

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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(Vol. XXIX contains Nos. 11 to 23)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA

Friday, December 13, 2002/Agrahayana 22, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

REFERENCE BY SPEAKER

First Anniversary of the Terrorists Attack on Parliament House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Members are aware, this day last year, five terrorists made a cowardly attack on Parliament.

The attempt of the terrorists to enter inside the Parliament building was thwarted by the brave security staff of Central Reserve Police Force, Delhi Police, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Parliament Watch and Ward Security. Five security personnel of Delhi Police, one Mahila Constable of CRPF and two Security Assistants of the Parliament Watch and Ward laid down their lives while keeping the terrorists at bay. In their death, these valiant security personnel had set the highest standards of selfless courage and bravery. One innocent Gardener who was on duty also lost his life during the attack. The pain of loss of these brave souls is still felt.

This senseless act of violence and attack on the temple of our democracy by the terrorists indicate their frustration at the vibrancy of our democratic system. Such attacks reinforce our determination to fight the evil of terrorism. Let us rededicate ourselves to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the country at all costs.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs who lost their lives while protecting the Parliament House Complex.

11.01 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

11.02 hrs.

RE: REPORTED POLICE FIRING ON FARMERS AT MUNDERVA SUGAR MILL IN BASTI DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would take just one minute only. Yesterday, hon'ble Prime Minister intervened in the discussion on killings of farmers in Basti, and said that he will order an inquiry and then give a statement in the House. His intervention raised hopes that now the problems of farmers would be solved. I have repeatedly said that three farmers died in police firing and the police are suppressing the facts, but no one heard me. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that public seized the bodies of two farmers and then post-mortem was done on one of them. It proves that the statement given by the hon'ble Minister in the House was not true.

Sir, the killing of farmers is not just an issue for Samajwadi Party or any other party, but the issue concerns all the farmers of India. I can give you the names. The statement of the hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in this regard is in very bad taste. She said that it has been masterminded by Samajwadi Party, you can just imagine the levels she can stoop to. If it is the work of Samajwadi Party people then they should be arrested.

Sir, we despatched a team there. It has reported that the sugar mills owe Rs. 13,05,90,000 just to the farmers of Barabanki. You as well as the hon'ble Prime Minister are well aware of the ground realities in Uttar Pradesh. Basti is one of the poorest districts of India and here Rs. 13,05,90,000 of farmers is outstanding against sugar mills. The name and outstanding amounts against the Mills are—Basti Sugarcane Mill Rs. 7,24,99,000; Daltonganj-4,08,19,000 Bhavnagar-2,52,00,000 and Raut gaon-1,50,00,000.

Thus Rs. 13,05,90,000 of farmers is outstanding. It is justified to fire at them if they demand payment of their dues? All the three have died of bullet wounds. Hon'ble Minister said that they died in stampede, whereas they have died of bullet wounds. Their names are—Shri Dharm Raj, Shri Tilak Ram Chaudhary and Shri Badri Prasad Chaudhary. Besides, 70 people have got injuries, out of which the condition of six persons is critical. I had sent a team there under leadership of the leader of legislative council but they were arrested near railway crossing of Safedabad station in Barabanki. Among the

arrested leaders were, Shri Niyamat Hussain, leader, Legislative Council; Shri Bhagwati Singh, a three time MLA from the constituency of the hon'ble Prime Minister and now leader in the legislative council and the MLA of Basti assembly constituency. Thus the MLAs of Basti, Barabanki and Faizabad alongwith party workers were arrested. With the Committee, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, MP had also gone and he was arrested at Basti station. Basti is 170 kms. away from Barabanki. People who tried to go there to find out the truth were arrested just after coming out of Lucknow. Facts are still being suppressed there. Police have arrested a number of farmers. Everything is being done on the orders of the Government. And the Chief Minister said that only one person has died. You can look at today's 'Amar Ujala' newspaper. It is not correct to say that it has been masterminded by Samajwadi Party. It is not so, it was organised by the farmers themselves against the deeds of the Government. All the leaders were arrested. Mob was indeed violent but it was due to the Government and the district council...(Interruptions) The DIG fled from the scene. If he had remained there, the incident could have been averted...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, we do not have time to discuss it. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: My submission is that a Parliamentary Committee be sent for investigation there. Government is hiding facts there. The Committee gone to probe the case was arrested. Therefore, I request you to send a parliamentary committee there and the leaders of farmers should immediately be released. Besides, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, MP should immediately be released from police custody and he should be allowed to go on the spot alongwith the committee. I have full faith that our committee will be very useful there. More anger may generate if the committee is stopped from going there. Samajwadi Party will always fight against injustice. Samajwadi Party may gather lakhs of people...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It would really be injustice with the socialist party and farmers to say that Samajwadi Party is behind this. In that case we have no objection in saying that the Samajwadi Party would ask the farmers of Uttar Pradesh to rise in revolt...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has already delivered the speech so why should you speak now?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, please give some ruling.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): I would submit that the statement given by Sharad Yadav Ji yesterday...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): There is no need for you to speak when your leader has delivered his speech...(Interruptions).
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh Ji, the matter raised by you is very important. I understand the importance of that matter. Yesterday Shri Sharad Yadav had submitted here that the information with him has been sent by the State Government and that he is placing it here. Your submission is that not one person but three persons have died and you have also given their names.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The Government have concealed them. Their post Mortem has been conducted taking them out of the police custody.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have requested that discussion should be held on this matter. I have always said that discussion can be held on any subject in this House. We can take a decision in this regard, but it would take some time. I would ask the Government to hold discussion on this as and when they feel convenient.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We have no objection. You may fix any date in the next week. We can hold discussion on this subject if possible on 19th. All subjects would be covered till then and the Government can also put their view point.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had made a request yesterday also that the statement of Shri Sharad Yadav Ji is not correct. Hon. Mulayam Singh Ji had mentioned the names of three persons. Post Mortem of three farmers was conducted. It was told yesterday in

the statement that no firing has taken place. Statement of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is with me. She has herself said that farmers were fired at. Statement of Shri Sharad Yadav was not true. It is a very serious issue. We had requested yesterday also to send Parliamentary Committee, which would itself reveal the facts. What we are saying and what the Government are saying is a separate issue. It is necessary to send a Parliamentary Committee in order to reveal the facts.

MR. SPEAKER: I am taking this issue very seriously as I think that it is essential to check whether the information received from the State Government is true or not. That is why Sharad Yadav Ji also want to make submission in this regard. This subject shall have to be discussed in detail in the House and this can be done. As per the record with me I feel that we can hold discussion on this subject on the 19th and the truth would be revealed that day itself. I would therefore like to hold discussion in this regard on that day only.

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (Salumber): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly give me choice to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen, I would allow you to speak in the Zero Hour.

[English]

Now, we shall take up the Question Hour.

11.11 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Housing Loan

*343. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to several incentives being extended to the beneficiaries of housing loan, there is a spurt in house building activities in the country;

(b) if so, the projected growth rate for housing sector for the next three years;

(c) the housing loan projection made for the year 2002-2003; and

(d) the housing loan provided by public sector banks/ FIs during last three years alongwith the interest rates thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The housing and housing finance sector has been accorded priority in recent years by the Government of India. Fiscal incentives have been provided to this sector in the last three successive Union Budgets. The financial institutions have liberalised the lending norms, reduced the rates of interest, increased the period of loan, eased the collateral requirement etc. This coupled with the overall downward movement of the interest rates in the economy and increased competition among the institutions engaged in providing financial assistance for housing have improved both the accessibility and affordability of housing finance. Further, all Commercial Banks are now required by RBI to provide a minimum of 3% of incremental deposits for housing finance.

(b) to (d) The lending rates of banks are governed by the directives on interest rate issued by RBI from time to time. As per extant guidelines, the interest on loans up to Rs. 2 lakh should not exceed Prime Lending Rate (PLR) of the bank and beyond Rs. 2 lakhs, banks have been given operational flexibility in deciding their lending rate. Currently, the fixed and floating rate of interest on housing loan varies between 9.50 to 11.50% and 9.25 to 11.50% respectively. According to the information furnished by National Housing Bank (NHB), the total housing finance disbursed by the commercial banks and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) has increased from Rs. 19,723.38 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs. 29,600.25 crores in 2001-2002. For the year 2002-03 it is estimated that total housing finance disbursement will touch Rs. 37,000 crores. This is based on past trends of growth of housing finance. NHB has submitted that if the existing fiscal and monetary incentives continue to be available, the housing sector is likely to grow by 25% annually over the next three years.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank NDA Government and the Ministry of Finance for providing incentives to Housing Sector during last four years.

[English]

During 1997-98. Housing finance amounting to Rs. 10,000 crore were made available

[Translation]

but under new housing policy, it is likely to increase to Rs. 37,000 crore in 2002-03.

[English]

The interest rate has come down from 14.5 percent to 9.25 percent.

[Translation]

Everyone has a dream to own a house and to keep the family small. Food, clothing and shelter is the basic need of everyone. I would like to know as you have introduced tax incentive scheme for housing in urban areas and metro cities, how the Government propose to provide incentives to slum-dwellers in the cities and how housing can be accelerated? Whether the Government have evolved any plan to promote housing in rural areas? Take off in case of loan upto Rs. 2 lakhs is less. Will the Government provide for any additional incentive or benefit.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There are two aspects of question asked by hon. Member. Firstly he wants to know whether the Government have evolved any housing scheme for the benefit of city based slum-dwellers and secondly whether there is any plan to promote housing sector in rural areas? As hon. Member knows that urban housing, slums is a State subject. And if State Government formulate any scheme for elimination of slums the Centre would surely make efforts for providing finance for this purpose either through National Housing Bank or from any other source. There are several scheme in vogue in Rural Housing Sector, such a Indira Aawas Yojana, Golden Jubilee Housing Scheme etc.

But as far as the target set in this regard is concerned, I am not satisfied with the achievement. If we go through the data, the achievement works out to nearly 75 percent. There is a need for further efforts in this regard.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply:

"The National Housing Bank has submitted that if the existing fiscal and monetary incentives continue

to be available, the Housing sector is likely to grow by 25 percent annually."

[Translation]

I would like to ask hon. Finance Minister whether the Government would like to make some additional provision for retaining existing tax incentives as it is? I would like to quote one more example to hon. Finance Minister.

[English]

The NPA in housing finance is just two percent or even less than two percent.

[Translation]

What the Government propose to do for further promotion of these schemes? I have a figure of State Bank of India.

[English]

The State Bank of India's disbursement of housing Finance was less than Rs. 1,000 crore four years ago. In the year 2001-02 it was Rs. 5000 crore and for the year 2002-03 their target is Rs. 10,000 crore.

[Translation]

I would like to ask the Government whether it will further expand the definition of infrastructure because Housing is the basic need of a person. The Government provide tax-incentive to a person who takes loan for infrastructure. My submission is that if anyone invests in National Housing, will the Government consider providing any sort of additional incentive to him?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has asked more than one question and alongwith the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You reply to only one question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would try to answer all the questions. He has expressed many views with the question. It is true that at an average housing sector has grown by 25 percent during last three years. 25 percent growth is very difficult to be achieved in other sectors. As far as bad debt is concerned, we find less NPA in this sector. It is not only the experience of banking sector but private banks also that we find minimum default cases in housing loan. Generally, one wants to repay the loan taken for housing as early as possible so that the house can be in his name.

Third aspect is regarding fiscal incentive, as hon. Member has desired to know. During the Question Hour itself it is not possible for me to announce what shall be the tax incentive? Wrong inferences can be drawn by such an answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member has understood.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: But I would like to assure hon. Member that this sector has grown by 25 percent because of certain incentives and it would be unwise to change it now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have observed that banks provide loan to a person for construct in of House who has a plot on his name. I hail from Chandigarh and I have experienced same practice prevailing over there. People holding small plots, say 25 yards or so are poor ones. They purchase that plot lease agreement and thus they do not have ownership of that plot and therefore, the banks do not provide them loan for constructing dwelling units. Because of this, we are not able to achieve the target fixed for the purpose. They got the plot, no doubt, but do not get loan for constructing house. Consequently, they are forced to sell their plots and to live in slums only. I would like to know the reasons therefor. Will the bank agree for tripartite agreement so that if poor people are allotted plots by Government agencies and they agree to refund the loan in instalments then will the banks provide them loan for constructing house? When would the Government give such instruction to the banks so that bank do not insist on collateral security.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Hon'ble member has raised any issue which needs to be considered. In urban areas it is not possible for every body to construct house on a large plot. A large percentage of the people construct their houses on small plots. In this regard Urban Development Trust and other bodies meant for granting loans remain reluctant to grant loans to small plot-holders. What hon'ble Shri Pawan Kumar has stated is correct. There is a need for improvement in it. National Housing Directorate propose to start Mortgage credit Guarantee Scheme for improving the situation. Negotiations are going on in this regard. At present, banks do not give loan to them. Banks have their own limitations as they have to recover the loan advanced by them. They remain worried whether the loans advanced to small plot owners would be recovered or not? Therefore, it would be our endeavour that small plot holders who want to construct their houses could get loan easily and also to ensure security of banks regarding the recovery of their loans. We are evolving a solution in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government is aware that due to non availability of developed land near small and medium towns, there is a tendency to occupy whatever land is available and without looking into any terms and conditions, the construction is made. Therefore, there are problems in these areas. I would like to know whether there will be any plan to establish housing development authorities at such places by providing cheaper finance where there is a migration of labour from rural areas to small and medium towns. If the Urban Development Authority is made, I am sure by taking the finance at cheaper rate and giving refinance to Urban Cooperative Banks through the Reserve Bank of India or other banks, this problem can be solved. As Chairman of the Pimpri Chinchwad New Township Development Authority, Pune, this experience is of mine. If people get cheaper finance at the rate at which they can develop their plots, they do take the plots. Therefore, I would like to know whether there is any plan of the Government to give 'cheaper finance' to such housing development authorities, not at the top but at various places, in small and medium towns.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Member's question really has two parts. One is about illegal occupation outside of development areas, which is really a State subject. I am unable to respond to it.

On the question of what he has called 'cheaper finance', may I recommend to the hon. Member, 'cheaper finance' has certain. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What he means is at the cheaper rate of interest.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I suggest that 'concessional finance' is perhaps a better phrase because cheaper finance suggests. ...*(Interruptions)*

So far as concessional rate of finance for housing goes, 'yes' there are already a number of schemes that, in fact, provide concessional rate of finance for housing. As the hon. Member knows for housing activities involving above Rs. 2,00,000 loan, the banks have already been given the instruction that they can adjust the interest rate that they charge.

In addition, there is the National Housing Bank; plus we will be examining the question of making available, as an incentive to housing, further concessions that can be granted so that what we are achieving, 25 per cent just now, can also go further. I cannot go more than that in terms of specifics so far as concessional finance to housing is concerned.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of housing is very important. Please hold discussion on this issue specifically on same day. ...*(Interruptions)*

NPA of Cooperative Banks

+

*345. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

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

(a) the total amount of non-performing assets of cooperative banks in each State as on March 31, 2002;

(b) the guidelines issued by RBI to these banks to check the rising amount of NPA and recovery thereof;

(c) the steps taken by these banks for speedy recovery of NPA; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The State-wise details of the total amount of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of State Co-operative Banks (SCBs), District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs), State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) and Primary Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs), as reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), as on 31st March, 2001 (latest available) are furnished in Annexure.

Annexure

State-wise details of the total amount of Non-Performing Assets of Co-operatives as on 31st March, 2001 (latest available)

(Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Amount of Non-Performing Assets			
		SCB	DCCB	SCARDB	PCARDB
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	A & N Islands	1308	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	95398	99123	—	—

(b) Operating guidelines for cooperative banks are dealt with by NABARD, which has issued the following comprehensive guidelines for the management of NPA of the cooperative banks:

- Banks should have loan recovery policy and it should be effectively implemented for recovery of dues on due dates;
- Banks to set up separate recovery cells;
- Other measures such as strengthening credit management system, time bound plan for reduction of NPAs;
- Follow-up with the State Governments and filing of claims with cooperative courts/civil courts in respect of willful defaulters.
- Proper credit appraisal and management;
- Quick diagnosis and remedial measures of potential and borderline NPA accounts;
- Proper analysis of NPA data;
- Constant review/renewal/reschedulement of loans;
- Filing of claims in time with the Deposit Insurance Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC);
- Follow-up with State Governments/Courts.

(c) and (d) NABARD has, in consultation with Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) taken several steps for speedy recovery of NPAs. These include issuing of guidelines for one-time settlement of chronic non-performing assets, advising the banks to make all out efforts to improve their recoveries, advising banks to take necessary legal action for recovery of their overdues wherever required, taking the help of district administration for improving the recovery performance under Government sponsored programmes, reviewing the recovery performance of the banks in the Board meetings and staff review meetings, etc.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3056	—	—	—
4.	Assam	16773	750	1789	—
5.	Bihar	31293	34336	11910	—
6.	Chandigarh	270	—	—	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	*	16843	—	1022
8.	Goa	5827	—	—	—
9.	Gujarat	5890	72236	36561	—
10.	Haryana	1357	13792	0	32989
11.	Himachal Pradesh	4005	4160	3911	785
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	1265	5758	1394	—
13.	Jharkhand	*	8579	—	—
14.	Karantaka	8922	54453	43966	37857
15.	Kerala	4981	49448	632	26515
16.	Madhya Pradesh	15430	67433	8687	13257
17.	Maharashtra	116021	232484	51884	—
18.	Manipur	1535	—	57	—
19.	Meghalaya	1835	—	—	—
20.	Mizoram	900	—	—	—
21.	Nagaland	1558	—	—	—
22.	NCT of Delhi	4093	—	—	—
23.	Orissa	8924	37804	9616	6260
24.	Pondicherry	723	—	238	—
25.	Punjab	5664	14474	0	12266
26.	Rajasthan	7814	24766	937	23567
27.	Sikkim	0	—	—	—
28.	Tamil Nadu	302	88148	36231	39256
29.	Tripura	3211	—	833	—
30.	Uttar Pradesh	33038	92135	42697	—
31.	Uttaranchal	*	3605	—	—
32.	West Bengal	7535	16768	5924	6702
Total		388928	937095	257267	200476

*Data in respect of these States are included in MP, Bihar & UP respectively. SCB-State Cooperative Banks DCCB-District Central Co-operative Bank SCARDB-State Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Bank PCARDB-Primary Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Bank

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Sir, I am sorry to say that it is an evasive reply. I would like to seek your protection because if you go through my question you will find that I have asked for the details of non-performing assets up to 31st March, 2002. Here in the reply given, the details are upto 31st March, 2001 only. Why it is so? It is because of the fact that you have given Rs. 17,000 crore of money as a loan?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me ask the hon. Minister.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Sir, I would like to seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I am giving; but you are not taking that. Mr. Minister, would you be able to tell him why the figures up to 2002 were not given?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, let me correct the misimpression that the hon. Member is having. There is no question of an evasive reply. He is associated with it. I can present the accounts only when accounts are presented to me. He has asked for the accounts of the cooperative banks of the States up to 31st March, 2002. What the hon. Member has asked are accounts of the cooperative banks of the States which the hon. Member knows very well, in fact, are really State-controlled. It has got nothing to do with his illusion, to the mythical Rs. 17,000 crore which I do not know where he has conjured that figure up from. Sir, he has the full protection not only of the Chair but whatever figures are available and the latest figures that are available are given.

MR. SPEAKER: That is stated in the reply in the brackets. Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, you can ask your question now.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Sir, it is clear from the explanation from the hon. Minister as to how the cooperatives are functioning because there are so many guidelines from the RBI and the NABARD. You have already mentioned about ten guidelines which have been placed before the House today and certainly it has been circulated in the entire nation. It is my intention to know that after all this and after the implementation of the report of the Kapoor Committee, what is the effect in the rural areas and on rural financing, and it is for that reason that I asked for the figures up to 2002. But, I am sorry that it has not been replied properly.

I would like to know the rural non-performing assets which are going to be higher and higher. It is jumping and in that course it is alarming to the rural areas. It is due not only to the *Mafia* and the muscle power but it

is also due to the political interference, particularly of the States.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you come to the question straight.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Yes, Sir. I would like to know it very clearly whether it is a fact that the State Governments of different States of the country forced the banking sector and the Boards to give loans without any verification and in that way they said if they do not do so, the Boards will be superseded and new nominated members will come up, and whether this knowledge is available with the hon. Minister or not.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, there are really two parts—one is the State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Banks and the other one is the District Central Rural Banks. What ails the State co-operatives is, I think, at the heart of his query. What is the problem with these co-operatives? As per the figures that I have about the NPAs—the figures that were last available—the NPAs of State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Boards are estimated at about Rs. 2,580 and odd crore and for the State co-operatives, the figure is Rs. 2,004 crore.

Now, what are the problems that ail the co-operative sector? The hon. Member has quite rightly pointed out that it is really the States which interfere. I must candidly share with the hon. Member that there is a degree of members's apathy when it comes to the proper functioning of the co-operatives in the States. Then, there is, and I recognise that, really no other effective answer to it. There is duality of control, when it comes to co-operatives, of Reserve Bank of India and the State Governments. It is our experience that it results into unsatisfactory governance of the co-operatives. There is, therefore, a certain degree of lack of professionalism in the staff of the co-operatives which has resulted in the absence of, or the failure to, modernise the systems and procedures. This is the result. Because the co-operative banks are not moving to modernise the systems the internal controls and audit get weakened, which in turn result in low recovery rates and weak financial position of the co-operative banks. All these problems, then, affect the resource mobilisation of the banks and if the resource mobilisation is low, then the deployment of funds *per se* falls. It will become a vicious circle and the circle can really only be addressed if the State Government concerned recognises the problem, and, in consultation and in cooperation with the Reserve Bank of India, takes effective action.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: The co-operatives of the country, particularly the rural co-operatives, are suffering from different diseases and the main thing to be cured is the political interference. That must be stopped immediately; otherwise the co-operative system itself would be destroyed. I know that they are under dual control. Even then, in this context, I would like to know very clearly from the hon. Minister whether he would like to bring about any legislation for this purpose, at least to some extent, to control political interference, party's interference or the State Government's interference in the co-operative sector.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: In fact, in part, this is the effort that the Government has made by way of an amendment to the Banking Act, that this very House very kindly approved the other day, under which co-operatives can convert into a corporate body or move back into a co-operative. Though hon. Shri Amar Roy Pradhan is recommending that this should be done, his other colleagues were, in fact, opposing the legislative measure that we were bringing about. That is only one of the ways that we can...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: I am talking of the point to stop corruption in the Government units.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, that is how I am trying to do that.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to ask the question.

The Reserve Bank of India has introduced a non-discriminatory one-time settlement scheme for NPAs up to Rs. 5 crore. I want to know whether the co-operative banks have adopted and implemented this scheme, and if so, what is the outcome thereof?

Recently, the Government of India had promulgated the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002, and this has been passed as an Act as well.

Ever since the Ordinance was promulgated, I want to know whether the cooperative banks have made use of the provisions and, if so, what is the general outcome and to what extent the banks have been successful in taking advantage of the provisions of the Ordinance.

The second part of my question is, I understand that banks write off bad debts after all possible efforts for recovery have failed and there are no further prospects for recovery. Technical write off is also resorted to for availing of tax benefits.

I want to know the total amount written off as bad debts by the cooperative banks during the last two years, and what is the status after writing off the bad debts.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I do believe that for a great deal of these questions, I think, the hon. Member will have to give a separate notice because he had raised many queries. He sought a lot of information, and he should really ask another question. When that question comes up, whether for oral answer or written, we will supply him the information.

So far as the cooperatives making use of the Ordinance or the Act on non-performing assets (NPAs) goes, should the cooperatives so want, they can make a request and it can be notified and then the cooperatives can make use of the provisions.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, non-recovery of loans granted by the banks during the last few years has adversely affected the financial condition of banks. It is so not only with regard to cooperative banks but also with regard to nationalised banks. Is hon'ble Minister aware of the constitution of Kapoor Committee in the recent past and also about a serious discussion held with the Reserve Bank to improve the Financial condition of the Cooperative Banks? Kapoor Committee has submitted its recommendations determining the proportion of financial responsibilities of State Governments and Cooperative Banks to improve the financial condition of the cooperative banks. What decision Central Government have taken for the implementation of recommendations of Kapoor Committee and regarding the proportion fixed at Central Government's level?

My second question is that several scams which took place in cooperative banks in Gujarat during the last 4-5 years have badly affected their financial condition. What figures are available with the Government regarding the losses suffered and what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: So far as the hon'ble member has asked about the Kapoor committee, I would like to mention that a Task Force was constituted in 1999.

[English]

The Task Force was set up to study the functioning of the cooperative credit system and suggest measures for strengthening it.

[Translation]

Hon'ble member has rightly stated that Kapoor Committee was constituted in 1999. It submitted its report to the Government in July 2000. Thereafter, in December 2000, recommendations of this report were taken into consideration. Cooperative Ministers of the States, Cooperative Federations and important Corporators collectively considered these recommendations. Thereafter a conference of Chief Ministers was convened in August 2001 under the Chairmanship of hon'ble Prime Minister to evolve consensus on the issue. On 13th September 2001 a joint Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Minister of State for Finance. Joint Committee submitted its report in September, 2001. An amount of Rs. 100 crores for revitalization of cooperatives was proposed during the Union Budget 2002 and was passed. While replying to the question of other members, I had mentioned about dual control, of State Governments and Reserve Bank. Actually it also creates ambiguity in the implementation of rules and regulations and State Governments find it difficult to maintain coordination with Reserve Bank. Solution to this problem is co-ordination only. All of us have to work collectively. Unless the State Governments hold a meeting with the Reserve Bank of India and find some solution, I do not feel that the Centre would be able to take any measure in this regard. This is my request. Hon. Member may definitely ask what he wants to ask.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have said that the report containing recommendations with regard to central proportion for improvement in the financial condition of Co-operative Banks by the Kapoor Committee was received in 1999. Entire procedure from 1999 till 2001 has been told by him and he has also mentioned about the provision of rupees hundred crore. Does he feel that all the co-operative Banks of the country would achieve that proportion with a mere hundred crore rupees as recommended by the Kapoor Committee. I, very categorically say that the recommendations of the Kapoor Committee were not accepted and that is why the financial condition of Co-operative Banks is in a bad shape.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with this. The view point of hon. Member that the condition of Co-operative Banks has deteriorated because of not complying with the recommendations of the Kapoor Committee report, is far from truth. The Union Government are of the view that nothing can be done unless there is

duality of control and Unitary Control in Co-operative Banks, otherwise either the State Government or the Reserve Bank of India may run it. The condition of Co-operative Banks cannot improve so far as there is dual control. This is not the question of financial assistance but that of the management. The hon. Finance Minister has granted a fund of rupees 100 crore from the Budget keeping in view, the management aspect. It is not possible that the State Government or the Reserve Bank of India have dual control on them and the Union Government may find a solution to it merely by releasing funds.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, farmer's money is invested in this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Leaders of your party are asking questions. What are you doing?

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government are giving full support to the Nationalised Banks....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Chaturvedi ji, you asked the question and I allowed you twice but now I would not do so. Other Members also have ask questions.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the co-operative movement started from Maharashtra. Many being thinkers thought of starting this movement with a view to provide loan to the poor, rural people and farmers...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, you have not given the answer to my second question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt, he will give answer to your second question directly.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action Government propose to take in regard to the loss suffered by Gujarat due to irregularities committed by Co-operative Banks.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. If you will sit, I can ask the Hon. Minister for reply. Mr. Minister the second point of the question asked by Shri satyavrat Chaturvedi was with regard to Gujarat. If you wish, you can give its reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I am asking the same question.

MR. SPEAKER: Khaire ji, please wait, for a minute. Mr. Minister the second part of his question is incomplete, if you wish, you can give reply to it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would definitely give the reply if he is asking the same thing, can I give collective reply to both the questions. With your due permission...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Chaturvedi ji, let the hon. Minister give a collective reply to both the questions, let him do so, its not a big thing.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, you had asked me to ask the question.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question now.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, co-operative movement was started in Maharashtra. All big thinkers of those times had started this moment in a very good manner with a positive intention of providing loan to farmers and rural people. Today there are maximum non-performing Assets (NDA) in Maharashtra, figuring 1,16,021, 2,32,484 and 51884. Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that big irregularities have been committed in Co-operative Banks in Maharashtra. Infact the Banks were supposed to give loan to poor farmers and rural people, but instead they have committed irregularities with regard to shares. For example, District Co-operative Bank in Nagpur. Cooperative Banks in Osmanabad and Parbhani have also committed irregularities and the cooperative Bank in Jalgaon has distributed crores of rupees to Industrialists, though these funds were to be distributed amongst the farmers. When such irregularities were revealed in Maharashtra, the Government did not take any action there as the officers of Maharashtra Government have been appointed there. An irregularity of rupees 258 crore has been revealed in Maharashtra and there are nine urban banks in Gujarat where irregularities have been revealed. The number of NPA as told by him....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: The people involved in these irregularities are in Gujarat are belongs to ruling party.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Congress people are also there...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Please do one thing, we may get a list of the Banks alongwith the details

of people from different parties...(*Interruptions*) Kindly ask for a list of all the banks, we are ready for it. One would properly know where Congress people are involved and where are BJP people are involved.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, whether the Union Government would give compensation of Rs. 258 crore to the farmers of Maharashtra that have got wasted in the shares scam or whether it would be shown in the NPA...(*Interruptions*) What action are the Union Government going to take in this regard. Whether the Reserve Bank has any control over them or not. Those persons are roaming free who have committed embezzlement of crores of rupees...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: What action Government propose to take against these people. And what action is proposed to be taken by the Government of Maharashtra against them.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has said that it is not wrestling ring but banking.

MR. SPEAKER: You are in the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Some Members are talking about Maharashtra while some are talking about Gujarat. I feel that I had, earlier tried to give reply to this question. This tendency is the result of that approach only. This is the reason that co-operative Banks are now under such pitiable condition.

If you wish, I can read out the names of all of them, but I do not feel it necessary as they are under dual control. The Reserve Bank is taking action. It would not be unsuccessful and its not that the Ministry of Finance has not taken any steps. Many hon. Members have spoken about the bad condition of Cooperative Banks...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Why the Government are not taking stringent action against them...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The action taken so far is not useless. It is a stringent action, be it Gujarat or Maharashtra...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Hon. Minister, this is not the question of merely Gujarat or Maharashtra, but all State Co-operative Banks are facing the same situation...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: As I have told, no State is involved in it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. When hon'ble Minister is giving reply, you should not create uproar in the House. Hon'ble Minister will reply if you so desire. I would request all the members that such a behaviour is tolerable only once or twice but not time and again. Hon'ble Minister, you please complete your reply.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is misleading the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing to mislead. I have not allowed you to speak. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: As I have already stated, the Reserve Bank is taking action against all the banks be they in Gujarat, West Bengal or Maharashtra. Action has been taken against all the cooperative banks where irregularities have taken place. Ministry of Finance is taking action against them and if required further action would be taken after Reserve Bank submits its report. This is its another aspect.

Sir, the hon'ble member wanted to know whether recommendations of Kapoor committee have been accepted or not. I do not want to argue over it. I would like to say that Kapoor Committee had suggested to give 40% financial assistance to these banks. Thereafter, Patil Committee was constituted on the issue which suggested 60% financial assistance to these banks. While accepting the suggestions of Patil committee, the Government allocated 100 crore rupees in the previous Budget for initiating the scheme. Now, only after the implementation of this scheme, the problem would be solved. There is dual control over the cooperative banks. Such practices would remain continue in these banks till the system of unitary control is not adopted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister has mentioned about Patil Committee. I am calling Shri Shivraj Patil to raise the question. Others may please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, you need not reply to the questions raised by other members. Statement of any other member will not go into the records except that of the question raised by Shri Shivraj Patil.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of Hon'ble Minister that the N.P.A. of cooperative banks in all the States is about 17 or 18 crores. Hon'ble Minister has rightly stated that dual control exists in these banks. It is also a fact that due to dual control banks are not able to function properly. I do not want to go into it. I would like to know the reasons for the existing NPAs which is more than 1 lakh crore rupees, not 17 thousand crores in nationalised and commercial banks controlled by the RBI having no dual control. When such banks are controlled by RBI only, then what is the reason for such a large level of NPAs and the Government are paying funds from their exchequer to solve this problem. Government are paying out of the tax collected from the earnings of people to solve the problem of banks. These banks are not refunding that amount to the Government and again the people are being asked to deposit their earnings in these banks. These banks are not running properly. A new kind of administration with a right kind of attitude is needed to evolve a solution for the problem. An overall situation is that the people would put their savings in the banks and it would be taken away by those who would never repay the same. Government would continue to provide them 5 thousand or 10 thousand crore rupees but this will not solve the problem. Government have introduced a Bill in this regard but I think this will also not serve the purpose. I would like to know what steps Government are going to take to save the financial institutions.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Hon'ble Member has put forward many points. I would like to state in brief that during 2002, the average percentage of gross advances was about 11%. Private Sector had about 10% while foreign banks had about 7% gross advance. In financial institutions which are not included in Banking sector, it is on higher side and as per the figures of 2001, it was about 15%. As hon'ble member himself has stated that the Securitization and Reconstruction of Assets Bill has been passed in the House. I do not want to go into that discussion. Besides, the Government have formulated Credit Information Bureau, Scheme of Cooperate Debt Restructuring, Loan Policy etc. Recovery Cells have been set up under every Head office. Board of Directors have been directed to review the NPA account of above one crore rupee. Alongwith it, the steps regarding the risk management should also be strengthened. Question has also been raised about the recovery and progress in NPA. It was Rs. 12,745 crores in March, 2001 for public sector banks including upgradation and compromised write off. It has increased to 14 crore rupees in March, 2002. Public sector banks have 8 lakh 80 thousand NPA accounts which amounts to approx. 4,700 crore rupees. Even today, the RBI has settled Rs. 5000 crore through

one time settlement. Public sector banks have recovered approx. Rs. 2570 crore through D.R.D. till 31st March 2002. RBI had made one time settlement of small loan i.e. Rs. 25 thousand till December, 2002. Public Sector Bank have also recovered some amount through this.

[English]

The number of identified wilful defaulters of public sector banks as on 31 March, 2002 is 1,218 and their total outstanding dues are Rs. 5,349 crore. Out of this, suits have been filed in 763 and odd cases.

I gave all this information so as to show that this whole question of addressing the unacceptable incidence of non-performing assets has to be an effort that has to be persisted with over a period of time. Only then that correction will finally be begun to be felt.

Direct Tax Net

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

(a) the total percentage of Indian population brought under the direct tax net as on March 31, 2002;

(b) whether the net could be expanded if the direct tax regime is further liberalised; and

(c) if so, the views and approach of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Percentage of Population paying Direct Taxes as on March 31, 2002 is 2.92%.

(b) and (c) Rationalisation and simplification of the Direct Tax Laws, initiated sometime back, has had positive results. Simplification has resulted in increase in the number of taxpayers, over the last few years. It is expected that further simplification and rationalization of the Direct Tax regime will promote voluntary compliance, improve revenue collections and also help expand the number of Direct Tax payees.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, may I know the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in the tax network, nine families in India owe to the national Rs. 25,000 crore which have not been realised? Would the Minister be kind and gracious enough to inform the House who are those families and also whether Rs. 25,000 crore have yet to be realised? If yes, what mechanism is the Government considering to realise that money?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have given the reply that the question really arises from the percentage of total population that pays direct taxes. The hon. Member wishes to know whether nine families owe large sums of money. I am unable to understand the hon. Member's question. Do they owe money to the Revenue?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes, I wanted to know whether there is a tax default matter pertaining to the nine Houses or nine families pending to the tune of Rs. 25,000 crore. I would like to know whether the Government confirms it or not. If the Government is confirming it, what steps has the Government taken in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have to be clear in my mind as to what I confirm or do not confirm, particularly to the House. When the hon. Member says nine families, I have to be sure whether they are being taxed as HUF or Corporate Houses or individuals. This kind of information is required.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Anti-Dumping Duty on Newsprints

*342. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) the status of the domestic newsprint industry;

(b) whether the domestic newsprint industry is facing severe crisis due to dumping of newsprint by various countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by the Government in this regard to provide relief to the domestic newsprint industry;

(d) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for imposing anti-dumping duty on newsprint in order to protect its domestic newsprint industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Newsprint industry has been delicensed subject to locational policy. There is no control

on the import of newsprint since 1st May, 1995. There are at present 65 mills manufacturing newsprint with a total installed capacity of 12.25 lakh tonnes. The installed capacity, production and import of newsprint during the last five years are given in the table below:

Period	Installed Capacity (in lakh tonnes)	Production (in lakh tonnes)	Import (in lakh tonnes)	CIF Value of Import (Rs. in crores)	CIF Unit Price of Import (Rs. per tonne)	Indigenous Price (Rs. per tonne)
1997-1998	7.83	4.00	4.98	999.62	20072.69	16000-22000
1998-1999	9.70	5.25	4.27	1003.62	23503.98	18000-23500
1999-2000	10.61	5.04	4.39	960.07	21869.47	17000-22800
2000-2001	10.83	6.34	4.42 (prov.)	1189.48	26911.31	19500-30000
2001-2002	12.04	6.20	4.08 (April-Feb.)	1087.43 (April-Feb.)	26652.69	17000-22000

As could be seen from the data furnished in the table above, production of newsprint in the country has increased over the years except for marginal decline in the financial years 1999-2000 and 2001-2002. There has not been any substantial increase in the import of newsprint, which has remained more or less at the level of 4 lakh tonnes per annum. The import price of newsprint has not registered a significant decline during the last five years.

From these facts and figures, it is evident that there is no cause for anti-dumping investigations at this juncture as far as newsprint is concerned.

(d) and (e) Neither the Ministry of Commerce and Industry nor the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties has received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for imposing anti-dumping duty on newsprint.

[Translation]

Regularisation of Casual Workers in FCI

*344. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual labourers working in Food Corporation of India as on date;

(b) the wage structure of these workers;

(c) whether an agreement was signed between Food Corporation of India Worker's Union and authorities in 1991-92 regarding regularization of casual workers;

(d) if so, the number of such workers who have been regularised till date;

(e) the reasons for not regularising the remaining workers; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for their regularisation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (f) There are 103 casual labourers working in the two Bareilly depots of the Food Corporation of India, at present.

The casual labourers are paid the minimum wages, as prescribed by the local District Collector/District Magistrate.

An Agreement was concluded between the FCI management and the FCI Workers' Union in 1991-92 in which, inter-alia, it was agreed that all the 69 casual labourers working in the FCI depots in Delhi region would be regularized. Based on this Agreement, these labourers were regularized with effect from 01.04.1992. At the time of signing this Agreement, there was no casual labour working in the 2 Bareilly depots of the FCI.

In 1996, the FCI management introduced specific criteria for considering regularization of contract labour. 103 labourers in the Bareilly depots did not fulfil this criteria and were not regularized but, subsequently, were allowed to work as casual labour.

Decline in Export of Tea

*347. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a huge decline in the export of tea from India during the last two years;

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

(c) whether tea industry is likely to get a big boost with cent per cent foreign direct investment in this sector; and

(d) if so, the target set for export of tea by the Government during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The export of tea from India increased from 192.44 million kgs in 1999-2000 to 203.55 million kgs in 2000-01. However, in the subsequent financial year, 2001-02, the export declined to 190 million kgs.

The major factors responsible for the decline in exports of tea are lower off take by Russia, stiff competition from other tea producing countries like Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Kenya and tariff and non-tariff measures imposed by some important tea importing countries like Russia, Egypt and Iran.

(c) FDI in tea sector which has been recently approved by the Central Government would assist in generating the required capital for modernization of the tea industry and rejuvenating the tea plantation sector. This, in turn, would help the Indian tea industry to become more competitive in the world market.

(d) The Government has set an export target of 200 million kgs of tea for the current financial year 2002-03.

[English]

Celebrity Marketing by LIC

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

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation wants to reverse the decline of its business by going in for Celebrity Marketing;

(b) if so, the details of this strategy;

(c) whether LIC has identified such celebrities who will want insurance at this juncture;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action plan prepared by the LIC to concentrate on giving good service to middle class people and earn their goodwill?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has informed that there has been no decline in their business in terms of the number of policies sold. During the current year, upto 31st October LIC has sold 91,30,230 new individual assurance and pension policies as against 85,91,612 policies during the corresponding period of previous year, registering a growth rate of 6.27%. However, there has been a decline in the first premium income during the current year, consequent to revision in the premium rates of the some of their Plans due to fall in interest rates in the economy.

To increase the sale of its policies, LIC has informed that they have strengthened their marketing force to tap high value clients including celebrities. LIC is also targeting high value policies in professional segments, corporates and prosperous rural centres.

(e) As part of its strategy to improve customer service, LIC has laid emphasis on expeditious settlement of claims and quicker disposal of grievances including review of repudiated claims. It has also launched a special campaign for revival of lapsed policies. Other initiatives taken to provide better service to the public in general include toll free access to the LIC call centres in metros and wide area network covering 1350 branches and all the 100 Divisional Offices. Further, LIC has computerized its 2048 branches, thus enabling them to provide better service to the customers.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for Power Grid Corporation

*349. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loan given so far by the World Bank for Establishing Backbone Telecom System of Power Grid Corporation in the country;

(b) the utilisation of the amount by the Power Grid Corporation so far to complete the project; and

(c) the time by which the above project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The World Bank has committed \$ 450 million to Power Grid Corporation in June, 2001 of which \$ 117 million has been earmarked for establishing the Backbone Telecom System of Power Grid Corporation.

(b) Around US \$ 115 million have been utilised so far. However, no utilization has taken place as yet, for the Telecom component.

(c) The project is likely to be completed by 30th June, 2006.

Contract Farming for Silk Production

*350. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board propose to introduce contract farming to promote production of popular varieties of silk;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to save the small silk farmers from middle men and to ensure remunerative prices of their produce; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to promote Indian silk industry in view of stiff competition from China?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Central Silk Board has no commercial operations but it would encourage strengthening of linkages between producers and the industry in line with the National Textile Policy 2000, and in this regard, facilitate corporates or large reelers in contract farming so as to help farmers to get remunerative and stable prices.

(c) Mulberry cocoons are generally sold by farmers in markets set up and regulated by State Governments, so that middlemen stand eliminated. Besides, CSB operates Raw Material Banks and provides Margin Money Loan to the State Marketing Agencies to ensure fair price to primary farmers. In the current year some State

Governments have formulated short duration scheme for providing incentive of Rs. 10/- per kg. of cocoons to farmers on cost sharing basis by the Centre and the respective State in the ratio of 50:50, in order to provide relief to farmers from falling cocoon prices.

(d) The Government is taking several steps to promote Indian Silk Industry-

- (i) Govt. have initiated a production programme of high quality bivoltine silk to improve quality of Indian silk to international standards and its productivity & cost competitiveness.
- (ii) Several Central and Centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to improve technologies at all stages of the process of silk development and expand production.
- (iii) For Technological up-gradation of the Industry, loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the Technological Up-gradation Fund Scheme for the Textiles sector is available inter alia to the silk sector.
- (iv) Import of raw silk has been liberalized by being brought under OGL, which has increased availability of good quality silk.
- (v) Government has rationalized value addition/Input-output norms specified under the EXIM Policy extended to exporters, the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme, import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export products.
- (vi) The Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in international fairs, organizing generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like Tex Styles India, Publicity in foreign trade magazines, publication of magazine "Silk India" and colour forecast card for domestic silk manufacturers, dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc.

[English]

Export of Gems and Jewellery

*351. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the share of gems and jewellery exports in the total export of the country;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange earned during 2001-2002 from export of these items;

(c) the various steps taken by the Government to increase export competitiveness of gems and jewellery and overall share of its exports;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any plan to upgrade and modernize the technology in manufacturing of gems and jewellery;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up more jewellery export zones and Jewellery Design Training Centres in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) As per the DGCI&S data, during the year 2001-02, the share of gem & jewellery in merchandise export was 16.77%. Total exports were US\$ 43.56 billion, gem & jewellery accounted for US\$ 7.31 billion.

