-alia, permit banks to convert/reschedule loans from 3 to 9 years depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage to crops; grant fresh crop loans to affected farmers; convert principal as well as interest due on the existing loans; grant consumption loans; not to treat portion of converted/rescheduled loans as Non-Performing Assets; not to compound interest in respect of loans converted/rescheduled, etc.

[Translation]

Paddy Procurement Centres

4844. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of paddy procurement centres of the Food Corporation of India at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more of such centres in various States especially in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the locations identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The State-wise number of paddy purchase centres operated by Food Corporation of India during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001 is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) Before the commencement of each Kharif Marketing Season sufficient number of purchase centres are opened by the Food Corporation of India in consultation

with the State Government to avoid distress sale and inconvenience to the farmers.

Statement

The Number of Purchase Centres Operated by the Food Corporation of India for Procurement of Paddy during Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001

S.No.	Region	FCI	Jointly with State agencies
1.	Punjab	460	87
2.	Haryana	22	10
3.	U.P.	—	—
4.	Delhi	4	—
5.	Rajasthan	12	—
6.	Andhra Pd.	217	—
7.	Madhya Pd.	—	—
8.	West Bengal	—	—
9.	Karnataka	18	—
10.	Pondicherry	2	—
11.	A.Pradesh	—	—
12.	Bihar	40	—
13.	Orissa	—	—
14.	H.P.	2	—
15.	Maharashtra	—	—
16.	J&K	2	—
Total		779	97

[English]

Entry Points for Imports

4845. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish more entry points for imports;

(b) if so, the number of existing entry points for imports and new points proposed to be opened and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have identified the items which may be allowed to be imported; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Imports into India are permitted to be made through 255 entry points. These include 82 customs ports, 32 customs airports, 132 land customs stations and 9 foreign post offices/ sub-foreign post offices. New entry points for imports are opened by the Government from time to time based on representations received from trade organizations, in consultation with the concerned administrative departments, State Governments and other agencies. All items which are not restricted for imports under the Exim policy may be imported by any one.

Disinvestment of Salem Steel Plant

4846. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to carry out disinvestment in Salem Steel Plant; 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) Salem Steel Plant (SSP) is a unit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and at present there is no proposal for disinvestment of Government equity in SAIL. However, the financial and business restructuring package for SAIL that has been approved by the Government envisages, inter alia, formation of a joint venture for Salem Steel Plant with strategic Alliance Partners (SAP).

Accordingly, SAIL has taken steps to select a suitable joint sector partner and proposals received are being evaluated.

(b) Does not arise.

Funds for Mobile Vans

4847. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government provides funds to States for mobile vans for PDS;

(b) if so, the details of the funds provided for this purpose during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the amount provided to States for this purpose is not sufficient;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the assistance for this purpose keeping in view to help the poor in hilly remote tribal areas and drought prone areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of funds provided for this purpose during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is given in the statement attached.

(c) to (g) Financial assistance is provided to States/UT Administrations for purchase of mobile vans/trucks under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (50% subsidy and 50% loan) 'Purchase of vans' on receipt of proposals from the State Governments after approval by Standing Finance Committee. The amount sanctioned to States for purchase of vans is according to the proposals seeking financial assistance received from the State Governments. The funds provided under the scheme are supplemental in nature and are meant to strengthen the PDS infrastructure in the States/UTs. There is no shortfall in the allocation of funds under the scheme.

Statement

		Amount provided Rs. in lakhs		
Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-99	1999-2000	1999-2000
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	28.00	23.53
2.	Assam	43.30	—	—
3.	Himachal Pradesh	80.00	—	—
4.	Kerala	128.28	—	—
5.	Maharashtra	417.22	54.275	—
6.	Sikkim	—	—	31.10
7.	Tripura	60.00	—	44.30
8.	Uttar Pradesh	221.20	—	—
9.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	4.00	—
10.	Pondicherry	—	20.00	—
Total		950.00	106.275	98.93

Amendment In Foreign Trade Development Act

4848. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to make necessary changes to the 'Foreign Trade Development Act' (FTDA) to enable the clearance of goods under ATA carnet at Hyderabad Airport and Visakhapatnam Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) India is a contracting party to the ATA Carnet system which is administered here by the Department of Customs in association with the Federation of Indian

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Presently ATA carnets in India are authorised only at Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai and Cochin ports. Hyderabad and Visakhapattanam ports are presently not allowed to accept ATA carnets. Extension of this facility is considered by the customs in association with the FICCI as and when the need arises. There is no need to amend the FTDR Act for this purpose.

Fund Position under Sugar Development Fund

4849. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the fund position under the Sugar Development Fund as on date;

(b) the funds allocated for various utility purposes from the SDF, head-wise, State-wise during the last three years;

(c) the number of sugar factories, which have secured loan from SDF and the loan amount, disbursed, factory-wise during the above period; and

(d) the allocation of funds for sugarcane development and research projects in the country, State-wise in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Net Fund available in Sugar Development Fund i.e. SDF (excluding repayment of principal amount and interest thereon) as on 31.3.2001 was Rs. 605.16 crores. In addition, as on 31.3.01 an amount of Rs. 627.76 crores has been repaid by the Sugar units (as principal and interest) on the loan given to them. Therefore, the total fund available in the SDF as on 31.3.2001 is Rs. 1332.92 crores.

(b) Funds allocated for various purposes from the SDF, head-wise, during the last three years are given in the attached statement-I.

Fund from SDF is not allocated State-wise.

(c) Number of Sugar factories which have been

sanctioned loan from SDF during the last three years are as under:

	98-99	99-00	00-01
(i) Modernisation/Rehabilitation	16	8	5
(ii) Cane	136	3	3

Development (including short term loan)

Position regarding the loan amount disbursed factory-wise is shown at statement-II.

(d) Funds, disbursed from SDF towards cane development loan and grant-in-aid for research projects during the last 3 years is indicated below:-

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
(i) Cane development	99.9	26.85	11.00
(ii) Grant-in-Aid for Research Projects	2.43	0.65	0.14

Statement-I

Annual Budget Provisions during the
Years 1998-99 to 2000-01.

	(Rs. in crores)		
	RE 1998- 99	RE 1999- 2000	RE 2000- 01
(i) Administration of SDF	4.05	4.80	5.48
(ii) Subsidy for maintenance of buffer stock	133.00	6.50	2.00
(iii) Grant-in-aid for research schemes aimed at development of sugar industry.	2.45	1.25	1.25
(iv) Loans to sugar mills for Cane Development schemes.	100.00	25.00	20.00
(v) Loans to sugar mills for Modernisation/Rehabilitation.	158.00	200.00	150.00

RE = Revised Estimates.

Statement-II

1998-99 to 2000-2001

(A) Loan for Modernisation/Rehabilitation

1998-99

S.No.	Name of the Sugar Factory	Amount Disbursed (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Gandevi Gujarat	620.16
2.	Yeshwant SSK Ltd., Chintamaninagar, Mah.	403.89
3.	United Provinces Sugar Co. Ltd., UP	340.72
4.	Basti Sugar Mills Co. Ltd., Basti, UP	598.30
5.	Saraswati Sugar Mills, Yamunanagar, Haryana	368.67
6.	Gobind Sugar Mills Ltd., Aira Estate, UP	450.00
7.	DSM Sugar, Rauzagaon, UP	474.00
8.	Chandrabhaga SSK Ltd., Bhalwani, Mah.	840.00
9.	DSM Sugar (Kashipur), UP	685.57
10.	Vighnahar SSK Ltd., Mah.	960.00
11.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Nanauta, UP	1950.00
12.	Rana Sugar Ltd., Baba-Bakala, Punjab.	1010.40
13.	Renuka Sugars Ltd., Karnataka	1580.48
14.	Seksaria Biswan Sugar Factory Ltd., UP	440.00
15.	Tulsipur Sugar Co. Ltd., UP	1105.318
16.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Sampurnanagar, UP	860.625
17.	Ajinkyatara SSK Ltd., Mah.	442.00
18.	Harinagar Sugar Mills Ltd., Bihar.	310.00
19.	Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd., Erode, TN	420.00
20.	Kanoria Sugar & Gen. Manufacturing Co. Ltd., UP	315.00
21.	Sarjoo Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Belryan, UP	975.00
22.	Sir Shadilal Enterprises Ltd., Shamli, UP	204.98

1999-2000

1	2	3
23.	Riga Sugar Co. Ltd., Bihar	1605.00
24.	Motilal Padampat Udyog Ltd., Bihar	762.00
25.	Harinagar Sugar Mills Ltd., Bihar.	310.00
26.	Basti Sugar Mills Ltd., Basti, UP	137.912
27.	The Oudh Sugar Mills Ltd., Narkatiganj, Bihar	1800.00
28.	K.M. Sugar Mills Ltd., Motinagar, UP	292.17
29.	Govindnagar Sugar Ltd., Walterganj, UP	222.828
30.	Vishnu Sugar Mills Ltd., Gopalganj, Bihar.	1069.79
31.	Shree Valsad Sah. Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Gujarat	1522.00
32.	Sarjoo Sah. Chini Mills Ltd., Belrayan, UP	975.00
33.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Sampurnanagar, UP	860.625
34.	Seksari Biswan Sugar Factory Ltd., UP	440.00
35.	Rai Bahadur Narain Sugar Mills Ltd., UP	617.595
36.	Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd., Karnataka	1800.00
37.	Tulsipur Sugar Co. Ltd, U.P.	1105.318
38.	Sir Shadilal Enterprises Ltd., U.P.	204.98
39.	Kanoria Sugar & Genl. Mfg. Co. Ltd., U.P.	268.00
40.	Davangare Sugar Co. Ltd., Karnataka	394.43
41.	Manjara Shetkari SSK Ltd., Maharashtra	304.245
42.	Datta SSK Ltd., Asurle Purle, Maharashtra	242.085
43.	Shrigonda SSK Ltd., Maharashtra	406.60
44.	Ganpati Sugar Industries Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	662.950

2000-2001

1.	Davangere Sugar Co. Ltd., Karnataka	394.43
2.	Ganpati Sugar Industries Ltd., Medak, Andhra Pradesh	687.95
3.	Manjara Shetkari SSK Ltd., Vilasnagar, Maharashtra	304.245
4.	Shrigonda SSK Ltd., Maharashtra	381.85
5.	Shree Datta SSK Ltd., Asurle-Porte, Mah.	242.085
6.	Picadilly Agro Industries Ltd., Bhadson, Haryana	355.61

1	2	3
7.	L.H. Sugar Factories Ltd., Pilibhit, UP.	633.696
8.	Eastern Sugar & Industries Ltd., Motihari, Bihar.	1337.00
9.	Rai Bahadur Narain Singh Sugar Mills Ltd., Lhaksar, UP.	617.595
10.	Kanoria Sugar & Gen. Mfg. Co. Ltd., Captainganj, UP.	47.00
11.	Sakthi Sugars Ltd., Sakthinagar, TN.	494.40
12.	Jawahar Shetkari SSK Ltd., Hupari, Mah.	1200.00
13.	The United Provinces Sugar Co. Ltd., Seorahi, UP.	1032.718

(B) Loans for Cane Development**1998-99**

S.No.	Name of Sugar Mill	Amount Disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	M.R. Krishnamoorthy Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd. Tamil Nadu.	60.00
2.	Shri Datta Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Asurle-Purle (Maharashtra).	146.93
3.	Govindnagar Sugars Ltd. Walterganj, Uttar Pradesh.	110.63
4.	Vanivilasa Cooperative Sugar Factory Ltd. Karnataka.	69.28
5.	Jawahar Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Maharashtra.	82.98
6.	Amadavalasa Cooperative Sugars Ltd., Andhra Pradesh.	68.68
7.	Rudra Bilas Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Uttar Pradesh.	47.83
8.	Gangeshwar Ltd., Ramkola, Uttar Pradesh.	56.39
9.	Titavi Sugar Complex Uttar Pradesh.	124.28
10.	Shahabad Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd. Haryana.	45.32
11.	Sanjivani Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Goa.	25.16
12.	Majalgaon Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Maharashtra.	67.75
13.	Ganga Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd. Uttar Pradesh.	23.69
14.	Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd., Bhabnan, Uttar Pradesh.	22.17
15.	Tulsipur Sugar Co. Ltd., Uttar Pradesh.	85.35
16.	Shree Dodhganga Krishna Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Niyamit, Karnataka.	179.24
17.	Basti Sugar Mills Co. Ltd., Uttar Pradesh.	88.40

1	2	3
18.	Ajnala Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd., Punjab.	59.43
19.	MAC Agro Industries Ltd., Tamil Nadu.	15.97
20.	Sarjoo Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd. Uttar Pradesh.	80.54
1999-2000		
21.	Knithal Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd., Haryana.	37.03
22.	S.V. Sugar Mills Ltd., Tamil Nadu.	94.41
23.	Tatyasaheb Kore Warna Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Maharashtra.	138.06
24.	Deogiri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Maharashtra.	109.06
25.	Malwa Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Madhya Pradesh.	59.38
26.	Bhadra Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Niyamit Karnataka.	63.79
27.	Bannari amman Sugars Ltd., Karnataka.	150.40
28.	Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd., Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh.	42.84
29.	Sakthi Sugars Ltd., Sakthinagar, Tamil Nadu.	72.00
30.	Tatyasaheb Kore Warna Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Maharashtra.	131.96
31.	Jawahar Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Maharashtra.	84.51
32.	Shakumbari Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd. Uttar Pradesh.	54.135
33.	Meham Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd., Haryana.	48.78
34.	Sakthi Sugars Ltd., Sivaganga Unit, Tamil Nadu.	72.48
35.	Patiala Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd., Punjab.	89.78
36.	Andhra Sugars Ltd., Tanuku Unit, Andhra Pradesh.	60.345
2000-2001		
37.	Rana Sugars Ltd., Punjab.	88.83
38.	Varalakshmi Sugars Andhra Pradesh.	100.32
39.	Govindnagar Sugars Ltd., Walterganj, 'Uttar Pradesh.	94.24
40.	Jawahar Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Maharashtra.	101.79
41.	Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd., Karnataka.	111.32
42.	Ganpati Sugar Industries Ltd., Andhra Pradesh.	92.214
43.	Rana Sugars Ltd., Punjab.	83.43

(C) Short Term Loan for cane development disbursed during 1998-99.

S.No.	Name of Sugar Mills	Amount Disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Saraswati Sugar Mills, Yamunanagar, Haryana.	149.40
2.	Daurala Sugar Works, U.P.	85.482
3.	Sakthi Sugars Ltd., Sakthi Nagar, T.N.	100.00
4.	Sakthi Sugars Ltd., Badamba, Orissa	50.00
5.	Sakthi Sugars Ltd., Sivaganga, T.N.	50.00
6.	Sakthi Sugars Ltd., Dhankanal, Orissa.	50.00
7.	Rajgad SSK Ltd., Bhor, Maharashtra.	44.973
8.	Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd., Erode, T.N.	50.00
9.	Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd., Alaganchi, Karanataka.	50.00
10.	Chilwaria Sugars Ltd., Chilwaria, U.P.	49.50
11.	Indo Gulf Industries Ltd., Maizapur, U.P.	50.00
12.	Varalakshmi Sugars Ltd., Srikakulam, A.P.	50.00
13.	Shakumbari Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., U.P.	50.00
14.	DSM Sugar Asmoli, U.P.	50.00
15.	Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd., Dhampur, U.P.	150.00
16.	K.M. Sugar Mills Ltd., Motinagar, U.P.	50.00
17.	The Sannjivani (Takli) SSK Ltd., Kopargaon, Mah.	50.00
18.	Mahatma SSK Ltd., Saloo, Mah.	50.00
19.	Tatyasaheb Kore Warana SSK Ltd., Warananagar, Mah.	97.338
20.	DSM Sugar Barabanki, U.P.	50.00
21.	Deogiri SSK Ltd., Phulambri, Mah.	50.00
22.	Shree Ganesh SSK Ltd., Ganesh Nagar, Mah.	45.00
23.	The Maegaon SSK Ltd., Shivnagar, Mah.	44.73
24.	Shri Mahankali SSK Ltd., Mah.	45.00
25.	Shri Una Taluka Khedut Sah. Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Mah.	47.25
26.	Rajshree Sugars & Chemicals Ltd., T.N.	50.00
27.	Khalilabad Sugar Mills (P) Ltd., U.P.	50.00

1	2	3
28.	Shree Datta SSK Ltd., Asurle- Porle, Mah.	50.00
29.	The Coop. Sugars Ltd., Chitur, Kerala	50.00
30.	Mansurpur Sugar Mills Ltd., U.P.	50.00
31.	Mahalakshmi Sugar Mills Ltd., Iqbalpur, U.P.	75.00
32.	Akola Zila SSK Ltd., Mah.	50.00
33.	Bhaurao Chavan SSK Ltd., Laksmi nagar, Mah.	50.00
34.	Jai Bhavani SSK Ltd., Mah.	50.00
35.	S.V. Sugar Mills Ltd., Kancheepuram, T.N.	50.00
36.	Picadilly Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Patran, Punjab.	50.00
37.	Jawahar Shetkari SSK Ltd., Hupari-Yalgud, Mah.	44.99
38.	Picadilly Agro Industries Ltd., Bhadson, Haryana.	49.077
39.	Nadippwai Pulavar K.R. Ramaswamy Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., T.N.	50.00
40.	Mula Shetkari SSK Ltd., Newasa, Mah.	45.00
41.	Shri Shankar Shetkari SSK Ltd., Mangrul, Mah.	49.50
42.	Morinda Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Punjab.	50.00
43.	Sahyadri SSK Ltd., Yashwantnagar, Mah.	90.00
44.	Chopda Shetkari SSK Ltd., Mah.	44.82
45.	The Nizamabad Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Sarangpur, A.P.	50.00
46.	Yeshwant Shetkari SSK Ltd., Theur, Mah.	50.00
47.	Purna SSK Ltd., Basmathnagar, Mah.	50.00
48.	Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Golagokarnath, U.P.	100.00
49.	Palwal Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Haryana.	50.00
50.	Shree Maroli Vibhag Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Gujarat.	45.225
51.	Thiru Arooran Sugars Ltd., Kallumangudi, T.N.	45.00
52.	Vasant SSK Ltd., Kasoda, Mah.	50.00
53.	Jai Jawan Jai Kisan SSK Ltd., Nalegaon, Mah.	49.05
54.	Kannad SSK Ltd., Mah.	45.765
55.	Shri Hiranyakeshi Sakkar Karkhana Niyamit, Mah.	75.00
56.	Shree Datta SSK Ltd., Shirol, Mah.	90.00
57.	DSM Sugar (Kashipur), U.P.	50.00
58.	Sahakar Maharshi Shankarrao Mohite Patil SSK Ltd., Mah.	100.00

1	2	3
59.	Thiru Arooran Sugars Ltd., Tirumandankudi, T.N.	50.00
60.	Chittoor Coop. Sugars Ltd., A.P.	50.00
61.	Kumbhi Kesari SSK Ltd., Kolhapur, Mah.	67.473
62.	Shri Sant Damaji SSK Ltd., Mah.	45.00
63.	Sonepat Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Haryana.	50.00
64.	Shree Talala Taluka Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Guj.	49.50
65.	The Ajnala Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Punjab	50.00
66.	Godavari Manar SSK Ltd., Shankarnagar, Mah.	49.50
67.	Kitply Industries Ltd. (Sugar Unit), U.P.	50.00
68.	Shree Ajudhia Sugar Mills Ltd., U.P.	50.00
69.	Pushpawati SSK Ltd., Pusad Mah.	45.00
70.	Jeypore Sugar Co. Ltd., A.P.	100.00
71.	Ravalgaon Sugar Farms Ltd., Ravalgaon, Mah.	50.00
72.	Ashok SSK Ltd., Ashoknagar, Mah.	75.00
73.	Narsimha SSK Ltd., Mah.	49.50
74.	Vasantdada Shetkari SSK Ltd., Miraj, Mah.	100.00
75.	Narmada Khand Udyog Sahakari Mandli Ltd., Gujarat	46.957
76.	Tulsipur Sugar Co. Ltd., Tulsipur, U.P.	49.533
77.	Davangere Sugar Co. Ltd., Karnataka.	49.95
78.	Sangamner Bhag SSK Ltd., Mah.	74.727
79.	NCS Gayatri Sugars Ltd., A.P.	45.00
80.	Manganga SSK Ltd., Atpadi, Mah.	50.00
81.	The Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd., Sameerwadi, Karnataka.	100.00
82.	The Tasgaon Taluka SSK Ltd., Mah.	67.50
83.	Etikoppaka Coop. Agri. & Indl. Ltd., A.P.	49.50
84.	Andhra Sugar Ltd., A.P.	50.00
85.	Karnataka SSK Ltd., Haveri, Karnataka.	45.00
86.	Meham Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Haryana.	49.878
87.	Vighnagar SSK Ltd., Junnar, Mah.	45.045
88.	Karnal Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Haryana.	50.00
89.	Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Paliakalan, U.P.	50.00

1	2	3
90.	Chengalrayan Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., T.N.	69.05
91.	Righa Sugar Co. Ltd., Bihar.	50.00
92.	Bagheswari SSK Ltd., Mah.	49.59
93.	Basti Sugar Mills Co. Ltd., Basti, U.P.	50.00
94.	Govindnagar Sugar Ltd., Walterganj, U.P.	45.00
95.	Tirupattur Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., T.N.	50.00
96.	Thandava Coop. Sugars Ltd., A.P.	50.00
97.	Jath Taluka SSSK Ltd., Jath Mah.	50.00
98.	Amboor Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., T.N.	49.603
99.	Shree Doodhganga Vedganga SSK Ltd., Bidri, Mah.	65.916
100.	The Mewar Sugar Mills Ltd., (Raj.)	45.00
101.	Dwarikesh Sugar Ind. Ltd., (U.P.)	49.50
102.	Majalgaon SSK Ltd., Sundernagar, Mah.	49.50
103.	Amadalavalasa Coop. Sugars Ltd., (A.P.)	49.05
104.	Gwalior Sugar Co. Ltd., (M.P.)	50.00
105.	Ajinkyatara SSK Ltd., Maharashtra.	50.00
106.	West Godavari Coop. Sugars Ltd., (A.P.)	50.00
107.	Rahuri SSK Ltd., Mah.	75.00
108.	Shree Chhatrapati Sahu SSK Ltd., Kayal, Mah.	49.59
109.	EID Parry (India) Ltd., T.N.	100.00
110.	Niphad SSK Ltd., Mah.	75.00
111.	Shri Vrideshwar SSK Ltd., Mah.	50.00
112.	Bhima SSK Ltd., Patas, Mah.	90.063
113.	Yeshwant SSK Ltd., Khanpur, Mah.	50.00
114.	Ajra Shetkari SSK Ltd., Mah.	45.045
115.	L.H. Sugar Factory Ltd., Pilibhit, U.P.	50.00
116.	The Kanoria Sugar & Gen. Manufacturing Co. Ltd., U.P.	75.00
117.	Ganpati Sugar Industries Ltd., A.P.	50.00
118.	Shri Bhogawati SSK Ltd., Shahunagar, Mah.	50.00
119.	The Panavapura SSK Niyamit, Kamataka.	50.00
120.	National Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., (T.N.)	49.50

1	2	3
121.	Western Orissa Sugars Ltd., Orissa,	45.00
122.	Hutatma Kisan Ahir SSK Ltd., Mah.	50.00
123.	Ganga Kisan Sah. Chini Mills Ltd. U.P.	46.36
124.	Shree Chalthan Vibhag Khand Udyog Sah. Mandli Ltd., Gujrat	100.00
125.	Hanuman Coop. Sugar Ltd., A.P.	50.00
126.	Kisan Sahaakri Chini Mills Ltd., Sampurnanagar, U.P.	46.36
127.	Gangeshwar Ltd., Ramkola, U.P.	45.00
128.	Triveni Engg. & Industries Ltd., Khatauli, UP	150.00
129.	Subramaniya Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., T.N.	50.00
130.	Vishwasrao Naik SSK Ltd., Mah.	49.959
131.	Ponni Sugars & Chemicals Ltd., Cauvery, T.N.	50.00
132.	Nahar Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Punjab	45.00
133.	Dhuriapar Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Gorakhpur, U.P.	46.36
134.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Mahmudabad, U.P.	46.36
135.	Ramgarh Chini Mills, Ramgarh, U.P.	49.50
136.	Rai Bahadur Narain Singh Sugar Mills Ltd., U.P.	75.00
137.	Girdhari Lal Sugar & Allied Indl. Ltd., M.P.	50.00
138.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Gadarpur, U.P.	46.36
139.	Kallakurichi Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., T.N.	45.00
140.	Shree Doodhganga Krishna SSK Niyamit, Chikodi, Karnataka.	72.90
141.	Pushpandanteshwar SSK Ltd., Samsherpur, Mah.	44.775
142.	Kisan Sah. Chini Mills Ltd., Ballia, U.P.	46.36
143.	Kisan Sah. Chini Mills Ltd., Nanpara, U.P.	46.36
144.	Haryana Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Rohtak, Haryana.	50.00
145.	Aska Coop. Sugar Industries Ltd., Orissa	50.00
146.	Nizam Sugars Ltd., Vizianagaram, A.P.	50.00
147.	Vishnu Sugar Mills Ltd., Bihar.	50.00
148.	Agauta Sugars & Chemicals Ltd., U.P.	50.00
149.	New Phaltan Sugar Works., Mah.	45.00
150.	Sri Sarvaraya Sugars Ltd., A.P.	50.00
151.	J.K. Sugar Ltd., U.P.	50.00

1	2	3
1999-2000		
152.	Balasaheb Desai SSK Ltd., Daulatnagar, Mah.	45.00
153.	Shri Dnyaneshwar SSK Ltd., Mah.	67.50
154.	Shrigonda SSK Ltd., Mah.	49.50
155.	Kaithal Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Haryana.	49.50
156.	Kisan Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Sarsawa, U.P.	46.36
157.	Kisan Coop. Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Nadehi, U.P.	46.36
158.	Sri Vijayarama Gajpathy Sugar Ltd., A.P.	50.00
159.	Gangeswar Ltd., Deoband, U.P.	150.00
160.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Kaimganj, U.P.	46.36
161.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Ghosi, U.P.	46.36
162.	Rudra Bilas Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Bilaspur, U.P.	46.36
163.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Najibabad, U.P.	46.36
164.	Cheyar Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., T.N.	50.00
165.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Anoopshahr, U.P.	46.36
166.	Amravathi Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., T.N.	45.00
167.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Satha, U.P.	46.36
168.	Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Puranpur, U.P.	46.36
169.	M.R. Krishnamurthy Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Sethithope, T.N.	50.00
170.	Dakshina Kannada SSK Ltd., Brahmavar, Mah.	50.00
171.	MAC Agro Industries Ltd., T.N.	75.00
172.	Indapur SSK Ltd., Mah.	50.00
173.	Chodavaram Coop. Sugars Ltd., A.P.	46.17
174.	Kashi Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd., Aurai, U.P.	46.36
175.	Shetkari SSK Ltd., Killari, Mah.	45.27
176.	Dharmapuri Distt. Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., T.N.	45.00
177.	Kakatiya Cement Sugar & Industries Ltd., A.P.	45.00
2000-2001		
178.	Naraingarh Sugar Mills Ltd., Banondi, Haryana.	50.00
179.	Salern Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Mohanur T.N.	49.95

FI's Investment in Share Market

4850. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI has supervised Financial Institutions (FIs) who have invested in shares of companies viz. Ranbaxy, Sounkh Technologies, Silverline, Satyam Pentamedia and Cinevista Communications and other listed companies;

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

(c) the quantum of money lost by FIs by way of large quantity of shares purchased;

(d) whether any probe has been ordered to know the nexus between the FIs and these companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Customs Duty on Soda Ash

4851. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has decided recently to reduce the customs duty on imported soda ash from 35 to 20 percent; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same and its impact on soda ash manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The rate of customs duty on soda ash was reduced during the Budget for the year 2001-2002 taking into account factors such as the domestic demand-supply position, comparative prices of indigenous and imported soda ash and the status and composition of the domestic manufacturing and user industries. No clear impact on soda ash manufacturers is discernible at this stage.

Production of Coffee

4852. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether coffee production in the country is likely to touch 3,17,000 tonnes in this fiscal year;

(b) whether this production would be the largest production for any year in the coffee sector in India;

(c) the cause for this increase in the production of coffee;

(d) whether there is an adequate market for this;

(e) whether any efforts have been made to grow such coffee which is having an export demand; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

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) Yes, Sir. Due to sustained research and developmental activities being carried out by the Govt. of India through Coffee Board, the production of coffee in the country has been increasing year after year. The production of coffee in the country during the current year is estimated at 3.17 lakh tonnes, which is the highest ever production of coffee in the country.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Over 80% of India's coffee production is exported to over 40 countries of the world. The Coffee Board has been operating several plan schemes aimed at increasing productivity of coffee and also improving quality of the product to achieve competitiveness in the international markets. The Board is also encouraging the large growers to produce specialty coffees which fetches attractive premiums in developed countries like USA and European Union.

The Board is also implementing a medium-term export strategy to sustain and gain market share in the key markets and also to improve the competitiveness of Indian Coffee in the global markets over the next five years.

Audit of Banks

4853. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any prescribed procedure has been specified to appoint an auditor for the bank (Public and Private Sector);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any penalty has also been prescribed for the auditors for deficiency in audit of these banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action against such auditors/penalty imposed during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prescribed detailed procedure for appointment of statutory auditors for public sector banks as well as private sector banks RBI has constituted Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) on Banks Audit as well as Sub-Committee (Audit) of Board for Financial Supervision, for the purpose of making suitable recommendations for appointments of statutory auditors for public sector banks. The eligibility norms for empanelment as Statutory Central Auditors (SCAs) of Public Sector Banks are prescribed by the Sub-Committee (Audit) of the Board for Financial Supervision and advised to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), who publish these in their journal to enable the Chartered Accountants to make an application to the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C and AG) for empanelment. Based on the applications received by the Office of C and AG they furnish to RBI a list of eligible firms fulfilling the prescribed norms. Thereafter, RBI scrutinizes the said list and prepares a panel of firms eligible for appointment as SCAs. This panel is placed before the SAC for consideration and recommendation. SAC's recommendations are examined by RBI and thereafter allotment of auditors for public sector banks are made by the competent authority.

As regards appointment of statutory auditors for the branches of public sector banks every year, a panel is received by RBI from the ICAI, which is examined and the appointments are finalized after approval by the SAC.

As regards appointment of statutory auditors for private sector banks, a panel of three audit firms is submitted by each of these banks to RBI, who examine the panel and convey approval for such appointments in terms of section 30(1A) of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that no specific penalty has been prescribed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for the statutory auditors for their wrong audit. However wherever instances of negligence on the part of the statutory auditors comes to/brought to RBI's notice the full details thereof are collected from the concerned banks and the matter is considered by the Sub-Committee (Audit) of Board of Financial Supervision and, wherever necessary, penalty of denial of statutory audit is awarded to the erring audit firms. In terms of Section 21 of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the ICAI is the competent authority to take action against the erring auditors and are advised to report about the lapses of the auditors to it so as to enable it to take appropriate action against the erring auditors.

(e) RBI has reported that during the recent past, in the case of statutory auditors of a private sector bank, they have denied statutory audit of commercial banks to them for a period of 4 years for their lapses.

Co-Operation of Banks in Rural Development Schemes

4854. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the success of the functioning of the rural self-help groups, poverty alleviation programme and employment generation programme, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) depends on the cooperation of banks;

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

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the banks are not co-operation in this matter and the applicants received/pending for loan under the scheme are being harassed; and

(d) the details of the remedy proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the success of rural Self Help Groups (SHGs), poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) scheme does depend on the cooperation of the banks. As per the guidelines of the SGSY scheme, credit is the major element of the Scheme. The banks are closely associated and involved in preparing the project reports for the key activities identified under the scheme, so as to avoid

delays in sanctioning of loans and to ensure adequacy of financing and also in identification and selection of Swarozgaris.

(c) and (d) It is not true that banks are not co-operating in the implementation of Government sponsored schemes. However, whenever some complaints relating to procedural delay in sanction and disbursement of loans are received, remedial action is taken to rectify the complaint. RBI has issued instructions prescribing a time frame within which cases are required to be disposed off. Progress under the scheme is regularly reviewed and is discussed in fora like State Level Bankers Committee, District Level Regional Committee, etc. and the concerned Lead Banks are advised to take all efforts for the smooth implementation of the various Poverty Alleviation Programmes. Banks are also advised to sanction and dispose off the applications within the prescribed time period so as to minimize the gap between sanction and disbursements.

Harassment of Employees

4855. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the harassment and various disciplinary actions being taken against the employees of Maruti Udyog Ltd. since the settlement of the prolonged agitation in the beginning of the year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government to stop harassment of employees and create a peaceful atmosphere in the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) is a non-Government Board managed Company. Government has received representations from employees Unions of MUL alleging harassment which were forwarded to MUL. According to the management of MUL, in accordance with the settlement dated 8th January, 2001 reached between the management of MUL and the employees union, the workers joined work from 9th January, 2001. The management of MUL has denied allegations of harassment and stated

that the work is going on normally in a peaceful atmosphere in the company.

Operational Efficiency of F.C.I.

4856. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have initiated any action to improve the operational efficiency of the Food Corporation of India for food procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the other steps taken to enlarge foodgrains procurement work in view of bumper crop production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India has been procuring foodgrains efficiently. To facilitate procurement, FCI and the State Agencies opened about 7990 purchase centers in procuring States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh during the Rabi Marketing Season 2001-02.

(c) The following steps have been taken to enlarge foodgrains procurement work in view of bumper crop production:-

- (i) The locations of purchase centers have been decided mutually by the State Governments and FCI.
- (ii) Adequate cash credit facilities have been arranged by FCI to ensure prompt payment for their produce.
- (iii) Transport arrangements for movements of foodgrain stocks from mandies to the depots etc. have also been finalized.
- (iv) Adequate number of Quality control Staff has been posted in the purchase centres/mandies for analysis of the wheat which is being offered in order to ensure that it is as per quality specification fixed by the Government of India.
- (v) In order to closely monitor the Minimum Support Price Scheme, Special Control Rooms are set up in the FCI at their Headquarters as well as

regional offices to collect and compile daily procurement figures from the State Governments and other procuring agencies. These Control Rooms work on 24 hours basis during the peak procurement season.

- (vi) Due care is taken to avoid distress sale by the farmers below the support prices.

House Building Advance

4857. SHRI R.S.PATIL :

SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Bank of India and other nationalized banks have enhanced or likely to enhance the amount of House Building Advance for its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the HBA amount would be enhanced for Central Government employees keeping in view the increase in construction cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Public Sector Banks have been issued guidelines on 7th March, 2001 to modify the limits for House Building Advance to employees as under :

	Pre-revised Limit	Revised Limit
Officers	Rs.5.0 lacs	Rs.7.5 lacs
Clerical Staff	Rs.3.0 lacs	Rs.4.5 lacs
Subordinate Staff	Rs.2.0 lacs	Rs.3.0. lacs

(c) to (e) Keeping in view the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission and other relevant factors including the increase in cost of construction, the ceiling of House Building Advance for Central Government employees was revised on 16.12.97. At present, there is no proposal for further enhancement of House Building Advance to Central Government employees.

Package for Dabhol Power Project

4858. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed the Indian financial Institutions to work out a package for saving the Dabhol Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of response received by the Government from the financial institution in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Financial Institutions are presently discussing among themselves various alternatives for restructuring the Dabhol Power Project. In this regard, IDBI being the lead institution, is also in touch with all concerned viz. the sponsors, Dabhol Power Company, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Government of Maharashtra, Government of India alongwith Indian and foreign lenders in order to work out an acceptable package. All the lenders including the Indian Financial Institutions have constituted a Steering Committee to discuss various options available and make recommendations to the broad lender group for resolving the current impasse.

[Translation]

Quota of Foreign Exchange for going Abroad

4859. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present quota of foreign exchange to be provided to a person for a foreign visit;

(b) whether the Government have made any review regarding the ceiling of foreign exchange to be spent by a person during the foreign visits;

(c) whether the proposal in regard to increase the quota of foreign exchange to be provided to a person for foreign visits is pending with the Government for a long time;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The quota has been raised under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 which has come into force from 1st June, 2000. The quota has been increased upto US\$ 5,000/-

per calendar year for travel abroad and US\$ 25,000/- for business travel etc. If the amount of foreign exchange exceeds the above limits prior approval of Reserve Bank of India is necessary as indicated in Schedule III of Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transaction) Rules.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Closure of Bank Branches

4860. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many branches including Regional Offices of United Bank, Indian Bank and United Commercial Banks have been closed during the last three years;

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

(c) the reasons therefore, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The State-wise number of branches/offices of United Bank of India, Indian Bank and United Commercial Bank rationalized/merged during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 is given at the statement. These banks have also removed/rationalized the existing tier structure for streamlining and expediting decision making process. The Indian Bank and United Bank of India have removed one tier of zonal offices while UCO Bank has rationalized its three regional offices. The merger of branches including regional offices has been undertaken by these banks as a part of restructuring exercises.

Statement

*Branches/Offices of Commercial Banks Rationalized/Merged/
Converted during 1.4.1998 to 31.3.2001*

Bank Name/ State Name	1998-1999			1999-2000			2000-2001		
	Branches	Offices	Total	Branches	Offices	Total	Branches	Offices	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
United Bank of India									
Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
West Bengal	-	-	-	2	-	2	5	-	5
Bank Total	-	-	-	2	-	2	18	-	18
Indian Bank									
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Karnataka	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Kerala	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-		1	-	1
Tamil Nadu	-	1	1	3	1	4	22	-	22
Bank Total	-	1	1	4	3	7	30	-	30
UCO Bank									
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	3	-	3	3	-	3
Assam	-	-	-	11	-	11	-	-	-
Bihar	1	-	1	3	-	3	-	-	-
Delhi	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
Karnataka	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	1
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	3	-	3	1	-	1
Maharashtra	-	-	-	2	-	2	3	-	3
Manipur	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Orissa	-	1	1	2	-	2	2	-	2
Rajasthan	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Total	1	6	7	29	-	29	10	1	11
Grand Total	1	7	8	35	3	38	58	1	59

Export of Wheat

4861. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government's decision to reduce the price of wheat supplied to exporters has slowed down exports;

(b) if so, whether prospective overseas buyers are reluctant to buy Indian wheat at current prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the exporters are disappointed with the frequent changes in prices and policies that have created uncertainty in the minds of overseas buyers;

(e) if so, whether any concrete action plan is being considered by the Union Government in this regard; 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) Instead of slowing down, reduction of price of wheat is likely to boost exports.

(b) and (c) Thus the questions do not arise.

(d) Policy and prices are dynamic instruments. There is no report of any disappointment and uncertainty relating to overseas buyers with the Government.

(e) and (f) Thus the questions do not arise.

Transparency in Disinvestment of PSU's

4862. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new policy to ensure transparency while disinvesting public sector units; 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) and (b) The Government of India is carrying out disinvestment in its public sector undertakings (PSUs) in accordance with the prescribed procedure that ensures complete transparency. The procedure is reviewed from time to time and modified with a view to accelerate the process further. At present, to disinvest equity in PSUs through the strategic sale method, the following broad procedure is followed:

- Proposals for disinvestment in any PSU, based on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission or in accordance with the declared Disinvestment Policy of the Government, are examined by the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment (CGD). Thereafter, with the recommendations of the CGD, the proposals are placed for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment (CCD).
- After CCD clears the disinvestment proposal, selection of the Advisors for assisting in the implementation of the disinvestment decision, is done through a competitive bidding process.
- The Advisors assist the Government in preparation and issue of advertisement in leading

newspapers, for inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from prospective strategic partners. In cases of urgency, EOI is prepared by Department of Disinvestment and issued after approval of Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG)

- After receipt of the EOI, Prospective Bidders are short-listed, based on objective screening in the light of the announced pre-qualification criteria/requirements.
- The Advisors, after due diligence of the PSU, prepare the Information Memorandum in consultation with the concerned PSU. This is given to the short-listed Prospective Bidders, who have entered into a Confidentiality Agreement.
- The draft Share Purchase Agreement or the Shareholder Agreement are also prepared by the Advisors, with the help of the Legal Advisors, and given to the Prospective Bidders for eliciting their reaction.
- The Prospective Bidders undertake due diligence of the PSU and hold discussions with the Advisors/the Government/ the representatives of the PSU for any clarifications.
- Concurrently, the task of valuation of the PSU is undertaken in accordance with the standard national and international practices.
- Based on the reactions received from the Prospective Bidders, the Share Purchase Agreement and Shareholders Agreement are finalised and after vetting by the Ministry of Law, they are approved by the Government. Thereafter, they are sent to the prospective Bidders for inviting the final binding bids.
- After examination, analysis and evaluation of the bids, the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) are placed before the CGD/ CCD for a final decision regarding selection of the Strategic Partner, signing of the Share Purchase or Shareholders Agreements and other ancillary issues.
- In the disinvestment process mentioned above, Department of Disinvestment is assisted at each stage by an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG)

comprising officers from the Ministry of Finance, Department of Public Enterprises, Department of Legal Affairs, Department of Company Affairs, Controller General of Accounts, the Administrative Ministry/Department controlling the PSU, apart from the officers of the Department of Disinvestment and the Advisors.

- After the transaction is completed, all papers and documents relating to it are turned over to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for CAG to prepare an evaluation for sending to Parliament and releasing to the public
- Recently guidelines have also been issued on qualifications criteria for Advisors and Bidders, which would add to the transparency of the disinvestment process.

Excess Tobacco Production in Karnataka

4863. SHRI K.E.KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers of Karnataka produced 9 million kilo more tobacco than the allocation in 1999-2000 and 16 million kilo more in 2000-2001; and

(b) the action proposed by the Tobacco Board to purchase the entire excess produce?

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 farmers of Karnataka produced 8.02 million kilograms of excess tobacco in the 1999-2000 season and 18.25 million kilograms in the 2000-01 season. Permission was granted by Government for the sale of this excess tobacco on the auction platforms of the Tobacco Board, subject to a penalty of 5% and an extra fee of Rs. 2 per kilogram. In addition, prosecution action is being initiated against growers who have produced tobacco in excess of the authorised quantity and unregistered growers who have produced tobacco unauthorisedly

Training to Workers Who Opt for VRS

4864. SHRI P.S.GADHAVI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced programmes for counselling training and rehabilitation of workers, who had opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS);

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

(c) whether the Government have been providing some financial assistance/loan to these workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The present scheme on Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment of workers / employees who opt for Voluntary Retirement Scheme aims at counselling and training for self-employment. Government provides funds for imparting such training to them. The trainees would also be assisted in availing of financial assistance/loans under different schemes being operated by the commercial banks/financial institutions etc. as applicable, by following the due procedure.

[Translation]

Programmes on Environment

4865. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes being telecast on various channels on environment protection all over the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to screen the documentary filmed on 363 men-women belonging to Bishnoi Community in the year 1730 for the protection of trees;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Financial Institution's Investment

4866. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether capital is invested in the Private as well as Government companies by the financial institutions under the control and supervision of the Government;

(b) if so, the extent to which these institutions have invested their capital in the Government as well as private companies during each of the last three years;

(c) whether guidelines have been laid down for investing capital by these financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and names of the financial institutions who had ignored these guidelines during the aforesaid period?

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.

(c) and (d) There are no specific guidelines for investment of funds raised by financial institutions from various sources except in case of infrastructure bonds (Tax Saving under Section 88 of IT Act) where the amount borrowed has to be invested in Infrastructure Sector within three years. IDBI and ICICI have followed the guidelines in respect of infrastructure bonds by investing the full amount raised in infrastructure bonds in infrastructure sector.

Sale of Goods at Higher Prices by Super Bazar

4867. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the goods in Super Bazars are being sold at higher rates than the market rates;

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

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to bring the rates of these goods at par with the market rates; and

(d) the number of complaints received by the Super Bazar in regard to selling of goods at higher rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) In view of the above, no steps are required to be taken by the Union Government.

(d) The Super Bazar has reported that only one complaint regarding selling of goods at higher rates is received during the current financial year.

[English]

Overseas Borrowings

4868. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the automatic approval norms for overseas borrowings up to \$ 50 million are being misused by the corporates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to change these norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

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.