(c) to (g) The government and the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) have taken several steps to improve exports of gem and jewellery and enhance competitiveness in the world market. Some of these are given below:-

- Ministry of Commerce have prepared a Medium Term Export Strategy for various sectors including Gem & Jewellery sector;
- The GJEPC and the Govt. constantly explore the possibility of direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries;
- Govt. have provided funds to set up the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture at Surat to give a fillip to jewellery design and manufacture;
- The GJEPC promotes the image of Indian diamonds and jewellery abroad through advertisements, publicity and participation in international fairs, organising buyer-seller meets and direct approach to market retailers;
- The GJEPC identifies new markets by organising market study through consultants. It also deputes Indian designers to various international trade

fairs and exhibitions to study the latest trend in designs; and

- The GJEPC promotes export of Hallmark jewellery from India so that customers abroad can be assured of quality and purity of Indian made jewellery.

In addition, the following policy initiatives have been taken for the sector in the new Exim Policy effective from 1.4.2002:-

- Customs duty on import of rough diamonds has been reduced to zero and licensing regime for rough diamond abolished.
- Value addition norms for export of plain jewellery have been reduced from 10% to 7%. Export of all mechanized unstudded jewellery is now permissible at a value addition of 3% which was earlier restricted only to gold/platinum/silver unstudded Chains and bangles manufactured by fully mechanized process.
- Personal carriage of jewellery is permissible through Hyderabad and Jaipur airport as well, in addition to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore.

For enhancing the quality, design and global competitiveness of the Indian jewellery, infrastructure facilities for training have been provided to the gem and jewellery sector. The training centres/institutions have been imparting training in all relevant areas of design and manufacture with the ultimate objective of improving the quality of export production. In pursuit of the above objective, the Indian Institute of Gems & Jewellery is being set up in Mumbai with the Central financial assistance of 50% of the expenditure. For manufacture and export of jewellery, a SEZ has been approved at Manikanchan in Kolkata. There is no other proposal before the Government to set up any SEZ/EPZ in the jewellery sector.

[Translation]

Export of Fruit and Vegetables

*352. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) the rank of India in respect of exports of fruit and vegetables in the World market;

(b) whether India does not have a significant share in the export of Apples, Mangoes and Grapes despite the fact that the production is substantial in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are facing any hurdles in exporting fruit and vegetables from the country;

(e) if so, the details of such hurdles; and

(f) the efforts being made by the Government to remove these hurdles and to increase the export of fruit and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) As per Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in quantitative terms, India ranked 26th in the export of fruits and vegetables in the world market.

(b) The shares of India in world export of apples, mangoes and grapes are about 0.5%, 5.96% and 0.73% respectively. (Source: FAO).

(c) to (e) Exports are less than what is potentially achievable due to a number of reasons such as lack of appropriate export infrastructure (e.g. Specialised Transport, Cold Chain Facilities), inability to meet quality and safety standards of importing countries (e.g. inadequate pre and post harvest practices, modern protective packaging, maximum residue levels).

(f) Government has been encouraging export of fruits and vegetables through various measures, such as arranging buyer-seller meets; participation in international fairs and exhibitions; setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports; providing financial assistance for Infrastructure Development, Quality, Research & Development, Packaging and Marketing, promoting individual brands of Indian companies to foster international awareness of these brands. Export of fruits and vegetables is also being encouraged through Agri Export Zones (AEZs). Out of 40 AEZs approved so far, 31 relate to fruits and vegetables.

[English]

Assessment of Disabled Persons

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

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

(a) whether any assessment has been made about the disabled population, including those with mental retardation and other mental ailments, on the basis of census 2001;

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

(c) whether any new strategy has been worked out to ensure due human dignity of life to such disabled persons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Data on disability has been collected through Census 2001 and is under compilation by the Registrar General of India.

(c) and (d) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 enforced since February, 1996, provides for affirmative action and protective provisions aimed at social, educational and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities. This requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of all Ministries of the Central Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities.

Rehabilitation services are provided through a network of National/Apex Institutes, Composite Regional Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres for persons with spinal injuries and District Rehabilitation Centres. A National Trust has been set up for promoting the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. Under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances and Scheme for Promotion of Voluntary Action, over 800 NGOs/Institutions have been given financial assistance during 2001-2002 for providing rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities.

Educational coverage of children with disabilities is being enhanced through Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC), Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and District Primary Education Programmes (DPEP), etc. The Ministry of Labour through the Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) runs 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) for providing training to the disabled persons.

Economic empowerment of the persons with disabilities is facilitated by the National Handicapped

Finance & Development Corporation which provides concessional financial assistance to persons with disabilities through the State Channelling Agencies (SCAs) and micro blending programmes. The Government is also making earnest efforts to ensure 3% reservation against identified posts for persons with disabilities in Government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings. Special drives for filling up the vacancies reserved for persons with disabilities are undertaken by the recruitment agencies from time to time.

Aid for Tribal Health Care

*354. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give aid for Tribal Health Care;

(b) if so, the details of the amount sanctioned during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise, particularly in the Scheduled districts of Orissa;

(c) whether any externally aided health care scheme is proposed to be launched in those districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government of Kerala has made a proposal for critical health care programmes seeking 100% Central assistance for residential quarters to Primary Tribal Health Centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry has already been extending aid to Non Governmental Organizations for setting up and running of Ten Bedded Hospitals and Mobile Dispensaries for tribals in critical tribal areas.

(b) The details are at statement.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry.

(e) and (f) No Sir. The Ministry has no scheme for residential quarters to Tribal Health Centres.

Statement

S.No.	State	Amount sanctioned during last three years (Rs. in lakhs)			Remarks
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36.18	111.02	47.47	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	75.96	71.70	48.93	—
3.	Assam	24.68	21.54	25.29	—
4.	Gujarat	7.62	16.84	47.17	—
5.	J&K	3.91	6.72	3.91	—
6.	Jharkhand	86.52	75.08	82.02	—
6.A	Karnataka	23.09	49.33	69.24	—
7.	Kerala	16.96	12.28	21.91	—
8.	Manipur	5.13	18.13	Nil	—
9.	Meghalaya	7.82	7.82	7.82	—
10.	Mizoram	6.22	12.63	Nil	—
11.	Maharashtra	2.59	5.35	21.00	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	7.91	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Nagaland	Nil	12.58	Nil	—
14.	Orissa	23.68	30.77	55.54	Of this, an amount of Rs. 10.00, 27.06 and 51.70 lakhs were released during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02, respectively for Scheduled districts of State.
15.	Tripura	3.09	3.91	3.91	—
16.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	14.84	Nil	—
17.	Uttar Pradesh	12.15	22.53	9.77	—
18.	West Bengal	22.00	11.73	32.57	—

[Translation]

Funds Under the TRIFED

*355. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated under the TRIFED 2002-2003 budget;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the beneficiaries are not getting the full benefit under the TRIFED and the private businessmen and middlemen are still exploiting the tribal farmers;

(c) if so, the number of complaints recorded in this regard;

(d) the action being taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the interests of tribal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The budget allocation to TRIFED during the year 2002-03 under the Price Support Scheme is Rs. 600.00 lakhs and under the Investment in Share Capital of TRIFED is Rs. 1.00 lakh.

(b) to (d) TRIFED, an Apex level Cooperative Society registered under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, was set up in 1987. The objective of TRIFED was to organize and plan the growth and development of natural

products and their trade in the country and boost up the economic and commercial viability of the State level Corporations and other Agencies by providing marketing support to them. TRIFED has been functioning towards achieving these objectives since its inception.

The Ministry has, however, not received any specific complaint regarding exploitation of the tribals by private businessmen and middlemen.

(e) TRIFED's endeavour has been to render marketing support to the tribals for their produce to the extent possible and to intervene in the market for undertaking procurement in the pre-dominantly tribal areas through the State level agencies. Recently, TRIFED has undertaken procurement of MFPs through joint venture with State level Cooperative Corporations. In addition TRIFED also has been imparting training to tribals for better cultivation/collection, preservation, value addition and marketing in respect of various commodities.

[English]

Export of Textiles to USA

*356. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of Indian textiles to USA has been declining;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of Indian Textiles exported to USA during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and during the current year so far;

(c) the reasons for this decline; and

(d) the steps taken to increase export of Indian Handicrafts, Readymade Garments and other Textile items to the USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) to (d) The value of India's textile exports to USA during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given below:

Year	Value in US\$ Million
2000-2001	3139.6
2001-2002	2556.5

Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata

The declining trend in the textile exports during the year 2001-02 is mainly due to general slowdown in the economies of some of our major important trading partners like US which got accentuated due to Sept. 11 attacks. It is also due to increased competition from our neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh etc.

As per latest available DGCI&S data, the textile exports to USA during the period April-July, 2002 amounted to US\$ 992.5 million as compared to export of US\$ 908.3 million during the corresponding period of 2001, recording a growth of 9.3%. These latest trends show that the downtrend in textile exports to USA has been reversed.

Government have been taking several steps from time to time boost textile exports to all countries, including USA. Some of the important initiatives are:

- (i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.
- (ii) Government has imposed a combination of ad-valorem and specific duty on 'whichever is higher basis' on import of number of textiles and fabrics to safeguard the interest of the domestic industry, especially the decentralised sector against cheap imports.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (iv) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been

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

- (v) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.
- (vi) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with a few exceptions.
- (vii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (viii) To conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created.
- (ix) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports. A provision of Rs. 14.5 crore has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.
- (x) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) has been launched. A provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.
- (xi) With a view to ensure sustainable development of handicrafts sector in the country, a new scheme named 'Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana' has recently been launched. The scheme seeks to develop selected artisan clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation.
- (xii) The Textile Export Promotion Councils have been undertaking promotional measures for boosting exports of textiles and handicrafts to USA.

Revamping Cotton Technology Mission

*357. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to revamp technology mission on cotton in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission consists of four mini missions, with objectives of 'Research under Mini Mission-I', 'Dissemination of Technology under Mini Mission-II', 'Improvement of market infrastructure under Mini Mission III' and 'Modernisation of ginning and pressing factories under Mini Mission IV'. While various components of the scheme are generally the same, based on the experience gained during the implementation of the scheme in IX Five Year Plan, certain modifications such as providing assistance to some new items and discontinuing some items have been mooted. These include new items such as 'Seed treatment with insecticides', 'Season long training of facilitators', 'National Level Training of Trainers', 'Installation of new bale press and testing laboratories by ginning & pressing factories' etc. and discontinuing 'Incentive for Breeder Seed', 'Field Demonstration' and 'Activation of Dormant yard' etc.

Economic Development of Backward Classes

*358. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to promote economic development activities for the benefit of the backward classes;

(b) if so, the various programmes/schemes introduced by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation to achieve the above objectives; and

(c) the steps taken by the various State Governments particularly Gujarat since the constitution of the Corporation?

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

(b) The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) has been established with a view to promote economic and development activities for the members of backward Classes living below double the poverty line and to assist them by providing loan and financial assistance at concessional rate of interest for income generating activities and upgradation of skill. In order to achieve these objectives, the Corporation has been implementing the following schemes-

(i) Loan schemes-

- (a) Term loan;
- (b) Margin money loan;
- (c) New Swarnima scheme for women;
- (d) Micro-finance scheme;
- (e) Education loan scheme

(ii) Training for upgradation of technical skill.

(c) The NBCFDC provide financial assistance to the SCAs nominated by respective State Governments for the purpose of further disbursement to the ultimate eligible beneficiaries. The Corporation have so far cumulatively disbursed Rs. 715.38 crores for 4,48,268 beneficiaries (as on 10.12.2002) in various States/Union Territories.

As regards Gujarat, the Government of Gujarat has nominated 2 channelizing agencies, namely, Gujarat BC Development Corporation and Gujarat Gopalak Development Corporation Ltd. The NBCFDC has so far released 56.60 crores to Gujarat BC Development Corporation and Rs. 3.50 crores to Gujarat Gopalak Development Corporation Ltd. The SCAs have so far disbursed Rs. 34.55 crores to 9345 beneficiaries.

During the current financial year, the NBCFDC has allocated an amount of 24.42 crores to Gujarat of which, the SCAs have drawn an amount of Rs. 22.10 crores for assisting 3136 beneficiaries. The repayment from SCAs of Gujarat to NBCFDC is 100% and the utilization of the funds drawn by the SCAs is 61%. The National Corporation has advised the SCAs to expedite the utilization of funds taken by them.

Grains Silos in the Country

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

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to build additional storage capacity for grains and have floated global tenders for grain silos in different locations in the country;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) whether the Government propose to involve private entrepreneurs to share the construction costs of these additional storage godowns;

(e) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the available technology/introduce new technology for storage of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The locations where bulk grain handling, storage and transportation facilities are envisaged to be created on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis, through private sector participation, are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Place	Capacity
1.	Punjab	(i) Barnala	3 lakh MTs
		(ii) Moga	3 lakh MTs
2.	Haryana	(i) Sirsa	3 lakh MTs
		(ii) Kaithal	3 lakh MTs
3.	West Bengal	(i) Hooghly	1 lakh MTs
4.	Tamil Nadu	(i) Chennai	1 lakh MTs
		(ii) Coimbatore	1 lakh MTs
5.	Karnataka	(i) Bangalore	1 lakh MTs
6.	Maharashtra	(i) Navi Mumbai	2 lakh MTs
Total			18 lakh MTs

(c) to (f) The facilities, as indicated above, are proposed to be developed and operated by the selected private parties/joint ventures through which the entire construction costs for bulk grain handling, storage and transportation would be borne. Government have decided to introduce integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities for upgrading the existing conventional system.

Plan for Coffee Sector

*360. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have chalked out a plan to boost both export and domestic consumption of coffee during the next five years;

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

(c) whether the Government have also prepared a new economic package for coffee growers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the nature of economic assistance that would be given in the new package;

(e) the time by which the new package is likely to be announced;

(f) the extent to which this new package would be helpful for the coffee growers;

(g) whether the Government propose to prepare similar package for the tea growers also if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government have identified new regions for the cultivation of coffee; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Coffee Board is implementing a medium-term export strategy, focusing on different markets, different grades and varieties of value-added coffees. Simultaneously, the Board is also implementing a domestic marketing strategy for increasing consumption of coffee within the country during the 10th Plan period. The medium-term export strategy, taken up by the Board is based upon the concrete suggestions and plan of action arising out of the report of M/s McKinsey & Co. The strategy envisages improvement in market share for Indian coffee in key international markets and to maximize export earnings. Similarly, the Board's domestic marketing strategy includes generic promotion highlighting the positive aspects of coffee, organizing training sessions for domestic roasters and holding regional coffee festivals.

During the 10th Plan period, the Board is implementing plan schemes with an outlay of Rs. 40 crores exclusively for export promotion and increasing domestic consumption of coffee.

(c) to (f) Concerned with the problems of the coffee growers, who are facing hardships due to the prevailing low prices, the Government of India have taken a series of steps in the recent past for the benefit of coffee sector. This includes a special relief package for the coffee growers (announced by the Reserve Bank of India) under which their term loans as well as crop loans have been consolidated into a Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTL) with repayment period of 9-11 years and repayment holiday of 3 years, grant of fresh loans, reduction of interest rate on SCTL by 1%, deferment of interest due on SCTL during the current year to be recovered over the next 3 years etc.

In addition, the Government of India has taken measures, which include:

- 5% interest subsidy to small growers on the working capital loans taken by them from financial institutions,
- financial incentives for export of coffee
- innovative marketing strategies in the international as well as domestic markets to arrest the decline in exports and also to increase domestic consumption;

The SCTL package, being implemented by commercial banks, will effectively postpone the repayment of debt, provide for need based fresh crop loans after re-scheduling the existing crop loans and result in reduced

cost of loans. All these measures will certainly provide relief to the coffee growers.

(g) The Reserve Bank of India has in August, 2002 already announced a relief package which provides for restructuring/re-schedulement of the loans outstanding in the tea sector from the commercial banks etc.

(h) Instated of prospecting new areas for coffee cultivation during 10th Five Year Plan, Coffee Board would strengthen its activities for the benefit of coffee growers in the non-traditional areas such as Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and the North Eastern States.

(i) Does not arise.

Foreign Banks

*361. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per overall commitment to World Trade Organisation India is committed to issue 12 branch licence to the foreign banks every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has also got such facilities in opening Indian Bank branches in other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these branches of foreign banks are giving more facilities to customers as compared to Indian banks; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to improve the quality of services in the Indian banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India is committed to issue at least 12 branch licenses every year to foreign banks under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). During the last three years, i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, we have permitted foreign banks to open twelve, fifteen and eighteen branches, respectively, in the country.

(c) and (d) The member countries of WTO who permit foreign banks to operate in their countries do not discriminate against Indian banks and permit them to operate in their countries, subject to their prudential regulations. At present, Indian banks are operating 93 branches in 24 countries.

(e) and (f) The foreign banks' branches are mostly in urban and metropolitan centers whereas Indian banks' branches cover urban, metropolitan, semi-urban and rural centers. Since, the client profile and the service needs of the foreign banks are different from those of Indian banks, the nature of service provided by them also differs. However, in order to meet the competition offered by foreign banks, Indian banks are upgrading their technology, implementing organizational and operational restructuring and bringing about better management of human resource to improve customer service.

Sale of PC Monitors and CTVs

3723. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Samsung continues to retain top position in the marketing of PC monitor and CTVs for the last three years;

(b) if so, the sale position of PC monitor and CTVs of Samsung in comparison to other leading companies in this field during the above period, company-wise;

(c) whether flood of CTVs by Samsung has seriously affected sales of other white goods;

(d) whether Samsung has been defrauding the Government through false accounts including details of sales and prices received to escape taxes;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to conduct inquiry in the accounts of the company in view of the overall dishonest practices of trade; and

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

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

Price Stabilisation Fund for Coffee

3724. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a central team visited the State of Karnataka in the month of August, 2002 in connection with the setting up of a Price Stabilisation Fund for coffee;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total funds allocated to the State to meet the coffee crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Committee constituted to work out the operational modalities of the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) visited Karnataka in the month of August 2002. The objective of the visit was to appreciate the seriousness of the problems being faced by the growers of coffee and to understand the different perspectives put forward by the stake-holders regarding introduction of the PSF scheme. The views expressed by the various segments of the coffee industry and the State Government have been considered by the Committee in its report which has since been submitted to the Government. The Committee, in its report has recommended creation of a Trust Fund for operating the fund to deal with the problems of the growers of coffee, tea, rubber and tobacco.

[Translation]

Advocates in Banks

3725. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the public sector banks have on their panel a number of advocates to contest their cases in the court of law;

(b) if so, the number of advocates on the panel of each bank;

(c) whether any guidelines have been framed for appointment of advocates, allocation of work and their performance in the matter of settlement of cases;

(d) if so, the number of cases pending with each bank as on date and the cases settled during the last three years;

(e) whether many advocates on the panel of banks have not been allotted any case during the last five years; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Paper Recycling Mills

3726. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that paper recycling mills in the country are facing a crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to bail out the paper recycling mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Paper Industry is delicensed subject to locational policy. Of the total domestic production of paper, about 39.2% is based on wood, 32.4% is bagasse based and 28.4% is based on waste paper. Incentives for paper mills adopting recycling and using non-conventional raw material are already available in the form of concessional excise duty and customs duty. Paper & paperboard produced by using 75% and above non-conventional raw

material has been exempted from payment of excise duty upto 1st clearance of 3500 MT per annum. Import of waste paper by paper mills is allowed at a concessional rate of 5% basic customs duty.

[English]

Social Defence Scheme in Chandigarh

3727. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme of social defence implemented in Union Territory of Chandigarh including the number of beneficiaries and amount spent during each of the last three years, scheme-wise; and

(b) the activities undertaken by Childline during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) During the year 2001-02, two organizations were released Grant-in-aid for running Childline projects. Childline provides emergency assistance to a child and subsequently based upon the child's need, the child is referred to an appropriate organization for long-term follow up and care.

Statement

Amount Spent and Number of beneficiaries on Social Defence Scheme in Chandigarh during the last three years.

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Grant released during			No. of beneficiaries		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse	10.66	9.50	9.50	3273	3076	3000
2.	Integrated Programme for Street Children**	8.59	9.00	1.88	300	300	—
3.	Programme for Juvenile Justice	2.00*	3.10*	Nil	—	—	—

* The funds was released for the purpose of Staff Salary.

**No project of Street Children was sanctioned in Chandigarh during the year 2001-02. However, two childline projects were sanctioned under the Integrated Programme for Street Children. In Childline projects No. of beneficiaries can not be quantified. The amount for Childline Project was released based on the No. of calls being received from Children in distress or the adults on their behalf.

Exhibition Facility at Nagpur

3728. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nagpur has the potential to become one of the major destination for International trade fairs;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to develop a modern international exhibition facility at Nagpur;

(c) whether proposals in this regard have been made to the Union Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government have considered the proposals; and

(e) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) The proposals of the State Governments for setting up International exhibition centres are considered based on factors like location, its suitability in terms of being a metropolitan town with a large population, existence of a good industrial base, proven experience in organising 3-4 major trade exhibitions annually in the last few years, support of the State Government in terms of providing developed land with a supportive infrastructure in the form of roads, electricity, water, etc. and availability of funds. India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) provides technical and managerial support in such matters on a request received from the State Government so that formulation of their proposal in this regard is facilitated. No formal proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for setting up of such a centre at Nagpur.

RBS for Banks

3729. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India propose to introduce Risk Based Supervision (RBS) for banks and to put in place a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for development of a risk profile and designing a customary supervisory action plan for each bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITBOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Risk Based Supervision (RBS) for commercial banks will enhance and refine supervisory practices and bring them in line with international best practices. The objective of RBS is to ensure stability of the banking system, to promote efficiency, protect the interests of the depositors and prevent the misuse of banking system. RBS will help Banks in identifying deficiencies in systems and controls and to find out appropriate solutions.

Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) is mechanism based on a pre-determined rule-based structured early intervention mechanism. PCA is intended to enhance the effectiveness of the existing supervisory frame-work. It has a schedule of corrective action based on three important parameters i.e. CRAR, net Non-Performing Assets and Return on Assets, representing capital adequacy, asset quality and profitability respectively. Certain trigger points have been determined under these parameters and for every trigger point, a set of structured and discretionary actions has been proposed, which are designed to pre-empt any deterioration in the soundness of banks.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has developed a detailed risk profile template for compilation of risk profiles of commercial banks under RBS. The commercial banks have also been advised by RBI to undertake a self-assessment of their own risk profiles. A tailor-made supervisory programme will be prepared for each bank based on its risk profile.

Excise Exemption

3730. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of industries which have applied for excise duty exemption in Assam during the last three years; and

(b) the names and relief sought by each such industry in Assam in the matter of excise exemption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) At present, exemption from central excise duty to industry in North East, excluding the State of Sikkim, is available under exemption notification nos. 32/99-Central Excise and 33/99-Central

Excise, both dated 8.7.1999. Notification No. 32/99-Central Excise provides exemption to the new units or units undertaking substantial expansion, located in specified areas. However, such exemption does not apply to certain specified items. Notification No. 33/99-CE provides exemption to new units or units undertaking substantial expansion in specified thrust industries, irrespective of their location. These exemption are for a period not exceeding ten years from the date of notification i.e. 8.7.99 or the date of commencement of commercial production. Both these exemptions operate through a refund mechanism. Specific details regarding units which are availing of these excise duty exemption, and relief availed of by them are not maintained in the Ministry. These details are being collected.

[Translation]

Import of Substandard Products

3731. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian markets are flooded with sub-standard import products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to initiate a drive to check this menace;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to do away with dumping cheap quality goods in Indian markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) In the post WTO scenario, the domestic industry has to bear with competition from imports. However, to reduce the impact on domestic industry, Government has taken the following measures:-

- (i) The imports are closely monitored through the appropriate use of tariff and non-tariff mechanism;
- (ii) Import duties on a number of items have been increased;
- (iii) Suo-moto anti dumping investigations have been initiated in respect of import of battery cells, battery operated toys and sports shoes from China.

(iv) Import of all packaged commodities are subject to compliance with the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977;

(v) Import of 135 products has been made subject to the compliance of the mandatory Indian Quality Standards as applicable to domestic goods. Manufacturers of such products are accordingly required to obtain Certification from Bureau of Indian Standards; and

(vi) The Government has also introduced a Bill for amending the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 so that Safeguard Action in the form of Quantitative Restrictions can be applied if the situation so warrants.

World Bank Loan

3732. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Bihar which have received aid from World Bank for development work during each of the last three years;

(b) the rate of interest to be paid by the Union Government or State Government thereon;

(c) the conditions put for the aid;

(d) the work undertaken by the Government of Bihar with the said funds; and

(e) the time by which the works under progress are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a), (d) and (e) A statement is enclosed.

(b) The IBRD loans have been provided to Government of India on single currency variable spread basis. The interest is equal to LIBOR base rate plus LIBOR Total Spread. These loans attract a front-end fee of 1% and have a commitment fee of 0.75%. IDA credit is interest free, but there is a 0.75% service charge and a commitment fee of 0.50%.

(c) Conditions for the aid relate to implementation arrangements, time schedules for project activities, etc. as mutually agreed between the Implementing agencies and the World Bank.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Loan Agreement/Closing	Loan amount (US \$ million)	Cumulative Disbursement upto 30.9.2002	Areas Covered
1.	District Primary Education Project-III	23.2.98/ 30.9.2003	152	37.74	Bihar & Jharkhand
2.	AIDS Control Project	14.9.99/ 31.7.2004	194.75	84.13	Nation-wide
3.	Immunisation Strengthening Project	19.5.2000/ 30.6.2004	142.60	81.94	Nation-wide
4.	Second Leprosy Control Project	19.7.2001/ 31.12.2004	30.00	7.45	Nation-wide
5.	Malaria Control Project	30.7.97/ 31.3.2003	164.80	49.31	Nation-wide
6.	Reproductive Health Project	30.7.97/31.3.2003	248.30	166.76	Nation-wide
7.	TB Control Project	14.3.97/ 30.6.2002	142.40	39.14	Nation-wide
8.	Rural Women Development Project	27.3.97/ 31.12.2003	19.5	3.40	Nation-wide
9.	3rd National Highway Project	11.8.2000/ 31.12.2005	516.00	80.137	Mohania, Dehri, Aurangabad, Sherjghati, Gorhar
10.	Grand Trunk Road Project	27.7.2001/ 30.12.2006	589.00	26.744	Mughal Sarai, Sasaram, Barachatti
11.	National Agriculture Technology	17.3.98/ 31.12.2003	196.8	85.20	Nation-wide
12.	Power Grid-II	3.5.2001/ 30.6.2006	450	95.052	Nation-wide

*[English]***Non-Disbursement of Funds Under MDA Scheme**

3733. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chemexcil an export promotion body set up by his Ministry is not disbursing funds allocated under MDA scheme for LAC countries specially to exporter of North Zone, whose applications had been approved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) A series of financial irregularities committed in Chemexcil have been unearthed by an Audit Team of Department of Commerce and also by a team from the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Therefore, as part of steps being taken to prevent misuse of Government funds by Chemexcil, release of funds to Chemexcil under Market Development Assistance Scheme has been suspended temporarily till various issues affecting the council are sorted out. Therefore, Chemexcil is not in a position for the time being to disburse funds to any of the exporters, including exporters to LAC countries.

Dislocation of Nomads

3734. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that thousands of people, estimated to be over fifty thousand are living in the forest area boarding Assam and Arunachal Pradesh as nomads, and are still deprived of their basic political rights of vote and their natural habitation;

(b) if so, the estimated population as per census 2001; and

(c) the steps taken to restore their rights to vote, habitation and life with dignity?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Special Component Plan

3735. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds under Special Component plan and Special Central Assistance provided to various States during the last three years, State-wise and Union territory-wise;

(b) the details of utilization of the said funds provided to the State Governments and Union Territories;

(c) whether the number of families living below poverty line declines as a result of utilization of the said funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The details of Special Central Assistance released by this Ministry and utilized by States/Union territories during the last three years are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) Special Central Assistance (SCP) to Special Component Plan is given as an additive to the Special Component Plan of States/UTs. Special Central Assistance is expected to give a thrust to family-oriented schemes of economic development of Scheduled Castes living below the poverty line, by providing resources for filling the critical gaps.

Statement

Special Central Assistance released during last 3 years and utilisation as reported by States/UTs.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	States/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4134.94	4134.94	3720.00	3720.00	3551.51	3551.51
2.	Assam	695.31	515.00	1810.69	914.75	127.14	1453.00
3.	Bihar	3471.49	0.00	0.00	1261.41	0	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	500.00	284.28	414.68	465.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Guajrat	682.27	965.20	1521.88	845.03	1227.91	446.76
6.	Goa	5.49	1.80	8.00	1.50	0	0.13
7.	Haryana	840.36	238.02	930.63	635.39	443.53	815.20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	298.18	316.08	440.00	431.22	368.66	378.53
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	183.44	137.85	218.00	238.10	201.84	200.60
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	578.84	0
11.	Karnataka	2097.36	2097.36	2643.64	2643.64	2985.43	2985.43
12.	Kerala	813.24	753.88	1251.07	0.00	533.44	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3303.27	1936.10	1720.00	1448.64	1148.23	1737.76
14.	Maharashtra	2067.30	1450.62	2722.00	1766.09	3314.14	2384.28
15.	Manipur	12.54	13.00	38.96	8.94	2.73	8.94
16.	Orissa	1907.72	1686.47	1884.00	2022.03	2480.19	223.25
17.	Punjab	1280.29	313.13	1784.00	184.29	0	161.14
18.	Rajasthan	2792.68	1999.68	3738.96	2137.83	3005.41	2556.29
19.	Sikkim	22.37	22.26	23.87	23.98	16.68	16.26
20.	Tamil Nadu	4036.92	2841.39	3558.00	2656.93	5020.32	4598.24
21.	Tripura	159.14	164.87	476.48	476.48	83.45	32.05
22.	Uttar Pradesh	9728.65	5682.35	9398.00	6820.62	11816.86	10181.17
23.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	500.00	54.17	433.21	314.44
24.	West Bengal	4962.00	4962.00	5450.63	5322.33	7421.59	2333.36
25.	Chandigarh	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	12.50
26.	Delhi	149.91	82.87	149.91	36.71	0	80.97
27.	Pondicherry	30.13	30.13	25.18	12.59	50.00	26.15
Total		43700.00	30370.00	45038.90	33971.95	45250.79	34963.06

Increase in the OBC Quota

3736. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government had sent any recommendation to the Union Government with regard to increasing reservation quota for backward classes in Government jobs to 27 per cent during the period from 1993 to 1998;

(b) if so, the number of memorandum sent by the Madhya Pradesh Government to the Union Government for getting the said recommendation approved; and

(c) the reasons behind delay in according approval to these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There is a solitary proposal namely "Madhya Pradesh Lok Seva

(Anusuchit Jatiyon, Anusuchit Janjatyon Aur Anya Pichhade Vargon Ke Lie Arkshan) Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 1995" from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the consideration of the President. This was received on 24.10.1995.

(c) The Bill received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh had procedurally been examined in consultation with the concerned Administrative Ministries. It was observed that the percentage provided for various categories of posts were in excess of 50% laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Indira Sawhney and Others Vs Union of India and Others and it was therefore, advised that the Bill may be returned to the Governor with a message from the President. Accordingly "Madhya Pradesh Lok Seva (Anusuchit Jatiyon, Anushuchit Janijatiyon Aur Anya Pichhade Vargon Ke Liye Arakshan) Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 1995", has been returned to the Governor of Madhya Pradesh on 11.12.2001 with a message that the State Legislature may reconsider and suitably amend to provide that:-

- (i) the percentage of total reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes should not exceed 50%; and
- (ii) the category-wise percentage of reservation for Scheduled Castes should be the same for all posts, i.e., Class I to Class IV.

[English]

Indian Millennium Deposit Scheme

3737. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount collected by the Government under Indian Millennium Deposit Scheme (IMDS);
- (b) the total amount so far used;
- (c) whether less amount is being used in infrastructure sector and other projects;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to utilise the amount so collected properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The State Bank of India collected Rs. 25,716 crore under the scheme.

(b) to (e) The entire amount collected under IMD Scheme has been utilised by SBI as under:

(Rs. in crore)

(i) Amount invested in Government Securities	10,286
(ii) Amount lent to collecting banks as per agreement	12,023
(iii) Amount used for financing by SBI	3,407
Total	25,716

Amounts lent to collecting Banks are intended to support the financing needs of infrastructure Sector.

[Translation]

Law to Seize Property

3738. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of laws to seize the movable and immovable property of the people/organisation indulged in anti-national and terrorist activities and corrupt practices;

(b) the number of such people/organisation whose movable and immovable property was seized during the last two years since April 1, 2000 to till date alongwith the value thereof;

(c) whether such people/organisations deposit their money in foreign banks and because of the banking secrecy law of these banks Government fail to detect such bank accounts thereby to seize their money and property; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Among the laws currently administered by the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs, provisions exist for seizure of property in the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPSA) and Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976 (SAFEMA) for narcotic offences and those of smuggling and foreign exchange manipulation, respectively.

(b) Information regarding forfeiture of property under NDPSA and SAFEMA, is given below:

Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (upto Sept. 02)
No. of cases	103	50	27
Value (Rs. cr.)	16.62	32.02	19.29

(c) No such case has come to the notice of the Government.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (c).

[English]

Appraisal Report by Assistant Director of Income Tax

3739. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Assistant Director of Income Tax (ADIT) is required to forward the appraisal report to the concerned CIT and Assessing Officer within 60 days of the commencement of search and if the period was to be extended, written permission of the Director General was to be obtained;

(b) if so, whether in Uttar Pradesh contravention of the above there has been delay in forwarding appraisal report upto 239 days as has been pointed out by the C&AG in its Report No. 12 of 2000 (Direct Taxes) in Para 3.1.8.3.; and

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

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

(b) Sir, C&AG has pointed out vide Para No. 3.1.8.3. in Report No. 12 of 2000 delays from four days up to 239 days in forwarding appraisal reports in Uttar Pradesh charge. There is only one case where first appraisal report was delayed by 46 days and another supplementary report was submitted after a delay of 239 days.

(c) Appraisal report is prepared by the Officers of the Investigation Wing to assist the Assessing Officer in assessing the amounts of undisclosed income. Instructions have been issued from time to time to the effect that this time frame should be adhered to by the Officers of the Investigation Wing. However, it is possible that a larger time may be needed for furnishing the appraisal reports due to various factors.

Revision of Badla

3740. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have been carry forward transactions popularly known as (BADLA);

(b) if so, whether the action of the Government has resulted in a severe blow to stock market and business turn over has drastically come down to mere 10 percent on BSE and NSE;

(c) if so, whether the Government would consider the reviving of carry forward transaction (BADLA) in the interest of the investors; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) On the recommendations of the Group set up by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), under the Chairmanship of Prof. J.R. Varma, to review the carry forward system and deferral products, in April' 01, all deferral products including Badla were banned with effect from 2nd July' 01.

(b) According to SEBI, although the market had witnessed a downfall in the turnover in the initial period after the introduction of rolling settlement and banning of deferral products by SEBI w.e.f. July 02, 2001, there has been a substantial recovery in volume, number of shares traded and number of transactions in the past few months. The volume, number of shares traded and number of transactions at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) during the past few months have been comparable to or even higher than the same posted by NSE during the months immediately prior to the introduction of rolling settlement and banning of deferral products.

(c) and (d) There is no such move. SEBI is of the view that currently various derivative products including individual stock futures are available for investors in order to enter into transactions for settlement at a future date. The market has witnessed a significant level of activity in the derivatives segment during the past few months. Further, with the introduction of rolling settlement in the cash segment, the introduction of carry forward would require carrying forward of the positions everyday which may be cumbersome and may not be cost effective.

Financial Assistance for Expansion of Oil Mills

3741. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government for financial assistance for the expansion and upgradation of various oil palm mills;

(b) whether similar requests have been received from other States as well;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal for upgradation of oil palm processing mill at Kabini, Mysore, Karnataka was received from Government of Karnataka in 2001. Since there is no scheme for funding such proposals, it is not possible to extend the financial assistance from the Government of India. The Government of Karnataka was informed in the matter accordingly. Request from the other States for similar financial assistance has not been received.

Banking System of the Country

3742. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether Standard and Poor's, an international rating agency described Indian Banking System as weak banking system;

(b) if so, the other lapses in the banking system pointed out by the agency; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Government have no information in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of Soya Oil

3743. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the low bound rate of 45 percent on soyabean oil has harmed farmers; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the help of oilseed farmers?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties

3744. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties with other countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries with which India has entered into DTAT, till date;

(c) whether there have been reports of overseas investors from Mauritius pumping funds into India for destabilisation of Indian stock market;

(d) If so, whether many overseas investment companies based in Mauritius have meagre paid up capital; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps taken by Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have entered into comprehensive Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) with 65 countries in addition to Limited DTAAs (Limited to Income from Air and Shipping Enterprises) with 10 countries as per the Statement enclosed.

(c) During the course of investigations into reported market manipulations, it was intimated by SEBI in 2001 that indications of use of certain Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) for circular trading, concentration of

holding, parking of shares by a few Stock Brokers were noticed. As regards, pumping funds into India for buying per se is concerned, all trading by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are on delivery basis for which full money is paid.

(d) Yes, Sir. Certain Overseas Investment Companies based in Mauritius have meagre paid up capital.

(e) With effect from 29.11.2001, OCBs are not permitted to invest under the Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) in India.

Statement

A list of the Countries with Whom India is maintaining Comprehensive Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties As on 13th December, 2002 (As notified in the Gazette of India)

Sl.No.	Name of the Country
1	2
1.	Australia
2.	Austria
3.	Bangladesh
4.	Belgium
5.	Belarus
6.	Brazil
7.	Bulgaria
8.	Canada
9.	China
10.	Cyprus
11.	Czech Republic
12.	Denmark
13.	Finland
14.	France
15.	FRG
16.	Greece
17.	Hungary
18.	Indonesia
19.	Ireland

1

2

20. Israel

21. Italy

22. Japan

23. Jordan

24. Kazakstan

25. Kenya

26. Krygyz Republic

27. Libya

28. Malaysia

29. Malta

30. Mauritius

31. Mongolia

32. Morocco

33. Namibia

34. Nepal

35. The Netherlands

36. New Zealand

37. Norway

38. Oman

39. Philippines

40. Poland

41. Portugal

42. Qatar

43. Romania

44. Russian Federation

45. Singapore

46. South Africa

47. South Korea

48. Spain

49. Sri Lanka

50. Sweden

51. Swiss Confederation

1	2
52.	Syria
53.	Tanzania
54.	Thailand
55.	Trinidad & Tobago
56.	Turkey
57.	Turkmenistan
58.	Ukraine
59.	U.A.E.
60.	U.A.R. (Egypt)
61.	U.K.
62.	U.S.A.
63.	Uzbekistan
64.	Vietnam
65.	Zambia

B.

List of the Countries with Whom India has Limited Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties (Limited to Income from Air and Shipping Enterprises) As on 13th December, 2002 (As notified in the Gazette of India)

Sl.No.	Name of the Country
1.	Afghanistan
2.	Ethiopia
3.	Iran
4.	Kuwait
5.	Lebanon
6.	Pakistan
7.	P.D.R. Yemen
8.	Saudi Arabia
9.	United Arab Emirates
10.	Yemen Arab Republic

Audit Observation

3745. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be

pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1158 on November 27, 2000 regarding Audit Observations and state:

(a) the details of progress made in the settlement of audit observation;

(b) whether the Government are not replying to the various audit observations as brought out in the CAG Report No. 12 of 2002;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the replies to the audit observations would be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) C&AG has included 1099 cases in Report No. 12 of 2002, out of which Ministry has already replied in 638 cases to C&AG of India. Remaining cases are being examined with reference to their correctness, tax effect or otherwise as the case may be, in the field formations and in the Ministry.

(c) These audit observations are essentially on direct taxes assessments made by the income-tax Commissionerates spread all over the country. The process of generation of audit observations and their settlement is a continuous one. To clear audit observations, field units have since been instructed to settle the cases on priority. Targets have also been fixed by the CBDT to settle these cases. The progress of settlement is monitored at the senior levels in the Ministry.

(d) By the end of the current financial year (2002-2003), replies to the remaining audit observations would be given to the C&AG of India.

Borrowings of Government

3746. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the gross borrowings of the Union Government so far during the current fiscal year;

(b) whether the Union Government's borrowing so far this year represent 78 per cent of the budget for the entire fiscal year; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check this trend of excessive borrowings and its effect on the State exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Government has completed gross market borrowings of Rs. 125000 crore upto 5th December, 2002, which is 87.55% of BE 2002-03 as against 99.47% during the corresponding period in 2001-02.

(c) Does not arise.

Micro Financing by NMDFC

3747. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation has launched any scheme for providing micro-financing for training to women in tailoring, knitting, embroidery and allied trades;

(b) if so, the quantum of disbursements made on the above schemes during 2001-2002;

(c) whether remedial coaching and pre-examination coaching schemes are also financed by NMDFC; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the funds are disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation has launched a scheme, namely, Mahilla Samridhi Yojana for providing training to women in tailoring, knitting and embroidery trades during 2002-2003. After completion of training, the candidates are considered for small loans for their working capital requirements under Micro finance Scheme. As the scheme has been launched during 2002-2003, the question of disbursement made under this scheme during 2001-2002 does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Projects of UP

3748. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the projects/proposals sponsored by Uttar Pradesh Government and submitted by non-

governmental organizations pending for clearance with his Ministry for more than one year;

(b) the reasons for delay in each case; and

(c) the number and details of such proposals rejected during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and the current year alongwith the reasons for rejection thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) 37 projects/proposals of Uttar Pradesh sponsored by Non-Governmental Organisations are pending for clearance for more than one year.

(b) The reasons for the pendency of various proposals received by this Ministry are deficiencies in documentation and clarifications sought from the concerned NGOs.

(c) 116 proposals have been rejected during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and the current financial year due to reasons such as inadequate experience in the relevant field on the part of applicant organization, ineligibility in terms of financial and infrastructural capacity, incomplete documents and availability in the area of sufficient number of similar projects to those proposed by the applicant voluntary organisation.

[English]

Loan Recovery Drive by IDBI

3749. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has launched a massive loan recovery drive and has slapped recovery notices on some of the big defaulters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total money to be recovered from these big companies to whom notices have been issued; and

(d) the further steps taken by the Government to recover public money from other such defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Till November 30, 2002, IDBI has issued notices under section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002 to recover the amount from 31 NPA cases.

In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst the banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity & Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information in respect of constituents of Public Financial Institutions cannot be divulged.

(c) IDBI has demanded an aggregate amount of Rs. 2600 crore (Principal outstanding Rs. 1374 crores) from these borrowers.

(d) It would be up to the lenders, *i.e.* banks and public sector financial institutions, to take recourse to the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002, Debt Recovery Tribunals and Courts to recover their outstanding dues from other such defaulters.

[Translation]

Uniform Promotion Policy

3750. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether the commercial banks have devised a uniform promotion policy for the regional rural banks sponsored by them;

(b) if so, whether these commercial banks are implementing this policy properly;

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

(d) whether it has come to notice of the Government that this policy is not being implementing in regional rural bank of Sultanpur which is sponsored by the Bank of Baroda; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Government of India have framed a uniform promotion policy for all Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in consultation with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the same have been published in Gazette of India in 1998. All sponsor Banks are required to implement the above policy and instructions issued by Government of India/NABARD from

time to time.

(d) and (e) Bank of Baroda have informed that the promotion policy is being implemented as per the need of the Bank from time to time.

[English]

"Shortage of Receipt Books"

3751. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being expressed by the National Saving Schemes agents due to the acute shortage of receipt books relating to deposit by them in Kerala;

(b) if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken to redress their grievances;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from Government of Kerala in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Some instances of shortage of the agents' receipt books have been brought to the notice of the Government. These receipt books are printed by Government printing presses and supplied by the National Savings Organisation throughout the country. Suitable steps for adequate and timely supply of receipt books to small savings agents are taken by the Government from time to time.

(c) No representation has been received from Government of Kerala in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Consumer Courts in Tamil Nadu

3752. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

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

(a) whether the Government will appeal against the recent decision of the Tamil Nadu State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission which has ruled that only lawyers can represent claimants in a consumer court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a difference in the point of view existing in various high courts regarding the legal stand of representing of claimants in a consumer court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Order of the Tamil Nadu State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission restricting the right of audience of an authorized representative of the litigant complainant-consumer not being an Advocate has already been stayed by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in the Revision Petition No. 1017 of 2002. Accordingly, Government does not propose to intervene in the matter.

(c) and (d) Government is not aware about the different views exist in various High Courts in the matter. However, as informed by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, a copy of the judgment of the Bombay High Court has been brought on record of the Commission which perhaps does not support the views taken by Tamil Nadu State Commission.

[Translation]

Orphanages for Children

3753. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes for bringing children being brought up in orphanages rendered helpless because of natural calamities such as floods, earthquake and devastating cyclone and communal riots etc. in mainstream of society being implemented by the Government;

(b) the number of such children being brought up in orphanages in the country especially in Orissa, Rajasthan and Jharkhand;

(c) whether these children are provided employment on becoming adult on priority basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken for their rehabilitation and bringing them in mainstream of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing various schemes for destitute children including children being brought up in orphanages rendered helpless because of natural calamities such as floods, earthquake and devastating cyclone and communal riots etc.; for their rehabilitation and bringing them into the mainstream of society. The Ministry is implementing a scheme called "Scheme of Assistance to Homes Shishu Grehs) for Children to Promote In-Country Adoption" under which funds are provided to Non-Governmental Organizations for establishment of Homes (Shishu Grehs) for care and protection of children in the age group of 0-6 years who are either abandoned or orphaned and for their ultimate rehabilitation through in-country adoptions. The Ministry is also implementing two other Schemes, namely, "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" and "General Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the Field of Social Defence".

(b) The Ministry does not keep data base on the number of orphaned children in the country because orphanages are registered and recognized by the State Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Juvenile Justice [Care and Protection of Children] Act 2000, being administered by this Ministry, focuses on rehabilitation and social reintegration of all children in need of care and protection. Under the Ministry's scheme, framed for implementation of the said Act, namely, "A Programme for Juvenile Justice" grants are given to State Governments to the extent of 50% of total cost for establishment and running of various types of Homes, envisaged under the said Act. The orphaned and destitute children are rehabilitated and brought in the mainstream of society through various measures such as adoption/sponsorship/foster care/education/vocational training etc. for which funds are made available by this Ministry to State Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations under above mentioned Schemes of this Ministry.

Industrial Recession

3754. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial recession has been prevailing in the country for a long period;

(b) if so, since when this situation is prevailing and the root cause thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Government in regard to development of industries, to rejuvenate the sick industries and to provide loans to them during 1998 to October, 2002;

(d) the extent of which the recessionary condition has improved as a result thereof; and

(e) the number of licences provided under Industrial Development and Regulation Act, 1951 during the said period, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) An economy is said to be in recession if there is negative growth in GDP for two consecutive quarters. There is no recession in the economy and industry. The Indian industry has been registering positive growth rates during the past decade.

(c) The Government has taken following measures for the development of industries:

- A bill has been introduced to repeal Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985. The bill proposes an alternative framework for the orderly and timely revival of sick companies.
- The RBI has continued its policy of lower interest rates in its Mid-term review of monetary and credit policy for 2002-03. It has announced series

of measures for developing technological and institutional infrastructure of the financial sector and for improving the credit delivery system.

- The RBI has cut Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.75 per cent from 5.0 percent, a move that will ease the for liquidity position further.
- Kelkar Committee for Direct taxes and for Indirect taxes has recommended reforms, which are expected interalia to reduce transaction costs by 50%.
- The draft Electricity Bill has been introduced in the Parliament for facilitating comprehensive power sector reforms.
- The Union Budget 2002-03 has made allocations towards some of the major schemes, which will boost demand especially in construction, housing, steel, and cement sectors. These schemes include PM's Gram Sadak Yojana, Infrastructure Equity Fund, Urban Reform Incentive Fund, City Challenge Fund, and Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme.
- Sector-wise strategies to boost production for exports in key sectors, which include engineering/electronic/electrical and allied, textiles, gems & jewellery, chemicals & allied sector have also been announced in the Medium Term Export Strategy for 2002-07.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) With progressive liberalisation the need for licenses has gone down. Year-wise and State-wise break up of Industrial Licenses granted since January 1998 to October 2002 are as below:

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 (upto October)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	8	6	10	4	7
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	0	0	0	0	1
Bihar	1	1	0	1	0
Chhattisgarh	1	0	0	0	1
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	2	1
Daman & Diu	0	1	0	0	0
Delhi	1	0	2	0	0
Goa	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	4	6	4	2	3
Haryana	3	5	15	8	1
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	1	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	4	3	6	2	2
Kerala	1	3	0	1	0
Lakshdweep	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	3	1	0	0	1
Maharashtra	5	9	9	6	2
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	0	1	0	0
Punjab	3	10	6	2	4
Rajasthan	0	1	1	1	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	21	21	29	19	10
Uttar Pradesh	5	10	12	3	0
Uttaranchal	1	0	0	0	0
West Bengal	0	2	2	0	2
Location in more than one State	0	2	3	0	2
Total	62	81	101	51	37

Procurement of Paddy in MP

3755. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agencies of Madhya Pradesh are incurring losses in the procurement of paddy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help the State in tackling this difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Foodgrains procured by the State Governments and their agencies are ultimately taken over by the FCI. For the services rendered by the State Governments and their agencies, FCI reimburses them incidental expenses like statutory charges, storage charges, milling charge in the case of paddy, interest, cost of mandi labour, cost of gunny, administrative charges, statutory taxes/cess etc. However, consequent to bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh, the State Government has reported that 86% of the milling potential has gone to Chhattisgarh State and only 14% of the paddy milling capacity is left with the State of Madhya Pradesh. This compels the State Agencies to get the paddy milled into rice through private millers outside the State. According to the State Government, this is putting a financial strain on the procuring agencies.

(c) Keeping in view the problems in getting the paddy milled, Government had permitted the disposal of the balance unmilled paddy procured during the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-01 and 2001-02 through tender. The State Government was asked to have the remaining quantity of paddy that could not be disposed of, converted into raw rice. Taking into account the views of the State Government, the prevailing situation and the limited capacity and infrastructure of the FCI, the Government has decided that during KMS 2002-03 the FCI would take up paddy procurement in Chambal, and Gwalior divisions as well as in 22 centres in Jabalpur division directly from farmers. In other parts of the State, the Government of Madhya Pradesh would take up paddy procurement as an agent on behalf of the FCI. To facilitate the milling of paddy, the Government has also conveyed concurrence to the continuance of the M.P. Rice Procurement Levy Order 1970.

Use of Animal Fats in Washing Soap

3756. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that animal's fat is used in the washing soaps imported from Nepal; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

BIS Scam

3757. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) whether some officials of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) have been indicated in a report on Laboratory Equipment Purchase Scam amounting to crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken cognizance of the said report; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the indicated officials of the BIS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) During the audit of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) by the Principal Director of Audit for Scientific Departments for the period 1993 to 1998, delays in commissioning and under utilization of various equipments in BIS laboratories were observed. The inquiry conducted in the matter by the Department confirmed the delays in installation and commissioning of equipments.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Requisite disciplinary action is being taken against concerned officers by BIS in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission.

Anti-Dumping Duty on Chickens and Chicken Meat Produces

3758. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to impose a levy of 150% anti-dumping duty on imports of Chicken and Chicken Meat produce so as to protect the domestic poultry industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from Andhra Pradesh in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) A representation was received in April, 2001 from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh through the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairing, Ministry of Agriculture seeking imposition of 150% anti-dumping duty on Chicken and Chicken Meat products. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties had advised Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairing to request domestic industry for filing a petition in the prescribed format with prima facie evidence of dumping, injury and casual link between dumping of the imported goods and injury to the domestic industry. Till date, no petition has been received in the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme

3759. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, State-wise;

(b) whether some State Governments, particularly Karnataka Government, have sought for modification in the above scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) A Statement

showing the Statewise number of families covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana is enclosed.

(b) to (d) No proposal from the State Government of Karnataka has been received. The State Governments of Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra have requested for inclusion of Primitive Tribal Group and certain categories of destitute under Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

Statement

Statement showing number of Families covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme.

(figures in lakhs)

S. No.	States/UTs	No. of AAY families/ AAY ration cards issued
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.15
3.	Assam	2.81
4.	Bihar	10.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.73
6.	Delhi	0.30
7.	Goa	0.06
8.	Guajrat	3.25
9.	Haryana	1.13
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.79
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.13
12.	Jharkhand	3.66
13.	Karnataka	4.80
14.	Kerala	2.71
15.	Madhya Pradesh	6.32
16.	Maharashtra	10.02
17.	Manipur	0.25
18.	Meghalaya	0.28
19.	Mizoram	0.10
20.	Nagaland	0.19
21.	Orissa	5.05

1	2	3
22.	Punjab	0.72
23.	Rajasthan	3.73
24.	Sikkim	0.07
25.	Tamil Nadu	7.16
26.	Tripura	0.45
27.	Uttar Pradesh	16.37
28.	Uttaranchal	0.76
29.	West Bengal	5.59
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.04
31.	Chandigarh	0.03
32.	D & N Haveli	0.03
33.	Daman & Diu	0.01
34.	Lakshdweep	0.004
35.	Pondicherry	0.09
Total		97.01

[Translation]

Food bank Corruption

3760. SHRI SUBODH ROY:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Anna Bank Yojana Bhrashtachar Ki Bhent Chadhi" appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 3 November, 2002;

(b) the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the stringent measures being taken by the Government against the guilty officers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) The Government is aware of the news-item as referred to in the question. The news-item refers

to the Grain Bank Scheme and states that the food grains meant for the tribal are sold in the open market and the tribal are fed with substandard good grains. However, no complaint has been received in this Ministry.

Internal and External Debt

3761. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the internal and external debt burden on the country at present;

(b) the interest per annum on loan being paid by the Government;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to minimise the debt burden on the country; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The internal debt of the Central Government is estimated to be Rs. 1,021,739 crore in 2002-03 (BE) as against Rs. 909,052 crore in 2001-02 (RE). India's external debt at end-March, 2002 was US\$ 98.1 billion (Rs. 478,915 crore), of which Government debt was US\$ 43.5 billion (Rs. 212,499 crores).

(b) The interest payments on internal debt as estimated in 2002-03 (BE) Rs. 99,011 crore as against Rs. 88,517 crore in 2001-02 (Revised Estimates). Interest payments on Government external debt is estimated at Rs. 4320 crore in 2002-03 (BE) as against Rs. 4317 crore in 2001-02 (RE).

(c) and (d) In order to minimise the internal debt burden on the country, the Central Government has been following the strategy of fiscal rectitude as outlined in the Union Budget 2002-03, which aims at higher tax revenues, improved non-tax receipts and moderation in the growth of non-plan expenditure. The Government also follows a prudent external debt management policy to keep the debt within manageable limits. The key elements of the policy are external borrowings from multilateral/bilateral sources concentrating on concessional and less expensive debt, limiting short-term debt, prepaying more expensive external debt and encouraging non-debt creating flows on capital account, export and invisibles on current account.

*[English]***Misuse of Export Licence**

3762. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several firms in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh have misused Export licence of closed firms to defraud the department;

(b) the names of those companies who have complained that their licence is misused;

(c) whether the Government have identified the persons or firms who have misused export licence of closed firms;

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

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against those firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No such instances of mis-use of export licenses of closed firms have come to the notice of the government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Customs Duty for Import of Wind Turbine

3763. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of wind turbine blades is allowed at a customs duty of 5 percent without payment of any additional duty whereas raw material required for the manufacture of blades, is imported by making additional duty of 16 percent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Wind turbine blades, i.e. blades for rotor of wind operated electricity generators, attract a basic customs duty of 5%. There is no additional customs duty as such blades are exempt from central excise duty. Raw materials for such blades also attract a basic

customs duty of 5% and are fully exempt from payment of additional customs duty.

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

*[Translation]***Setting up of Agri Export Zone in M.P.**

3765. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh has sent proposals for setting up Agriculture Export Zone for wheat and spices having seeds to the Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) As regards the Agri Export Zone (AEZ) for spices having seeds, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) with Madhya Pradesh State Agricultural Industries Development Corporation on 28.11.2002. As regards the proposal for AEZ for wheat, the same is receiving Government's attention.

*[English]***Working Group to Study Tax Structure**

3766. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received report from working group set up to study the complex tax structure and the multifarious State policies confronting the alcoholic beverages industry;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the working group up;

(c) the reaction of the Government on the recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Joint Working Group set up for rationalisation of taxation structure and developing a comprehensive model national policy regarding excise duty on alcoholic beverages has not yet submitted its final report. However, it has since submitted a report concerning customs duty on imported alcoholic beverages.

(b) In the above mentioned report, the Joint Working Group has recommended modifications in the slabs as well as rates of additional customs duty applicable to imported alcoholic beverages.

(c) and (d) The work is of complex and comprehensive nature, requiring consensus among the Ministries of the Government of India and State Governments. It is, therefore, difficult at this stage to indicate a time limit for the Group to submit its final report and that for the Government to take a view on the recommendations therein.

District Rehabilitation Centres

3767. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to extend support to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up District Rehabilitation Centres for the disabled and train Community Based Rehabilitation Centres (CBR) workers to carry such services to the unreached in remote areas;

(b) if so, whether all districts have been selected for setting up of the said centres; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by when all districts will be selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) District Rehabilitation Centre, Vijayawada and District Disability rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) at Anantpur, Krishna and Vishakhapatnam are providing rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities in Andhra Pradesh. In addition, under the National Programme for the Persons with Disability (NPRPD), a State sector scheme launched in 1999 to provide rehabilitation services to the rural

persons with disabilities throughout the country, two districts viz. Krishna and Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh have been selected. Under this programme, there is a provision of two Community Based Rehabilitation Workers (CBRWs) per Gram Panchayat. Suitable training of CBRWs has been provided in Krishna District.

Tribal Population of Greater Andamans

3768. SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the indigenous tribal population in Islands of Greater Andamans and Jarwars, is moving towards its extinction and the main threat to this development is the influx of settlers from the mainland;

(b) if so, the steps contemplated to stop this influx; and

(c) the schemes are in position/under consideration to involve the various tribes in the development activities of the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The census data reveals that the population of Great Andamanese has increased from 15 in 1961 to 32 in 1991. Similarly, the population of Jarwas has increased from 31 in 1981 to 89 in 1991. Thus, the population of these groups is increasing. However, Government of India have constituted a committee under the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta, to go into recent behaviour change among the Jarawas and to suggest measures to prevent their extinction or loss of cultural identity.

(c) Various Schemes in the Sectors of agriculture, horticulture, minor irrigation animal husbandry, forest education and small industries etc. are being implemented in the Union Territory of A&N Islands for socio-economic development of STs under the strategy of Tribal Sub-Plan.

[Translation]

Loan to Small and Marginal Farmers

3769. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides non-productive loan facilities to the small and marginal farmers along with landless labourers;

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

(c) if so, the amount of loans provided by public sector banks on this account as on March 31, 2002; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a scheme for providing bank credit to meet the consumption needs of the poorer sections of the society has been in operation since 1976. The scheme is applicable to, amongst others, small and marginal farmers. The aggregate finance presently available under the scheme for consumption purposes is not to exceed Rs. 1000.00 per family per year with the further proviso that the purpose-wise ceiling will not apply in cases where the loans are granted against the security of gold/silver ornaments for which a ceiling limit of Rs. 2000.00 has been stipulated per family. In addition, under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), to meet the small consumption needs of weaker sections of society, a Risk fund for consumption credit has been created by Government with 1% of SGSY funds at the district level. The scheme is intended to enable commercial banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks to provide consumption loans, not exceeding Rs. 2000 per swarozgari from weaker sections of the society. Under this scheme, risk fund assistance is to be provided to banks to the extent of 10% of the total consumption loans disbursed by banks during the year to the above groups.

(c) and (d) As reported by RBI, an amount of Rs. 68601.59 lakhs was outstanding as on 31 March, 2001 in respect of consumption loans to the weaker sections under the pure consumption credit scheme. The details of loans provided by banks for consumption loans under SGSY is not being monitored separately and hence no data is available in this regard.

[English]

Cadre Restructuring of Indian Economic Service

3770. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended the cadre restructuring of Indian Economic Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recommendations include encadrement/upgradation of posts at various levels in different Ministries/Departments, improving the representation of Indian Economic Service at the Senior Administrative Level in the Central Staffing Scheme, making the decisions of the IES Board binding on the participating Ministries/Departments and vesting all control over cadre posts with the Cadre Controlling Authority.

(c) With a view to implementing these recommendations, a cadre review was undertaken in August, 2000 which, interalia, include creation/upgradation/encadrement of posts at various levels in different Ministries/Departments and making orders of the Cadre Controlling Authority binding on the participating Ministries/Departments.

General Financial Rules

3771. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether the General Financial Rules are statutory in nature and cannot be supplanted by executive instructions or orders;

(b) if so, whether the same have been supplanted by waiving the procedure contained in Chapter 8 thereof regarding calling of tenders without amending GFRs;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to rectify the situation and to withdraw the exemptions about purchase of stores;

(e) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the supplanting of GFRs and to bring to book the officials responsible for that; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (f) The General Financial Rules are not statutory in nature and can be supplanted by

executive instructions or orders. Accordingly, with a view to promote cooperative movement, Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) in consultation with this Ministry had issued an Order dated 14.7.1981 which made it incumbent on all central Government Departments, their attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by Government to make all local purchases of stationery and other items only from Kendriya Bhandar in relaxation of the procedure of inviting tenders/quotations prescribed in GFRs. Later on this dispensation was also extended to Super Bazar and NCCF. Keeping in view the ongoing policy of liberalisation of the economy and the emphasis on making Govt. organisations competitive and self-striving, the process to review the existing special dispensation to these three organisations by way of withdrawing this OM and granting only purchase preference to these three agencies is being examined. There is no proposal to enquire into the supplanting the GFRs.

Export of Salt

3772. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Kutch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat has tremendous potential for Salt exports;

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

(c) the steps taken to provide ultra modern loading and onloading facilities in Kutch-Saurashtra region?

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

(b) The following steps are being taken to promote export of Salt:—

- (i) Export by sea/rail are exempted from levy of cess under Salt Cess Act, 1953.
- (ii) Railways are according higher priority 'B' for export of iodised salt and common salt by rail.
- (iii) Specifications for edible and industrial salt were laid down to ensure export of only good quality salt.
- (iv) Quantitative ceiling of 5 lakh metric tonnes on exports of iodised salt has been lifted in 1992.

- (v) Star Trading Houses & Export Houses recognised by Central Government have been exempted from the purview of compulsory pre-shipment inspection of salt.
- (vi) Export Worthy Certificate is issued by Office of the Salt Commissioner free of charge.
- (vii) Establishment of salt refineries/washeries is encouraged to improve the quality of salt.
- (viii) In order to encourage export of salt and reward exporters, Export Award Scheme, 2002 has been introduced.

(c) In Kutch region at Port Jakhav, a salt export jetty with modern salt Loading conveyor system has been established at the cost of Rs. 250.00 lakhs.

Over and above two modern ports are developed for general cargo namely; Munda and Pipavav with modern conveyor facilities which can be used for salt loading also.

Agents of Small Saving Schemes

3773. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any ceiling for the maximum amount that could be collected and remitted in a day by the National Savings Agent (SAS Agents) and the Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana Agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise the above mentioned ceiling;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when it is likely to be raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. There is no ceiling on the maximum amount that can be collected and remitted in a day by small savings agents.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

NABARD Lending for Irrigation Sector

3774. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is extending financial assistance for irrigation projects in States;

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

(c) the amount of loan assistance provided for these projects during the last three years, year-wise?

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

VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) extends financial assistance for irrigation projects in States out of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). The State-wise details of the amount disbursed for irrigation projects for which financial assistance has been provided by NABARD under RIDF-I to VII from the year 1995-96 to 2001-2002 are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of amount disbursed for irrigations projects by NABARD under RIDF-I to RIDF-VII

(Rs. crores)

S.No.	State	RIDF-I	RIDF-II	RIDF-III	RIDF-IV	RIDF-V	RIDF-VI	RIDF-VII
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39.21	65.48	96.34	109.48	147.36	113.50	144.36
2.	Assam	—	—	—	—	35.39	42.64	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.95	0.00	24.60
4.	Chhattisgarh	9.90	33.62	7.82	13.39	28.49	22.05	20.16
5.	Goa	2.77	4.08	0.00	0.89	2.21	1.32	0.35
6.	Guajrat	31.00	90.13	57.45	57.24	55.17	36.66	17.03
7.	Haryana	0.00	14.48	38.21	15.78	25.48	47.23	62.91
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.80	11.94	9.84	10.27	11.49	22.90	16.11
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.62	0.00	5.42	6.46	3.34	7.46	14.83
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.48	0.00
11.	Karnataka	23.06	66.61	40.80	24.04	32.97	45.90	34.96
12.	Kerala	7.87	53.48	17.65	16.65	19.79	9.03	17.13
13.	Madhya Pradesh	26.78	84.72	54.88	51.95	59.55	98.47	170.91
14.	Maharashtra	82.01	136.83	68.05	20.57	56.90	96.19	68.71
15.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.39
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.39	1.97	0.00	2.19	1.45	0.00
18.	Nagaland	0.00	1.38	0.00	0.00	1.71	1.04	1.79
19.	Orissa	27.48	71.42	63.62	34.41	79.78	35.64	31.70
20.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Rajasthan	43.23	57.08	19.65	58.72	43.40	69.89	124.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
22.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	—	0.00	0.06	0.50	0.96	1.33	29.32
24.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	30.66	191.59	57.78	53.49	97.11	148.29	160.34
26.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	1.95	0.00
27.	West Bengal	14.52	54.32	5.76	14.16	26.72	28.91	10.64
Total		340.71	937.55	546.26	488.00	744.96	834.99	950.45

Automatic Teller Machines

3775. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any agreement between the Corporation Bank and oriental Bank of Commerce for mutual sharing of their Automatic Teller Machines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits accrued to these banks from such arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oriental Bank of Commerce and Corporation Bank have signed an Agreement on 12.11.2002 for sharing of ATMs. As per the agreement, ATM networks of both the banks will be connected through respective switches. This will expand ATM network of both banks for their customers.

(c) The Oriental Bank of Commerce and Corporation Bank have strong presence in North and South respectively and it will help in reducing the capital expenditure of both banks through sharing of ATMs and shall result in improved customer service.

[Translation]

Merger of Banks

3776. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for merger of some banks is pending with the RBI;

(b) if so, the reasons for pending the said proposal; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to take a decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Nedungudi Bank Ltd. has been placed under moratorium on account of its deteriorating financial position. A draft Scheme of amalgamation of Nedungudi Bank with Punjab National Bank has been sent to these banks by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for their comments. Final decision will be taken on receipt of comments from these banks.

Discrepancy in FCI

3777. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether irregularities have been committed by the marketing officers of Food Corporation of India appointed to sell foodgrains to traders in open market in connivance with traders;

(b) if so, the number of cases which were noticed/informed/reported against the officials of Food Corporation of India, State-wise during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of cases forwarded to Central Bureau of Investigation and the number of cases in which investigation has been completed alongwith the action taken against the guilty officials;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the operation of Food

Corporation of India and to check corruption in an effective manner; and

(e) the success achieved by the Government through the adopted measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. Some irregularities committed by the officials of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the operation of the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) had come to the notice during 1996-97.

(b) The requisite information for the last three years *i.e.*, 1999, 2000 and 2001 is nil.

(c) Does not arise, in view of the reply to part (b) of the Question.

(d) and (e) There is a full fledged Vigilance Division in FCI which functions according to the policies/guidelines laid down by the Government. Government also formulates the Annual Action Plan on vigilance and anti-corruption measures for FCI suggesting three pronged strategy viz., preventive, surveillance and punitive. Besides, the officers of the Ministry are also deputed, if considered necessary, for on-the-spot inquiry into the complaints against the officers of FCI. The constant vigil by the Vigilance Division of FCI and the Ministry has resulted positively in containing corruption in FCI and making its operations effective, to the extent possible.

Schemes for the Development of SC/ST

3778. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) the details of the schemes of his Ministry meant for the welfare of SC/ST backward classes, minority and weaker section of the society, State-wise;

(b) the number of people benefited under the various schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated for these schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(d) the amount utilized out of the total funds allocated to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The information is being collected.

Pending Complaints

3779. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3021 dated 2.8.02 regarding disposal of complaints by DCA and state:

(a) the number of complaints pending before the year 1999;

(b) the time by which these complaints are likely to be redressed;

(c) the number of cases in which action has been taken against companies as on date; and

(d) the time after which penal action can be initiated for violation of provisions of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) During the three years (1.4.96 to 31.3.99) a total of 40,301 complaints were received, out of which 19,956 were redressed and 20345 such complaints are under process. Though there is no time limit prescribed in the Companies Act, 1956 for the disposal of complaints, efforts are made to dispose of them expeditiously.

(d) If the complaints are not attended to by the companies within a reasonable time, penal action for violation of the relevant provisions of the Act *ibid* can be launched against them.

[English]

Balance Sheets of Companies

3780. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether a survey has revealed that 70 per cent of Indian companies are showing losses in their balance sheets in fraud manner;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to force the companies to record clean and actual transactions;

(c) whether many companies are not even maintaining the mandatory documents required under various Acts; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No such survey has been conducted by the Department of Company Affairs.

(c) and (d) If companies do not maintain mandatory documents as required under the Companies Act, 1956 they can be prosecuted under relevant provisions of the Act.

Saving of Surplus Value of Cement

3781. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to save surplus value of cement by introducing new technique *i.e.* heat for co-generation of power which will reduce the consumption of electrical and thermal energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India has signed an agreement with New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), a subsidiary of Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Japan where under technology shall be imported for making use of the heat energy going as waste in a cement plant. The imported technology shall enable the cement plant to recover and effectively utilize 40% of the heat energy going as waste.

Funds to SCDC

3782. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money released during 2001-2002 to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs);

(b) the amount of unspent balance with the Ministry under "Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers" scheme;

(c) the reasons for release of money when unspent funds existed; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for proper utilization of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) During the year 2001-02, an amount of Rs. 21.00 crores and Rs. 9.20 crores has been released to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) under the Scheme of assistance to SCDCs and National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS) respectively.

(b) There is no unspent balance with the Ministry under "Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers" scheme.

(c) and (d) This Ministry is regularly pursuing with the State Governments/SCDCs to utilize the amount available with them for specific approved activities. Officers of the Ministry, while visiting States, also monitor the progress achieved by SCDCs. Periodical meetings are also held with the representatives of State Governments/SCDCs about proper utilisation of funds released under the scheme.

[Translation]

Increase in DEPB Rates

3783. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the Duty Entitlement Pass Book rates for exports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration, as such, for increase of DEPB rates in general. However, if any representation for enhancement is received duly recommended by the concerned Export Promotion Council, the same is considered by the DEPB Committee in the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

*[English]***Decline In Silk Exports**

3784. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Indian silk exports are expected to fall far short of the \$ 430 million target in 2002-2003 fiscal;

(b) if so, the reasons for the possible decline in the export of Indian silk; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Target for Indian silk exports for the year 2002-03 is US\$ 450 million. Upto August, 2002, the silk exports have touched US\$ 181 million. Though global recession has affected exports, the Government is hopeful of achieving the target.

(c) The Government is taking several steps to increase the exports of silk products—

(i) The Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in international fairs, organizing generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like Tex Styles India, Publicity in foreign trade magazines, publication of magazine "Silk India" and colour forecast card for domestic silk manufacturers, dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc.

(ii) Government has rationalized value addition/Input-output norms specified under the EXIM Policy extended to exporters, the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme, import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export products.

(iii) Government has set up a Core Group for developing silk exports to advise and monitor on the planning and execution of an export promotion strategy involving market research studies, product development and diversification, encouragement to R&D, participation in fairs and exhibitions, brand promotion for non-mulberry silks, expansion of production of Indian raw silk etc.

(iv) For Technological up-gradation of the industry loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the technological up-gradation Fund Scheme for the Textiles sector is available inter alia to the silk sector.

(v) Govt. have initiated a production programme of high quality of bivoltine silk to improve quality of Indian silk to international standards and its productivity & cost competitiveness. Programmes are being implemented to improve technologies at all stages of the process of silk development, and diversify products with inputs for improvement of looms and designs such that they may expand the export share of the country.

(vi) Import of raw silk has been liberalized by being brought under OGL, which has increased availability of good quality silk.

Setting up of Haats

3785. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up 16 Haats on the pattern of Delhi Haat in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the States where these Haats would be located; and

(c) the places identified in those States for the establishment of these Haats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to set up Urban Haats on the pattern of Dilli Haat at various locations in different parts of the country. The locations of 19 sanctioned Urban Haats is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Location
1	2	3
1.	Assam	Guwahati
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Thirupathi
3.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
4.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar

1	2	3
5.	Haryana	Uchana, Kamal
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu and Srinagar
7.	Jharkhand	Ranchi
8.	Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Gohar Mahal, Bhopal
10.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar
11.	Rajasthan	Jodhpur and Jaipur
12.	Tripura	Agartala
13.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Kanpur and Lucknow
14.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
15.	West Bengal	Kolkata

[Translation]

Commission for Backward Classes

3786. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Committee on Commission for Backward Classes have been conferred rights at par with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) whether the socially, economically and educationally backward people have been included in backward classes;

(c) whether the backward classes have been provided the same rights in education sector as have been

given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Internal and External Loan

3787. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any review on the loan both from internal and external financial institutions taken by each State during each of the last three years; and

(b) the loan burden of each State as on March 31, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) States cannot receive any loans directly from external institutions. External assistance receivable by the State Government are routed through the Government of India.

State-wise details of loans outstanding against Ministry of Finance during the last three years as at end March is enclosed as statement.

Review of the States' loan profiles is done as part of the States Fiscal Reforms exercise.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Loans outstanding as on 31.3.2000	Loans outstanding as on 31.3.2001	Loans outstanding as on 31.3.2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15253.52	16162.39	18734.58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	347.11	392.29	446.85

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	4083.44	3712.64	3625.46
4.	Bihar	14177.67	11123.46	11638.82
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	2835.16	3028.05
6.	Goa	966.85	793.35	857.54
7.	Guajrat	14863.29	15790.42	17231.44
8.	Haryana	5039.47	5238.71	5290.46
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2770.95	2697.56	2712.05
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	3783.34	3914.64
11.	J & K	3732.69	3398.21	3388.88
12.	Karnataka	9380.76	10011.54	11651.46
13.	Kerala	5835.52	6017.80	6243.51
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9969.57	7759.08	8830.54
15.	Maharashtra	23120.69	23040.53	22960.86
16.	Manipur	452.14	383.59	431.01
17.	Meghalaya	315.46	340.93	366.94
18.	Mizoram	328.80	254.16	269.77
19.	Nagaland	405.04	356.59	386.74
20.	Orissa	7352.66	7707.84	8289.81
21.	Punjab	12368.93	12463.84	8855.56
22.	Rajasthan	10542.04	10436.25	10660.68
23.	Sikkim	228.44	211.92	219.56
24.	Tamil Nadu	11118.91	11746.47	12029.68
25.	Tripura	584.66	634.37	693.82
26.	Uttaranchal	0.00	1661.91	1701.39
27.	Uttar Pradesh	30526.27	30412.98	31547.93
28.	West Bengal	22195.38	22809.40	23399.4
Total		205960.26	212176.73	219407.43

Note: Amount of Interest outstanding against each State as on 31st March, 2000, 31st March, 2001 and 31st March, 2002 may please be treated as NIL.

[Translation]

Import of Textiles

3788. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the types of textiles imported in India during the last three years;

(b) whether after the agreement made with the World Trade Organisation, the import of textiles have increased;

(c) whether export of textiles from India has decreased during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) The types of textiles being imported in India are Silk, Wool, Cotton, Jute, Man-made fibres, yarns, fabrics, readymade garments and made ups.

(b) to (d) The value of textiles exports and imports during the last three years *i.e.* 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given below:—

(In US\$ Million)

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Textile Exports	10508.5	12037.6	10715.0
Textile Imports	1161.0	1168.2	1534.8

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

In the atmosphere of liberalisation, the imports are governed by market forces subject to export-import policy in force from time to time. The liberalized trading regime would result in increased international trade in textiles thus providing greater export opportunities; and at the same time expose the domestic industry to import penetration in the domestic market. All efforts are being made to gear up the industry to improve its efficiency and productivity to meet the emerging global competition.

Though after the removal of quantitative restrictions, the textile imports have shown an increase, the total imports are not even one per-cent of annual domestic production of textiles in the country.

The declining trend in the textile exports during the year 2001-02 is mainly due to general slowdown in the economies of some of our major important trading partners like US which got accentuated due to Sept. 11 attacks. It is also due to increased competition from our neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh etc.

As per latest available DGCI&S data, the textile exports during the period April-July, 2002 amounted to US\$ 3845.8 million as compared to export of US\$ 3604.2 million during the corresponding period of 2001, recording a growth of 6.7%. These latest trends shown that the downtrend in textile exports has been reversed.

[English]

Easy Access to Disabled

3789. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH) Kolkata has received representations from Non-Government Organisations and social activists to assist in making plans for easy access to railway stations and other facilities recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the kind of expertise that NIOH has to give to public institutions to improve access facilities all over the country;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage NIOH to continue its work in this area;

(e) whether adequate funding has been provided to NIOH for the purpose; and

(f) if not, reasons thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) NIOH has the expertise to provide necessary technical inputs for improving access facilities for persons with disabilities. The Institute disseminates information on developing barrier free facilities in its main campus as also through camps organized for persons with disabilities. The government provide funds to the Institute for carrying on its activities including dissemination of information and awareness.

[Translation]

Concessions to Handloom Weavers

3790. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received by the Union Government during the last three years, year-wise, from the weavers' cooperative Committees and other

organizations to provide more concessions and exemptions to the handloom weavers;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of the exemptions/concessions being provided to the handloom weavers at present; and

(d) the number of handloom weavers benefited by the said concessions/exemptions State-wise and year-wise, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) and (b) Several requests were received by the Government of India seeking exemption from sales tax levied by the State Governments on the inputs used by the handloom sector and/or on handloom products. Since the matter relates to the State Governments, it was taken up with them, but none of the State Governments is known to have agreed to it.

During the current year, several representations were received seeking withdrawal of the excise duty (CENVAT) imposed by the Central Government on cotton and cellulosic spun yarn in plain reel hank form, with effect from the 1st March, 2002. It may be recalled that CENVAT was imposed on hank yarn with a view to preventing the misuse of the facility of duty-exemption which was earlier available for hank yarn, by sectors other than the handloom sector. While imposing CENVAT with effect from 1st March, 2002, it was also announced that the interest of handloom weavers would be protected by formulating a suitable scheme for reimbursing the incidence of excise duty on hank yarn used by handloom weavers. Accordingly, the State Governments were requested on the 1st March, 2002 itself, to designate Apex Handloom Co-operatives/Corporations or other suitable organizations to procure hank yarn on payment of CENVAT and arrange to distribute the same net of CENVAT to handloom weavers, and claim the incidence of CENVAT borne by those organizations from the Central Government. The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) was also directed to take immediate steps for supply of hank yarn to handloom weavers at prices net of excise duty. Since the handloom weavers were not required to bear the burden of CENVAT on hank yarn used by them, it was not considered necessary to rescind the decision to impose CENVAT on hank yarn.

During the current year requests were also received from the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) for declaring Karur, Kannur, Madurai and Khekhra as centers of handloom export excellence under Para 3.3 of EXIM Policy. HEPC had also sought enhancement of the

drawback rates for cotton handloom durries as well as for restoration of drawback rate for undyed cotton handloom durries. These issues were taken up with the appropriate authorities.

(c) The following fiscal concessions/exemptions are available to the Handloom Sector:—

(1) The following types of yarn when purchased by a registered Handloom Apex Co-operative Society or National/State Handloom Development Corporation are exempt from excise duty:

- (a) Yarn of wool;
- (b) Cotton yarn in cross reel hank form;
- (c) Yarn of certain blends of polyester/cotton, polyester/viscose; and
- (d) Yarn of counts not exceeding 25 of artificial staple fiber supplied in cross reel hanks.

(2) Yarn of upto 2 counts manufactured from cotton wastes on condensor card machine in plain reel hanks, is exempt from excise duty.

(3) The following fabrics produced on handloom and processed by a process house owned by a registered apex handloom co-operative society or a State Handloom Development Corporation are exempt from excise duty:—

- (a) Woollen;
- (b) Cotton; and
- (c) Certain blends of polyester/cotton and polyester viscose.

(4) The woollen fabrics produced on handloom and processed by Independent processor approved by Government of India are also exempt from excise duty.

(5) The excise duty on cotton fabrics produced on handlooms and processed by an Independent processor approved by Government of India is levied at a concessional rate.

(6) Articles of apparel and made up textile articles made out of handloom fabrics are exempt from excise duty.

(7) Raw wool, imported by a registered Apex Handloom Cooperative society or a State Handloom Development Corporation are levied custom duty at a concessional rate of 5%.

(d) The data on the number of handloom weavers who might have availed of the benefit of the various concessions/exemptions are not maintained.

[English]

Negotiation to Protect Indian Agriculture in WTO

3791. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the strategy being prepared for the negotiation to protect our agricultural sector in the coming Ministerial level conference of WTO to be held in Cancun in Mexico;

(b) whether there is any move to convene the meeting of the State Agriculture Ministers of the country to sort out the general issues for WTO meeting; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), scheduled to be held in Cancun, Mexico, on 10-14 September, 2003 will take stock of progress in negotiations, provide any necessary political guidance, and take decisions as necessary.

India's position and approach in the on-going negotiations in agriculture under the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture is based on wide-ranging consultations held by the Government from time to time with the Governments of States and Union Territories including State Agriculture Ministers, representatives of political parties, farmers' associations, eminent agro-economists and research institutions. In these consultations, there is a general convergence of the views of various stakeholders in agriculture on the need to safeguard the interests of our agricultural production and farmers during the negotiations by, *inter alia*, providing appropriate levels of tariff protection on imports and taking into account the food security and livelihood concerns of developing countries like India, and through increased market access for agricultural products of export interests to us. India has been building coalitions with other WTO Members holding similar interests and concerns. The negotiations are scheduled to be concluded by 1 January 2005.

Emergency Loan to States

3792. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for providing emergency loans with low interest RBI to States facing financial crises;

(b) if so, whether this matter was discussed in a high power committee meeting attended by the Finance Minister of all States and Finance Minister of Government of India;

(c) if so, whether the Government have reached on a decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

De-Addiction Centers

3793. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI ADHI SHNKAR:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

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

(a) the number of de-addiction centres which are allotted to NGOs are likely to be approved during the year 2002-2003;

(b) the total amount proposed to be allocated therefor;

(c) the number of fresh proposals likely to be approved, State-wise;

(d) whether any amendment regarding the approval of fresh proposals is under consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) 369 De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres are being run through NGOs under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance [Drugs] Abuse. The total amount would be utilized for funding these Centres during the year, will be subject to

recommendation/inspection report of the State Government or an authorized Officer/agency, confirming their satisfactory functioning.

Upgradation of schemes and sanction thereof is an ongoing process, and is undertaken periodically. As sanction of grant-in-aid to applicant organizations under the Scheme depends on various factors like extant policy of the Government, eligibility of the organization in terms of the provisions of the Scheme, need for sanction of a project in the area applied for, and availability of fund, no number or time frame can be indicated. This Budget provision under the scheme for 2002-03 is Rs. 25.50 crores.

Buffer Stock of Sugar

3794. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to create a buffer stock of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in taking such a decision in the interest of farmers; and

(d) the time by when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) Government has decided to create a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar for a period of one year. This will involve an outgo of Rs. 412 crore from the Sugar Development Fund. An additional amount of Rs. 374 crore would be released by banks on account of the buffer stock.

[English]

Financial Bungling In DAV School/Colleges

3795. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Aaykar return na bhejkar sarkar ko lagaya chuna" appearing in the *Punjab Keshri* dated November 14, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been made by the Government to establish facts;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof stating the estimated loss in terms of income tax suffered by the Government during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

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

(b) to (d) The Income-tax returns filed by DAV Managing Committee for the last three Assessment Years have been taken up for scrutiny. Necessary action as per the provisions of Law would be taken in the matter.

Revival of Sick Industries

3796. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for revival of sick industries referred to Bureau for Financial and Industrial Reconstruction (BIFR) from the State of Gujarat since its inception;

(b) the number of cases belonging to the public sector units Joint Venture enterprise and private sector out of them; and

(c) the number of cases approved for revival and the number of cases rejected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Board for industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that 378 sick industries from the State of Gujarat were registered with the Board since its inception till 30th September 2002 under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

(b) Out of 378 cases, 374 cases pertain to private sector and 4 cases pertain to public sector.

(c) So far 26 cases have been approved for revival by BIFR and AAIFR and 187 cases have been rejected.

[Translation]

Loan to Poor Women by SIDBI

3797. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Industries Development Bank of India provides loan to poor women in the villages;

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

(c) the number of women benefited by this scheme during the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Small Industries Development Bank of India has been operating special schemes of assistance for women entrepreneurs covering term loan, seed capital etc. The objective of the Mahila Udyam Nidhi (MUN) of SIDBI is to provide soft loan assistance to women entrepreneurs to meet the gap in the equity for setting up new industrial projects in small-scale sector. Besides assistance is also made available for rehabilitation of viable sick small-scale units and for undertaking expansion/modernization. The objective of Mahila Vikas Nidhi Scheme (MVN) is to bring about economic empowerment of women, especially rural poor, by providing them avenues for training and employment opportunities. It envisages assistance by way of a judicious mix of loan and grant to accredited voluntary organization for taking up activities, which would ensure that needy women are provided with employment opportunities. SIDBI also provide assistance through SIDBI foundation of Micro Credit (SFCM) to implement micro credit operations mostly for the benefits of women. Number of women benefited under the above schemes during the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are as given below:

Scheme	During 2000		During 2001	
	-01		-02	
Mahila Udyam Nidhi (MUN)	41		64	
Mahila Vikas Nidhi (MVN)	2,100		2,300	
Micro Credit Scheme (mostly women) (MCS)	129,000		285,000	

Kelkar Committee on Direct Taxes

3798. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government had made public a consultation paper submitted by Kelkar Committee for wider discussion and comments;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received certain objections from industrialists regarding recommendations made in consultation paper on tax exemptions;

(c) if so, the objections made by them; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) The Government is examining the recommendations made in the consultation paper as well as the comments received thereon from various quarters and will formulate views only after full examination.

[English]

Demand of Gold

3799. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of gold in India has fallen significantly;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the declining trend; and

(c) its impact jewellery market and stock market thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) According to the World Gold Council and Gold Fields Mineral Survey (an independent London based market research agency), the consumer demand for gold in India dropped to 363 MT during the period January to September, 2002 from 570 MT in the same period last year.