Amendments in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

4869. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Narcotics Central Board (NCB) has suggested certain major structural amendments in the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 was recently amended by the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 2001 notified on 9.5.2001.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 2001 has (a) rationalized the existing sentence structure so as to ensure that drug traffickers who traffic in significant quantities of drugs are punished with deterrent sentences, the addict and others who commit less serious offences are awarded less serious punishment (b) restricted the application of strict bail provisions to those offenders who indulged in serious offences (c) removed the inadequacies relating to power of entry, search, seizure, forfeiture of illegally acquired property etc. and (d) addressed certain obligations specially in respect of the concept of controlled delivery arising from the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 to which India is a party.

Excise Case against Industries

4870. SHRI BRAHAMAND MANDAL :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL :
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of cases filed against different industries by Central Excise Department in Indore (M.P.) between 1999 and 2001 regarding evasion of excise duties;

(b) if so, the details of cases, where amount involves more than 3 crore;

(c) out of this how many cases were reopened regarding submission of excise duty of more than 3 crore as ordered by Excise Department Indore (M.P.);

(d) out of this how many cases were taken back;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding above;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government on the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of cases involving alleged evasion of Central Excise duty of more than Rs. 3 crores detected by officers of Central Excise within the jurisdiction of the Central Excise Commissionerate, Indore (M.P.) are as under:

Year	Number of Cases	Amount of duty alleged to be evaded (Rs. Crores)
1999	5	58.21
2000	3	24.21
2001	Nil	Nil

(c) and (d) After investigation, show cause notices were issued in all above mentioned cases and they are at different stages of adjudication/appeal.

(e) to (g) In regard to one case detected during 1999, which is yet to be adjudicated, some of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament of this House have written. The contents of those letters have been noted for appropriate action.

Money Laundering Scam

4871. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a massive money laundering scam has been unearthed involving Indian Overseas Bank at Port Blair in the name of celebrities and VIPs.

(b) if so, whether any investigation was conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHÉ PATIL) : (a) to (c) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that a case has been registered by the CBI against some officials of Indian Overseas Bank, Port Blair branch and one private person who are alleged to have conspired amongst themselves and opened accounts in the names of fictitious persons for depositing illegally earned money to the tune of Rs. 7 crores. They also issued banks drafts in the names of fictitious persons including some celebrities to create Fixed Deposit Receipts of over Rs. 2 crores by abusing official position.

[Translation]

Allocation of Foodgrains

4872. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of foodgrains allocated to Delhi and Uttar Pradesh from the Central Pool during 2000-2001;

(b) whether there has been an increasing demand from these regions to increase the allocation of rice and wheat to them; and

(c) if so, the steps taken so far to increase the allocation during the financial year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The quantity of foodgrains (rice and wheat) allocated to Delhi and Uttar Pradesh from the Central Pool during 2000-2001 under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for families below poverty line (BPL) and families above poverty line (APL) is as under:-

(In '000 tonnes)

State		BPL	APL	Total
Delhi	Rice	—	163.320	163.320
	Wheat	24.540	487.140	511.680
Uttar Pradesh	Rice	741.628	131.812	873.440
	Wheat	1537.660	260.916	1798.576

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of National Fertilizer Ltd.

4873. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item published in the "Rashtriya Sahara" on July 17, 2001 under the caption "Chaar Hazaar Karore rupayee Kee Sampatti Wale Sansthan Ek Hazaar Crore Rupayee main beche Jane ki Sajish";

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

(c) whether the Government have evaluated its assets in the right manner;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the companies which have shown interest in buying the said plant; and

(f) the measures being adopted by the Government to maintain transparency in the process of disinvestment?

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) There is no decision to sell National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) at a low price.

(c) and (d) The valuation of NFL has not yet been completed.

(e) For Government to realize the best price, competition is desirable. As such, the less a bidder knows about who and how many rivals he is bidding against, the better for Government. It would not, therefore, be desirable to disclose the names of the participants, price bids etc. in response to the advertisements, before the transaction is completed.

(f) The process of disinvestment of Government equity in NFL is being carried out in accordance with the declared policy and totally transparent procedures of the Government. The details of the procedure being followed for disinvestment of PSUs are as under:-

- Proposals for disinvestment in any PSU, based on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission or in accordance with the declared Disinvestment Policy of the Government, are placed for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment (CCD).
- After CCD clears the disinvestment proposal, selection of the Advisors for assisting in

the implementation of the disinvestment decision, is done through a competitive bidding process.

The Advisors assist the Government in preparation and issue of advertisement in leading newspapers/magazines/journals, for inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from prospective Strategic Partners. In cases of urgency, EOI is prepared by Department of Disinvestment and issued after approval of Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG).

After receipt of the EOI, Prospective Bidders are short listed, based on objective screening in the light of the announced pre-qualification criteria/requirements.

The Advisors, after due diligence of the PSU, prepare the Information Memorandum in consultation with the concerned PSU. This is given to the short listed Prospective Bidders, who have entered into a Confidentiality Agreement.

The draft Share Purchase Agreement or the Shareholders Agreement are also prepared by the Advisors, with the help of the Legal Advisors, and given to the Prospective Bidders for eliciting their reaction.

The Prospective Bidders undertake due diligence of the PSU and hold discussions with the Advisors/the Government/the representatives of the PSU for any clarifications.

Concurrently, the task of valuation of the PSU is undertaken in accordance with the standard national and international practices.

Based on the reactions received from the Prospective Bidders, the Share Purchase Agreement and Shareholders Agreement are finalised and after vetting by the Ministry of Law, they are approved by the Government. Thereafter, they are sent to the Prospective Bidders for inviting the final binding bids (Technical and Financial).

After examination, analysis and evaluation of the bids, the recommendations of the Inter-Ministe-

rial Group (IMG) are placed before the CCD for a final decision regarding selection of the Strategic Partner, signing of the Share Purchase and Shareholders Agreements and other ancillary issues.

- In the disinvestment process mentioned above, Department of Disinvestment is assisted at each stage by an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) comprising officers from the Ministry of Finance, Department of Public Enterprises, the Administrative Ministry/Department controlling the PSU, the PSU concerned apart from the officers of the Department of Disinvestment and the Advisors.
- After the transaction is completed, all papers and documents relating to it shall be turned over the Comptroller and Auditor General of India; the CAG shall prepare an evaluation for sending to Parliament and releasing to the public.

Loan from FIs through Debenture Bonds

4874. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several industrial houses/companies had taken loans from the Government and Non-Government financial institutions through the debenture bonds;

(b) if so, the number of industrial houses/companies, which took loans through debenture bonds during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, separately;

(c) the names of those companies out of the above, which even did not pay interest on the loan amount; and

(d) the total amount of loan on which interest is not paid during the said period?

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

[English]

Scrutiny of PSUs by CAG

4875. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have empowered the CAG to scrutinise all privatisation deals to find out the irregularities committed in the deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cases of privatisation referred to CAG for scrutinisation;

(d) whether CAG has criticised the Government for the way the valuation of several PSUs as reported in Times of India dated July 23, 2001;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The Department of Disinvestment has requested Comptroller and Auditor General of India to analyse and scrutinise every single disinvestment in Public Sector Undertaking and send the report to the Parliament.

(c) The records/files related to disinvestment in Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. and Bharat Aluminium Co. (BALCO) have been referred to CAG for audit purposes.

(d) and (e) Issues raised in the news item are not new and are already within the knowledge of the Government. On 2nd March 2001, the Government received the preliminary audit observations regarding disinvestment of Government equity in Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. (MFIL). These were replied in detail by the Department of Disinvestment on 15th March 2001. After considering the reply, CAG has sent the Inspection Report on 6th July

2001. After the Inspection Report of CAG has been replied to, the CAG will prepare its final report, which is to be laid before the Parliament in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

(f) Based upon the disinvestment experience of MFIL and BALCO, the Government has put in place a transparent procedure including standardization of nationally and internationally accepted valuation methodologies.

Demand of Sugar, Rice and Wheat

4876. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have assessed the demand of sugar, rice and what for PDS in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the shortage of sugar, rice and wheat has been estimated; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Allocation of wheat, rice and sugar under PDS is not demand based. PDS is not a substitute for the open market but only a supplement to it.

Under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced from June, 97, allocation of wheat and rice were made to the States/UTs for the families below poverty line (BPL) to provide 10 kg foodgrains per family per month. Transitory allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) was also made for families above poverty line (APL) equal to the difference between the past 10 years' annual average lifting of foodgrains by a State /UT and its requirement of foodgrains for BPL families. Allocation of foodgrains was doubled from 10 kg to 20 kg per family per month for BPL families from April, 2000 which has again been increased to 25 kg per family per month w.e.f. July, 2001 while retaining the allocation for APL population at the same level as was fixed at the time of introduction of TPDS.

The allocation of levy sugar under PDS has been restricted to BPL population based on population projection as on 1.3.2000 except in NE States/Hilly States/Island territories where levy sugar is allocated for the entire population w.e.f 1.2.2001. Government has also increased the minimum per capita supply of sugar to eligible persons under PDS from 425 gm to 500 gm per month in all States/UTs except the NE States, Hilly States and Island territories where the minimum norm is 700 gm per head per month.

Irregularities in Tobacco Board

4877. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Association has brought to the notice of the Government about irregularities in Tobacco Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to get the matter probed?

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. No irregularities have been reported in the Tobacco Board by the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers' Association. However, the Virginia Tobacco Growers' Association, Guntur, has alleged that certain irregularities took place during the Karnataka auctions of 2000.

(c) Enquiries have already been conducted by the Tobacco Board into these allegations. These enquiries have not revealed any evidence of irregularities by Board officials.

Disinvestment of PSUs in Rajasthan

4878. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings functioning in the country particularly in Rajasthan, which are under the active consideration of the Disinvestment Commission for disinvestment; and

(b) the time by which these PSUs are likely to be disinvested, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) According to the Public Enterprises Survey 1999-2000 Vol.-1 there were 240 Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in different States/Union Territories as per their registered offices, as on 31.3.2000. Disinvestment is currently in progress in about 27 Public Sector Undertakings and their subsidiaries. Of these, disinvestment action in three PSUs with registered offices located in Rajasthan, namely, Hindustan Salts Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Instrumentation India Ltd., in the State of Rajasthan are under active consideration of the Government. No PSU, with registered office located in Rajasthan, is under active consideration of the Disinvestment Commission.

(b) The disinvestment process is in different stages of consideration. As the completion of any disinvestment transaction depends on a number of factors like number of bidders, time taken by bidders in due-diligence, terms and conditions of sale, time taken to arrive at the agreed transaction documents etc., it is not possible to precisely indicate a time frame for completion of any disinvestment transaction.

Revival of Public Sector Enterprises

4879. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

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

(a) whether the proposal to restructure some public sector enterprises are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Hindustan Cables, Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and HMT Limited are some of those PSEs;

(d) if so, what would be the financial implication of the restructuring plan; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to restructure and revive the CPSUs.. Under the present arrangements, BIFR decides the viability and sanctions rehabilitation plans for revival of sick industrial PSUs under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies Act. For other CPSUs, the concerned administrative Ministries / Departments explore various options for restructuring of the enterprises under their control on case to case basis. This is an ongoing effort. In the specific cases of Hindustan Cables Ltd. and HMT Ltd., the Government have sanctioned restructuring plans. Details of these plans are given in the statement attached. A restructuring plan for Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. was sanctioned in 1996 and implemented. A fresh proposal for further restructuring is under consideration.

Statement

S. No.	PSU	Date of sanction	Fresh infusion of fund (Rs.Cr.)	Write off (Rs. cr.)	Conversion of loan into equity (Rs. cr.)
1.	HCL	Jan. 99	143.00	122.66	167.12
2.	HMT	July 2000	294.65	12.74	39.70

Non-Tariff Barriers by Japan

4880. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Government have urged Japan to withdraw the 20 per cent withholding tax, which is hampering software exports from India;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also called for resolving the issue of non-tariff barriers being imposed by Japan on Fruits and Vegetables imported from India; and

(c) if so, the extent to which Japan has agreed to consider India's request?

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) Yes, Sir. Both these issues are being pursued by Government of India for early resolution.

Export of Chrome Ore and Iron Ore

4881. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) the public and private sector agencies, which are procuring Iron ore, Chrome ore, Manganese and Bauxite from various States for export purposes;

(b) the total quantum of these minerals procured by these agencies for export purpose during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan period so far, agency-wise; and

(c) the details of exports of these items made by these agencies during the above period year-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) MMTC, in the public sector, is the canalizing agency for export of iron ore, manganese ore and chrome ore. It procures these ores in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Bihar, Orissa, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra. The major private sector agencies involved in the mining and procurement of these ores for export purpose are M/s MSPL Ltd., Hospet, M/s Rungta Mines Ltd., Chaibasa, M/s Misrilal Mines Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta, M/s Sesa Goa Ltd., Panjim, M/s A. Narrain Mines, Chitradurga, M/s Essel Mining Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta and M/s Sarawagi Mining Pvt. Ltd., Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The total quantity of Iron ore, Manganese ore and Chrome ore procured by MMTC, in the public sector, for export purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period {1992-93 to 1996-97} is 525.89, 15.90 and 14.73 lakh metric tonnes, respectively, and during the Ninth Five Year Plan Period {1997-98 to 2001-02 (upto 31.7.2001) (provisional)} is 524.27, 12.56 and 13.69 lakh metric tones respectively. MMTC did not procure Bauxite during these periods. However, with respect to private sector agencies, Government of India does not maintain information on agency-wise procurement of ore/mineral for export purpose.

(c) The details of export of iron ore, chrome ore, manganese ore, and bauxite, both by the public and private sector, are given as under:

(Quantity in Lakh Metric Tonnes; Value in Rs. in Lakhs)

Eighth Plan	Iron Ore & Concentrates		Chrome Ore		Manganese Ore		Bauxite	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1992-93	222	110408	3.9	7886	2.1	3079	2.5	2527
1993-94	269	137365	3.1	7352	2.9	3803	2.3	882
1994-95	261	129763	4.9	10273	2.8	3457	1.0	303
1995-96	317	172166	3.5	16084	2.4	2972	1.5	463
1996-97	276	170644	5.7	22541	3.1	4808	1.0	504
Ninth Plan								
1997-98	295	176966	4.4	14900	2.6	4300	0.9	314
1998-99	223	161550	4.9	17642	1.0	1898	1.0	2414
1999-2000	157	117532	7.1	17171	0.8	1979	6.0	3027
2000-01 (Provisional)	209	162933	6.6	18181	Not Available	5955	12.5	12507

Disinvestment of NALCO

4882. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have a proposal to go in for the disinvestment of NALCO;
- is so, whether the process has been started;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the amount expected to be earned from the disinvestment of NALCO?

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 decision about disinvestment in NALCO has been taken.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

Restoration of Duty Free Benefit to India by USA

4883. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

- whether United States of America has announced restoration of duty free benefit for some items exported from India;
- if so, the details thereof and the time by which duty free benefits are likely to be restored; and
- the total amount of investment involved annually in these items?

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

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. United States of America has announced restoration of duty free benefits for 42 items exported from India to USA in the jewelry, leather, textiles, agricultural and other sectors. These benefits will be restored only after the issuance of formal notification by USTR.

(c) The value of Indian export of these items to USA is around US \$ 691.6 million for the year 2000.

Visit of US Trade Representative

4884. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) whether the US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick had recently visited India;

(b) if so, the details of discussion held with him;

(c) the outcome of the discussion;

(d) whether the Government have discussed the issue regarding restrictions on steel and textile imports imposed by the USA; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(a) to (c) The US Trade Representative (USTR) Mr. Robert Zoellick has visited India during the period from 8th to 10th August, 2001. The Commerce and Industry Minister (C&IM) had discussions with the visiting USTR on various WTO issues in the wake of forthcoming Ministerial Conference of WTO to be held from 9-13 November, 2001 at Doha, Qatar. During discussions, CIM explained to USTR the Indian opposition to the inclusion of any new issues into the agenda of WTO unless there is a convergence in the views of the WTO membership. The CIM also exhorted the USTR to take lead in the resolution of the implementation related concerns of the developing countries and not press for the launch of a new round of negotiations. USTR, however, during discussions said that a new round of negotiations would be good for developing countries including India and that India should engage in the process of the launching of the new round so as to be able to influence the process. The USTR, offered the US cooperation on agriculture, services, e-commerce and environment on which according to him, there was a broad commonality of approach between India and US. USTR also said that in view of growing understanding and the strategic partnership, India and US should continue their dialogue on WTO issues.

(d) and (e) During the various formal and informal discussions, covering bilateral trade relations India had emphasized the need for giving increased market access to Indian exports of various items including steel and textile items. The USTR noted India's concerns in this regard for appropriate action.

Double Taxation Treaty with Austria

4885. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India and Austria have signed new Double Taxation Avoidance treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the above agreement would come into existence; and

(d) its likely impact on trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The revised Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between India and Austria was signed at Government level on 8th November, 1999 in Vienna. The Instruments of Ratification of the revised DTAC were exchanged on the 6th August, 2001 at New Delhi.

(c) The revised DTAC shall enter into force on the 5th September, 2001 and its provisions shall take effect in India from 01.04.2002 and in Austria from 01.01.2002.

(d) The DTAC seeks to provide a fresh impetus to the mutual flow of investment, technology, trade and services between the two countries.

Disinvestment of PSU's in Orissa

4886. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Central Sector Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Orissa which are facing a serious financial crisis;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal for the disinvestment of any of those PSUs; and

(c) 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) As per Public Enterprise Survey 1999-2000, the following are the Central Public Sector Undertakings with their registered offices in the State of Orissa, which are in loss;

S. No.	Name of PSU	Net Profit/Loss for 1999-2000 (Rs. Lakhs)
(i)	Paradeep Phosphates Limited	- 10525
(ii)	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Ltd.	- 103
(iii)	Orissa Drugs and Chemical Ltd.	- 97

(b) and (c) Of the three-loss making companies, the process of disinvestment is in progress in the case of Paradeep Phosphates Limited. Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited is a joint venture of India Tourism and Development Corporation (ITDC) and Orissa Development Corporation. The process of disinvestment in this company has not yet been taken up.

Modernisation of Irrigation Tanks

4887. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have requested financial assistance from the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development for modernization of irrigation tanks;

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

(c) the number of proposals which have been cleared and financial assistance provided to State Governments;

(d) the proposals which are still pending for clearance; and

(e) the reasons for their delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that some State Governments have requested for financial assistance from it for modernisation of irrigation tanks. The State-wise details of the number of proposals received, cleared and the financial assistance provided by NABARD are given below:

(Rs. In Crores)

S. No.	Name of State	No. of Proposals Received	No. of proposals Sanc- tioned	Amount of Loan Sanc- tioned	Amount Dis- bursed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	127	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Tamil Nadu	7	1	13.20	-
3.	Karnataka	34	4	1.06	0.78

(d) and (e) NABARD has reported that 127 proposals of Andhra Pradesh Government, 6 proposals of Tamil Nadu Government and 30 proposals of Karnataka Government have been sent for recasting and additional information on the proposals. These are pending for want of information on various aspects like registered ayacut, encroachment status, sections and plans of items proposed for repair/re-constructions, non-conformity to the norms for modernisation of tanks, etc.

Audit Committee for Banks

4888. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any instructions have been issued by RBI to banks to form an Audit Committee of the Board (ACB) to supervise the internal inspection and audit system in banks;

(b) if so, the reasons for forming such a Committee;

(c) the number of banks both in public and private sector who have followed the instructions and formed the ACB; and

(d) the action the Government propose to take against all such banks who have not yet formed ACB?

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

(b) The Audit Committees have been formed to oversee the operation of the total Audit function and to review internal inspection of the bank and to specially focus on inter-branch adjustment accounts, unreconciled long outstanding entries in inter-bank accounts and nostro accounts, arrears in balancing of books various branches, frauds, and all other major areas of house-keeping.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Dues from Accredited Agencies

4889. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CAG in its report No. 2 of 1998 for the year ended 31 March, 1997 in paragraph 11.12 regarding deficiency in the system of billing and monitoring of the collection of dues for advertisements, telecast by the accredited agencies and negligence of the Doordarshan Kendras pointed out crores of rupees remaining delayed for months;

(b) if so, whether the Government had look into those matters and taken any action;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Paragraph No. 11.12 of C&AG Report No. 2 of 1998 is on the subject of non-recovery of outstanding dues and delays in payment of dues for advertisements telecast by accredited agencies and negligence of Doordarshan in realizing the delayed payments.

(b) and (c) .Prasar Bharati have intimated that following steps have been initiated for recovery of outstanding dues:

- 1 Decentralisation of payments, viz. respective kendras have been authorised to receive payments from agencies.

2. Bills are being raised by kendras within a fortnight and vigorous follow-up action is being taken for recovery of outstanding dues.

3. Agencies with outstandings are being put on advance payment and are being asked to submit the payment plan so as to clear the outstandings in 3-4 installments.

4. No fresh programme/extension of programme is being given to the defaulting agencies.

5. In cases of non-compliance with payment instructions, programmes to be taken off the air with measures for suitable action against the defaulting agency.

(d) Does not arise.

Payment for Imports

4890. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the head suspense account for purchases abroad, in accounts of Government huge amounts are due from the Importers although the Government has already made payment for the importers;

(b) if so, details of the payment outstanding as on June 30, 2001;

(c) by when it is likely to be recovered from the importers;

(d) the officials responsible for this;

(f) whether any responsibility has been fixed on them; and

(g) if not, reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the case of externally aided projects where the donors pay directly to the foreign suppliers by debiting the loan account, the Project Implementing Agencies in Central/ State Government autonomous bodies and PSU's are required to deposit the rupee funds to the credit of Government of India.

(b) The dues from different Project Implementing agencies was Rs. 1514.49 crores as on 30th June 2001.

Details of major amounts outstanding Project Implementing agencies-wise, is given in the statement attached.

(c) Rupee deposits by various Project Implementing agencies on account of direct payment to foreign suppliers/consultants against external assistance is a continuous process. In case of non-deposit of rupee equivalent on the value date of payment to the foreign suppliers/consultant, Project Implementing agencies other than those in Central/State Governments are presently required to pay interest at the rate of 12% on the amount due for the first 90 days from the date of

payment to the foreign supplier and 15% thereafter in respect of dues from various Project Implementing agencies for the past periods, the matter is being pursued with all concerned including the administrative Ministries for expeditious settlement.

(d) to (g) Responsibility for ensuring timely deposit rests with Project Implementing Agencies. As recovery of dues is a continues process and is being pursued with all concerned, no action for fixing responsibility is called for at this stage.

Statement

Importer dues as on 30-Jun-2001

Sl No.	Importer Name	Outstanding (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board, AP.	8.79
2.	Andhra Pradesh Transmission Co. Ltd.	6.66
3.	Deptt. of Agriculture Research and Education, Delhi	34.77
4.	Bhilai Steel Plant	0.51
5.	Banaras Hindu University	5.66
6.	Bokaro Steel Plant	0.02
7.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project, West Bengal	32.42
8.	Cancer Institute Adyar, Chennai	0.08
9.	Chief Conservator of Forests, AP.	0.02
10.	Chief Conservator of Forests (TAP), TN.	0.04
11.	Central Electricity Authority	1.94
12.	Continental Float Glass Ltd.	0.19
13.	Coal India Limited, (WB)	23.39
14.	CMAL, Delhi	0.04
15.	CMPDI, Ranchi	0.87
16.	Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sew. Board	18.95
17.	Commissioner of Fisheries, Gandhinagar, Gujarat	0.04
18.	Commissioner of Fisheries & Aquarium, Mumbai	0.02
19.	Cochin Port Trust	0.37

1	2	3
20.	Chennai Port Trust	20.06
21.	Commissioner of Rural Development, Andhra Pradesh	12.04
22.	Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, Delhi	7.93
23.	Government of India, Dis-investment Commission	1.78
24.	Department of Irrigation & Public Health	16.98
25.	Director of Sericulture Project, MP.	1.77
26.	Department of Energy	0.49
27.	Department of Tele Communications	2.75
28.	District Poverty Initiative Project	1.46
29.	Department of Sericulturre	2.69
30.	DWSSDU (MCD), Delhi	28.42
31.	The Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited	0.46
32.	Min. of Finance (DEA)	3.57
33.	Fertilizer Corporation of India	0.20
34.	Family Health Support, Maharashtra	0.63
35.	Fisheries, State Project Unit, Bihar	10.67
36.	Gas Authority of India Limited	0.08
37.	Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd., Orissa	12.19
38.	GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT	0.04
39.	Helicopter Corporation of India	67.24
40.	HINDUSTAN COPPER LIMITED	2.35
41.	Housing Urban Development Corporation	2.64
42.	Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	1.03
43.	Indian Bureau of Mines Nagpur	11.89
44.	INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRL. RESEARCH INST.	1.12
45.	INDIAN COUNCIL FOR FORESTRY RES. & EDU. EXTN., UP	2.77
46.	Institute of Child Health Hospital for Children	0.30
47.	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited	1.40
48.	ITI, Naini, Allahabad	0.05
49.	J&K Cable Car	0.16
50.	Jhanjra Bhilai Steel Plant	0.09

1	2	3
51.	Kerala Forestry Project -KA	0.72
52.	Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project	13.45
53.	KRIBHCO Rain Farming & Eastern & Western Ghat Project	0.71
54.	Karnataka Urban Infra. Dev. Finance Corporation	1.13
55.	Lakshadweep Administration	0.57
56.	Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals	16.29
57.	Mysore Cements Ltd.	0.43
58.	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	0.02
59.	Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation	1.44
60.	Ministry of Agriculture, Deptt., of A.H.D.	28.33
61.	Ministry of Mines & Minerals, Deptt. of Coal	0.02
62.	Ministry of Environment & Forests	1.52
63.	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	27.37
64.	Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi	0.23
65.	Ministry of Power, (IPC-II)	1.72
66.	Ministry of Railways	5.43
67.	Ministry of Surface Transport	28.96
68.	Ministry of Tourism	8.77
69.	Ministry of Water Resources, New Delhi	1.04
70.	Mysore Paper Mills Limited	0.91
71.	Metro Railways, Calcutta	0.10
72.	National Aids Control Organisation, MOH & FW	0.47
73.	National Highway Authority of India, Delhi	0.79
74.	Narmada Water Resources & Water Supply Deptt.,	0.26
74.	OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION	6.79
76.	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	326.87
77.	PHED Manipur	0.31
78.	Public Health Engg. Deptt., RJ.	0.63
79.	Pawan Hans Ltd.	57.44
80.	Finance & Planning (PMU) Deptt., AP.	18.15
81.	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.	24.95
82.	Paradip Port Trust	9.00

1	2	3
83.	Public Works Department, Manipur	0.46
84.	Road & Building Deptt., Gujarat	0.11
85.	Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala	0.19
86.	Rural Dev. (PC) Department Kerala	0.80
87.	RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CORPORATION	0.45
88.	Rashtria Ispat Nigam Ltd. (VSP), Vishakapatnam	0.60
89.	Rail Coil Spinning, Sithouli	0.71
90.	Rayala Seema Power Project	57.35
91.	Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of MS-UP	6.07
92.	Technology Dev. & Information Company Ltd.	0.07
93.	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	0.51
94.	Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	22.67
95.	Anpara Power Transmission System, UPSEB	28.20
96.	VIDESH SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED-BOMBAY	2.52
97.	Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant.	1.10
98.	West Bengal Power Dev. Corpn. Ltd., WB	66.80
99.	Water Resource Development, Punjab	0.15
100.	Others	391.01
Total Du		1514.49

Save Grain Campaign

4891. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether large quantity of foodgrains are lost at pre-harvest and post-harvest stages;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the same;

(c) whether Save Grain Campaign (SGC) has helped to save the foodgrains;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to declare the SGC as national programmes;

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

(f) the other remedial measures being taken by the Government to save grains in pre-harvest and post-harvest season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foodgrains are lost at pre and post harvest stages by insects, pests, diseases, rodents, moisture, birds micro-organisms etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) SGC is having a mini set up at regional level and has 17 field stations situated in different States. It is working as a catalytic agent to spread the message of scientific storage of foodgrains at farm level in close collaboration with the State Government, NGOs and corporate offices.

(f) To save the crops from pre-harvest losses, a Central Sector Scheme entitled "Promotion of Integrated Pest Management" (IPM) is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The main activities of the IPM scheme are pest and disease monitoring, production and release of biocontrol

agents and training of Agricultural Extension Offices and farmers.

Besides, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Food Agencies procure the foodgrains and take adequate measures to minimise losses during handling, storage and transportation.

Permission to Raise Equity

4892. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SEBI has given permission to entertainment and media group of companies to raise equity through book building process at exorbitant prices without verifying their financial performance and track record;

(b) if so, the names of companies given permission by SEBI during the last two years;

(c) the price at which these companies were allowed to raise equity and state their current price of share;

(d) whether small investors have lost huge money in these companies due to SEBI's nexus with the promoters of these companies;

(e) if so, whether Government would entrust the cases of these companies to CBI; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Under the SEBI Disclosure and Investor Protection guidelines, all companies including entertainment and media group companies can avail of the book building process.

Under the normal and the book building processes, companies can fix the prices and SEBI's approval is not needed. SEBI only examines for compliance with disclosure norms.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) SEBI has intimated that the companies have complied with the disclosure guidelines and presently there is no case contemplated for reference to CBI.

Guidelines for Initial Public Offer

4893. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are no guidelines issued by the RBI for banks to provide financing for IPO;

(b) whether Financial Institutions have been taking advantage of this lapse; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to formulate some interim rules for loaning to IPOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) In terms of Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) circular dated May 11, 2001, banks have been permitted to grant maximum amount of advance of Rs. 10 lakh to an individual for subscribing to Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). Banks are not permitted to extend finance to corporates for investment in IPOs of other companies. These guidelines further stipulate that banks should not provide finance to NBFCs for lending to individuals for subscribing to IPOs. Banks have also been advised to include finance extended for IPOs as an exposure to capital market for the purpose of arriving at 5% ceiling prescribed for banks's exposure to capital market.

(b) and (c) RBI has reported that no lapses in regard to banks' funding of IPOs have come to its notice. However, RBI have advised banks having exposure to capital market in excess of 5% ceiling to submit time bound plan for gradually reducing their excess exposure to capital market in line with 5% prudential ceiling prescribed by it.

Disinvestment in BALCO

4894. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have disqualified Sterlite from bidding for any private sector company including Hindustan Zinc and Hindustan Copper Ltd;

(b) whether the rejection of Sterlite's Expression of Interest is based on the new guidelines framed by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment, which provides for barring bidders indicated by market regulator;

(c) if so, whether these guidelines were in force when Sterlite's bid for BALCO was accepted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the adverse effect of SEBI's such decision on videocon's attempt to bid for Indian Airlines and the Sterlite's acquisition of BALCO?

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 terms of the "Guidelines for qualification of Bidders seeking to acquire stakes in Public Sector Enterprises through the process of disinvestment" issued on 13.7.2001, and in view of the SEBI's order dated 19.4.2001 against Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd., barring it from accessing the capital market for a period of two years, show cause notices were served on Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. with reference to its "Expressions of Interest" for disinvestment in Hindustan Zinc Ltd. and Hindustan Copper Ltd. (Phase I). Replies of Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. to these show cause notices have been received and these are being examined.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Videocon International Ltd. has withdrawn from the bidding process of Indian Airlines. The transaction related to strategic sale of 51% equity in BALCO to Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. was completed on 2.3.2001, well before SEBI issued its order dated 19.4.2001 against M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. Therefore, there can be no adverse affect of SEBI order on BALCO transaction.

[Translation]

Procurement of Foodgrains By FCI

4895. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of rice, wheat and other foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India during the last three years, year-wise and in the current year, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains perished in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India during each of the last three years State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such loss?

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

(SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The State-wise procurement of rice, wheat and coarsegrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the Marketing years 1997-98 to 2000-02, till 20.8.2001, is given in the statement attached.

(b) The storage losses in foodgrains (wheat, rice and paddy in terms of rice) in the godowns of the FCI for the last three years is as follows:-

(Quantity in Lakh MT)	
Year	Quantity of loss
1997-98	1.81
1998-99	1.51
1999-2000	1.60

(c) The following measures have been taken by Government to reduce the losses:-

- (i) Adoption of 50 Kg. packing in a phased manner.
- (ii) Improvement in size and quality of gunnies.
- (iii) Encouraging machine stitching of bags.
- (iv) Double line machine stitching of bags.
- (v) Installation of weigh bridges.
- (iv) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks, ensuring regular stocks verification etc.
- (vii) Induction of CISF at vulnerable depots to curb theft and pilferage.
- (viii) Not to place godowns under the charge of officials whose antecedents are doubtful.
- (ix) Streamlining procedure and documentation for prompt investigation and fixing responsibility Inspection of deposits by Senior Regional Manager and District Managers.
- (x) Speeding up of "write off" cases and fixation of responsibility wherever called for.
- (xi) Inspection of deposits by Senior Regional Manager and District Managers.
- (xii) Inspection of weigh bridges by Joint Manager (Mechanical) and District Manager.
- (xiii) Identification of vulnerable points.

Statement

Procurement of Rice, Wheat and Coarsegrains by FCI since 1997-98 Till 2001-2002

States/U.T.	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000			2000-2001			2001-2002		
	Rice	Wheat	Coarse grains	Rice	Wheat	Coarse grains	Rice	Wheat	Coarse grains	Rice*	Wheat	Coarse grains	Rice	Wheat*	Coarse grains
Andhra Pradesh	3854.57		1.96	5118.88		0.02	5497.87		6795.44		20.45				
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.07	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar	21.50	0.02		-	0.40	-	20.19	-	4.58	-	-	-	-	22.29	-
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	491.40	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	-	-	5.59	-	1.70	-	-	0.41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haryana	1216.77	172.86		254.83	473.04	-	808.03	625.41	1438.41	412.33	-	-	-	831.43	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	0.18	-	-	-	0.40	-	-	-	-	1.52	-
Karnataka	91.87			100.44	-	0.05	111.01	-	222.41	-	123.31	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	623.24	5.00	5.45	271.72	45.60	1.34	791.30	45.83	127.66	14.02	30.29	-	-	44.00	-
Maharashtra	31.52	-	5.63	5.02	-	0.56	50.65	-	31.83	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa	683.83	-		480.87	-	-	884.50	-	810.92	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab	3268.96	1494.23		2006.16	1826.64	0.02	2884.02	2456.84	-	2812.38	-	-	-	3062.15	-
Rajasthan	6.16	319.81		3.45	666.62	-	32.40	636.78	25.80	197.10	-	-	-	336.49	-
Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27.03	-
Uttar Pradesh	1065.14	24.65		-	120.22	-	-	1261.16	1016.91	12.85	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	10.88	1.77		5.37	-	-	13.96	-	16.25	-	-	-	-	11.85	-
Delhi	-	0.09		0.11	7.61	-	5.69	1.55	-	-	-	-	-	50.21	-
Pondicherry	7.73	-		9.11	-	-	8.49	-	30.89	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10,882.17	2018.43	18.33	8255.96	3142.01	1.99	11108.11	5027.98	0.16	11012.90	3448.68	174.05	0.00	4386.97	-

*As on 20.8.2001

[English]

UGC Programmes

4896. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan is going to drop all UGC programmes in favour of religious and other programmes;

(b) whether the UGC and other educational organisations have been informed of this policy;

(c) if so, their reaction to it;

(d) whether any sponsor has been selected for telecasting educational programmes by Doordarshan;

(e) if not, whether any effort has been made by Doordarshan to find commercial or other sponsors to fund such activity; and

(f) the other steps taken/ being taken by the Government to continue the educational programmes on Doordarshan?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) No sponsor has, so far, come forward to commercially fund educational programmes.

(f) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan has undertaken a restructuring exercise of its programming on DD-National Channel, with a view to meeting its mandate as a Public Service Broadcaster and to ensure that it is in a position to generate revenue to gradually become self-supporting. They are, discussing with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the future telecast arrangements of educational programmes of 'Gyan-Darshan' Channel produced by various agencies like UGC, IGNOU, CIET etc.

Non-Plan Expenditure

4897. SHRI J.S.BRAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the actual non-plan expenditure in 2000-2001;

(b) the estimate of non-plan expenditure during 2000-2002;

(c) the steps that are being taken to reduce non-plan expenditure during 2001-2002;

(d) whether non-plan expenditure is monitored on monthly basis; and

(e) if so, the chances of achieving reduced expenditure on non-plan expenditure during, 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Non-plan expenditure during the year 2000-2001 was Rs. 2,36,142 crore (provisional);

(b) Non-plan expenditure during 2001-2002 is estimated at Rs. 2,75,123 crore;

(c) Various initiatives to effect economy in non-plan expenditure have been mentioned in Finance Minister's budget speech (para 79, 80 and 81) while presenting the Union Budget for the year 2001-2002;

(d) and (e) Trends in non-plan expenditure are reviewed every month. All efforts are being made to ensure that non-plan expenditure is within the approved budget estimates.

Antyodaya Yojana

4898. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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 news-item captioned "States fail to implement Antyodaya Yojana Scheme" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated 27 July, 2001;

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

(c) whether the State Governments have urged the Union Government to bear the transportation and distribution costs for the supply of foodgrains under the scheme;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

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

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

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news paper report on 'States fail to implement Antyodaya Anna Yojana' gives the position of implementation of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana has so far been implemented in 15 States and 3 Union Territories. The status of implementation of AAY in the country as reported by the State Governments is given in the statement attached.

(c) to (e) Some State Governments have raised the issue regarding the burden of additional expenses towards transportation and dealers margins in respect of foodgrains distributed under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). Flexibility has been given to the States Governments/UT Administrations in the matter of fixing the margin for the fair price shops by removing the restriction that the difference between the Central Issue Prices (CIP) and Retail Issue Price (RIP) should be within 50 paise per kg. for distribution of foodgrains to BPL families under TPDS. However, the States/UTs have been requested to retain the end retail price for Antyodaya beneficiaries at Rs.2/- a kg for wheat and Rs.3/- a kg for rice. The Government of India is already reimbursing road transport cost on actual basis for lifting of foodgrains from the base depots of FCI to the designated PDCs under the Hill Transport Subsidy (HTS) scheme for BPL foodgrains to the North Eastern States and hilly States. This will also be applicable for foodgrains lifted under AAY for Antyodaya beneficiaries.

Statement

Status of Implementation of Antyodaya

Anna Yojana

(As on 14.8.2001)

1. Andhra Pradesh The State Govt. has identified 6.22 lakh families and issued ration cards to them. Allocation under the scheme has been made w.e.f. March, 2001.
2. A and Nicobar Islands Allocation of foodgrains for 2400 Antyodaya families identified by the UT Administration under the scheme has been made w.e.f. July, 2001.
3. Arunachal Pradesh It has been decided with the approval of Chief Minister that the scheme will not be implemented unless transportation and distribu-

tion cost is borne by the Government of India.

4. Assam It has been reported that AAY has been inaugurated on 15 June 2001 by the Chief Minister. Assam Government is going to ask for allotment of food-grains for the scheme shortly.
5. Bihar As per the last communication from the State Government the task of identification and issue of distinctive ration cards as to be completed by June.
6. Chandigarh UT Administration has intimated that identification of beneficiaries has been completed and they are being issued Antyodaya ration cards.
7. Chattisgarh Identification completed and distinctive ration cards issued to 2,87,400 identified families. Release of foodgrains under AAY has been made w.e.f. March, 2001.
8. Dadra and Nagar Haveli Identification completed and distinctive ration cards issued to 2,800 identified beneficiaries. Allocation under AAY has been w.e.f. March, 2001.
9. Daman and Diu Identification completed and distinctive ration cards issued to 600 identified beneficiaries. Allocation of foodgrains under AAY has been made from April 2001.
10. Delhi The Government of Delhi has informed on telephonic enquiry that the task of identification of Antyodaya families is yet to start. However, it is expected that the task of identification of AAY may take 3 months.
11. Goa The State Government had informed that the identification and issue of distinctive ration cards to 7300 Antyodaya families will be completed by 15th July 2001. Antyodaya Anna Yojana was inaugurated in Goa on 10.7.2001.
12. Gujarat The State Government has intimated that so far 2,60,000 Antyodaya fami-

- lies out of the estimated 3,25,000 AAY families for the State have been issued distinctive ration cards. Accordingly, Foodgrains have been allotted for 2,60,000 AAY families from the month of July, 2001 under the scheme.
13. Haryana State Govt. has intimated that they have identified 1,12,679 Antyodaya families and issued ration cards to 1,01,484 families. Allocation under AAY has been released for 98,214 families w.e.f. May 2001. The State Govt. has been requested to complete the task of distribution of pink ration cards for the entire Antodaya families identified in the State so that the balance allocation of the foodgrains is made accordingly.
14. Himachal Pradesh Allocation of foodgrains under the AAY has been released w.e.f. March, 2001.
15. J and K The Antyodaya Anna Yojana stands implemented in the J and K State w.e.f. April, 2001. The State Government has identified all the (1,12,900) beneficiaries in the State and issued distinctive ration cards. Allocation of foodgrains under AAY has been made from July 2001.
16. Jharakhand The State Government has identified 366500 Antyodaya families in the State and issued the special ration cards to them. The allocation of foodgrains to the State has been made w.e.f. 1.6.2001.
17. Karnataka The State Government has identified 3,87,155 Antyodaya families in twenty-six districts out of 4.797 lakhs estimated Antyodaya families in the State and issued distinctive cards prominently stamped as AAY to the identified families. Allocation of foodgrains for 3,87,155 Antyodaya families has been made w.e.f. August, 2001.
18. Kerala The State Government of Kerala has identified and issued distinctive ration cards to all the Antyodaya beneficiaries and allocation has been released to the State w.e.f. March, 2001.
19. Lakshadweep The scheme is not yet implemented, as no applications have been received. Panchayats, except in few cases, have not agreed on the list of beneficiaries.
20. Madhya Pradesh Identification completed and distinctive ration cards issued to 6,32,400 identified families. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been launched in the State on 6.3.2001.
21. Maharashtra Identification of AAY families (10,017 lakhs) has been completed. Allocation under AAY had earlier been released for 8,49,505 AAY families w.e.f. May 2001. All the yellow ration cards have now been stamped. Allocation under AAY has been released for 10,01,700 AAY families w.e.f. July, 2001.
22. Manipur As per the past communication the identification of beneficiaries was likely to be completed by end of March 2001. Implementation of the Scheme was scheduled to start from 1st April 2001. A proposal has been sent to Government of India to provide margin money and transportation costs for implementing the scheme.
23. Meghalaya The State Government has intimated that selection of 28,100 AAY beneficiaries as per Government of India guidelines has been completed in the State. Special identity cards for AAY families are being distributed to the beneficiaries through the respective Dy. Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers (Civil).
24. Mizoram The work relating to identification of beneficiaries is complete. The State

Government has also completed the task of distributing the special ration cards to 10,500 identified beneficiaries. Allocation of foodgrains under AAY has been made w.e.f. April 2001.

25. Nagaland

State Government has intimated that the task of identification of Antyodaya families numbering 18,900 as per Government of India estimates has been completed and distinctive ration cards have also been distributed to the identified beneficiaries. The State Government has proposed to add 50 paise per kg. on transportation and 15 paise per kg. for handling charges to make the end price at Rs. 3.65 per kg. for rice to AAY beneficiaries. They have asked for the concurrence of the proposal. The reply has been issued to State Government to the effect that end retail price is retained at Rs.2/- per kg for wheat and Rs.3/- per kg for rice.

26. Orissa

The State Food Secretary indicated during the telephone conversation with him that Antyodaya Anna Yojana can be inaugurated by MOS (F and PD) in the first week of August, 2001 at the convenience of the MOS (F and PD). It was reported by the State Government that the task of identification has been completed in 12 coastal districts. Over 90% task of identification has been completed in six districts. The work is progressing slowly in the remaining 12 districts. The State Government has identified 2,88,005 Antyodaya families out of 5.055 lakhs.

27. Punjab

Identification and issue of distinctive cards to 71,700 identified families is complete. Allocation of foodgrains under AAY has been made from May 2001.

28. Pondicherry

Food Secretary, Pondicherry has intimated that 7666 beneficiaries under AAY have been identified and ration cards have been stamped

accordingly. Since the estimated number of AAY families for Pondicherry is 12,800, the State Government has been requested to complete the stamping of atleast 80% ration cards and the Government of India will release the foodgrains immediately. The State Government has identified 12,800 beneficiaries under the AAY.

29. Rajasthan

Identification of families and issue of distinctive cards to 3,72,600 identified families is complete. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been launched in the State on 6.3.2001 and allocation under AAY has been made w.e.f. March, 2001.

30. Sikkim

State Government has informed that the process of identification of AAY families has been completed. The State Government has also made all administrative arrangements including photo identity/ration cards to AAY families. The State Government has been requested to intimate the position of issue of distinctive ration cards to AAY beneficiaries.

31. Tamil Nadu

Decision on implementation of Antyodaya scheme will be taken by the State Government shortly.

32. Tripura

State Government has intimated that the existing ration cards of the identified AAY families have been stamped pending printing of new distinctive ration cards. However, number of families identified by the State Government has not been indicated.

33. Uttar Pradesh

The State Government has identified 12,94,738 beneficiaries out of estimated number of 16.371 lakhs AAY families under the scheme and issued distinctive ration cards to 10,28,106 families. Allocation of foodgrains for 10,28,106 AAY families has been made w.e.f. July 2000.

34. Uttaranchal State Government has identified all the (73600) Antyodaya families and special ration cards are being issued. The State Government has intimated that implementation of AAY will be started from August 2001.

35. West Bengal The information regarding identification of AAY families is awaited from the State Government.

[Translation]

Production in Automobile Industry

4899. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) the total number of cars, two-wheelers, trucks and small commercial vehicles manufactured in the country during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the number of cars, two-wheelers, trucks and small commercial vehicles exported during each of the above year and the total foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) the targets in regard to export of each type of above vehicles during these years;

(d) whether the targets were achieved;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the corrective steps taken in this regard; and

(f) the measures taken to increase the export of these items in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):
(a) and (b) A statement showing the production of total number of cars, two-wheelers, trucks and small commercial vehicles, number of these vehicles exported and export value of these vehicles during the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) Government fixes overall targets for export of engineering goods, which include cars, two-wheelers trucks and small commercial vehicles. No specific targets for different product groups are fixed.

(f) Promotion of export of engineering goods including cars, two-wheelers, trucks and small commercial vehicles has been the constant endeavour of the Government. The measures taken to increase the export of engineering goods including the said items consist of various provisions under the Export-Import Policy including, inter alia, Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Duty Drawback Scheme, Exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, Assistance from Market Development Fund etc.

Statement

Name of Vehicle	*Production			#Number of Vehicles exported			#Value of export (in Rs. Crores)		
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Cars	390709	577243	504654	24346	21810	20373	508.25	418.71	466.19
Two-wheelers	3374508	3778011	3758466	49523	54379	100417	135.73	133.19	226.34
Trucks	80528	112311	88210	3412	4357	5514	210.72	204.06	385.10
Small Commercial Vehicles	55363	61213	63869	5213	4970	8393	218.63	208.92	331.92

*Source: SIAM

Source: DGCI&S

Non-Functioning of Air/DD Centres In Rural Areas

4900. SHRI RAMDAS ATHALWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of T.V. Relay/AIR centres set up in the country especially in the tribal districts at present, location-wise;

(b) the amount of funds spent on these centers during each of the last three years, centre-wise;

(c) the number of relay centres out of them, which are not functioning properly and the number out of them located in tribal areas;

(d) the details of steps taken to improve their functioning properly; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) At present, 208 AIR Stations and 1212 TV Transmitters of varying power are functioning in the country. Out of these, 84 AIR Stations and 391 TV Transmitters are located in Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) districts as per details in statement-I and statement-II respectively.

(b) The details of expenditure incurred on AIR Stations in Tribal areas during last three years is given in statement-I. Doordarshan does not maintain centre-wise expenditure, figures. However, approximate annual expenditure on operation and maintenance of an HPT, LPT, VLPT/Transposer is to the tune of Rs. 48 lakhs and Rs. 15 lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs respectively.

(c) to (e) All AIR Stations and TV Transmitters in the Tribal areas are generally functioning satisfactorily. Faults, wherever there occur, are attended to promptly. Monitoring is done regularly by Prasar Bharati.

Statement-I

(Figures in thousands of rupees)

Sl. No.	States and Places	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Adilabad	4754	5230	5539

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Vishakhapatnam	22042	26738	27865
3.	Kothagudam	8143	7154	10060
4.	Warangal	5822	6464	7144
Arunachal Pradesh				
5.	Itanagar	16322	20701	25606
6.	Passighat	8707	10041	9508
7.	Tawang	4665	4619	5761
8.	Tezu	7395	8133	7991
9.	Ziro	0	0	405
Assam				
10.	Guwahati	44259	65630	66722
11.	Silchar	14256	16400	19397
12.	Dibrugarh	25741	27543	32929
13.	Jorhat	4322	4368	6150
14.	Haflong	3665	4349	4583
15.	Nowgong	4757	5644	5617
16.	Diphu	1760	1507	2630
17.	Kokrajhar	1260	2975	4175
18.	Dhubri	0	0	1076
19.	Tezpur	0	0	2934
Chhattisgarh				
20.	Ambikapur	11573	14597	14942
21.	Jagdalpur	15395	17258	16661
22.	Bilaspur	4770	5830	6177
Gujarat				
23.	Vadodra	7531	9165	9723
24.	Godhra	2855	3079	4793
25.	Surat	4515	5146	5874
26.	Ahwa	3357	3691	5069

1	2	3	4	5
Himachal Pradesh				
27.	Kinnaur (Kalpa)	0	849	822
Jharkhand				
28.	Ranchi	25968	29561	32277
29.	Jamshedpur	10836	12239	16073
30.	Chaibasa	4256	5410	5006
31.	Daltonganj	3823	4558	5378
Karnataka				
32.	Mangalore/Udipi	15775	19503	20903
33.	Mysore	9529	10843	11753
34.	Mercara	6570	7926	7792
Kerala				
35.	Trivandrum	46023	53545	50629
36.	Cannanore	8220	10249	9938
37.	Idukki (Devikulam)	3936	4947	5426
Madhya Pradesh				
38.	Jabalpur	22147	24884	26257
39.	Khandwa	3849	4640	5298
40.	Betul	4266	4912	5688
41.	Chhindwara	5256	5904	5737
Maharashtra				
42.	Jalgaon	13028	15117	16197
43.	Pune	27869	32137	31121
44.	Dhule	3568	4339	5178
45.	Ahmednagar	4103	5166	6192
46.	Nanded	3883	4647	5232
47.	Yeotmal	4475	5097	5332
48.	Chandrapur	3812	4994	5455
49.	Nasik	4126	5049	5356
Manipur				
50.	Imphal	32245	38140	34801

1	2	3	4	5
Meghalaya				
51.	Shillong	24455	25754	27435
52.	Tura	11601	10823	11071
53.	Jowai	2053	2309	3091
54.	Williamnagar	0	0	832
55.	Nongstoin	0	0	996
Mizoram				
56.	Aizawal	17156	20443	21192
57.	Lungleh	4017	5132	5386
58.	Saiha	0	0	785
Nagaland				
59.	Kohima	22956	28558	30094
60.	Mokokchung	3208	2462	3768
61.	Mon	0	0	312
62.	Tuensang	0	0	922
Orissa				
63.	Jeypore	18096	20218	19690
64.	Sambalpur	15983	19687	19658
65.	Keonjhar	4168	5600	5742
66.	Baripada	4781	6577	5731
67.	Berhampur	4145	3580	5548
68.	Bhawanipatna	13104	15111	16155
69.	Rourkela	3661	4498	5283
Rajasthan				
70.	Udaipr	12258	13114	12322
71.	Banswara	3663	4259	4616
72.	Chittorgarh	3988	4934	5226
73.	Mount Abu	1869	317	2577
Sikkim				
74.	Gangtok	9309	12350	13670

1	2	3	4	5
Tamilnadu				
75.	Tiruchirapalli	27875	33856	32079
Tripura				
76.	Agartala	19800	21217	18547
77.	Belonia	4152	4666	5022
78.	Kialashahar	3945	3952	4954
West Bengal				
79.	Kurseong	13772	16947	19431
80.	Siliguri	20490	21124	24461
81.	Murshidabad	3743	4038	6320
82.	Asansole	0	1461	1416
Union Territories				
83.	Kavaratti	879	889	1463
84.	Daman	2440	2705	3149
Statement-II				
State/UT		Transmitter		
1		2		
A and N Islands	LPT	Car Nicobar		
	VLPT	Campbel Bay		
	VLPT	Great Nicobar		
	VLPT	Katchal		
	VLPT	Nancowry		
Andhra Pradesh	HPT	Rajamundry		
	HPT	Vishakhapatnam		
	LPT	Adilabad		
	LPT	Amalapuram		
	LPT	Belampally		
	LPT	Bhadrachalam		
	LPT	Bhainsa		
	LPT	Bheemadolu		

1	2
	LPT Bheemavaram
	LPT Bobbili
	LPT Kakinada
	LPT Khammam
	LPT Kothagudam
	LPT Mandassa
	LPT Nirmal
	LPT Srikakulam
	LPT Tekkali
	LPT Tuni
	LPT Visakhapatnam
	LPT Warangal
	LPT Yellandu
	LPT Madhira (DD II)
	VLPT Chintapalli
	VLPT Icchapuram
	VLPT Paderu
	VLPT Parwatipuram
	VLPT Seetampetta
Assam	HPT Dibrugarh
	HPT Guwahati
	HPT Silchar
	HPT Guwahati (DD II)
	HPT Silchar (DD II)
	LPT Bokakhat
	LPT Dhubri
	LPT Goalpara
	LPT Gohpur
	LPT Golaghat
LPT Hatsinghimari	

1	2
	LPT Jorhat
	LPT Kokrajhar
	LPT Margherita
	LPT Nazira
	LPT North Lakhimpur
	LPT Sonari
	LPT Tezpur
	LPT Tinsukia
	LPT Dibrugarh (DD II)
	VLPT Digboi
	Xser Guwahati
Chhattisgarh	HPT Jagdalpur
	HPT Raipur
	HPT Raipur (DD II)
	LPT Ambikapur
	LPT Bailadilla
	LPT Bilaspur
	LPT Champa
	LPT Dungargarh
	LPT Kanker
	LPT Korba
	LPT Kurasia
	LPT Manindergarh
	LPT Narayanpur
	LPT Pendra Road
	LPT Raigarh
	LPT Rajhara Jharandili
	LPT Sakti
	VLPT Bijapur
	VLPT Jashpurnagar ^f

1	2
	VLPT Kondagaon
	VLPT Koylibeda
	VLPT Pakhanjore
	VLPT Pathalgaon
	VLPT Sarangarh
Daman and Diu	LPT Daman
Gujarat	LPT Ahwa
	LPT Ambaji
	LPT Amod
	LPT Bhabbar
	LPT Bharuch
	LPT Chhota Udaipur
	LPT Dandi
	LPT Dediapara
	LPT Deesa
	LPT Devgadhi-Baria
	LPT Dharampur
	LPT Dohad
	LPT Godhara
	LPT Ider
	LPT Jhagadia
	LPT Kevadia Colony
	LPT Kosamba
	LPT Lunawada
	LPT Mangrol (Surat)
	LPT Modasa
	LPT Navsari
	LPT Palanpur
	LPT Radhanpur
	LPT Rajpipla

1	2
	LPT Sanjeli
	LPT Shamlaji
	LPT Songarh
	LPT Surat
	LPT Tharad
	LPT Umargaon
	LPT Vadodara
	LPT Valsad
	LPT Vyara
	VLPT Kakrapar
	VLPT Netrang
	VLPT Sagwara
Himachal Pradesh	VLPT Bharmour
	VLPT Chamba
	VLPT Chauri Khas
	VLPT Holi
	VLPT Jahalma
	VLPT Kalpa
	VLPT Keylong
	VLPT Nichar
	VLPT Tissa
	VLPT Udaipur
Jharkhand	HPT Daltonganj
	HPT Ranchi
	HPT Ranchi (DD II)
	HPT Jamshedpur
	LPT Barharwa
	LPT Chaibasa
	LPT Dumka
	LPT Ghatshila

1	2
	LPT Gumla
	LPT Lohardaga
	LPT Mushabani
	LPT Noamundy
	LPT Saraikela
	VLPT Simdega
	VLPT Garhwa (DD II)
Karnataka	HPT Mangalore
	LPT Bantwal
	LPT Chikmagalur
	LPT Medikeri
	LPT Mudigere
	LPT Mysore
	LPT Puttur
	LPT Udipi
	VLPT Sulya
Kerala	HPT Trivandrum
	HPT Trivandrum (DD II)
	LPT Attappadi
	LPT Cannanore
	LPT Changanacherry
	LPT Idukki
	LPT Kalpetta
	LPT Malappuram
	LPT Pala
	LPT Palghat
	LPT Shoranur
	LPT Tellicherry
	LPT Thodupuzha
	LPT Cannanore (DD II)

1	2
	VLPT Devikolam
	VLPT Kanjirapalli
Madhya Pradesh	HPT Jabalpur
	HPT Jabalpur (DD II)
	LPT Alirajpur
	LPT Badwani
	LPT Balaghat
	LPT Betul
	LPT Bijaipur
	LPT Burhanpur
	LPT Chhindwara
	LPT Harda
	LPT Itarsi
	LPT Jaora
	LPT Jhabua
	LPT Kelaras
	LPT Khandwa
	LPT Khargaon
	LPT Kukshi
	LPT Malanjkhanda
	LPT Mandla
	LPT Multai
	LPT Murwara
	LPT Panchmarhi
	LPT Piparia
	LPT Ratlam
	LPT Seoni
	LPT Shahdol
	LPT Sheopur
	LPT Sidhi

1	2
	LPT Singrauli
	VLPT Parasia
	VLPT Singrauli
Maharashtra	HPT Pune
	LPT Achalpur
	LPT Aheri
	LPT Ahmednagar
	LPT Amalner
	LPT Amravati
	LPT Bhusawal
	LPT Brahmapuri
	LPT Chandrapur
	LPT Chandur
	LPT Daryapur
	LPT Dharmabad
	LPT Dhule
	LPT Diglur
	LPT Garhchiroli
	LPT Jalgaon
	LPT Kinwat
	LPT Malegaon
	LPT Manmad
	LPT Morshi
	LPT Nanded
	LPT Nandurbar
	LPT Nashik
	LPT Navapur
	LPT Pandharkawada
	LPT Pusad
	LPT Sangamner

1	2
	LPT Satana
	LPT Shahad
	LPT Shirpur
	LPT Sironcha
	LPT Umarkhed
	LPT Wani
	LPT Yavatmal
	VLPT Badlapur
	VLPT Bhokar
	VLPT Chikaldhara
	VLPT Chimur
	VLPT Junnar
	VLPT Kurkhera
	VLPT Pimpalner-Sakri
	VLPT Sindewahi
	VLPT Tivsa
Manipur	LPT Ukhrul
	VLPT Chandel
	VLPT Churachandpur
	VLPT Kangpokpi
	VLPT Moreh
	VLPT Senapati
Orissa	HPT Baleshwar
	HPT Bhawanipatna
	HPT Sambalpur
	HPT Sambalpur (DD II)
	LPT Anandpur
	LPT Baligurha
	LPT Bargarh
	LPT Baripada

1	2
	LPT Berhampur
	LPT Bhadrak
	LPT Bhanjanagar
	LPT Birmiritrapur
	LPT Bonai
	LPT Boudh
	LPT Brajrajnagar
	LPT Deogarh
	LPT G.Udaigiri
	LPT Jeypore
	LPT Joda
	LPT Kabisuryanagar
	LPT Karanjia
	LPT Keonjharagarh
	LPT Khariar
	LPT Koraput
	LPT Kotpad
	LPT Kuchinda
	LPT Malkangiri
	LPT Mohana
	LPT Navarangpur
	LPT Nuapara
	LPT Padampur
	LPT Padmapuram
	LPT Padua
	LPT Parlakhemundi
	LPT Phulbani
	LPT Rairangpur
	LPT Rajgangpur
	LPT Rayagada

1	2
	LPT Redhakhol
	LPT Rourkela
	LPT Simliguda
	LPT Sohela
	LPT Sundergarh
	LPT Umarkot
	LPT Baleshwar (DD II)
	LPT Baliapal (DD II)
	VLPT Bada Barbil
	VLPT Barpalli
	VLPT Chitrakonda
	VLPT Jayapatna
	VLPT Kalampur
	VLPT Kashipur
	VLPT Koksara
	VLPT Lanjigarh
	VLPT Machhkund
	VLPT Paikamal
	VLPT Simlipalgarh
	VLPT Subdega
	VLPT Thuamal Rampur
	VLPT Rourkela (DD II)
	Xser Sunabeda
Rajasthan	LPT Bansi
	LPT Banswara
	LPT Bari Sadri
	LPT Chittaurgarh
	LPT Dungarpur
	LPT Kesriaji
	LPT KushalGarh

1	2
	LPT MT.ABU
	LPT Nathdwara
	LPT Pratapgarh
	LPT Sagwara
	LPT Salumber
	LPT Sirohi
	LPT Udaipur
	LPT Vallabh Nagar
	VLPT Amet
	VLPT Bhim
	VLPT Deogarh
	VLPT Kotra
	VLPT Kumbhalgarh
	VLPT Rawatbhata
	VLPT Zawar Mines
Sikkim	HPT Gangtok
	VLPT Gangtok (DD II)
	VLPT Gyalshing
	VLPT Mangan
	VLPT Namchi
	VLPT Rangpo
	VLPT Singtam
Tamilnadu	LPT Arani
	LPT Arcot
	LPT Attur
	LPT Cheyyar
	LPT Chidambaram
	LPT Cuddalore
	LPT Denkanikotta
	LPT Dharmapuri

	1	2
	LPT	Gudiyatam
	LPT	Krishnagiri
	LPT	Neyveli
	LPT	Peranampet
	LPT	Salem
	LPT	Tindivanam
	LPT	Tiruchchirappalli
	LPT	Tirupattur
	LPT	Vaniyambadi
	LPT	Vellore
	LPT	Villupuram
	VLPT	Gingee
	VLPT	Vazapadi
Tripura	HPT	Agartala
	HPT	Agartala (DD II)
	LPT	Kailasahar
	LPT	Teliamura
	LPT	Kailasahar (DD II)
	VLPT	Dharmanagar
	Xser	Bellonia
Uttar Pradesh	LPT	Lakhimpur
West Bengal	HPT	Asansol
	HPT	Kurseong
	HPT	Murshidabad
	HPT	Asansol (DD II)
	HPT	Murshidabad (DD II)
	LPT	Alipurduar
	LPT	Balrampur
	LPT	Balurghat
	LPT	Bardhaman
	LPT	Bishnupur

	1	2
	LPT	Contai
	LPT	Darjiling
	LPT	Farakka
	LPT	Garhbeta
	LPT	Jhargram
	LPT	Kalimpong
	LPT	Kalna
	LPT	Kharagpur
	LPT	Maldah
	LPT	Medinipur
	LPT	Puruliya
	LPT	Rayna
	LPT	Shantiniketan
	LPT	Basanti (DD II)
	VLPT	Baghmandi
	VLPT	Egra
	VLPT	Jhalda

[English]

Quality of Goods for Export

4901. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K.PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have enforced stricter norms for export to maintain international quality standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the consignments returned due to poor quality during last one year;

(d) the losses incurred to exporters due to rejection of said consignments; and

(e) the other measures being taken to enforce the quality of goods being exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) In international business quality parameters are mostly decided by the buyers and sellers through mutual contracts determined by the type of demand prevailing in the export market. However the Government constantly encourages manufacturers and exporters to attain internationally accepted standards of quality for their products by extending support to trade and industry in promoting quality awareness and the concept of total quality management.

(c) and (d) The data relating to rejected consignments and losses incurred thereto is not maintained.

(e) The other measures taken to enforce quality of goods include encouraging State Governments in launching quality awareness programmes for small-scale and handicrafts sector, recognition given to manufacturers / processors who acquire ISO certification, promoting permission of branded products, encourage use of bar coding etc.

Slump In Profit of BHEL

4902. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether the profit of BHEL has slumped during 2000-2001 as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details of the profit and loss during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons for declining profit;

(d) whether the BHEL has not adhered to the austerity measures announced by the Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Turnover and Profit After Tax (PAT) during the last three years are as under:

(Rupees in crore)			
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Turnover	6795	6634	6348
PAT	545	599	313

(c) The main reason for this decline is one-time additional expenditure on account of settlement of wage revision for all the employees of the company w.e.f. 1.1.1997. General slow down of industrial growth in the country is also having an impact since major investment decisions in the power and industry sectors are getting deferred.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Bilateral Trade with Germany

4903. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's bilateral trade with Germany has crossed Rs. 20,000 crore up to December, 2000;

(b) if so, whether India's exports to Germany during 2001 is expected to reach Rs. 11,600 crore and imports Rs. 9,700 crore;

(c) if so, the extent to which it would be more compared to the previous year; and

(d) the steps being taken to further improve the Indo-German trade?

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. The Indo-German bilateral trade during April - December, 2000 amounted to Rs. 12,141 crores

(b) The Indo-German bilateral trade during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as follows :-

(in Rs. Crores)			
Year	India's export to Germany	India's imports from Germany	Total trade
1999-00	7510.31	7979.95	15490.26
2000-01	8658.21	7928.41	16586.62

Data Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata

Further, India's exports to Germany and imports from Germany during the first two months of the current financial year (April - May 2001), was of the order of Rs. 1,264 crores and Rs. 1,416 crores respectively.

(c) India's trade with Germany increased by 7.08% during 2000-2001 as compared to 1999-2000. During the same period, India's exports to Germany were 15.28% higher and imports were 0.65% lower. India's exports to Germany was lower by 15.84% during the period April-May 2001 as compared to April-May 2000. During the same period, India's imports from Germany increased by 7.60%

(d) The steps being taken by Government to improve the Indo-German bilateral trade include constant interaction with the European Union in order to address the different India-EU trade issues, facilities for participation in trade fairs, input for upgradation of quality, market study and facilitating trade / industry level interaction.

Setting up of Ceramic and Glass Industrial Complex

4904. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for setting up a large Ceramic and Glass Industrial Complex in Rajasthan from the State Government;

(b) whether the Government have ascertained the availability of raw material for such an industrial complex within the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof and status of the proposal as on date; and

(d) the likely time by which this proposal would be cleared?

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

(a) No Industrial Licence application from the Government of Rajasthan for setting up a large Ceramic and Industrial Complex in Rajasthan is pending with the Government.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Mumbai Urban Transport Project

4905. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has, for the second

time threatened to pull out of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the project for the first time found itself in crisis in 1997 following a similar conflict; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In March, 1997, the World Bank decided to drop the Mumbai Urban Development Project from its lending programme due to the inadequacy of specific actions by the concerned agencies. However, considering the importance of the project in the public interest, the project proposal has now been revived after suitable review and restructuring by the Government of India.

Assistance to Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai

4906. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide additional financial assistance to the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the Institute during each of the last three years and the performance of the Institute the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The Central Footwear and Training Institute, Chennai (CFTI) is an autonomous body under the administrative control of Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries (SSI and ARI). The Institute is receiving grants-in-aid for non-recurring expenditure and a portion of the recurring expenditure from Government. During the 9th Plan Period (1997-2002) a budget provision of Rs. 170 Lakhs has been made for CFTI, Chennai and for the Financial Year

2001-02 a provision of Rs. 30 Lakhs has been made under the Plan Head.

(c) The details of the funds allocated to the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai during last three years are as follows:

(In Rs. Lakhs)			
Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1998-99	10.00	19.50	29.50
1999-2000	60.00	13.40	73.40
2000-2001	69.75	No Non-Plan provision	69.75
Total	139.75	32.90	172.65

The performance of the Institute during the last three years is as follows:

Sl. Title of Course No.	Number of Trainees/trained/ Undergoing Training		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1. Two Years Diploma Course in Footwear Design and Production	66	68	50
2. One Year Diploma Course in Footwear Technology	—	—	27
3. Post Graduate Diploma Course in Footwear Technology	—	—	10
4. One Year Certificate Course in Footwear Technology	—	—	16
5. Short Term Courses	—	—	512

Cooperative Banks

4907. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make compulsory for all cooperative banks to ensure its deposit up to Rs. 1 lakh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many cooperative banks have not paid premium or not paying the same regularly;

(d) if so, the cooperative banks, who have not paid premium for current year and last year;

(e) the total number of their depositors and amount and loss to the depositors, bank-wise; and

(f) the regulatory system in RBI Cooperative Bank Division to monitor such Deposit Insurance Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per the provisions of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) Act, 1961, registration of banking companies and co-operative banks is required as insured banks. All eligible co-operative banks are required to be registered by the Corporation as insured banks. The Deposit Insurance Scheme of DICGC covers all types of deposits viz. current, savings, fixed, recurring, etc. excluding those deposits relating to all State, Central and Foreign Government, inter-bank deposits, deposits received outside India, Certificate of deposits, deposits taken as cash collaterals, deposits which are created by transferring subordinate liabilities at least six months prior to bank failure, etc. DICGC has reported that as on 30th June, 2001, 2418 co-operative banks are covered under the scheme.

(c) and (d) As per the report of DICGC, out of 2418 co-operative banks, 95 banks have defaulted in payment of premium regularly for consecutive three half-years and more, as on 30th June, 2001. The list of the co-operatives who have not paid the premium for the three half-years or more is given in the statement attached.

(e) Information regarding the bank-wise total number of depositors of the defaulting banks is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the table of the house.

(f) DICGC has reported that non-payment of premium by co-operative bank is followed up regularly by the Corporation with the defaulting banks and Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the respective States. In terms of provisions under DICGC Act, the defaulting bank is liable to pay to the Corporation interest on the amount of default at rate not exceeding eight per cent over and above the bank rate, as may be prescribed.

Statement

List of Co-operative Banks who have not paid the premium for the last three half-years or more as on 30th June, 2001

S. No.	State	Name of the Bank
1	2	3
1.	Assam	Sibsagar DCCB Ltd.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Srikakulam DCCB Ltd.
3.		Innespeta Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd.
4.		Jawahar Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd.
5.	Bihar	Ara CCB Ltd.
6.		National CCB Ltd.
7.		Begusarai CCB Ltd.
8.		Singhbhum CCB Ltd.
9.		Samastipur CCB Ltd.
10.		Chhapra CCB Ltd.
11.		Khagaria DCCB Ltd.
12.		Aurangabad CCB Ltd.
13.		Hazaribagh CCB Ltd.
14.		Siwan CCB Ltd.
15.		Giridih CCB Ltd.
16.		Navada CCB Ltd.
17.		Dumka CCB Ltd.
18.		Daltonganj CCB Ltd.
19.		Vaishali CCB Ltd.
20.		Madhepura Supaul CCB Ltd.
21.		Nalanda Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
22.		The Bihar Awam Co-op. Bank Ltd.
23.		The Peoples Co-op. Bank Ltd.
24.		Madhepura Urban Development Co-op. Bank Ltd.

1	2	3
25.		The Vaishali Sahakari Vikas Co-op. Bank Ltd.
26.		Begusarai Urban Development Co-op. Bank Ltd.
27.	Gujarat	Baroda Dist. Industrial Co-op. Bank Ltd.
28.		Ghogamba Vibhag Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd.
29.		Karamchari Co-op. Bank Ltd.
30.		Khedbrahma Nagarik Co-op. Bank Ltd.
31.		Shri Mahuva Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd.
32.		Navadeep Co-op. Bank Ltd.
33.		Porbandar Commercial Co-op. Bank Ltd.
34.		Santrampur Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
35.		Sevalia Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
36.		Shree Yugprabhav Co-op. Bank Ltd.
37.		Talod Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd.
38.		Waghodia Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
39.		Ahmedabad Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
40.		Una People Co-op Bank Ltd.
41.		Ahmedabad Mahila Co-op. Bank Ltd.
42.		Jambusar People Co-op. Bank Ltd.
43.	Haryana	Post and RMS Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
44.	Jammu and Kashmir	Baramulla CCB Ltd.
45.	Karnataka	Gulbarga DCCB Ltd.
46.		Kolar Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
47.		Mysore Co-op. Bank Ltd.
48.		Basavakalyan Pattana Sahakari Bank Ltd.

1	2	3
49.		Mysore University Co-op. Bank Ltd.
50.	Madhya Pradesh	Zilla Sahakari Kendriya Bank Ltd. (Sagar)
51.		Zilla Sahakari Kendriya Bank Ltd. (Mandala)
52.		Zilla Sahakari Bank Mayadit. (Dhar)
53.		Nagarik Sahakari Bank Mayadit. (Durg)
54.		Mahila Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd. Kharegaon
55.	Maharashtra	Anjangaon Nagari Saha Bank Ltd.
56.		Priyadarshani Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
57.		Sri RAM Sahakari Bank Ltd.
58.		Devyani Sahakari Bank Ltd.
59.		Shri Swamisamarth Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
60.	Manipur	Moirang Primary Co-op. Bank Ltd.
61.		Lumka Co-op. Bank Ltd.
62.	Orissa	Bhawani Patta CCB Ltd.
63.		Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd., Ganjam
64.	Punjab	Amritsar CCB Ltd.
65.		Jullandar CCB Ltd.
66.		Nawanshahar CCB Ltd.
67.		Hoshiarpur CCB Ltd.
68.		Moga CCB Ltd.
69.		Kurali Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
70.		Kapurthala CCB Ltd.
71.		Amritsar Municipal Employees Thrift and Credit Society Ltd.
72.	Rajasthan	Alwar Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
73.	Tamil Nadu	Manamadurai Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd.
74.		Sholinghur Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd.

1	2	3
75.		Shrirangam Co-op. Bank Ltd.
76.	Uttar Pradesh	Zila Sahakari Bank Ltd., Lucknow
77.		Sultanpur DCCB Ltd.
78.		Bijnor DCCB Ltd.
79.		Budaun Zilla Sahakari Bank Ltd.
80.		Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd., Allahabad
81.		Rani Laxmibai Co-op. Bank Ltd.
82.		Mirzapur Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.
83.		Mechanical Dept. Co-op. Society Ltd.
84.		Ordinance Equipment Factory Prambhik Sahakari Bank Ltd.
85.		Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd., Tehatri
86.		Nagar Saha Bank Ltd., Maharajganj
87.	West Bengal	Murshidabad CCB Ltd.
88.		Darjeeling DCCB Ltd.
89.		Ranaghat People Co-op. Bank Ltd.
90.		A.V.B. Employees Co-op. Bank Ltd.
91.		West Bengal Government Press Emp. Co-op. Bank
92.		East and North East Frontier Rly. Co-op. Bank
93.		G.K.W. (Calcutta) Works Emp. Bank Ltd.
94.		Samata Co-op. Bank Ltd.
95.		Kolkata Mahila Co-op. Bank Ltd.

Seizure of Narcotics

4908. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi has become a major drug transit point;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) recovered two tonnes of hashish meant to be

shipped to the USA value about Rs. 120 crore recently;

(d) if so, the details of the seizure;

(e) whether some police officials arrested for drug trafficking during the last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) steps taken to tackle this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) :

(a) and (b) The proximity to the International border and good air-linkage with other countries make Delhi vulnerable to drug trafficking, which is a clandestine activity.

(c) and (d) The officers of Central Excise, Moradabad, on the basis of tip off from Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, seized 2095.5 kg of Hashish at Moradabad on 7th/8th August, 2001. They also seized a mini bus used for transport of this consignment from Nepal to Moradabad, a packing machine used for packing of drugs and three persons involved in this case.

(e) and (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(g) 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 India-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs and also training dog handlers of Myanmar.

Disinvestment of Iron Ore Company

4909. SHRI S.D.N.R.WADIYAR : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a final decision on the disinvestment of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL);

(b) whether the opinion of the State government of Karnataka has taken into consideration before taking a final decision;

(c) If so, the reaction of the State Government thereto; and

(d) the present status of the disinvestment 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) No, Sir

(b) to (d) The final decision for disinvestment in KIOCL would be taken after due consultations with all concerned.

[Translation]

Co-operative Banks

4910. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the co-operative banks are coercing small investors into depositing their savings in their banks;

(b) if so, whether the small investors lose their savings deposited in these banks for want of proper monitoring system in place;

(c) if so, the number of such banks brought to the notice of the Government during the last three years in which the small investors had to run around these banks to get their savings back; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government against such banks and the measures taken to safeguard the interests of the investors?

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

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Cancellation of Licences by SEBI

4911. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of share brokers whose licenses have been cancelled by the SEBI during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for suspension/cancellation of licenses;

(c) the details of share brokers, who have been permitted to start their work again; and

(d) the reasons thereof?

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.

Onion Prices

4912. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether onion prices are rising in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, details thereof and exact increase during the last two months;

(c) whether the rise in price is due to hoarding of onion by blackmarketeers;

(d) if so, action taken against these blackmarketeers;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide onion at reasonable prices in domestic market; and

(f) the steps taken to stop export of onion till prices became stable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The open market retail price of onion indicate an increasing trend from the first week of August, 2001. Open market retail prices of onion, between June 18, 2001 and August 17, 2001 in 18 State capitals show increases ranging from 0.50 p. per kg. to Rs. 4 per kg.

(c) and (d) No information has been received regarding hoarding of onion.

(e) and (f) Exports of onion have been placed under quantitative restrictions. Export quantities are being released only after assessing availability, crop prospects and prevailing domestic prices. For the year 2001-02, Government have permitted exports of 5 lakh tones of onions. Out of this, a quantity of 2.5 lakh tones has been released for exports upto August 31, 2001. After observing the price rise in the first week of August, 2001, exports of onion have been initially suspended for 15 days on August, 7, 2001. The wholesale and retail prices of onions have stabilised thereafter. Open market prices are also being watched.

Foreign Tour of Officials

4913. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued guidelines for austerity and economy measures to all the Department/Ministries of Government of India in 1998;

(b) if so, whether the expenditure of officials of CWC on foreign travels increased from Rs. 37,885 in 1996-97 to Rs. 29,26,311 in the year 1998-99;

(c) if so, whether this has further increased in the recent years;

(d) if so, the details of the total expenditure incurred by CWC on foreign tour during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 so far; and

(e) the steps taken or guidelines issued to CWC to curtail its expenditure on foreign tour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Finance had issued guidelines on Expenditure Management, Fiscal Prudence and Austerity vide O.M. No. F. 19(1) E-II(A)/98 dated 20th August, 1998.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Expenditure has rather decreased drastically in the recent years. The details of the total expenditure incurred by CWC on foreign tours during 2000-2001 and 2001-2001 so far are as under:

Year	Amount
2000-2001	Rs. 1,70,718/-
2001-2002	-Nil-

(e) Further instructions were issued by the Ministry of Finance on 24.09.2000 on Expenditure Management, Fiscal Prudence and Austerity which are also applicable to all the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) including CWC. Consequent upon having followed Government's guidelines on expenditure management, expenditure on foreign tours/trainings has been reduced drastically over the year.

Expert Panel to Increase Revenue

4914. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan has set up Expert Panel to suggest ways to improve its revenues;

(b) if so, the details of all such expert panels set up by Doordarshan in the last two years;

(c) whether they have submitted their reports;

(d) whether the Panels have recommended dropping of all the socially oriented programmes in Doordarshan; and

(e) if so, the details of such recommendations and the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Export Committee on Rural Credit

4915. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD had constituted an Expert Committee on Rural Credit;

(b) the terms of reference of this Expert Committee;

(c) whether any report has been submitted by this Committee;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee, and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it had constituted an Expert Committee on Rural Credit. The terms of reference of the Committee are given below:

- (i) Structure of the rural credit system and the roles of its major components;
- (ii) Role of the tiers in co-operative credit system in the context of the need to reduce the cost of credit delivery;
- (iii) Development policies and support system for effective rural credit;
- (iv) Strategy to meet gaps in supply of rural credit in relation to development needs of regions, sectors and client groups;
- (v) Procedural simplifications for borrower friendly effective rural credit;
- (vi) administration of financial sector reforms like deregulation of interest rates, application of prudential norms and application of flexible credit instruments;
- (vii) Legal framework for recovery and its adequacy;
- (viii) Any other matter incidental thereto.

(c) to (e) The Committee has submitted its report to NABARD on 23rd July, 2001. The main recommendations of the Committee relate to credit policy and strengthening of the financial system, changes in rural economy, financing of assetless poor, financing of small farmers and tenants, financing dry land agriculture, crop production, rural non-farm activities, strengthening the credit delivery system, strengthening Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, integration of long and short-term structures, relaxation of norms of refinance for co-operatives, continued involvement in rural lending, reduction of interest rates on Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) deposits, dealing with low credit-deposit ratios, re-capitalisation and reforms in regional rural banks, improving lending, support from State Governments, improving recoveries and disbursements, etc. The recommendations of the Committee are being examined by NABARD.

[Translation]

Tax Evasion on Import of Steel

4916. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem "Steel Ke Aayat Par Chennai Main Ho Rahi Kaararon Ke Shulk Chori", appearing in New Delhi edition of 'Jansatta' dated May 24, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have got this matter inquired or propose to get it enquired;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent evasion of import duty on Steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (d) Yes Sir. On receipt of specific intelligence, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had started investigation in April, 2001 into the alleged under-invoicing and mis-declaration of the nature of the goods while importing certain varieties of CRGO electrical steel sheets/strips/coils/cuttings. 9 containers were seized by DRI on 3rd May, 2001 and detailed investigations have been initiated by DRI and Custom House jointly against imports by same and some other parties allegedly attempting evasion of duty. Similar offences in respect of 11 other importers also have come to light which are also under investigation.

(e) Intelligence agencies of the Department and Custom Houses are already advised to be extra vigilant to detect any mis-declaration of the description of imported goods and their values. Directorate of Valuation also compiles valuation bulletins containing international and contemporaneous prevalent import prices declared at different Customs Houses and these are being circulated to field formations for guidance to guard against attempted under-invoicing.

[English]

Conditions Imposed by USA for Foreign Direct Investment

4917. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "US Resolve Enron row to attract fresh FDI flows" appearing the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 22, 2001;

(b) if so, whether USA has asked the Indian Government to resolve the Enron row to attract fresh foreign direct investment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of other suggestions / conditions made by the USA in this directions; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Indian Government to resolve the Enron row so that FDI inflows into the country does not get affected?

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

(b) No such communication has been received from the US Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Government of Maharashtra have set up a Negotiating Committee to carry out discussions with promoters of the Dabhol power project and other concerned parties regarding reduction of the tariff and sale of power generated by the project. The Central Government is committed to facilitating an early solution to the issues concerned and has appointed its nominee on the said Negotiating Committee.

Losses by HMT

4918. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether HMT Limited and its subsidiaries have decided to cut losses in the first year of rehabilitation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the HMT has been split into four companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps the Government propose to take to reduce its losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Under the turnaround plan for HMT, financial restructuring involving conversion of Government loan into equity and waiver of interest thereon has brought down the interest burden on the company. Part of the cash infusion has been utilized to retire high cost debts. Manpower rationalization by way of introduction of VRS has brought down manpower cost. Three subsidiaries have been formed under HMT Limited, the holding company viz. HMT Machine Tools Limited, HMT Watches Limited and HMT Chinara Watches Limited which will bring more focused business approach. During 2000-2001 HMT, the holding company made a profit of Rs. 24.41 crore against a loss of Rs. 3.52 crore in the previous year. Its newly formed subsidiaries viz. HMT Machine Tools Limited, HMT Watches Limited and HMT Chinara Watches Limited have incurred losses of Rs. 96.17 crore, Rs. 59.18 crore and Rs. 7.95 crore respectively in 2000-2001 against the losses of Rs. 88.76 crore, Rs. 168.89 crore and Rs. 35.74 crore respectively in the previous year.

Marketing of Retail Products of MNC's

4919. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether multinational companies have sought permission of the Government to undertake retail marketing of their products in India;
- (b) if so, the names of the companies, who have sought permission and the products they intend to market;
- (c) whether the Government have considered the request of these companies;

- (d) if so, the decision taken thereon;
- (e) the manner in which the country would be benefited by such retail marketing by multinational companies; and
- (f) the steps proposed by the Government to cope with the adverse impact of retail marketing by MNCs, on indigenous industry, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (f) The present Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, laid down in 1997 does not permit FDI in domestic retail trading in India and accordingly no such proposals are now being approved. However, prior to 1997, approvals had been given to two companies permitting FDI in retail trading, viz., M/s. Nanz Food Products in 1992 for wholesale trade, retail trade, storage and warehousing; and M/s. Spencer and Company for food super markets (1995) and healthcare retail outlets (1996).

Export from Madras Export Processing Zone

4920. SHRI P.D.ELANGOVAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have any special schemes to promote and enhance exports of various products from the Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have allocated any funds to improve the MEPZ, Chennai;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated disbursed and spent in the last three years for developing the infrastructure facilities at MEPZ Chennai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) In order to promote and enhance exports, the entitlements offered to units in Export Processing Zones include exemption from Custom/Excise duty on import/procurement of capital goods, raw materials etc., exemption from Income-Tax under Section 10A of the Income-

Tax Act, reimbursement of Central Sales Tax, upgraded infrastructure and simplified procedures.

(c) to (e) For upgradation of infrastructure facilities such as construction of Standard Design Factory buildings in Madras Export Processing Zone, the funds allocated and utilised during the last three years are as under:-

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1998-1999	365.13
1999-2000	400.00
2000-2001	400.00

Unutilized Foreign Aid

4921. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the external loan taken by the Government during each of the last three years, institution-wise;

(b) the projects for which these loans were taken by the Government, State-wise;

(c) whether a large amount of this loan is lying unutilised;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) Whether the Government have availed market loan at a higher rate of interest, where soft external loans remained unutilised;

(f) if so, the reason therefore;

(g) the commitment charges paid by the Government for the unutilised foreign loan; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to utilise the foreign aid timely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The following external loan was taken by the Government from the Institutions indicated:

	(US \$ in Thousands)		
	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
	1	2	3
IBRD	688000	190000	1353270

	1	2	3
IDA	854900	804498	879580
ADB	0	500000	525000
IFAD	22900	22900	0

(b) The information is given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) Foreign aid is largely project tied and therefore, utilisation of the sanctioned aid for any project is spread over the project implementation period. As a result, there would be some unutilised amount at any point of time, reflecting the assistance in pipeline, which will be used as project implementation take place.

The pace of utilisation is sometimes affected due to inadequate provisioning of funds by the implementing agency, procurement and contracting delays in land acquisition and other project specific issues.

(e) No, Sir. Government have not availed market loan at a higher rate of interest for schemes where soft external loans remained unutilized on account of reasons explained above in reply to parts (c) & (d).

(f) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (e)

(g) Government paid the following Commitment charges:

	Rs. in Crores
1998-99	47.59
1999-2001	41.78
2000-02	40.23

(h) Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilization are ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects in the budgets of State and Central Government streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation of flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings, quarterly review with Executing Agencies, setting up of a Project Management Unit in the Department of Economic Affairs, strengthening of Project Monitoring Units in some States and Central Ministries, appointment of Nodal Officers for the States and regular review of projects with respect to quality at entry.