(b) The adverse factors that affected global demand for gold seem to have had an impact on demand for gold in India also. The rise in the dollar gold price, the price volatility and the weak world economy continued to deter purchases of gold world-wide and in India.

(c) The high and sometimes volatile prices remained a deterrent to jewellery purchases. The jewellery demand

(excluding that funded by recycled gold) dropped in tonnage terms by 6.2% during the quarter July to September, 2002 vis-a-vis the first half of the year. Gold prices have recently reached new highs while increasing volatility on the stock markets worldwide is also visible.

Misuse of Export Promotion Schemes

3800. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether a large number of export-import companies which exist on paper only have cheated the Government to the tune of crores of rupees by misusing export promotion schemes as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 21, 2002;

(b) if so, the modus operandi of such companies;

(c) whether a large number of officials of customs have been involved in helping these companies;

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken against the involved officials; and

(e) the steps taken to check such frauds in future?

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

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange to Persons Going Abroad

3801. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3101 on December 8, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Government have revised the Notification regarding foreign exchange to persons going abroad for meeting the expenditure abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount released under travel abroad for various purposes during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In terms of item 2 of Schedule III of Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transaction) Rules, 2000, persons going abroad were eligible to receive foreign exchange up to USD 5000 or its equivalent in one calendar year, for one or more private visits to any country (except Nepal and Bhutan). As a measure of further liberalization, this limit has been raised from USD 5000 to USD 10,000 or its equivalent.

(c) RBI has advised that no data on amount released by authorized dealers under travel abroad for various purposes is being maintained since 2000-01. During 1999-2000 foreign exchange equivalent to Rs. 9268 crores was released under travel abroad for various purposes under FERA, 1973.

[English]

Corporatisation of LIC

3802. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to corporatise the Life Insurance Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the proposal would take a concrete shape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

FDI in Banking Sector

3803. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total Foreign Direct Investments in the banking sector during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that in some cases the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India have been violated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by RBI for such violation of guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the total foreign direct investments in the banking sector during the last three years, as available in its database, is as under:-

	Year	Amount
(i)	1999-2000	Rs. 2,50,00,000
(ii)	2000-2001	Rs. 49,77,00,000
(iii)	2001-2002	Nil

(b) RBI has reported that it has no such information.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Textile Asset Reconstruction Fund

3804. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a textile asset reconstruction fund to raise funds and help retire the high cost debt of textile units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Textiles Corporation is also considering to issue another bond worth Rs. 500 crores to finance the voluntary retirement scheme for its employees;

(d) whether the National Textiles Corporation plans to retire 20,000 workers under the voluntary retirement scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) and (b) The textile industry has requested Government to set up a textile asset reconstruction fund to restructure the debt portfolios by replacing the high cost debt of the textile units by debts at current rate.

(c) NTC has already mobilized Rs. 499.65 crores through issue of NTC Bonds to finance the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Govt. guarantee for issue of another Rs. 250 crores has been given to NTC to mobilize more funds for VRS.

(d) and (e) 23,763 workers in the 39 non-functioning unviable mills proposed for closure are to be retired under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the first phase out of which 15393 employees have gone on VRS so far.

Restructuring of Public Sector Banks

3805. SHRI K.K. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific has suggested the Indian Government to take positive steps with regard to restructuring of public sector banks and also to close the unviable banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Government have not received any such suggestion from Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign Exchange Norms for Importers

3806. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether RBI has recently liberalized foreign exchange norms for importers in the country;

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

(c) whether the relaxation in foreign exchange norms would have any impact on our foreign exchange reserves; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. RBI has recently liberalized foreign exchange norms for importers in the country. The details are as follows:

(i) The ceiling of USD 5000 for submission of evidence of import has been enhanced to USD

25000. Further, relaxation has also been granted to companies with a minimum net worth of Rs. 100 crore and listed on the stock exchange, PSU or an undertaking of the GOI or its department to submit either exchange control copy of Bill of Entry for home consumption (evidence of import) or a certificate from Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Auditor of the company certifying that goods for which remittance was made have actually been imported into India. This facility is also available to autonomous bodies including scientific bodies, academic institutions, like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Science (IIS) whose accounts are audited by Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) subject to a declaration from CEO/auditor of such institutions that their accounts are audited by CAG.

- (ii) The ceiling for advance remittance without bank guarantee for imports has been enhanced from USD 25000 to USD 100,000.

(c) and (d) The measures announced are to ease procedural restrictions on import transactions from the exchange control angle. It is too early to assess the impact on the forex reserves.

PDS in the Country

3807. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of people benefited from the Public Distribution System in the country;

(b) the names of States who have subsidized foodgrains, sugar and Kerosene for BPL families under PDS;

(c) whether people in many States below poverty line cannot buy food items due to the monthly distribution under PDS;

(d) if so, the States which follow monthly/weekly public distribution of commodities; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make the distribution weekly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (e) The State wise details of ration card holders under the

Targeted Public Distribution System is given in the Statement enclosed.

The information regarding the States/UTs which have subsidized foodgrains, sugar and kerosene for BPL families under PDS is not maintained by the Central Government.

PDS Control Order 2001 notified on 31.8.2001 provides for weekly drawl of ration by card holders.

Statement

Statement showing State-wise details of Ration Cardholders under TPDS.

(figures in lakhs)		
S. No.	States/UTs	No. of ration cards issued
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	159.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.72
3.	Assam	44.66
4.	Bihar	123.83
5.	Chhattisgarh	45.80
6.	Delhi	37.38
7.	Goa	3.23
8.	Guajrat	107.28
9.	Haryana	44.60
10.	Himachal Pradesh	13.38
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	18.30
12.	Jharkhand	29.09
13.	Karnataka	110.58
14.	Kerala	64.08
15.	Madhya Pradesh	138.99
16.	Maharashtra	217.92
17.	Manipur	3.19
18.	Meghalaya	2.90
19.	Mizoram	2.37
20.	Nagaland	3.19

1	2	3
21.	Orissa	79.02
22.	Punjab	55.23
23.	Rajasthan	119.27
24.	Sikkim	1.26
25.	Tamil Nadu	161.00
26.	Tripura	7.16
27.	Uttar Pradesh	380.79
28.	Uttaranchal	21.97
29.	West Bengal	159.36
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.86
31.	Chandigarh	2.29
32.	D & N Haveli	0.33
33.	Daman & Diu	0.31
34.	Lakshdweep	0.14
35.	Pondicherry	2.73
Total		2165.23

Rehabilitation of JK Cotton Mills

3808. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIFR has approved the rehabilitation package for JK Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills, Kanpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the pending issues of labour of the company have also been sorted out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) when the company is likely to start its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), the Board has approved the Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (DRS) for

JK Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills, Kanpur in its hearing held on 12.11.2002.

(c) and (d) The DRS envisages Labour Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh to get the various labour/lock out matters amicably settled.

(e) The sanctioned scheme is under issue by BIFR.

Service Tax from Advertisement

3809. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have lost Rs. 150 crores as 5% service tax from advertisement through Television channel including Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government to recover the taxes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Violation of Trade Agreements

3810. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Missions situated abroad have received complaints regarding violation of trade agreements by the public as well as private sector companies of India during the last three years;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Indian Missions abroad have not

reported any instances of complaints regarding the violation of Trade Agreements by the Indian Public and Private sector companies. In the past also, all the complaints received by them pertain to commercial disputes, including quality complaints between the importing and exporting companies.

(c) and (d) The details of the complaints regarding commercial/trade disputes received from the Commercial Wings of the Indian Missions abroad are forwarded to the Office of DGFT. DGFT takes action against the exporters or importers concerned when it receives such complaints, in accordance with the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act 1992, the rules and orders made there under and the Export Import Policy. The Office of the DGFT examines and investigates these complaints and after exhausting reconciliation efforts take action to de-register/debar the defaulting exporters by issue of show-cause notice/hearing etc. and/or takes action as necessary, as per rules and regulations in force, including in appropriate cases legal action, depending upon the gravity of offences.

[English]

Problems of Cement Industry

3811. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cement sector reeled under the impact of depressed per unit realization in the current financial year even though there is a increase in the production and sales;

(b) if so, the reasons responsible for this;

(c) whether the Government propose to intervene in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (d) It is a fact that both production and sale (consumption) of cement during the first seven months of the current year have registered increase over the production and sale of cement in the corresponding period during 2001-02. Production registered an increase of 9.33% as it rose from 60.45 million tonnes to 66.09 million tonnes and sale registered an increase of 9.56% as it rose from 58.6 million tonnes to 64.2 million tonnes.

The prices of cement responsible for realizations of cement manufacturing units during the current year as shown in the statement enclosed have, however, not shown any abnormal general downward trend. In some consumption centres prices have marginally gone up whereas in others these have gone down marginally. These are normal fluctuations in the price of fully decontrolled commodity of cement caused due to operation of market forces of demand and supply and hence Government does not intend to intervene.

The Government intervenes only when certain members of the industry indulge in malafide trade practices to have a monopolistic control over the production and prices.

Statement

Problems of cement industry

Region/Centre	Apr-02	May-02	Jun-02	Jul. 02	Aug. 02	Sep-02	Oct-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
Delhi	131	136	131	131	135	130	130
Karnal	137	140	137	137	141	135	136
Chandigarh	143	145	143	140	136	140	142
Jaipur	120	132	120	118	120	114	119
Rohtak	129	132	128	129	134	124	125
Bhatinda	142	141	142	137	136	133	139

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ludhiana	147	150	146	143	140	139	144
Jammu	186	183	178	177	177	177	181
Simla	165	162	158	156	153	152	153
Eastern Region							
Calcutta	134	148	148	153	153	153	153
Patna	129	138	137	140	140	139	137
Bhubaneswar	121	137	138	148	152	149	143
Gauwhati	172	172	172	172	172	172	172
Muzaffarpur	131	137	138	143	143	141	139
Western Region							
Mumbai	159	160	158	150	144	128	151
Ahmedabad	136	138	141	137	137	129	127
Nagpur	122	123	123	119	113	107	106
Pune	121	131	124	112	105	107	123
Rajkot	136	138	141	137	137	129	127
Baroda	136	138	141	137	137	129	127
Surat	136	138	141	137	137	129	127
Southern Region							
Chennai	159	156	147	140	137	128	126
Trivandrum	164	162	156	146	141	133	131
Bangalore	131	133	134	136	139	135	138
Hyderabad	115	111	105	104	105	105	120
Calicut	164	162	156	146	141	136	136
Visakhapatnam	123	118	115	116	120	120	133
Goa	130	133	134	133	130	137	128
Central Region							
Lucknow	130	129	134	143	143	133	128
Meerut	132	137	133	138	138	131	132
Faizabad	123	126	134	141	139	128	125
Bareilly	127	131	134	138	136	131	134
Bhopal	119	123	124	127	128	120	114

Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme

3812. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to various States under critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme and Export Infrastructure Debt Scheme during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide thrusts to export by augmenting the export infrastructure in the States for expediting export promotion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There is no Export Infrastructure Debt Scheme. The details of funds allocated to various States under Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme during the last three years is given at the end of the answer. (statement enclosed)

(b) and (c) A new scheme called ASIDE has been launched from March, 2002 to provide thrusts to export by augmenting the export infrastructure. The details of the scheme is available at Deptt. of Commerce web site www.commin.nic.in

Statement**Funds Released to States Under CIB**

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.5	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—
4.	Assam	6.53	3.4083	3.42
5.	Bihar	—	4.7598	—
6.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—
7.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
8.	Delhi	—	—	—
9.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
10.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
11.	Goa	—	—	—
12.	Gujarat	—	4.4	—
13.	Haryana	—	—	.122
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	3.3	—
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	1.5533	3.8062
16.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
17.	Karnataka	4.00	5.00	0.5735
18.	Kerala	1.175	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Lakshdweep	—	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1.4237	3.42	1.75
21.	Maharashtra	.05165	4.8433	5
22.	Manipur	1.105	—	—
23.	Meghalaya	.155	—	—
24.	Mizoram	—	2.48	—
25.	Nagaland	—	—	—
26.	Orissa	1.48	3.6	—
27.	Punjab	—	—	1
28.	Pondicherry	2.5	—	—
29.	Rajasthan	—	.34	—
30.	Sikkim	—	—	—
31.	Tamil Nadu	—	7.16	—
32.	Tripura	9.425	5.0758	1.2923502
33.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—
34.	Uttar Pradesh	9.66	5.5	—
35.	West Bengal	2.00	—	3.0258708

Balance Sheets of Companies

3813. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of companies in the country have defaulted in filing their annual account statements and balance sheets with the Registrar of companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take action against such companies under various sections of the Companies Act, 1956; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The number of companies in the country which have defaulted in filing their annual returns and balance sheets for the year 2001-2002 is 3,07,577 & 3,18,176 respectively.

(c) and (d) If companies do not file documents as required under the Companies Act, 1956 they can be prosecuted under relevant provisions of the Act.

Report of Commission on IPR

3814. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the report presented by the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights to the British Government on the impact of an international IPR regime;

(b) if so, the comments of the Commission in respect of developing countries like India; and

(c) the reaction of the Indian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Commission on Intellectual Property Rights was set up by the British Government with a view to

consider (a) how national intellectual property regimes could best be designed to benefit developing countries within the context of international agreements, including the agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property; (b) how the international framework of rules and agreements might be improved and developed; and (c) the broader policy framework needed to complement intellectual property regimes. Since the Commission was set up by the British Government, as such its Report has been submitted to the British Government on September 12, 2002.

It is, however, noted that the Report basically seeks to integrate intellectual property rights and development policy and, *inter-alia*, emphasises the need for adequate safeguards for developing countries. It is further noted that the main safeguards suggested in the Report in respect of patent regime relate to: compulsory licensing; parallel imports; Government use of patent; exclusion of diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical methods from patentability; exclusion of new uses of known products from patentability; Bolar provision; prohibition of patent protection on plants and animals including genes and genetically modified plants and animals; and an obligation to disclose the geographical source of the genetic resources used in invention in the patent applications. The Patents Act, 1970 as amended by the Patents (Amendment) Act, 2002 substantially provides for these safeguards along with provisions which, in sum, enable an appropriate, timely and efficient response to national and public interest requirements/concerns.

Promotion of Tribal Handloom Products

3815. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have contemplated to provide fund for the promotion development and export of the indigenous Bode (Tribal) handloom products and textiles in the way the handloom products and textiles of other tribal people of the country have been patronized so far;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) In order to give impetus to the export of handloom products by way diversification of handloom products, improvement in quality and innovation in design, a Scheme for Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing (DEPM) comprising development of

exportable handloom products, including tribal handloom products and overseas market promotion thereof, has been in operation since 1996-97. Apart from the DEPM Scheme, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) has been in operation since 1.4.2000. DDHPY aims at taking care of a wide gamut of activities, both at macro and micro level, in an integrated and coordinated manner by providing assistance for product development, infrastructure support, institutional support, training to weavers, supply of equipments, marketing support etc. to the weavers.

Details of funds provided under the DEPM Scheme and the DDHPY during the last two years are as under:-

(Rupees in lakh)

Year	DEPM Scheme		DDHP Yojana	
	North Eastern States	Other States	North Eastern States	Other States
2000-01	25.10	374.90	639.85	1055.99
2001-02	27.56	297.46	1382.52	4562.53

[Translation]

External Debt

3816. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the external debt of different countries against India at present, country-wise;

(b) the method adopted by the Government to repay the loan; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the external debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Country-wise external debt outstanding (both Government and non-Government loans) from bilateral sources as on December 5, 2002 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Most of the Loan Agreements have repayment schedules. Based on the schedule and receipt of demand from the donor, sanction is issued on the authorized nationalized bank to arrange for the repayment to the donor in foreign currency, after which equivalent rupee value is credited to their account debiting from

Government Account. Similar procedure is also followed by different public sector Organizations to repay the non-Government debt.

(c) The Government follows a prudent external debt management policy to keep the debt within manageable limits. The key elements of this policy are external borrowings from multilateral/bilateral sources concentrating on concessional and less expensive debt, limiting short-term debt, prepaying more expensive external debt and encouraging non-debt creating flows on capital account, export and invisibles on current account.

Statement

Country-wise External Debt Outstanding (Both Government and Non-Government loans) from Bilateral Sources as on December 5, 2002

Sl. No.	Country	External Debt Outstanding (US \$ million)	
		Government Debt	Non-Government Debt
1	2	3	4
1.	Austria	29.03	—
2.	Australia	6.39	—
3.	Belgium	35.75	—
4.	Canada	281.24	—
5.	Rep. Of Czech & Slovak	1.77	—
6.	Germany	2195.48	726.26
7.	Denmark	78.21	—
8.	Spain	28.00	—
9.	France	574.01	62.14
10.	Italy	102.93	—
11.	Japan	8089.98	1195.71
12.	Kuwait Fund for Arab Eco. Dev.	30.17	—
13.	Netherlands	417.34	—
14.	Norway	0.00	0.26
15.	Russian Federation	390.78	—
16.	Saudi Arabia	7.73	—
17.	Switzerland	9.55	—

1	2	3	4
18.	Sweden	120.83	—
19.	USA	1075.47	—
Total		13474.66	1984.37

Export of Sugar

3817. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the targeted quantum of sugar to be exported during 2002-2003 and the quantum exported till date, country-wise;

(b) the export order received by the country for the current financial year;

(c) whether the rate at which sugar is to be exported is lesser than the market rates prevalent in the country;

(d) if so, the amount of loss likely to be accrued from this export; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that sugar prices do not rise due to this export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Export of sugar is allowed under the Open General Licence (O.G.L.) and various sugar mills/exporters are exporting sugar as per their commercial prudence. There is no target fixed for export of sugar.

As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, a quantity of 3,48,350 MTs of sugar has been actually exported during the financial year 2002-2003 (upto July, 02). The country-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Generally, the rate at which the sugar is supplied by the sugar mills for export purposes, is lower than the open market prices of sugar.

(d) Since the exports of sugar are under O.G.L. and are being undertaken by various exporters/sugar mills, it is not possible to quantify the loss on export. However, in order to boost the export of sugar, the Government is providing following incentives:-

- (i) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation.
- (ii) The quantity of sugar released for export is treated as advance freesale release, to be adjusted in the freesale stocks of the sugar factories, after a period of 18 months.
- (iii) Duty Exemption Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme at the rate of 4% of the F.O.B. value of export is allowed.
- (iv) The Sugar Development Fund (SDF) Act, 1982 and the SDF Rules 1983 have been amended enabling reimbursement of the internal transport & freight charges on export shipments of sugar.
- (e) Due to high level of production of sugar during the last four consecutive sugar seasons, there has been accumulation of surplus sugar in the country and as such, the export of sugar is not likely to have any adverse effect on the prices of sugar in the open market.

Statement

Country-wise Export of Sugar during the Financial Year 2002-2003 (upto July 2002)

		Qty. in tonnes	
		Value Rs. In lakhs	
Sl. No.	Country	2002-2003	
		Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4
1.	Afghanistan	4020	428.00
2.	Bangladesh	27285	2788.74
3.	Belgium	9000	2275.09
4.	Baharain	227	26.19
5.	Canada	628	80.48
6.	Chinese Taipei	1712	175.30
7.	China	—	—
8.	Djibouti	—	—
9.	Ethiopia	—	—
10.	German F. Rep.	1931	239.11
11.	Hong Kong	416	66.16
12.	Indonesia	4595	501.08

1	2	3	4
13.	Iran	7298	804.13
14.	Italy	299	60.52
15.	Kuwait	539	61.87
16.	Malagasy RP	588	62.15
17.	Malaysia	117041	11945.03
18.	Maldives	1437	204.42
19.	Nepal	1527	195.79
20.	Pakistan	2754	286.57
21.	Philippines	—	—
22.	Portugal	—	—
23.	Saudi Arabia	265	19.79
24.	Singapore	10377	1166.63
25.	Somalia	200	22.80
26.	Sri Lanka	100229	10720.83
27.	Sudan	—	—
28.	Tanzania	601	72.59
29.	UAE	37251	4311.58
30.	U.K.	146	18.49
31.	USA	8388	1477.73
32.	Vietnam	4555	511.28
33.	Yemen Republic	—	—
34.	Others	5041	566.36
Total		348350	39088.71

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce.

Market for Wheat Export

3818. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of Indian wheat has been stagnant at three lakh tonnes per month as the Government have failed to find new market for exports;

(b) the wheat export target fixed by the Government for the current year;

(c) the names of countries with which our wheat exporters are facing competition; and

(d) the further concessions proposed to be given by the Government to the exporters for promotion of export of wheat from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir. During the financial year 2002-2003 the quantities of wheat lifted for export by the Public Sector Undertakings, State Agencies and private exporters have been more than four lakh tonnes per month except in April 2002 when it was 3.71 lakh tonnes.

(b) During the year 2002-03, the Government has removed the quantitative restrictions on the export of wheat subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool should not be lower than the minimum buffer stock of 143 lakh MTs of wheat at any point of time.

(c) In view of the surplus stock of wheat in the Central Pool the Government is making available wheat, through Food Corporation of India to Public Sector Undertakings, State Agencies and private exporters for export. India is not in competition with any country regarding export of wheat.

(d) The promotional measures taken by the Government are detailed below:—

- (i) Procedural restrictions like registration with APEDA in case of export of wheat and wheat products have been removed;
- (ii) An empowered Standing Committee on Exports has been set up to take expeditious decisions.
- (iii) In order to offer a stable price regime, the Government has decided to fix the offer price of export of wheat from the Central Pool for a period of 3 months, with an additional month given for lifting of stocks and to announce the prices 45 days in advance before the commencement of the concerned quarter.
- (iv) WTO compatible post-delivery and related expenses are being allowed to the exporters.

[English]

Foreign Loans for Textile Industry

3819. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid make textiles industry more competitive in the global market, the Government are considering to liberalise the provisions of getting foreign loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a task force constituted by the Government to suggest measures for improving the textile sector have suggested a number of measures;

(d) if so, the details of measures suggested by the Task Force; and

(e) the extent to which the government have agreed with the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) At present External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) in foreign exchange upto US\$ 50 million or its equivalent by an Indian entity for general corporate purposes with average maturity of not less than 3 years is permissible under automatic route with the stipulation that such funds should not be used for investment in stock market or in real estate business. As such the textile units can resort to ECB upto US\$ 50 million.

(c) to (e) An Inter-Ministerial Task Force was constituted on 29.5.2002 to address three broad issues concerning the textile sector viz. fiscal issues, labour issues and banking/investment issues. The Task Force has not yet submitted its report.

Entry of Church in Tea Business

3820. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to meet its mission service the Church are entering into tea business in North East States of the country;

(b) whether the Church have indicated the sources from which they would make investment in the tea industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) One tea garden, namely Momai Tea Estate, located in the Kokrajhar District of Assam, has been managed by the Trust Association of the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dhumka, Bihar since 1890.

The garden has a grant area of 570.34 ha. out of which 410 ha. are under tea. Apart from this big garden, the following three small holdings have been registered by the Christian Missionaries with the Tea Board:

Name of Garden	Area registered with Tea Board	Year of Registration
Baithabhanga (GELC) Mini T.P. Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church District Sonitpur, Assam	4.06 hectares	1977
Barkutia Tea Catholic Church, Borgang District Sonitpur, Assam	2.24 hectares	2000
John Paul Chaah Bagicha Catholic Mission, Salona District Nagaon, Assam	3.11 hectares	2001

Although the sources of funds for the investment in the tea industry are not required to be indicated while registering with the Tea Board, the Board will ensure henceforth disclosure of such information to the Tea Board.

[Translation]

Report on Banking Sector

3821. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has issued a report "Progress and Direction 2001-2002 in Banking Sector in India";

(b) if so, the main features or suggestions of this report;

(c) whether RBI has suggested to reconstitute management in Co-operative banks and bring the job of monitoring under one institution; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government on this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought out the "Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2001-02" in November, 2002. The Report gives a detailed account of the performance of

commercial banks, co-operative banks, financial institutions and non-banking financial companies. It also provides information on developments in the policy environment and in the regulatory and supervisory frame-work applicable to these financial entities. An overview of the policy initiatives undertaken in the banking sector during 2001-02 and a perspective on strengthening of prudential norms and introduction of structural changes designed to improve the efficiency of the banking system also forms part of the report.

(c) and (d) RBI had submitted a proposal to Central Government for setting up an exclusive apex body for the supervision of urban cooperative banks (UCBs) in view of duality of control prevailing in cooperative banking sector. The proposal was examined by the Government and it was felt that without legislative changes in the State Cooperative Societies Acts of various States to bring it in tune with the Model Cooperative Societies Act recommended by Ch. Brahm Perkash Committee, apex supervisory body as suggested would suffer from similar handicap that RBI suffers today. The efforts of the Central Government are, therefore, directed towards convincing State Governments to amend their State Cooperative Societies Act. With this background, Central Government has announced in the Union Budget to usher reform in cooperative banking sector and has made a provision of Rs. 100 crore to incentivise reforms and revitalize the cooperative banking sector.

[English]

Marketing Process by Coffee Board

3822. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has decided to market its products informally and open outlets throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Coffee Board in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Licence for Co-operative Banks

3823. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many proposals from Maharashtra State seeking licenses for co-operative banks are pending with RBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when these are pending;

(c) the reasons for delay in according licenses to these banks; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the applications of one State Co-operative Bank (SCB), 21 District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) and 214 Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) are pending with RBI for issue of licence under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As applicable to Co-operative Societies).

(c) and (d) Due to the adverse features observed in the functioning of the SCB and DCCBs, their proposals have been pending for issue of licence. However, as these banks were already functioning at the time when co-operative banks were brought in the purview of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (in 1966), they have been allowed to function till such time their applications for licence are rejected by RBI. In so far as UCBs, these proposals are pending disposal due to submission of incomplete proposals, delay in receipt of clarifications

sought, delay in receipt of information from promoter's bankers/other agencies, etc. These proposals would be submitted to the Screening Committee of RBI once these clarifications are received. There is no fixed time frame for the disposal of these proposals/applications.

Federation of Indian Exporters' Organisation

3824. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Export Organisations met with the Governor, RBI recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held alongwith the problems/demands raised by federation; and

(c) the response of the Government with the action taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Shri P.D. Patodia, President, Federation of Indian Exporters' Organisation met Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Bimal Jalan on 18th November, 2002.

(b) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India regulates the monetary system of the country. The issues raised and RBI's comments thereon are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Federation of Indian Exporters' Organisation

S. No.	Issues Raised	Comments of the Reserve Bank of India
1	2	3
1.	Cost of Export Credit to be linked to Bank Rate	<p>At present the Interest rates for rupee export credit are capped at PLR minus 2.5% for the first 180 days for pre-shipment and 90 days for post-shipment credit.</p> <p>Taking into account the forward premia on export receivables, the effective interest cost to exporters is highly internationally competitive. Any further reduction in ceiling rates could discourage banks from lending to exporters in a timely manner. Further, pre-shipment credit and post-shipment credit in foreign currency is available at libor linked rates (LIBOR+0.75%), which are internationally competitive.</p>

1	2	3
2.	Liberal Lending Norms to Export Sector	Banks are required to lend to meet credit requirements of export sector at least to the extent of 12% of their net bank credit. On the basis of the quarterly reviews being undertaken by RBI, performance of individual banks is being monitored and banks are advised to achieve the stipulated level. The percentage prescribed by RBI is the minimum level and banks have freedom to extend export credit beyond this level. Further banks have been advised to ensure that there is no slipback in achievement. It is also observed that export credit extended by banks as percentage of total credit is in tune with the share of exports in GDP.
3.	Requirement of streamlining of Export Credit Procedure-Waiver of collateral & guarantees	Banks have been advised time and again that no worthwhile export order should suffer for want of credit merely on the ground of non-availability of collaterals. Grants of credit, however, is a commercial decision of banks based on their overall assessment of the borrower and risk perception.
4.	Consortium Finance	Banks have already been advised that in case of consortium finance, once the consortium has approved the assessment, member banks should simultaneously initiate their respective sanction process.
5.	Uniformity of Cost of Credit	Currently, RBI specifies only the ceiling rates linked to PLR (2.5% below PLR for first slab). Further, banks are free to lower interest to even below PLR rates at their discretion even for the entire period of packing credit for creditworthy exporters depending upon their track record.
6.	Flexibility of EEFC A/c	As of now, EEFC A/cs are allowed to be maintained as current account only which is non interest bearing.

*[Translation]***World Bank Loan for Roads and Highways**

3825. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the World Bank loan provided to Gujarat State for construction of highways and roads during each of the last three years;

(b) the names of the places where these projects are being constructed;

(c) the expenditure incurred on each project so far;

(d) the amount proposed to be sanctioned during 2002-2003 for the said projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The World Bank has provided a loan of US \$ 381 million for the Gujarat State Highway Project in November, 2000.

(b) Statement showing the places covered by the project is enclosed.

(c) The expenditure incurred under this project up to November, 2002 is Rs. 437 crores.

(d) Govt. of Gujarat has kept the budget provision for year 2002-2003 for this project as Rs. 400 crores.

(e) The closing date of the project is 31.12.2005.

Statement**List of roads included in Gujarat State Highways Project**

Sr.	Name of Road
1	2
1.	Sarkhej-Viramgam
2.	Mahesana-Palanpur
3.	Rajkot-Jamnagar (Link to Vanthali)
4.	Kadodara-Bajipura
5.	Godhara-Halol
6.	Mahesana-Palanpur (Four laning)
7.	Godhara-Shamlaji
8.	Ladvel-Dakor-Godhra
9.	Vadodara-Padara-Jabusar Bharuch-Dahej
10.	Jetpur-Junagadh Rajkot-Morvi
11.	Dhrol-Link to Vanthali Jamnagar-Khambhaliya
12.	Viramgam-Dhrangdhra, Dhrangdhra-Halvad
13.	Dholka-Bagodara, Walaman-Pimpari
14.	Olpad-Ichchhapor, Ichchhapor-Link to Navsari
15.	Ahmedabad-Mehmedabad
16.	Halol-Bodeli
17.	Bansda-Dharampur
18.	Dharampur-Ambheti
19.	Borsad-Padra to Jsar Road
20.	Dholera-Bhavnagar
21.	Mahuva-Rajula (Part)
22.	Sachin-Palsana
23.	Pipli-Dholera
24.	Uhansura-Modasa
25.	Tilkawada-Rajpipla
26.	Netrang-Khant
27.	Mandvi-Link to Vyara
28.	Ambheti (Link to Peint)-Vapi & Vapi Daman

1	2
29.	Valsad-Dharampur
30.	Bhavnagar-Trapaj
31.	Trapaj-Alang, Bhavnagar-Vartej & Vartej Shihor
32.	Atkot-Chavand (link to Amreli), Chavand-Dhasa
33.	Naroda Sampa
34.	Sampa Harsol
35.	Harsol Dhansura
36.	Umreth Dakor
37.	Tilakwada Bodeli
38.	Jambusar Amod
39.	Dhandhuka Vallabhipur
40.	Bagodara Fedra
41.	Fedra Dhandhuka
42.	Link Vanthali Jamnagar

Seizure of Drugs

3826. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "68 Kg. hashish seized, two held" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 23, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of facts represented therein;

(c) the number of cases of drugs/Narcotics seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the number of persons arrested and chargesheeted during the above period; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government against the manufacturing and sale of hashish in the country?

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

(b) On the basis of specific information, officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) intercepted a truck at Singhu Border, Delhi on 20.10.2002 and, after search, recovered 68.025 kg. of hashish in 23 packets, which were concealed in the cabin of the truck. The drug and the truck were seized and the driver of the truck was arrested. Further follow-up action resulted in the arrest of one more person from Delhi.

(c) and (d) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The Government of India has taken a number of steps against illegal manufacturing, trafficking and sale of drugs, including hashish, in the country. These include

eradication of illicit cultivation of cannabis plants from which hashish is made, instructions to all drug law enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up the enforcement efforts, periodical training of the enforcement officers, close interaction between the agencies of the Central and State Governments and quarterly co-ordination meetings for this purpose by the Narcotics Control Bureau, neutralizing organized drug traffickers by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of the police and security forces with provision of advanced weapons, empowerment of a large number of Central and State Agencies under the NDPS Act to ensure its effective implementation, and a liberal reward scheme for informers.

Statement

Details of cases of Narcotic Drugs seized by NCB during the Years 2000, 2001 & 2002

S. No.	State	2000		2001		2002 [upto October]	
		No. of cases	No. of persons arrested/ chargesheeted	No. of cases	No. of persons arrested/ chargesheeted	No. of cases	No. of persons arrested/ chargesheeted
1.	Delhi	10	10	16	15	16	13
2.	Tamil Nadu	5	17	7	19	17	46
3.	West Bengal	6	11	12	17	13	15
4.	Uttar Pradesh	19	11	9	8	13	17
5.	Bihar	1	1	—	—	—	—
6.	Rajasthan	3	5	4	5	3	9
7.	Maharashtra	11	22	10	28	11	13
8.	Punjab	4	2	3	3	1	0
9.	Gujarat	4	9	6	15	5	10
10.	Manipur	1	3	—	—	1	0
11.	J&K	4	6	1	0	2	2
12.	Kerala	5	12	6	8	5	8
13.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	2	5
Total		73	109	74	118	89	138

[English]

Storage Capacity in Ninth Plan

3827. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the storage capacity created by the Government during Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the storage facilities available in some States are not adequate; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to create additional storage facilities during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has created a storage capacity of 3.96 lakh MT and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has created a storage capacity of 13.06 lakh MT during the 9th Five Year Plan. Th State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) As on 30.9.2002, FCI had a total storage capacity of 353.10 lakh MT (owned/hired & covered & CAP) against which stock held was 242.80 lakh MT. Thus, the storage capacity is presently adequate.

(c) FCI propose to create additional storage capacity of 6.42 lakh MT and CWC propose to create additional storage capacity of 15 lakh MT during the 10th Five Year Plan.

Statement

State-wise capacity created during Ninth Five Year Plan

(figures in lakh tonnes)

S. No.	States	Storage capacity created by CWC	Storage capacity created by FCI
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.05	0.60
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	0.03
3.	Bihar	0.04	0.03
4.	Gujarat	0.63	0.20
5.	Goa	0.10	—
6.	Haryana	1.83	0.10
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	0.02
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	0.08
9.	Karnataka	0.86	0.73
10.	Kerala	0.33	0.40
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.75	0.15
12.	Maharashtra	0.68	0.15

1	2	3	4
13.	Meghalaya	—	0.04
14.	Nagaland	—	0.10
15.	Orissa	0.30	0.25
16.	Punjab	1.65	0.48
17.	Rajasthan	0.67	—
18.	Tamil Nadu	0.61	0.10
19.	Tripura	—	0.05
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1.79	0.45
21.	West Bengal	0.77	—
Total		13.06	3.96

Blacklisting of NGOs

3828. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of NGOs from Assam who have been getting huge grants are misusing the funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up it own audit and inspection cell to keep a direct vigilance on the NGOs;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other mechanism available to monitor these NGOs for proper utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No organization in Assam receiving grant-in-aid from this Ministry has been found to misutilise funds.

(c) to (e) The working of the NGOs assisted by this Ministry is monitored and evaluated from time to time. These organizations are inspected by the representatives of the State Governments/UTs, Nodal agencies and the Ministry's own officials.

Stone Parks in M.P.

3829. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Stone Park has been sanctioned at Katni (Jabalpur) in Madhya Pradesh under Central Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and other Allied Activities;

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be provided to Madhya Pradesh for this Stone Park; and

(c) the contribution of State Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) A proposal to establish Stone Park at Village Hardua-Khurawal, Distt. Katni has been sanctioned under Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other activities (ASIDE) Scheme of the Government of India by the State Level Export Promotion Committee (SLEPC) of Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) As per the approval of the SLEPC, an assistance of Rs. 3.26 crores is to be provided for this Stone Park under ASIDE Scheme.

(c) Rs. 1.23 crores will be contributed by the State Government through the Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Jabalpur) Limited, Jabalpur which is the implementing agency.

Welfare Schemes of U.P.

3830. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) the amount spent on the welfare of the Scheduled Castes in Uttar Pradesh under various centrally sponsored schemes during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance this allocation during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount allocated during the current financial year and the amount released out of it so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) During Ninth Five Year Plan Rs. 636.80 crores has been released under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Release of funds for the welfare of Scheduled Castes in the Tenth Five Year Plan is expected to be higher than in the Ninth Plan Period. The allocations are not made State-wise under these schemes but access of funds by the States depends on receipt of complete proposals, budget availability and submission of utilization certificates for funds released earlier. Rs. 66.92 crores has been released upto 9.12.2002.

Welfare schemes in U.P. and Bihar

3831. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

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

(a) the details of welfare schemes for SC/ST/minorities/disabled and widow in operation in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) the funds allocated/spent on each of these schemes during the year 2001 till date, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to include backward and most backward classes under these welfare schemes;

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

(e) the number of families and people benefited under these schemes during the above period in U.P. and Bihar separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a), (b) and (e) The statement giving details of welfare schemes for SCs/Minorities, disabled persons and widows in operation in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, funds released and number of persons benefited during 2001-02 and 2002-03 (till date) is laid on the Table of the House. In respect of schemes related to Scheduled Tribes, the information is being collected from Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Other Backward Classes include Most Backward Classes under welfare schemes being implemented by the Ministry. These schemes are:

1. Construction of Hostels of OBC boys and girls
2. Assistance of voluntary Organisations for OBCs

3. Pre Matric Scholarship for OBCs

5. Pre-Examination Coaching for OBCs

4. Post Matric Scholarship including higher scholarship for Ph.D. and Higher level for OBC students for studying abroad

6. National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (Equity Share Contribution).

Statement

(Rs. in lakh)

Scheduled Caste Development		Uttar Pradesh				Bihar			
		2001-02		2002-03 (Till date)		2001-02		2002-03 (Till date)	
		Release	Bene.	Release	Bene.	Release	Bene.	Release	Bene.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs	11816.86	NA	3973.64	NA	0.00	NA	0.00	NA
2.	Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes	2304.94	323002	1469.46	386000	0.00	37623	0.00	37623
3.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for SCs	0.00	0	0.00	0	15.47	0	0.00	NA
4.	Scheduled Castes Development Corporations	350.00	933701	314.60	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
5.	Book Banks for Scheduled Caste students	48.16	7132	11.42	8241	0.00	0	0.00	0
6.	Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste boys	103.16	450	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste girls	196.04	550	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
8.	Coaching & Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes	2.61	60	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
9.	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	700.00	0	886.64	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
10.	Upgradation of Merit for SC/ST students	30.87	276	36.25	275	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Assistance to VOs for Scheduled Castes	468.02	6705	202.07	2590	89.61	1735	84.37	1265
12.	National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers	0.00	4671(T) 116530	0.00	16324	0.00	0	0.0	NA
Minorities									
13.	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria	56.73	1890	1.80	120	53.68	3410	29.32	890

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Welfare of Persons with Disabilities									
14.	Employment of Handicapped	29.05	NA	0.00	NA	0.00	NA	0.00	NA
15.	National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities	347.45	NA	0.00	NA	251.75	NA	0.00	NA
16.	Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities	715.34	6789	488.17	6495	225.42	1930	126.36	1290
17.	Purchase and fitting of Aids and Appliances	1768.51	10000	938.50	6000	63.31	600	52.00	400
Department of Women & Child Development									
1.	Scheme for women in difficult circumstances (SWADHAR)	8.13	150	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0

NA = Not applicable Na = Not available

T = Trained R = Rehabilitated.

Commission on Scheduled Areas and Tribes

3832. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Second National Commission on the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the functions of this Commission; and

(c) the time by which the Commission is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Second Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission has been constituted under Article 339 (1) of the Constitution w.e.f. 18.7.2002.

(b) A statement indicating the terms of reference of the Commission is enclosed.

(c) The Commission is likely to submit its report within a period of one year from the date of its notification.

Statement

The functions as indicated in the terms of reference of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission are given below:

- (1) Keeping in view the various provisions of the Constitution and taking an overview of the tribal scenario in the country the Commission shall adumbrate a perspective and a vision for the future and formulate an outline of a viable comprehensive tribal policy.
- (2) It shall examine the constitutional provisions in so far as they relate to the Scheduled Tribes, with a view to constitutional, legal, financial and administrative devices for promotion of tribal interests and recommend measures for adequate and appropriate operation of the Fifth and Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.
- (3) The Commission shall review the functioning of policies, programmes and schemes being followed as per the recommendations of the Dhebar Commission and/or being implemented otherwise and suggest formulations in this regard as may be called for.
- (4) It shall examine the development strategies followed so far and in particular, it shall scrutinize the tribal sub-plan integrated approach covering facets like—
 - (a) plan and non-plan sectors of agriculture and allied sectors, forest, education, health, employment, role of financial and cooperative institutions, displacement of trials,
 - (b) protective measures of a legal and administrative nature as in the fields of land alienation, money-lending, excise etc.,

- (c) financial and budgetary arrangements and make such suggestions for modifications and innovations as it may consider necessary.
- (5) It shall examine the socio-political and administrative set-up, particularly with reference to Part IX of the Constitution relating to Panchayats and the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act 1996, and suggest measures to make it effective for self-governance and socio-economic advancement of the tribal people.
- (6) Any other matter connected with the administration of the Scheduled Areas and/or the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes of the States and Union territories.

Foreign Currency Accounts In Banks

3833. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
 SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
 SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
 DR. V. SAROJA:
 SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
 DR. ASHOK PATEL:
 SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
 SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
 SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:

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

- (a) whether the RBI has recently permitted Indian residents to operate foreign currency account in any of the licenced bank in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the schemes;
- (c) the likely impact of this on foreign exchange reserves of the country;
- (d) whether the residents who are frequently visiting to foreign countries are likely to be benefited therefrom;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether an existing bank account can be used for holding foreign currency; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. As a significant step towards further liberalization of foreign exchange

facilities available to individual residents, the RBI has permitted a person resident in India, to open, hold and maintain with an Authorized Dealer in India a Foreign Currency Account known as Resident Foreign Currency (Domestic) Account. Foreign Exchange acquired from any of the following sources can be kept in this account by Residents:

- (i) while on visit to any place outside India by way of payment for services;
- (ii) from any person not resident in India and who is on a visit to India, in settlement of any lawful obligations;
- (iii) by way of honorarium or gift while on a visit outside India;
- (iv) from an authorized person for travel abroad and represents unspent amount.

This new facility is in addition to the existing facility of retaining US\$ 2000 or its equivalent in the form of currency notes and/or foreign currency travellers cheques. The balance in Resident Foreign Currency (Domestic) account may be used for any purpose permissible under the current foreign exchange regulations for resident Indians (e.g. travel, medical treatment abroad, gifts upto US\$ 5000, purchase of books directly or through the internet, education abroad, etc.). It is too early to assess the impact on foreign exchange reserves. The Scheme will be reviewed after a year.

(f) and (g) No Sir. The operational requirement of the Resident Foreign Currency (Domestic) Account are distinct from other existing schemes and therefore an existing bank account cannot be used.

Closing of manufacturing activities of MNCs

3834. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government attention has been drawn to the fact that most of the multinational companies operating in India have now taken to a policy of closing down their manufacturing activities in India and serve the Indian markets with goods imported from their factories in countries like China, Taiwan, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore where manufacturing cost is much cheaper;

(b) if so, the corrective steps being taken by the Government to redress this state of affairs;

(c) whether the Government intend to take long-term measures in relation to allowing such companies

manufacturing facilities in special zones, where our unproductive labour laws and excise duties will not apply so as to reduce their manufacturing costs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Investment decisions of multinational companies (MNCs), including those relating to change in activities, are dependent on several factors such as global competitive advantages, business/marketing fundamentals, corporate restructuring/strategies, etc. The Government, on its part, provides a competitive, liberal and transparent policy regime, wherein foreign direct investment upto 100% is permitted under the automatic route in almost all activities, including manufacturing activities, except for a few sectors wherein caps are imposed on strategic and sectoral considerations. Proposals for change in activity are considered by the Government in terms of the extant FDI policy.