Statement

External Loans Taken by Government during last three years

					Amount in Thousands
S. No.	Loan Title	Agreement Date	Donor	Amount (US \$)	State(s)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1998-99					
1.	National Agriculture Technology	22.6.98	IBRD	96800	BR, JRK, GUJ, KTK MP, CGR, UP
2.	UP Diversified Agriculture Support	30.7.98	IBRD	79900	UP
3.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring	4.2.99	IBRD	301300	AP
4.	Andhra Pradesh Power Sector	5.3.99	IBRD	210000	AP
5.	Maharashtra Health System Development	14.1.99	IDA	134000	MAH
6.	UP Sodic Land-II	4.2.99	IDA	194100	UP
7.	AP Economic Restructuring	4.2.99	IDA	241900	AP
8.	National Agriculture Technology	22.6.98	IDA	100000	BR, JRK, GUJ, KTK MP, CTG, UP
9.	UP Diversified Agriculture Support	30.7.98	IDA	50000	UP
10.	Kerala Forestry	13.8.98	IDA	39000	KER
11.	Orissa Health Systems Development	13.8.98	IDA	76400	OR
12.	Rural Women's Development	14.9.98	IDA	19500	BR
13.	North Eastern Region Community Resources Mgmt	23.2.99	IFAD	22900	ASM, MGH, MNPR
1999-2000					
1.	Integrated Watershed Development 'Hills'	14.7.99	IDA	50184	UP, PB, J and K, HP, HAR
2.	National HIV/AIDS Control	6.7.99	IDA	194754	RAJ
3.	UP.III DPEP	6.7.99	IDA	177660	UP
4.	Integrated Watershed Development	14.7.99	IBRD	85000	J and K, KTK
5.	Second Tamil Nadu Urban Development	14.7.99	IBRD	105000	TN
6.	Rajasthan District Primary Education	14.9.99	IDA	81900	RAJ
7.	Women and Child Development	23.2.00	IDA	300000	KER, RAJ

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Jharkhand Chhatisgarh Tribal Development	25.6.99	IFAD	22900	JRK, CTG
9.	Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development	1.12.99	ADB	250000	RAJ
10.	MP Public Resource Management Programme	14.12.99	ADB	250000	MP
2000-01					
1.	UP Fiscal Reforms and Public Sector Restructuring	16.5.00	IBRD	126270	UP
2.	UP Power Sector Restructuring	16.5.00	IBRD	150000	UP
3.	Gujarat Highway	18.10.00	IBRD	381000	GUJ
4.	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring	27.2.01	IBRD	180000	RAJ
5.	UP Fiscal Reforms and Public Sector Restructuring	16.5.00	IDA	125000	UP
6.	UP Health Systems Development Prog.	19.5.00	IDA	110000	UP
7.	AP District Poverty Initiatives	12.5.00	IDA	111000	AP
8.	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives	19.5.00	IDA	100480	RAJ
9.	MP District Poverty Initiatives	5.12.00	IDA	110100	MP
10.	Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	4.1.00	IDA	65500	KER
11.	Gujarat Power Sector Development	14.12.00	ADB	150000	GUJ
12.	Gujarat Power Sector Development	14.12.00	ADB	200000	GUJ
13.	Karnataka Urban Dev. and Coastal Environment Mgmt.	19.5.00	ADB	175000	KTK

Agreement with UNDP

4922. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government and the UNDP have entered into an agreement called a "Country Co-operation Framework-I";

(b) if so, the details of this agreement;

(c) whether any financial assistance from the UNDP is sought for this programme or agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the basic thrust of this agreement;

(f) whether this agreement is already under implementation; and

(g) if so, the extent of implementation alongwith the results witnessed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. UNDP Country Office in New Delhi in close co-operation with the Government of India have formulated the Country Co-operation Framework - I (CCF-I) for India in 1997. CCF-I was approved by the UNDP executive Board in March, 1997.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The UNDP will provide US \$ 88.49 million to support various programmes under Country Co-operation Framework - I in the period from 1997 - 2002.

(e) Country Co-operation Framework - I focuses on growth with equity and has poverty alleviation and

sustainable human development as the primary concerns. The Country Co-operation Framework - I goals are to be achieved through mutually agreed programmes.

(f) Yes Sir.

(g) 110 Sub-programmes has been formulated under Country Co-operation Framework- I and are under various stages of implementation under the National Execution Modality. An amount of US \$ 29.01 million has been spent on the implementation of Country Co-operation Framework - I till date.

[Translation]

Assistance through LIC and GIC to States

4923. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the state-wise details of financial assistance provided by Life Insurance Corporation of India and General Insurance Corporation and other financial institutions during each of the last three years for undertaking water supply and sewage disposal projects in various State especially in Backward, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes predominant areas of Maharashtra;

(b) the State-wise details of amount sanctioned and released LIC, GIC and other FIs separately during above period; and

(c) the State-wise number of persons benefited therefrom especially in Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes areas?

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 in due course.

[English]

CII's Views on DTH

4924. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Confederation of Industries (CII) has criticised the guidelines on Direct-to-home services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) After the issue of guidelines for Direct-to-Home Broadcasting Services on 15th March, 2001, this Ministry has not received any suggestions/representations from Confederation of Indian Industry. However, prior to the finalisation of the Guidelines, CII had suggested inter-alia, that it should not be made mandatory for DTH operators to set up their own earth stations and that Indian earth station companies with a maximum of 49% foreign investment be allowed to offer uplinking facilities to licensed DTH operators. Acceptance of the suggestion was not considered feasible as it implied deviation from the stipulations regarding ceilings on foreign holding and, holdings by broadcasting companies and/or cable network companies.

FDI in Banks

4925. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has clarified that the 49 percent Foreign Direct Investment for banks would include investments by Foreign Institutional Investors also;

(b) if so, whether this clarification was necessary after the Government took a decision that 49 percent FDI in the banking sector on an automatic route;

(c) whether this will be subject to the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) if so, what extent the FDI for banks has been welcomed by all countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Government of India has, in May, 2001, permitted foreign direct investment (FDI) upto 49% in the banking sector from all sources under the automatic route, subject to conformity with guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time.

(d) This is a recent decision and is expected to be welcome by all countries.

Lending Rates for Housing

4926. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fresh guidelines have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India to the banks and financial institutions regarding the prime lending rates for housing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised guidelines provide for a uniform rate of interest to be charged on housing loans by the financial institutions;

(d) whether the Government also propose to extend the facility of housing loan to persons above the age of 65 years in view of the increase in the longevity of the life span; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, in terms of RBI guidelines dated 19.04.2001 banks have been allowed to grant advances to housing finance intermediary agencies for on lending to ultimate beneficiaries at an interest rate without reference to their prevailing Prime Lending Rate.

(c) to (e) No, Sir.

Financial Assistance to Orissa

4927. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of assistance made available to Orissa during the last the three years and in the current year, till date in the form of various Central grants-in-aid special assistance and loan;

(b) whether the Government of Orissa faced some economic crisis;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government of Orissa utilises the grants-in-aid provided by the Union Government for purposes other than for which they are provided;

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

(f) the steps taken to ensure the appropriate utilisation of Central funds; and

(g) the amount of funds for which the utilisation certificate is yet to be submitted by the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Plan Assistance is released to the State Government as Block Grants and Block Loans and grants-in-aid are provided to the State as per the award of the Finance Commission. Details of release to State during the last three years are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)				
Year	Block Loans	Block Grants	Grants-in-aid as per Finance Commission Award	Total
1998-99	850.18	349.96	84.91	1285.05
1999-00	860.17	362.61	1035.28	2258.06
2000-01	938.52	515.93	504.80	1959.25
2001-02 (so far)	378.77	162.33	271.85	812.95

(b) and (c) Some financial difficulties have been experienced by the Government of Orissa on account of rising non-plan expenditure and also temporary mismatch between receipts and expenditure.

(d) to (g) Release of grants-in-aid under the award of the Finance Commission are regulated in accordance with the respective guidelines. State Governments are responsible to the State Legislature for proper utilisation of the funds through the State Audit Report prepared by the CAG of India under Article 151(2) of the Constitution of India. However, if there is a shortfall in plan Expenditure as against Approved/Revised Plan Outlay, a proportionate cut is made from the Central Assistance released to the State.

Flood Relief Fund

4928. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to discrepancy in the Government's formula for allotment of flood relief fund to Bihar and Jharkhand upon bifurcation Bihar will be given less fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for raised formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The apportionment of share of Calamity Relief Fund between the States of Bihar and Jharkhand has been done in accordance with the principles contained in Section 46(1) of the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000.

CRB Mutual Fund Scam

4929. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SEBI executive director is facing a regular departmental inquiry for showing favours to CRB Mutual Fund, which later collapsed leaving millions of investors in the lurch;

(b) if so, whether the CBI and CVC have completed the inquiry on CRB Scam;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the persons found guilty and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that based on investigations by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has ordered a regular departmental enquiry against Executive Director, SEBI for recommending the registration of CRB Mutual Fund. CVC has also named an Enquiry Officer in the case.

Allocation of Foodgrains as Cattle Fodder

4930. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have agreed with the proposal of Karnataka State to allocate foodgrains for use as cattle fodder to tide over the fodder scarcity in the drought affected areas of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to release feed category food-grains, free of cost, to the State of Karnataka to tide over fodder scarcity in the drought affected areas of the State.

State Finance Commission

4931. COL.(RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the some State Governments particularly from Rajasthan to amend the Constitution to facilitate the constitution of State Finance Commission before the expiry of five year period so that its recommendations are available before the Central Finance Commission for finalises its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by which the Government propose to bring forth the Bill on this subject?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to amend the Constitution (Article 243-I) relating to constitution of State Finance Commissions.

Ex-Super Bazar Chief In CBI Net

4932. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "Ex-Super Bazar Chief in CBI net for favouring builder" appearing in Hindustan Times, dated August 2, 2001;

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

(c) the action taken against the former Chairman of Super Bazar in this regard?

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

(b) Preliminary Enquiry conducted by CBI has revealed that Sh. S. S. Dhuri, the then Chairman, and Sh. J.S. Sidhu, the then Chief Engineer Super Bazar, without obtaining the approval of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Board of Directors decided to construct the "Sant Longowal Tower" on collaboration basis. Sh.S.S. Dhuri and Sh. J.S. Sidhu flouted all the rules and regulations in engaging M/s V.V Construction Co. for this project. For the purpose of facilitating the award of contract to the persons of his choice, Sh. S.S. Dhuri had managed the appointment of Major J.S. Sidhu as Chief Engineer of Super Bazar in utter violation of the rules. Sh. H.S. Josh, the then Member of the Board of Directors of Super Bazar, also had a role in the appointment of Sh. J.S. Sidhu in Super Bazar.

(c) CBI has registered a Regular Case (R.C.) against Sh. S.S. Dhuri, former Chairman, Sh. H.S. Josh, Member, Board of Directors and Sh. J.S. Sidhu, former Chief Engineer, Super Bazar and others for attempt to commit criminal misconduct to cause benefit to M/s. V.V. Construction Co. and others and also against Sh. S.S. Dhuri and Sh. J.S. Sidhu in appointment of Sh. J.S. Sidhu as Chief Engineer-cum-Chief Security Officer by abuse of official position.

Amendment of FCI Act, 1964

4933. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the Food Corporation of India Retired Employees Welfare Association, public representatives of Maharashtra, regarding amendment of Food Corporation Act, 1964 in order to make a provision for fresh option to the employees of the erstwhile department of food, transferred to FCI to opt for liberalised pensionary benefits of Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The association has requested for one more option not only to the retired employees but also to those who are in service and had opted for Central Government pensionary terminal benefits by making amendment to the Food Corporations Act, 1964.

(c) In 1990, the FCI Employees Union had filed a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court seeking its direction to give further option to these employees for switching over to pensionary scheme instead of the earlier option for CPF Scheme. The Hon'ble Supreme Court did not find any merit in the petition and had observed that "The petitioners are not entitled to the benefit of pension since they had already exercised their option for CPF Scheme. There is no merit in the Writ Petition, it is accordingly dismissed." In the light of the above, the request cannot be acceded to.

Crude Palm Oil Trade with Indonesia

4934. SHRI G.S.BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Indonesia have decided to explore and develop crude palm oil trade for the mutual benefit of both countries;

(b) is so, whether the recent increase in duties of crude palm oil beyond those of other vegetable oils is to be directed at Indonesia;

(c) if so, whether the Indonesian Government has agreed to discuss this issue with the Indian Government; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the agreement between the two countries on trade has been signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exists between Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India

(MMTC) and KADIN (Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry) on Counter Trade with a view to further promoting trade between the two countries and crude palm oil is one of the several items listed in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Export of Sugar

4935. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

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

(a) whether export of Indian Sugar has suffered a set back with Yemen and Iraq rejecting two cargoes because of poor quality;

(b) whether the Government have enquired into this;

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry and the steps taken to ensure good quality of Indian sugar;

(d) the names of other countries which have cancelled the import of sugar on the same basis; and

(e) the losses suffered by the Food Corporation of India/Union Government in this deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) The export of sugar is being undertaken by various sugar mills/exporters as per the requirement of the foreign buyers based on their commercial judgements. This Ministry has no information about the rejection of cargoes of sugar by Iraq and Yemen or any other country.

(e) As the exports have not been undertaken by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) or Union Government, the question of loss on account of rejection of the cargoes, if any, by the FCI of the Union Government does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation of SCs/STs

4936. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of news readers and announcers working with the Akashvani Kendra, Delhi, Samachar Seva Prabhat (News Services Division) and National Channel on regular and adhoc basis;

(b) whether the reservation policy is being followed for their selection;

(c) if so, the number of regular and adhoc news readers and announcers selected during the last three years as per reservation policy;

(d) if not, the reasons for not implementing the reservation policy; and

(e) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) (a) 19 Announcers at All India Radio, New Delhi; 4 Announcers at National Channel, New Delhi and 82 Newsreader-cum-Translators at News Services Division, New Delhi are working on regular basis. There are no Announcers or Newsreader-cum-Translators working at these stations on ad-hoc basis.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No recruitment in the category of Announcers has been made during the last three years. However, one post of Newsreader-cum-Translator has been filled up by appointing a person belonging to SC category.

(d) and (e) Don not arise.

[English]

Taxation on Life Insurance Sector

4937. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the experts group on taxation of Life Insurance Sector have submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the decision taken/proposed to be taken on each of the recommendations of the Committee?

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

Expert Committee on Taxation of Life Insurance Sector constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri V.U. Eradi has submitted its report.

(b) The Committee has, inter alia, recommended that -

- (i) the basic method for determination of taxable income in respect of the life insurance business should be the 'valuation surplus' method;
- (ii) the 'policyholders' share of surplus and the shareholders' profits (including the shareholders' share of surplus) must be separately assessed to tax;
- (iii) the shareholder' assessable income should be fully taxed at the applicable rate of tax; and
- (iv) the policyholders' assessable income should be taxed at a comparatively lower rate.

(c) and (d) The report of the Committee is under examination.

Export of Sugar

4938. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

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

(a) whether India has become largest producer and consumer of sugar in the world;

(b) if so, whether the sugar production in India has increased from 120.47 lakh tonnes in 1991 to 181.41 lakh tonnes in 1999-2000; and

(c) if so, the total quantity of sugar exported during the last year and the current year, so far country-wise in comparison to the target fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) India was the producer as well as consumer of sugar during the sugar season 1999-2000 (Oct.-Sept.).

(b) The sugar production in the country has increased from 120.47 lakh tonnes in 1990-91 to 181.93 lakh tonnes in 1999-2000, which was provisionally estimated earlier at 181.41 lakh tonnes.

(c) As per the latest available information from the trade circles, beginning October'2000 till 23.7.2001, a quantity of about 8.11 lakh tonnes of sugar (Provisional) has been physically exported. Further exports are under progress. The country-wise details are given in the statement attached.

Statement

Country-wise Exports of Sugar from October 2000 to 23.07.2001 as Per the Trade Circles (Provisional)

Sl.No.	Name of the Country	Quantity in MTs
1.	Bangladesh	162500.0
2.	Sri Lanka	94587.0
3.	Pakistan	367530.0
4.	Yemen	22500.0
5.	Afghanistan	9120.0
6.	Canada	105.0
7.	EEC Quota	10017.0
8.	Indonesia	80586.0
9.	Dubai	3600.0
10.	Portugal	10460.0
11.	Singapore	710.0
12.	Iraq	12500.0
13.	China	18200.0
14.	Vietnam	5000.0
15.	Iran	2000.0
16.	Malay	4000.0
17.	Malaysia	1612.5
18.	Others	6000.0
Total		811027.5

Rejection of Wheat by Iraq

4939. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the STC for a detailed report on the rejection of two-shiploads of wheat exported to Iraq by private Indian companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to see that the private companies do not resort to such actions;

(d) whether any guidelines in this regard have been issued by the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) An official delegation visited Iraq to find out the cause of rejection of four consignments of wheat sent by three private parties. CMD, STC was one of the members of the delegation. The delegation found that the Indian wheat was not standard and conformed to the CODEX Standard. As per the International CODEX standards, foreign matter in the grain is permissible upto 2% out of which 1.5% consists of organic matter, such as chaff, weed seeds, other edible and inedible grains, etc. and the balance 0.5% inorganic foreign matter, such as stones, sand dust etc. Quality specification prescribed in the Iraqi contract provided for the presence of foreign matter upto 2%. There was no further break-up of this 2% into organic and inorganic foreign matter. The Indian delegation that visited Iraq was, however, informed by Iraqi authorities that, according to their definition, they do not count sand particles under foreign matter. In other words, inorganic matter, which is a part and parcel of foreign matter like sand, stones, pebbles, clay particles etc. are not accepted under this category. The explanation given by them was that only organic foreign matter (like chaff, glumes, weed seeds and other edible and inedible grains) are taken under this category. The exporters, did not know this position. They presumed that as in the CODEX standards, the 2% foreign matter would include upto 0.5% inorganic matter. The delegation was further informed that the Iraqi flour mills were not having adequate facilities for separation of inorganic matter because of the problem of spare parts required for maintenance of such machines owing to UN sanctions. The delegation was further informed that Iraq had also rejected the wheat sourced from various other countries on the same grounds. As the

consignment conformed to the CODEX standard, it was accepted in Dubai.

(c) to (e) On receipt of reports of rejection of wheat consignments from India, FCI has been directed to ensure that no further consignment of wheat is sent to Iraq, unless it has been cleaned to meet the specifications 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 exports take place.

FDI in Infrastructure

4940. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step for the development of infrastructure in some States with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI);

(b) whether any steps have been taken in that regard in the State of Karnataka during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the investment made on the development of infrastructure in that State during the above period ?

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

(a) Government have taken far reaching measures for inviting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Infrastructure Sector. Most of the Infrastructure sectors like Power, Refinery, Roads and Highways, Ports and Harbours are placed under Automatic Route requiring no prior Government approval and allowing FDI upto 100% Investment policy in sectors like Telecommunication, Civil Aviation, Metro Railways and Township Development have also been liberalised.

(b) The above liberalised policy is applicable to the State of Karnataka also. Karnataka attracts fourth largest amount of FDI in the country.

(c) The approved FDI in Infrastructure Sector in Karnataka from January' 1998 to December' 2000 is Rs. 4808.14 crores which is 41.31% of the total FDI approved for Karnataka.

Letter Written to Embassies

4941. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued any letter to the embassies asking them to keep the Centre informed before they initiate any dialogue with the State Governments;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have also issued guidelines to State Governments to inform the Centre, while initiating any dialogue with foreign institution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance is the nodal administrative Department for all dealings with external funding agencies. It is in this capacity that this Department has addressed the concerned external funding agencies/foreign embassies on the one hand and State Governments/Central Ministries and Departments on the other, regarding the appropriate procedures to be adopted for the following :

- (i) All policy and project proposals involving external aid; and
- (ii) Sponsoring Government officials for attending conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. abroad at the invitation of foreign countries/donor agencies.

These guidelines have been issued with a view to ensuring coherence of policy and procedure consistent with constitutional provisions. Some State Governments have acknowledged these guidelines.

[Translation]

Irregularities in M/s Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Ltd.

4942. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints of gross irregularities being committed by M/s Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the above irregularities being committed by the said company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some complaints alleging gross irregularities in recruitment and purchases, misuse of authority by the management and misappropriation of funds have been received.

(c) A case has been registered with the CBI, Patna in the matter of misappropriation of funds. The Chief Vigilance Officer of the company is inquiring into other complaints.

Transmitter Capacity in Jaipur

4943. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the places in the country where telecasting centres have been set up along with the capacity and range of transmitters installed therein;

(b) whether the programmes telecast from Jaipur centre are very weak due to obstruction of the hills and is not viewable in greater Jaipur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Locations of the 1212 TV transmitters, presently functioning under the Doordarshan Network, are given in the statement. The varying powers of the different types of transmitters in the Doordarshan Network are as under:-

- (i) High Power Transmitters (HPT): 10 Kilowatts (KW), 5 KW, and 1 KW.
- (ii) Low Power Transmitters (LPT): 500 Watts (W), 300 W, and 100 W
- (iii) Very Low Power Transmitters (VLPT): 50 W and 10 W.

(iv) Transposers (Xser): 10 Watts

An HPT of 10 KW power provides primary coverage within a range of about 70 KMs and an HPT of 5 KW or 1 KW capacity has a primary coverage range of about 40 KMs. The primary coverage range of an LPT is about 15-20 KMs and that of a VLPT/Transposer is about 6-8 KMs.

(b) and (c) Both the HPTs (DDI and DDII) at Jaipur are reported to be functioning normally, providing satisfactory coverage within their coverage zones. However, due to local terrain conditions, there are certain shadow pockets. In order to overcome this problem, Doordarshan has set up Transposers at two such places, viz. Lalsot and Jamua Ramgarh.

Statement

*Doordarshan Transmitters
(as on 15.08.2001)*

State/UT

Andhra Pradesh

HPTs (10)

Anantapur

Nandyal

Vijaywada

Hyderabad

Rajamundry

Vishakhapatnam

Kurnool

Tirupati

Hyderabad (DD 2)

Vijaywada (DD-2)

LPTs (67)

Achampet

Kadiri

Nizamabad

Adilabad

Kakinada

Ongole

Adoni

Kamareddy

Produttur

Alagadda

Karimnagar

Rajampet

Amalapuram

Kavali

Ramagundam

Banswada

Khammam

Siddipet

Belampally

Kosgi

Srikakulam

Bhadrachalam

Kothagudam

Tamblapalli

Bhainsa

Kuppam

Tandur

Bheemadolu

L.R. Pally

Tekkali

Bheemavaram

Macherla

Tirupati

Bobbili

Madnapalli

Tuni

Chittoor

Mandassa

Udaigiri

Cuddapah

Markapur

Veldanda

Darsi

Medak

Vinukonda

Devarkonda

Mehboobnagar

Vishakhapatnam

Emmiganur

Nagar Karnul

Wanaparthy

Gadwal	Nalgonda	Warangal
Giddalur	Narayanpet	Yellandu
Guntakal	Narsaraopet	Atmakur (DD 2)
Hindupur	Nellore	Madhira (DD 2)
Jodcherla	Nirmal	Pedanandipadu (DD 2)
Jagtial		
VLPTs (6)		
Chintapalli	Paderu	Seetampeta
Icchapuram	Parwatipuram	Srisalem
Transposer (1)		
Vijaywada		

Arunachal Pradesh **

HPT (1)		
Itanagar		
LPTs (4)		
Miao	Tezu	
Passighat	Itanagar (DD 2)	
VLPTs (41)		
Along	Hayuliang	Raga
Anini	Hunli	Roing
Baririjo	Inkiyong	Rupa
Basar	Kalaktang	Sagalee
Boleng	Keying	Sangram
Bomdilla	Khimyong	Seijosa
Changlang	Khonsa	Seppa
Chayangtajo	Liromoba	Taliha
Daporizo	Mariyang	Tawang
Darak	Mechuka	Tirbin
Dirang	Mukto	Tuting
Geku	Nampong	Yomcha
Gensi	Namsai	Ziro
Hawai	Palin	
Transposer (1)		
Sankhiview		

Assam *****HPTs(5)**

Dibrugarh

Silchar

Silchar (DD-2)

Guwahati

Guwahati (DD-2)

LPTs (21)

Bokakhat

Haflong

Nagaon

Bongaigaon

Hatsinghmari

Nazira

Dhubri

Hojai

North Lakhimpur

Diphu

Jorhat

Sonari

Goalpara

Kokrajhar

Tezpur

Gohpur

Lumding

Tinsukhia

Golaghat

Margheritta

Dibrugarh (DD-2)

VLPT (1)

Digboi

Transposer (1)

Guwahati

Bihar**HPTs(5)**

Kathiar

Patna

Muzaffarpur (DD-2)

Muzaffarpur

Patna (DD-2)

LPTs (29)

Aurangabad

Jamui

Rosera

Begusarai

Khagaria

Saharsa

Bettiah

Lakhisarai

Sasaram

Bhagalpur

Madhepura

Sheikhpura

Buxar

Madhubani

Sikandra

Darbhanga

Motihari

Simri Bakhtiarapur

Daudnagar

Munger

Sitamarhi

Forbesganj

Nawada

Siwan

Gaya

Phoolparas

Supaul

Gopalganj

Raxaul

Chhatisgarh**HPTs(3)**

Jagdalpur

Raipur

Raipur (DD-2)

LPTs(14)

Ambikapur

Bailadilla

Bilaspur

Champa

Dungargarh

VLPTs (7)

Bijapur

Jashpurnagar

Kondagaon

Kanker

Korba

Kurasia

Manindergarh

Narayanpur

Pendra Road

Raigarh

Rajhara Jharandili

Sakti

Koylibeda

Pakhanjore

Pathalgaon

Sarangarh

Goa****HPTs(2)**

Panaji

Panaji (DD 2)

Gujarat****HPTs (5)**

Ahmedabad

BHuj

Dwarka

Rajkot

Ahmedabad (DD 2)

LPTs (61)

Ahwa

Ambaji

Amod

Amreli

Bantva

Bhabbar

Bharuch

Bhavnagar

Botad

Chhota Udaipur

Dandi

Dediapara

Deesa

Devgad Baria

Dhamdhukha

Dharangadhra

Dhari

Idar

Jamjodhpur

Jamnagar

Jhagadia

Junagarh

Kevadia Colony

Khambalia

Khambat

Kosamba

Limbdia

Lunawada

Mahuva

Mangrol (Junagarh)

Mangrol (Surat)

Mehsana

Modassa

Morvi

Patan

Porbander

Punandro

Radhanpur

Rajpipla

Rajula

Rapar

Sanjeli

Shamlaji

Songarh

Surat

Surendranagar

Tharad

Umergaon

Una

Vadodara

Valsad

Dharmpur

Navsari

Veraval

Dhorajee

Palanpur

Vyara

Dohad

Palitana

Gandhinagar (DD 2)

Godhara

VLPTs (3)

Kakrapar

Netrang

Sagwara

Haryana ****LPTs (16)**

Bhiwani

Rewari

Mahendergarh

Charkhi Dadri

Rohtak

Karnal (DD 2)

Hissar

Sirsa

Yamunanagar (DD 2)

Jind

Tohana

Mandi Dabali (DD 2)

Meham

Firozpur Jhirka

Bhiwani (DD 2)

Neraul

Himachal Pradesh**HPTs (3)**

Kasauli

Shimla

Shimla (DD-2)

LPTs (9)

Bilaspur

Manali

Sunder Nagar

Dharamshala

Mandi

Sujanpur

Kullu

Rampur

Mandi (DD-2)

VLPTs (32)

Ajhu Fort

Hamirpur

Parwanoo

Ashapuri

Holi

Pirbhayanu

Baijnath

Jahalma

Rohru

Bandla

Jogindernagar

Sarkaghat

Banjar

Kalpa

Shivbadar

Bharmour

Karsog

Thanedar

Bharthi

Keylong

Tissa

Chamba

Khara Pathar

Udaipur

Chaupal

Kotkhai

Una

Chauri Khas

Nichar

Veer

Diar

Palampur

Transposers (2)

Rajgarh

Solan

Jharkhand**HPTs(4)**

Daltonganj

Ranchi

Jamshedpur

Ranchi (DD-2)

LPTs (16)

Barharwa

Ghatshila

Kodarma

Bokaro

Giridh

Lohardaga

Chaibasa

Godda

Mushabani

Deoghar

Gumla

Noamundy

Dhanbad

Hazaribag

Saraikella

Dumka

VLPT (2)

Simdega

Garhwa (DD2)

Transposer (1)

Ramgarh Hill

Jammu and Kashmir****HPTs (9)**

Jammu

Poonch

Jammu (DD-2)

Kathua

Srinagar

Poonch (DD-2) (int.)

Leh

Srinagar (DD-2)

Srinagar (Kashir Ch.)

LPTs (16)

Anantnag

Kargil

Rajouri

Awantipura

Naushera

Riasi

Bandipura

Poonch

Wusan

Baramulla

Quazigund

Kathua (DD 2)

Chowkibal

Rajdhanipass

Leh (DD 2)

Darhal

VLPTs (55)

Abran

Hanle

Pahalgam

Ardh Kumari

Hira Nagar

Panamik

Ashmuqam

Kalakot

Ramban

Baramulla

Kangan

Ramkot

Siachin (Basecamp)

Khalsi

Ringdom Gompa

Batalik

Kilhotran

Samba

Batot

Kishtwar

Sankoo

Bhadarwa	Kotranka	Shopian
Bilawar	Kud	Sonmarg
Bodh Khurboo	Kupwara	Tangste
Budhal	Lolab Valley	Thanamandi
Chumathang	Machil	Timsogam
Chushul	Mahore	Tithwal
Dah	Manjakot	Tregam
Daskit	Mendhar	Turtok
Doda	Mulbekh	Udhampur
Domchuk	Nayema	Uri
Dras	Nowgam	
Gurez	padam	
Transposer (1)		
Surankot		

Karnataka **

HPTs (7)		
Bangalore	Shimoga	Mangalore
Dharwad	Hassan	Bangalore (DD 2)
Gulbarga		
LPTs (43)		
Arsikere	Gadag Betgari	Mudigere
Athani	Gangawati	Mysore
Bagalkot	Gokak	Pavagada
Bantwal	Harphanhalli	Puttur
Basava Kalyan	Hattihal	Raichur
Belgaum	Hiriyur	Ramadurg
Bellary	Holenarsipur	Ranibennur
Bhatkal	Hosdurg	Sagar
Bidar	Hospet	Sandur
Bijapur	Hungond	Sirsi
Chickmaglur	Karwar	Tiptur
Chikodi	Kolar Gold Field	Tumkur
Chitradurga	Kumta	Udipi
Dandeli	Mandya	

Davanagre

Medikeri

VLPTs (4)

Badami

Sakleshpur

Madhugiri

Sulya

Kerala ****HPTs (5)**

Calicut

Trivandrum

Cochin (DD-2)

Cochin

Trivandrum (DD-2)

LPTs (21)

Adoor

Kanangarh

Punalur

Attapadi

Kasargod

Shoranur

Cannanore

Kayamkulam

Tellicherry

Changanacherry

Mallapuram

Thodupuzha

Chengannur

Pala

Trichur

Idukki

Palghat

Calicut (DD 2)

Kalpetta

Pathanamthitta

Cannanore (DD-2)

VLPTs (2)

Devikolam

Kanjirapalli

Madhya Pradesh ****HPTs (7)**

Bhopal

Jabalpur

Indore (DD-2)

Gwalior

Bhopal (DD-2)

Jabalpur (DD-2)

Indore

LPTs (62)

Agar

Itarsi

Panchmarhi

Alirajpur

Jaora

Pannā

Ashoknagar

Jhabua

Pipria

Bada Malhera

Karaira

Raghogarh

Badwani

Kelas

Rajgarh

Balaghat

Khandwa

Ratlam

Betul

Khargaon

Rewa

Bhander

Khurai

Sagar

Bhanpura

Kukadeshwar

Satna

Bhind	Kukshi	Seoni
Bijaipur	Kurwai	Shahdol
Burhanpur	Lahar	Shajapur
Chanderi	Maihar	Sheopur
Chhatrapur	Malanjkhanda	Shivpuri
Chhindwara	Mandla	Sidhi
Damoh	Mandsaur	Singrauli
Datia	Multai	Sironj
Gadarwara	Murwara	Sitamau
Garot	Nagda	Tikamgarh
Guna	Narsimhapur	Ujjain
Harda	Neemuch	
VLPTs (4)		
Budhni	Parasia	
Diamond Mining Proj.	Singrauli	

Maharashtra **

HPTs (7)		
Ambajogai	Mumbai (DD 2)	Pune
Aurangabad	Nagpur	Nagpur (DD-2)
Mumbai		
LPTs (79)		
Achalpur	Hinganghat	Pandharpur
Acot	Hingoli	Parbani
Aheri	Ichalkaranji	Patan (Satara)
Ahmednagar	Jalgaon	Phaltan
Akalkot	Jalna	Pulgaon
Akluj	Kankauli	Pusad
Akola	Karad	Rajapur
Amalner	Karanja	Ratnagiri
Amravati	Khamgaon	Rissod
Arvi	Khanapur	Sangamner
Barshi	Khopoli	Sangli
Bhandara (DD 2)	Kinwat	Satana
Bhusawal	Kohapur	Satara

Bid	Mahad	Shahad
Brahampuri	Malegaon	Shirpur
Buldana	Mangal Wedha	Sholapur
Chandrapur	Mangaon	Sironcha
Chandur	Manmad	Tumsar
Chikhli	Mehekar	Umerga
Chiplun	Mhasle	Umerkhed
Daryapur	Morshi	Wani
Deorukh	Nanded	Wardha
Dharmabad	Nandurbar	Washim
Dhule	Nasik	Yavatmal
Diglur	Navapur	Ambajogai (DD2)
Garhchirol	Osmanabad	
Gondia	Pandharkawada	

VLPTs (19)

Arjuni	Junnar	Malkapur
Ashti	Karanja (Wardha)	Malwan
Badlapur	Karjat	Pimpalner-sakri
Bhokar	Khed	Sakoli
Chikaldhara	Koregaon	Sindewahi
Chimur	Kurkheda	Tiwsa

Wai

Transposer (1)

Aurangabad

Manipur ****HPT (1)**

Imphal

LPTs (2)

Ukhrul

Imphal (DD 2)

VLPTs (6)

Chandel

Kangpokpi

Senapati

Churachandpur

Moreh

Jiribam (DD 2)

Meghalaya ****HPTs (3)**

Shillong

Tura

Tura (DD-2)

LPTs (3)

Jowai

Williamnagar

Shillong (DD 2)

VLPTs (2)

Baghmara

Nongstoin

Transposer (1)

Shillong

Mizoram ****HPTs (2)**

Aizwal

Lunglei

LPT (2)

Aizwal (DD 2)

Lunglei (DD 2)

VLPTs (2)

Champhai

Saiha

Transposer (1)

Aizwal

Nagaland ****HPTs (2)**

Kohima

Mokokchung

LPTs (4)

Dimapur

Kohima (DD 2)

Tuensang

Mokokchung (DD-2)

VLPTs (6)

Mon

Satakha

Wokha

Phek

Shamtori

Zunheboto

Transposer (1)

Kohima

Orissa **.'**HPTs (6)**

Baleshwar

Cuttack

Cuttack (DD 2)

Bhawanipatna

Sambalpur

Sambalpur (DD 2)

LPTs (67)

Anandpur

Jeypore

Paradeep

Angul

Joda

Parlakhemundi

Athamalik

Kabisuryanagar

Patnagarh

Balangir	Kamakhyanagar	Phulbani
Baliapal (DD 2)	Karanjia	Puri
Baligurha	Kendrapara (DD 2)	Rairangpur
Banapur	Keonjhar	Rajgangapur
Bargarh	Khandpara	Rajranapur
Baripada	Khariar	Rayagada
Berhampur	Koraput	Redhakhol
Bhadrak	Kotpad	Rourkela
Bhanjanagar	Kuchinda	Simlguda
Bhuban	Lutherpunk	Sohela
Birmittapur	Malkangiri	Sonepur
Bonai	Mohana	Sundergarh
Boudh	Narsinghpur	Talcher
Brajrajnagar	Navrangpur	Umerkote
Dasrathpur	Nuapara	Bhubaneshwar (DD 2)
Deogarh	Padampur	Dhenkanal (DD2)
Dhenkanal	Padmapuram	Dudharkot (DD 2)
Durgapur	Padua	Tirthal (DD 2)
G.Udaigiri	Pallahara	Baleshwar (DD 2)
Gondiya		
VLPTs (19)		
Aul	Koksara	Simlipalgarh
Bada Barbil	Lanjigarh	Sukinda
Barapalli	Machhkund	Thoumal Rampur
Chitrakonda	Nagchi	Rourkela (dd 2)
Jayapatna	Nayagarh	Lalitgiri (DD-2)
Kalampur	Paikamal	
Kashipur	Sabdega	
Transposer (1)		
Sunabeda		
HPTs (4)		
Amritsar	Jalandhar	
Bhatinda	Fazilka (Int.)	

Punjab **

LPTs (6)

Abohar

Gurdaspur

Patiala

Firozpur

Pathankot

Jalandhar (DD-2)

Transposer (1)

Talwara

Rajasthan ****HPTs (8)**

Barmer (Int.)

Jaisalmer

Jaipur (DD-2)

Bundi

Jodhpur

Jodhpur (DD-2)

Jaipur

Ajmer (int.)

LPTs (66)

Alwar

Navalgarh

Phalodi

Anupgarh

Taranagar

Pilani

Bansi

Gangapur (S.M. Pur)

Pratapgarh

Banswara

Hanumangarh

Raisinghnagar

Baran

Hindaun

Rajgarh (Churu)

Bari Sadri

Jaisalmer

Ratangarh

Barmer

Jalore

Rawatsar

Basava

Jhalawar

Sagwara

Beawar

Jhunjhun

Salumber

Bhadra

Karanpur

Sardarshahr

Bharatpur

Karauli

Sawaimadhopur

Bhilwara

Kesriaji

Shahpura

Bikaner

Khetri

Sikar

Chirawa

Kotputli

Sirohi

*

Chittaurgarh

Vallabh Nagar

Sridungargarh

Churu

Mount Abu

Sujargarh

Deeg

Nagaur

Suratgarh

Bali

Nathdwara

Tonk

Nagar

Nimaj

Udaipur

Dungarpur

Nohar

Kishnagarh-Vas (Alwar)

Ganganagar

Nokha

Makrana

Kushalgarh

Pali

Kota (DD 2)

VLPT (18)

Amet	Gangapur	Rajgarh (Alwar)
Andhi	Kotra	Rawatbhata
Bhim	Kumbhalgarh	Sikrai
Chaumahla	Laxmangarh	Tibi
Deopgrah	Mandalgarh	Viratnagar
Fatehpur	Neem Ka Thana	Zawar Mines

Transposers (2)

Jamua Ramgarh	Lalsot
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Sikkim ****HPTs (1)**

Gangtok

LPT (1)

Gangtok (DD 2)

VLPTs (5)

Gyalshing	Namchi	Singtam
Mangan	Rangpo	

Tamilnadu ****HPTs (6)**

Chennai	Rameshwaram	Chennai (Podigai Channel)
Kodaikanal	Chennai (DD 2)	Kumbakonam (int.)

LPTs (40)

Arani	Nagarcoil	Thiruvaiyaru
Arcot	Nattam	Tindivanam
Attur	Denkanikotta	Tiruchendūr
Cheyyar	Peranampet	Tiruchirapalli
Coimbatore	Chidambaram	Tirunelveli
Coonoor	Vandavasi	Tirupattur
Courtalam	Neyveli	Tiruvannamalai
Cuddalore	Pattukottai	Tuticorin
Dharmapuri	Pudukottai	Udagamandalam
Gudiyatam	Rajapalayam	Udumalpet
Krishnagiri	Salem	Vaniyambadi

Marthandam

Shankarankovil

Vellore

Mayuram

Thanjavur

Villupuram

Nagapattinam

VLPTs (5)

Valliur

Vaza Padi

Mettupalayam

Valparai

Gingee

Transposers (2)

Dindigul

Kanchipuram

HPT (2)

Agartala

Agartala (DD-2)

LPTs (3)

Kailasahar

Teliamura

Kailasahar (DD-2)

VLPT (1)

Dharma Nagar

Transposer (1)

Bellonia

Tripura **

Uttar Pradesh **

HPTs (14)

Agra

Lucknow

Varanasi (DD-2)

Allahabad

Mau

Agra (DD-2)

Bareilly

Varanasi

Gorakhpur (DD-2)

Gorakhpur

Lucknow (DD 2)

Banda

Kanpur

Allahabad (DD-2)

LPTs (59)

Akbarpur

Hardoi

Puranpur

Aligarh

Jagdishpur

Rae Bareli

Amroha

Jhansi

Rampur

Aithdama

Karwi

Rath

Auraiya

Kasganj

Rudauli

Bahraich

Kosi

Sambal

Ballia

Lakhimpur

Shahjahanpur

Balrampur

Lalganj (Rae Bareilly)

Sikanderpur

Basti

Lalitpur

Sitapur

Uttranchal	Chhibramau	Mahoba	Sultanpur
	Deoria	Mahrni	Talbehat
	Dudhinagar	Mainpuri	Thirwa
	Etah	Mau Ranipur	Azamgarh (DD 2)
	Etawah	Mohammadabad	Kanpur (DD 2)
	Faizabad	Moradabad	Lalganj (Pratapgarh) (DD 2)
	Farrukhabad	Nanpara	Mathura (DD 2)
	Fatehpur	Naugarh	Mau (DD 2)
	Ganj Dundwara	Obra	Rampur (DD 2)
	Gauriganj	Orai	Rasra (DD 2)
	Gonda	Pilibhit	
	VLPTs (4)		
	Khufia Nangal	Mankapur	
	Manikpur	Thakurdwara (DD 2)	
	Transposers (1)		
	Churk		
	HPTs (2)		
	Mussoorie	Mussoorie (DD-2)	
	LPTs (13)		
	Champawat	Kashipur	New Tehri
	Dak Pathar	Kotdwar	Pauri
	Haldwani	Naini Danda	Pithoragarh
	Haridwar	Nainital	Tanakpur
	Kalagarh		
	VLPTs (29)		
	Almora	Ghandyal	Okhimath
	Badrinath	Gopeshwar	Pokhri
	Bageshwar	Joshimath	Pratapnagar
	Basot	Kaljikkhal	Rajgrahi
	Bhatiari	Karan Prayag	Ranikhet
	Chaukhatia	Kausani	Ruderprayag
	Devprayag	Maneshwar	Saahiya
	Dharchula	Munsiari	Tharali

Didihat	Nandprayag	Uttarakashi
Gajja	Naugaonkhal	
Transposers (2)		
Mussoorie	Srinagar	

West Bengal **

HPTs (9)		
Asansol	Kurseong	Calcutta (DD 2)
Calcutta	Murshidabad	Asansol (DD-2)
Krishnanagar (int.)	Murshidabad (DD-2)	Calcutta (Bangla channel)
LPTs (21)		
Alipurduar	Darjeeling	Maldah
Balrampur	Farakka	Medinipur
Balurghat	Garhbeta	Puruliya
Bardhaman	Jhargram	Ranaghat
Bishnupur	Kalimpong	Ryna
Contai	Kalna	Shantiniketan
Cooch Bihar	Kharagpur	Basanti (DD 2)
VLPTs (3)		
Egra	Jhalda	Baghmandi

A and N Islands **

LPTs (3)		
Car Nicobar	Port Blair	Port Blair (DD 2)
VLPTs (10)		
Baratang	Havelock	Mayabunder
Campbel Bay	Hutbay	Nancowry
Diglipur	Katchal	Rangat
Great Nicobar		

Chandigarh **

LPTs (2)	
Chandigarh	Chandigarh (DD 2)

Dadra and Nagar Haveli

LPT (1)
Silvassa

Daman and Diu ****LPTs (2)**

Daman

Diu

Delhi ****HPTs (2)**

Delhi

Delhi (DD2)

LPTs (2)

Delhi (Lok Sabha)

Delhi (Rajya Sabha)

Lakshadweep ****LPT (1)**

Kavaratti

VLPTs (9)

Agatti

Chetlat

Kilton

Amini

Kadmat

Minicoy

Andrott

Kalpeni

Kavaratti (DD 2)

Pondicherry ****LPTs (3)**

Karaikal

Pondicherry

Pondicherry (DD-2)

VLPTs (2)

Mahe

Yanam

*[English]***Financial Crisis faced
by Orissa**

4944. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the State Government of Orissa has been facing a serious financial crisis due to successive flood in that State; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to rescue the State Government from the financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Orissa's finances have deteriorated over the past few years on account of its revenue realisation falling consistently short of its committed expenditure and rising non-plan expenditure including that on calamity relief.

(b) To meet the immediate requirements of relief a sum of Rs. 100 crores (adhoc basis) was released under the National Calamity Contingency Fund. This is in addition to Rs. 86.21 crores of the Calamity Relief Fund which is Government of India's contribution for 2001-02. Temporary mismatches between the receipts and expenditures of the State, are bridged by a combination of feasible releases from the Centre.

**Private Placement and Preferential
Allotment of Shares**

4945. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the private placement and preferential allotment of shares;

(b) how the premium is collected and arrived on such issues;

(c) the guidelines issued in this regard by SEBI;

(d) what was the previous provision before SEBI came into existence;

(e) whether small investors have lost huge amount due to misusing of this route by the unscrupulous promoters; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

National Commodity Exchange

4946. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up National Commodity Exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have offered all possible help for setting up of the proposed Exchange at Hyderabad;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken a decision in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Core Group, a Consortium of National Stock Exchange, ICICI, the Mahindras and Punjab State Warehousing Corporation were given in-principle approval by the Government in July, 2000, to establish the National Commodity Exchange. Due to delay by the promoter Consortium the National Commodity Exchange has not become operational so far.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Commodity Exchanges (including National Commodity Exchange), are not Government organizations. They are constituted by willing private bodies/persons on voluntary basis and registered under Companies Act. Central Government acts as facilitator.

Recovery of Guarantee Fees

4947. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the extant instructions of the Union Government, Ministries/Departments of the Government are required to levy guarantee fee at the prescribed rate for the guarantee issued;

(b) if so, the value of guarantees issued by Ministries/Departments of the Government during the last three years;

(c) the amount of guarantee fee collected on these guarantees;

(d) whether the Government has failed to collect guarantee fee in many cases;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps Government has taken to recover the guarantee fee?

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

(b) During the last 3 years, guaranteed amount outstanding as on 31st March each year was as under:

Year	(Rs. crore)
1998	73,877.00
1999	74,606.12
2000	83,954.28

(c) The amount of guarantee fee collected during the last 3 years was as follows:

Year	(Rs. crore)
1997-1998	220.70
1998-1999	320.35
1999-2000	280.07

(d) to (f) Data regarding actual collection of guarantee fee in individual cases is not centrally maintained. Guarantees are, however, not extended unless specified fees for the prior period has been paid.

**Ban on Import of Rice
by Bangladesh**

4948. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

- (a) whether the imports of rice from India has been banned by Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the extent to which it would affect the Indian exports; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the crisis arising out of this Bangladesh's decision?

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) to (d) Do not arise.

Export of Wheat

4949. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India has urged the Government to exempt established exporters from the conditions imposed by Food Corporation of India for participation in wheat export tenders to realise the full benefits of the new policy that allows the private trade to directly buy wheat from FCI;
- (b) if so, whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has also submitted detailed suggestions in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government are examining these suggestions;
- (e) whether the Union Government have implemented the suggestions of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) The suggestions of ASSOCHAM are:-

- (i) To abolish the tender system and allow exporters to buy wheat and rice at a fixed price.
- (ii) To simplify rules and procedure.
- (iii) FCI to supply good quality cleaned wheat for export.
- (iv) To strengthen FCI's procurement system-FCI to insist upon strict quality controls while procuring wheat and rice from the farmers.

(d) to (f) FCI has been permitted to offer wheat for export at Rs. 4200/- PMT, raw rice at Rs. 5650/- PMT and parboiled rice at Rs. 6000/- PMT. The rules and procedures are laid down by FCI keeping in view the operational requirements for facilitating exports so as to ensure that wheat and rice meant for export are actually exported. In the opinion of FCI, furnishing of Bank Guarantee is necessary in order to arrest diversion of stocks. The exporters are permitted to identify and choose their stock for export. FCI procures rice and wheat as per the uniform specifications prescribed by the Government.

CVC Suggestions on Black Money

4950. SHRI G.S. BASAVRAJ :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Vigilance Commissioner has suggested that the Government could consider a three-phased integrated approach to get rid of black money substantially in the country;
- (b) if so, whether he has recommended number of measures in this regard;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have considered these suggestions; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to implement them to weed out black money as suggested by the Central Vigilance Commissioner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) The suggestions made by the Central Vigilance Commis-

sioner for a three-phased integrated approach to get rid of black money substantially in the country have been considered during the pre-budget exercise for Budget, 2001 and the decision of the Government has been reflected in the provisions of the Finance Bill, 2001.

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2942 DT. 10.8.2001
RE: CONSUMER WELFARE FUND, BIHAR**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : In part (c) of the Question, information on the number of non-Governmental Organizations to which assistance has been provided from this fund, State-wise, was asked. In reply to this part of the Question, information was given in respect of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, in the Annexure, inadvertently, including those organizations which now come within the State of Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh and Uttaranchal, respectively.

I beg to lay on the table of the House on 24.8.2001 a copy of the correct Annexure to the unstarred question no. 2942.

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-Government Organizations to which assistance has been provided from this fund is given in Annexure.

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

*Number of Non-Government Organizations that
received Financial Assistance from
Consumer Welfare Fund*

State/UT	No. of NGOs
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	74
Arunachal Pradesh	—
Assam	1
Bihar	30
Jharkhand	2
A and N Islands	—
Chandigarh	3
D and N Haveli	—
Daman and Diu	—
Delhi	35
Goa	—
Gujarat	15
Haryana	4
Himachal Pradesh	5
J and K	2
Karnataka	18
Kerala	8
Madhya Pradesh	11

1	2
Chhattisgarh	1
Maharashtra	7
Manipur	6
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	1
Orissa	61
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	18
Sikkim	—
Tamil Nadu	62
Uttar Pradesh	74
Uttaranchal	2
West Bengal	13
Total	456

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2977 DT. 10.8.2001
RE: CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : In part (c) and (d) of the Question seeking information on number/details of consumer organizations presently functioning in Bihar and the organizations of Bihar that have received financial assistance from the Consumer Welfare Fund, information was inadvertently also included in respect of 10 Consumer Organisations which now come within Jharkhand State.

I beg to lay on the table of the House on 24.8.2001 a copy of the correct reply and Annexure-A & B to the unstarred question no. 2977.

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 20 Voluntary Consumer Organizations (VCOs) presently functioning in Bihar. A list of these organizations is at Annexure A.

(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 at Annexure B.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Annexure-A

*List of Voluntary Consumer Organizations
Presently Functioning in Bihar*

1. President,
Bihar Pradesh Upbhokta Sewa Sangh,
Trishul Mandir Lane, Purani Bazar,
Muzzafarpur, Bihar - 842 001.
2. President,
Mahila Upbhokta Sewa Sangh,
Gopaldas Sangat,
Prabhat Cinema Road,
Muzzafarpur, Bihar.

3. President,
Bihar Rajya Consumer Federation,
Chhatth Bhavan, Dakshini Mandiri,
Patna, Bihar - 800 001.
4. President,
Bihar Rajya Upabhokta Sangh.
24-C, Kankar Bagh Colony,
Patna, Bihar - 800 020.
5. President,
National Consumer Union for Legal Association
Shimla Bhavan,
Pashchimi Lohani,
Patna, Bihar 8000 003.
6. President,
Katihar District Upabhokta Sangramme Sangh,
Mangal Bazar, Bara Chowk,
Katihar, Bihar.
7. President,
Kosi Division Consumer Protection Organization,
Nootan Press, Katihar,
Bihar - 854 105.
8. President,
Gramin Upbhokta Sagram Gram Mankari Ismil,
Post Ladorpatti,
Muzzafarpur, Bihar.
9. President,
Manila Upabhokta Sewa Sangh,
C-27, Punaichak,
Patna, Bihar.
10. President,
Priti Mahila Sahkari Upbhokta Bhandar,
Abulas Lane, Machhuatoli,
Patna, Bihar.
11. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Gram Panchayat,
Ramresaghar, Buxar, Bihar.
12. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Binyapur Prachand Gram, Chesanchhapra,
Post Pukhari, Saran,
Bihar
13. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Paru Prachand, Village and Post,
Debaria Kothi,
Muzzafarpur, Bihar.

14. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Shahsupan Mohalla, Naka No. 5,
Darbhanga, Bihar.
15. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Gram and Post Sidhuvedi,
Purnia, Bihar.
16. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Tola, Katihar, Bihar.
17. President,
Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat,
Satyamkutir, Palisaria and Marg,
Pilwarpur, Mungher, Bihar.
18. President,
Centre for Consumer Study and Research,
Rental Flat No. 344,
Kankar Bagh Colony, Patna,
Bihar.
19. President,
Jila Upbhokta Sangh Rohtas,
3/57, Karansaria, Post Sasaram,
District Rohtash, Bihar - 821 115.
20. President,
Upbhokta Sanrakshan Sansthan,
Gram - Gopalpur (Purantola)
Post - Gopalpur (Purantola)
Post Mathar, District Navada, Bihar.

*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	2	3	4
1.	Rural Ladies Welfare Society, Village-Dharampur, Post-Nikashi, Via-Pindharuch, Distt. Darabhanga,	1998-99	27,000

1	2	3	4
2.	Jan Jagaran Samiti, Yarpur, N.C. Ghose Lane, Near - Kailash Bhawan, M.O. - Yarpur, Post-G.P.O., Patna-8000001,	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 P.O.-Ramna, Dist. 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, Sutihar, 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

12.01 hrs.

[Translation]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Director General (Akashvani) and Director General (Doordarshan) (Recruitment) Regulations, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F.No. N-10/4/2000-PB Cell in Gazettee of India dated the 5th July, 2001, under section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4040/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4041/2001]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the HMT Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4042/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4043/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the State Bank of India Employees' Pension Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. CDO/PM/SPL/1244 in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2001 under sub-section (4) of section 50 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4044/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. SBD No. 2/2001 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2001 making certain amendments to State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur/Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/Patiala/Saurashtra/Travancore Officers Service Regulation, 1979 under sub-section (4) of section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Bank) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4045/2001]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of the section 19 of the Banking Companies Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :-

- (i) The Vijaya Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. F.PER:IRD:974:2001 in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2001.
- (ii) The Central Bank of India Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. F.CO:PRS:LEGAL:MISC:—2869-A 3:SAK:01-02;234 in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4046/2001]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:-

- (i) The Income Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No.

S.O. 179 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) The Income Tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 311 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) The Income Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 386 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iv) The Income Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 387 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) The Income Tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 388 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vi) The Income Tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 389 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vii) The Income Tax (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 702 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (viii) The Income Tax (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 703 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ix) The Income Tax (Seventeenth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 744 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4047/2001]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 385 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2001 notifying the profession of information technology for the purposes of the Income Tax Act, 1961 issued under sub-section (1) of Section 44AA of the said Act.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4048/2001]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 582 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt gold/silver/platinum and its findings/mountings/solders from the whole of the duty of customs and additional duty leviable thereon when imported into India under Replenishment Licence under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4049/2001]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of the section of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956:-

- (i) The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 415 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2001.
- (ii) G.S.R. 559 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 2001 making certain amendments in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) (Appeal to Securities Appellate Tribunal) Rules, 2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4050/2001]

- (8) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 558 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 2001 making certain amendments in the Depositories (Appeal to Securities Appellate Tribunal) Rules, 2000, under Section 27 of the Depositories Act, 1996.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4051/2001]

- (9) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 560 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in

Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 2001 making certain amendments in the Securities Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 2000 under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1991.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4052/2001]

- (10) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India — Union Government (Civil) — (No. 3 of 2001) Performance Appraisals for the year ended the 31st March, 2000, under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4053/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Tobacco Board Act 1975:-

- (i) S.O. 15(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2001 authorising the sale of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco produced in the State of Karnataka in the 2000 season.
- (ii) S.O. 16(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2001 authorising regular and registered traders and dealers of the Tobacco Board to purchase at its auction platforms the production of unauthorized tobacco produced by registered and unregistered farmers in the State of Karnataka subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O. 243(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 2001 authorising regular and registered traders and dealers of the Tobacco Board to purchase at its auction platforms the unauthorized tobacco produced by farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh subject to certain conditions.

- (iv) S.O. 244(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 2001 authorising the sale of unauthorised Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco crops at the auction platforms authorised by the Tobacco Board in the Andhra Pradesh.
- (v) S.O. 461(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2001 authorising the Tobacco Board to purchase the unauthorised Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco crops at the auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh and to dispose of the same in India or abroad.
- (vi) S.O. 462(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2001 authorising the Tobacco Board to purchase at MSP the unauthorised crops produced in the 2000-2001 season by unregistered growers in the State of Andhra Pradesh and to dispose of the same in India or abroad.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4054/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 708(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2001 appointing the members as member of Tobacco Board for a period of 3 years issued under section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4055/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tobacco Board Guntur for the year 1999-2000.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4056/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on

behalf of Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad, beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

- (i) The Vegetable Oil Products (Regulation) (Amendment) Order, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 268(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2000.
- (ii) The Vegetable Oil Products (Regulation) Second Amendment Order, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 621 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000.
- (iii) The Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Amendment Order, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 97(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.-4057/2001]

12.01½ hrs.

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA-LAID

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 2001, passed, in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India, without any amendment, the Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Bill, 2000, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st August, 2001."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to

enclose a copy of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 2001."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2001, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 23rd August, 2001.

12.02 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-sixth Report

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I beg to present the Twenty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.02 ¼ hrs.

MOTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That this House do proceed to elect one member of Lok Sabha from amongst themselves in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote to serve as a member for the remaining term of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit *vice* Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy resigned.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do proceed to elect one Member of Lok Sabha from amongst themselves in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote to serve as a member for the remaining term of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit *vice* Shri Braja Kishore Tripathi resigned."

The motion was adopted.

12.02 ¾ hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Third Report

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on 'Women in Detention'.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Twelfth Report

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker Sir I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on Manpower Planning and Management Policy in Defence.

12.03½ hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Action Taken Statements

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English Versions) of the following Statements of the Standing Committee on Railways:

- (1) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the 8th Action Taken Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 4th Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants 1996-97'.
- (2) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the 11th Action Taken Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 5th Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Re-organization of Zonal Offices in Indian Railways'.

- (3) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the 2nd Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on 6th Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1997-98)'.
- (4) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the 3rd Action Taken Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 14th Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Modernisation and Capacity Utilisation of Workshops in Indian Railways'.
- (5) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the 4th Action Taken Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on its Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1998-99)'.
- (6) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the 5th Action Taken Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 12th Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Procurement of Wagons by Railways'.
- (7) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the 7th Action Taken Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 3rd Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1999-2000)'.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Twenty Sixth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a copy of Twenty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on complaint/grievance redressal mechanism in the Department of Tele Com-

munication/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd./Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. relating to the Department of Tele-Communication.

12.05 hrs.

[English]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Difficulties being faced by Jute growers and Jute Industry

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up the Calling Attention. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Textiles to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of difficulties being faced by Jute growers and Jute industry in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : Sir, at the outset I would like to assure the hon. Members who have moved the notice for discussion on this matter that the Government has always been responsive to the issues concerning jute sector and has been taking various measures to facilitate the growth of this sector.

The production of raw jute is estimated at 94 lakh bales for the jute year 2000-2001 and approximately 100 lakh bales for jute year 2001-2002.

With a view to enable the jute growers to get remunerative prices of their crop, the Government has a Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy and the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) undertakes MSP operations. The MSP for TD5/ex-Assam during 2000-2001 was Rs. 785 per quintal, which has been increased to Rs. 810 per quintal for 2001-2002. During jute year 2000-2001, JCI through its 171 centres and with the support of 50 Co-operative Societies purchased 4.62 lakh bales of raw jute, which is the highest in the last three years. From October, 2000 the prices of raw jute were ruling well above the MSP. The prices of raw jute touched a high of about Rs. 1450 per quintal in June this year.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

For Jute year 2001-2002, JCI has made all arrangements for purchase through its 171 centres and has also tied up with approximately 90 Co-operative Societies. JCI will enter and intervene in the market as and when prices fall below the MSP. The present level of market prices of raw jute is above the MSP.

The Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 provides for compulsory use of jute in packaging of certain commodities. The Government has been maintaining a balance between the interests of the jute farmers, workers engaged in the Jute Industry, producers of sugar and foodgrains and consumers while deciding the extent of compulsory packaging under the Act.

The production of jute goods had increased to 16.25 lakh tonnes during 2000-2001 as compared to 15.90 lakh tonnes in 1999-2000. Exports had also gone up during this period. During the year 2000-2001, 2.20 lakh tonnes of A.Twill bags were supplied and 6.10 lakh tonnes of B.Twill bags were supplied for packaging foodgrains and sugar. This is higher than the supplies made during the previous year. For Kharif 2001, procuring agencies have so far indicated a demand of 7.35 lakh bales of B.Twill bags out of which 4.62 lakh bales have been supplied.

To make the jute sector more competitive, the Government is committed to launch a Technology Mission on Jute as envisaged in the National Textile Policy 2000 to achieve the objectives of increasing productivity and diversifying the use of this environment friendly fibre.

The Government of India has taken all possible steps to ensure that the jute farmers and jute industry are not in any difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you can ask only specific clarificatory questions.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, This is a question of lakhs and lakhs of jute growers and jute workers. So, you should not be rigid in regard to allotment of time.

I do not agree with the hon. Minister's statement. He has stated that the Government has always been responsive to the issues concerning the jute sector. The Government has not at all been responsive to the problems of the jute sector.

When we achieved Independence and Bengal was partitioned, jute-growing areas went with the erstwhile East

Pakistan and jute mills remained with West Bengal. The first Prime Minister of India appealed to the farmers of West Bengal to grow jute. They responded positively and West Bengal achieved self-sufficiency in jute production .(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : It was not only West Bengal but also Bihar and Orissa.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But a majority of eighty per cent is grown in West Bengal . . .(Interruptions) All right, it was the case with Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and other jute-producing States also.

Today, both the jute growers and the jute workers are facing a crisis. The JCI was formed to provide a minimum support price to the farmers, the jute growers and to purchase jute directly from the growers. How much jute had the JCI purchased last year out of 94 lakh bales? It was only 4.62 lakh tonnes.

The problem with the JCI is that they do not come to the market at the appropriate time. Later, when there is a distress sale, the JCI comes to the market and there is very little help or assistance from the JCI to the jute growers. Maybe, this year, jute has started coming to the market now. Sometimes, the price is increased but what we have seen is that the jute growers in the jute-growing States do not get even the minimum support price. They have to sell their jute in distress sales at a price much lower than the MSP. Even in the case of the MSP, the price fixed is much lower than the price that the jute grower should get for his jute.

As there was a crisis in the jute industry, to protect the jute industry as well as the jute growers, the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 was enacted. It was enacted to protect the interests of the jute industry, jute workers as well as jute growers. The use of jute bags to the extent of 100 per cent for packing of food grains and sugar and to the extent of 20 per cent for packing of fertilizers is compulsory. The period of this Act expired on the 30th July. It was then extended up to the 31st August. There is a Standing Advisory Committee. This Committee was constituted under this Act, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Textiles.)

Sir, they had undertaken a review. They heard the views of the foodgrain, sugar, fertiliser and even synthetic sectors and also of other interests. They came to the conclusion that the reservation policy in respect of foodgrains and sugar for the year July, 2001 to June, 2002 should be maintained at 100 per cent as at present and

in case of any disruption in the supply of jute packaging material the Ministry of Textiles may, in consultation with the Ministry concerned, relax the reservation upto the level of maximum 20 per cent for foodgrains and sugar. This Committee also recommended that the 20 per cent reservation for fertilizers should be discontinued.

This is done because of the pressure from the synthetic lobby. There has been an organised campaign for the dilution of reservation level in respect of both foodgrains as well as sugar by 10 per cent. Their contention is that if 10 per cent dilution were there, there would be an annual loss in production of jute goods by only one lakh MT which will not adversely affect the Jute industry. This is not correct. If the Act is diluted, if fertiliser is taken away from the ambit of this Act, this will adversely affect the jute industry. As foodgrains and sugar provide the major outlet for jute goods, even a partial dilution of the reservation order will be the beginning of the end of the jute industry which provides direct employment to 2,50,000 industrial workers and provides livelihood to four million jute growers in jute and mesta growing States in the Eastern as well as in the North-Eastern areas. It will also affect millions of other dependants on jute-related activities.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please ask your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, what will be the consequential loss? The consequential loss of the market for jute goods will force the closure of a number of jute mills. This will spell a disaster not only to the entire jute industry but also of the Eastern and North-Eastern States, particularly, the State of West Bengal.

Sir, I have copy of a report with me. What is the loss of revenue because of non-implementation of the Jute Packaging Material Act? In 1997, in one year, the non-implementation resulted in loss of revenue of Rs. 3,522 crore. Although there is a mandatory provision that for cement industry, 20 per cent of the packaging material should be of the jute packaging material which should be used, but it is being violated by almost all the cement manufacturing units in our country. What is it that the Government doing? The Government is doing nothing to protect the jute industry. The textile policy was announced in the year 2000. The hon. Minister has said that the Government is taking various measures for the diversification of jute industry.

The period of this Act has already expired and it has been extended for another one month. I would like to know from the Textile Minister whether the provisions of the existing Act will not be diluted and the mandatory provision will continue for several years to protect the jute industry. I would also like to know for the benefit of jute growers whether the Government of India comes forward to assist the JCI so that JCI can go to the market well before and purchase jute directly from the jute growers so that there will not be any distress sale.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There are six units of NJMC, National Jute Manufacturing Corporation. We have seen in the newspaper that Government of India has made a proposal to form workers' co-operative. Five units are in West Bengal and one is in Bihar. I want to know what is the proposal of Government of India so that the livelihood of 23,000 workers engaged in all the units of NJMC can be saved.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I shall be very brief. I have two questions, rather one question in two parts. First, the promotion and development of the jute sector is looked after by the Union Government through various agencies and JCI is one of them. The Jute Commissioner has a role to play, but there is hardly any regular dialogue with the State Governments, it may be West Bengal or Bihar, where raw jute is grown and where most of the jute mills are situated. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will set up a regular mechanism for regular interaction, if necessary bi-monthly or monthly? I believe, the hon. Minister is well aware that the Jute Commissioner is sometimes taking law into his own hands, even violating rules, and without taking any clearance from the Standing Committee, he is himself taking decisions. As had been referred to by the previous speaker, because of the unilateral decisions, partisan decisions, biased decisions in favour of the synthetic bag-manufacturing lobby, not only the jute industry suffers but even the Government's revenue also suffers. The Jute Commissioner deliberately did not take steps to realise the penalty.

Secondly, the jute price is fixed on the basis of the BICP calculation. What happens is that if in one particular year, there is good jute harvest, the result is that the next year, the jute growers are not going to get good

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

price because the price fixed in such a manner by the Jute Corporation of India which is based on BICP calculation. Similarly, the protection price given to the B-Twill bags is fixed on the basis of BICP calculation. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is ready to get into the open tender system?

Lastly, jute is one area where a lot of research has been made, be it for its diversification, be it for eco-friendly use, which has a good and growing market. But in the case of high-yielding variety of jute seeds, there has been only limited research, and there is need to increase the yield. The jute cultivation is declining sharply. It will create serious problem in the coming days. Due to unremunerative prices and uncertainties involved, the jute cultivators are switching over to horticulture and more cash crops.

In such a situation, whether the Government will consider to give such a boost or emphasis on the cultivation of high-yielding varieties of jute that they may, quality-wise, contribute to eco-friendly and diversification measures and also ensure a remunerative price for the cultivators.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I will only put questions. On 27.07.94, in a Tripartite Meeting in the presence of the Minister of Textiles, it was decided that a revival scheme would be prepared for the NJMC Mills. Since the Government delayed or did not prepare the project properly, in time, or even provide them with adequate funds, NJMC became sick. I would like to know whether the Government will submit the revised scheme immediately.

Secondly, the Jute Industry is facing a serious problem. We would like to know whether the Government will arrange to grant short-loan to individual jute mill owners in order to enable them to make payment of all arrears, statutory dues, to the workers.

Thirdly, whether the Government will refrain from dilution of the Jute Packaging Compulsory Act and extend it to other crops like groundnut etc..

Finally, as you know, the jute workers are not getting bonus because of not amending the Bonus Act since 1965. I would like to know whether the

Government will recommend to the Ministry of Labour to amend the Bonus Act and extend the ceiling of the minimum wage so that bonus can be paid to lakhs of jute mill workers.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, please give me a minute to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : There are only three names in the list, and also the rule does not permit it.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement laid by me replied to the most of the queried raised in the House. As for other two or three queries, one relates to JPM Act. It has been stated that we have diluted the act under the pressure from synthetic lobby. I have explained this also in reply to a question. But once again I would like to say that the Government have not diluted this Act under any pressure.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why is the period of this Act not being extended?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Whatever dilution we have done in the Act, that was done because our requirement of jute bags keep on going up with the increase in the food crop and sugar crop requirement of jute bags increase. The third point is that ILO has given us instructions to convert 10 kg. bag into 50 kg. one. So it also contributes to the increase in demand of jute bags. In view of all this, whenever we have felt that there is likely to be shortage of bags for packing foodgrain and sugar, we have tried to dilute the Act.

Secondly, it has been stated that the jute growers do not get higher price. As I have said that whenever the price is a lower than MSP, societies our centres go to market and purchase through 171 centres JIC and cooperative societies . . . (Interruptions)

Regardless of what Mr. Acharia says, I would like to pay that government makes every efforts to ensure that jute growers get higher price than MSP. It is first time in the history when our Government helped jute growers to get Rs. 1450 in the month of June. I want to give details of whole year . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But this does not happen every year . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : We have not only increased the prices of MSP to enable the jute growers, the poor peasants to get higher market price, but also we have tried that they get good market price. Even in this case also we have raised the MSP to 810 rupees. Even today, our jute is being sold in the market at the rate of 930 rupees and the farmers are getting remunerative price . . . (Interruptions). Issue of NJMC has been raised here. In this connection, we have sent a proposal to the BIFR. Since our workers had been working in the NJMC mills for many years, we too want to protect their rights. The interests of the workers have been taken into consideration while making proposals. We have placed the entire proposal before the BIFR. On the basis of the same, the Government have allocated budgetary support of 96 crore rupees for the NJMC Mills which are incurring losses, but we are providing wages of worth rupees 133 crores even today. In spite of incurring huge losses. We have placed a proposal before the BIFR just to safeguard the interest of workers.

Sir, the issue of R and D was raised here. I think it's a right question. The quality of Jute in the country is not upto the mark, that is why it is being imported from Bangladesh. Since we export quality Jute products the raw jute used for it, is being imported. We endeavour to improve the quality of jute. For this Mr. Rupchand Pal has suggested for R and D. The Government are going to constitute Technology Mission of jute which would improve the quality of our jute. Secondly, it would fetch remunerative prices in domestic and international market. We are constituting Technology Mission on jute in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and we would soon make you aware of the Technology mission on jute before the house . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What happened to the open tender of BICP ?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : It is the question of jute, how can the question on cotton be raised here ? A question of regular interaction was raised. There is a standing advisory committee for it. According to JPMA Act, every body's views are invited and considered. We would welcome the good suggestions, if any available with the concerned State Governments and given to us. We look forward to provide incentives to the jute growers after interacting with the farmers. Even today, there is no excise duty on the jute goods

from the Government of India to improve the conditions of jute.

Under jute packing Act which is a material Act, we use 8 lakh jute goods out of 16 lakh. Again we offer 35 crore rupees to jute corporation of India for its price operation. In addition to it, we provide 96 crore rupees to NJMC for its operation . . . (Interruptions). We provide 26 crore rupees for Export marketing and jute export . . . (Interruptions). We provide 6 crore rupees for jute . . . (Interruptions) diversification . . . (Interruptions). It is also the responsibility of the State Government to help the jute growers and jute exporters in improving their condition . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What about the extension of Mandatory Order? . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Lakhs of people of Bihar and Eastern U.P. would be rendered jobless after August 31 . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Honourable Minister kindly tell us whether it would be further extended after August 31 or not.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : CCEA has taken a decision about JPMA and we are going to notify it within a couple of days . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He has not said anything in regard to the extension of mandatory Order.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : He has raised the question about the workers. We are looking after the interests of the workers . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What would happen to Jute Industry after August 31 ?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, he has not answered a single question asked by Shri Hannan Mollah. They are all relevant questions . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Lakhs of people in eastern U.P. and Bihar would be rendered Jobless after August 31.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : There is no Jute purchasing Centre in Bihar . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the Minister to complete his reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this is not a reply. We want a categorical reply to the questions asked.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, you allowed a Calling Attention instead of a proper and full discussion so that pointed questions may be replied to. However, not a single question asked by Shri Hannan Mollah has been answered . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What about the revenue loss of Rs. 3,222 crore on account of . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is the occasion when one crosses the line. We strongly object to . . . (Interruptions) In protest, we are walking out.

12.38 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, I have not been able to raise my issue in 'zero hour' for the last four days.

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Item No. 15.

12.39 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, with your permission, I rise to

announce that Government Business during the remaining part of the current session will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:
 - (i) Two Members Constituencies (Abolition) and other Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2001.
 - (ii) The Salary, Allowances and Pensions of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
 - (iii) The Central Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha:
 - (i) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
 - (ii) The Marriage Laws (Amendment), Bill, 2001.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:
 - (i) The Indian Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
 - (ii) The Delhi Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, you are using a laptop computer!

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : Sir, the IT Minister is using a laptop computer. In that case, he can give a laptop computer to everyone of us.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : It is already given. You can also use it.

SHRI A.C. JOS : We have been given only desktop computers. Let them give laptop computers to all of us.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (i) Discussion regarding restoration of railway facilities in Malabar region after Kadalundi train accident.
- (ii) Need to allocate adequate funds for the maintenance of NH-17.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the need to develop cross roads with a circular park instead of a flyover over the Kishanganj-Nasirabad by pass cross-roads on the four or six lane express highway to prevent unnecessary expenditure and demolition of more than 300 shops and hotels at present.

- 2. the need to formulate national conservation policy to conserve the water which flows away during the monsoon season and use it over the year by formulating the national water policy and national water conservation policy.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as there is drought in Jharkhand, the entire State should be declared as famine affected area and "Annapurna Yojana" should be implemented at war-footing by allocating special financial assistance to the State so that the poor people may be saved from starvation.

12.42 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*] °

An action plan should be formulated for quick disposal of the cases of recruitment of dependents on employees who have died on compensatory grounds which have been lying pending for 10-15 years in the Damodar Valley Corporation.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir a bus accident took place on Wazirabad bridge on 18 November, 1997 in which 28 children were killed and 62 were injured. As per the report of the enquiry headed by the Deputy Commissioner, the bus driver and the traffic police were found to be guilty and on the other hand increasing population in Trans-Yamuna area was also one of the reasons. It was suggested to construct another bridge alongside the existing one. It is my request that construction work should be started immediately.

There is a pontoon bridge between Geeta colony crematorium ground to Shantivan which breaks down in every monsoon season. Lakhs of rupees are spent on rebuilding it. There was a proposal to build a bridge here but the construction work has not yet started. It should be started immediately.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, both the districts of Saharsa and Darbhanga in Bihar and divisional headquarters, a Kosi are affected areas. There is a lack of transportation, therefore – a 100 km. Road should be declared national highway.

By constructing a dam in the upstream barrage area of Kosi river, yearly destruction due to floods in Saharsa, Supaul, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Khagaria and Madhepura districts in North Bihar should be prevented.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (i) The retirees of banks have many problems. They are senior citizens who have to be helped. Retirees of pre-1986 period are eligible for an *ex gratia* amount instead of pension. This facility should be extended to their spouses also. Medical facilities to retired bank employees are also to be considered.
- (ii) STD public operators were entitled to Rs. 2/- as service charge. This has since been withdrawn. Their commission has also been reduced. Now that STD and long distance calls are costing less with the result the amount received as commission is also considerably reduced. Hence, the service charge should be restored and commission rates be enhanced.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Sir, the following items may be included in Lok Sabha's next week's agenda:

- (1) discussion on the report of Subramaniam Committee constituted after the Kargil War.
- (2) discussion on the problems relating to atrocities being perpetrated on the dalits and minorities in various parts of the country.

SHRI RAMDAS AHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Matter relating to renovation of railway workshops situation in Matunga and Parel in Mumbai and railway workshop situated in Kurdmadi in Solapur district of Maharashtra.
2. Subject relating to setting up of Railway Booking at Kurdmadi Railway station, constructing a new platform over there to overcome the problems being faced by the passengers due to the stoppage of goods shuttle train and increasing the quota of berths in the sleeper class of trains particularly in the Chennai Mail which passes through the station.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai, North East) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to move a privilege motion. Hon. Member, Shri Buta Singh has said in an interview in the Mumbai edition of the "The Times of India".

[English]

"If my party needs it, I will buy MPs agains" . . .
.(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I have given a notice and I want to make a submission . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to move a privilege motion against Shri Buta Singh. He has said that he bought MPs at his Party's behest. If my party again asks me to buy MPs, I will do so. It is contempt of the House.

[English]

It is a breach of privilege.

[Translation]

Are we MPs here for sale? since Hon. Buta Singh ji wants to buy us therefore, I want to move a privilege motion against him. I request that this matter against Shri Buta Singh and Times of India should be sent to the privilege committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kiritji, hon. Speaker has received your notice and it is under consideration.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, since the matter is about a distinguished Member of this House, I want to say only one thing. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the doctors of the AIIMS are on strike. Thousands of patients are in trouble . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I will call names according to the list. You will be given time.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Daşmuni, do you wish to speak on the privilege motion.'

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I have been giving notices for the last three days. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am following the list. You will be given time. Zero Hour is about to begin. Please sit down. Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the resident doctors of All India Institute of Medical Sciences have been on strike for two days and today is the third day. The outdoor patient Department and emergency services are badly effected. Thousands of patients have come back from the AIIMS. The most distressing is that this is the eighth contention between the employees of the department and a resident doctors in the last six months. The Government has paid no heed towards this and instead of counselling them the director of the AIIMS has constituted a seven member committee which will look into the matter.

Mr. Chairman, -Sir, various types of patients from all over India come here for treatment and in the OPD six to seven thousand patients visit and consult the doctors everyday. But yesterday only one hundred

patients visited there. People get operation dates after several days there. Yesterday three hundred people were to be operated upon, but all of them went back. This is a very serious matter. Thousands of patients are going back from there. Yesterday three hundred people could not be operated upon. The most painful is that the Ministry of Health and Family welfare is not doing anything despite such a grave crisis. Mr. Chairman, Sir you are concerned about the order of the house, we also want the house in order, there should be a code of conduct. Through you, I would like to say to the Government that when the Government do not react to such serious matter, when their attitude is not positive towards the important matters of public life then what should be done in such circumstance. The matter is so serious that the Director of the AIIMS has constituted a committee . . . (Interruptions) The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Mr. Pramod Mahajan is sitting here, I would like that the Government may immediately solve the problem is consultation with the Ministry of Health Thank you . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The members who have given notices, will be given a chance, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am following the list, if your name figures in the list you will be called.

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHI (Seoni) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people in rural and tribal regions of Jabalpur, Seoni of Madhya Pradesh are in the grip of diarrhoea and Malaria. Dafakia village of Chhargavan area of tehsil Patan of Jabalpur district, which is a tribal area, two people have died of diarrhoea. No health service have been provided there and no health employee has gone there to take care of the people there. The hundreds of villages of the tribal regions of Jabalpur and Seoni districts are affected by diarrhoea and Malaria. No sanitation work has been done there and no measures to control diseases such as spraying of anti mosquito chemicals have not been done for years. Due to all this all the villages are reeling under the spell of diarrhoea and malaria. I urge upon the union government to takes steps to prevent these disease from their turning into epidemics to protect the lives and property of villagers and tribals.

SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want your support and my humble submission is that we have always discussed terrorism in the house. But under the present situation dozens of people are murdered in Purvanchal, Jammu-Kashmir and Bihar. It seems that only that case which involves the killings of the largest number of people has become a serious matter now a days, but I do not agree to this I belong to a place of Madhya Pradesh which is near Chhattisgarh border. Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh used to be considered peaceful regions. But according to the present situation, in my Balaghat district which is near the border of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh Nexalities have burnt a bus. I would like to ask as to whether burning of a bus is an important issue. But when the bus was being burnt, the Home Minister, the Home Secretary and the DCP of Madhya Pradesh were inspecting a police post at a distance of 4 kms from there. The incident took place at 3.30 p.m. the government of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have not been able to take a decision for 5 days as to in which State this incident has occurred. The burnt bus remained there and the road remained blocked. The nexalities put a banner, dropped pamphlets but nobody was there to take stock of the situation. The Home Minister of Chhattisgarh attended a public programme at Balaghat, but he did not visit the spot. No representative of Madhya Pradesh Government visits there. Through you I submit that I have brought the incident into the notice of Union Government. I mean that Purvanchal . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You speak when you have your turn, don't interrupt.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Member please take your seat, you have spoken.

MR. PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Being a member I urge upon the Union Government to show promptness and not indifference in the matter, I want to say only this much.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order in Zero Hour. You are a senior Member. Please take you seat.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh State. 106 people have died due to Cholera, Gastroenteritis and starvation in Sarguja and Raigarh district. 152 people have died upto now. The State Government of Chhattisgarh is not paying any attention to it and there is no arrangement of health facility. The government is insensitive. Under such a situation, I urge upon the union Government that gastro enteritis and starvation is still affecting people there . . . (Interruptions) inspite of that the leader of opposition is on hunger strike. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Your views are on record.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : I request the union government to look into the starvation situation there . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Several hon'ble members are still to speak here.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : The Government should grant financial assistance to those who have died untimely.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record. Shri Ravinder Kumar Pandey.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a tendency to get favours in the name of ex servicemen in the transportation work of Damodar valley corporation. The contracts are being given there in the names of non-servicemen though it should be given under the system established for ex-servicemen. My submission is that a high level inquiry should be conducted in the matter and the work should be done through open quota so that the unemployed persons get job and their rates can be reduced. I submit to conduct an inquiry into the matter.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Haryana is a developing State of the country. I urge upon you that South Haryana has produced very brave and dedicated soldiers. The soldiers

died in Kargil war were mostly from South Haryana. In spite of such a large number of families of the martyrs living in South Haryana, no facility of potable water has been provided in the villages. Each of the Governments formed in Haryana, were formed on the issue of providing potable water for the South Haryana, but no Government could do anything to solve this problem. Whichever party formed the Government, this work could not be done despite their good relations with the Union Government. There the ground water level there has gone down to 1000 feet. I want that arrangements should be made for completing the work of the Sutlej - Yamuna Link Canal through which the unutilised water was to be diverted from Punjab. Besides providing water from Punjab, I want that the Government should arrange to bring water of North Haryana to South Haryana as North Haryana is receiving 18 lac hectare feet water which is more than their requirement and which causes destruction to crops the hundreds of acres ruining the farmers. By this arrangement pure drinking water can be provided to the families of this area and the farmers will also benefit from it and will become prosperous. Major agitations have been organised by the President of the Yuva Kisan Sangharsha Sabha- Mr. Naresh Yadav or also by the leaders of the Opposition . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let other hon'ble Members put forth their views. You please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I want that that agitation should not be taken as merely emotional . . . (Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, this is a question of lacs of people. So, I want that the Minister should respond in this regard. People are not getting drinking water, water for irrigation is not available there and because of non completion of S.Y.L. the water of India flows into Pakistan. Therefore, it is my request that the work of Yamuna-Sutlej Link may be completed expeditiously and the surplus water of the Punjab be brought to Southern Haryana . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Pappuji, please take your seat. You have completed your speech.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Mr. Chairman, because the matter relates to Haryana, so I may also be given permission to speak a few words . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. you can only associate yourself.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Chairman, only association will not serve the purpose. I also want to speak a few words . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Indoraji, you have also been considered to be associated with this matter. Now please take your seat.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Chairman, this is a very important matter, since it is concerned with Haryana, I may kindly be also given an opportunity to speak on this matter for two minutes. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Haryana, there is the Government of the Rashtriya Lok Dal under the leadership of Hon'ble Om Prakashji Chautala and he is the Chief Minister. Under the leadership of Chaudhary Om Prakashji Chautala the farmers and the general public have full faith in him and he takes care of the problems of all and sorts out their problems. I want to inform the House through you, that the matter being raised by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, is pending in the Court. Therefore, the Haryana Government cannot take any decision in this matter. The matter raised, is very important and I too, belong to Southern Haryana so I support his views. If the work of Yamuna-Sutlej Link Canal is completed, it will give much benefit to the entire Haryana. I also want that, but the matter is pending in the Court so the Government of Haryana can do nothing in this regard but, Sir, if someone plays politics in the name of Y.S.L., it is not proper. It is a very serious matter. It should not be politicised.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Indoraji, now you have made your point. You please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only the speech of Shri Suresh Kurup will go on record. The speech of none other Hon'ble Member will go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister is sitting in the House. I want that he should say something on this matter . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rudyji please take your seat. There is no point of order during the Zero Hour.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the recent Supreme Court direction to the Government of India to distribute foodgrains stored in FCI godowns among the starving millions of this country. Sir, time and again, various sections of this House including Members belonging to the ruling party have demanded that foodgrains stored in FCI godowns should be distributed among the poor people of this country. But this Government is not ready to listen.

Sir, it is a shame for this House that the judiciary had to intervene and direct the Government at this stage to distribute foodgrains among the poor people. The Government has not come forward with a statement. The Government should come before this House with a statement and tell us what are they going to do regarding this direction. This Government has dismantled the PDS. Now, the people of this country are starving and dying. Now, the Supreme Court intervened. Even after one week, the Government has not made clear what steps it is going to take regarding this direction. So, I would request the Government to make a statement before this House as to what steps they are taking regarding this direction of the Supreme Court.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : I had raised the very same issue the other day, but there was no response from the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. Now the next speaker, Shri M. Chinnasamy.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already called the name.

[English]

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur) : I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Prime Minister to an urgent and important matter pertaining to Tamil Nadu farmers. The Cauvery farmers have planted paddy crops in Thanjavur and Tiruchirapalli districts of Tamil Nadu anticipating

[Shri M. Chinnasamy]

adequate water from the Cauvery river. Unfortunately, the present water storage position in Mettur is low and therefore not satisfactory. Paddy crops standing in thousands of hectares of land are withering for want of water.

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written a letter to the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Karnataka in this regard. She has also sent a team under the chairmanship of the hon. PWD Minister and other officials to meet the Karnataka Chief Minister in order to get the water released. She has mentioned in her letter to the Prime Minister to immediately convene a meeting of the Cauvery Water Monitoring Committee in which the Chief Secretaries of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are also members. This is a very serious matter adversely affecting food production and employment opportunity of agricultural labourers.

[Translation]

DR. SANJYA PASWAN (Nawada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Bihar, murders are being committed continuously for seven days. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Paswanji, please take your seat. You are going to get a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : This is not a political matter. It is a serious matter concerning the farmers. I want a reply from the hon. Minister The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. I want some response from him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN : People of R.J.D. have fled from here . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, massacre is going on in Bihar continuously for seven days . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am going to call you.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are interrupting the proceedings despite being in the ruling party.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a matter concerning women and children . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : Sir, Shri A.K.S. Vijayan wants to associate himself with the issue raised by hon. Member Shri Chinnasamy. He comes from the affected constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will be allowed to associate himself with it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, for the last three days I have been trying to draw the attention of the Government to this important issue. I am grateful that you have allowed me today. I have already referred this matter to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister as well as the Minister concerned.

Our distinguished Leader of the House and Prime Minister of India had made clear the perception of the Government vis-a-vis Pakistan as well as cross-border terrorism. Our Party is one with the hon. Prime Minister and the Government to deal with the situation in Kashmir to restore peace. Our Party is one with the Prime Minister and the Government to combat cross-border terrorism. Our Party is one with the Prime Minister and the Government to improve the bilateral relationship between India and Pakistan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your notice is on the issue regarding Government's decision to boycott the Asian Cricket Championship.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am coming to the point.

I would only like to appeal without interfering with the Government's internal business, as the Prime Minister has made it clear that the people to people relationship between India and Pakistan . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Have I interrupted you while you spoke.

[English]

Should I not speak? Have I interrupted anyone of you? I am not at your mercy. I am speaking with the permission of the Chair.

The hon. Prime Minister has made it clear that the people to people cultural and social relations are very good. I would also say that the Prime Minister is going to get the unqualified credit in the country to host the first Afro-Asian Games involving Africa and Asia, which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru did for the Asian Games as the first Prime Minister of India. The entire sports fraternity is behind the Prime Minister. It supports him and expresses its solidarity. We all want to ensure its success.