(c) and (d) Government has also introduced a Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Scheme in April, 2000 with a view to provide an internationally competitive and user-friendly environment for exports. Under SEZs, units may be set up for manufacture, trading, reconditioning, repair or service activity. FDI upto 100% is allowed through the automatic route for all manufacturing activities in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), except for a few sectors critical to strategic, defence, environmental or health concerns. The entitlements to units in SEZs include:

- duty free import/procurement of capital goods, raw materials, consumables, spares;
- 100% income-tax exemption for 5 years and 50% exemption for 2 years thereafter;
- domestic sales on full customs duty subject to import policy in force;
- full freedom for subcontracting;
- facility to retain 100% of foreign exchange receipts in Export Earners Foreign Currency (EEFC) Account;
- exemption from Central Sales Tax on sales made from domestic tariff area to SEZ units;
- facility to set up offshore banking units in SEZs.

[*Translation*]

Closed Godowns in Bihar and Jharkhand

3835. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether godowns hired by Food Corporation of India in Bihar and in Jharkhand have been lying closed for the last one year;

(b) whether all these godowns are filled with foodgrains which are rotting;

(c) the amount of rent of these godowns paid during the last one year alongwith value of the grains stored in these godowns;

(d) whether the Government would make efforts to open and operate these godowns; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) 7 hired godowns in Bihar and 2 hired godowns in Jharkhand Regions are lying closed with effect from 1.11.2001.

(b) These godowns having a total capacity of 31,493 MTs store 6453 MTs foodgrains which are not rotting at present.

(c) The amount of rent paid during the last one year is about Rs. 15.28 lakhs. The value of the grains stored in these godowns is about Rs. 3.57 crores.

(d) and (e) Orders have already been issued in August, 2001 to deploy surplus FCI labourers to operate these godowns. However, efforts are being made to open and operate these godowns at the earliest.

[*English*]

Vacating Bharat Mata Theatre

3836. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have planned to vacate Bharat Mata Theatre in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposal, response and future course of action to tackle this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) An eviction order against occupant of Bharatmata Theatre under Provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 was passed by Estate Officer of NTC (MN) as per the direction

of Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai vide their judgement dated 5.3.2002. The occupants have filed an Appeal in the City Civil Court against the Eviction Order and the Court has granted 'stay' on eviction.

(c) Pursuant to approval of Rehabilitation Scheme by BIFR, the property has been advertised for sale in accordance with BIFR directions. The final decision would be taken in due course.

Import of Collapseable Containers

3837. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for import of certain special equipments to effectively deal with drought-situation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sought the opinions of some experts in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received any requests from State Governments, Semi-Government organizations or Private parties for import of Collapseable Containers for providing drinking water to the drought affected areas more efficiently and more economically in view of the shortage of road tankers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The Government have no scheme under which a provision has been made to import special equipments to effectively deal with drought situation in the country. No requests from State Governments, Semi Government organizations or private organizations for import of collapseable containers for providing drinking water to the drought affected areas have been received.

Excise duty and Income Tax Claims

3838. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the quantum of disputed excise duty and income tax claims on the corporate sector, locked up in appeals in the courts, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, etc.;

(b) if so, the number of such cases and the amount involved and the main reason for delayed pendencies; and

(c) the steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to ensure the early finalisation of all the pending cases in the interest of effecting huge recoveries?

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

(b)

	No. of cases	Amount involved
Direct Taxes	2,57,325	Rs. 41,147 crore
Excise Duty	31,931	Rs. 9,480 crore

The reasons for pendency are that the assesseees take recourse to all available legal remedies, upto the apex court. Moreover, the appellate authorities, including Courts, often grant stay orders on recovery.

(c) Steps taken for expediting finalisation of the pending cases include weekly monitoring of pending cases, bunching of appeals involving similar issues for quick disposal, reducing unnecessary litigation and raising the monetary limits for filing appeals. Special measures are also taken to get the stay orders vacated and seek early hearing of such cases by filing appropriate petitions in the courts.

Old Age Homes

3839. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Non-Government Organisation (NGO) have been assisted to run the old age homes in the current financial year in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the assistance given to each NGO;

(c) whether the amount so sanctioned by the Government has been fully consumed by these organisations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA

BRATA MOOKHERJEE: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of financial assistance given as grant in aid to the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal for running old age homes under the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons during the current financial year 2002-03 (upto 30.11.2002) may be seen in the statement enclosed.

(c) The organizations who are given financial assistance as grant in the furnish the utilization certificate along with their proposed for grant in aid for the subsequent year.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of financial assistance given as grant in aid to the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal for running old age homes during the current financial year 2002-03 (upto 30.11.2002)

(Rs. in lakhs)

ANDHRA PRADESH

Sl. No.	Name of the NGO	Name of Project	Grant in aid given for running old age home during 2002-03 (Upto 30.11.2002)
1	2	3	4
1.	Depressed Peoples Dev. Society, Cuddapah Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
2.	Dr. Ambedkar Dalitha Varga Abhiruddi Sangham, Cuddapah Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
3.	Srinivasa Education & Rural Dev. Society, Cuddapah Distt.	Old Age Home	4.14
4.	Khadisilk Gramodyoga Samithi, Cuddapah Distt.	Old Age Home	1.32
5.	Mother India Community Development Association, Chittoor Distt.	Old Age Home	2.76
6.	Peda Prajala Seva Samithi, Chittoor Distt.	Old Age Home	2.60
7.	Peoples Action for Social Service, Chittoor Distt.	Old Age Home	2.76
8.	Rashtriya Seva Samiti, Chittoor Distt.	Old Age Home	2.76
9.	Sarvodaya Women Welfare Society, Chittoor Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
10.	Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali, Chittoor Distt.	Old Age Home	1.32
11.	Telugu Bharathi Mahila Mandali, Chittoor Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
12.	Praja Abhyudaya Seva Samiti	Old Age Home	0.63
13.	Association for the Care of the Aged, East Godavari Distt.	Old Age Home	2.34
14.	Help the Women, Kakinada, East Godavari Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
15.	Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Orphanage & Boarding Home, East Godavari Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
16.	Sarda Education Society, East Godavari Distt.	Old Age Home	0.70
17.	Indira Memorial Weaker Section, Guntur Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38

1	2	3	4
18.	Narasarpet Taluk STs Youth Club, Guntur Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
19.	Naveena Adarsya Mahila Mandali, Guntur Distt.	Old Age Home	2.73
20.	SERD, SCs/STs and Christians Welfare Society, Guntur Distt.	Old Age Home	1.29
21.	Soniya Gandhi Harijana Girijana Balheena Vargamula Mahila Mandali, Guntur Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
22.	Udayasree Mahila Samajam, Guntur Distt.	Old Age Home	1.32
23.	Kandrika Mahila Mandali, Guntur Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
24.	Anuraag Human Services, Hyderabad Distt.	Old Age Home	2.76
25.	Dr. P.N. Hanumantha Rao Charitable Trust, Hyderabad Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
26.	Oldage Welfare Centre, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy Distt.	Old Age Home	2.67
27.	Sai Seva Sangha, Hyderabad Distt.	Old Age Home	1.11
28.	Jyothi Welfare Association, Hyderabad Distt.	Old Age Home	4.14
29.	A.P. Girijana Sevak Sangha, Krishna Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
30.	Amma Vayovrudha Seva Sadanam, Krishna Distt.	Old Age Home	3.85
31.	Integrated Development Agency, Krishna Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
32.	Senior Citizens Forum, Krishna Distt.	Old Age Home	2.30
33.	Bapuji Integrated Rural Development Society, Krishna Distt.	Old Age Home	1.37
34.	Sri Triveni Educational Academy	Old Age Home	1.38
35.	Nav Bharath Educational Society, Kurnool Distt.	Old Age Home	0.75
36.	Partibha Education Society, Kurnool Distt.	Old Age Home	2.76
37.	Bethel Educational Society, Mehaboobnagar Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
38.	Social Action for Social Development, Mehaboobnagar Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
39.	Gramabhyudaya Seva Sansthan, Mehaboobnagar Distt.	Old Age Home	1.07
40.	Swarajya Laxmi Orgn. for Women, Mehaboobnagar Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
41.	Sandhya Rural Welfare Society, Mehaboobnagar Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
42.	S.A.V. Gupta Educational Society, Mehaboobnagar Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
43.	Rural Social Welfare Association, Mehaboobnagar Distt.	Old Age Home	1.32
44.	Society of Emmanuel Evangelism for Rural Development, Nalgonda Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
45.	Asthana-a-Chistia Mahila Mandali, Nellore Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
46.	Arya Dayananda Mahila Mandali, Nellore Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
47.	Bharathi Mahila Voluntary Service Organisation, Nellore Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
48.	The Divine	Old Age Home	2.76

1	2	3	4
49.	Nehru Bharathi Educational Institution, Nellore Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
50.	Polymer's Educational Society, Nellore Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
51.	Health Care & Social Welfare Society (Harijan Christian Social Welfare Society), Nellore Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
52.	3 Men Academics, Prakasam Distt.	Old Age Home	2.76
53.	Laxmi Mahila Mandali, Prakasam Distt.	Old Age Home	2.76
54.	Mahila Mandali, Prakasam Distt.	Old Age Home	2.76
55.	Prakasam Zilla Balheena Vargala Colony Varala Seva Sangam, Prakasam Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
56.	Samatha Mahila Vedika, Prakasam Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
57.	Shri Mahalaxmi Mahila Mandali, Prakasam Distt.	Old Age Home	2.76
58.	Valmiki Sva Sangham, Prakasam Distt.	Old Age Home	2.73
59.	Vasavi Educational Society, Prakasam Distt.	Old Age Home	2.76
60.	Sri Bhavani Mahila Mandali, Prakasam Distt.	Old Age Home	1.56
61.	Priyadarshini Service Organisation, Vishakhapatnam Distt.	Old Age Home	1.31
62.	Sri Venkateswara Yuvajana Sangham, Vishakhapatnam Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38
63.	St. Mary Rehabilitation Centre for Orphans, Widows and leapers, West Godavari Distt.	Old Age Home	1.38

UTTARANCHAL

Sl. No.	Name of the NGO	Name of Project	Grant in aid given for running old age home during 2002-03 (Upto 30.11. 2002)
1.	Pravartiya Nav Jagran Samiti, Bageshwar Distt.	Old Age Home	2.58

Textile Infrastructure Scheme

3840. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of the Textile Infrastructure Scheme;
(b) the extent to which it has achieved its goal;

(c) whether the Union Government are considering to modify the features of the Textiles Infrastructure Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) The Government has launched a new scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)" for plugging critical infrastructure gaps in traditional textile/

apparel clusters to help the units located therein to become globally competitive.

(b) One of the major perceived benefits of TCIDS is removal of impediments to production and to facilitate improvement in quality, productivity and operational flexibility to make the textile industry of the centres globally competitive so as to face competition in domestic and international markets. Therefore, the modernisation of textile centres under the Scheme along with other measures would result in increased exports especially in the post MFA era starting from 1st January 2005.

(c) and (d) Certain State Governments have forwarded project proposals for assistance under TCIDS. Before these project proposals could be taken up, Government has recently announced modifications in the scope and funding pattern of TCIDS with a view to bringing in urgency in implementation of the Scheme. The Central assistance under the scheme was earlier allowed upto 50% of the critical components of the project subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 crores for each area. Under the modified scheme, the Central assistance would be available to the extent of 100% of the critical components of the project in respect of Common Effluent Plant, improving water supply and drainage facilities and construction of creche building for apparel units, whereas the other components would be funded on 75:25 basis between Centre and States/reputed agencies concerned.

The guidelines of modified TCIDS are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Guidelines of the Revised Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)

1. TCIDS scheme is a part of the drive to improve infrastructure facilities at potential textile growth centres and therefore, aims at removing bottlenecks in exports so as to achieve the target of US\$ 50 billion by 2010 as envisaged in the National Textile Policy, 2000.
2. The Scheme shall cover investments, which are in the nature of exigencies, or emergencies and which could not be foreseen as part of the annual plan scheme proposals. Broadly, the scheme covers and investments required for quicker and strategic removal of bottlenecks and for general export facilitation. The investment must reflect its linkage to export promotion.
3. The Scheme would cover all the traditional textile centers such as at Tirpura, Coimbatore, Karur,

Bangalore, Delhi-Noida-Gurgaon, Panipat, Ludhiana, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bhilwandi, Ichalkaranjee, Burhanpur, Salem-Erode, Varanasi-Mau, Meerut-Pilakhua, Surat, Solapur, Calcutta (knitting), Chennai, Cannannor, Amrtisar, Baddi (Himachal Pradesh), Malegaon and Bhilwara. Besides, the Scheme also has a provision to cover new/emerging centers including powerloom clusters as well.

4. Balancing investment may, *inter alia*, relate to:—
 - I. construction of roads
 - II. provision of testing facilities
 - III. common effluent treatment plant facilities
 - IV. exhibition/marketing hall
 - V. strengthening of power supply
 - VI. improving water supply and drainage facilities
 - VII. improvement in telecommunication network and IT facilities
 - VIII. establishment of design centres
 - IX. improving warehousing facilities
 - X. improving facilities for movement of goods to sea ports and airports, inland container depots, air cargo complexes etc.
 - XI. augmentation of transport facilities especially for decongestion
 - XII. facilities to improve human resource
 - XIII. construction of creche buildings for apparel units.
5. The infrastructure so developed would also be available for use by users located outside the centres so developed.
6. Under the Scheme funds can be given to Central/ State Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings/Other Central/State Government's agencies/recognized industrial association or entrepreneur bodies for development of infrastructure directly benefiting the textile units. The fund would not be available for individual production units.
7. The balancing investment should be (other than in exceptional circumstances) not in the nature of a total project by itself but an additive or adjunct to an existing or proposed facility. The Central assistance will be subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 crores for a particular centre, and it would be limited to 100% of the critical components of the project in respect of Common Effluent Treatment Plant, improving water supply and drainage facilities and

- construction of creche buildings for Apparel Units. The other components shall be funded on 75:25 between Centre and States/reputed agencies concerned.
8. Ministry of Textiles would cause preparation of a Master Plan identifying the critical gaps in infrastructure at textile production centers along with the blueprint for addressing them under the Scheme, which would form the basis of project desirability, through the designated nodal agencies viz. Textile Commissioner, Textiles Committee, Textile Research Associations, Textile Export Promotion Councils and Industry Associations. Nodal agencies would render assistance to the concerned State Government/UTs in formulation of suitable projects under the Scheme. Reputed agencies like TERI, IITs, Research Institutes engaged in environment studies/projects will be involved in the preparation and implementation of projects under the Scheme. In exceptional cases, Ministry of Textiles may allow consideration of the proposals received directly from such reputed agencies.
 9. The actual release of funds would be on reimbursement basis after State Government/reputed agency has advanced the money from its resources. There would be no advance release of funds.
 10. The investment proposals should be supported by estimates duly vetted by the Department concerned. All the proposals emanating from a particular State/Union Territory should come through the Secretary incharge of Textiles of the concerned State/Union Territory.
 11. The benefits accruing from the proposed investment should be quantified in terms of increase in production/exports/investment to establish the project desirability.
 12. It would be open for the Government of India to cause physical verification of the implementation of the project and other such enquiries as deemed fit.
 13. Payment and all expenditure under the project will be subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
 14. The proposed investment should not be included in the annual Plan of the department/Agency concerned.
 15. The benefits accruing from the balancing investment should be quantified as far as possible and in appropriate case in terms of attendant increase in exports and/or with help of financial parameters to establish the project economic desirability/viability.
 16. The proposal would be considered by an Empowered Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary (Textiles) and having the following members:—
 - (1) Advisor, Planning Commission
 - (2) AS&FA, Ministry of Textiles
 - (3) Economic Advisor, Ministry of Textiles
 - (4) Joint Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance
 - (5) Joint Secretary (Infrastructure), Deptt. of Commerce
 - (6) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles—Member Secretary.
 17. A Committee would be duly constituted by the concerned State or Union Territory Government/Agency. Public Sector Undertaking to implement and monitor each of the approved proposals. A representative of Ministry of Textiles would be included in the Committee.
 18. Preferably there should be a single agency for the implementation of the project. However, the common facilities created under the scheme would be established and managed by professional bodies such as Textile Research Associations, Industry Associations etc.
 19. The performance of the TCIDS as a whole will be evaluated on annual basis by an appropriate authority or agency to be decided by the Empowered Committee of the Scheme.
 20. Each project should invariably contain a statement duly filled in the format provided an Attachment-I to the guidelines, and should be duly certified by the Secretary/Director, incharge of Textiles of the State/UT Government.
 21. Outlines for submission of projects under the scheme are given in Attachment-II to the guidelines.

Attachment-I

Statement Regarding Commitment of State Government/Implementing Agency

1. Name of the Project
2. Proposing Organisation
3. Implementing organisation
4. Total Project cost

5. Project funding pattern
6. Proposed Shares of
 - i. State Government
 - ii. Implementing organisation
 - iii. Central Government
 - iv. Others
7. (i) Whether the State Government and the implementing organisations are committed to provide their share?
(ii) Whether the necessary budgetary provisions have been made?
8. Details of the project sanctioned earlier under the TCIDS for the State Government/UT/other agencies:

Name of the project	Total cost (Rs. Lacs)	Share of the (Rs. Lacs)	Amount released (Rs. Lacs)	Likely date of completion	Expenditure as on..... (Rs. Lacs)	Main factor behind delay in the implementation and remedial measure taken
		State/ TCIDS	State/ TCIDS			
		UT Scheme	UT Scheme			

(Secretary/Director in-charge of Textiles)/CEO of Implementing agency

Attachment-II

Outlines for Submission of Projects under the revised Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)

1. The guidelines for project formulation are intended to be indicative and not exhaustive since the proposal will have to take into account peculiar features of each project.
2. Ten copies of the project proposals may be submitted to the Director (Exports Division), Ministry of Textiles.
3. The proposal should be exhaustive and to the point. All aspects should be examined in detail and supported by data and surveys as far as possible.
4. The proposal should invariably be accompanied by an Executive Summary, which should, *inter alia*, contain the following details:
 - (a) Name and address of the proposing Organisation
 - (a) Name and address of the Implementing Organisation
 - (c) Status of the Implementing Organisation (Central/ State Government/Public Sector Undertaking/ Municipality/others)
 - (d) Benefits accruing from the balancing investment quantified in terms of attendant increase in production/exports/investments.

(e) Scope of Work:

This should *inter alia* indicate the type of infrastructural facilities that need to be provided, upgraded or strengthened. The items requiring funding from the Central Government under the scheme should be clearly mentioned.

(f) Project Phasing and Implementation Schedule

The project report should indicate a realistic time frame within which the different activities would be completed. The requirement of funds should also be accordingly indicated.

(g) Financial Plan

1. Project Cost

The total project cost and the fund requirement for the entire project should be indicated item-wise. All components of the project for which financing is sought under the scheme should be clearly and separately indicated.

2. Project Financing

The report should clearly indicate the financing arrangements including the mode of financing of the project and the sources of funds.

(h) Financial Viability

The report should indicate the financial viability of the project supported by sufficient data and financial parameters (Internal rate of return, Debt Service ratio, etc.)

(i) Management

The report should contain a detailed plan regarding the supervisory control for the successful implementation of the project. It would be desirable to include the users like exporters, local industry association, etc. and representative of the Ministry of Textiles in the Board of Directors, Managing Committee etc., as the case may be.

[Translation]

Bank Loans to Sugar Mills

3841. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have requested the Union Government/Reserve Bank of India to increase the loan being provided by co-operative banks to sugar mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Reserve Bank of India thereto; and

(d) the total loan provided to sugar mills of Bihar and other States by the co-operative banks during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), no request has been received from Government of Bihar to increase the loan being provided to sugar mills by the cooperative banks.

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

(d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that there are no cooperative sugar factories in Bihar and no funds from co-operative banks are reported to have been involved in financing the cooperative sugar factories in Bihar. The State-wise details of the loans provided to the sugar mills by the cooperative banks during the last three years are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise details of loans provided to sugar mills by the cooperative banks during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

(Rs. Crore)

S.No.	State	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Sanctioned	Utilised	Sanctioned	Utilised	Sanctioned	Utilised
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	247.45	248.07	321.59	298.35	326.43	308.75
2.	Assam	5.33	4.58	6.30	3.65	4.80	1.35
3.	Goa	16.15	16.09	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.43
4.	Gujarat	653.35	727.36	855.87	848.20	1053.58	973.49
5.	Haryana	268.15	226.36	368.15	286.49	483.81	399.98
6.	Karnataka	556.4	500.56	701.94	618.36	724.02	686.63
7.	Kerala	10.00	9.69	10.00	9.22	10.00	9.97
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Maharashtra	6678.50	5448.92	8785.21	7733.36	9720.06	9107.67
10.	Orissa	49.15	28.33	15.55	8.23	23.80	14.11
11.	Pondicherry	18.00	17.89	16.00	15.99	12.00	11.96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Punjab	173.51	155.55	288.81	280.61	425.87	374.62
13.	Rajasthan	7.50	4.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	703.55	594.18	844.48	791.39	951.44	913.74
15.	Uttaranchal	65.30	62.42	163.73	153.28	182.18	175.11

[English]

Review of Weights and Measures Act

3842. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 was reviewed to make it more transparent;

(b) if so, the changes brought about in this legislation to increase transparency;

(c) whether the Government have surveyed the utility of these changes made;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereof; and

(e) the further changes proposed to be made on this Act to make it easier to implement?

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

(b) Brining about changes in the legislation are still under consideration.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foodgrain Export as Humanitarian Aid

3843. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided wheat or rice free of cost to any country as humanitarian aid during the last financial year 2001-2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) During the financial year 2001-2002, Government had arranged donation of 750 MTs of wheat and 250 MTs of rice at a total cost of Rs. 1,28,39,300 as disaster relief to Armenia through M/s State Trading Corporation. The Government had also committed to offer humanitarian assistance including provision of one million MTs of wheat to internally and externally displaced Afghans and others in need.

[English]

Printing of Accounts by Private Printers

3844. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2848 on August 2, 2002 and state:

(a) the details of the compelling circumstances that let to grant to NOCs of getting the printing jobs to be got done through private printers;

(b) the amount involved in those works;

(c) the reasons for not having reviewed critically the viability of the Government presses;

(d) the number of NOCs issued for getting the printing work through private printers from January 1, 1999 to date indicating the amount involved therein with reasons for still not modernising/restructuring the Government presses;

(e) whether the possibility of nexus between the Government printing presses, Government officials and the private printers be ruled out; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The circumstances that led to grant of 'No Objection Certificates' were already stated in the reply to parts (b), (c) and (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2848 replied on 2.8.2002 and also in reply

to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2275 replied on 13.3.2001. However, the same are reiterated below:—

- (i) Non-availability of specific quality of paper demanded by indenting department;
- (ii) Non-availability of infrastructure required for special quality printing;
- (iii) Short time provided by the indenting Department for jobs; and
- (iv) Receipt of emergent work at times.

(b) to (d) The details regarding amount of printing work got done by Ministries/Department after obtaining 'No Objection Certificates' from Directorate of Printing is not available since such work is got done by various Ministries/Departments, through private printers, directly.

The issue regarding restructuring/modernization of the Government of India Presses under the Directorate of Printing had been under consideration. Government has recently approved a proposal regarding restructuring/modernisation/merger/transfer/closure of these presses.

'No Objection Certificates' in 394 cases have been issued since January 1, 1999 till date.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise.

Expert Committee to Promote Seafood Export

3845. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to promote the export of seafood/marine products the Union Government have formed an expert Committee;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of references of the expert Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to boost the export of seafood/marine products on the basis of said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) With a view to give a boost to exports from

marine sector and to tap its full potential, Government had set up a Special Task Force in October 1998 for looking into the credit requirements of the seafood industry and necessary measures to be taken.

(b) The composition and terms of references of the Special Task Force were as follows:—

- (i) Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Commerce—Chairman
- (ii) Joint Secretary, in-charge of Export Promotion of Marine Products, Ministry of Commerce—Convenor
- (iii) Joint Secretary concerned with Fisheries in Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying—Member
- (iv) Joint Secretary concerned with the subject in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries—Member
- (v) Joint Secretary (Banking) in the Ministry of Finance
- (vi) Chief General Manager, RBI, Mumbai
- (vii) Chairma, MPEDA—Member
- (viii) Representatives(s) of maritime states as may be invited—Member
- (ix) Representative(s) of the seafood industry—Member

The Special Task Force was to examine the entire gamut of the marine products and seafood industry so as to make an appropriate view on the credit requirements for different activities.

(c) to (e) The Working Group set up by Special Task Force on credit requirements of seafood industry submitted its Report to the Government. The recommendations *inter-alia* cover bank finance to marine products and seafood industry, creation of infrastructure with a view to provide hygienic fishing harbours/landing centres, setting up of a reconstruction fund for the marine products sector etc. The recommendations relating to bank finance have been forwarded to the Indian Banks Association and to various Banks financing seafood industry for adoption and application in individual cases. Government, in association with the Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA), has taken up the issue of improvement of hygiene and maintenance of fishing harbours/landing centres with the concerned State Governments. Government have examined the suggestion for the creation of the Reconstruction Fund for the seafood

industry. However, it has not been found possible to support/accept the proposal.

Functioning of Revenue Department

3846. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to tone up revenue administration by making it more transparent;

(b) whether the Government propose to curtail discretionary powers vesting with Income Tax Officers in the matter of refunds and issue of clearance certificates;

(c) if so, whether the Government also propose to curtail the discretionary powers vesting with the Central Excise Department in the matter of imposing penalties and interest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The steps in question include periodic review of and amendments to the laws, specially at the time of the annual budget exercise, to increase transparency and reduce discretion, increasing use of information technology to reduce the interface of the public with the Revenue officials, issuance of instructions to the field formations to release refunds quickly, strengthening of the vigilance set-up, selectivity in posting officers to sensitive charges, etc.

(b) The power to withhold refunds has been withdrawn. The requirement of clearance certificate under section 230A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for registration of transfer of immovable property valued at more than Rs. 5 lakh has also been abolished by the Finance Act, 2001.

(c) and (d) Charging of interest is non-discretionary and the statute provides for imposing mandatory penalty in certain situations. No proposal to curtail the discretionary powers of Central Excise Officers in imposing penalties under the law is under consideration at present.

Tax Concession to Wood Particle Board

3847. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a policy decision to grant tax concessions to wood particle boards which are eco-friendly; and

(b) if so, the comparative tax concessions in respect of excise were given for particle boards *vis-a-vis* wood and other boards in 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) There is no policy decision to grant tax concessions to wood particle boards which are eco-friendly. However, 100% wood free plain or pre-laminated particle or fiberboard, made from sugarcane baggase or other gro-waste is exempt from central excise duty. Other particle and fiberboards of wood or other ligneous materials attracted a central excise duty of 8% during 1999-2000 and 16% during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and the current year. All particle and fibre boards are eligible for exemption under the general Small Scale Exemption Scheme.

Assistance for SCD Corporation

3848. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons benefited through economic assistance provided by Scheduled Caste Development Corporations in different States during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of allocations made for Scheduled Caste Development Corporations in each State during the year 2002-2003;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the budget allocations for SCDCs during 2003-2004; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The number of beneficiaries provided financial assistance by the State Scheduled Caste Development Corporations (SCDCs) during the last three years as are under:—

Year	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
No. of beneficiaries	427901	4627541	482686

(b) The allocation/released made by Government of India for SCDCs during the year 2002-2003, State-wise is shown in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. During the year 2003-04 the Government proposed to enhance the budget allocation for SCDCs from 25.00 to Rs. 27.50 crore. But the final figure will be firmed up when the Annual Plan for 2003-2004 is finally approved.

Statement

State-wise release of funds during the year 2002-2003 under the Scheme of Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.	Name of the State	2002-3003
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	496.50
2.	Assam	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil
4.	Chandigarh	Nil
5.	Chhattisgarh	503.70
6.	Daman & Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli	Nil
7.	Delhi	Nil
8.	Goa	Nil
9.	Gujarat	Nil
10.	Haryana	Nil
11.	Himachal Pradesh	25.60
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
13.	Karnataka	160.50
14.	Kerala	437.70

1	2	3
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil
16.	Maharashtra	Nil
17.	Orissa	Nil
18.	Pondicherry	Nil
19.	Punjab	Nil
20.	Rajasthan	Nil
21.	Sikkim	100.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	400.00
23.	Tripura	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh	314.60
25.	Uttaranchal	61.40
26.	West Bengal	Nil
Total		2500.00

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for U.P.

3849. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted any proposals to the Union Government for foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the names of the projects for which the State Government have sought external assistance; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of proposals are indicated as under.

Details of Proposals from G/o Uttar Pradesh for External Assistance

S.No.	Name of the Project	Donor	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	UP Fiscal Reforms and Public Sector Reforms Loan II (UPFRPSR-II)	World Bank	The project is under active consideration.
2.	Uttar Pradesh State Roads Project	World Bank	The negotiations with the World Bank have been held. The World Bank will consider the project shortly.

1	2	3	4
3.	Follow on Project for UP Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	World Bank	The proposal is under World Bank's consideration.
4.	Environmental Improvement and Sustainable Development of Agra-Mathura-Firozabad Trapezium	ADB	The consultation between Government of UP/Ministry of Tourism and ADB is going on to formulate and finalise the project.
5.	Database for Employee Management Information System for Transparency (DEMIST)	US Aid	The proposal is under examination.
6.	Badaun District Hospital	OPEC Fund	The proposal has been posed to OPEC Fund. The response from them is still awaited.
7.	Renovation and Modernisation of Rihand and Hydel Obra Hydro Power Station	Kuwait Fund	The proposal has been posed to Kuwait Fund. The response from them is still awaited.
8.	Pollution Abatement of River Gomati-Revised project	Middle-East funding agencies	The proposal is being posed to Middle East funding agencies for availing external assistance.
9.	Upgradation and Strengthening of Gorakhpur-Deoria-Balia Road and Allahabad-Jaunpur-Dohrighat State Highway Projects	JBIC, Japan	The project has not been prioritised by the concerned Administrative Ministry for consideration in 2002-03.
10.	Anpara 'C' Thermal Power Project	JBIC, Japan	The project has been prioritised by the concerned Administrative Ministry. However, G/o Japan has not selected this proposal for JBIC funding during 2002-03.
11.	Development of Buddhist Circuit (Phase II)	JBIC, Japan	The project could not be considered during 2002-03 for want of detailed project formulation.
12.	A Centre Dedicated for Patient care, Education, Training and Research in the Emerging Areas of Medicine	Germany	The donor has not chosen the project for assistance.
13.	Trauma Centre in Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute (SGPGI), Lucknow	Germany	The donor has not chosen the project for assistance.
14.	Development of the Department of Pulmonary Medicine at SGPGI, Lucknow	Germany	The State Government has been advised to route the proposal through the concerned Administrative Ministry.
15.	Establishment of a Centre for Molecular Medicine	Germany	The State Government has been advised to route the proposal through the concerned Administrative Ministry.
16.	Establishment of an Advanced Centre for Maternal & Child Health Care at SGPGI, Lucknow	Germany	The donor has not chosen the project for assistance.

1	2	3	4
17.	Establishment of Oncology as a Phase-II Super Speciality at SGPGI, Lucknow	Germany	The donor has not chosen the project for assistance.
18.	Establishment of Centre for Organ Transplantation at SGPGI, Lucknow	Germany	The donor has not chosen the project for assistance.
19.	Creation of a Centre for Biomedical Engineering at SGPGI, Lucknow	Germany	The donor has not chosen the project for assistance.
20.	Establishment of Centre of Excellence in Biomedical Resonance at SGPGI	Germany	The State Government has been advised to route the proposal through the concerned Administrative Ministry.
21.	Study of Impact of Innovative Health care delivery system by integrating Information and Communication technology in Advancing Family Welfare in the State of UP	Germany	The State Government has been advised to route the proposal through the concerned Administrative Ministry.

*[English]***Export of Passenger and Commercial Vehicles**

3850. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

(a) whether the export of passenger and commercial vehicles has achieved a quantum jump during this year;

(b) if so, the countries who have shown interest in the Indian passenger and commercial vehicles and the number of vehicles exported to these countries during each of the last three years, upto date alongwith the estimated production thereof;

(c) the total foreign exchange earned by the country from such export during the above period, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to explore the possibilities of export of Indian make passenger and commercial vehicles in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) As per information provided by the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) and Society for Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the representative autonomous bodies of the trade, the production and export figures relating to the passenger and commercial vehicles during the past three years are as under:

(Value Rs. in Crores)

Year	Passenger Vehicles			Commercial Vehicles		
	Production*	Export (Nos)**	Export (Value)**	Production*	Export (Nos)**	Export (Value)**
1999-2000	577347	26577	667.33	173524	14002	148.09
2000-01	513415	29382	763.73	156706	30538	314.97
2001-02	564126	18793	564.52	146197	44133	250.11

Source : * SIAM ** DGCI&S.

The comparative production figures in respect of passenger and commercial vehicles during the period

April-October, 2002 based on information provided by SIAM are as under:-

Category of Vehicles	April-October				
	2000	2001	%Change	2002	%Change
Passenger Vehicles	13389	29132	117.58	36839	26.45
Commercial Vehicles	7416	5595	-24.55	5710	2.05

A statement referring to country-wise value of exports of passenger and commercial vehicles during the last three years is enclosed.

(d) Government has formulated a number of measures in order to encourage/boost the exports of all

engineering goods including passenger and commercial vehicles. The measures include 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. and are applicable for exports to all the countries uniformly.

Statement

Export of Commercial Vehicles (HS Codes 8704, 8705, 87091100, 87091900)

(Value in Lakh Rs.)

Country	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
Algeria	31.76	41.87	85.83
Andorra	0.00	16.63	0.00
Angola	0.00	0.00	16.71
Argentina	41.95	1024.76	278.89
Australia	36.42	356.62	73.40
Austria	0.00	4.09	0.00
Baharain	40.93	83.00	112.71
Bangladesh	669.14	1433.55	3973.44
Barbados	0.00	5.18	0.00
Belarus	0.00	0.00	4.48
Benin	0.00	9.01	0.00
Bhutan	15.92	0.00	2.40
Brazil	0.00	14.85	0.00
Brunei	—	2.75	—
Canada	2.67	4.54	120.49
Chile	0.00	0.00	215.38

1	2	3	4
Chinese Taipei	0.00	17.28	0.00
Costa Rica	0.00	62.70	0.00
China PRP	0.00	0.00	3.59
Cyprus	87.33	0.00	0.00
Colombia	0.00	31.50	131.90
Gongo P Rep	0.00	0.00	215.28
Denmark	—	1.71	—
Djibouti	26.34	65.38	77.13
Ecuador	0.00	133.57	594.73
Cuba	0.00	0.00	5.78
Egypt A Rp	23.60	78.63	8.89
Ethiopia	0.00	22.13	87.31
France	2.36	—	—
German F Rep	3.86	7.26	83.42
Ghana	6.64	26.52	57.03
Greece	0.00	41.00	0.00
Guadeloupe	0.00	14.38	0.00
Guatemala	97.10	49.71	71.37
Guinea Bisu	0.00	0.00	8.35
Honduras	111.16	343.59	0.00
Hong Kong	156.49	0.00	371.07
Haiti	0.00	0.00	42.89
Hungary	81.53	968.28	148.66
Iraq	624.28	567.45	369.84
Israel	169.35	123.75	13.89
Italy	2670.08	5525.11	3520.64
Iran	0.00	0.00	11.61
Ivory Coast	325.34	0.00	0.00
Japan	100.24	0.00	0.00
Jordan	59.30	0.00	0.00
Kenya	35.40	32.40	135.79
Korea RP	0.00	0.00	22.57

1	2	3	4
Kuwait	108.42	195.74	2124.83
Macaoemnia	193.44	15.40	0.00
Malawi	567.02	0.00	97.65
Malaysia	274.04	2336.08	3068.00
Mali	0.00	0.00	400.20
Malta	62.30	9.50	0.00
Mauritious	476.43	282.24	144.59
Mayanmar	0.00	16.20	147.90
Mexico	0.00	221.87	0.00
Morocco	2.79	—	—
Mozambique	547.76	535.82	741.88
Namibia	159.31	0.00	0.00
Nepal	136.75	206.13	556.68
Netherland	10.11	0.00	0.00
New Zealand	—	1.59	0.46
Nicaragua	0.00	51.86	0.00
Nigeria	200.33	185.39	17.75
Oman	95.55	125.04	91.49
Papuaguna	0.00	20.34	0.00
Poland	1.30	—	—
Portugal	406.89	1346.78	69.07
Panamacz	74.08	0.00	0.00
Panama Republic	19.03	0.00	0.00
Philippines	—	3.97	0.00
Qatar	15.98	72.78	198.52
Romania	3.20	0.00	0.00
Saudi Arab	137.05	100.28	346.37
Senegal	20.69	19.83	0.00
Seychelles	0.00	5.87	0.00
Singapore	0.00	12.08	60.79
South Africa	41.49	373.05	689.33
Spain	1631.93	1346.76	1544.11

1	2	3	4
Sri Lanka	811.54	3037.08	197.07
Sweden	0.00	0.00	16.40
Switzerland	211.66	377.41	493.48
Syria	14.50	1309.38	387.57
Tanzania Rep	58.46	27.75	183.72
Thailand	13.78	0.00	72.32
Turkey	995.33	4561.81	0.00
Turks CIS	0.00	149.16	0.00
U. Arab Emirates	410.99	428.05	788.31
UK	1258.69	2288.99	963.31
USA	116.03	183.53	10.53
Uganda	22.26	107.40	115.91
Vanuatu Rep	0.00	34.82	0.00
Yemen Republic	0.00	39.71	29.19
Zambia	318.33	358.83	583.07
Zimbabwe	0.00	0.00	5.31
Total	14809.65	31497.72	25011.93

Export of Passenger Vehicles (HS Codes 8702, 8703)

(Value in Lakh Rs.)

Country	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
Afghanistan	0.00	6.02	0.00
Algeria	45.80	868.50	1210.62
Angola	0.00	41.39	326.51
Argentina	167.75	783.00	126.15
Australia	233.94	313.84	63.38
Austria	332.54	11.18	0.00
Baharain	59.15	127.30	94.12
Bangladesh	2634.79	3780.72	3671.70
Barbados	5.36	0.00	0.00
Belarus	0.00	0.00	6.99

1	2	3	4
Belgium	1988.64	523.70	209.98
Benin	0.00	10.37	24.28
Bermuda	51.73	0.00	0.00
Bhutan	15.60	0.00	139.92
Bolivia	20.50	101.45	20.61
Brazil	0.00	36.37	91.85
Bulgaria	61.34	70.27	0.00
Canada	27.76	0.00	1.46
Caymanis	0.00	0.00	14.53
Chile	1093.94	1297.55	993.31
China PRP	0.00	23.48	8.82
Chinese Taipei	4.21	15.70	0.00
Cocos is	0.00	11.64	0.00
Colombia	569.27	0.00	317.08
Gongo P Rep	0.00	28.55	104.53
Costa Rica	0.00	20.54	75.23
Croatia	0.00	1.87	0.00
Cuba	9.11	1.94	10.95
Cyprus	44.03	61.84	23.94
Denmark	611.01	0.00	17.13
Djibouti	40.00	5.74	90.43
Dominic Rep	0.00	0.00	67.54
Ecuador	0.00	0.00	410.01
Egypt A Rp	937.59	792.59	732.34
EL Salvador	0.00	42.74	46.48
Ethiopia	0.00	1146.13	53.99
Finlan	143.58	769.31	84.78
France	101.94	300.56	39.81
Gabon	11.34	0.00	0.00
Georgia	0.00	0.00	8.26
Gambia	0.00	326.25	0.00
German F Rep	3470.81	834.37	105.33

1	2	3	4
Ghana	96.17	291.05	24.40
Greece	2557.75	634.27	375.15
Grenada	0.00	5.26	0.00
Guatemala	0.00	16.26	8.24
Guinea Bisu	0.00	84.60	50.66
Haiti	0.00	0.00	90.55
Honduras	22.26	74.57	0.00
Hong Kong	91.74	40.69	0.00
Hungary	9.37	29.80	84.17
Indonesia	1.84	4924.77	1587.37
Iran	137.05	1.98	30.20
Iraq	0.0	0.00	574.89
Ireland	337.88	172.52	0.00
Israel	125.79	52.87	74.31
Italy	7249.87	7305.58	6828.61
Ivory Coast	71.6	0.00	0.00
Japan	223.50	134.25	103.99
Jordan	46.84	37.36	25.00
Kazakhstan	0.00	109.92	0.00
Kenya	101.73	300.61	137.34
Korea DP RP	7.15	0.00	1.30
Korea RP	51.44	7.69	12.92
Kuwait	79.38	286.92	559.09
Lebanon	69.35	60.02	0.00
Maceoernia	51.14	16.34	0.00
Malagasy RP	0.00	26.74	45.57
Malawi	10.69	0.00	11.50
Malaysia	1138.19	323.66	0.00
Maldives	47.51	31.32	0.00
Malta	1556.67	1289.79	393.12
Mauritious	287.26	850.41	562.70
Mexico	0.00	2.00	0.00

1	2	3	4
Morocco	1.73	466.22	0.00
Mozambique	549.78	173.23	744.91
Nepal	2451.12	1886.32	4880.64
Nicaragua	0.00	41.09	0.00
Netherland	8056.27	7824.63	5059.95
Netherland Antil	7.56	0.00	0.00
New Zealand	4.77	8.18	120.87
Niger	0.00	18.83	0.00
Nigeria	46.12	54.97	247.55
Oman	183.56	168.53	587.19
Pakistan	0.00	14.50	0.00
Panama CZ	0.00	0.00	7.47
Panama Republic	11.56	0.00	0.00
Papuangna	33.23	4.91	15.38
Paraguay	283.50	270.35	221.57
Peru	8.75	3.19	97.74
Philippines	0.00	4.73	0.00
Portu Timor	0.00	2354.49	360.09
Portugal	2155.87	974.40	291.58
Qatar	99.84	161.93	268.05
Russai	1.69	0.00	0.00
Saudi Arab	82.33	17.37	9.86
Senegal	83.40	41.63	190.24
Seychelles	10.86	645.33	116.31
Sierra Leone	0.00	0.00	14.61
Singapore	242.98	238.92	27.35
South Africa	33.95	168.43	34.06
Spain	5984.10	5618.59	7038.30
Sri Lanka	8135.70	12228.66	4274.12
St. Lucia	18.93	7.50	0.00
Sudan	130.69	1.61	30.33
Sweden	1063.20	1481.76	172.19

1	2	3	4
Switzerland	377.08	1776.88	666.15
Syria	0.00	26.98	789.71
Tanzania Rep	480.67	76.76	164.62
Thailand	0.00	2.48	2.37
Togo	0.00	25.51	0.00
Trinidad	48.94	72.47	0.00
Turkey	246.61	1085.01	17.89
U. Arab Emirates	3097.50	2573.24	4989.77
UK	5065.05	5723.25	3812.79
USA	184.38	51.00	70.19
Uganda	132.83	177.86	83.20
Ukraine	0.00	2.81	0.00
Unspecified	0.00	24.60	0.00
Uruguay	245.53	349.50	214.02
Wallisfis	4.34	0.00	0.00
Yemen Republic	21.52	0.00	20.38
Yugoslavia F RP	0.00	23.04	0.00
Zaire Rep	34.95	0.00	0.00
Zambia	100.65	33.78	22.01
Zimbabwe	22.55	0.00	15.68
Total	66733.55	76373.63	56452.26

Securities Scam

3851. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) whether RBI and NABARD have received any CID report on Home Trade Scam;

(b) if so, the findings of the report;

(c) the total amount involved in the scam;

(d) the other agencies found involved in the scam and the details of violations made by them; and

(e) the further action plan prepared by the Government to punish the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that they have not received any report from CID on Home Trade Scam.