But, in the month of October we are slated to go to Pakistan for the Asian Cricket Championship. Meanwhile I came to know that we are boycotting the games . . .
..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at one side the drama of death, is going on and he is crying for cricket. The dalits are being killed in Bihar and the Government of Bihar is not capable to stop such killings . . .
..(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you later on you please take your seat

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am proud of the fact that a great son of India in the field of the sports of cricket, Shri Kirti Azad whom I respect very much, is a Member of this House. I appeal to the Government to clarify the position as to, while we are playing football games with Pakistan, why we are boycotting playing cricket with Pakistan. I appeal to the Government to make a statement in this regard.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of Sports has been asked to respond to your notice.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : I want to give a reply to what he has said . . .
..(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your notice has been sent for response to the concerned Minister . . .
..(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : The Asian Games have nothing to do with cricket . . .
..(Interruptions)

DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier one or two incidents used to take place in Bihar, but during the last six months such incidents are taking place every month and during the last seven days
..(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : He has already said that it has been sent to the Sports Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : There is no importance of Asian Cricket Council, test championship is not being held anywhere. This is being held here for raising money. If they want to organise it, let them do it, why are you worrying about it . . .
..(Interruptions)

DR. SANJAY PASWAN : During the last seven days in the vicinity of capital Patna and particularly in the 50 kilometer route between Patna and Jahanabad, such incidents are taking place everyday. Six dalits were killed eight days ago. Subsequently four days back a woman was stripped and burnt alive near Jahanabad. Thereafter, day before yesterday an old woman and her son were beaten to near death and yesterday seven dalits were murdered, among them there were four women and three children. Today also it is reported that the same youth has killed two persons. This is a matter of concern that so many incident are taking place and no one from the ruling side is visiting even one of the incident cites. When we called for a bandh and the people gave their support, then people are being selectively killed. I would like to inform you that wherever murders are taking place, these are the places where the NDA MPs and MLAs have been elected and this is the reason behind it. The gang is a protege of the Chief Minister and the President of RJD. Today, no member of RJD is present in the House due to shame . . .
..(Interruptions) They have got no answer to this. So today none of them is present here. We demand that the Union Government should pay attention towards it because the matter is serious. . .
..(Interruptions) There the Government is running with the support of the Congress, the CPM and the BSP, they are running the Government on behalf of the Congress and the CPM. We want that some action must be taken there. For that what the Government is doing?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, you all want to associate yourselves with this.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : I also associate myself with it.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I also associate myself with it . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of that State is doing nothing. The situation is turning serious . . . (Interruptions) The murders of dalits is going on there for the last seven days . . . (Interruptions)

DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present the Members of the RJD are not here . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sanjay Paswanji, you please take your seat. You have made your point while raising the issue during the zero Hour. Now you take your seat. Now I am calling Dinesh Chandraji.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : There, the Government is being run by the support of the Congress and the Members of the Congress are sitting here . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I strongly refute the allegation made on our party . . . (Interruptions) Do not talk to me, talk to the Government . . . (Interruptions) I am not supposed to respond. It is for the Government to respond . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Sahasra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Several lac people come to Delhi from Bihar to work as labourers and they contribute to the progress of the local industrialists . . . (Interruptions) No one is there to look after their woes. If a labourer falls ill, gets injured or dies there is no one to look after him . . . (Interruptions) I want to give you an information. On 19.8.2001 a truck had fallen in the Yamuna river breaking the railing of the ITO bridge in Delhi. The number of the truck was DIG 4668. The truck

driver Ashok Yadav and labourer Sikander Yadav died due to falling in the river. Besides, three other labourers Brahmdev, Umesh and Kamal, who are from Bihar, were injured. While the truck was taken out but the bodies of the driver and the labourer who had died after falling in the river, have not been recovered till date. There is no one to take care of the injured labourers. I demand the government to take proper care of the injured labourers and to give adequate compensation to the family members of the deceased.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The speeches of none-other will go on record except, Shri Prabhunath Singh.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are about 15 crore Bhojpuri speaking people in different States of the country. They have got several problems. There is no such State in the country where more or less Bhojpuri speaking people are not residing.

The number of persons speaking this language is higher in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Last time a world Bhojpuri Conference was held in this very city Delhi in which the representatives of seven countries had participated. Now, the conference is going to be held at Uldhamsingh Nagar in Uttaranchal . . . (Interruptions) through you, I would like to submit to the Government that last time when we had raised this issue, we had demanded that the time slot for Bhojpuri language in news telecast should be fixed and even the officer in charge of news services division also met us. He had demanded documents from us about the details of conference. But no action has been taken in this regard. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to allot time for showing programmes in Bhojpuri language on Doordarshan channel as well as news bulletins in this language. Besides, I would like to congratulate the State Government of Delhi for giving its assurance to open Bhojpuri and Maithali Academy in view of the demand of Bhojpuri speaking people. We demand the Union Government to give an assurance in the House about the telecast of Bhojpuri language programmes and serials on Doordarshan

*Not recorded.

channel in the same manner as the State government of Delhi has assured to set up a Bhojpuri Academy in view of the large number of Bhojpuri speaking people . . .

(Interruptions) We would like to request the Chair to give instruction to the Government, incase Government does not want to do anything in this regard, so that this matter is taken up by the Government seriously and the demand of more than 15 crore Bhojpuri speaking people is fulfilled . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN The Government cannot be compelled to give reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ganesh Chaturthi festival is celebrated all over India with big fanfare . . . *(Interruptions)* this festival is celebrated in the entire country, particularly in entire Maharashtra. This festival is for worshipping Lord Ganesha . . . *(Interruptions)* Lord Ganesha is supreme amongst all Hindu Gods . . . *(Interruptions)* Ganesh Chaturthi festival is a very grand festival . . . *(Interruptions)* There should be a provision for holiday on 22 August on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. A group of Shivsena MPs had also met Hon. Prime Minister who had given assurance in this regard. But Ganesh Chaturthi has not been declared a holiday . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Its alright the discussion over the issue is over. Please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the population of Western Uttar Pradesh is about 4 and a half crore but no high court bench has been set up there . . . *(Interruptions)* it has been a long standing demand of local public for setting up a high court bench there. Although, there is a High Court in Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh, but each district of western Uttar Pradesh is at least 600 km. Away from Allahabad the people have to face lot of difficulties in reaching there. Maximum numbers of the cases of Western Uttar Pradesh are pending in Allahabad High Court . . . *(Interruptions)* In 1980, the Jaswant Singh Commission was set up for gathering information about the places in the country where High Court benches could be set up.

On 30th April, 1985 the Jaswant Singh Commission submitted its report to the Union Government, recommend-

ing setting up of a High Court bench in Western Uttar Pradesh. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh had also accepted the recommendation. But even after expiry of 16 years the Union Government has not set up a High Court bench in Western Uttar Pradesh. The public of Western Uttar Pradesh is on agitation for the last one week. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to set up a High Court bench in Ghaziabad of Western Uttar Pradesh.

(English)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the very serious economic situation prevailing in the country. There was a report a few days ago saying that industrial production during the current quarter has dropped down to about 2.1 per cent from 6 per cent. . . . *(Interruptions)* This is a very serious situation. I am afraid, the Government is not showing the kind of response which it should be showing to the deterioration . . . *(Interruptions)*

In February this year, the dream Budget has been presented. But I am afraid that many of the assumptions contained in that dream Budget have not been realised. There is a total fall in demand. No attention is being paid to demand generation. How will the major industries survive if goods are not being produced and sold at all? Then, except for the foreign currency reserves, nearly in respect of every item, the situation is very serious. Exports are falling. There is a total degeneration of demand in respect of both the new industry and the old industry. Now, on top of this, the IMF has given us stinking kind of a report. I do not know what business the IMF has to give us that kind of a report when we do not owe anything to the IMF just now. So, we expect from the Government a serious response to this situation.

(Translation)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rashid Alvi, this matter is already being examined from privilege angle. So, you cannot raise this issue.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Sir, let me mention it first.

MR. CHAIRMAN You cannot mention it. The proceedings of the House will run as per the rules. As this matter is already under consideration, it will not be raised any longer.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House must be aware of an incident of firing on flood victims in Muzaffarpur district and on the people asking for food in Sitamarhi which is my constituency on 6th of this month in which four persons were killed and 50 seriously injured. The injured persons are under treatment. All the allies of National Democratic Alliance had given a call for this Bandh. An agitation is going on in the entire State in support of the demand for conducting a judicial probe into the incident and for resignation of Government. On 9th August, Kranti Divas was organised. As the matter relates to my constituency, I deem it my duty that 6th August should be . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your matter has been associated with the matter raised by Yadavji.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, I seek your protection . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, in my case, it is a matter of privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Pappu, please read the rules of procedure carefully. You can not raise a matter of privilege in this manner.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Naval Kishorji, whatever points you wish to mention, you can give them in writing to the hon. Speaker. This is a serious matter, you give it in writing it will be considered .

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Sir, *Onam* is a very important festival of Malayalees. In Kerala, the *Onam* festival has already started . . . (Interruptions) During the *Onam* season, all Malayalees, who are staying abroad, come to Kerala to celebrate this festival with their family members. So, they all depend upon the Air India flights to travel to Kerala from abroad.

The important point is that the entire Air India flight service from different destinations to Kerala has been closed. A number of waiting list passengers are waiting for confirmation of their tickets.

So, I would like to request the hon. Civil Aviation Minister, through you, Sir, to provide additional flight service from abroad especially from the Gulf countries. Moreover, the Government of India should take necessary steps to operate additional flights to Kerala. There is a landing facility at Thiruvananthapuram to operate jumbo aircraft. This is very urgent and very important. I would request the hon. Minister to make necessary arrangements for operating additional flights to Kerala immediately . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am raising a very important issue concerning the development of the Trivandrum International Airport, which is run by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Ministry has also laid a foundation stone for a new international terminal. The State Government had already come forward with a proposal to undertake the work. Unfortunately, no work is being done and the new international terminal has not been started. Hence, I would request the Central Government to accept the scheme of the State Government and to take immediate steps for the construction of new international terminal at Trivandrum.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : Sir, Bawla, Dhaulka, Dhundaka, Ranpur, Viramgaon, Sanand, Botad, Dhaula Junction in my constituency are all historical places. Rice is sent all over the country from Bawala and pilgrims from all over the country come to Gadhdha and they need reservations for going back to Delhi and Mumbai. The quota of reservation has not been increased for these stations though I have been making requests repeatedly. Gadhdha is the seat of Shri Bhagwan Swami Narayanji and Dhaulka is the seat of Shri Parshwanathji. If the quota of reservation is not increased, how will people visit these places? Therefore, the quota of reservation should be increased. People have started "rail roko" programme to get reservation. People are facing litigation even today. People are really worried.

Sir, I request the hon. Minister to increase the reservation quota of these stations for Delhi and Mumbai immediately so that people may be satisfied and travellers be benefitted.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, lakhs of farmers in Kerala are disturbed by the statement of the Ministry of Commerce.

The statement says that the support price of rubber is not going to be fixed. From the viewpoint of the Ministry of Commerce, it can be understood that steps have been taken and the same would show results. But, I would like to know from the Ministries of Commerce and Industry as to whether support price of rubber is going to affect about 10 lakhs of farmers and about 40 lakhs of labourers. This is a very important issue as far as the economy of Kerala is concerned.

Therefore, I would submit and pray that the Government should take urgent steps in this regard. There is also a direction of the court which says that the support price of rubber should be fixed immediately. Hence, I would request the Government to take suitable action in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Sir, 70 colleges are affiliated to Delhi University and the employees over there are not given fair treatment. The decisions taken by the Executive Committee on 30 November, 1999 and 19 February, 2000 have not been implemented and they have been rather withdrawn.

It was decided to remove the various anomalies prevalent in the laboratory and technician staff but it was withdrawn because the Chairman, UGC put his foot down. One time upward movement (next grade) was extended from 13.12.96 to 31.12.97. Next grade was granted in eight years. It was granted from 1986 to 1996 but it was discontinued thereafter.

A ban was imposed on recruitment for vacant posts in University and Colleges due to which 10 percent of the teaching and non teaching staff of the total posting was cut down. Ban on teaching staff has been withdrawn but for the non teaching staff it is still there while both the categories provide equal services.

Therefore, through you, I request the Government to implement the demands of the employees.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, till one month ago Hon. Phoolan Devi was a member of the House. It is right that the guilty people have been arrested but the conspirators of the murder have not yet been found and her husband is sitting on fast unto death at Rajghat.

Therefore, it is my request that a CBI enquiry should be conducted into the murder.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a society named Christian Association Relief Everywhere "CARE" in Bihar which has been doing relief work for poor children and flood victims for year. But the education Ministry of Government of India have removed this society from Bihar with a malicious intent. The Chief Minister of Bihar has written letters to be Prime Minister and the Education Minister but it has not been restored yet. Therefore, through you, I request the hon. Minister to get the job of restoring the society done immediately.

13.37 hrs.

*Then the Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the Clock*

14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at
Four Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock*

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up item No. 16, that is Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill. The Minister will move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

14.04½

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the Trade Unions Act, 1926 there is a provision for registration of Trade Unions

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

of Employers and workmen and in certain cases it defines the law pertaining to registered Trade Unions. It provides legal and corporate status to the registered Trade Unions. This Act is implemented by concerned State Governments.

Right to form association or Union has been guaranteed as a fundamental right by the Article 19 of the Constitution. With the passage of time, the structure of the Industrial Organisations and labour force has significantly changed. However, no conspicuous changes have been made in the Trade Unions Act till now.

Adequate efforts had been made to amend the said act by the Trade Unions and the Industrial, dispute (Amendment) Bill, 1988 introduced in Rajya Sabha. This was not taken up for consideration by the Parliament and it was withdrawn subsequent to the Constitution of a bilateral Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri G.Ramanujam comprising of representatives of employers and Central Trade Union Organisations to formulate a specific proposal for a new industrial relation Bill." The said Committee had presented its report in 1990 itself.

After receiving the recommendations of Ramanujam Committee and thereafter on the basis of the deliberations held about it on different foras, a Bill was formulated to amend the Trade Union Act, 1926 in consultation with the Ministry of Law. To introduce the said Bill in the Parliament the hon. Minister of Labour had introduced the said Bill in Rajya Sabha on 2.5.1994. However, primary objections were raised by several members at the introduction stage of the Bill. After extensive deliberations consensus was arrived on referring the said Bill to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for its examination.

The Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare in its various sittings, had examined the amendment Bill, held extensive deliberations with the concerned officers of Ministry of Labour and finally the committee had presented its report to Lok Sabha on 8.8.95.

The proposals included in the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 1994 have been re-examined in the light of the recommendations of the Parliamentary

Standing Committee and appropriate amendments have been made in the amendment Bill. The brief of the amended proposal read.

No Trade Union of workmen shall be registered unless at least 10 percent or 100 of the workmen, whichever is less, employed or engaged in the establishment or industry, with which it is associated, are the members of such Trade Union on the date of submitting an application for registration. In no case a Union with less than 7 members would be registered.

A registered Trade Union or Workmen shall at all times continue to have less than 10 percent or 100 of the workmen, whichever is less, subject to a minimum of seven employed or engaged in an establishment or industry with which it is connected, as it members.

A provision has been made to make an appeal before an Industrial Tribunal/ Labour Court in case of non-registration/renewal of registration.

All office bearers of a registered Trade Union, except not more than one-third of the total number of the office bearers or five, whichever is less, shall be persons actually engaged or employed in the establishment or industry, with which the Trade Union is connected.

This Bill proposes for the payment of a minimum subscription by members of the Trade Union which shall not be less than one rupee per annum for rural workers; three rupees per annum for workers in other unorganised sectors. 12 rupees per annum for workers in any other case.

This Trade Union (Amendment) Bill, 2000 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 28.4.2000. This bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on 8.5.2000. The Standing Committee presented its report in the Parliament on 29.11.2000.

The Trade Union (Amendment) Bill, 2001 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 2.8.2001.

I would request the House to pass this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

We have three hours allotted for the Bill. Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Madam, I have moved an amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Amendments will come when clause by clause consideration of the Bill is taken up.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : Madam Chairperson, the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has travelled a very long way and taken a very long journey. As the hon. Minister has rightly said, the Trade Unions and Industrial Amendment Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha in 1988 and the said Bill was withdrawn in 1990. Then, the Government had set up, for the first time, a bi-partite Committee under the chairmanship of late Shri G. Ramanujam, a veteran Trade Union leader, and this Committee was represented by the representatives of almost all the national centres of Trade Union and the representatives of the employer organisations. In their Report, they covered the entire gamut of the industrial relations including the Trade Union Act of 1926 and also the Industrial Disputes Act. They had given their Report in October, 1990. The Bill was presented by the then Labour Minister in Rajya Sabha again in 1994. At the introduction stage itself, the Bill was referred to the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on 9.6.1994 for a detailed examination. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare had examined this Amendment Bill and presented its Report in Lok Sabha on 8.8.1995.

The Trade Union movement of this country expected more from Report of this Committee and desired that there should be a lot more to be done in the old Trade Union Act of 1926. But in this Bill, they have covered only five points. Section 4 of the principal Act deals with the registration of Trade Union of workmen, and said that it should be at least ten per cent or one hundred of the workmen. Earlier, it was seven workmen of an industrial establishment for registration. This Bill says that the number of workmen should be at least one

hundred in order to register them as a Trade Union Organisation.

Section 6 of the principal Act stipulates as to what should be minimum subscription by members of the Trade Union, for rural workers and workers in the unorganised sector.

Section 9A, which is to be inserted in the principal Act, says:

"A registered Trade Union of workmen shall at all times continue to have not less than ten per cent or one hundred of the workmen, whichever is less, subject to a minimum of seven, engaged or employed in an establishment or industry with which it is connected, as its members."

I do not know how they will be able to examine this provision, 'at all times to continue'. Any time, the Registrar of Trade Unions can come and ask for the presence of ten per cent workmen, which is not practicable.

Section 11 of the principal amended Act provides for the registration appeal before the Tribunal and Labour Court.

Section 22 of the principal Act deals with the number of office bearers. Earlier, it was one-third and now they have limited it to five. I think, there has been a subsequent amendment that those who become the Minister or any other constitutional functionary cease to be the office bearer of the Trade Union.

I do believe that this Amendment Bill is an essential one because we are now in an era where total economic conditions are changing and where industrial climate has to change.

Unless we take the labour force into confidence, I do not think that will be possible. In the process of change, I think, a strong, an active and a representative Trade Union is very much needed. But with these amendments, the entire gamut of the changing situation is not over. I can say that these are minor amendments in one sense, you are limiting, putting more restriction on the right of the workers who were earlier entitled to have the registration of their Trade Unions with 7 members now it is 100.

[Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar]

Madam, in the interest of stable industrial relation, industrial peace and to evolve a mechanism for recognition of the Trade Union, this is very important. The matter of identifying their negotiating agent, I think, is one of the major issues in the Trade Union movement. That issue is not dealt in this Amendment Bill. I think, there are divergent views of the Central Trade Unions. Some Trade Union Centres say that the system of verification of membership should be adopted for verifying the representative character of the Trade Union. Some Trade Unions demand that secret ballot should be there to verify the representative character of the Trade Union. I think this matter is pending for quite a long time. It may be pending for the last two or three decades. We could not solve this. I think this is one of the urgent areas. I definitely urge upon the hon. Labour Minister to look into it and have a meeting as soon as possible with the Trade Union Centres because many of the disputes in the Trade Union field come from the recognition of the Trade Union. If we do not finalise the method by which the representative character of the Trade Union is verified, I think, they will not solve the problem. This has to be done, as you rightly said, with the consensus of the Trade Unions. But only wishing them well will not solve our problem. I think an immediate action from your side to solve this problem is very necessary.

There are many other issues, which were dealt by the Ramanujam Committee, which were not brought into this Amendment Bill. We would like to see that the Government also formulates their policy on these amendments. I know the difficulty of the hon. Labour Minister because he has inherited these amendments, which he has brought before the House. But because of the fast changing economic situation in our country, I think, we have to take some immediate steps.

Madam, Chairperson, I would like to ask the NDA Government this question. What is their Labour Policy? Who will set the Labour Policy of the country? Is it the hon. Labour Minister or the hon. Finance Minister of this country who will set the Labour Policy of this country? Definitely, I would take this opportunity to highlight the apprehensions of the working class of this country. When he presented

the Budget, a very disturbing statement came from the hon. Finance Minister. He had categorically said that he had requested the hon. Labour Minister to make amendments in the Contract Labour Act and also to make amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act. This will be a very dangerous step. I am sorry to mention this. What will be the impact of these amendments? Before coming here with these amendments, I request the hon. Labour Minister to see what will be the impact of these amendments.

Under Section 10 of the Contract Labour Act, after a great struggle, the working class has got the right to claim permanency in a perennial nature of work. If the worker is working in an organisation for one to five years, he has a right to approach the employer and become a permanent employee. They want to totally abolish Section 10 now. By doing this, they are going to allow the employers in this country to exploit the poor workers working in those establishments. I do not think, any Member of this House would be able to support this Bill if a person who works for ten years and more loses the right to ask for permanency in that organisation. I think, this is a very dangerous step. I definitely urge upon the hon. Minister of Labour not to venture into this.

Another amendment, about which the hon. Minister of Finance has mentioned, is more dangerous. It concerns the Industrial disputes Act. This is regarding the Exit Policy of the Government. They have tried to introduce it. The hon. Minister of Finance said that the hon. Minister of Labour would bring an amendment as soon as possible. What was the amendment? They are giving the management the right to close down industrial units having a workforce up to 1,000 and retrench the labour in such establishments. Earlier, the limit was 100 and anybody who had to close down an industrial unit had to go to the respective Government, for permission whether it was a CPI(M) Government, a BJP Government or a Congress Government. They had to get permission from that Government to allow them to close down the industry and retrench workers. I think, it is very good for workers that no Government belonging to any political party has till now allowed any industrial unit in their respective States to be closed down.

I would like to refer to one of the surveys. *The Annual Survey of Industry, 1997-98* says that there are 1,35,551 registered industries. Now, with the amendment 90% would be out of the parameters of the Industrial Disputes Act. I have the figures with me. The number of registered factories is 1,35,551. Out of them, those with more than one thousand workers are only 1,120 and those with less than one thousand workers are about 1,34,000. These 1,34,000 units are not required to go to any Government to seek permission to close down the unit and retrench labourers. What is the position of employees in those registered factories? The total number of employees in the registered factories is 99,25,810 and in the case of factories with up to 1,000 workers, it is 74,82,470. So, 74,82,470 workers would be out of the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act. These are very dangerous amendments suggested by the hon. Minister of Finance. He has said in his Budget Speech that this measure would promote industrial investment in labour-intensive and export-oriented activity, providing for renewed industrial growth while, at the same time, safeguarding the interests of the workers. I am surprised how he is going to safeguard the interests of the workers and the contract labour. He said that his colleague, the Minister of Labour, would introduce the appropriate legislation to amend the Industrial Disputes Act and the Contract Labour Act within that Session.

Luckily those amendments have not come in the last Budget Session. The hon. Minister of Labour is a very prominent trade union leader in his own right and he has concern about the working class whom he used to represent before assuming the office of the Labour Minister here. Out of the total working class of this country only 18 per cent are in the organised sector. What about those remaining 82 per cent who are in the unorganised sector? Out of the total figure of working class of the country, that is 37 crore, 82 per cent of them are the unorganised labour who include agricultural workers, contract labour, construction workers etc. What about their social security? What about the Agricultural Labour Act and the Contract Labour Act? We have to think of them.

Yesterday I was listening to the hon. Minister of Rural Development speaking during a discussion under Rule 193 on disinvestment. He has requested this House to look towards those people in the unorganised sector who live

in the rural areas and he said we have to divert our attention towards them and we have given enough attention to others. He has requested the main focus should be towards the unorganised sector. I am requesting the hon. Minister of Labour to focus his attention towards this 82 per cent of the labour in the unorganised sector who live in the remote villages and in hilly areas. They are hardly in a position to earn their bread for morning and evening. I would request the hon. Minister of Labour to see that though we may allow fast economic changes in the country in the name of the liberalisation, globalisation and economic reforms etc. we have to see that the interests of those in the unorganised sector should be protected. They are the real India; they represent the real India. I think we have to think of them.

The hon. Minister of Labour has very rightly constituted the second Labour Commission. I think they are going round the country and taking evidence. When they are going round the country, they would definitely look towards this unorganised sector also and they would be coming with their recommendations. I think we should see that those are looked into.

I want to say that this is not that much an important amendment but there are many more things to be done for the working class. The hon. Minister has the experience of representing the working class. He knows the difficulty and agony of those in the unorganised sector. I am sure, he would definitely to bring a comprehensive labour legislation to protect our brothers who live in the remotest parts of the country and who represent the real India. I think with this comprehensive labour legislation we will be able to do a little bit of assistance to the working class of this country.

With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully support the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill presented by the Hon. Labour Minister. As the Minister has just stated that after long deliberation a provision is made to amend almost 6.7 sections of Trade Unions Act. Dealing with the registration of Trade Unions. All of us must agree that in order to maintain

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

industrial harmony, encouraging pragmatic trade unions, to improve the economic condition of the country
..(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : First
Speak about the welfare of workers.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I am coming to
that also.

It is very necessary for the trade. Unions to be organised and pragmatic. All of us are gradually realising and observing the importance of trade unions in the context of Welfare of workers in this country. Even before and after independence, the large number of trade unions worked keeping the interest of the country and prosperity of industry supreme. But there have been many trade unions which have safeguarded their own interest not of the industries and the country. Today we see industrial recession, labour unrest in the country and it is all due to various trade unions their policies. These unions are responsible for creating such a situation.

The Amendment which has been brought, is in favour of trade unions and mostly for those who are workers in true sense. Till date there have been many such trade unions which on account of absence of any such provision in this trade Union Act. have nothing to do with concerned industry, they were not engaged in concerned occupation, but they have nothing to do with industries but these are involved in politics of various other areas of petty politics. Such people have formed trade unions. They have been reaping benefits from these unions out of their sheer selfishness and have not paid any heed to the welfare of the workers. Not only this, they did not pay attention to the problems of the institution where the workers are working and resorting agitations through various unlawful means. They actually not only have brought harm to the trade Unions and the workers, but also to industry. Some people kept on misusing this Act or this scheme. The only amendment that has been made is in section five. Earlier any seven or more than seven outsiders used to become the office bearers and apply to the Registrar for registration

and they were registered as a union. They had nothing to do with worker or their problems. Now this government has made an amendment that henceforth the workers of that institution could only become the office bearers of the union and the number of such office bearers has also been fixed. Now minimum number of members has also been fixed for registration of a trade union which was not fixed earlier. In the past seven persons used to appoint themselves as office bearers, enacted laws and applied for registration. Now after making a strict provision, certainly only the persons working in that industry would become office bearers of the Union. They would have real powers in the Union as they would be able to represent themselves in it. Therefore they would be able to solve their problems. Keeping in view their real problems and the interest of the industry.

The section 6 has also been amendment. This amendment has also been made about raising membership subscription. Earlier when there used to be 25 paise as annual membership subscription, five or seven persons would make 7, 10 or 15 fake member for 25 paise subscription and apply for registration. Now this subscription has been increased. Ranging from one rupee to 12 rupee. Thus the rate of subscription would come into force as per the laws framed by the trade union. Earlier the trade unions used to appoint their office bearers themselves but now the ordinary members would directly elect the office bearers in the general body meeting. There is a lot of difference between appointing and electing the office bearers. Earlier five or seven persons together used to become office bearers and appoint each other. But now the real workers together will elect them. Certainly this will strengthen the democracy and those labourers whom the labourers like will be able to enter labour sector and rein the trade unions, not the fake persons.

Besides, earlier the jurisdiction of the court was to first approach the High Court in the event of any kind of problem pertaining to Registration or Trade Union Act. All of us are aware that lakh of cases are pending in High courts of the country. The courts do not find time for hearing of the cases and such type of cases have been pending for several years. Now labour court and industrial court and industrial court are also

being brought under the purview. If there is any dispute pertaining to the registration of any trade union, they can go to labour court and industrial court. It is also indicated in the Bill that it would provide early and easily accessible justice.

There are many a problems of the labourers engaged in un-organised sector but no attention has been paid to their problems. But now section 32(1) has been amended and a provision has made for labourers engaged in un-organised sector as they would have maximum representation in the trade unions. I think they can also be benefitted by these Unions.

Section 29 has also been amended. According to it after the enactment of this Act, this Union and State Governments have been given powers to enact rule accordingly. Earlier these rules were enacted in Parliament or concerned Legislatures, but perhaps it was not necessary to give information about it. But now a provision is being made that if Government enact a rule under this Act, a copy each of it shall be presented in Parliament and State Legislatures. The Parliament or Legislatures will have the right to give a decision after discussing those copies or rules. If a rule is not enacted properly or it is against workers and does not protect their interests, then Parliament will have the right to repeal that rule. Similarly the State Legislature will also have the right to repeal such kind of rule.

I do feel that this Amendment Bill is in the interest of Trade Unions. It will benefit industry and country both. Though Government has constituted a Labour Commission to bring about radical Changes in labour laws. The Commission has been working since one and half years. As Paban Singh Ghatowar has given us information about the provision under Industry Dispute Union, I also want to add something visit. He said that Government has been given right to close down such industry where more than one thousand workers work, but actually that it has been given right to retrench. In an industry having less than one thousand workers, Mill owner can retrench workers on his own. The people and workers of the country should have this information that if a Mill owner retrenches workers then he had to pay fifteen days of salary for each the

years of his length of service. But now it has been increased from 15 days to 45 days. It's benefit is that now Mill owner will have to think time and again before retrenching a worker. I was also in Trade Union, worked in a factory and was retrenched. I rendered 15 years of service and got salary of seven and half months on the basis of the pattern of 15 day's salary per year, but now if somebody is retrenched, he will get 21 months' salary approximately. If a Mill owner has to pay such an amount to a worker then he will think ten times before retrenching the worker.

On this basis I can say that Government has enacted law in the interest of workers. The Government have considered to protect the interest of workers and those who criticise this, have subverted Trade Unions. They have even created an atmosphere of industrial recession. I, therefore urge upon the hon'ble Minister for Labour that he and I have worked with Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh and I want to inform the house that he is my elder. I contest election from other constituency and he is my elder. We have worked together with Bhatiya Mazdoor Sangh and this is the only Union and I would like to say that its ideas should be implemented in the country. My view is that there should be workers participation in the management of Industries. Due to non-participation in the management, management takes decisions arbitrarily workers work very hard and owner invests his money. Both work together and get the benefit of production. Therefore, there should be workers' participation in the industry management. There is no need for the nationalisation of Industries. In fact workers should be not nationalized, I mean to say that workers should be patriotic. If workers are patriotic then it will benefit the Industry and the country both. There should be industrialisation of the country. If these three things are implemented, the atmosphere of the country will be peaceful, the workers will be satisfied and the economic condition of the country will be better. The Labour Commission has been constituted by the Government and whatever decision is taken by it and whatever law is enacted, all such things should be incorporated into it. I hope and I do believe that the objective for which the Labour Commission has been Constituted will be achieved and its recommendation will be taken into consideration while enacting more laws in the interest of the country. I thank you for giving me a chance to speak here.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam, Chairperson, I did not expect that Shri Satyanarayan Jatiya, the hon. Labour Minister will bring in an anti-working class Bill. He has said that the amendments to this Bill are brought in keeping with the recommendations made by G. Ramanujam Committee. This Committee was constituted in the year 1990 and this Committee was unanimous on all the recommendations. But there are a number of dissenting notes and I have gone through those dissenting notes. This Committee made a number of recommendations but the hon. Minister has selected only one out of those recommendations to amend the existing Trade Unions Act. Why have the other recommendations not been implemented?

Madam, this Committee recommended labour participation in management. A Bill to this effect was introduced in the year 1990 but that is still pending. Nothing has been done in that regard. The Ramanujam Committee recommended that there should be meaningful labour participation in management. The Bill brought in by the hon. Minister would only help the foreign companies and multinationals to grab our industries because this amending Bill is meant to amend certain existing labour laws that would help the multinational companies in the post-liberalised era. How could the hon. Minister do this?

This Committee made recommendations on the Industrial Relations Act also but the Minister has not brought any legislation to amend that Act. There has been a long-pending demand that recognition of unions should be done through secret ballot. The main thrust of the Bill is, 'to reduce multiplicity of trade unions, to promote internal democracy and rank and file leadership of the trade unions, facilitating their orderly growth and regulation.' The Government wants to discipline the workers. What about disciplining the employer? By bringing this amendment the Minister wants to reduce the multiplicity of trade unions. That is the reason why he is restricting the number to 10 per cent or 100. How can these signatures be verified? All these 100 workmen are required to be paraded before the Registration Officer. Is it possible to bring all of them there? Why is the Minister imposing these restrictions? If he wants to reduce the multiplicity of unions, he should bring a Bill saying that recognition should be given through secret ballot.

What is the reason for this multiplicity of unions? I have the experience of trade unions. It is the management which encourages multiplicity of unions. It is the management which encourages rivalry among unions. If there is one union, that union will have more bargaining power. In order to reduce the bargaining power of the union, the management always tries to have more than one union. Multiplicity of unions cannot be removed by imposing restrictions. The unions should be able to decide as to what should be the subscription. The Government is now fixing the subscription. The unions should be able to decide as to what will be the number of office bearers. The Government is putting a restriction on the number of office bearers.

The recommendation says:

"There has been considerable discussion about the procedure in trade unions. It is the right of the workers to choose their leaders. That should remain unfettered."

To choose their leader is a right of the workers. The Government is imposing restriction on their right. What will be the number of outsiders?

Madam, what are we experiencing nowadays? We have been demanding change in the existing Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act which was enacted in 1970. There are loopholes. That is why that Act is being violated by the employers.

While presenting his Budget, the hon. Finance Minister had made a proposal that there would be a change in both the Central Act of 1948 as well as the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act of 1970. It is necessary. Even the hon. Commerce Minister had stated on the floor of the House that the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not coming to India because of our labour laws, and these laws are to be scrapped. It is said not only to amend but to delete the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act. Then, what will happen to the contract labours? What will happen to the workers who are permanently engaged?

Madam, the multinational companies do not want to employ any permanent labour. They want to employ only the contract labours so that they can exploit them. By exploiting them they want to earn more profits. It is very unfortunate that the Labour Minister is surrendering to the wishes of the multinational companies.

Madam, that Act was enacted after much deliberations. There was a joint Select Committee formed which had discussed at length with all labour organisations and employees' organisations. They all recommended to enact it. Then the Act was enacted and there was a provision that in certain areas where there is a perennial nature of jobs, this contract system should be abolished and the workers who are engaged as contract labours in those areas should be absorbed as the permanent labours.

Here, what will happen to these contract workers who have been working for years together? It seems that their main purpose is such that the employers will not have to pay the retirement benefits and the workers will not demand for their wages revision. They will have to work with minimum wages. Does the hon. Labour Minister really want that our labours should be converted into slaves? Madam, the slavery system is being introduced by amending or rather by deleting the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulations) Act.

Madam, Section 10 of the Industrial Relations Act of 1945 is being amended. Why? During his speech, Shri Gehlot was saying that he was a worker and then he was retrenched at one point of time. Now, he is associated with the Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh and he is supporting it whole-heartedly that the multinational companies should have the right not only to retrench but also close down the undertakings.

What was the demand of the workers? It was about revision in the incentive scheme. There is a standing order and that standing order should be abided by both the Management and the workmen. We want that there should be some change in the standing order. Though they have this standing order, the workers were asked to give individual undertaking. Unless workers give individual undertaking, they will not be allowed to enter the factory. The labour Minister is helpless and the Heavy Industries Minister is also helpless. I was surprised when I was told that the Government of India has no power to issue directions to the Management of Maruti Udyog Limited.

There was an agreement - he was also there in the Chamber of the hon. Speaker; all the representatives of

the political parties were there - that they would withdraw the practice of victimisation, and the workmen also will not insist on revision of new incentive scheme. They accepted it; the workers agreed to it in writing; but the Management refused to honour the agreement which was signed in the Chamber of the hon. Speaker. Then the workers ended their dharna which continued for one month in the winter of December 2000 under the sky in front of Udyog Bhavan. When they entered the company to join duty, the Management did not withdraw the practice of victimisation and again they started victimising workers. This is happening in an undertaking where the Government of India has 50 per cent share. So, this multinational company wants that the existing Labour Laws are scrapped, and that they should be given freedom to exploit workers. They also want to earn profit and to take it to their own country.

That is why, the Finance Minister has announced that two pieces of legislation will be brought before the House. We have also decided to oppose those pieces of legislation tooth and nail.

I have with me, a report of ILO. A canker is spread against the workers saying that they are indulging in strikes and that they are all indisciplined. Employees are all disciplined. FDI worth billions of dollars is coming only for that purpose. China is attracting 40 billion dollars due to labour force.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to start winding up.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will finish. This is a very important Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that. But the time allotted for your Party is over.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The wage cost, on an average, has gone up to five per cent between 1991 and now, and the labour cost has come down to 50 per cent during the same period. They have given the statistics. The total man-days lost between 1991 and today on account of lockout is 135; and the ratio between strike and lockout which was 1:1 in 1991 has gone up to 1:4 today. That means, whenever there is one strike, there are four lockouts. Industries are being closed down and workers are getting retrenched. Workers' interest are not being

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

protected. Even the retired workers and retiring workers are not getting their statutory dues like PF, pension, gratuity, etc.

15.00 hrs.

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya said that it requires more than Rs. 2,000 crore. He told me this three months back. Today it would have increased to, maybe, Rs. 2,200 crore or Rs. 2,300 crore. It is not less. I know that workers are not getting their salaries also.

We want a comprehensive legislation to protect the interests of workers. We want the legislation or the Bill which was introduced in this very House in 1990, which is Workers' Participation in Management Bill. That should be brought forward here and it should be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Acharia, you must wind up please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Recognition through secret ballot should be there. If you bring forward such an enactment or a Bill, then multiplicity of unions can be reduced. The Government has to bring in such Bills. It should not scrap enactment, but it should repeal the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act. It can bring forward an amending Bill to remove the loopholes that are there in the existing Act.

Madam, this is a dangerous Bill. This is an anti-working class Bill. This Bill has been brought forward to protect the interest of only the multinational company. I oppose this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I congratulate the hon. Labour Minister. I also support the Bill with some suggestions.

My first suggestion is that in clause 4, there is an amendment which says:

"(hh) the duration of period being not more than three years, for which the members of the executive and

other office-bearers of the Trade Union shall be elected."

I would like to bring this to the notice of the hon. Minister that in our country, right from Gram Panchayats up to Parliament, elections are held for five years. Here, in the amendment, the Government has made it as three years, which would be the duration of the Executive Council.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Achariaji, it is provided in the Rules of procedure and conduct of Business in Lok Sabha that no hon. Member would leave the House immediately after expressing his views. You are in the panel of Chairmen, therefore, we are making request to you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am just coming back.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: My sincere request to the hon. Minister is that he should follow the same thing, which is followed in the case of elections to bodies right from Gram Panchayats up to Parliament.

Secondly, whenever we work in the field, we are facing a lot of problems relating to definition of workmen. That is our experience. So clarity of definition is very much essential. We have to go to the court of law many times, whenever we face those problems.

Thirdly, our national policy is to have participation of workers in the management. But unfortunately, it is not followed practically in various industries. It should be brought in, in the Trade Unions Act.

It should be mandatory for all corporations, as also for all cooperative institutions and other private sector institutions. Effective participation of workers in the management is very much essential.

With these few suggestions, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of labour has introduced the Trade Unions

(Amendment) Bill in the House. After perusal of the Act it is clear that prima facie the amendment is not pro-labourers. It can not be said that this amendment is in favour of the labourers as it has been tried to convince so. I would also like to say that it is also not a balanced one. People of the country think that the present Government would harm the poor labourers. It has been the stand of the Government of this party to favour the capitalists for years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last many days the words such as globalisation, liberalisation have got currency and according to me this country is in dilemma as to what course it should follow. Sometimes the Government talk about disinvestment and sometimes this idea is dropped. Today, bill is concerned with labourers. When a question is asked in the House why our economy is not making upward movement, the Government does not reply that. This economic recession has been caused due to these labourers. But when there is a discussion on the issue it is stated that when industries are not functioning it is attributed to i.e. the non cooperation of labourers. But this is not so. The Amendment brought by the hon. Minister has to be gone through minutely.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister himself has been a leader of labourers. I know that his sentiments are not going to be dampened even if he is a Minister. He has worked with the labourers so he also knows the position of the capitalists. He also knows how tedious it is to mobilise seven labourers for registration of a Trade Union. The whole country knows that the capitalists suppress the labourers whenever they try to get united. We read in the newspaper that labourers are killed and the trade unions are not constituted. The hon. Minister has put forth condition in the amendment brought under section - 4:

[English]

"Provided that no trade union of workmen shall be registered unless at least ten per cent, or one hundred of the workmen, whichever is less, engaged or employed in the establishment or industry with which it is connected, are the members of such trade union on the date of making of application for registration".

[Translation]

You have proposed this amendment. My submission is that there have been such incidents in the country when seven labourers could not get themselves united for registration of a trade union and you are talking about hundred labourers. You have said that Ramanujam committee have recommended it. It is correct that that committee have recommended it but you should ponder over this also. When it is difficult to unite seven labourers is it possible to unite one hundred labourers the capitalists are not so weak that they would let one hundred labourers get united. Besides, you have said that the number of labourers should remain one hundred at all the time. It should not be less than one hundred otherwise the registration would be cancelled. I think that while amending the said section you have not kept in mind the casualty that may arise in any industry resulting into which the number of the workers would decrease. Then what will happen? Protection is not provided to the trade union in such a situation. In this situation the capitalists would submit an application to cancel the registration of the trade union. Then what would be the situation? There is no explanation for such a situation. I would like that you should explain the situation. It should be provided in the amendment bill that in case of any contingency how the labourers would protect themselves because it has been made mandatory that there should be one hundred labourers at all times. You have said:

[English]

"9 A. a registered trade union of workmen shall at all times continue to have not less than ten per cent, or one hundred of the workmen, whichever is less, subject to a minimum of seven, engaged or employed in an establishment or industry with which it is connected, as its members.

[Translation]

You have brought about amendment in section 9. Now, what would happen if a member of trade union dies, and the management of the industry would try to take advantage of this situation claiming that since the strength of union has been reduced to 99, its registration should be cancelled. Therefore, you are requested to provide some time frame in this regard.

[Shri Sundar Lal Tiwari]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, secondly, I want to say that as I have said earlier also that membership of one hundred persons is mandatory, earlier it was difficult to meet the requirement of seven members, but now you have raised it to one hundred. However, we have accepted that also. But at present you must provide some protection to them and make the necessary amendment so that no direct action is taken against them for one or two years. It must also be ensured that no action is taken against them until a decision is given by any court or committee in this regard. Thus, they would be able to express their feelings and constitute the organisation. Only then they would be in a position to raise their voice against the industrialists. Otherwise, the labourers would not be in a position to raise their voice. It is very difficult to gather one hundred persons. It would amount to suppression of the voice of the labourers.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this law came into force in the pre-independence period in 1926, when we were slaves. At that time this law was formulated to organise the labourers. It meant to strengthen their voice in the country. Today, if you do not want to suppress their voice then it means that you want to weaken it and divert their attention. What I want to say is you should try to think over their protection. It must be ensured that when initially there are one hundred persons they should be given some protections so that no stringent action is taken against them with malicious intention.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Gehlot has left the House just now, he was saying that today there is a need for dedicated and patriotic labourers. Perhaps he might have forgotten to say that the labourers had a very prominent role in the freedom struggle of the country.

Everyone in the country knows the pioneer of our freedom struggle, the eminent leader late Bal Gangadhar Tilakji. When he was lathicharged by the Britishers in Bombay then these labourers managed to paralyse Bombay for four days and stood by the freedom struggle. There is no point in breaking these organisations and making them powerless. Today labourers are the bedrock of the development but what percentage of the labourers of country is organised? If we have a labour force of 30-

35 crore then, hardly of them are organised and remaining do not have any union. They are tolerating atrocities. Kindly do not create a situation that these two crore labourers do not remain organised, kindly make efforts to organise them because this union would rise to the occasion whenever such an occasion arises in the country.

You have incorporated the recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee Report in the Bill and it has also been mentioned in the objects and reasons also. You have told that you want to restore internal democracy and improve the leadership of unions. Therein it is provided that any person holding office of profit cannot be a President of those unions. The number of outsiders has been reduced. However, there is no much objection to it, but I would certainly say that many a times these illiterate trade unions also require expert's views from outside also. Many a times such a situation arises when they need the opinion of other learned people, intellectuals and so also leadership for the union. If we have to make any amendment then our team would visit America to study the system there regarding liberalisation and after their return they would hold a debate here with a reference to America, China and if a labourer wants to obtain intellectuals advice and opinion from other sources then their number is restricted. If any body wants to take the charge of leadership, their number is reduced. It should be duly considered. I mean to say that there is a need to equilibrate the amendment brought by you. There is need to provide a protection to them.

We know that to ensure the smooth functioning of our industries. We require labourers, union peace for our country. Our country is realising it. We want the labourers be disciplined, but their voice should not be suppressed in the name of discipline. We request the hon'ble Minister to rise above party lines. You extend maximum help to the industrialists of the country but it should not be done at the cost of these labourers. Myself as well as the whole country are aware of the disinvestment process being carried out and through it, you have got a very good opportunity and you are all set to sell out all the units in the country within a couple of years which is being done irrespective of the takers may it be Americans or Pakistanis. Mr. Gehlot has left. He can talk about the industrialists as well as the labourers. He knows how to speak on the both the issues. You would also talk about

Pakistan and India. On the one side you would say that you want peaceful relations with the neighbouring countries but on the other, when there is any cricket match you would not allow the players of the country to go there to play matches. This is the obstacle. The concerned Minister would look into it.