(b) Does not arise in view of above.

(c) During the course of inspection conducted by NABARD, it was observed that three District Central Co-operative Banks had suffered losses to the tune of Rs. 205.06 crores.

(d) Besides M/s. Home Trade Ltd., the other brokers involved were M/s. Indermani Merchants (P) Ltd., M/s. Syndicate Management Services Ltd., M/s. Giltedge Management Services Ltd. and M/s. Century Dealers (P) Ltd. The details of violations made by these firms related mainly to non-delivery of scrips despite receiving amount.

(e) Police investigations are in progress.

Phasing of Production of Tobacco

3852. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to work out on the plan to phase out tobacco production in the country over the next 5 to 6 years;

(b) if so, the plan made in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of tobacco farmers and manufacturers of tobacco products thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Export of Processed Food

3853. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase focus on food safety norms to improve the export of agro-products and food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Union Government propose to take to help the processed food export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Codex Committee of the Government of India is engaged, on a continuous basis, in recommending food safety norms for all food products including processed fruits and vegetables.

(c) Steps to help the agri-products and the processed foods export sector include *inter-alia* financial assistance to exporters by APEDA (Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) under the scheme for Quality Control, setting up of in-house quality control laboratory and implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) for fruit and vegetable processing units, conducting awareness programmes on quality assurance, quality management system and training programmes on food safety norms, developing packaging for export of various food products and setting up of agri export zones in geographically contiguous areas in different States.

Export of Banana

3854. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which banana is being exported from India;

(b) the percentage contribution of major banana producing States particularly of Karnataka in the total export of banana during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is vast scope for increasing export of banana from Karnataka;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to give incentives to the farmers of Karnataka to promote banana as a commercial crop; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Some of the major export destinations of Banana from India are United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, West European countries like Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, France and UK and SAARC and other North Central American region.

(b) State-wise data on export of various commodities is not maintained.

(c) to (e) No specific information on potential of increasing export of banana from Karnataka is available. Steps taken for increasing export of fresh fruits and vegetables including banana includes schemes for infrastructure development, packaging development, quality control, market development and organisation building and HRD etc.

*[Translation]***Smuggling of Narcotics**

3855. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
 SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
 SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether there has been an increase in the smuggling of narcotics in the country through Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To deal effectively with the smuggling of narcotic drugs, the Government has taken a number of steps. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up the enforcement efforts, fencing of Indo-Pak border and provision of flood lighting, periodical training of the enforcement officers, close interaction between the agencies of the Central and State Governments and quarterly co-ordination meetings for this purpose by the Narcotics Control Bureau, neutralizing organised drug traffickers by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of the police and security forces with advanced weapons, empowerment of a large number of Central and State Agencies under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act to ensure its effective implementation, and a liberal reward scheme for informers.

Patenting of Seeds

3856. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the process of patenting seeds which are developed through radioactivity;

(b) if so, the name of the seeds patented so far;

(c) whether any supply measures have been taken to avoid the ill effects of radioactivity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]***Loans to SSI of West Bengal**

3857. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small scale industries in North Bengal Region of West Bengal are suffering from non-availability of credit from nationalized banks; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the small scale industries and provide them more credit facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Public Sector Banks in the country have sufficient liquidity to meet the requirements of the SSI Sector in the country including North Bengal Region. Viable and bankable schemes are not denied credit by the Public Sector Banks who are also implementing the guidelines issued by the RBI from time to time with regard to flow of credit and rehabilitation of SSI. RBI has issued detailed guidelines to Banks in January 2002 for detection of sickness at an early stage and taking remedial measures and for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable.

Many policy measures have been taken by the Government and Reserve Bank of India to improve the credit delivery system to SSI Sector and rehabilitation of sick small scale units. They are:-

- (1) Raising of borrowal limit for collateral free loan to tiny sector from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh;
- (2) Banks have been advised to open atleast one Specialised SSI Branch in each district. Further Banks have been permitted to categorise their general banking branches having 60% or more of their advances to SSI Sector as specialized

SSI Branches for providing better service to this sector as a whole;

- (3) Raising of the Composite loan limit from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh;
- (4) Raising the borrowal limit to Rs. 5 crores for computation of working capital on the basis of minimum 20% of the projected annual turn over;
- (5) To increase the outreach of banks to tiny sector, inclusion of credit provided to NBFCs or other financial institutions for on-lending to tiny sector under priority sector lending.
- (6) Launching of a New Credit Guarantee Scheme by SIDBI where collateral free loans upto Rs. 25 lakh are covered for guarantee under the scheme.
- (7) Raising of the limit of the projects to Rs. 50 lakhs for providing assistance under the National Equity Fund Scheme.
- (8) Drawing up of revised guidelines for rehabilitation of currently sick but potentially viable sick units.
- (9) Family Income Eligibility Limit has been raised from Rs. 24,000/- to Rs. 40,000/- for assistance under PMRY;
- (10) Earmarking of 30% of the Investment under NEF Scheme for the tiny Sector.
- (11) With a view to provide better customer service Banks have been advised to dispose off all loan applications upto Rs. 25,000/- within two weeks and upto Rs. 5 lakhs within a period of four weeks provided the loan applications are complete in all respects.

[Translation]

Permission to Deposit I.T. Returns In Post Office

3858 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide facility of filing income tax returns in Post Offices and Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any deadline to clear all tax related claims; and

(d) if so, the details with the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Disposal of tax related claims is a continuous process. Various claims for issue of refunds, rectification of mistakes, giving effect to appellate orders etc. are filed by the assesseees throughout the year. Processing of these claims and appropriate action arising therefrom also continues throughout the year.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

[English]

HDPE Bags for Foodgrains

3859. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Grains Management Research Institute, Hapur has submitted its final project report to Government on suitability of PP/HDPE bags for foodgrain storage in commercial godowns;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the said report; and

(d) the quantity of PP/HDPE woven bags procured by Food Corporation of India during each of the last three years and till date?

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

(b) The report of the Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur has suggested that anti-slip PP/HDPE bags can be used for storage of foodgrains by State procuring agencies in a phased manner, preferably to begin with for the operational stocks.

(c) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been advised to place the matter before its Board of Directors for taking an appropriate policy decision in the matter.

(d) No PP/HDPE woven bags have been procured by the FCI till date.

[*Translation*]

Disposal of Paddy in Madhya Pradesh

3860. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh is facing problems in disposal of procured paddy due to non-procurement of boiled rice in custom milling;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there have been similar problems in other States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have taken/propose to take corrective steps to resolve this issue;

(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 KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) The FCI has faced problems in custom milling of paddy procured in the state on account of reduced milling capacity.

(c) and (d) Similar problems have been experienced in the States of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh where the FCI had stocks of paddy which could not be got custom milled.

(e) to (g) Keeping in view the problems in getting the paddy milled in these States, Government had permitted the disposal of the balance unmilled paddy procured during the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-01 to tenderers and other interested parties on "first come first served basis" at Rs. 450/- per quintal.

Private Sector Banks

3861. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have fixed any time limit for according sanction to set up the private banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reasons for according sanction to the private banks when public sector banks are in existence in the country;

(e) whether the Government owes responsibility for checking the private banks cheating the public; and

(f) if so, the mechanism set up to protect the investors/customers of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted 'in principle' approval on 7th February, 2002 for establishing two new banks in the private sector. The 'in principle' approval is valid for one year to enable the applicants to mobilize the required capital and fulfil other conditions. On being satisfied that the applicants have complied with the requisite conditions, RBI shall consider grant of license to these applicants for commencing banking business in due course.

(d) The entry of new banks in private sector was allowed in view of the low bank credit to GDP ratio, increase in saving potential of the society, improvement in banking habits and to introduce greater competition leading to higher productivity and efficiency in the banking sector.

(e) and (f) In terms of the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI is responsible for protection of depositors' interests. RBI monitors the performance of banks by conduct of inspections with a view to strengthen the internal control systems in banks. In addition, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is responsible for the protection of the interest of the investors.

[*English*]

Ban on Import of Natural Rubber

3862. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on import of natural rubber under advance licence;

(b) if so, whether this has benefited the farmers to a great extent;

(c) if so, the quantum of import of natural rubber avoided by this move;

(d) whether there has been some representations for lifting this ban; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The ban on import of Natural Rubber (NR) against Advance Licences has curbed surge in imports of NR in the Quantitative Free Regime and enhanced the consumption of indigenous Rubber. Import of NR during April-September, 2002 was 13,456 MT as compared to 20,824 MT of NR imported during the corresponding period of the preceding year. The price of NR has also improved considerably.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The Government does not propose to lift the ban on import of NR against advance licences.

[Translation]

Committee to Provide Commodities to Backward Areas

3863. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee to devise ways and means to supply wheat, rice, sugar etc. at subsidised rates to the persons living below the poverty line in Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the report of the said committee is likely to be submitted; and

(c) the number of persons who are to be benefited under the scheme alongwith the expenditure that is to be incurred on this scheme for its implementation, State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Inclusion of Certain Communities in SC/ST List

3864. SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to include certain categories of communities in the list of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes;

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

(c) the names of communities from different States which have sought inclusion in the list of SCs/STs and whether their requests are still pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. About 456 and 757 proposals for modifications in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively have been received, which are at various stages of processing as per approved modalities. A statement showing States wise number of proposals is enclosed. The details of the proposals are treated as secret, which cannot be disclosed at this stage. Further no specific time schedule can be indicated as the matter is complex and involves consultation with the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Statement

State/UT-wise number of proposals for modifications in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Proposals	
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	90
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	24

1	2	3	4
4. Assam		16	112
5. Bihar		36	43*
6. Chandigarh		8	15
7. Chhattisgarh		33	0
8. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		1	1
9. Daman & Diu		0	1
10. NCT of Delhi		12	0
11. Goa		3	9
12. Gujarat		16	8
13. Haryana		10	2
14. Himachal Pradesh		29	12
15. Jammu & Kashmir		7	11
16. Jharkhand		1	0
17. Karnataka		16	54
18. Kerala		20	54
19. Lakshadweep		0	1
20. Madhya Pradesh		24	18*
21. Maharashtra		21	82
22. Manipur		2	19
23. Meghalaya		8	16
24. Mizoram		0	3
25. Nagaland		0	17
26. Orissa		59	83
27. Pondicherry		6	11
28. Punjab		10	13
29. Rajasthan		13	10
30. Sikkim		2	6
31. Tamil Nadu		45	43
32. Tripura		5	4
33. Uttar Pradesh		30	68*
34. Uttaranchal		19	0
35. West Bengal		2	7
Total		456	737

* The No. of ST proposals of newly carved States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal have not yet been bifurcated from their parent States.

Upliftment of Deaf and Dumb

3865. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any new proposal for the upliftment and care of Deaf and Dumb persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of various schemes at present to promote Voluntary organizations of persons with the above disabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) All Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (AJYNIHH) has launched a pilot project for training of trainers for early identification and intervention for hearing impaired infants and children at Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Secunderabad and Thiruvananthapuram. Besides, the Indian Sign Language Cell at AJYNIHH, Mumbai is in the process of expansion of its training activities to other parts of the country.

(c) Two schemes, namely, Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme) are being supported by the Government.

Juvenile Justice Act, 2000

3866. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 contains certain flaws which are contrary to the interest of delinquent children; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, few amendments are being examined.

One Billion Forex Fraud

3867. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention have been drawn to the news captioned "Probe into \$ 1 bn forex fraud by corporates" appearing in *Business Standard* dated 10th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the amounts pending against each of them; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take against these companies?

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

(b) The Directorate of Enforcement has reported that the number of companies which had failed to submit proof of physical imports after having remitted foreign exchange of more than Rs. 1 crore each to overseas sellers is 676. In addition, there are about 2500 companies which had similarly remitted, without proof of physical imports, foreign exchange of Rs. 1 crore each or less. The efforts involved in compiling company-wise information in such a large number of cases as referred to in the question will not be commensurate with the results intended.

(c) The Directorate of Enforcement has already issued Show Cause Notices in the above-mentioned cases under the relevant provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. These cases are now before the Adjudicating authorities.

Hathkargha Gram Vikas Yojna

3868. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under the Orissa Hathkargha Gram Vikas Yojana during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)):

(a) The Directorate of Textiles, Orissa has informed that no scheme called Orissa Hathkargha Gram Vikas Yojana is implemented in the State. The Central Government has been implementing a scheme called Integrated Handloom Village Development (IHVD) since the year 1991-92. The scheme was di-continued w.e.f. 1/4/1997. Hence, no village was covered under the IHVD Scheme during the last three years.

(b) During the years of implementation of the IHVD scheme, 18 projects were sanctioned for covering 2137 handloom weavers.

Staff in Income Tax Department, Gujarat

3869. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department in Gujarat State has been facing shortage of staff particularly Class II and III employees for a long time;

(b) whether due to shortage of staff, people are facing lot of difficulties in dealing with Income Tax Department; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Office of Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Ahmedabad has reported about shortage of some Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts for the last about one year.

(b) No, Sir. Arrangements have been made to deploy the existing staff strength judicially so as to avoid any inconvenience to tax payers.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all charges including the Office of Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Ahmedabad to hold DPC for promotions to certain categories of posts as per old Recruitment Rules. Steps have also been taken to fill up Direct Recruitment vacancies as per the existing guidelines of the Government.

[Translation]

Reconstitution of IFCI and IDBI

3870. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to reconstitute Industrial Development Bank of India and Industrial Finance Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be re-constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) It is proposed to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964 by a Bill, thereby transferring and vesting of the undertaking of the Industrial Development Bank of India to the company to be formed and registered under the Companies Act, 1956. Such a company shall be allowed to carry on banking business in accordance with the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. For this purpose, the Industrial Development Bank (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 4th December, 2002. There is no similar proposal for Industrial Finance Corporation of India.

Rejection of Seafood Consignment

3871. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

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

(a) whether the European countries have put a ban on the export of fishes since 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any seafood consignment has been rejected and return back to India by any importing country during the last two years, till date;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for rejecting the consignment;

(e) the amount of loss of revenue suffered by the country due to coming back of said export consignment loaded with fishes; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such heavy loss in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) It is reported that 13 consignments of seafood exported to EU countries have been rejected during 2001, out of which 8 consignments were returned to India. It is further reported that 47 consignments of

seafood have been rejected during the year 2002 so far and 5 of these have been returned to India. These consignments have been rejected for reasons of chemical and microbiological contamination. The loss, if any, would have suffered by the individual exporters whose consignments were rejected and returned by the EU on the ground that these were not fit for human consumption. It is, however, not possible to make an estimate of such loss as the exporters do not normally divulge such information to the Government agencies.

(f) Government have taken a number of steps to eliminate the incidence of rejection of consignments of marine products, which include, laying down the essential requirements for hygienic handling of seafood at all stages of production, storage and transport to ensure effective compliance of the quality standards; prescribing the maximum permissible level of chemicals and heavy metals; monitoring by MPEDA and EIC of the processing units to ensure that required standards are followed; campaign by MPEDA and other government agencies in all seafood producing areas to bring quality awareness among the exporters, processors, farmers, feed manufacturers, hatchery owners, etc. and to dissuade them not to use the banned chemicals at any stage; and setting up/upgradation of laboratories for the purpose of testing of seafood at major production centers; etc.

Funds for Development Projects

3872. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether there is decline in the amount of loan provided by the public sector financial institutions for development projects during the last five years in different sectors;

(b) if so, the amount provided by the financial institutions for these projects during the last three years and upto March, 2002; and

(c) the areas where the amount of loans has been increased as compared to earlier years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there is a decline in quantum of loans disbursed by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), IFCI Ltd., Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and ICICI Bank and increase in loans disbursed by

Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (IDFC), Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) and Industrial Investment Bank of India Ltd. (IIBI) for development projects during the last five years (1997-98 to 2001-2002).

(b) Amounts disbursed by the Financial Institutions for these projects during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of Financial Institution	Disbursement		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	IDBI	17063	16990	10893
2.	IFCI Ltd.	3301	2145	1079
3.	IDFC	642	762	1501
4.	Exim Bank	1668	1781	3061
5.	SIDBI	6964	6441	5919
6.	IIBI	277	200	161
7.	ICICI Bank	25786	31665	20208

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Financial Institutions	Areas where the amount of loans has been increased during the period from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002
1	2	3
1.	IDBI	(a) Plastic and Plastic goods (b) Cement (c) Machinery (d) Electrical and Electronic equipment (e) Hospitals (f) Road Transport (g) Ports (h) Entertainment (i) Financial Services and

1	2	3
		(j) Services (Others)
2.	IDFC	(a) Telecom and IT (b) Transportation (c) Energy and (d) Urban and others
3.	Exim Bank	(a) Pharmaceuticals (b) Textiles and (c) Electronic (including Telecommunications)
4.	IIBI	(a) Electricity Generation (b) Telecommunication (c) Roads (d) Fertilizers and (e) Pharmaceutical Industry

[English]

Visit of SC/ST Commission to Jhajjar

3873. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Commission visited the Dulina Police Chowki in Jhajjar District of Gurgaon where some Dalits were murdered while they were in Police custody;

(b) if so whether the Commission has submitted any report in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) An enquiry into the causes of the crime revealed that while the contract for removing hides and skin of dead animals is in vogue in Gurgaon, there is no such system of awarding contract in District Jhajjar for the last ten years and the dead animals are generally buried. Perhaps, the victims were not aware this fact and

they had started skinning a dead cow by the roadside, which was mistaken as an incident of cow slaughter and this perhaps, had hurt the religious sentiments on the day of Dushehra festival.

The Commission has recommended, among other things, as follows:—

- (i) As four of the victims were married and sole bread earning members of their families, and the fifth was an unmarried worker, all belonging to Scheduled Caste community, all of their families deserve full support from the State for their economic and Social rehabilitation.
- (ii) All the four Dependent widows and the next kin of unmarried victims of this unfortunate tragedy should be given appropriate employment by the State Government, apart from adequate financial compensation. In addition, one of the victims did not own any house and in absence of the sole bread earner, it would be appropriate to have a dwelling unit allotted to her under Indira Awas Yojna.
- (iii) Punitive action should be taken against the erring officials found guilty.
- (iv) The criminals committing atrocities on the victims and found guilty for killing those innocent people and their abettors should be immediately arrested and punitive action is taken against them according to the law of the land.
- (v) In order to avoid such incidence in future and to ensure appropriate disposal of dead animals, Government of Haryana should evolve appropriate mechanism as is prevailing in other districts keeping in view the sentiments of the dominant community and other economic and social factors.

However, an enquiry report initiated in the matter by the Divisional Commissioner, Rohtak, Government of Haryana has not so far been received in this Ministry.

Handloom Technology Institute

3874. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether only four institutes of Handloom technology are functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether two such institutes are functioning under the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

and that they have been requesting the Union Government to provide financial assistance for running these institutes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to take over these two institutes from the above mentioned States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Four Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology are functioning in the country under the Government of India. Those are at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Jodhpur in Rajasthan, Salem in Tamilnadu and Guwahati in Assam.

(c) and (d) Two Institutes are functioning at Venkatagiri (Andhra Pradesh) and Gadag-Betagiri (Karnataka) under the respective State Governments. So far, Rs. 1.19 crore to Government of Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 1.05 crore to Government of Karnataka have been released towards the setting up of the aforesaid two Institutions, based on the proposals received from the State Governments concerned, from time to time.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Non-Banking Financial Companies

3875. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to take any action against the non-banking financial companies which are carrying their business even after cancellation of their registration by RBI;

(b) if so, the details of these NBFCs;

(c) whether the enforcement agencies have been asked to prevent operation of such companies in various States; and

(d) if so, by when such companies are likely to be wound up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated action against errant Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for various defaults and contraventions of the provisions of RBI Act. The Bank has issued orders prohibiting NBFCs whose applications for certificate of registration have been rejected from accepting further deposits and from alienation of assets except for repayment of the depositors. Their names are placed on Bank's Website, intimated to the relative Registrars of Companies and the Economic Offences Wings of the State Government. Besides, the public is also notified through an advertisement in the leading newspapers about the rejection of the application of the company.

(c) State Government have been provided with the State-wise lists of all rejected NBFCs by RBI with a request to invoke the provisions of Indian Penal Code against those conducting their business unauthorisedly in violation of the RBI Act.

(d) The rejected companies have been directed to stop carrying on the business of a Non-Banking Financial institution, continue to repay the public deposits held, if any, as per the terms of their acceptance. Such companies have been directed to convert themselves into a non-financial company or dispose of their financial assets or seek voluntary winding up within a period of three years from the date of their rejection.

In the Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000 which is presently before the Standing Committee on Finance, it has been provided that unauthorized conduct of financial business by an unregistered company would be a cognisable offence.

Transport Subsidy

3876. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have approved proposal to extend transport subsidy for the export of fruits, vegetables, poultry and dairy products;

(b) if so, whether this scheme was scheduled to be operationalised by the month of July, 2002;

(c) if so, the approximate value of this transport subsidy;

(d) whether this scheme is compatible with the WTO guidelines;

(e) if so, whether this subsidy scheme can be extended to other exportable products; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has prepared a scheme for transport assistance for selected fruits, vegetables, poultry and dairy products with a total outlay of Rs. 95 crores during the Tenth Plan. This is presently under appraisal of relevant Government agencies. Such assistance is WTO compatible under the extant Agreement of Agriculture which permits reimbursement of certain costs, including internal and international transport and freight costs. Extension of such a reimbursement for other products will depend both on actual need for such a reimbursement and on availability of funds.

CITA Report on Sugar Sector

3877. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for International Trade in Agriculture and Agro-based Industries (CITA) has submitted its report on reforms on sugar sector to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the recommendations of CITA and decided to implement them with a view to provide relief to the sugar industry; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Department of Food and Public Distribution, nodal Department of the Central Government relating to sugar matters, has not received in recent times any report from the Centre for International Trade in Agriculture and Agro-based Industries (CITA) on reforms on the sugar sector.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Pending FDI Proposal

3878. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up a demonstration plant for production of high grade synthetic jutile in collaboration with Indian Rear Earth Ltd., at Chhatrapur in Gunjam district, Orissa is lying pending with his Ministry for FIPB clearance; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to accord early approval to that foreign investment project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) M/s. Austpac Resources, NL Australia had submitted a proposal to enter into a joint venture with Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), for setting up a synthetic rutile plant in Orissa. The proposal was considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and rejected on the ground that it does not meet value addition requirements. This was duly communicated to the company. While the company has subsequently conveyed its intention to apply afresh, no formal application has been submitted by the company to the FIPB till date.

[*Translation*]

Jobs to the Handicapped Persons

3879. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have issued orders to various Ministries (Departments) organizations for providing jobs to the handicapped persons on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken to provide jobs to the handicapped persons of Madhya Pradesh vis-a-vis other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) in the Govt. of India has issued instructions from time to time to all Ministries/Department emphasizing that the policy relating to 3% reservation for persons with disability should be

implemented in right earnest. Special drives for filling up the vacancies reserved for persons with disabilities are undertaken by the recruitment agencies from time to time. Besides, all the Ministries/Departments have been requested to furnish a certificate to the recruiting agencies that the policy relating to 3% reservation for persons with disabilities has been taken care of when they send requisition for fresh recruitment.

(c) It is for the concerned State Government to implement the provision relating to reservation provided under the Persons with Disabilities Act in their establishments. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has reported that they have provided for 6% reservation in Groups B, C & D categories of identified posts for persons with disabilities.

[*English*]

Jute Packaging Materials Act

3880. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to extract about Rs. 2000 crore from cement companies as penalty for violating the mandatory packaging orders from 1995 to 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of erring companies and amount to be realized as penalty from them;

(c) whether the cement and fertilizer companies are still violating the order made under the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed by the Union Government to implement the order made under the Act in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in pursuance of the order dated 01.04.2002 of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in C.W.P. No. 2941/1996-IJMA Vs-UOI, the Jute Commissioner issued show-cause notices in August, 2002 to 58 cement and fertilizer companies for violation of the orders issued under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, against which 30 companies have moved to various High Courts in the country and also obtained stay in majority of cases. The amount of penalty will be subject to the final outcome in these court cases.

(c) to (e) Cement and fertilizer have been exempted from the purview of Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987 w.e.f. 15.12.98 and 1.9.2001 respectively. Hence, the question of implementation of the order does not arise. The proposed action in old cases will depend on the outcome of the court cases mentioned above.

Purity of Jewellery

3881. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Are you Sure Your Diamond Are Real?" appearing in the *Times of India* (New Delhi Edition) dated September 18, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Laboratory Produced Stones (LPS) from Russia and United States are flooding the Indian market and some jewellers are selling them as diamonds;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken any action against the Jewellers and are contemplating to ban these LPS called 'Moissanites';

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) It is not known to what extent domestic jewellers may be selling simulants as real diamonds.

(c) to (e) Ban on import of "Moissanites" also termed as synthetic Moissanites may not be appropriate, if they are imported in accordance with the Exim Policy and Customs Laws. The question of penal action would arise only if such stones are fraudulently sold as natural diamonds. Customers should seek certification or testing from retail jewellers to satisfy themselves about the genuineness of diamonds purchased.

Focus on Service/I.T. Sector in IITF 2002

3882. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the focus of ITPO's current International Trade Fair was on service/I.T. industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ITPO or any other institution organizing buyer-seller meets to promote exports of service/I.T. sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The focus of IITF 2002 was on "Services exports and Tourism".

(b) The Pavilion on 'Services exports' projected world trade in services and India's strength and potential to benefit from the opportunities in services exports. This covered opportunities and strength in Information Technology, IT enabled Services, Science and Technology, Atomic Energy, Opportunities in the Space Sector for mapping, Medical Services, Educational Services and Travel/Tourism Services etc.

(c) and (d) Organisation of trade promotion activities including buyer-seller meets for promotion of various products as also services/IT Sector is a continuing process. As part of these activities, ITPO is planning an interactive conference to project India's strength in services exports in many fields in USA & Europe. ITPO also plans to interact with other organisations and Government institutions to concretize export promotion efforts.

National Commission for Backward Classes

3883. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the National Commission for Backward Classes on the identification of OBCs in the seven States and have notified the list;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the State-wise list as notified;

(c) the time by which the OBC lists for other States are expected to be finalized; and

(d) the names of other social groups of these States who applied to NCBC for the inclusion of some more communities but applications were rejected/pending particularly from Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has sent a number of advices for inclusion/amendment in the Central Lists of Backward Classes. Action on the recommendations sent by NCBC is taken as per the procedure laid down in the matter. The inclusion/

amendment made in the Central Lists of OBCs is notified from time to time. So far 19 Notifications in respect of 26 States/UTs including the State of Gujarat for the identification of backward classes have been issued. The details of communities in the Central List of OBCs are given in these Notifications.

(d) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The NCBC has rejected the proposal for inclusion of following castes/communities in the Central List of OBCs for Gujarat on the ground that they do not fulfil the criteria laid down in the matter:

1. Bardai Brahmin
2. Sindhi
3. Suttar
4. Luvar/Lavar
5. Nadoda Rajput
6. Rajput
7. Purabia Kshatriya Rajput
8. Brahmin
9. Kadva Patel
10. Anjana (Patel, Chaudhary, Desai)
11. Modh Patel or Modh Patidar
12. Baloch Muslim
13. Patani Kamaliya (Vagholiya), Halari, Chunwaliya, Jhalori, Kankudia, Salatia, Pomna, Vadhiyari, Uttamiya, Ghanghaliya, Sansoriya (Lakadiya) Kachhi, Bavari, Modhakiya, Vansadiya, Bhoiya & Madiya as synonym of Waghari
14. Sorathia Mali, Saini Mali, Moria, Kushwaha, Rami as synonym of Mali
15. Jaiswal Teli, Jaiswar Teli, Chaudhari Teli, Tailik, Modi Teli, Vaishya Teli, Vaniya Teli, Mahajan Teli, Rajput Teli & Maratha Teli
16. Gugali Brahman

The following cases are pending for disposal with the NCBC for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs:

1. Jagari
2. Dhangar

3. Khavas
4. Sagar
5. Kansara
6. Chaki

The Commission would tender its advice to the Government after holding public hearing in respect of above-mentioned 6 communities.

Amalgamation in Corporate Sector

3884. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines for the process of Mergers and Amalgamations (M&As) for corporate sector framed by the Department of Company Affairs (DCA); and

(b) the time by which the said guidelines are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No such guidelines have been framed by the Department of Company Affairs.

(b) Does not arise.

Amendment of Consumer Protection Act, 1986

3885. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6206 on 27 April, 2001 regarding amendment to Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and state:

(a) whether necessary amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 have since been carried out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by when the proposed amendments are likely to be made in the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) A Bill to make comprehensive amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 mainly aimed at facilitating quicker disposal of consumer complaints, enhancing the capability of redressal agencies, strengthening them with

more powers, streamlining the procedures and widening the scope of the Act to make it more functional and effective, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 26th April, 2001. The aforesaid Bill namely the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002 was considered and passed by both the Houses of Parliament. Action has been initiated to receive the assent of the President and will be brought in force in due course.

Some of the important amendments contained in the Bill are as follows:

- (i) Creation of benches of the National Commission and State Commissions and holding of circuit benches;
- (ii) Prescribing time-frame for admission of complaint, issue of notices and disposal of complaint;
- (iii) Exclusion of services availed for commercial purposes;
- (iv) Recovery of compensation amount ordered by the redressal agency through certificate case as arrears of land revenue;
- (v) Provision for issue of interim orders by the redressal agencies;
- (vi) Establishment of consumer protection council at district level.

[Translation]

Inequality between Backward and Developed Areas

3886. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that inequality between the backward areas and the developing areas has increased manifold;

(b) whether the backward areas of several States still remain backward due to lack of infrastructure facilities despite the incentives being provided by the Government to set up industries in the backward areas;

(c) if so, whether any new incentive package is under consideration of the Government in order to formulate effective and practical strategies for the backward areas to bridge the gap in industrialisation and inter state development of the backward areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) After the announcement of the new industrial policy, investment decisions are even more than earlier, based on the commercial perception of the entrepreneurs. Promotion of industrial development in backward areas is primarily dependent on the initiative of the State Government. The Union Government supports the State's efforts through various Schemes/incentives the details of which are given below:—

- (1) Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue had Notified 123 industrially backward districts in the country for grant of concession under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- (2) Under Section 80-IB of the Income Tax Act, industrial undertakings are entitled to a 100% tax holiday for a period of five years in Category A industrially backward districts and three years tax holiday in Category B districts. Such Industrial Undertakings in both categories of districts are entitled to a further deduction of 25% (30% in the case of companies) from their profits and gains for a period of another five years.
- (3) Growth Centre Scheme:

Under this scheme 71 growth centres are proposed to be developed throughout the country which would be provided with basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunication, sewage, effluent disposal etc. enabling them to attract industries. The growth centres approved by the Government of India are to be developed by the State Governments with Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores per centre (Rs. 15 crores in the case of North Eastern region).

- (4) Transport Subsidy Scheme:

This Scheme was introduced in July, 1971 to promote industries in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas. The scheme is applicable to the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, Darjeeling district of West Bengal and eight hill districts of Uttaranchal comprising Almora, Chamoli, Dehradun, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Tehri-Garhwal and Uttarakashi. Under the scheme, subsidy ranging from 50%-90% is admissible on transport costs incurred on movement of raw materials and

finished goods from designated rail heads/ports up to the location of the industrial units and vice-versa for a period of five years from the date of commencement of commercial production. The scheme has been extended up to 31.3.2007.

The following three schemes have also been introduced in the Ninth Plan for accelerating industrialization in the North-Eastern region. The package has also been extended to Jammu & Kashmir:—

(1) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme:

Under this scheme a subsidy @ 15% of the investment in plant and machinery subject to maximum of Rs. 30 lakh would be admissible to industries located in the growth centres and to new industrial units and/or their substantial expansion in other identified areas in the North East region. The Scheme was notified on 1.6.1998.

(2) Central Interest Subsidy Scheme:

As per details of the scheme notified on 19.2.99 Interest subsidy @ 3% on the working capital loan would be made available to new industrial units in the North Eastern region for a period of ten years after the unit goes into production.

(3) Comprehensive Insurance Scheme:

This scheme notified on 14.7.99 envisages insurance benefits of 100% premium to all industrial units set up in the North Eastern regions after 24th December, 1997. The insured party shall pay initial premium which shall be reimbursed by the nodal insurance company out of a revolving fund maintained by the company. Funds for this revolving fund shall be contributed by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion. The Scheme will remain effective for a period of 10 years i.e. up to 13.7.2009.

The office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries), Ministry of Small Scale Industries is also implementing the following two schemes for development of backward areas:

(1) Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme (IID):

The scheme introduced in 1994, envisages to develop infrastructure facilities for small industries to facilitate location of industries in rural/backward areas. Under the scheme 53 IID centres have been sanctioned in various States.

(2) National Programme of Rural Industrialization (NPRI):

With effect from 1999-2000, a National Programme of Rural industrialization has been launched to set up 100 rural clusters every year under the supervision of Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO).

(c) and (d) The package for North East is being extended to the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

[English]

Revamping of Offices of DCA

3887. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set a deadline of eight months for a total revamp of the Department of Company Affairs and the regional offices of the Registrar of Companies; and

(b) if so, the result achieved in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) A modernisation and computerisation programme of Department of Company Affairs and its field offices is under implementation.

Central Warehousing Corporation

3888. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Warehousing Corporation has the right to enter into a Joint Venture with anybody, at any place in the World and State Warehousing Corporation's are barred from doing so;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh State Government has requested the Union Government for a relaxation by bringing amendment to the CWC Act, 1962;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have taken any decision on the request and plan to bring changes to the CWC Act, 1962 accordingly; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) The Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 has been recently amended on 29.8.2001. As per one of the amendments, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) may enter into, with the previous approval of Central Government, joint ventures with any corporation established by or under any Central Act or any State Act or with any company formed and registered under the Companies Act, 1956 including foreign company or through its subsidiary companies, for carrying out the purposes of the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962. All State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) have also been allowed to enter into, with the previous approval of the concerned State Government, jointly ventures with CWC.

(c) to (f) A request has been received from the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh for amending the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 to enable SWCs to enter into joint ventures with anyone with the approval of the concerned State Government. The Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 has been recently amended. The suggestion of the Chief Minister has been noted.

Construction of Storage Facilities in Bihar

3889. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has requested for increase in storage facility in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for installing additional storage capacity in Bihar;

(d) whether similar requests have been received from other States as well;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by when a decision in this matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) The

State Government of Bihar had requested for 3 lakh MT of additional storage capacity under the 7-years guarantee scheme in April, 2002 and the same was approved by the Government of India. The State Government, in consultation with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), has tentatively identified centres for such capacity and it is expected that the construction will be completed by December, 2003.

(d) to (f) During the financial year 2002-03, requests have been received from the Government of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh for creation of additional storage capacity under the 7-years guarantee scheme. Government of Rajasthan requested for 10000 MT additional storage capacity. The request was not agreed to as there was no justification. Governments of Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh have requested for 7.5 lakh MT and 10000 MT of additional storage capacity respectively, under the 7-years guarantee scheme. Both the proposals are under consideration of the Ministry and a decision in this regard will be taken soon.

High Expenditure on Transportation

3890. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether high expenditure on transportation is coming in the way of procurement from Food Corporation of India for public distribution in the different States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government to share the high expenditure on transportation with State Governments to make Public Distribution System successful?

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

(b) As far as possible, the stocks are issued by the FCI to the States/UTs from the nearest depot/rail head and in case the distance is above 14 Kms., the transportation cost incurred by the States/UTs is reimbursed by Government under the Reimbursement of Transportation Charges (RTC) Scheme.

In view of the high cost of transportation in the predominantly hilly States, the cost of transportation of foodgrains from the designated base depots to the approved Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) is reimbursed to the concerned States on actual basis.

Protection to Service Sector

3891. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interests of the Indian providers of distribution services has been left unprotected in the WTO;

(b) whether the Government have consulted any of the market agencies in this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for neglecting such an important sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The negotiations under the Central Agreement on Trade in Services are currently underway at the WTO. The consultations with stakeholders are an integral part of the process of negotiations and are a continuing exercise. The interests of the Indian Service Providers in Distribution Services are not left unprotected. India has not taken any sector-specific commitments under this Sector in the WTO so far.

[*Translation*]

Loans to Victims of Riots

3892. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from National Minority Commission with regard to extension of benefit of the "Central Interest Subsidy Scheme" to the riot victims belonging to all communities;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the names of the banks which have provided loan to riot victims at the rate of the one percent interest along with the amount of loan provided during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal from National Minority Commission was received recommending that the Government of India should evolve a Central Interest Subsidy Scheme for communal riot affected borrowers of the minority communities in all future

communal riots, on the pattern of the existing Central Interest Subsidy Scheme (Revised) for November, 1984 riot affected borrowers. The proposal was examined in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI). RBI is of the view that the above Scheme was framed, as a very special case, in view of the severity and suffering of the borrowers in specific situation. As such, introduction of a General Scheme to cover all future riots is not considered desirable.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Income Tax Exemption to Tribal People

3893. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to exempt the indigenous Plain Tribal people also from the payment of compulsory Income-Tax in the line of the Tribal people living in 2 Hills districts of Assam, Viz. North Cachar Hills and Karbi-Anglong;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Irregularities in FCI

3894. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding sale of foodgrains from foodgrain stores in the open market in connivance with influential members of handling committee and local authorities and as a result poor tribals are being deprived;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) No specific complaint regarding sale of foodgrains from foodgrain stores in the open market has been received. However in an operation of such a vast magnitude involving multiple agencies, there is always a possibility of some deficiencies in the system.

Programme for Weaker Section

3895. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme has been prepared for rehabilitation of weaker section in the country, especially in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas identified for this purpose and the number of persons targeted to be benefited in Maharashtra along with the details of works undertaken so far; and

(d) the funds allotted so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In March 1992, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launch the scheme of National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers for training and rehabilitation of Manual scavengers in alternative occupations. The number of manual scavengers eligible for getting benefit under the scheme was 64,785 and the number of scavengers trained and rehabilitated and funds released since the inception of the scheme is given below:

Year	No. of scavengers		Funds released (Rs. in crore)
	Trained	Rehabilitated	
1	2	3	4
1991-92	—	—	3.70
1992-93	680	1650	6.59
1993-94	1034	2753	3.78
1994-95	1332	3246	5.00
1995-96	1782	3115	5.80
1996-97	1874	2349	0.00

1	2	3	4
1997-98	909	2273	0.00
1998-99	645	1678	0.00
1999-00	575	1313	0.00
2000-01	29	30	21.35
2001-02	2122	679	0.00
Total	10982	19086	46.22

The utilization certificate for 2001-02 has not been received so far.

Proposal of Madhya Pradesh for CIBS

3896. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh had sent a proposal under Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme (CIBS) for strengthening the infrastructure of Peelukhedi industrial area to the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The proposal was for development of infrastructure in Peelukhedi Industrial Growth Centre for a total cost of Rs. 144.00 lacs. It was proposed to construct drain for a length of 15.72 kms at a total cost of Rs. 104.61 lacs and electrification for 4.97 km at a cost of 29.24 lacs.

(c) The proposal was put before the Empowered Committee on Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme (CIB) of Government of India, the project was not approved because linkage with export was not demonstrated.

[English]

Difference between India and EU

3897. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the differences between India and the European Union on major issues like textiles, classification of whisky, movement of professionals and phasing out of trade distorting subsidies continue to affect bilateral trade;

(b) if so, whether an Indo-European summit has been held at Copenhagen recently to resolve the issues; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. In respect of India-EU bilateral trade, textiles, classification of whisky, movement of professionals, phasing out of trade distorting subsidies etc. are some of the important issues that are under discussion between India and EU. These were also discussed in the meeting of the India-EU Summit held in Copenhagen on 10th October 2002. The summit meeting, *inter alia* resolved to provide increased market access by working together in a constructive manner in seeking speedy and amicable solution to specific issues.

Anti-Dumping Cases against India

3898. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether anti-dumping measures have been adopted against Indian products by some foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of Indian products on which anti-dumping duties have been imposed and upto what extent any by which country;

(c) the reaction of the Indian Government on those anti-dumping cases; and

(d) the assistance provided by the Government to small exporters to fight those cases?

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

(b) and (c) An illustrative list of Indian products subjected to anti-dumping duties by some foreign countries is enclosed as Statement. Indian exporters or producers of the product subjected to such an investigation participate and cooperate in the anti-dumping proceedings. In all such cases the Government extends necessary support and assistance. Where appropriate action is also taken by the Government to take up the issue bilaterally or through the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization.

(d) Under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme of the Department of Commerce, assistance is given to the Export Promotion Councils, subject to certain conditions, for fighting anti-dumping cases having wider ramifications to the maximum extent of 50% of the expenditure involved with upper ceiling of Rs. 10.00 lakhs in each case.

Statement

List of Anti-Dumping Cases

S. No.	Product	Name of Investigating Country	Range of duty imposed
1	2	3	4
1.	Bicycle Tyres	Brazil	38% to 145%
2.	Jute Bags	Brazil	38.90%
3.	Black Granite Memorials (all sizes & shapes) and Granite Slabs (thickness ≥ 3 inches)	Canada	8.7% to 32.7%
4.	Hot Rolled Carbon Steel Plates	Canada	Upto 28.4%
5.	Stainless Steel Round Bars	Canada	18.8% to 52.4%
6.	Hot Rolled Carbon Steel Sheet and Strips	Canada	11.9% to 62.9%

1	2	3	4
7.	Polyester Texturised Yarn (PTY)	EU	3.7% to 7.9%
8.	Sulphanilic Acid	EU	18.30%
9.	Cathode Ray Colour Television Picture Tube (CPTs)	EU	20.50%
10.	Cotton Type Bed Linen-II	EU	11.6% to 24.7%
11.	Flat Rolled products of iron and non-alloy steel (HRC)	EU	upto 18.1%
12.	Hot Rolled Flat Products of Non-alloy Steel (Quarto Plates)	EU	22.3% price undertaking given
13.	Polyethylene Terephthalate Chips	EU	24.2% to 44.3%
14.	Polyethylene Terephthalate Films	EU	upto 62.6%
15.	Polyester Textured Filament Yarn	EU	3.7% to 19.1%
16.	Polyethylene and Polypropylene Sacks and Bags	EU	upto 36%
17.	Polyethylene and Polypropylene Sacks and Bags (New Exporters)	EU	upto 10.5%
18.	Polyester Staple Fibre	EU	14.7% to 35.4%
19.	Stainless Steel Fasteners and Parts	EU	11.2% to 54%
20.	Stainless Steel fine wire with a diameter of 1 mm and more	EU	upto 55.6%
21.	Steel Stranded Ropes and Cables	EU	23.8% to 30.8%
22.	Ampicillin Trihydrate & Amoxicilin Trihydrate	Indonesia	14%
23.	Black Carbon	Indonesia	19.74% to 52.48%
24.	Hot Rolled Coils/Plates	Indonesia	26% to 38%
25.	Wire Rods	Indonesia	23%
26.	Acetaminophenol	South Africa	434 cents per Kg.
27.	Acrylic Blankets	South Africa	203 to 1077 cents per Kg.
28.	Carbon Black	South Africa	22.8% to 48.90%
29.	Paper Insulated Lead Covered Electric Cables	South Africa	upto 65.47%
30.	Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Suspension	South Africa	32.07%
31.	Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Rolled Goods	South Africa	64% to 157%
32.	Polyester Texturised Yarn (PTY)	Turkey	6.8% to 20.3%
33.	Carbon Steel Plates	USA	72.49%
34.	Stainless Steel Bar	USA	upto 21.02%
35.	Stainless Steel Flanges	USA	upto 210%

1	2	3	4
36.	Stainless Steel Wire Rod	USA	48.80%
37.	Sulphanilic Acid	USA	71.90%
38.	Polyethylene Terephthalate Films	USA	24.14%
39.	Hot rolled steel flat products	USA	36.53% to 44.4%
40.	Silicomanganese	USA	17.74% to 20.53%
41.	Galvanised steel pipe	South Africa	34.70%
42.	Picks (garden)	South Africa	4.6% to 57.7%

Adoption of Children

3899. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a national information centre to coordinate information and the details regarding children available for adoption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, functions as a clearing house of information in the matter of adoption.

[*Translation*]

Vacant Posts in Banks

3900. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI SURESH PASI:

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

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in each public sector bank as on October, 2002;

(b) the post-wise and bank-wise posts lying vacant for SC/STs out of the said posts; and

(c) the steps taken by the bank authorities to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Old Age Homes

3901. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received some proposals from the State Government of Maharashtra for setting up of old age homes in some districts of the State;

(b) if so, the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved;

(c) the expenditures likely to be incurred thereon as per the approval; and

(d) the time limit likely to be given for setting up of said Old Age Homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No specific time and target of new proposals to be sanctioned has been fixed.

Fall in Prices of Cashew Kernel

3902. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed the downfall of prices of cashew Kernel exported from India;

(b) if so, the details of price level for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the foreign exchange earned from export of cashew Kernal during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for preventing the price fall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The unit export price of cashew kernel for the last three years is as below:

Year	Unit export price (Rs./kg.)
2000-2001	229.89
2001-2002	182.13
2002-2003 (April-October)	188.66
2001-2002 (April-October)	197.77

(c) The foreign exchange earned from export of cashew kernel during the last three years has been as below:

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
2000-2001	2049.60
2001-2002	1776.70
2002-2003 (April-October)	1123.03
2001-2002 (April-October)	1050.32

(d) International price of cashew kernels depends upon various factors like demand and supply, consumer preferences etc., factors quite beyond the control of Government.

[Translation]

Impact of Economic Reforms

3903. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of Government economic reforms programme on agriculture and rural economy;

(b) whether the said programme has reformed the economy;

(c) if so, whether the said programme has generated the employment resources;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of farmers benefited by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) A number of reform measures focussing particularly on agriculture and rural economy have been undertaken as part of second generation reforms. The most important measure taken this year was to ensure that the entire country is one single market for the farm producer through the removal of controls on movement and stocking of principal crop products such as rice, wheat, coarse grains, sugar, edible oil and oilseeds. Some of the other recent reform measures are:

- to encourage value addition and prevent wastage of perishable products, the Government announced the policy for subsidizing part of interest on loans for creation of storage capacity;
- forward trading is now allowed in 42 products, even though many exchanges for this have yet to become operational;
- quantitative restrictions were removed for export of many agri products, except onion, niger seeds and jute;
- 51 items were dereserved from the SSI sector as part of reform measures during the current year;
- out of 32 Agricultural Export Zones (AEZs) sanctioned in 15 States, 28 have been operationlised so far.

For employment generation in rural areas the most prominent schemes are: Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

It is too early to quantify or assess qualitatively the benefits of the reforms measures and employment generation schemes.

Vacancies for OBC in Banks

3904. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to the nationalised banks to fill up the vacancies reserved for other backward classes;

(b) if so, the number of persons appointed by the nationalised banks till March 31, 2002;

(c) the time by which the quota meant for the OBCs in nationalised banks are likely to be filled; and

(d) the reasons for failure in filling the quota fixed for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of persons appointed by the Nationalised Banks till March 31, 2002 is 9989.

(c) and (d) Guidelines to introduce reservation in direct recruitment for OBCs were issued to Nationalised Banks only in September 1993. No time frame has been prescribed for filling the quota. Limited direct recruitment by Banks and non-availability of sufficient candidates are the main reasons for non-fulfilment of the quota.

[English]

Production of Newsprint

3905. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity of newsprint in the country and the extent to which the demand is met through the production of newsprint indigenously;

(b) the price of indigenously produced newsprint in comparison to the imported one;

(c) the quantity of newsprint imported during the last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken to make the country self-sufficient in the production of newsprint at competitive price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Presently there are 65 mills (4 in Central Public Sector, 2 in State Public Sector and 59 in Private Sector) with a total installed capacity of 12.25 lakh tonnes as mills producing newsprint. The total demand of newsprint in the country is to the tune of nearly 10 lakh MT. Thus the domestic industry has the installed capacity to meet the demand in full. Actual indigenous production of newsprint during the last two years was as follows:—

Year	Production
2000-2001	6.34 lakh MT
2001-2002	6.20 lakh MT

(b) According to information available in this Department, the price of indigenous and imported newsprint during the last two years was as under:—

Year	Domestic Price	Imported Price
2000-2001	Rs. 24000-30450 (Per MT)	US\$ 650-700 (Per MT)
2001-2002	Rs. 20000-22000 (Per MT)	US\$ 405-450 (Per MT)

(c) The quantity of imported newsprint during the last two years was as under:—

Year	Quantity
2000-2001	4.42 lakh MT
2001-2002 (upto July, 2002)	1.72 lakh MT

(d) Government has taken a number of steps to increase the availability of newsprint, which include:—

- (i) Newsprint Industry has been delicensed subject to locational policy.
- (ii) There is no Customs Duty on import of pulp for manufacture of newsprint.
- (iii) Paper mills, producing paper conforming to standards prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards for newsprint, are placed in Schedule-I to Newsprint Control Order, 1962 declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint and newsprint manufactured by such mills has been exempted from excise duty.

Black Money in Coal Belt

3906. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to USQ No. 4083 replied on December 14, 2001 and state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the enquiry and assessment against the 10 persons of the group residing at Nirsa, Dhanbad;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the action taken against those persons; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in conducting the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Assessment for the A.Y 1999-2000 has been completed in respect of the Business Concerns of this Group namely M/s Kalyaneswary Briquette Udyog, M/s. Kalyaneswary Coke (P) Ltd. and M/s Kalyaneswary Vastralaya. All other Persons of the Group are either Partners or Directors.

(b) In the case of Kalyaneswary Briquette Udyog, against Returned Income of Rs. 1500/-, Assessment has been made at Rs. 4,39,990/-. In the Case of M/s Kalyaneswary Coke (P) Ltd., against a Returned Income of Rs. 32,440/- Assessment has been made at Rs. 4,29,110/-. In the Case of M/s Kalyaneswary Vastralaya, against the Returned Income of Rs. 1150/-, Assessment has been made at Rs. 13,330/-.

(c) During the course of Assessments, Penalty Proceedings u/s 271(1) have been initiated against the above mentioned Assesseees.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to para (b) and (c) above.

Unit Scheme, 2002

3907. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether UTI has filed a prospectus with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for the UTI Scheme, 2002 (US-2002), an open ended net asset based scheme moulded out of flagship scheme US-64;

(b) if so, the salient features of the US-2002 and how it differs from the US-64;

(c) whether the Government have inquired about the current investment attitude of the public on the mutual funds scheme which has come down due to the recent fall out of the flagship scheme US-64; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the credible measures taken by the Government for the smooth functioning of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) UTI has intimated that it had filed the Offer Document of Unit Scheme-2002 with SEBI on 4th October, 2002.

(b) The salient features of the US-2002 are, inter-alia, that it is an open-end balanced scheme, aims at providing income distribution/cumulation of income and capital appreciation over a long term under the 'Income' and 'Growth' options, respectively, between 45% to 75% will be invested in debt installments, out of which at least 7.5% of Debt investments would be in Government securities and investment in equity would be between 25% to 55%, which is different from US-64 which currently has asset allocation of 65% in equity and 35% in debt. Fresh sales under US-64 have been stopped since 2nd November, 2002 and sales under US-2002 started from 15th November, 2002.

(c) and (d) Mutual Funds are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India. In order, inter-alia, to revive investors confidence in the capital market, the Parliament has recently passed the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, 2002 and the Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002.

Globalisation Policy

3908. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any fiscal threat from globalisation policy;

(b) if so, the full details about rhetoric and reality and globalisation process; and

(c) its negative and positive impact on World Trade Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) In a true economic sense,

"globalisation" implies growing economic interaction with the world economy in trade, investment, flow of information, knowledge and technology, financial flows, travel, greater mobility of labour etc. Increased interaction with the world economy is expected to be facilitated by overall reduction in the cost of transactions and communication. Globalisation and economic liberalisation enhance competition, increase economic efficiency and augment productivity of the domestic industry. In turn, this leads to enhanced and sustainable growth that is necessary for elimination of poverty. The ongoing reforms in India have a human face and emphasise on adequate safeguards for minimising any adverse effects of globalisation on the domestic economy, particularly on the vulnerable sections of the society. During the post-reform period, gross fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP has declined from 6.6 percent in 1990-91 to 5.9 percent in 2001-02. Overall poverty ratio has declined from 36 percent in 1993-94 to 26 percent in 1999-2000.

(c) The World Trade Organisation (WTO), which has put in place a multilateral rule-based trading system for world trade, aims to enhance free flow of goods and services between nations, and is one of the important institutions facilitating the process of globalisation.

Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped

3909. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question Number 3975 dated August 9, 2002 and state:

(a) the details of the District Disability Rehabilitation Centres set up for physically disabled in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that each centre is not able to cater to the requirement of 4-5 contiguous districts as planned by the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-consider the establishment of one Rehabilitation Centre in each district for the physically disabled to meet the urgent need; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) A statement showing State-wise District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) is enclosed.

(b) No such report has been received in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise list of Functional District Disability Rehabilitation Centres

State	District	
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Anantpur
	2.	Vishakapatnam
	3.	Krishna
Arunachal Pradesh	1.	Itanagar
	2.	Dibang Valley
Assam	1.	Dibrugarh
	2.	Silchar
	3.	Tezpur
Bihar	1.	Chapra
	2.	Dharbhanga
	3.	Gaya
	4.	Nawadha
	5.	Muzzafarpur
	6.	Banka
Chhattisgarh	1.	Raigarh
Gujarat	1.	Ahmedabad
	2.	Baroda
	3.	Jamnagar
	4.	Surat
	5.	Rajkot
Goa	1.	Panaji
Haryana	1.	Bhiwani
	2.	Kurukshetra
	3.	Sonepat
Himachal Pradesh	1.	Shimla
	2.	Dharmasala
Jharkhand	1.	Ranchi
	2.	Hazaribagh
Jammu & Kashmir	1.	Udhampur
Karnataka	1.	Gulbarga
	2.	Bellary
	3.	Mangalore

1	2	3
	4. Tumkur	
	5. Belgaum	
Kerala	1. Kozhikode	
	2. Thrissur	
	3. Thiruvananthapuram	
Meghalaya	1. Shillong	
Maharashtra	1. Wardha	
	2. Aurangabad	
	3. Kohlapur	
	4. Latur	
	5. Buldana	
	6. Sindhudurg	
Madhya Pradesh	1. Gwalior	
	2. Indore	
	3. Rajgarh Biaora	
	4. Ujjain	
	5. Sagar	
	6. Jhabua	
Nagaland	1. Dimapur	
Orissa	1. Koraput	
	2. Phulbani	
Punjab	1. Patiala	
	2. Ferozpur	
	3. Sangrur	
Rajasthan	1. Udaipur	
Sikkim	1. Gangtok	
Tamil Nadu	1. Chengalpattu	
	2. Thoothukudi	
	3. Madurai	
	4. Salem	
	5. Virudhunagar	
Uttar Pradesh	1. Pilibhit	
	2. Balia	
	3. Allahabad	
	4. Jhansi	
	5. Farukabad	
Uttaranchal	1. Almora	
	2. Tehri Garwal	
	3. Haridwar	
West Bengal	1. Dakshin Dinajpur	
	2. Jalpaigudi	
	3. Murshidabad	

Poppy Cultivation

3910. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States have been granted the necessary permission for poppy cultivation;

(b) if so, the names of the States and the approximate yield of poppy annually;

(c) whether the illegal poppy cultivation is also widespread in several parts of the country;

(d) if so, the States where such activity is observed; and

(e) the action taken against the person indulging in illegal poppy cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Opium poppy is cultivated in the tracts notified by the Central Government every year in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan under licence issued to individual cultivators. The total yields during the crop years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 (provisional) have been 1705, 995 and 1016 metric tonnes respectively, at 70 degree consistency.

(c) and (d) Illicit cultivation of opium has been reported in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal.

(e) Action is taken by various drug law enforcement agencies to identify and destroy illicit cultivation of opium and prosecute the persons engaging in such activities for offences under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Vocational Training for Tribal Students

3911. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been making provisions for vocational training to the tribal students in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the year since when vocational training is being imparted to tribal students in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal; and

(c) the State-wise details of tribal areas, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal where vocational training is provided?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The scheme of Vocational Training in Tribal Areas in being implemented in the country since 1992-93. In the State of Andhra Pradesh vocational training centre was first sanctioned in 1992-93. No vocational training centre has been sanctioned in Uttaranchal State.

(c) State-wise areas where vocational training centres have been sanctioned in the country is in enclosed statement.

Statement

The State-wise Vocational Training Centres sanctioned since the inception of the Scheme are as under:—

Location	Distt.
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
Seethampeta	Srikakulam
Srisailem	Kumool
Kerameri	Adilabad
Panchipenta	Vizianagaram
Bhadrachalam	Khammam
Chinthapalli	East Godawari
Maredumilli	Vishakhapatnam
Ethurunagaram	Warangal
Kotaramachandrapuram	West Godawari
Jeegiram	Vizianagaram
Yetpaka	Khammam
Jyanthipuram	Krishna
Paderu	Vishakhapatnam
Vijaywada	Krishna
Nandigram	Krishna
Assam	
Tukrajhar	Kokrajhar

1	2
Darranga	Nalbari
Bangfar	Morigaon
Dhemaji	Dhemaji
Krishnai	Golpara
Kadam	Lakhimpur
Langlachera	Cachar
Thengakut	Dibrugarh
Bijiri	Barpeta
Champyia Ati	Barpeta
Kurchakati	Dhubri
Chariduar	Sonitpur
Patharkandi	Cachar
Dehingmukh	Sibsagar
Merapani	Golghat
Kalibar	Nagaon
Kashiabari High School	Kokrajhar
Dirmajakhili High School	Gopalpara
Rupnath Brahma High School	Dhemaji
Baganpara High School	Nalbari
Bhilpuria Collegiate High School	N. Lakhimpur
Kopahhera High School	Morigaon
Parulbala Goswami Bamuni Borbari High School	Nagaon
Sri Luit High Sch. Majuli	Jorhat
Gurmow High Sch. Rangia	Kamrup
Gohpur Boro High Sch.	Sonitpur
Kurchakati	Dhubri
Chariduar	Sonitpur
Patharkandi	Cachar
Dehingmukh	Sibsagar
Morapani	Golghat
Kaliabar	Nagaon

1	2
Jonai	Dhemaji
Sadiya	Tinsukia
Kalaigaon	Drang
Sidli	Bongaigaon
Bijri	Barpeta
Dhopatri	Kamrup
Bihar/Jharkhand	
Chiriyia	Garhwa
Chapatoli	Gumla
Kundhit	Dumkha
Gujarat	
Chota Udaipur	Vadodara
Vansda	Bulsar
Rajapipla	Bharuch
Mandvi	Surat
Danta	Banskantha
Dahod	Panchmahal
Kaparada	Valsad
Khedbrahma	Sabarkantha
Songadh	Surat
Ahwa	Dangs
Bhiloda	Sabarkantha
Valsad	Valsad
Palanpur	Banaskantha
Andhrokha	Sabarkantha
Dangahwa	Dang
Jammu & Kashmir	
Kangan	Srinagar
Karnataka	
B.R. Hills	Mysore
SJP Polytechnic for women	Bangalore

1	2
CPC Government Polytechnic, Mysore	Mysore
DRR Polytechnic	Davangiri
Government Polytechnic	Mangalore
Government Polytechnic	Raichur
Govt. Polytechnic	Bellary
Davangere	Davangere
Kerala	
Chettiampara	Thiruvananthapuram
Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta
Idukki	Idukki
Kayamkulam	Alappuzha
Madhya Pradesh	
Sosar	Chhindvada
Alirajpur	Jhabhua
Gatigaon	Gwalior
Sijhora	Mandla
Sailana	Ratlam
Churhat	Sidhi
I.T.I. Dondilohara	Durg
I.T.I. Baihar	Balaghat
I.T.I. Geedam	Dantewada
I.T.I. Korba	Korba
I.T.I. Dhamnod	Dhar
I.T.I. Pithampur	Dhar
I.T.I. Rajpur	Sarguja
T.C.P.C. Barwani	Barwani
T.C.P.C. Jhabua	Jhabua
T.C.P.C. Mandla	Mandla
T.C.P.C. Ambikapur	Sargujee
T.C.P.C. Jashpumagar	Jashpumagar
Bilkishganj	Sehore
Pohari	Shivpuri
Gourva	Sehopur Kalan

1	2
Sehora	Jabalpur
Kundam	Jabalpur
Gwalior	Gwallor
Maharashtra	
Kotgul	Gadhchiroli
Kasansur	Gadhchiroli
Vinval	Thane
Pathraj	Raigada
Shendurjana	Amravati
Mana	Akola
Manipur	
Henglep	Churachandpur
Chandel	Chandel
Mao	Senapati
Tamei	Tamenglong
Phungyar	Ukhrul
Thanlow	Churachandpur
Temgnoupal	Chandel
Kasom Khullen	Ukhrul
Maram	Senapati
Tousem	Tamenglong
Mizoram	
Sangan	Chhingtunipui
Saiha	Chhingtupui
Champhai	Champhai
Serchhip	Serchhip
Kolosib	Kolosib
Lunglei	Lunglei
Orissa	
Chitrakonda	Malkangiri
Baliguda	Phulbani
Kodinga	Nawrangpur

1	2
Katipada	Mayurbhanj
Banabhuin	Nilagiri
Mohana	Parlakhemundi
Bhojpur	Kuchinda
Sunabeda	Koraput
Kailashpur	Raigada
Daringbadi	Phulbani
Nalagoza	Mayurbhanj
Naranpur	Keonjhar
Birkaldihi	Sundargarh
Dumerpadar	Kalahandi
Baminipur	Koraput
Matakambada	Champua
Gopalpur	Sundargarh
Rourkela	Rourkela
Rajasthan	
Bichiwada	Dungarpur
Girwar	Sirohi
Mamer	Udaipur
Pratapgarh	Chittorgarh
Kotra	Udaipur
Girwar	Sirohi
Tamil Nadu	
S.A. Kalrayan Hills	South Arcot
Jawadhi Hills	North Arcot Ambedkar
Kolli Hills	Salem
Sitheri Hills	Dhrampuri
Papanasam-Upperdam	Thirunelveli-Kattabomman
Tripura	
Bishramganj	West Tripura
Chandraipara	Dhalai

1	2
Baikhora	South Tripura
Dhramnagar	North Tripura
Tulasikhar H/S School	West Tripura
Mandai H/S School	West Tripura
Rupaicharri H/S School	South Tripura
Bagafa H.S.	South Tripura
West Bengal	
Jheelmil	Bankura
Kalinagar	North 24 Parganas Distt.
Nagrakata	Jalpaiguri
Salboni	Midnapore
Kalagaon	Midnapore
Jhargram	Midnapore
Belpahari	Midnapore
Chandrakona Road	Midnapore
Daman & Diu	
Zari Village	Daman
Himachal Pradesh	
Killar	Chamba
Bharmour	Chamba
Kaza	Spiti (Lahul & Spiti)
Keylong	Lahul (Lahul & Spiti)
Lote	Mandi
Chagaon	Kinnaur
Tabo	Spiti (Lahul & Spiti)
Udaipur	Lahul & Spiti
Killar	Pangi (Dist. Chamba)
Holi	Chamba
Nagaland	
Dzulhami	Phek
Kohima	Kohima

1	2
Wokha	Wokha
Tenyiphe	Dimapur
Atoizu	Zunheboto
Uttar Pradesh	
Kakrhava	Sidharthnagar
Chhattisgarh	
Tatiband	Raipur
Uttaranchal	Nil

FDI in Domestic Money Transfer

3912. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken the final decision in regard to allowing FDI in Domestic money transfer business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Western Union Financial Services International has started such business;

(d) whether this company had entered into any MoU with Postal Department; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for granting permission without having proper guidelines, regulatory authority and network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) In terms of the Indian Post Office Act, unlike the exclusive privilege for conveyance of 'letters', no exclusivity is conferred upon the Government involving money transfer. There is no statutory restriction for a private operator to enter the field of money transfer.

(c) to (e) Western Union Financial Services International (WUFSI) was granted a foreign collaboration approval in December 2001, in consultation with the Department of Economic Affairs (who had consulted the Reserve Bank of India) and the Department of Posts for carrying out domestic money transfer activity subject to applicable regulatory framework and NBFC minimum capitalisation norms of US\$ 50.00 million for 100% FDI.

Subsequently, in April 2002, RBI Mumbai has advised all companies who have applied to the Bank for permission to conduct the business of domestic money transfer, not to undertake the activity till the Bank takes a policy decision in this regard in the light of a case (Writ Petition) pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly, the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance (SIA) has directed Western Union Financial Services International not to undertake domestic money transfer activity till such time. As regards Western Union's tie-up with the Department of Posts, it has been reported by the Department of Posts that they have an alliance with Western Union for International Money Transfer Services which imply only inward remittance of money into the country.

Sarvapriya Yojana

3913. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have launched the Sarvapriya Scheme to distribute consumer goods through Fair Price Shops to the poor;

(b) if so, the States where this scheme is being implemented;

(c) the number of consumer goods which are being distributed under this scheme;

(d) the subsidy being given by the Government for this scheme during the last year and current year till date; and

(e) the details of the proposals to increase the number of consumer items under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Government of India have launched a scheme, called Sarvapriya Scheme in July, 2000, which envisages distribution of eleven selected commodities of daily use to the common people. The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF), which is the apex body of consumer cooperatives in the country, has been nominated as the nodal agency to implement the scheme. The Scheme is a voluntary one and is to be operated in collaboration with the Civil Supplies Departments of the States and their respective State Agencies, who may arrange the distribution through the

Fair Price Shops and other Outlets of the State Civil Supplies Corporations and Cooperatives.

(b) The NCCF has informed that the response with regard to the Scheme is not very encouraging as many of the States have their own schemes on similar lines. The States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura are at present availing the facilities provided under this scheme.

(c) The eleven selected commodities identified for distribution are Arhar Dal, Gram Dal, Malka Red, Urad Whole, Salt, Tea, Toilet Soaps, Detergent Cake, Exercise Notebooks, Edible Oil and Tooth Paste.

(d) No Government subsidy either from the Central Government or from the State Government is available for the Scheme.

(e) The NCCF has informed that the number of items could be increased on receipt of request from the State Governments.

MRP of Computers

3914. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the computer manufacturers neither give the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on the packages nor in their price lists;

(b) if so, the details of the rule position in this regard; and

(c) the details of clauses of taxes on the price list of computers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, the retail sale price of a product has to be mentioned on their package in the form MRP...(Inclusive of all taxes). Non-declaration of MRP attracts penal provisions. Enforcement of the Rules rests with State authorities. Whenever cases of violations are detected action is taken.

(c) The details of status of taxes on the price list of computers are generally given by Manufacturers and is not covered under the scope of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977.

NBCFDC Assistance to Women

3915. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) whether NBCFDC has launched any scheme for women of backward classes living below poverty line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The main objective of the Corporation is to promote economic and developmental activities for the members of Backward Classes living below double the poverty line (i.e. Rs. 40,000/- in rural areas and Rs. 55,000/- in urban areas) and to assist them by providing loans and financial assistance at concessional rate of interest for income generating activities and upgradation of technological and entrepreneurial skills of individuals or groups of individuals.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Corporation launched the "New Swarnima" Scheme for OBC women living below the poverty line (i.e. annual family income below Rs. 20,000/- in rural areas and Rs. 27,500/- in urban areas) in December 2001. Prior to this it was implementing the Swarnima Scheme. Under the new scheme the Corporation is providing loan to eligible OBC beneficiaries to the extent of Rs. 50000/- at concessional rate of interest of 4% per annum through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) for the following sectors:—

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

The NBCFDC provides 95% of the loan amount and the SCA contribute 5%. The maximum period of repayment is 10 years.

The Corporation has so far disbursed Rs. 19.84 crores covering 22689 beneficiaries under the New Swarnima Scheme.

[Translation]

Welfare Centres for Handicapped

3916. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of centres for the welfare of the handicapped persons working in various States;.

(b) the facilities being provided to the handicapped persons by the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation; and

(c) the details of the progress made by these corporations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) In addition to six National/ Apex Institutes in the specific areas of disabilities, five Composite Rehabilitation Centres at Srinagar, Lucknow, Bhopal, Sundernagar and Guwahati, four Regional Rehabilitation Centres at Mohali, Cuttack, Jabalpur and Bareilly, eleven District Rehabilitation Centres at Vijayawada, Bhiwani, Mysore, Bilaspur, Bhubaneswar, Kota, Chengalpatu, Sitapur and Midnapore and 74 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (Andhra Pradesh-3, Arunachal Pradesh-2, Assam-3, Bihar-6 Chhattisgarh-1, Gujarat-5, Goa-1, Haryana-3, Himachal Pradesh-2, Jharkhand-2, Jammu and Kashmir-1, Karnataka-5, Kerala-3, Meghalaya-1, Maharashtra-6, Madhya Pradesh-6, Nagaland-1, Punjab-3, Rajasthan-1, Sikkim-1, Tamilnadu-5, Uttar Pradesh-5, Uttaranchal-3, West Bengal-3) are functioning in the country for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(b) and (c) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation provides financial assistance as loan for taking up income generating activities. A sum of Rs. 40.95 crore (including under Micro Finance Scheme) has been disbursed by the Corporation since inception till 28th November, 2002.

[English]

Pending Projects of State Government

3917. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

(a) whether a number of projects of the State of Tamil Nadu/Karnataka are pending with his Ministry for clearance;

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

(c) the reasons for their long pendency; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to clear these pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The details of proposals for external aid pending with the Ministry of Finance are indicated as under. In this regard, project proposals are

routed through the concerned Administrative Ministries to the Department of Economic Affairs after ensuring Plan priorities, Administrative clearances, including clearances from the Planning Commission. There is no definite time frame under which proposals for external assistance can be cleared. Once the project is posed to the External Agency it goes through the cycle of pre-appraisal, preparation of project concept document, appraisal, negotiation and final approval. This process takes at least a year or more, depending on how well the project is prepared and the overall commitments of the external agencies in terms of their resources.

Details of Proposals for External aid Pending with the Ministry of Finance

S. No.	Name of the Project	State	Donor	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Cauvery Delta Modernisation Project	Tamil Nadu	World Bank	Clearance from the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal is awaited before considering the proposal for external assistance.
2.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project Phase II	Tamil Nadu	World Bank	The comments from M/o Water Resources are awaited.
3.	Karnataka Water Resources Consolidation	Karnataka	World Bank	Approval from State level Coordination Committee is awaited.
4.	Karnataka Structural Adjustment Loan, Third Tranche (KERL-III)	Karnataka	World Bank	The project is under consideration.
5.	Tamil Nadu Structural Adjustment Loan	Tamil Nadu	World Bank	The project is under consideration.
6.	Karnataka Power Project	Karnataka	World Bank	The project is under consideration.
7.	Tamil Nadu State Roads Project	Tamil Nadu	World Bank	The project is under preparation for World Bank funding.
8.	Karnataka Municipal Reform Project	Karnataka	World Bank	The project is under preparation for World Bank funding.
9.	Karnataka Water and Urban Management Project	Karnataka	World Bank	The project is under preparation for World Bank funding.
10.	Agricultural Human Resources Development Pjt II	Tamil Nadu (with AP, Haryana)	World Bank	The project was posed to the World Bank, Identification Mission has visited during Oct., 2002.

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Tamil Nadu Women Development Project	Tamil Nadu	World Bank	The project was posed to the World Bank. Reply from WB is awaited.
12.	'CHETANA' (Community Heralded Empowerment, Transformation and New Awakening)	Karnataka	World Bank	The project was posed to the World Bank. The project is scheduled for World Bank Board approval in the fiscal year 2004.
13.	Kanchi Area Development and Participatory Project	Tamil Nadu	World Bank	The project was posed to the World bank for seeking financial assistance from Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF). Reply is awaited.
14.	Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Sanitation Project for Rural area	Tamil Nadu	World Bank	The project is under World Bank's consideration.
15.	Project on Rural Poverty Alleviation through land based activities in Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	JBIC, Japan	The project has not been prioritised by the concerned Admn. Ministry for JBIC funding during 2002-03.
16.	Area Development Scheme in Chennai Metropolitan Area	Tamil Nadu	JBIC, Japan	The project has not been prioritised by the concerned Admn. Ministry for JBIC funding during 2002-03.
17.	Two major slum improvement projects	Karnataka	JBIC, Japan	The project has not been prioritised by the concerned Admn. Ministry for JBIC funding during 2002-03.
18.	Cauvery Water Supply Project Stage IV Phase	Karnataka	JBIC, Japan	Govt. Japan has not short-listed this project for loan commitment during 2002-03.
19.	Sustainable Management of forest resources in Karnataka	Karnataka	JBIC, Japan	The proposal is under consideration.
20.	Tamil Nadu Natural Resources Management Project	Tamil Nadu	JBIC, Japan	The Project is under consideration.
21.	Project proposal of Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority and Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board	Tamil Nadu	Germany	The Project authority has been requested to send the proposal through concerned Administrative Ministry.
22.	Augmenting Management Training Facilities of G/o Tamil Nadu in partnership with Anna University	Tamil Nadu	Germany	Comments from the concerned Administrative Ministry are awaited.
23.	Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board	Tamil Nadu	Germany	The Project authority has been requested to send the

1	2	3	4	5
				proposal through the Administrative Ministry.
24.	Setting up of an Institute for Power Management and Technology by Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL)	Karnataka	Germany	Ministry of Power has been requested to inform the financial implications.
25.	Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KRED)	Karnataka	Germany	The Project authority has been requested to send the proposal through the Administrative Ministry.
26.	Secondary Health Level Hospitals, Phase-II, Karnataka	Karnataka	Germany	Germany has committed Euro 14.3 Million as grant for the project.

Orphaned and Destitute Children

3918. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of children were orphaned and rendered destitute during the Earthquake and the recent communal carnage in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the number of children rendered destitute/orphaned;

(c) whether any scheme has been launched for their adoption by desirous issueless couples and others; and

(d) if so, the number of them adopted so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) As per the information received from the Government of Gujarat, 400 orphans and destitute children, affected by the earthquake had been identified. The Government of Gujarat took steps to rehabilitate these children with their relatives as far as possible. Adoption of these children has been taken up only in cases where there are no surviving relatives. The Ministry also provided grants to organizations such as Child Relief and You, Indian Council of Child Welfare and Child Line India Foundation for setting up of relief measures. The funds have been released under the schemes such as the General Grant-in-Aid Programme for assistance in the field of Social Defence and An Integrated Programme for Street Children. The Ministry has also sanctioned a grant in aid of Rs. 2.02 crore to Self Employed Women Association (SEWA) of

Ahmedabad, Gujarat for implementation of a project called Rehabilitation Package for the Riot Hit Children of Gujarat. A sum of Rs. 60 lakhs has already been released to SEWA in two installments of Rs. 30 lakhs each for the above project.

Cotton Purchase Centres

3919. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the purchase centres of the Cotton Corporation of India established by the Union Government in the country, location wise and State-wise;

(b) whether a number of States have requested the Union Government to establish more purchase centres of the Cotton Corporation of India in the country;

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

(d) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) to (d) The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) is mandated to undertake support price operations whenever the market prices of kapas (seed cotton) touch the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the Government. Besides, the CCI undertakes commercial operations solely at its own risks. Establishment of purchase centres is decided by the CCI taking into

account the commercial viability and requirement of support price operation. The Union Government do not decide the establishment of purchase centre of CCI. The number of purchase centres operated by CCI during 2001-02 cotton season and proposed to be operated during the current cotton season 2002-03, State-wise, is as under:

State	Branch	Number of purchase centres	
		2001-02	2002-03
Punjab	Bhatinda	17	13
Haryana	Sirsa	06	05
Rajasthan	Sriganganagar	17	11
	Bhilwara	06	05
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	24	19
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	15	16
	Rajkot	18	14
Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	12	12
	Guntur	33	24
	Warangal	09	09
Karnataka	Raichur	05	05
	Hubli	12	11
Meghalaya/West Bengal	Kolkata	01	02
Orissa	Rayagada	03	03
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	01	00
Maharashtra	Akola	00	15
	Aurangabad	00	15
Total		179	179

[Translation]

Decline in Sugar Prices

3920. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the economy of Maharashtra State is in jeopardy due to the sudden decline in sugar prices;

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

(c) whether the State Government has sought Central intervention to tackle the above situation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) No such information has been received from the State Government.

Patent of Darjeeling Tea

3921. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Tea Board of India has sent a proposal to the Union Government for patenting the popular Darjeeling tea as a brand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Tea Board of India has conducted a survey about the quality of tea-gardens of Darjeeling; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Darjeeling tea is a Geographical Indication, an intellectual property right which is different from a 'patent' applicable for inventions. Darjeeling tea is registered as a Certification Trade Mark in India. The Darjeeling tea Logo is also registered in various countries including UK, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, Portugal, USA, Japan, Egypt and Canada.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Techno economic Survey on Darjeeling Tea Industry has been conducted by the Tea Board to look into the various problems of Darjeeling tea industry based on an on-the-spot study of suitably selected sample gardens. The main problems identified are over-aged bushes, low productivity, declining profitability, lack of uprooting and replanting, top soil erosion, lack of adequate finance etc. The recommendations made in the Survey include extension planting & replanting, suitable infilling programmes, uprooting and replanting programme in low yielding

estates, rejuvenation and consolidation with inter-row planting, judicious application of herbicides, adoption of latest R&D in field & cultural practices for qualitative upgradation and growth of production, upgradation of processing and packaging machinery, measures to enhance labour productivity, greater emphasis on essential field operations specially in small tea estates and improvement of basic infrastructural facilities.

Exportable Items

3922. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) the names of those twenty items whose export has been constantly increasingly since 1990 till date;

(b) the names of those items whose export has been declining during the aforesaid period along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to boost the export of these items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The major items of exports like Gems & Jewellery, Chemicals and related products, Engineering goods and Textiles show a constant increase since 1990 till date, except for one or two years at the time of South East Asian crisis and world wide recession. However, for a number of items in India's major export basket, the CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) for the period (1991-2002) has been positive which include the following 20 items:

Gems & Jewellery, Readymade Garments, Petroleum products, Drugs, pharma & fine chemicals, Leather & leather manufactures, Machinery & instruments, Manufactures of metals, Marine Products, Electronic goods, Transport equipment, Plastic & Linoleum products, Inorganic, organic/agro-chemicals, Primary & semi-finished iron & steel, Handicrafts excl. hand made carpets, Dyes intermediates & coal tar, Oil meals, Basmati rice, Sugar & molasses, Residual Chemicals & allied products and Cashew.

(b) None of the major export items show a continuous declining trend in the last ten years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Export promotion being a constant endeavour, various initiatives have been taken by the Government to boost exports of merchandise goods. The EXIM Policy for 2002-07 incorporates a number of measures to proactively promote exports. Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government include launching the scheme of Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development for Exports, strengthening of Market Access Initiative, establishing Agri Export Zones, incorporating additional features and facilities for Special Economic Zones, launching of "Focus Africa" Programme, etc. Besides these, a Medium Term Export Strategy 2002-07 announced this year, has identified 220 Focus Products and 25 Focus Markets and also outlined key strategies and sector-wise strategies to achieve 1% share in world's export by 2006-07.

Contribution of Industries in Country's Economy

3923. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:

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

(a) the percentage of industries in the overall economy of the country;

(b) whether this percentage has declined during the last decade;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the share of industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) As per the Advanced Estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation for 2001-02 (at 1993-94 prices), the share of industrial sector (including construction) in the overall GDP of the economy is 26.7 per cent.

(b) No, Sir. The share of industrial sector during 1991-92 and 2001-02 remained at 26.7 percent.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government has taken the following initiatives to boost industrial production;

- The Government has announced guidelines for allowing 100% FDI in the development of integrated townships and regional urban infrastructure. This is expected to boost housing/

real estate sector and also boost production in cement and steel sector.

- Kelkar Committee for Direct taxes and for Indirect taxes has recommended reforms, which are expected *inter alia* to reduce transaction costs by 50%.
- The RBI has continued its policy of lower interest rates in its Mid-term review of monetary and credit policy for 2002-03. It has announced series of measures for developing technological and institutional infrastructure of the financial sector and for improving the credit delivery system.
- The RBI has cut Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.75 per cent from 5.0 percent, a move that will ease the liquidity position further.
- The draft Electricity Bill has been introduced in the Parliament for facilitating comprehensive power sector reforms.
- The Union Budget 2002-03 has made allocations towards some of the major schemes, which will boost demand especially in construction, housing, steel and cement sectors. The schemes include PM's Gram Sadak Yojana, Infrastructure Equity Fund, Urban Reform Incentive Fund, City Challenge Fund and Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme.
- Sector-wise strategies to boost production for exports in key sectors, which include engineering/electronic/electrical and allied, textiles, gems & jewellery, chemicals & allied sector have also been announced in the Medium Term Export Strategy for 2002-07.
- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has entrusted sector-wise studies in respect of capital goods, pulp and paper and cement

industries to organisations of international repute with a view to enhance the competitiveness of these industries.

[English]

FERA Violation by MNCs

3924. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-items captioned "17 MNCs get FERA parting kick" appearing in 'Economic Times' dated 5th June, 2002;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against these MNCs to realise the Government money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Eighteen Multi-National Companies (MNCs) are found to have paid salaries/perquisites abroad to their foreign national employees working in India, without obtaining necessary permission of the Reserve Bank of India. These employees were/are also persons resident in India for the purposes of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and payment of salaries, etc., to them outside India was violative of the provisions of the above mentioned Act. The names of the 18 companies involved in the matter are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Directorate of Enforcement has issued show cause notices to all these companies under the relevant provisions of the Act mentioned above.

Statement

Names of Multi-National companies to whom Show Cause Notice(s) have been issued under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973

S. No.	Name of Multi-National Companies	Amount Involved (Rs. Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	M/s Japan Airlines, New Delhi	103.47
2.	M/s Hyundai Motor (I) Ltd., New Delhi	804.50
3.	M/s Samsung Corporation, New Delhi	2403.93

1	2	3
4.	M/s Merubeni (I) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	983.72
5.	M/s Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi Ltd., New Delhi	2043.19
6.	M/s Motorola (I) Ltd., Gurgaon	557.67
7.	M/s Mitsubishi Corporation, New Delhi	2052.92
8.	M/s Sanwa Bank Ltd. (UFJ Bank Ltd.), New Delhi	260.04
9.	M/s Bank of Nova Scotia, New Delhi	42.31
10.	M/s LG Electronics, New Delhi	80.63
11.	M/s Sony (I) Ltd., New Delhi	J. Yen-574963183
12.	M/s Deutsche Bank, New Delhi	1343.42
13.	M/s Sakura Bank, New Delhi	J. Yen-40978509
14.	M/s All Nippon Airways, New Delhi	147.33
15.	M/s Nokia Telecommunications, New Delhi	1086.02
16.	M/s Ericsson (I) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	3546.05
17.	M/s Daewoo Motors, New Delhi	266.68
18.	M/s Fuji Bank Ltd., New Delhi	280.88

*[Translation]***National Tax Information Network**

3925. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a national tax information network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives behind setting up the above network; and

(d) the benefits likely to be derived by the Government thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) A proposal for setting up National Information Network has been given in the consultation paper issued by the Task Force chaired by Dr. Vijay Kelkar. The Task Force has recommended setting up of Tax Information Network to allow ease of

access to tax administration and the taxpayer. This will receive online information about collection of taxes from banks as also on TDS returns and information returns on behalf of Income Tax Department for digitization. The Tax payers would be given a limited facility of accessing their information relating to tax payments, refunds, etc.

*[English]***Changes in Income Tax Act, 1961**

3926. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have invited public comments on the recommendations made by the Committee constituted to suggest changes in the Income Tax Act, 1961 so as to tax e-commerce companies;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received any comments from public;

(c) if so, whether the Government have examined the said Committee report alongwith the public comments; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Committee cover various aspects of e-commerce including characterization of incomes for tax purpose.

The taxation provisions cover e-commerce transactions taking place at the global level and accordingly, any decision taken by the Government has to be compatible with the international practice on taxation of e-commerce and in tune with the international developments taking place from time to time. The report of the Indian Committee is being discussed by the Tax Advisory Group of the OECD. The representatives from India was also invited to the said discussion. OECD is in the process of finalizing guidelines on the taxation of electronic commerce, and these will have a bearing on all the developed and developing countries dealing with e-commerce. There is also some attempt to find out a global consensus, if possible, in this regard.

Diversion of Sugar Meant for Export

3927. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar exported from the country have been rejected by the importing countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries alongwith the reasons for its rejection;

(c) whether this rejected sugar was sold in the domestic market;

(d) if so, whether the exporters have paid excise duty on this sugar; and

(e) the authority by which the sale of rejected sugar in domestic market was conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b)

Export of sugar is allowed under the Open General Licence (O.G.L.) and as such, various sugar mills/exporters are exporting sugar as per their commercial prudence. There is no report of rejection of any export consignment of sugar by the importing countries in the recent past.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Upliftment of Primitive Tribal Groups

3928. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to lay more emphasis on the upliftment of the most backward communities amongst the tribals, i.e. primitive tribal groups; and

(b) if so, the proposals mooted in that regard in the Tenth Five Year Plan alongwith, community-wise details?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments and UT Administrations having Primitive Tribal Groups (P.T.G.) population, have been requested to undertake base line survey and to prepare comprehensive action plan in respect of each community identified as Primitive Tribal Groups in the respect States/UTs.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

3929. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

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

(a) the position of foreign exchange reserve of the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the foreign exchange reserve has recently fallen considerably;

(c) if so, the facts alongwith reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps to maintain its foreign exchange reserve during the current fiscal year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves (including gold and SDRs) held by the Reserve Bank of India increased from US \$ 38.0 billion as at end-March 2000 to US\$ 42.3 billion as at end-March 2001, and further to US\$ 54.1 billion as at end-March 2002.

(b) and (c) The foreign exchange reserves has not fallen considerably in the recent period. Instead, it has increased by US \$ 12.8 billion during the first eight months of 2002-03 so far, from US\$ 54.1 billion at the end of March 2002 to US\$ 66.9 billion, at the end of November 2002.

(d) and (e) India's sustained effort to build an adequate level of foreign exchange reserves in the last few years have also been fully vindicated by recent developments. The policy for reserve management is judiciously build upon a host of identifiable factors and other contingencies. Such factors, *inter alia*, include: the size of the current account deficit; the size of short-term liabilities; the possible variability in portfolio investment and other types of capital flows; the unanticipated pressures on the balance of payments arising out of external shocks and movements in the repatriable foreign currency deposits of Non-resident Indians. Taking these factors into account, India's foreign exchange reserves are at present comfortable and consistent with the rate of growth, the share of external sector in the economy and the size of the risk adjusted capital flows.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in MMTC

3930. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been offered by MMTC Ltd. to its officers and employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MMTC Ltd., received representations from officers/staff union for considering 26 days instead of 30 days in a month for calculation of exgratia and increase in service award as offered in earlier V.R.S.;

(d) if so, the action taken by the MMTC Ltd. on all the demands contained in their representations; and

(e) the reasons for offering unattractive V.R.S. to employees vis-a-vis earlier one just before it disinvestments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The last Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) was introduced by MMTC on 5th April 2002 and was available to the employees up to 30th April 2002. The ex-gratia benefit under the Voluntary retirement package was extended @ 60 days emoluments (Basic pay+DA) for each completed year of service or part thereof at the time of retirement or emoluments (Basic pay+DA) multiplied by the balance months of service left before normal date of retirement, whichever is less. Terminal benefits were in addition to the VRS compensation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Federation of Staff Unions and Officers Associations made a request to reckon a month of 26 days instead of 30 days to calculate ex-gratia payment. The matter was considered by the Management and it was not found feasible to change the basis for calculation in view of the fact that Voluntary Retirement Scheme was based on the guidelines of Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), which are to be uniformly followed by all the Public Sector Undertakings of the Government of India. The service award was offered @ Rs. 750/- per year of service rendered subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 15,000/-, there has not been any change in service award since 1996.