Lastly, I would like to say that you should bring a balanced Bill so that the interests the labourers are protected and our industries run smoothly and progress.

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Hon'ble Chairperson, India is restructuring its economy to keep in tune with the developed countries through the process of economic liberalisation and globalisation. While welcoming it we cannot wish away the fact that the working class would get affected. At a time when they are to be hit hard by computerisation, Government has introduced this Bill to amend the Trade Unions Act and I welcome the same on behalf of my party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam which upholds the cause of the labour class. It is a relief at a time when downsizing and closures seek to affect the working class. Seventy five years after the enactment of the Trade Unions Act, we are now bringing an amendment to ensure the welfare of the working class and to bring about industrial peace. I welcome the move and support.

The Bill authorises the Trade Unions to collect subscription from its members and it would be a democratic move to leave it with the Trade Unions the subscription amount they would be charging from their members.

The Bill brings about an outer limit to the number of outsiders who could be made members of a trade union. It has been fixed to be fifty percent. I welcome this.

The Bill also emphasises the need to elect office bearers rather than appointing them. The Bill also provides for the tenure of three years. I for one would feel that it would be better to bring it down to 2 years. It would ensure democracy within trade unions. As such many of the trade unions are holding elections once in two years. They must be allowed to continue the same way. In Tamil Nadu, our leader Dr Kalaignar, the four-time Chief Minister of Tamil

Nadu, when he was in power till last year, had set up two separate boards for the welfare of both the agricultural workers and labourers in the unorganised sector. Through his move, the labour class would now get Rs 1 lakh as compensation when they die of accident. The insurance scheme also provides for a compensation upto Rs 1 lakh even for those agricultural labourers who are injured or left invalid as handicapped due to accidents. Two children from each such workers' family would get scholarships to study upto post-graduate level.

Governments may change. But schemes aimed at benefiting the public introduced during one regime must not be withdrawn during the tenure of the other. Such model welfare schemes must be introduced throughout the country. I urge upon the Hon. Minister for Labour Welfare to take up such welfare measures.

At this juncture, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the concern our Prime Minister has got for the labour class of this country. He believes in improving their standard of life gradually. That is why he has impressed upon the developed countries not to press for labour standard now and take it up for discussion in the ensuing round of talks in World Trade Organisation. He has also urged upon the rich nations not to put restrictions on the developing countries that would affect the interests of the labour class ultimately. He has stated that we must have space and time to strengthen and stabilise our economy first. He has stated that labour standards can be improved upon step by step as a follow up step. I appreciate the Prime Minister for his bold stand to warn the developed world who unnecessarily urge us to give priority to labour standard which in fact would be detrimental in the absence of a sound economic base. He believes in improving our economy to ensure labour welfare. I welcome his observation made recently at Vigyan Bhawan in a meeting on WTO. He had stated that labour welfare and labour standard must be left with the respective countries. We welcome this reiteration based on initiative with a vision. While condemning the criticism levelled by the developed countries about the labour standards, our Government has its own method to ensure a better forum for the labour class. We see it reflected in this Bill. The balanced concern of the Government is evident.

*English translation of Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A.K.S. Vijayan]

Hence I welcome and support this Bill which seeks to protect the interests and rights of the working class resulting in their welfare.

*SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): Madam Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Madam, the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2001, introduced in this House, seeks to prescribe the lower limit of the number of members required to register a trade union. The Bill states that the registration of that trade union could be cancelled if the minimum number gets reduced.

I would like to express my serious apprehension that clause 2 and clause 6 of the Bill put together may become handy and help those who may seek to wind up a trade union. Anyone with a humanitarian consideration and humane approach would get this apprehension. To wipe out that fear is the duty of a Government.

A registered trade union fighting for getting certain benefits and rights for workers must not be deregistered and wound up. Even if there are two members the trade union once registered must continue. At best you can ask them not to take up new issues but you cannot deny solution to pending issues they fight for.

The Trade Union Act is there only to provide for the collective bargaining of individual workers. The miseries and sufferings of every single labourer must be addressed to. We must ensure that we wipe out their tears.

15.26 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

The Trade Union Act of 1926, enacted during the British regime, is amended often in the independent India. I strongly feel that this Government ought to have brought a comprehensive legislation taking into consideration the changes of the modern times especially in the context of liberalisation and globalisation of our economy. The time has come to a pass now. It has led to a phase of take-

over of establishments and pruning of staff in business and even reducing work-hands in shop floors. This has become an era of closures and loss of jobs. The disinvestment ventures of the Government have resulted in the winding up industrial units. It appears that Government considers it a duty to close unit after unit in the public sector.

While framing labour laws and legislating for trade unions, the Government must not shy away from reality and must have a pragmatic approach. The Government must ensure that labour class is not affected in anyway.

When Government takes upon itself to suggest to the trade unions the subscription they can collect from their working class members, the Government must also come forward to ensure the welfare of the labour class by way of contributing its bit or by way of setting up welfare funds for the workers both in the organised sector and unorganised sector.

We are all aware that it is the working class that has been greatly affected by the process of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation.

Of the hundred crore population in India, 35 crore of people belong to the labour class. Of this working class, 91% are in the unorganised sector. Agricultural workers who are daily wage earners constitute about 31 crore. Unfortunately they do not have any organisation of their own to represent them and take up their cause. They do not have trade unions leave alone the registration and recognition to them.

I urge upon the Government to ensure organised forums for these hapless people in the unorganised sector. Agriculture labourers who work as daily wage earners and people working in isolated cottage industries constitute the majority of the labour force in the unorganised sector. There is a provision in this Bill that seeks to indirectly help them. The trade unions in the unorganised sector can have about 50% of its executive committee members from outside. This may help them partly but not fully. Though it is a welcome feature that would not suffice.

Hence I want to urge upon the Government to come with a comprehensive Bill especially for the workers in the unorganised sector.

*English translation of Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Labour welfare measures like financial assistance, ex-gratia payment and accident insurance schemes are there in Tamil Nadu from the time when our founder leader Puratchi Thalaivi MGR was there. It is continued in a steadfast manner during the rule of our leader Dr Puratchi Thalaivi as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I would like to request the Union Labour Minister to emulate the model schemes of Tamil Nadu and urge upon him to take steps to introduce such schemes throughout our country. I would like to suggest that a National Welfare Fund for the unorganised sector must be set up to help various States to take up these social security schemes for the welfare of the workers and their families.

My colleague Shri Vijayan of DMK who spoke ahead of me said there should not be any lull or shelving of schemes whenever there is change of guard after every elections. He said Governments may come and Governments may go. In Tamil Nadu their Government has gone. But at the Centre their NDA is in the Government. 'The benefits of welfare schemes must percolate unto the last' was the motto of our mentor MGR and our leader and the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr Puratchi Thalaivi who upholds those noble ideals. Our Government would continue all the labour welfare measures without change even if Governments change. I would like to assure you that our Tamil Nadu Government led by our leader Dr Puratchi Thalaivi will not come in the way of any ongoing social welfare scheme.

As the Government at the Centre has brought this Trade Union (Amendment) Bill now on a piece-meal basis, and since they have not come forward with a comprehensive legislation to benefit a wider cross section of the Indian society, I have to oppose this Bill.

With this, let me conclude.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I rise to support the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2001. Any nation's prosperity depends upon the prosperity of trade unionism and the workers' welfare. If the workers are well-off, the industry will be normally well-off. Otherwise, no industry will survive and thrive. This is a progressive step towards the welfare of the nation to work together, the industry and the workers. However, a comprehensive Bill is required to make the laws of the trade unionism to

protect their interests in view of liberalisation and disinvestment. So many things are happening in the Industrial Sector but the rights of the labourers are not being taken care of. So, one day or the other, the hon. Minister, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya should come with a comprehensive Bill wherein no worker would lose his job. It is because in a welfare State, that is the first criterion in the society. The industry can have any number of workers but a worker cannot have any second job. It is very difficult to find a job and our nation is very poor. We have 100 crores of population and today's problem is to provide jobs for them. The youth is frustrated. Our Government has promised to provide one crore jobs per year and that is still luring the youth and that has not come into reality. In this context, you should take care and bring measures to provide more jobs and opportunities to the people to protect their interests.

With these words, I support the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if the House agrees, we may pass this Bill and then take up the next item, namely, Private Members' Business. There are only two Members to speak on the Bill and it may take only about 15-20 minutes.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Four hours were allotted for the discussion on the Bill. Now it is time for taking up Private Members' business. But we have still to speak on the Bill. How will it be managed?

MR. SPEAKER: But you have not yet finished your speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: How will it be possible. The time for both the items is clashing the Private Members' Business will start at 3.30. It has been allotted four hours out of which one and half hour has already been taken... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will take only 15-20 minutes for it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sometimes when half an hour is left for any Bills a few members still remain to speak. Now why is the time being decreased when four hours have been fixed for it?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think there is a request from the Government side also.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): We may have to sit beyond 6 p.m. to pass this Bill because the Minister has to go for an international conference on Monday. That is the problem. Either it may be passed now or it may be taken up after 6 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: We may take 15-20 minutes to pass this Bill or after finishing the Private Member's Business, we may take up this Bill again.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: How is it possible to take up the Bill after 6 p.m.?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Please cooperate on this issue atleast or the other.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): You can speak in the absence of the Minister also.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Please don't say that Minister will be absent. You please remain seated.

[English]

We are not sitting here just to talk only to you. Please talk with some responsibility. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

The Minister may leave the house but you keep on speaking. When Hon'ble Speaker is present here, why do you intervene? You said that Minister is not present you keep on speaking what do you think of yourself?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: From the Chair, I am only taking the sense of the House.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I object to his remark that the Minister will go and we keep on talking. The House is more important than an international conference. That is not the way for an hon. Member to talk. What are we coming here for?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I share the agony of the Members. Actually, four hours have been allotted for this Bill. But due to two incidents which I do not want to narrate, this Bill had dragged on. I was also requested by the Minister on this Bill. Since only two Members are left to speak, I would appeal to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and others who have left that if we take about 15-20 minutes to pass this Bill and extend the time of the Private Members' Business from 6 p.m. to 6.30 p.m, we can accommodate them. Every time, I do not want to confront. In this matter, I have a mind to cooperate. Due to the last two days development, we have realised that time is precious in our hands. From our side, there were three speakers. One Member is not present at the moment and two Members have already spoken. If on the Government side also, the number of speakers are reduced and the discussion and passing of the Bill may be concluded, I do not mind it. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KHARBELA SWAIN: You are scolding me. But I want to tell you that my name was also included in the list of speakers but I refused to speak on the Bill.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: He has withdrawn your name.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have called Raghuvansh babu to speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has presented Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, which is concerned with workers. The whole production related work in the country performed by the workers. it is the workers who run factories, engage in agriculture, manufacture clothes and construct big buildings. In fact everything is done by these hard working workers in the world. But the capitalists Sway over the capital and exploit these labourers the Government

should enact any law against such exploitation. A Ramanujam Committee was set up in this regard. The Government have claimed that they have brought this amendment bill as per the recommendations of that Committee? But the other recommendations of the Committee were not taken care of. The Government have brought this amendment after accepting only those recommendations which suit to multi-national companies, and the capitalists. There is no law for the labourers. The Ramanujam Committee had recommended that the workers should have representation in the management. What is the problem with the Government in providing due representation to the workers in the management? It is right that there should be trade unions and the labourers should be provided their rights. But sometimes confrontation occurs leading industry to ruin. I agree that industry should be protected, but not at the cost of labourers and by ignoring their interests. Just now it has been stated that the labourers should be patriot. I claim that these hardworking and laborious people. Who are engaged in production and manufacturing are more patriot than anyone in India. But some people think that only capitalists are the patriot. This is their mentality which can not be tolerated at all. The labourers should have freedom to elect anyone they like. But there is a provision in the Bill that a leader must be elected among them only, there is no doubt that outsiders also work for the welfare of these labourers. Mostly the labourers are illiterate. After working in the factory whole day they also work at home. Therefore they can not decide who should be elected. There is also a provision in the Bill that there should be 100 laborers in a Union. Only then it could be registered as a trade union. It has been stated in the budget speech of this Government that owner of a factory, where one thousand labourers are working can close the factory at his will. Many labourers approached me and complained that there is no scheme for their welfare and everything is for the management.

They also complain that the industrialists employ them for two of four years and fire them thereafter. Recently small factories and industries have been shifted from Delhi under a court order. Which has resulted in rendering the large number of labourers jobless and bringing them on the street. The labourers, the proletariat should be protected in every way.

At this juncture, I am reminded of the story of Mahabharata. When Bhishma Pitamaha was lying on "bed of arrows" he began to give sermons, upon this, Draupadi began to laugh. Then Pitamaha asked her why she was laughing. She replied to Pitamaha that when she was being undressed outrageously in front of huge gathering in the court and grievous wrong was being done to me, you were silent at that time and now you are giving sermons today. Thereupon Pitamaha told her that at that time he had sided with Duryodhana because the food he had been eating was being provided by him and he therefore was loyal to him. It was that reason for which he could not say anything against the wrong doing that being done at that time that is why he had no such knowledge at that time.

When Bhisham Pitamaha was lying at "Baan Shaiya"...(Interrupitons)

MR. SPEAKER: Is Minister of Parliamentary Affairs listening to him?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: At that time the whole blood of his body had been shed and he was giving sermons. This story of Mahabharat is known to the entire world and this is what I want to point out were. Since this Government has been formed with the help of the capitalists and is loyal to them, it is making laws in favour of the capitalists. When person like Bhishma Pitamaha favoured Duryodhana as he owned his food to him and he could not take decision according to religion and to others. How would this Government which has been formed by the help of rich person and capitalists pay attention to the welfare of the laboureres? No. it would not. Therefore, the Government should explicitly state as to why it did not implement the recommendations of Ramanujam Committee, the Government is introducing only that law which suit the capitalists, the labourers are being exploited. They should be libarated of such exploitation, this Government is bringing wrong law for the unorganised labourers and there is nobody to take care of them. Earlier there was law in this regard. But the selfish element, opportunists, the exploiters are controlling the Government. They want that no law should be framed for the welfare of the labourers and they should not be given protection. It is posing a thread to the country and it is a challenge for the country if exploitation of the labourers will continue.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Unless this Government comes out with a solution for livelihood of the labourers and poor people, the existing situation may go from bad to worst leading to a bloody revolution because when the fire of hunger blazes, it spreads all around. Therefore, I want to caution Government not to snatch livelihood from the labourers. There is always a fear of retrenchment among the labourers.

There is nobody to look after their health. They get half work. They do not get full wages. They have to work on less wages. The workers have to work on Rs. 1200/- or Rs. 2000/- per month in the factories situated in Delhi. How they will manage to live in such low income. They get job for only two to four months in a year. This is the problem of workers. Therefore I expect that law should not be enacted for the benefits of Multi Nationals and Capitalists. The power tariff has become Rs. 7/- due to 'Enron'. The foreign companies are coming here to exploit. They want to come here because labour is cheap which will be beneficial for them. They are not coming for charity. Therefore, I would like to caution the Government that it should not be neglect in the interest of the nation and the interests of the downtrodden of organised or un-organised sectors. Now the workers are also saying that they will not bear it anymore. Therefore, keeping in view these things, Government should bring a comprehensive Bill which should not be against the interests of workers, which should not be against recommendations of Ramanujam Committee and will not favour multinationals and capitalists. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I feel that it is good to avoid multiplicity of unions but at the same time, it is not good to force anybody to join any union. Therefore, it may not be proper to fix a minimum limit. A proviso to the effect that it may be ten per cent or any other per cent, subject to the minimum, would be quite all right.

The second proviso is a little troublesome, as far as some establishments are concerned because the number

of workers would be very low. Therefore, it would not be proper to fix seven as the minimum limit. This is what I would like to say as the main aspect.

As has been stated by almost all the speakers, I too would like to have a comprehensive Bill, especially in the light of the new scenario where we have globalisation, privatisation and disinvestment. A large number of problems have cropped up amongst the labourers. Take for example, the poor porters at the railway stations. Railways have allowed the porters to carry luggage. They were also allowed to use the facility of railway pass. But all of a sudden, in the South, at Mangalore Railway Station, they have introduced privatisation. Tenders have been called and the jobs were given to private people without consulting the labour force. This type of move should not ensue. There are many such examples where privatisation is causing havoc to the working class.

We would like to have a new law with regard to the workers' participation in management also. Sharing of investment and profit to some extent may be considered.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak on Trade Union Bill, 2001.

In this Bill a provision has been made for the registration of employers and Trade Unions of workers. I think it creates a confusion. It would have been better had this Bill been given a title as Labour Union instead of Trade union for the interests of workers. The reason is that Trade Unions of 761 employers and Trade Unions of 50 thousand workers are registered in it. The essence of the Bill is welfare of workers but as far as automation and computerisation are concerned, the Government is going in the opposite direction. Earlier at least seven workers were required for registration of a trade union, but now putting a criteria of ten per cent and membership of one hundred workers is not proper. The reason is that the number of workers are becoming less in every industry therefore this number should be reduced further. Through you, I submit this points only.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving this Bill so much importance. Several hon'ble Members have given important suggestions. Infact the Bill which we are dismissing here is the oldest Bill of 1926 pertaining to Trade Unions. It has not yet been amended in such a way. It is being said that it will harm the workers which is not correct. We are living in a democratic country and in democracy progress in leadership is a big thing. The more the people divide, the more their strength reduces and the people working with trade unions know the more they become powerful the more their wargaining capacity reduces. It is not that we are limiting the powers by the number of unions. You know that these unions work with some motivation or with self motivation to form any union, but other benefits are also connected with the people. Due to which the Trade Unions have to face other problems also. There is nothing to hide, because Ramanujam committee was constituted after long deliberations. Every issue was discussed by the committee. After that standing committee was constituted. After consultation and deliberation we proceeded further.

Many of my friends have said that it lacks issues like recognition. We also want issue of recognition should be included in it by way of secret ballot and other means. Now it have been provided to give recognition to any union for two year because we want that a healthy trade union should develop and we could work in healthy environment from industrial aspect. There is nothing to encourage industrialists and capitalists in the Bill. Earlier there was a provision in the rule that people from outside may come and now there is a provision too that people from outside can come to guide them. Now the number has been limited to five. It does not mean that we have stopped someone. Someone who wish to guide, to bargain can negotiate and there are opportunities to lead. Now five or ten people can lead, there is no impediment in it. After broad consultation and keeping in view the statement of object and reasons, I had said that our leadership has improved. This rule was enacted in 1926 and is 75 years old. How can we say that the leadership of workers, Trade Unions has not improved during these 75 years. The leadership has indeed improved. As far as law is concerned - the second labour commission is working to enact a fully fledged law. After the presentation of the

report we will bring as hon'ble Member have desired, a comprehensive Bill...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Please bring a law to provide workers participation in the management.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : This law has been implemented at several places in public undertakings. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : What about worker's participation in the industry?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : There is no need to underestimate labour and capital. I alongwith all other members do believe that capital alone can't make any development and progress. labour develops technique and it develops skills which increases production and its value. Therefore to make a thing valuable labour and technique both are necessary. If labour, technology and capital are considered three parts of a development the contribution of labour and technique is of two parts. This is done through labour only. With this view it is impossible to affect labour and technology, to undermine it and to underestimate it. If anybody neglects it he will have to pay the price for it.

Today we want it and after consultation with various Members Rajya Sabha has also passed it and it has been passed by the committee also. I heard your views patiently and the views expressed by hon'ble Members are indeed very valuable for us. Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar has certainly given very useful suggestions. He has said that matters of recognition should be there and has asked as to who will decide the labour policy. I want to say that the Government, the nation and Parliament will decide the labour policy and we will formulate such a policy in which arrangements of the social security of all the workers will be made and labourers will not be allowed to feel insecure. In the changing circumstances we talk about economic liberalisation but last time when I expressed my views in ILO meeting. I talked about globalisation of skill. Skill-Globalization has been mentioned. If there is no

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

restriction on the flow of capital from any part of the world then our manpower can also be exported anywhere in the world and India can advance arguments in its favour quite effectively. Our manpower is definitely very skilled.

I have taken note of the views expressed today by Shri Pawan Singh Ghatowar and Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, very seriously. Hon. Basu Deb Acharia has made a speech, then Shri Arsuleji has presented his point of view, Shri Tiwariji, hon. Vijayanji, Shri Shriniwasanji and Shri Murthiji have also expressed their views in this regard and Shri Raghuvanshji has made a very good speech, he is a very good orator and definitely on this basis, Shri Thomas and Shri Chauhan have spoken....(Interruptions) The point that emerges out of all these things is that we all belong to labourer class, we talk about the interest of the workers and we want that they should not be exploited. Exploitation, for any kind of profit should not be there. If any profit is earned at the expense of the workers then it is wrong. It is my belief that the workers should be paid what is due to them and we are in its favour. The hardwork put in by the workers should not be underestimated. They have participated in the freedom struggle and we are indebted to them, the Nation is indebted to them. I welcome the suggestions which you all have given and I feel that we are taking a step in the right direction, which will lead to the welfare of the workers and progress of the nation. I believe that you will provide help in getting the bill passed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 - Amendment of Section 4

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.C. Jos - Not present.

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the bill.

Clause 4 - Amendment of Section 6

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.C. Jos - Not present.

The question is :

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 - Insertion of new section 9 A

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.C. Jos - Not present.

The question is :

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6 and 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 8 - Substitution of new section for section 22

MR. SPEAKER: There is an amendment to be moved by Shri Ajoy Chakraborty to Clause 8.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3, line 2, --

omit "not"

(1)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment to vote.

The amendment was put and negatived.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is :

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the
Long Title were added to the Bill.*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.01 hrs.

**MOTION RE : SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up Private Members' Business.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the seventeenth Report of the Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd August 2001."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd August 2001."

The motion was adopted.

16.02 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 177)

[English]

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD (Bellary): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: I introduce the Bill.

16.02 ½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 130)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.08.2001

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I introduce the Bill.

16.03 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 217)

[English]

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD (Bellary): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: I introduce the Bill.

16.04 hrs.

FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of section 2)

[English]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

16.05 hrs.

CONSUMER PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana): I beg to move for the leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : I introduce the Bill.

16.05 ½ hrs.

CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL *

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952".

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.08.2001

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.08.2001

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: I introduce the Bill.

16.07 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL *

(Amendment of article 189)

[English]

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD (Bellary): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: I introduce the Bill.

16.07 ½ hrs.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL *

(Amendment of first Schedule)

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: I introduce the Bill.

16.06 hrs.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL *

(Insertion of new sections 298A to 298C)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I introduce the Bill.

16.06 ½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL *

(Amendment of article 85, etc.)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I introduce the Bill.

16.08 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL *

(Amendment of article 117, etc.)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

16.09 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINAHAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

SCHEDULED CASTES AND THE SCHEDULED TRIBES (RESERVATION IN SERVICES) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item No. 60 of today's List of Business. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chodhary.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir, Shri Pravin Rashtupal has introduce the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Services) Bill, 2000.

Sir, I extend my wholehearted support to the Bill and I must urge upon the entire House so that they also come forward in supporting this Bill because the keynote of this Bill does not confine to any constituency, any region or any State. It is as important as our national issue because the essence of this Bill is concerned with the welfare and wellbeing of the depressed and downtrodden people who still belong to the fringe community in India.

As per Cole, the Welfare State is a society in which all the possible minimum standards of living and opportunity becomes the possession of every citizen. We have already made a long stride since Independence and we have made a significant contribution in various fields - science, technology, history, philosophy and literature. But still, many observed that we are discussing again for the reservation and for the well-being of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I think, it slightly insults us. Sir, we should not degenerate this House into an arena of scoring the political brownie points out of this issue. Reservation is a mechanism so that the backward class and the depressed class of our society can move forward to ensure upward mobility. Therefore, the founder member of our Constitution had envisaged the Reservation Policy in line with the affirmation action in America, Bhoomi Putra preferences in Malaysia. However, it is found that in spite of scores of legislation and in spite of manifold measures, still social discrimination and economic discrimination are continuing unabated.

Sir, the founding fathers of our Constitution commit, under article 46, that State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, particularly, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all sorts of exploitation.

But now various news are getting prominence, which also strikes our conscience. Still, there are 5,77,000 scavengers. At the dawn, they are carrying the night soil over their heads. Can you imagine that during the years from 1991 to 1998, the number of atrocities against the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women had increased at an astronomical height of 27,485? However, in the year 1989, we had passed a Bill in this House for the protection of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people against atrocities. Now, I think this is the right time to have introspection as well as retrospection of what we have done for the last several years. Here, we do not intend trading any charges against each other. May I recollect a few sentences from Dr. Ambedkar?

"The untouchables may be defenceless now. But one day they will be strong. As there is justice upon earth, there is no bank to keep the accumulated anger of the Dalit people".

The real progress of India 20 years henceforth will be of what have you done for those repressed people. So the progress of India will be what you have done for the people of the backward classes. It is naive to say that India is still infested with various kinds of social discrimination and atrocities against the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. Our Constitution has awarded various kinds of reservation in Parliament, in Legislatures, in education and in jobs also.

Sir, I refer a few instances which may help you to understand the discrimination. In respect of 15 per cent reservation in the Central services, their representation was for 8.23 per cent in Class I posts; 10.47 per cent in Class II posts; and 14.76 per cent in Class III respectively. In banking sector, it is for 7.29 per cent in Class I posts and 13.7 per cent at the clerical level posts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Adhir Chowdhary, we are not discussing the whole Reservation Policy. You come to the Bill.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: This is very much related to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is regarding reservation in private establishments.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, in public enterprises, the representation is simply as nearly as 4.86 per cent in Class I posts and 6.17 per cent in two other levels.

Actually, I think, it is very much related.

This Government, a few days ago, was found fighting with all the arguments at its disposal so that the issue of caste would not be included in the forth coming world conference in Durban. They have exhausted all their resources to put up stumbling blocks on how to exclude our depressed classes from the world body. They have raised a very ridiculous bogey saying that it is the internal matter of our country. I would like to read out a few lines from the Economic and Political Weekly of July 7-13, 2001:

"Ambedkar showed that boundaries for solutions to the problem of caste discrimination are not to be drawn around the village, district, State or nation. What is

an internal solution or an external solution should not be determined by geographic borders or national boundaries. A solution is internal when it makes use of democratic, constitutional and legal spaces, bodies and mechanisms to which the state by its own volition is obligated. The United Nations World Conference Against Racism is an internal mechanism with respect to India, because India freely chose to ratify CERD in 1969, thus making it binding upon the nation. Terrorism or some other undemocratic methods are external solutions. Therefore, to raise the problem of caste discrimination for attention and action by CERD and the WCAR is not to seek an external solution. It is rather a constitutional, lawful and democratic means to by which dalits and other similarly discriminated communities hope to strengthen laws which until now have failed to protect them from discrimination. Utilising international human rights mechanisms can only empower their respective Governments to fulfil their own constitutional and legislative obligations, thus strengthening the national integrity and renewing the nation in its striving to approach the ideals conceived in its constitution."

By doing so, the NDA Government has exposed its hidden agenda. The agenda is that those who believe in the varna system of our society, who believe in the ideology of the Medieval Ages, who want the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, should not move forward and earn a space in this country and in the international arena also. A salient feature, on which I must lay emphasis, is that soon after liberalisation and globalisation, job opportunities have been shrinking at an alarming pace, which might further deteriorate the already miserable situation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, I request this Government to evolve and devise a mechanism in line with the Diversity Department of America so that people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes could be provided job opportunities in private sector also.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I fully agree with the point that if any part of the body were diseased, it would definitely pain the entire body. If the Scheduled

[Shri Kharbela Swain]

Caste and Scheduled Tribe population of the country, which is substantial, suffers, it is very natural that India, as a whole, would suffer. It is also because of this reason that India has suffered in the past.

In the Bill introduced by hon. Member Shri Pravin Rashtupal, he has mentioned about reservation in services for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Central Government and State Government establishments. To that extent, I fully agree with him.

If the Government has assured that certain portion of the jobs will be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, it should be so, and if anybody has not done it, he should be punished. I fully agree with this. Now a question is raised about the private sector. Yes, it is possible. We can demand that. Because of the onset of liberalisation and globalisation, gradually more and more Government sectors will be turning into private sectors. Because of the privatisation, more and more people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes will lose jobs. But here, the point is that in the private sector, if you provide for reservation, who will ensure that the reservation policies are actually adhered to? We are now bringing Bills here and we are shouting everyday in the Parliament that even in the Government sector - where there are so many Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes officials, Ministers, MLAs, MPs etc. - we have not been able to introduce 100 per cent the rules and regulations of the Government. Then, how can you expect that it will be done so in the private sector? Who will ensure it?

So, my point here is that it is natural that there is a section of the populace in India who do not support this reservation. Since they are in very important positions, all the time they would try to scuttle this reservation policy. I know it. The same thing will also happen in the private sector. My point is that now for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, the onus lies more on that community, more on the Scheduled Castes themselves, more on the Scheduled Tribes themselves than on others. Expecting that the Government will do it or the other communities will do it, I do not think, is going to yield much result.

I will raise a basic question here. I am not against anybody. I will raise a very fundamental question. There are so many IAS officers and Class-I officers in the Central Government belonging to the Scheduled Castes. How many of them have married from the same community? You will be surprised to know the details. I have seen in my State and in most of the States that the moment the IAS officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes get into those jobs, they marry from the upper caste. They simply forget about their own community. Wherever they go, in the process of Sanskritisation, they feel themselves to be more like the upper caste people than the Scheduled Castes.

So, my point is that who will see to it that the benefits of the reservation will percolate down to the poorest of the poor. In the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes you will see that in the first generation those people got the benefit of the reservation. In the second generation, their own children got it. It never percolated down to the poorest of the poor of the same community. Whose responsibility was it? Of course, I agree that unless two or three generations of the people get this reservation, it will not be possible to stand up to the upper caste people who have got the privilege for thousands of years. I agree with this. But still, gradually, I believe that people from the same community should see to it that the benefits percolate down.

Another point is that you take the example of a private factory owner who will look his own interest. If he finds that a boy or a girl belonging to the Scheduled Castes is a very good worker, he himself will give the job etc. because that would prove to be very cheap to him. The labour will be comparatively cheap. A Scheduled Caste worker definitely work with lesser wage than what is given to an upper caste worker.

Now, the thing is that proving oneself to be capable is important. In our country, why does the child labour flourish? It flourishes because it is cheap. Similarly, if the owners of establishments find that a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe worker is capable and also cheap, he himself will take him in his establishment. There is no need of any reservation there.

Now, we take the examples given by Shri Chowdhary who was just mentioning about America, about affirmative

action in America and the Bhumiputra System in Malaysia. He was mentioning about these things. Under Bhumiputra System, there is some sort of provision of reservation for the local people from the down-trodden, which means the local Muslims who form 52 per cent of Malaysia's population. They get some reservation. Just a month back, I had been to Malaysia and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Shri Mahathir had issued a statement that wherever I am going, my own people are coming with more and more demands for reservation. How long shall I go on giving them reservation, if they do not prove themselves to be capable - educationally, economically and in the field of business?

Sir, my point is that when the Government is there for the confidence building measures among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it is also the responsibility of the same community to look after themselves. Take the example of America. Why are Black judges there now in America? Why is there Black judge in the American Supreme Court? It is only because of the pressure from the community of Blacks and the minorities that it has been possible to have a Black judge. Now, in America, the minorities and the Black see only those TV programmes where the anchor is a Black. They buy only that product which is specifically produced for them. They go for that industry which only talks about them.

My only appeal to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe community is that they should also go for that. They should have economic pressure on the society and on the industry so that the industry produces specific products for them, which the industry will sell for their consumption only. My suggestion is that liberalisation is a generic process and gradually, there will be less and less jobs in the Government sector.

I will just mention one point here. Take the example of multinationals coming here. When the multinationals enter this country, there will be necessity of management experts. They will not take history and political science graduate; they will want management experts, system analysts and engineers. They will require all the specialists. Does the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population have people of that quality? The plus point is that there should be education for them. The Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe community should demand,

instead of reservation in the jobs, more for education which will produce more number of such engineers, academicians and computer engineers so that they may also become a part of the nation-building and a part of the vibrant community.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in services) Bill, 2000. The Bill, which has been brought forward here is very appropriate. It is difficult to put in words the plight of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes even after 53-54 years of independence.

It is unfortunate that the position of reservation in Government jobs is still very bad. The facility of reservation is not available in the private sector. But, as far as promotion of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government services is concerned, they have to face lots of problems when files reach the higher officers. As per the article 16(4) of the Constitution, every such backward class is permitted to get the facility of reservation about which the State feels that it has not been given proper representation in the Government jobs. Under the provision, proportional representation has to be given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in the Government controlled jobs and services, which are entitled to reservation and Article 335 of the Constitution provides that while conducting recruitment to the posts and in services relating to the activities of the State, claims of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be kept in mind along side administrative efficiency. It is not hidden from anybody to what extent the provisions of the Constitution are implemented.

The few concessions which are provided to give enough representation in government jobs to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes include relaxation of five years in maximum age limit for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and relaxation of three years in maximum age limit for the candidates of other backward classes. Other concessions include relaxation in work experience, wherever possible, in the case of direct recruitment of

[Shri Sukdeo Paswan]

candidates of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and concession in the payment of fees for the candidates of this category. Similarly, the time period provided for reservation in promotions for these people was coming to an end on 15 November, 1997 but by bringing 77th amendment to the Constitution, this time period was further extended. Section 4 was added to Article 16(4) of the Constitution through which States were empowered to provide reservation for them in promotions if in their opinion candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes did not have proper representation in the services of the State. Therefore, a notification was issued on 13th August 1997 to continue with the reservation even after 15th November, 1997 to fulfill the fixed percentage as provided in the reservation policy formulated for these classes. This issue has been raised several times in Lok Sabha also that many officers and employees of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were compelled to go on leave or have left their jobs due to their seniors and what has been stated in the Constitution and discussed in Lok Sabha is not at all being followed. Be it the Union Government or the State Government, no concrete decision has been taken on law has been enacted to by make it compulsory for the Government officers to follow the guidelines. There is a provision of reservation in government jobs for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but they are being deprived of it, despite Constitutional safeguards. Therefore, I request that the Central Government should take this matter seriously to mitigate the sufferings of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Mr Chairman, Sir, once again, I want it to bring to your notice that Shri Pramod Mahajan had given an assurance in the Lok Sabha on 19 November that the Government would make all efforts to remove the problems in the way of implementing reservation for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government jobs. The Government gave indications that it would consider the situation arising due to reduction in opportunities of jobs for these people as a result of privatisation of public sector.

In this regard, Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri

Pramod Mahajan has replied that this assurance was given in the House only when members from all parties drew the attention of the Government towards the fact that despite the amendment in the Constitution and issuance of scheduled notification for promotion in Government jobs for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes there were problems in the way of implementation and they requested to remove those problems. Shri Pramod Mahajanji further stated that as per the orders of the Supreme Court, the Union Government had issued five statutory orders in 1997 due to which almost a complete ban was imposed on the entry of SC, ST's in the Government jobs. The present Government has passed the Constitution Amendment Bill to repeal two orders issued by them earlier in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: From where are you quoting?

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Pramod Mahajanji had given an assurance in the Lok Sabha. I want to inform about that. Pramod Mahajanji had given a statement on this in the Lok Sabha on 19 December, 2000. The grievances are being removed for its implementation. He said that in this regard if there was any laches in the task of writing requisite letter by the State Government, it would be removed. He was agree with the concern expressed by the Members that the policy of reservation might be good on paper but the flaws in its implementation should be removed. The provision of reservation gets eroded in privatisation and thereby the opportunity of employment for SC, ST people becomes scanty. At this stage, the Government and the House should come forward to help them. Through you, I would like to request the Government to formulate such laws at the national level so as to be enforced both at the Union and the State level and to prevent injustices perpetrated on the SCs and STs communities. The hurdles coming in the way of their promotion could be removed. 90 per cent children in the urban areas go to school but 80-90 per cent children of the SCs and STs and even of the higher caste people not so resourceful living in rural areas fail to go to school. The children of the people of my district, North Bihar and particularly the children of the rural areas of Bihar, fail to go school. When there is no education, where does the question of Government jobs arise? When there is no Government job the question of reservation will not arise?

Therefore, the Union Government should make such assured arrangement by which all children of SCs and STs and of the weaker sections, whichever caste they belong to could get education. The Government should make law at the national level and should make definite efforts for its implementation. At the union, State and the district level such boards should be constituted only consisting of the officials of the SC and ST communities, so that they could solve the problems of the SC and ST communities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make my last point. Reservation is given in the services of the Union Government and the State Government. We have raised this issue several time in the Lok Sabha and also outside the Lok Sabha that there is no reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the judiciary. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Union Government that there should be reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the judiciary as well so that they could also get an opportunity to become judges in the courts. I have come to know that many people from Bihar had come here for staging dharna and their demand was that there should be reservation in the judiciary. Baba Saheb Ambedkar framed the constitution and in the constitution made a provision for reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and after elpse of 54 years of independence and despite the provision of reservation there is no reservation in the judiciary. I would like to say one more thing which I have said earlier also, that the way there is provision for reservation in the Lok Sabha and in the State Legislative Assemblies, there should be reservation in the Legislative Councils and in the Rajya Sabha as well through you, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to bring such a bill, such a provision and amend the constitution, if required so as to make a provision for reservation in the Legislative Councils and in the Rajya Sabha also.

With these words, I conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think that the passage of the private member's Bills moved by the eloquent speaker, Hon'ble Member Shri Pravin Rashtrapal ji will benefit not only the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but will give more benefit to the Government: I am saying so because no law

regarding reservation has been made so far. Through the executive orders this work is being done, so courts put stay on such orders. Especially due to the verdict of the Supreme Court, four five orders have been issued in the matters of promotions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are in service. When contacted with the Government they says that they are doing it, why will they not follow the court's verdict. Therefore, if the Bill introduced by Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji is passed, a major problem of the Government will be solved. There is a compulsion, wrong orders are issued, decisions, are made, then how the verdict of the court will not be obeyed. After the passage of this Bill all the problems, all the intricacies will end. Reservation should be given as per the spirit of the constitution, we are not doing beggary. When we go in a banquet, we cater more curd and sweets to our near ones. Notwithstanding the number of laws the Government make implementation is done by executives, officers only, so there should be representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in them.

Then certainly neglectful illegal treatment will not be meeted out to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. For example, if the person who serves food is not your own, he will not serve properly. If there is his own man he will serve him properly and will go on scantily serving others. Similarly, when those engaged with the executive make some policy for the benefit of the SCs and STs officers, will manipulate their implementation. That's why the makers of the constitution and great thinkers made such a provision because when the number of SC and ST people employed in different departments was assessed, it was found that not a single officer or staff of these category was employed in them. The details are there.

When the provision for reservation was made there was no employee of these categories in the Rashtrapati Bhavan, not a single professor was working in several Universities. Then only it was implemented. This is its basic principle and secret. Wherever they have no share they get their share by appealing in the court, but such is the executive order wherein there is no provision for promotion. That's why they are not getting adequate justice. This bill is for SCs and STs but it is going to help the Government more. With the passage of this Bill the task of removing intricacies and manipulations will be completed.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

This government is anti-reservation. Reservation is for name sake. Reservation for the backward castes started due to the Mandal Commission, but people went out with Kamandal to manipulate to circumvent its implementation. No one speaks out against reservation, but all such things go on. Many people do not like reservation from their heart, but there is no way out. By enacting law, these people can take their right and the other people will not be able to do anything. Now they are thinking not to implement reservation so they are going to privatise all Government institutions undertakings. Till date, there is no law to provide reservation for SCs and STs private institutions. Total reservation is being done by executive order. These are being implemented somewhere and are not being implemented at some other places. When these institutions will be privatised and will go out of the Government's control, then reservation will not be enforced in them. It appears to us that perhaps this is the purpose of the Government. Government says that there is economic crisis in the country, for the benefit of the country they want to restart the closed undertakings etc. with these pretensions they are getting disinvestment, privatisation done. There is no reservation in them. Now people as well as we are also understanding it. So, provision has to be made in this Act. So that even after privatisation the provision of reservation should remain intact in that, otherwise it appears that the main reason behind liberalisation, WTO investment and disinvestment etc., is to deprive the poor, deprived and exploited people from reservation by all means.

We want that justice could be done to the socially neglected people. Shri Sukdeo Paswanji has left the House. Rashtriya Janata Dal held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar. Hon'ble Laloo Yadavji and thousands of workers of the Rashtriya Janata Dal had come in that. Hon'ble Ramai Ramji a Minister in the Bihar Government resolved that there should be reservation in the judiciary. It is our long standing demand that the procedure of appointment of the Supreme Court and High Court judges is not proper. Therefore, National Judicial Commission should be constituted and consensus is also developing on this. It is said that what should be the main points so that there should be a consensus, my

opinion is that there is consensus on it. When constitution makers made provision for reservation in all the appointments, then why not in the judiciary? It is our demand that there should also be reservation. Yesterday, huge demonstration was held at Jantar Mantar for constituency National Judicial Commission and reservation in the judiciary. We have decided now to start a struggle and we will start a national wide struggle for it. Those who wants change in the society, wants to take the country ahead.

Those who want to break old traditions and customs may join us. The country remained most backward as it was under foreign rule . . . *(Interruptions)* It has been our slogan since Gandhi-Lohia-Jai Prakash era that the country could not march forward until we do not safeguard the interests of the downtrodden.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two hours were allocated for this Bill and two hours has been spent, therefore, I would like to have the consent of the House to allocate one more hour for this Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Alright, the time be extended. The House is agree with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : One hour duration is extended.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Hon. Dr. Lohia said with sheer helplessness that Hindustan takes last seat in the international conference. How a country can sit with his head raising among the countries of the world in the international conference in which the poor are exploited and they are considered as untouchables. When the downtrodden backward people of the country would come in the mainstream, Hindustan will acquire number one position in the world. As long as the poor people are exploited, Hindustan will not march forward. A fatal social disease has been created by saying backward caste, higher caste and lower caste. At that time it was said that you could know the higher caste by their high talks only as they do not work at all. It means that one who does not work at all and speaks English garrulously is a higher caste. How a lower caste is known, he is known because he works hard and tolerates the exploitation. These people do hard work but they have no respect in the society.

17.00 hrs.

It was our basic principle and our society and country could not prosper till this disease remains in the society. Reservation was provided as per this principle. We started special recruitment campaign for providing a special opportunity to bring the downtrodden and backward classes in the mainstream of the country. The so called upper caste people do not like that there should be a change in the society. These people like that the society should be governed by the old traditions and customs. In this way the country will not progress. If we want that the country should prosper then we should adopt measures to eradicate this caste system. Reservation is not implemented properly in Government jobs and the matter is taken to the courts. A law has been enacted in Bihar and nine other States in case the reservation is not implemented properly, then action will be taken against the person responsible for implementing it. Why such kind of laws has not been enacted here? After framing a law why it has not been included in the Ninth Schedule of the constitution. While 8-9 States have included it in the Ninth Schedule. The people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not in a position to take the matter to the court. If we frame this law and include it in the Ninth Schedule then these people would get more rights. These people should not be cheated and there should not be any technical hitch in it. The people are struggling to get reservation. I would like to caution the government in this regard.

Sir, Rashtrapal ji have moved this Bill to bring the down-trodden in the mainstream. If the Government likes to do justice with them then it should pass the bill and social justice should also be included in the fundamental rights. Down trodden and backward classes should get social justice which they could not get so far. The rich wear fine clothes and the washerman washes the clothes when these become dirty. A person who washes the clothes is looked down upon as a small man and the person who makes the clothes dirty is respected. It is gross injustice when we call him as small man. Social justice is the remedy for this injustice. The country and the world could not prosper without hard work. But a person who do works hard is known as small man and the person who does not work is known as big man. This is social discrimination. This is the reason that Hindustan is not progressing. If we want that country should do more

progress in comparison to the other countries, then we should remove this disparity when this evil was not prevalent in the country at that time Hindustan acquired number one position. But, at that time, the capital of the country was not Delhi. Patliputra was the capital of the country. Delhi became the capital of the country in 1911-12. When Patliputra was the capital and Chandra Gupta Maurya and Ashoka were the emperors this country's position was. No one in the world. When this evil of social discrimination started spreading then Mahatma Buddha came. He said that discrimination and the nation of higher-lower should be removed. Conflict was going on between both the views. Later on, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Lohia and Mahatma Pule came. All these greatmen made an effort for social upliftment and it is the chain of that process. The government should consider the objects behind bringings resolution. With passage of this Bill major problem of the Government would be solved.

Therefore, I appeal to the Government that they should support the Bill. The Bill should be passed so that this problem is solved. In addition to that the Government should frame laws for the remaining issues such as reservation in judiciary setting up of National Judicial Commission, providing reservation to SCs and STs in private institutions. If the Government opt for disinvestment, privatization and universalization, we will understand that the Government has some motive behind it "Kahin pe nigahe kahin pe nishana" By discontinuing reservation, the Government is stressing on privatization. If the reservation is not provided then the deprived will be more deprived. This cannot be tolerated. Therefore, we request the Government to provide reservation else there would be no way but to fight for it. If the Government does not yield, we will struggle for it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we request the Government to pass this Bill so that the interest of the poor people belonging to SCs and STs could be safeguarded.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) I must congratulate Shri Pravin Rashtrapal for having made proper home work for presenting this Private Members Bill on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

Unfortunately, many of the provisions that he has indicated in this Reservation of Services Bill that he has presented in the House have been implemented. To my mind, his Bill has four aspects. The first one is expanding the scope of reservation. That is the crux of the problem that he has tried to put here in this Bill. In definition of clause 2(b), he has tried to encompass not only Government services, semi-Government services but also private services including those institutions, organisations, and bodies which have been registered under the Companies Act. I would come to the merit or demerit of those things, later. But I would only enumerate four types of matters which he has tried to say in this Bill. The second point is that the reservation should be in perpetuity. The third aspect is about relaxation of the norms not only at the time of appointment but also in promotions. The fourth aspect relates to blanket immunity against court orders including that of the Supreme Court which means amendment of article 141 which says that any interpretation of the Supreme Court is to be taken as a law. That is what the Constitution says. But by introducing this Bill, he has tried to say that article 141 of the Constitution of India would be infructuous. These are the four points on which he has presented his Bill to the Lok Sabha.

When he talked on this Bill, there was an attitude of sneer of cold command. That sneer of cold command is quite appreciable because for centuries together, the Scheduled Caste people had been marginalised, had been deprived of and had not been thought of. Jaimini's *karmakand* had first started the division; Manu's code strengthened the division; and later on, the Brahmin community created problems for a group of people who later on were called the Scheduled Castes. Although, those people had a very rich language, they even had kingdom.

During the Mahabharata period, when Yudhishtira and his brothers were being taken in a procession, Duryodhana had ensured that Vidhur does not talk to them.

They were going to the Chaturgrih. Vidur talked to Yudhistir in Mlechha language and that language was not known to Duryodhana. It was a necessity in those days to learn all languages, including Mlech language.

You would also appreciate that in Sanskrit literature of the seventh century, Katha Sarit Sagar was nothing but a translation of Mlech stories that were prevalent in North India.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Was Vidur a Mlechha?

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Mlechha is, in the modern parlance, a Scheduled Caste. It was not so in those days.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Are you aware that Vidur was also a Shudra?

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I cannot answer this question.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : He had not acquired Mlechha language; it was his mother tongue.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Whatever it is, Yudhistir acquired that language. Among the 64 arts, Mlech language was also taught to him because for the administration of the kingdom, Mlech language was necessary. That is why, among the 64 arts taught to Krishna and Balaram, in the Ashram of Sandipan one of the arts was learning the Mlech language.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mlechha is more derogatory than Shudra.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are going to speak on this subject. At that time you can make these points. He is not yielding. Shri Anadi Sahu, please address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU : You can say that my knowledge is shallow; I don mind it at all.

I do not equate Scheduled Castes with the Scheduled Tribes because Scheduled Tribe people by nature do not have any inferiority complex. But a Scheduled Caste has it because of having been marginalised over the ages. They lived near the upper caste people but did not receive any recognition. That marginalisation has created the problem. That is why, protective discrimination has come and that protective discrimination has to stay in order to ensure particularly that the Scheduled

Castes come up to certain standards along with the high castes. I do not agree with what Shri Kharabela Swain had said about inter-caste marriages is necessary because by this type of marriages the inferiority mindset of certain group of people would go. Once the inferiority mindset goes, they would be able to go with the mainstream society.

It has been said by social scientists that the inferiority mindset of a Scheduled Caste will go after the third generation. A generation in earlier days used to be twenty years. Now, since the life span has increased, it could be 30 to 40 years. So, it would take about 120 years to change the mindset and the inferiority complex. To change that mindset, it is necessary to give reservation and that reservation has to continue for a pretty long time. But, giving more scope and more situations would create a problem. I would say that if you take a lemon and squeeze it, up to a certain point it is all right; but beyond a point it becomes bitter. Once that bitterness comes, it would create problems. This bitterness is now apparent in the Urban middle class.

What is happening now? Right from 1947 we have been continuing with this reservation. I do not agree with Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh that there is no law for reservation. There are Articles 16(4) and 335 for giving these reservations. He was a member of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs when we discussed the 66th Report relating to the Constitution (Eighty-eighth Amendment) Bill. This point had come up at that time whether relaxation in promotions, lowering of qualifying marks at the time of appointment should be taken up under Article 16(4) or as a proviso to Article 335.

It is because Article 335 says "consistently with efficiency in administration". That is what it says. I would read only that portion. It says:

"Claims of SCs/STs shall be taken into consideration consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration."

The framers of the Constitution thought it proper that to run the administration, certain type of efficient people have to be there and I do not say that certain type of efficient people are not there in the SCs and STs. Take the case of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Did he come under the

reserved category of people? No. There are people like him now. But in some other ways, it would be necessary that protective discrimination should not be extended beyond a point because we have to run the administration properly. And Government administration can run by fits and starts because the system is such that you can put people into it and the system will go on. Maybe, it will not go at a speed of 100 kilometers but it will go on limping at the speed of 20 or 30 or 40 kilometers. So, if you give reservation in Government service, there is nothing wrong in it. But, in the competitive atmosphere of the present day society, to think of giving reservation in private services, as is the definition of establishment which has been proposed to be put in force by Shri Pravin Rashtupal, I think, it is fraught with danger. In my opinion, the scope of the definition should not be expanded to include all other private establishments. That will create problems of greater magnitude.

Secondly, as I said, I am not in agreement with reservation in perpetuity because as you go on giving reservation, the inferiority complex will continue. As I said earlier, at some point of time, we have to taper the reservation facility. Unless we taper it, it would not be possible to get out of the mindset which has been there. Shri Kamath, a very good journalist, has indicated after a lot of discussion with people that this mindset can go, if there is tapering of the reservation policy. As I said earlier, tapering should come after 100-120 years.

I would request you to go through the reservation benefits which have accrued to different groups of people in Scheduled Castes. You may see that only the creamy layer has been able to get the best out of it.

There are three types of people in Scheduled Castes, as far as my knowledge goes. Sardar Buta Singh may not agree with me. One is touchable Scheduled Castes, another type is middle type people and the third one is people who are absolutely degraded, untouchables and kept away from the village. Those who are from the touchable Scheduled Castes have made the best use of the reservation policy. In my State of Orissa, there are washermen, fishermen and the Pana community. They are the touchable groups. The *panas* weave, the fishermen catch fish and the washermen wash clothes. The reservation policy has given benefit to these three types

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

of groups, that is, the fishermen, washermen and the *panas* and they would not touch the *hadis*, the scavengers. In my State, the *hadis* have not got the benefits. So, what has happened now? It is because of this reservation policy that the crust is coming up. The creamy layer is taking the best of the reservation policy itself. There is a necessity to change this mindset. As I said, it should not be in perpetuity. There must be some sort of a check and balance to see that those of the Scheduled Castes people who are down-trodden and almost at the bottom of the social strata and fabric, must be brought up. That is why, I say that when we think of tapering, it should come by piercing the social strata of the Scheduled Castes community itself. As I said, perpetuity has not be taken up immediately but taken up after due deliberation.

I will now come to relaxation of norms for promotions. This matter was discussed, as I said earlier, in the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee in its wisdom had thought like this. With your permission, I would read two or three sentences from the Standing Committee Report. It says:

"It was thought whether it would be possible to give promotion on qualifying examination and evaluation of standards."

But the Committee was not sure whether it would be a proper course. Shri Rashtrapal has also pointed out about the roster points. As a policeman, I had seen that if you give promotion on the basis of roster points, it creates a lot of heart burning. A junior officer who has been trained by the senior becomes his senior. Take the case of Sub-Inspector of Police. As I was the policeman, I am inclined to talk about policemen only. A person who has come in the reserved category is trained by his senior Sub-Inspector who is officer in-charge of the police station. Because of the roster points, this junior becomes the senior and the senior still remains the Sub-Inspector. I do not agree with Shri Rashtrapal that at the time of promotion of the first Sub-Inspector who is from the general category, he would get promotion or seniority as Inspector over the person who has become Inspector from the reserved category. That is not the fact . . . (Interruptions)

Shri Rashtrapal, you have the right to reply. You can note down the points and rebut me later. I am telling my experience. You were also a Government servant. You can tell your experience at the time of the concluding remarks.

But this causes a lot of heart burning. Let it cause heart burning because in earlier days, a *Brahmin* or a *Kshatriya*, though he was a dullard was leading the army, but people with valour belonging to other casts, were not made Generals. That was the rule. So, that type of a protective discrimination was there, and let that protective discrimination continue also. At the same time, we have to see that certain qualifying examinations are held and evaluation standards are prescribed. If this is not done, then the entire efficiency of administration will collapse. Some sort of standards have to be prescribed when we think of giving promotion from one post to the other.

The next point is about blanket immunity. Shri Rashtrapal, through this Bill, is trying to bring in blanket immunity. I would like to say that it does not go with the Constitution. I invite your attention to Clause 4 of this Bill wherein it is said that candidate belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes selected on merit basis shall not be barred to avail the benefit of relaxed evaluation or concession in spite of any direction from a Court of Law or Tribunal or Authority. I think this is too far-fetched and would not be acceptable in the frame of our Constitution. Of course, he has highlighted in the agonies of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In the process, he has made remarks about the hon. Prime Minister and Minister of HRD. But he has conveniently forgotten about Shri K. R. Narayanan, the President of India. Unfortunately for him and fortunately for Shri K.R. Narayanan he is not a Scheduled Caste in Delhi. He is a Scheduled Caste in Kerala. That is besides the point. The main purpose of this Bill is to highlight the plight of the Scheduled Caste people and to some extent that of the S.T.

I am sure he would withdraw this Bill because most of the points which the hon. Member has pointed out, have been indicated in the Constitutional Amendments which have been passed or are likely to be passed in the near future and office Memoranda have been issued by the DOPT.

MR. CHAIRMAN : After Sardar Buta Singh, I will call you to speak.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak . . . (Interruptions). Our hon'ble Member Shri Pravin Rashtupal has done a great job in the interest of the nation by introducing this Bill in the House. The problem which is said to be the problem of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes is actually the problem of the country. It will not be proper to call it a problem of a particular category because injustice is being done to them since many many years. Though all hon'ble members refer to it but when we talk about the responsibility or its remedy, their mindset is changed immediately.

Before me, our learned member Sahu Saheb has talked about two categories - touchable and untouchable. I would not take much time and would not quote granthas, but would say that those who are called touchable, are 'shudras' and those who are called untouchable are not 'shudras'. There are four categories in the system of varnashram- Kshtriya, Brahmin, Vaish and Shudra. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not included in these categories. The word used for them in granthas is Panchama chandaal. Mr. Shau, therefore, none of the castes and sub castes of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are shudras. According to you they are chandaal or Malechh. The word Malechh has been used for non Hindus. Therefore, with your permission. I would like to bring this thing to the notice of the House that the word Shudra does not include Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Hence, while discussing it should not be kept in mind. I affirm that all the people belonging to Scheduled Castes from Kanya Kumari to Kashmir and Kamakhya to Kathiawad, were untouchables.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I would not like to disturb you. , But I am open to discussion on this point.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : I agree with you that the conditions of such casts, which are engaged in petty business, is not so bad as compare to Achuts. Their name is Achoot which means untouchable. Therefore, that caste, community has gone down so much socially that day

"achhoot people treat them as untouchable" I agree with you that there are several such categories and societies in which Achoot people treat them as untouchables particularly those which are called Bhangi, they have several names, if you want to look this word in dictionary it is an abuse not a name. They have been treated in such in human way that their name has also become any abuse. I will speak on this subject later on, today I only speak on the Bill.

I would like to ask a question. You have mentioned Mahatma Vidur. Perhaps in the ancient politics of India, Ancient Indian Political thought, the views of Mahatma Vidur are different from the views of Kautilya and Manu. I regard him above these two persons. If our country adopt the policy of Mahatma Vidur the inequality and social injustice in our country will automatically come to an end. This is another subject, I will speak on it later on but I would like to say that I have read about Mahatma Vidur in Punjabi and my akali colleagues will agree with me.

I will say a few words of Punjabi poem in regard to the lesson I have got :

"Aya sunayan vider de, bole Duryodhana hoye rukha,
ghar assan de chhad ke, gole de ghar aye ke sookha"

[English]

These two verses define Mahatma Vidur. When Duryodhana came to know that Lord Krishna had come for peace negotiations, he had stayed not in the Royal Palace and not in the residence of the King, but he had stayed in the servant quarter or the attached house of Vidur. Duryodhana took objection to it. The first question he asked Lord Krishna is. "Why did you stay in the house of the menial? Why did you not come and stayed with us?" Lord Krishna replied to him: In my opinion and judgement, Vidur is much higher to all of you, the so-called Royal family. He is a true person. Therefore, I stayed with him." That shows that the category of Vidur was of a menial servant; that he was an untouchable; that he was a shudra; and that he was not allowed entry into the Royal Palace. Therefore, I wanted to make this correction.

[Translation]

Now coming back to the Bill, I will answer your questions later, but I have my own views on the Bill

[Sardar Buta Singh]

introduced by Shri Rashtrapal. Rashtrapal ji, I do not agree with that what you have mentioned in clause two that.

[English]

There shall be the ratio of the proportion of their population to the total population of the country in accordance with the latest census, but not less than 15 per cent...."

The latest Census was that of 1991. I do not know which Census has been taken by the Government to fix the percentage of the SCs and STs. I think that it is the first Census that was ever taken by our Government that has been made the basis of this. After that, four consecutive Censuses have been taken and the fifth is underway. The Constitution says that after every Census, the Government of India will come to Parliament with the updated percentage of reservation for the SCs and STs.

[Translation]

After 54 years of independence, still they are getting 15 per cent and 7 percent reservation. I am speaking all this according to Government record and the answer given in the House. After 54 years of independence in class one job the reservation which according to him should have been 15 per cent and 7 per cent, today it is 10.15 per cent for Scheduled Caste and 2.8 per cent for Scheduled Tribes. Hon'ble Minister may not it and tell us the reasons for this. Today in 2001 you visit any Schedule Caste area of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Kanpur, you will find boys and girls having post graduate doctorate, D.Lit degrees. After so much achievement in the field of education, what are the reasons that their percentage could not come up to the mark, what is missing? There is one thing missing which this Bill and Mr. Rashtrapal is going to achieve.

Yesterday, hon'ble Minister has blamed that Congress Party did not do this and that. I am not blaming any party as I have said earlier that this is a national issue and it should be dealt in the same way. Today you are here, tomorrow someone else may be in your place before this someone was in your place but the national issue will remain the same. So many atrocities have been committed

on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which you call inferiority complex. I affirm that there is no inferiority complex in the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of today's generation, they have proved it by competing by IAS, IPS and IFS that they are not less capable in merit, capability in comparison to so called upper castes. You talk about competence and efficiency—was there any other efficient person as compared to Baba Saheb Ambedkar, who could be appointed to prepare the Constitution. Today, umpteen Baba Saheb Ambedkars have been borne in every mohalla. You are mistaken if you want to close our doors and deprive us of our opportunity in the name of efficiency. By doing so you will harm the country. Although I don't blame you personally, yet I ask those people who think that children of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are inefficient to go through the report of CVC.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : You should include OBC also in it.

SARKAR BUTA SINGH : I support them as well. But now the discussion is going on about Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only. If OBC reservation bill is introduced in the House, we will also support it. The constitution of our country is a document which has maintained the unity and integrity of the country. We cannot imagine what would have been the fate of the country if it did not have its own constitution. There are some duties assigned to the President under the Constitution. In the article 338 of the Constitution there is nothing about reservation. If you allow me, I read out the two lines.

[English]

Article 338 (1) of the Constitution says:

"There shall be a Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be known as the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

[Translation]

In this regard the President is personally responsible for setting up of National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and:

[English]

Article 338 (9) says:

"The Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

[Translation]

Madam, Hon. Minister, I would like to ask you whether you consulted the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes while issuing the memorandum of DOPT? The commission wrote a letter to you in this regard. In a meeting with your secretary the commission urged upon the secretary that the memorandum being issued or already issued does not bear our consent. Therefore, it should not be issued. The secretary replied that this is not our order but it is the order of the Supreme Court. Is the order of the Supreme Court over and above the constitution. The Constitution says unequivocally that.

[English]

No policy can be changed without consulting the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

If this was the case, may I ask you whether you should have not approached the Supreme Court with this clause. You said that Supreme Court gave a decision and it became obligatory forms, but the constitution is compelling us. What is your stand in this regard? It is a matter of concern that the Government did not take this step also. It is written in the order of the Supreme Court that this order is the law of the land. Fundamental Rights are enshrined in the constitution. I would like to know whether Fundamental Rights are supreme or the law of the Supreme Court is supreme. If the Supreme Court is to maintain law, then there is no need of the House. The Supreme Court can declare law of the land in a rare case. Is reservation in promotion of Scheduled Caste candidates in Government jobs a rare case. Please go through the Article 64 of the constitution. The 77th amendment of the constitution has been carried out in the Article 64(A). Why the counsel of the Government did not plead in the

Supreme Court that this article has already been amended.

Parliament has amended it and it is a fundamental right. The court cannot pass law of the land regarding it because law of the land is a constitutional provision. It is a strange interpretation of the Supreme Court that article 16(4) is a fundamental Right but not the article 16(4) (A). Should I say so that this is the body of Buta Singh but this hand is not his. What rationale is behind it what is the logic of the Judges that.

[English]

Article 16(4) is a Fundamental Right, but article 16(4) (A) sanctioned by this hon. House and made a part of article 16(4), is not so.

[Translation]

It is the essence of the bill.

[English]

Shri Radhakrishnan, article 16(4)(A) is a part and parcel of article 16(4)

[Translation]

And if all these things are not considered then the said bill will be futile. Why reservation has become in a perpetuity? Because earlier it was not implemented properly. If reservation was implemented properly during last ten years, there was no need for its further extension. It was the duty of the Government to provide opportunity to the down-trodden who have been marginalised in the society, so that they can overcome their handicaps. Government of India and the State Governments should have properly implemented the reservation policy. After a period of ten year nobody would seek extension in the House. Nobody is seeking extension now. Whatever Government is formed its first step is to extend the reservation. Coincidentally, all the political parties have formed the Government at one time or other. At whose order the reservation is extended time to time? Who have sought extension? Two days back by amending the constitution the Government have extended the reservation upto 2026.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sardar Buta Singh, we are not discussing the decision of the Supreme Court.

... (Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : It is inbuilt. You cannot do with it.

[Translation]

My submission is that People's feeling should not be hurt by saying that it is a charity or concession. It is neither charity nor concession. It is birth right of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, It should remain. As long as there is caste system the reservation will prevail. You have not placed them even in the fourth varna. You have dropped them from the varna system. Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are hundreds of villages in your constituency. There is no State in which habitation of dalits and tribals are situated in the middle of the village. I challenge that there is no village in which habitation of dalits and tribals are situated in the middle of the village. There are lacs of villages in Hindustan. No such village has come into existence even after 54 years. You people have not brought these people from the periphery to the middle of the village and you say that we should not seek reservation. Alright, we will not seek reservation if you abolish the caste system. When you abolish the caste system then there will not be any need of reservation. As long as caste system prevails the reservation will continue. You can do this much as it is minimum requirement. Mahatma Gandhi called it penance. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel said that it should be done as penalty or penance. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel had told that reservation should be given to them as a penalty to their oppressors. You say that reservation should be banned. Remove the caste system, we will withdraw the demand of the reservation. Either you bring the amendment or we will initiate it but percentage of reservation should be 27.5 per cent as per latest sensen.

According to the tabulation of census of year 2001, there should be 30 percent reservation. According to the census of 1991 the existing old reservation of 15 percent and 7 percent should be scrapped.

Secondly, the manner in which privatisation of public sector, Banking Major ports, Major Airlines, is being undertaken in the country, the Government is retaining 49 percent of the shares with it and selling out the 51 percent shares to multinational companies. The corporation was constituted with the budgetary allocations passed by this House. Therefore, withholding 49 percent shares you cannot lesson your responsibility, you are selling out the companies to big business Houses for gains. As far as the funds of the budget of India are invested therein, any private company would have to implement the reservation compulsorily. It was told to incorporate this provision in the Ninth schedule. After having examined the matter to some extent, I have found that 10 High Courts have already given their verdict in favour of reservation. Earlier verdicts of Supreme Court are also in favour of reservation. It was also sought to make reservation a fundamental right. But the DOPT has never implemented it. Before delivery of the Judgement of Supreme Court our views were not heard. According to natural Justice, in any court, may be it a lower court, High Court or Supreme Court, when a verdict is to be given, the views of the Party for which judgement is delivered should be heard. But this was also not done. Fortunately a Judge belonging to Scheduled Caste, who could have presented our views, was sitting in the Court that day. At least, he could have been included in the Bench, but it was also not done. It was the duty of the Solicitor General to plead our case ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Sir, I am on a point of order. it is an aspersion on the Supreme Court. This is a matter to be taken serious note of.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : I am not criticising the judgement. I am criticising the wording.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Sir, Sardar Buta Singh has discussed about the constitution of the Bench.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sardar Buta Singh, you cannot discuss these things.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : The decision has been given by the parliamentary Committee on Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes which comprises of members from all parties and the Committee is nominated by the House. Unless a Judge before taking a decision about our fate hears our opinion this job of verdict cannot be done properly. We have accepted the Judgement. We have not challenged it, it is the duty of the Government to do it. The Government did not find it appropriate, only then it brought amendment before the house only to repeal the Judgement. We are not saying that what the Supreme Court did was wrong but the Government acted in a better way and we are obliged to it. But whenever any case pertaining to any section of society comes before a Court, I am not saying merely about the Supreme Court, its views may be heard before announcing judgement. Mr. Rashtrapal has requested to incorporate this in the Ninth Schedule. Simultaneously he has also asked to set up a Judicial Commission. Provision for reservation may be made in the Judiciary and the Army. This has also been recommended by the Parliamentary Committee comprising of members from all parties and Shri Karia Munda is the Chairman of this Committee and he belongs to the BJP.

Sir, I would like to say one thing more that the incidents of atrocities on persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes may be reflected in the confidential reports of the collector and S.P. of the districts during their tenure in the concerned district. In case of increase in the number of such incidents of atrocities, the officer concerned should be penalised otherwise they should be rewarded accordingly. Unless such system is devised, this problem would remain unsolved.

Finally the amendment to the Constitution should be effective in the whole country. But unfortunately there are four Ministries to look after this department.

Our Ministry is headed by the hon'ble Lady Minister. Her duties are limited upto the Parliament. She does not give any direction to the lower level. There is a brochure, which is a very old publication of Home Ministry, nobody bothers to read it. Their Secretary also does not read it. The second one is the department of Social Justice. The Department of Social Justice does not do any Justice to us. The third one is the Department of Human Resource Development. Their work is related to Education

... (Interruptions) Nobody responds there. Last but not the least, incidents of atrocities are taking place. There is Ministry of Home Affairs but not even a single circular or letter on behalf of the Government of India has been sent by the Home Ministry to the State Governments so also no concern on the issue has been expressed by the Ministry. Now you note that our condition is gradually deteriorating and who is responsible for it? This is what I want to say and I conclude my speech quoting an Urdu Couplet :

"Tasalli de gaye unko, jinhe dushwar tha Jeena,
Arja yeh thi ki marane bhi unhe dushwar ho jaye."

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill in principle.

Now, reservation is not a new idea. When the Constitution was framed, Dr. Ambedkar made a provision in the Constitution for reserving seats in Assembly as well as in Parliament. That was done with a specific motive. As we all know, it is not a matter of perpetuity. He had fixed ten years as the reservation period for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Assemblies and in Parliament. We were forced to extend that period five times. Every ten years, we are extending it because the condition have not changed, altered drastically. The conditions as it was in 1950 is the same as the condition in 2001 also. That is why, we were forced to extend the reservation in the matter of representation in the State Assemblies and in Parliament. That is due to our fault because these people were downtrodden and they were considered as untouchables, these people were not allowed to walk through the public road and they were not even allowed to enter the public school. That was the historical background in which the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were treated before. In spite of all that, our framers thought that within ten years after Independence, the situation would change but it did not change.

Now, our Constitution is having three main pillars. The Constitution provides reservation only in the Legislature. For the other two pillars, namely Executive and Judiciary, this reservation is being implemented on Executive

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

Orders. We also believe that they will be duly represented. Now, after 50 years of Independence, when we take the case of judiciary, the untouchables are the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and are far below the real position that they are entitled to. Now, in the higher judiciary, that is the High Courts and the Supreme Court, they are not duly represented, and they do not get promotion also in the proper place. Why? It is because the appointments are made by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice. All these consultations are only minimal. They take people according to their choice. The higher judiciary is not concerned about whether a candidate is belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, and that is not their concern.

They are not worried about the non-representation of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people in the higher judiciary. The net result became that they were not represented in the higher judiciary. We were demanding for a Judicial Commission. Just like the Public Service Commission, for appointment of judges in the higher judiciary, there must be an independent body, a Judicial Commission. When such a Commission is entrusted with the work, they can do justice to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. If things go on like this, as I have pointed out earlier, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates will never get representation in the higher judiciary. So, the most important thing is the formation or the appointment of a Judicial Commission with full powers. The Judicial Commission can take decision not only with regard to appointment but also with regard to disciplinary proceedings against persons who are violating the law.

The judiciary is now above law. Judiciary is not accountable to anybody. You cannot criticise the judiciary because there is the contempt of court proceedings before you. So judiciary is now unaccountable. We are making the executive accountable. The Lok Pal Bill is one step in that direction. But the executive is definitely accountable. The Parliament or the Legislature is fully accountable to the people. But these gentlemen who occupy the Chair as Supreme Court judges or High Court judges are not accountable to anybody. They can act as they like. So, the

appointment of a Judicial Commission will do away with all these inequalities and non-representation in the higher judiciary. So, my first point is that in the judiciary, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates should be definitely, fully represented according to their population. That must be done. The other thing is, if there is no merit, the judiciary itself will fall to the ground. The vested interest people raised all these things long before.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wait for some time.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am not at fault because I have represented them. Do not intervene. I will conclude. I will speak only the points that are relevant.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for the Bill is over and the extended time of one hour is also over.

[English]

The extended time for this Bill is also going to be over. So, I am requesting again the House to extend the time by one more hour. Does the House agree to it?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : One hour more time is extended for this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : All the people who are in the higher judiciary find one reason or other to deny the job to the Scheduled Caste candidates. They do not like them to be in their midst. The caste prejudices are there. Even some social prejudices are also prevalent among them. So, in the higher judiciary, they are not permitted to enter. That is the first point which I would like to make and emphasis. This injustice can be rectified only through an independent agency, a Commission. That Judicial Commission will have the full powers. Now, the present system of appointment will not do justice to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates because the appointments are made in consultation with the Chief Justice or the Chief Justice of India by the executive, the Chief Minister, or by the Prime Minister respectively.

When these consultations take place, the just cause of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would be thrown out. It would not come within the purview of these consultations. Judges are appointed by the Executive in guise of consultation with the Chief Justice, but when the Chief Justice and the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister consult, they would not consult on the appointment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They would consult only about candidates with political backing and those poor people would be left out.

18.00 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

For the last 50 years, they are not at all represented but for a few stray cases. In the High Courts, you would see only one or two of them at the most. When there are about 40 Judges adorning the State High Court, you would find only one from the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. So, I would strongly argue that appointment to the higher Judiciary must be independent. It must be done by an independent agency, as pointed out earlier, by a Judicial Commission and that Commission must have full powers.

There is another aspect. The bureaucracy would not like it. The present bureaucracy would be finding one reason or the other in the file to deny the job to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. When they go through any file, they would find out a service rule to see that the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe candidate is thrown out. They would not write in such a way that they could be adjusted. That would not be the thinking of the bureaucracy. The bureaucracy would always take a negative approach so far as the appointment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates is concerned. They would find out reasons to deny the job to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. For that, they would find out extraordinary rules also and bring in some rotation in the order of appointment to deny the job to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates.

In Executive appointments, in the State services also, the poor Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates are not given proper representation. Even Public Service

Commissions are not doing justice to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. They have to go to the court for getting justice. This is the position. So, what is the way out?

There must be a very strong machinery to see that justice is done to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. Let us take the case of the Mandal Commission. A new doctrine of a 'creamy layer' was found out by the Supreme Court. Somebody was trying to apply that doctrine in the case of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also. It is very wonderful and fantastic! But among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there could not be any distinction. There is no such distinction as the lower strata, the middle strata and the upper strata among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is imaginary. When we take the case of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates, they would have to be treated alike, with no differentiation as is available in the case of the backward communities when we apply the doctrine of creamy layer as per the provision to implement the decision of the Mandal Commission. In this matter, there cannot be any such creamy layer. There cannot be any such differentiation between the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We should be very careful about that.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were socially backward not due to their fault but because of the social conditions that prevailed in our country. They were not treated as human beings. They were treated in a worse manner than animals were treated. An animal was permitted to walk through a public road but a person belonging to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe was not permitted to walk through a public road. That was the condition these people were put to. So, considering those aspects, the framers of the Constitution thought it just and proper to evolve a formula of reservation.

Now we want to extend the reservation formula. It is now being extended on the basis of gender. We are thinking of reservation to women in the Assemblies and in the Lok Sabha purely on the basis of gender. We found out that the women were socially backward and they were not given due share in the administration of the country and they are not duly represented in the State Legislatures.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

and the Parliament. The basis for this is that they are backward. This is irrespective of the fact whether those women belong to the higher caste or lower caste. That is immaterial. We are now arguing for reservation for women.

You see the doctrine of reservation which is being extended on the basis of gender. That is the position now. There is a very strong case now that the women belonging to the backward communities should be given reservation within the quota being asked for women. It is also justifiable because if this reservation to women is implemented, it should not be the right of the upper caste women. The women belonging to the backward communities should also get their due share in reservation of seats for Assemblies and the Lok Sabha. Now this aspect of reservation within reservation has come out. I do not know whether there will be any reservation within this for the women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I do not know. That situation may come or may not come. Anyhow, reservation on the basis of gender has come out now. It has become a very heated issue in our present day scenario.

Now the reservation facility is being extended to several categories – gender, socially backward, etc., and then again on caste basis etc. We are in such a situation now. Considering all these aspects and circumstances, I would suggest that there must be a clear-cut provision in our Statute Book for giving due representation to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That law must be protected from judicial scrutiny. It must be protected and it should not be the criteria that it is the violation of fundamental rights or any other rules. It must be given the topmost priority and that statute must be given protection. I, therefore, urge that a very clear-cut statutory provision should be made giving the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes their due share in all walks of life. This is very important particularly in the present context.

We are now in the age of privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation. We cannot insist that in the privatisation process due representation should be given to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

in the factories belonging to the private sector. We cannot do that. They are not inclined to accept our advice. Moreover, the PSUs are now undergoing the disinvestment process. Till this date, it was the Government which was the major shareholder and which was the decision-making body in them. But the position is changed now. They are being privatised. The individuals and the private sector can take their own employees and those of their own choice. They are not bound to give reservation rights to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In the age of privatisation, the chances for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will become less. They will be facing some difficulty. The privatisation process will deny rights of candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

You take the case of schools where Government is the aiding agency. It must be insisted that in the private schools the reservation policy should be strictly followed. That is not followed now.

The privately-managed educational institutions, which are getting aid from the Central and State Governments, do not observe reservation with regard to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That must be strictly enforced. But we cannot force a purely private company to give representation to SC/ST people. That is not possible under the Constitution.

Sir, considering all these aspects, we should have a clear policy and to make it further clear, I would suggest that an amendment to the Constitution or a Bill should be brought so that their rights could be duly protected. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill brought by Shri Pravin Rashtupal to strengthen the reservation policy of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and appreciate the efforts being made to strengthen the private sector. But there should be reservation in private sector also because it is the constitutional right of SC and ST people and I would like to say that I support the Bill introduced here to strengthen the reservation policy and for its implementation. Reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is the outcome of social inequality, social injustice,

untouchability, caste system and its ill-effects on society. Baba Saheb Ambedkar also had raised voice against such injustice. When the responsibility to draft the constitution was assigned to Baba Saheb, he did a great job by providing reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it does not mean that Baba Saheb was against Hindu religion. He himself was a Hindu. Baba Saheb was born to a Scheduled Caste family of Mahar society in Maharashtra. Baba Saheb sought equality before the Hindu society. For this, Baba Saheb staged satyagraha at the Mahad Chaudar pond demanding right to potable water from the village pond from where all the villagers had access to it. When Baba Saheb resorted to Satyagraha, the people belonging to higher castes attacked Baba Saheb and dalit people. Thereafter Baba Saheb went on satyagraha at Talara temple in Nasik. He pleaded that since people belonging to his community are Hindus they must also be allowed to enter the temple. Further he said that Ram does not belong to those high caste people only, he belongs to all people. Baba Saheb staged an agitation also there. But when the priests of temple refused Baba Saheb to enter the temple, he embraced Buddhism.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I mean to say that some people feel that reservation should be stopped. But this reservation is not for ten years only, after ten years whatever amendment we make, that is political reservation. To increase the seats of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies we make the constitutional amendment after ten years and the reservation of services is caste based. Until the caste system exists, the reservation would continue. Legally we have eliminated the caste system. But the Hindu mentality and upper caste people are not allowing the casteism to go out of their minds. Therefore, I would like to suggest the people, who are against reservation, that if they want, we are ready to stop the reservation but they should eliminate the caste system and spread the message of equality in the country.

Bring equality in our country and we are ready to relinquish reservation. We are ready for competition too. But reservation should not be done away with till casteism is in existence. Population of Scheduled Castes was 50 per cent and reservation was 22.5 per cent.

According to the census of 1991 their population is 27.5 per cent and they are given 22.5 per cent reservation. It is our demand that reservation should be increased by 5 per cent. The Central Government should think seriously about it.

In our country 52 per cent people belong to the OBC and 15.5 per cent people belong to minorities. All these people constitute 95 per cent of the population. The remaining five per cent are ruling the country. They are misleading the country. On one hand there are 95 per cent people and on the other hand there are these 5 per cent people who are committing atrocities upon us. I wish to point out that 22.5 percent reservation is for SC's and the Mandal Commission has provided for 27 per cent reservation for those 52 per cent people who belong to OBC category, that means 49.5 per cent reservation is available for 79.5 per cent people and it is not too much. If reservation has to be protected then this policy should be included in the 9th schedule.

You have said that reservation should be preserved. If any post is declared in any institution then the handful of senior officers go to the court. It is true that everybody should not be a follower but it is also true that you have always been ahead of us. We should be given a chance to move forward. If anyone of us makes advancement then you feel that these people are making progress. We are not going to lag behind. The constitution has paved way for us to move ahead. I would say that reservation for SCs should cover all the posts of class I, II and III. First finish the backlog then our people would not gain precedence. If you will fulfill the quota of reservation in all the categories as provided by the Constitution then you will not feel that we are getting precedence. Reservation should be there for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Judiciary also, hon. President, Shri K.R. Narayanan has also said so but even then the Government is not paying any attention towards it. I want to say that the Vajpayee Government should think about it. If you will not consider this issue then next time we will pay attention towards it. It is not that you are going to remain in power for long. If you continue to do injustice with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes then you will not come back to power. You have reached here because of our internal clashes. Now there are possibilities of clashes even amongst yourselves, after all your Government also is a coalition

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

of 24 parties. You also fight but not like us that is why you have been able to remain in power so long. You should do good work under the leadership of Atalji but something should be done for SCs and STs also. As the hon. President of our country has suggested, there is a need to give reservation to SCs and STs in the judiciary also. I demand for reservation in the cabinet also. Reservation should be there for the post of Prime Minister and Chief Minister also. If a person belonging to higher castes has held the post of Prime Minister once then next time the post should be reserved for SCs and STs. In a democracy, it depends on us who is going to be the leader but despite that if there would be such a law then as is the practice in States, if the post of Chairman of District Council or the Mayor is a reserved post then all the parties, be it the Congress, the BJP, the Samajwadi Party or the communist Party, choose their candidates accordingly. According to Article 16(4), Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been given reservation in the services. According to Article 335, there is a provision of reservation in private jobs also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, implementation is not being done properly and the Government is not taking the issue of reservation in private sector very seriously. Therefore, Parliament should formulate a legislation regarding the bill presented by Shri Pravin Rashtupal and through which reservation in private sector has been demanded so that reservation in private sector may be ensured. Reservation does not mean that more posts have to be created in the private sector but it implies that people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be recruited against some of the existing posts. If 100 people are working then 22.5 per cent posts should be filled with people belonging to these castes. We are not asking to increase salaries or posts. People belonging to these castes should be given the same salary as other people are getting.

Mr. Chairman, Sir. The Pioneer, has published data on 19 April, 2000 according to which percentage of people belonging to SC and ST in class I, II and III posts is 8.23 per cent, 3.47 per cent and 14.67 per cent respectively. Under it, 7.29 per cent in class I and 13.7 per cent in Class

II and class III, of the quota of reservation for SC and ST has been filled in Banking Sector. Similarly in public sector 4.86 per cent in class I and 6.17 per cent in class II and III of the quota of reservation has been filled while it should be 22.5 per cent. The quota has not been filled as required. Therefore, I feel that an act is needed to increase the quota of reservation and implement it. If there is an act then it would be mandatory to fill the quota and there would be a provision of penalty for not filling the reserved posts. It can prove beneficial for us. 37.41 per cent of people belonging to SC, ST are landless and 80 per cent of the people of the country are poor. There is a need to strengthen their position through reservation. Therefore, there should not be any problem for the Government in adopting the bill presented by Shri Pravin Rashtupal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, DOPT issued five OM's against SC, ST out of which two have been withdrawn by the Government but the States have not been notified so far and the implementation has not begun. Therefore the Government should pay attention towards it, The Government should consider to withdraw the rest of the three OM's of DOPT. The Parliamentary Affairs, Minister Shri Pramod Mahajan has given assurance that they would be withdrawn. I feel that the Government gives lots of assurances everyday but they are not fulfilled. Therefore it seems that the BJP Government is training its Ministers to give assurances. Ministers do give assurances but nothing is done towards fulfilling them. No attention is paid towards implementing it. Ministers should have influence over the officers but here the situation is reverse, the officers have influence over the Ministers. The job of implementation would not be done till the influence of officers remains on the Ministers. Therefore, through you, I request the Government to get the job of implementation done.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, supporting the bill, I would like to say that the Government should withdraw the rest of the three OM's of DOPT as soon as possible. It is a very important bill. I think that the people of that side who are still there should support the bill. I cannot say about those who are not here whether they would support the bill or not, but it is a very important bill. Everybody should support it. I conclude my speech by giving support to the bill.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my support to objective of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Service) Bill, 2000 presented by Shri Pravin Rashtupal, which intends to provide social justice, equality in the society and ensure equal right to all in the society and abolition of untouchability and continuation of reservation system provided in the constitution. Even though I respect his sentiments, yet I am not able to support the bill against my own wish due to some technical drawbacks therein. He has tried to retain some clauses with his dexterity and shrewdness, which I cannot support. All of us want that the reservation enshrined in the constitution for the weaker, the dalit, the under privileged, the suppressed, the deprived people should be provided to them on the basis of the rate of 15 per cent and seven and half per cent alongwith the equal right in education and jobs.

But there is a saying that 'Ati Sarwatra varjayet' i.e. the excess of everything is bad. But is regrettable to say that the reservation issue is being used as a tool to gain political mileage. The issue is being exaggerated and presented in distorted way without having any consideration over it. It is being stated that equality and harmony have begun to prevail in the society, healing all the past wounds of atrocities. But it is to be noted that the fire of casteism which had begun to diminish once has again been smouldered by politics of vote bank once again. For just getting votes in the name of reservation, the issue is being bombasted, leading to widening the rifts in the society whereas all of us want that there should be no rift of high and low in the society as it is said in the Veda. It reads "Ajayeshthas, Akanishthas" It means all are equal, the sons of one God. No one low or high. All the discriminations have been created by man himself and this was his ignorance. The day when this birth based caste system started will be written in black letters. We had the varna system in India. There is no need to say that the people misinterpret the mantra in the veda "Brahmanosya Mukhmaseet Baahu Rajanayakrit urusyatadwashya padbhashayamshudrodejayat. It has been envisioned by the society itself. It is a metaphor. For example, the Hindi poet Tulsidas says "Mukha Chandra, Mukh Rupee Chandrama." In the same manner, the society has been compared to the body which has four parts in simple terms

to bring about - uniformity, homogeneity, totality in the society. Therefore, it is told that the whole society is like our body. The function of mind of the body are to observe, hear, perceive and imagine. In the same manner the class of society which is engaged in providing and receiving education is a true Brahmana. What is the meaning of being Brahmana? A Brahmana is only that person who has spiritual knowledge, who knows vedas, who understands the real meaning of knowledge, spirituality and supreme power. Only such person has right to be called a "Brahmana". Nowhere it has been written that one who is born in Brahmana family becomes Brahmana. Even Lord Krishna says "Chaturavarnamyasrishtam Guna Karma vibhagasha" implying the formation of four varnas is based on merits and deeds. Today even the west believes in Division of Labour. In America, there is a missionary class which is engaged in doing social service, spreading spiritual knowledge, giving religious precepts, observing religious austerity, enriching spiritual knowledge. The second one is the military class which is engaged in the defence of the country. Anyone can get entry in the armies. Third one is the trade and community class and the fourth one is mechanic class. We had the same concept here. On the lines of division of labour, one person has his type of expertise. If some people are called Brahmana in the society, that does not mean that they are the most important part of the society. Calling them important, does not mean they are high and others are low. And if others are called (legs) that does not mean they are low in the society. For example while in the "sheersharshana" the face goes down and legs are up and in the state of lying both legs and head become equal. It is nothing but a metaphor. So there is no question of high and low. "Ajayeshthas Akanishthas" meaning there is no one high or low in the society. "Brahman odasaya Mukhmaseet" means Brahmana was the face of the body (society), "Baahu Rajanayakrit" if any harm is done to the body, it is the hands that defend first.

The powerful class of the society was called kshatriya. As the belly cannot eat on its own and we have to take pain to put foods into our mouth, which develops the whole body. It is said "Mukhiya Mukh so chahiye, khandpaan ko ek" we have to take pains to put food into our mouth. The Vaishya class was assigned the work of earning money, and distribute it equally in the society so that no section of society should remain suppressed, downtrodden.

den and underprivileged. But there was no restriction that one could not engage oneself in education related job. The change over to other section was not restricted. A shudra could become Brahamana and vice versa by virtue of his actions and accomplishments. There are many such examples in the society.

I am not supporting the caste system. I submit that the caste system based on birth was the greatest error of the society. This caste system had begun to come to an end. But today even after 53 years of democracy. We are encouraging casteism in the garb of reservation for the sake of ensuring the vote bank.

Shri Buta Singh has told us about the fifth caste. Our caste is humanity. We are human beings, we all are the sons of Manu. Manu is not a hermit. 'Mava Karmani Sivyati'. One who willingly discharges his duties, one who works thoughtfully, that person is manav, the man in its true sense. "Tanme Manah Shiv Sankalpamastu" we should think of welfare for others, we believe in social justice. We are

against untouchability. The first envisager of Swarajya Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati had said that all are equal. Be it swami Vivekanand, Mahatma Gandhi, Phule Saheb or Baba Saheb Ambedkar, all the social thinkers, reformers supported equality in the society and were against the evil of untouchability. Shri Rashtrapal has brought this bill for the underprivileged people. There are some provisions in the bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time for discussion on the Bill was fixed upto 6.31 p.m. and its is over now. Your speech will continue. The House now stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, August 27, 2001 at 11 A.M.

18.32 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of
the Clock on Monday August 27, 2001/
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