(e) The Voluntary Retirement Scheme introduced on 5th April 2002 in MMTC followed the existing guidelines of the Government on that date including the modified guidelines dated 6th November, 2001 which *inter-alia*, provides for calculation of retrial benefits on the basis of 30 days in a month instead of 26 days.

Reduction of Prices of Foodgrains under PDS

3931. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Union Government to reduce the prices of grains under Public Distribution System in favour of drought hit States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

ADB Loan

3932. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Asian Development Bank loan obtained by various States during the last three years;

(b) the purpose for which State Governments got such ADB loan; and

(c) the extent to which each State utilised the loan amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) During the last three calendar years (CY 1999-2001), Asian Development Bank has approved the following loans to States.

S. No.	Name of the Project	Net Loan Amount	Utilisation till 31.10.2002 (US \$ million)
1999			
1.	1704-Karnataka Urban Development and Coastal Environment Management Project	145.00	2.890
2.	1717-M.P. Public Resource Management Program Loan	250.00	175.00
2000			
3.	1803-Gujarat Power Sector Development Programme	150.00	51.500
4.	1804-Gujarat Power Sector Development Project	200.00	3.112
5.	1813-Calcutta Environmental Improvement Project	220.00	3.041
2001			
6.	1826-Gujarat Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project	350.00	50.563
7.	1868-MP Power Sector Development Program	150.00	106.500
8.	1869-M.P. Power Sector Development Project	200.00	2.026
9.	1870-West Bengal Corridor Development Project (to be implemented by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways with Government of West Bengal)	210.00	Nil

VRS for Employees of Public Sector Insurance Companies

3933. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to offer voluntary retirement scheme for the employees of the Public Sector Insurance companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme will be available to all categories of staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The four public sector general insurance companies have proposed a special Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the Class-II Development Officers as a part of restructuring of the existing Scheme regulating their service conditions, norms of performance and their entitlement to various incentives. The restructuring of the Scheme has been proposed consequent upon the changes in the IRDA Regulations

aiming at increased procurement of insurance business through professional agents, corporate agents, brokers and change in the agency commission rates.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Government have not received any proposal from the public sector general insurance companies for offering voluntary retirement scheme to other categories of staff.

Population of SC/ST

3934. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India according to census 2001;

(b) the percentage of the population of SC and ST to the total population in India as per last census; and

(c) the percentage of reservations in Government services as on April 1, 2002 for SC and ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The total population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India is not yet available as per Census of India 2001.

(b) The percentage of the population of SC and ST to the total population in India (excluding Jammu & Kashmir) as per 1991 Census was 16.48 and 8.08 respectively.

(c) At present, percentage of reservations in direct recruitment on all India basis by open competition for SCs and STs is 15 and 7.5 respectively. In case of direct recruitment on all India basis, otherwise than by open competition, reservation for SCs and STs is 16.66% and 7.5% respectively. In case of direct recruitment to Group C and D posts, which normally attract candidates from a locality or a region, percentage of reservation for SCs and STs is generally fixed in proportion to the population of SCs and STs in the respective States/UTs. Reservation in promotion by non-selection method is available to SCs and STs in all groups of services viz. A, B, C and D at the rate of 15% and 7.5% respectively. In case of Promotion, by selection method reservation to SCs/STs is available upto lowest rung of group A at the same percentages. In promotion by selection to posts within group A which carry an ultimate salary of Rs. 5700 (pre-revised) or less, there is no reservation, but the instructions provide that the SC/ST Officers who are

senior enough in the zone of consideration for promotion so as to be within the number of vacancies for which the select list is to be drawn up, would be included in that list provided they are not considered unfit for promotion.

Vacant Posts in Customs

3935. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Key Customs department posts vacant" appearing in the "Times of India", New Delhi dated September 26, 2002;

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

(c) the reasons for which the key posts are lying vacant; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item contained a report on the delay in posting of officers against the post of Chief Commissioner of Customs, Delhi; 2 posts of Member in Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC); the post of Director General (Audit) in CBEC and to post of Chief of Central Economic Intelligence Bureau.

(c) and (d) Restructuring of Central Board of Excise & Customs had resulted in an increase of 26 in the sanctioned strength of posts in the grade of Chief Commissioner of Customs & Central Excise. The exercise to fill these posts was in process on the date on which this news item was published. Posting of officers against the vacant posts of Chief Commissioner/Director Generals of Customs and Central Excise could be undertaken only after the process to promote officers to the grade of Chief Commissioner of Customs & Central Excise was completed. As regards the 2 vacant posts of Members in Central Board of Excise & Customs, one post was filled up on 26.09.2002 and the other post was kept vacant pursuant to an order of the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal. Steps to fill up the post of Director General, Central Economic Intelligence Bureau have already been taken and the decision of the Competent Authority is awaited.

Participation in India International Trade Fair, 2002

3936. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which participated in the ITPO's International Trade Fair, 2002;

(b) the volume of trade transaction that took place in the fair;

(c) whether China utilized the premises for Watershed Marketing of its low end products;

(d) if so, the steps, the ITPO propose to safeguard domestic Industry from such marketing onslaught;

(e) whether any constraints/limitations being enforced against participant by potential threats; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) 24 countries participated in the IITF 2002. The break-up is as follows: 19 countries which directly participated are: China, Malaysia, Chile, Myanmar, Tunisia, Iraq, Brazil, Turkey, UAE, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Hong Kong, Iran, Nigeria, Kenya, Ukraine, Tanzania, Kazakhstan, and Nepal. Five countries participated through their Indian Agents viz. Russia, Oman, Italy, Japan and Germany.

(b) Trade transactions that took place during IITF's 2002 amount to Rs. 11,44,71,395/-.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Storage Capacity in Gujarat

3937. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of godowns of Food Corporation of India and CWC in Gujarat, district-wise and capacity-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred in the construction of godowns during each of the last three years in Gujarat by these organisations and the capacities added;

(c) the target projected for construction of godowns during the year 2002-03 alongwith the expenses involved, location-wise;

(d) the actual requirement of godowns in Gujarat at present and for next five years and steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet the same; and

(e) the time by when the target is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The following capacities have been added by the FCI during the last three years in Gujarat Region:—

Year	Name of the Centre	Capacity Added	Expenditure incurred
1999-2000	Rajkot	10,000 MT*	Rs. 158.80 lakhs
2000-01	Rajkot	Nil	Rs. 81.63 lakhs
2001-02	Rajkot	10,000 MT	Rs. 93.74 lakhs

*including ancillary structures.

Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) constructed, during last three years, storage capacity of 50,000 MT at Pipavav, with an expenditure of Rs. 8.83 crore.

(c) A budget provision Rs. 50 lakhs has been made towards construction of godowns by FCI at Godhra. No physical capacity will, however, be realised during this year.

During the year 2002-2003, CWC proposes to construct 0.40 lakh tonnes of capacity at Kandla at an

outlay of Rs. 15 crore. At Mundra Port, CWC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Adani Ports Ltd. to bring up warehousing infrastructure (conventional warehousing, bulk storage or Container Freight Station). The project are likely to be undertaken in phases, in the next two to three years.

(d) and (e) The 10.35 lakh MTs storage capacity available with FCI in Gujarat (including owned and hired capacity) is adequate to meet the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) requirement of the State.

However, in the Tenth Five Year Plan there is a proposal to construct 25,000 MT capacity godown at Godhra which is likely to be realised during 2003-04.

Statement

1. Details relating to the number of godowns owned by Food Corporation of India in Gujarat, district-wise alongwith Storage Capacity.

As on 31.10.2002

(Capacity in 000' Tonnes)

Name of the Revenue District	Total No. of Godowns owned by FCI	Storage Capacity
Panchmahal	2	53.96
Vadodra	1	14.25
	3 (Cap)	28.83
Valsad	1	10.00
	1 (Cap)	3.00
Bhavnagar	1	20.00
Jamnagar	1	30.00
Rajkot	2	30.00
Surindernagar	1	10.00
	1 (cap)	5.35
Ahmedabad	2	136.62
	2 (cap)	18.12
Banaskantha	1	30.48
Mehsana	1	11.12
Kutch	2	143.36
Grand Total	22	545.09

2. Details relating to the number of godowns of Central Warehousing Corporation

As on 1.11.2002

(Capacity in Metric Tonnes)

Name of the District	Total No. of Godowns	Total Storage Capacity
1	2	3
Ahmedabad	1	29193
Amreli	1	50000

1	2	3
Balsar	1 (Cap)	18375
Baroda	2	21650
	2 (Cap)	37528
Bhavnagar	1	14250
Gandhinagar	1 (Cap)	21200
Jamnagar	1	19700
Kheda	3	25820
Kutch	3	44500
	1 (Cap)	31800
Rajkot	2	25000
	1 (Cap)	16250
Surat	2	21150
	1 (Cap)	32280
Grand Total	23	408696

Manufacturing of Cigarettes by Foreign Companies

3938. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

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

(a) whether some foreign companies including M/s J.T. International India Pvt. Ltd., who are registered with the Central Excise Department vide registration No. AAACM 1680 PXM 001, are manufacturing cigarettes in the country particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of their promoters and shareholders;

(c) whether the company has obtained industrial licence/registration for manufacturing cigarettes and permission from RBI;

(d) if so, the cigarette production capacity sanctioned and endorsed on the licence of this company; and

(e) if not, the name of the authority permitting this company of manufacture cigarettes in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (e) The extant policy does not permit Foreign Direct Investment in the tobacco sector, including cigarette

industry, since 1998. Three Indian companies were allowed to form joint ventures with foreign companies prior to 1998 for manufacture of cigarettes in India. This includes M/s Modi RJR Ltd. operating in Andhra Pradesh in which M/s RJ Reynolds has 50% foreign equity holding. The company was issued an Industrial Licence No. CIL: 63/96 dated 9.8.96 for manufacture of five billion cigarettes per annum at Uppal, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Following a takeover of the international business of M/s R.J. Reynolds by M/s. Japan Tobacco International

(JT International), a request was made to the Government for endorsement of the licence in the name of the new collaborator and increase in the name of the new collaborator and increase in the foreign equity to 100%. This request has not been considered to in terms of the extant FDI policy. The Department of Revenue has reported that the Central Excise Department has granted registration for production of cigarettes to M/s. JT International Ltd. The List of Directors of M/s. JT International (India) Ltd., as available, is in the enclosed Statements.

Statement

Details of Directors of M/s J.T. International India Pvt. Ltd.

Name	Residential Address
Mr. Denis Mylonos, Chairman	35, Chemin Du Banc. Benit, 1213, Petit Lancy, Switzerland
Mr. Anand Deshpande, Managing Director	106, Noorpur Society, Lokpuram, Thane-400601, India
Mr. John Harold Koach, Director	3, Place Claparede, 1205, Geneva, Switzerland
Mr. G.G.A. Vranken, Director	6, Chemin Des Sarments, 1222, Vesenaz, Switzerland
Mr. Jean Luc Perrad, Director	22-rtc de Comiere, 125 1 Puplinze, Switzerland
Mr. Tetsuro Ishli, Director	7 rue Robert-de-Traz, 1206, Geneva, Switzerland
Mr. Dara P. Mehta, Alternate Director to Mr. John Harold Koach	Wadia House, 120, Wode House Road, Colaba, Mumbai, India
Ms. Falgooni Mehta, Alternate Director to Mr. G.G.A. Vranken	A/10 Rajat Dhavalgiri, Shahaji Raje Marg, Vile Parle (East) Mumbai-57, India

Expenditure Reforms Commission

3939. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1053 on 27th July, 2001 regarding Expenditure Reforms Commission and state:

(a) the names of Ministries/Departments which have since implemented various recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission;

(b) the extent to which staff strength has been reduced in each Ministry/Department so far alongwith the break-up of posts reduced in each category; and

(c) the time by which the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission are likely to be implemented fully by all the Ministries/Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Expenditure Reforms Commission in all submitted 10 reports covering 36 Ministries/Departments. The recommendations contained in these reports were forwarded to concerned Ministries/Departments for implementation and are at present at different stages of implementation. The Expenditure Reforms Commission identified about 42,000 posts for abolition. On further study the Ministries/Departments agreed to the abolition of about 23,000 posts out of those identified by Expenditure Reforms Commission. So far around 11,400 posts have been abolished. These consist of posts in all groups of Ground 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'.

Strengthening of Infrastructure in SEZs

3940. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of Leather industry has urged the Government to strengthen the infrastructures in special export zones on a war footing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import Norms for Raw Material

3941. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether norms pertaining to import of raw material through Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme have been made lighter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date since when these new norms have come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The objective of Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme is to neutralize the incidence of Customs Duty on the import content of the export product. The neutralization is provided by way of grant of duty credit against the export product. The duty credit is calculated by taking into account the deemed import content of the said export product as per Standard Input Output Norms, the basic customs duty payable on such deemed imports and the value addition achieved by export of such product. Any representation received through the concerned Export Promotion Council for revision of DEPB norms are considered by the DEPB Committee and revised rates notified by a public notice issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

Scheme for Handloom Development Corporation

3942. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any scheme to the Union Government to strengthen the Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the proposed scheme;

(c) the amount of financial assistance sought for; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated cost of the project proposed by the Karnataka State Government for restructuring Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation (KHDC) is Rs. 40.00 crore.

(c) The Central assistance sought by the Government of Karnataka under the project for restructuring the KHDC is Rs. 20.00 crore.

(d) Under the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, grant of assistance towards financial restructuring is provided to handloom organizations with a view to making them viable by enhancing their cash credit limit/ working capital. In order to enable an organization to get assistance towards financial restructuring, the grantee organization has to first improve its viability by streamlining its business policies and rationalizing its manpower. The KHDC is required to send 315 identified surplus employees under Voluntary Retirement Scheme from its own resources or by way of grant from the State Government. It also has to convert a loan of Rs. 26.44 crore advanced by the State Government to the Corporation into equity. The Government of Karnataka has been requested to sort out the above issues expeditiously to enable the Government of India to consider sanction of the project.

State Finance Corporation

3943. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to allow the Board of State Finance Corporations (SFCs) to fix up the accountability/responsibility along with delegation of power against Chief Executive and other functionaries in the field of sanction, disbursement, legal documentation, Technical valuation of assets etc. to check the bad finance and corruption to the greater extent;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken necessary steps for a detailed inquiry of the scam of NPA in SFCs to the tune of Rs. 60,000/- crores; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The State Financial Corporations Act, 1951 was amended in the year 2000. It, *inter alia*, provides for functional autonomy and operational flexibility to the Boards of State Financial Corporations in regard to credit borrowings and acceptance of deposits and investment of surplus funds.

Government of India is not a shareholder in SFCs. SFCs being State entities, State Governments and the Boards of respective SFCs are taking several steps for improving their performance including recovery of NPAs as per the provisions of State Financial Corporations Act, 1951.

[Translation]

Welfare Board for Physically Challenged

3944. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a National Trust for the welfare of the physically challenged with a corpus fund of Rs. 100 crore for Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and multiple disabilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount released to these Boards during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up Welfare Boards for the physically challenged in all the States and Union Territories of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a), to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has come into being in July 2000. Social, financial and physical security of a comprehensive nature for persons with severe disabilities is the ultimate goal of the National Trust.

The instrumentality of the National Trust is through (i) the Local Level Committees at District Level and (ii) Registered Organisations including Parents' Associations at various levels. The schemes for establishment of relief institutions and training of care givers are being implemented by the National Trust. The amount sanctioned under these schemes, State-wise, since the inception of the Trust is indicated in the statement enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Government is making vigorous efforts to improve out-reach services through camp approach for distributing aids and appliance to the persons with disabilities. Five Composite Rehabilitation Centres and four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) during the current year. 74 DDRCs are already functional. In addition, assistance has been provided to States/U.Ts under National Programme for Persons with Disabilities to train field level workers and to establish a referral system for Persons with Disabilities from grass roots level upwards. Over 800 Non-Governmental Organisations are also being assisted under the Schemes to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and Assistance to Disabled for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP).

Statement

S. No.	State/U.T.	Local Level Committees (Amount in Rs. Lakhs)		Registered Organisations implementing Reach & Relief Schemes and Training for Care Givers (Amount in Rs. Lakhs)	
		2001-2002	2002-2003 (as on 30.11.2002)	2001-2002	2002-2003 (as on 30.11.2002)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.40	0.70	43.33	1.00
2.	Assam	0.30	Nil	10.44	Nil
3.	Bihar	0.10	2.00	29.00	4.00
4.	Chandigarh	0.10	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.20	0.80	Nil	1.00
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.10	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Daman & Diu	0.10	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Delhi	0.20	0.60	11.23	3.82
9.	Goa	0.10	Nil	4.71	6.34
10.	Gujarat	1.10	Nil	63.36	Nil
11.	Haryana	0.70	0.30	2.28	Nil
12.	Himachal Pradesh	0.90	0.30	11.18	Nil
13.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	1.00	Nil
14.	Karnataka	1.90	0.40	9.34	4.59
15.	Kerala	0.60	0.20	45.04	1.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	3.30	0.50	Nil	8.89
17.	Maharashtra	3.00	0.10	14.80	Nil
18.	Manipur	Nil	0.20	11.80	12.87
19.	Meghalaya	0.50	0.20	Nil	Nil
20.	Nagaland	0.70	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Orissa	2.30	0.60	1.00	12.39
22.	Pondicherry	0.10	Nil	Nil	1.00
23.	Punjab	1.40	Nil	14.23	1.00
24.	Rajasthan	2.30	0.60	32.96	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Sikkim	0.10	Nil	Nil	Nil
26.	Tamil Nadu	2.40	0.40	58.50	2.00
27.	Tripura	0.40	Nil	11.22	Nil
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1.40	0.50	27.99	3.00
29.	Uttaranchal	0.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	West Bengal	1.80	Nil	79.63	4.00

*[English]***Stake of FIs in Larsen and Tubro**

3945. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

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

(a) whether investigations are under way on the role of financial institutions like Life Insurance Corporation, General Insurance Corporation, Unit Trust of India in the Reliance Group-Grasim deal on acquisition of Larsen and Tubro shares;

(b) if so, the names of the investigation agencies;

(c) whether financial institutions like LIC, GIC and UTI have stakes in the firm Larsen and Tubro Ltd. which is on the verge of a takeover;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when such investigations are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is conducting an investigation regarding the possible acquisition of shares and/or control of M/s. Larsen and Toubro Ltd. to ascertain whether the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992 or the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997 have been violated.

(c) and (d) As per the shareholding pattern filed by Larsen and Toubro with The Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE), the shareholding of financial institutions as on 30.9.2002 is as follows:

Name ¹	No. of shares	% of shares
UTI	25722787	10.34
LIC	43314837	17.42
NIA	6218996	2.50
GIC	5588372	2.25
OIC	3520279	1.42
UIC	2601974	1.05
NIC	2530685	1.02

¹UTI - Unit Trust of India

LIC - Life Insurance Corporation

NIA - New India Assurance

GIC - General Insurance Corporation

OIC - Oriental Insurance Corporation

UIC - United Insurance Corporation

NIC - National Insurance Corporation

(e) SEBI's investigation is in progress. It is difficult to indicate a precise date of completion of the investigation.

*[Translation]***Funds for Juvenile Justice**

3946. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sent a proposal to the Union Government for releasing funds to State under the programme for justice for juvenile crimes;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have released any funds for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Bihar had sent a proposal for release of funds under the Central Sponsored Scheme 'A Programme for Juvenile Justice' for the current financial year. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment considered the proposal and released the Central Share amounting to Rs. 30,31,250/- (Rupees thirty lakhs thirty one thousand two hundred and fifty only) on 30th September, 2002.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Schemes for Children, Handicapped and Widows

3947. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented in Union Territories of Chandigarh for the children, old aged persons, physically challenged and widows. etc.;

(b) the funds allocated and actually released/disbursed during each of the last three years; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries during the above period, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c)

Statement

S.	Bureau	Releases (Rs. in lakh)			Beneficiaries		
No.		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Disabilities							
1.	Employment of Handicapped	8.32	4.56	5.72	Not Applicable		
2.	NPRPD	12.50	74.45	60.35	Not Applicable		
3.	Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities	2.27	4.30	5.22	4000	8672	1190
Social Defence							
4.	Prevention and Control Juvenile Social Maladjustment	2.00	3.10	0.00	Not Applicable		
5.	Scheme for welfare of Street Children	8.59	9.00	0.00	300	300	0
6.	Integrated Programme of Old Age	1.37	1.67	1.27	1525	1545	1500
7.	Construction of Old Age Homes (Hostels)	10.00	5.00	0.00	50	50	0

[Translation]

been sanctioned but not implemented due to various reasons;

Non-Implementation of FDI Proposals

3948. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government maintains records of the proposals of the Foreign Direct Investments which have

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason for not keeping such records in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry to ascertain the reasons for not implementation of Foreign Direct Investment proposals after their approval; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (e) Government maintains data on FDI approvals and inflows relating thereto. On-ground implementation of FDI approvals are not monitored on a regular basis nor is any data relating to the same maintained centrally. Government, however, periodically interacts with investors on implementation issues. It has also set up the Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) to provide a single-point interface between foreign investors and the various authorities at Central and State level. The FIIA, among other things, assists investors to overcome post-approval impediments by interacting with the concerned agencies and catalysing/facilitating clearances.

[English]

Eleventh Finance Commission Grants

3949. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has recently represented to the Union Government that in view of the successful conduct of elections to all the Panchayats in the State, the first instalment of 11th Finance Commission Grant should be released to the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the grant has been released; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Gujarat had represented that since the election process had been completed in all the village Panchayats, the withheld amount of grants for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for the year 2000-01 recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) might be released.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Financial Crisis faced by States

3950. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government have announced medium-term loans for five crisis-ridden States to fund their opening deficit;

(b) if so, the total aid to be provided to these five crisis-ridden States;

(c) to what extent it will help these States which are facing a serious problem of overdrafts;

(d) whether this assistance would be recoverable or not; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) A sum of Rs. 3154 crores have been approved as a Medium Term Loan to five States which faced acute cash imbalance in 2001-02, to enable them to tide over their cash imbalance.

(d) and (e) The assistance is recoverable, as it is in the form of a Medium Term Loan for 5 years with a moratorium of two years on repayment of principal.

Shifting of Commissionerate Office

3951. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to shift the office of Commissionerate of Central Excise located at Shillong to Guwahati;

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

(c) whether there are large number of representations against the shifting of the above office have been received;

(d) if so, the action taken on the representation;

(e) whether the Government proposes to review the above decision and desist from shifting of the above office; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Govt. has decided to shift the office of the Commissionerate of Central Excise, Shillong to Guwahati which has also been notified vide Notification No. 37/2002-CE(NT) dated 31st October, 2002.

The decision of the Government was based on the following reasons:

- (i) Revenue potential
- (ii) Trade facilitation
- (iii) Administrative convenience.

(c) Yes, certain representations have been received against the impugned shift.

(d) to (f) The representations are under examination of the Government.

Assistance from NABARD to Unemployed Entrepreneurs

3952. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance being provided by NABARD to the unemployed entrepreneurs to generate employment in the field of industry, business, trading, agricultural inputs manufacturing marketing in rural, semi-urban areas;

(b) whether any financial limit is fixed for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the financial limit fixed for these purposes and the details of the other guidelines issued by NABARD for providing such financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The details of the refinance facilities being provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to the unemployed entrepreneurs to generate employment in the field of industry, business, trading, agricultural inputs in rural/semi-urban areas are as under:

- (i) NABARD has formulated a scheme to provide financial assistance to agriculture graduates for

setting up of agri-clinics and agri-business centers for providing extension services to accelerate the process of technology transfer and augmenting input supply and services. The scheme aims at providing gainful employment to agriculture graduates in new and emerging areas in agriculture. The prescribed ceiling of the project cost for an individual and group is Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 50 lakhs respectively. The repayment period of the loan could vary between 5 to 10 years depending upon the activity and may include a grace period of a maximum of 2 years. The rate of interest is to be decided by the financing banks as per Reserve Bank's guidelines. NABARD would provide 100% refinance for the bank loan;

- (ii) NABARD refinance is available for a wide range of activities under non-farm sector covering the manufacturing, processing and approved service activities in the small scale industries sector, including transport vehicles, infrastructure and marketing, with emphasis on cottage, village, tiny industries, rural artisans and rural crafts through commercial banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks. The maximum refinance to a single borrower/unit available is as under:

Commercial Banks—Rs. 50 lakh without any ceiling on project outlay; Regional Rural Banks/Co-operative Banks—Rs. 20 lakh without any ceiling on project outlay;

State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank—Rs. 20 lakh with a ceiling of Rs. 30 lakh on total outlay of project.

- (iii) NABARD refinance is also extended to Government sponsored programmes like Swamajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (industry, service and business component) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in accordance with the guidelines of the schemes.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) The Cost Accounting Records (Plantation Products) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 685 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2002.
- (2) The Cost Accounting Records (Petroleum Industry) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 686 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2002.
- (3) The Cost Accounting Records (Telecommunications) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 689 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6380/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): 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:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6381/2002]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6382/2002]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6383/2002]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 1997-1998.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 1997-1998, 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 (d) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6384/2002]

- (3) A copy of the Thirty-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India for the period from July, 1998 to June, 1999.
- (4) A copy of the Explanatory Note (Hindi and English versions) of the Report mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6385/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House.

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6386/2002]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Man Made Textiles Research

Association, Surat, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Man Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6387/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6388/2002]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6389/2002]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6390/2002]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6391/2002]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6392/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Dr. Raman I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Thane, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) State Regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Thane, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6393/2002]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement Regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6394/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6395/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) S.O. 871(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus., dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (ii) S.O. 902(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of import.
- (iii) S.O. 903(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of export.
- (iv) S.O. 932(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus., dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (v) S.O. 1036(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of import.
- (vi) S.O. 1037(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of export.
- (vii) S.O. 1132(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of import.

(viii) S.O. 1133(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of export.

(ix) G.S.R. 761(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two Notifications mentioned therein.

(x) The Foreign Privileged Persons' (Regulation of Customs Privileges) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 775(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(xi) G.S.R. 774(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6396/2002]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

(i) G.S.R. 758(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on D (-) Para Hydroxy Phenyl Glycine Methyl Potassium Dane Salt originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China and Singapore at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(ii) G.S.R. 769(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two Notifications mentioned therein.

(iii) G.S.R. 770(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe finalisation of all provisional assessment and calculating the applicable anti-dumping duty and also to rescind Notification No. 120/2001-Cus. dated the 16th November, 2001.

(iv) G.S.R. 773(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two Notifications mentioned therein.

- (v) G.S.R. 780(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding appointment of Chief Commission of Central Excise, Delhi as the Director General (Safeguards) to exercise the powers vested under the Customs Tariff (Identification and Assessment of Safeguard Duty) Rules, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6397/2002]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) G.S.R. 752(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2002-CE., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (ii) G.S.R. 764(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all excisable goods except cigarette/cigars of tobacco, soft drinks and their concentrates, Industrial Infrastructure Development Centre or Export Promotion Industrial Park or Industrial Estate or Area or Commercial Estate or Scheme Area in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- (iii) G.S.R. 765(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt specified goods cleared from a unit located anywhere in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- (iv) The CENVAT Credit Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 767(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (v) Ad-hoc Notification No. 85/5/2002-CX dated the 23rd July, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt excisable goods i.e. cement, Tor Steel and Structure Steel from whole of the duty of excisable leviable thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6398/2002]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

- (i) G.S.R. 213(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 5/96-Service Tax dated the 3rd April, 1996.

- (ii) G.S.R. 325(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 5/96-Service Tax dated the 3rd April, 1996.

- (iii) G.S.R. 332(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 5/96-Service Tax dated the 3rd April, 1996.

- (iv) G.S.R. 333(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 44/98-Service Tax dated the 22nd January, 1998.

- (v) G.S.R. 334(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 1/2001-Service Tax dated the 3rd July, 2001 together with Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 583(E) dated the 20th August, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6399/2002]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999:—

- (i) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Insurance Brokers) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.No. IRDA/Reg./10/2002 (230) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2002.

- (ii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Obligations of Insurers to Rural or Social Sectors) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.No. IRDA/Reg./10/2002 (231) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2002.

- (iii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Licensing of Corporate Agents) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.No. IRDA/Reg./10/2002 (232) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2002.

- (iv) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Licensing of Insurance Agents) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.No. IRDA/Reg./10/2002 (233) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2002.

- (v) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Protection of Policyholders' Interests) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.No. IRDA/Reg./10/2002 (234) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2002.
- (vi) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Manner of Receipt of Premium) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.No. IRDA/Reg./10/2002 (235) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2002.
- (6) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001 together with Audit Report under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6400/2002]

- (7) A copy each on the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:—
 - (i) Report on the working and activities of the Allahabad Bank for the year 2001-2002, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
 - (ii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Maharashtra for the year 2001-2002, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
 - (iii) Report on the working and activities of the Indian Bank for the year 2001-2002, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
 - (iv) Report on the working and activities of the United Bank of India for the year 2001-2002, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
 - (v) Report on the working and activities of the UCO Bank for the year 2001-2002, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
 - (vi) Report on the working and activities of the Central Bank for the year 2001-2002, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
 - (vii) Report on the working and activities of the Union Bank of India for the year 2001-2002, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
 - (viii) Report on the working and activities of the Punjab & Sind Bank for the year 2001-2002, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6401/2002]

- (8) A copy each of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Saurashtra for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6402/2002]

- (9) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6403/2002]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Insurance Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the national Insurance Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6404/2002]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6405/2002]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6406/2002]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2001.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6407/2002]
- (ii) Annual Report of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6407/2002]
- (10) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for year ended the 31st March, 2002, together with Auditor's Report thereon:—
- (i) Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank, Aurangabad
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6408/2002]
- (ii) Avadh Gramin Bank, Lucknow
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6409/2002]
- (iii) Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ballia
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6410/2002]
- (iv) Basti Gramin Bank, Sitapur Basti
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6411/2002]
- (v) Bhagirath Gramin Bank, Sitapur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6412/2002]
- (vi) Bhandara Gramin Bank, Bhandara
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6413/2002]
- (vii) Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bilaspur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6414/2002]
- (viii) Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank, Bolangir
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6415/2002]
- (ix) Bundi-Chhittorgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bundi
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6416/2002]
- (x) Chhatttrasal Gramin Bank, Orai
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6417/2002]
- (xi) Chikmagalur Kodagu Grameena Bank, Chikmagalur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6418/2002]
- (xii) Dewas Shajapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dewas
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6419/2002]
- (xiii) Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Dhenkanal
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6420/2002]
- (xiv) Dungarpur Banswara Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dungarpur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6421/2002]
- (xv) Gaur Gramin Bank, Malda
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6422/2002]
- (xvi) Giridih Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Giridih
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6423/2002]
- (xvii) Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gorakhpur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6424/2002]
- (xviii) Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhiwani
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6425/2002]
- (xix) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6426/2002]
- (xx) Hissar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hissar
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6427/2002]
- (xxi) Howrah Gramin Bank, Howrah
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6428/2002]
- (xxii) Kakathiya Grameena Bank, Hanamkonda
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6429/2002]
- (xxiii) Kalahandi Anchalika Gramya Bank, Bhawanipatan
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6430/2002]
- (xxiv) Kalpatharu Grameena Bank, Tumkur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6431/2002]
- (xxv) Korapur Panchabati Gramya Bank, Jeypore
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6432/2002]
- (xxvi) Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Koshi Colony
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6433/2002]

- (xxvii) Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6434/2002]
- (xxviii) Kutch Gramin Bank, Bhuj
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6435/2002]
- (xxix) Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, Diphu
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6436/2002]
- (xxx) Mallabhum Gramin Bank, Bankura
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6437/2002]
- (xxxi) Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Churu
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6438/2002]
- (xxxii) Marwar Gramin Bank, Pali
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6439/2002]
- (xxxiii) Mayurakshi Gramin Bank, Birbhum
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6440/2002]
- (xxxiv) Mewar Anchalik Gramin Bank, Udaipur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6441/2002]
- (xxxv) Monghyre Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Monghyr
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6442/2002]
- (xxxvi) Nadia Gramin Bank, Nadia
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6443/2002]
- (xxxvii) Nagarjuna Grameena Bank, Khammam
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6444-45/2002]
- (xxxviii) Nainital Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Nainital
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6446/2002]
- (xxxix) Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Khargone
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6447/2002]
- (xl) Pratapgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pratapgarh
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6448/2002]
- (xli) Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank, Ratnagiri
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6449/2002]
- (xlii) Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Samastipur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6450/2002]

- (xliii) Sagar Gramin Bank, Kolkata
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6451/2002]
- (xliv) Sarayu Gramin Bank, Lakhimpur Kheri
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6452/2002]
- (xlv) Sharda Gramin Bank, Satna
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6453/2002]
- (xlv) Shivalik Gramin Bank, Hoshiarpur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6454/2002]
- (xlvii) Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chaibasa
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6455/2002]
- (xlviii) South Malabar Gramin Bank, Mallapuram
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6456/2002]
- (xlix) Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sultanpur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6457/2002]
- (l) Thane Gramin Bank, Thane
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6458/2002]
- (li) Tripura Gramin Bank, Agartala
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6459/2002]
- (lii) Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarpur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6460/2002]
- (liii) Vidisha Bhopal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Vidisha
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6461/2002]
- (liv) Vindhyavasini Gramin Bank, Mirzapur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6462/2002]
- (lv) Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ambikapur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6463/2002]
- (lvi) Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank, Ara
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6464/2002]
- (lvii) Godavari Grameena Bank, Rajahmundry
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6465/2002]
- (lviii) Bhagalpur Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhagalpur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6466/2002]

- (lix) Nagaland Rural Bank, Kohima
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6467/2002]
- (lx) Ratlam Mandsaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandsaur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6468/2002]
- (lxi) Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chapra
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6469/2002]
- (lxii) Varda Grameena Bank, Kumta
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6470/2002]
- (lxiii) Barabanki Gramin Bank, Barabanki
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6471/2002]
- (lxiv) Aravali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sawai Madhopur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6472/2002]
- (lxv) Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Morena
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6473/2002]
- (lxvi) Pragjyotsh Ganolia Bank, Nalbari
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6474/2002]
- (lxvii) Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Murshidabad
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6475/2002]
- (lxviii) Faizabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Faizabad
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6476/2002]
- (lxix) Surendranagar Bhavnagar Gramin Bank, Surendranagar
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6477/2002]
- (lxx) Raebareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raibareli
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6478/2002]
- (lxxi) Manjira Gramin Bank, Sangareddy
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6479/2002]
- (lxxii) Aligarh Gramin Bank, Aligarh
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6480/2002]
- (lxxiii) Vidur Gramin Bank, Bijnore
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6481/2002]
- (lxxiv) Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank, Gurdaspur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6482/2002]
- (lxxv) Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank, Dehradun
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6483/2002]
- (lxxvi) Valsad Dangs Gramin Bank, Valsad
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6484/2002]
- (lxxvii) Kanakadurga Grameena Bank, Gudivada
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6485/2002]
- (lxxviii) Alwar Bharatpur Anchalik Gramin Bank, Bharatpur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6486/2002]
- (lxxix) Bijapur Grameena Bank, Bijapur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6487/2002]
- (lxxx) Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Tikamgarh
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6488/2002]
- (lxxxi) Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank, Bharuch
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6489/2002]
- (lxxxii) Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raigarh
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6490/2002]
- (lxxxiii) Jammu Rural Bank, Jammu
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6491/2002]
- (lxxxiv) Sri Rama Grameena Bank, Nizamabad
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6492/2002]
- (lxxxv) Hindon Gramin Bank, Ghaziabad
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6493/2002]
- (lxxxvi) Magadh Gramin Bank, Gaya
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6494/2002]
- (lxxxvii) Adhiyamand Grama Bank, Dharmapuri
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6495/2002]
- (lxxxviii) Vallalar Grama Bank, Cuddalore
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6496/2002]

(lxxxix) Chitradurga Gramin Bank, Chitradurga

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6497/2002]

(xc) Bhilwara Ajmer Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhilwara

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6498/2002]

(xci) Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank, Rajnandgaon

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6499/2002]

(xcii) Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Fatehpur

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6500/2002]

(xciii) Shivpuri Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shivpuri

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6501/2002]

(xciv) Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gonda

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6502/2002]

(xcv) Mizoram Rural Bank, Mizoram

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6503/2002]

(xcvi) Rani Lakshami Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhansi

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6504/2002]

(xcvii) Thar Aanchalik Gramin Bank, Jodhpur

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6505/2002]

(xcviii) Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank, Pasighat

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6506/2002]

(xcix) Patliputra Gramin Bank, Patna

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6507/2002]

(c) Panchmahal Vadodara Gramin Bank, Godhara

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6508/2002]

(ci) Chaitanya Grameena Bank, Tenali

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6509/2002]

(cii) Parvatiya Gramin Bank, Chamba

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6510/2002]

(ciii) Chandrapur Gadchiroli Gramin Bank, Chandrapur

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6511/2002]

(civ) Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kanpur

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6512/2002]

(cv) Balasore Gramya Bank, Balasore

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6513/2002]

(cvi) Bardhaman Gramin Bank, Bardhaman

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6514/2002]

(cvii) Farrukhabad Gramin Bank, Farrukhabad

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6515/2002]

(cviii) Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Azamgarh

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6516/2002]

(cix) Marathwada Gramin Bank, Nanded

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6517/2002]

(cx) Cuttack Gramya Bank, Cuttack

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6518/2002]

(cxii) Rajgarh Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sehore

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6519/2002]

(cxiii) Manipur Rural Bank, Imphal

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6520/2002]

(cxiv) Ellaquai Dehati Bank, Srinagar

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6521/2002]

(cxv) Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Palamau

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6522/2002]

(cxvi) Cauvery Grameena Bank, Mysore

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6523/2002]

(cxvii) Baitarani Gramya Bank, Mayurbhanj

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6524/2002]

(cxviii) Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank, Golaghat

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6525/2002]

(cxix) Sravasthi Gramin Bank, Bahraich

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6526/2002]

(cxi) Solapur Gramin Bank, Solapur

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6527/2002]

(cxx) Puri Gramya Bank, Pipili

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6528/2002]

- (cxxi) Sri Venkateshwara Grameena Bank, Chittoor
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6529/2002]
- (cxxii) Buldana Gramin Bank, Buldana
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6530/2002]
- (cxxiii) Hazaribag Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hazaribagh
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6531/2002]
- (cxxiv) Sri Visakha Grameena Bank, Sri Kakulam
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6532/2002]
- (cxxv) Cachar Gramin Bank, Silchar
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6533/2002]
- (cxxvi) Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Darbhanga
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6534/2002]
- (cxxvii) Kisan Gramin Bank, Budaun
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6535/2002]
- (cxxviii) Sri Sathavahana Grameena Bank, Karimnagar
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6536/2002]
- (cxxix) Gurgaon Gramin Bank, Gurgaon
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6537/2002]
- (cxxx) Muzaffarnagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarnagar
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6538/2002]
- (cxxxii) Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshangabad, Hoshangabad
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6539/2002]
- (cxxxii) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6540/2002]
- (cxxxiii) Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandla
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6541/2002]
- (cxxxiv) Sri Ganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sri Ganganagar
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6542/2002]
- (cxxxv) Jamuna Gramin Bank, Agra
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6543/2002]
- (cxxxvi) Sree Anantha Grameena Bank, Anantapur
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6544/2002]
- (cxxxvii) Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bikaner
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6545/2002]
- (cxxxviii) Golconda Grameena Bank, Hyderabad
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6546/2002]
- (cxxxix) Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Etawah
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6547/2002]
- (cxl) Gwalior Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Datia
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6548/2002]
- (cxli) Alaknanda Gramin Bank, Uttarakhand
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6549/2002]
- (cxlii) Pandyan Grama Bank, Virudhunagar
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6550/2002]
- (cxliii) Shekhawati Gramin Bank, Sikar
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6551/2002]
- (cxliv) Visveshvaraya Grameena Bank, Mandya
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6552/2002]
- (cxlv) Sahyadri Gramin Bank, Shimoga
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6553/2002]
- (cxlvi) Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Madhubani
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6554/2002]
- (cxlvii) Sabarkantha—Gandhinagar Gramin Bank, Himatnagar
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6555/2002]
- (cxlviii) Netravati Grameena Bank, Mangalore
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6556/2002]
- (cxlix) Begusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Begusarai
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6557/2002]
- (cl) Akola Gramin Bank, Akola
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6558/2002]
- (cli) Krishna Grameena Bank, Gulbarga
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6559/2002]

- (clii) Banaskantha Mehsana Gramin Bank, Patan
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6560/2002]
- (cliii) Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank, Dumka
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6561/2002]
- (cliv) Faridkot Bathinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bathinda
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6562/2002]
- (clv) Sangameshwara Grameena Bank, Mahabubnagar
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6563/2002]
- (clvi) Jaipur Nagur Aanchalik Gramin Bank
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6564/2002]
- (11) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:—
- (i) The Patliputra Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PGB/Rajpatra/GAD/12002-03 in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2002.
 - (ii) The Godavari Gramina Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Ref. No. 001/3/405/498 in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2002.
 - (iii) The Kakathiya Grameena Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PER/KUB/227 in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2002.
 - (iv) The Batarani Gramya Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. H.O. 71/50/BCD/159/125 in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 2002.
 - (v) The Hazaribag Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Paraka/Karmik/2002-03/254 in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2002.
 - (vi) The Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. K.K.G.B./H.O./23/Vigil./163 in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2002.
 - (vii) The Giridh Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Pers./PKB/01-02/290 in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2001.
 - (viii) The Nagaland Rural Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. NRB/19/HO/12/607 dated the 12th December, 2001.
 - (ix) The Alaknanda Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 17/P/249 in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2001.
 - (x) The Bhandara Grameen Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. B-Gram/2000-01/209 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2001.
 - (xi) The Balasore Gramya Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 108 in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2001.
 - (xii) The Subansiri Gaonlia Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulation, 2001 published in Notification No. CH/BK/82/2000-2001 in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 2001.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6565/2002]
- (12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873:—
- (i) The Post Office Recurring Deposit (Third Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 662(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2002.
 - (ii) The Post Office Savings Account (Third Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 722(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th October, 2002.
 - (iii) The National Savings Scheme (Second Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 710 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2002.
[Place in Library. *See* No. LT 6566/2002]
- (13) A copy of the National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue) Second Amendment Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 711(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6567/2002]

(14) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 12 of the Public Provident Fund Act, 1968:—

- (i) The Public Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 679 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2002.
- (ii) The Public Provident Fund (Second Amendment) Scheme, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 768(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6568/2002]

(15) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 52 of the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989:—

- (i) The Small Industries Development Bank of India Pension Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. HRDD No. 1995 (1)/Staff-Gen. (2) in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2002.
- (ii) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (Payment of Gratuity to Employees) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. HRDD No. 1995 (2)/Staff-Gen. (2) in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2002.
- (iii) The Small Industries Development Bank of India Employees' Gratuity and Superannuation Fund (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. HRDD No. 1995(3)/Staff-Gen. (2) in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6569/2002]

(16) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of Income-tax Act, 1961:—

- (i) S.O. 1246(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying 37 games and sports for the purposes explanation 4 to section 80G of the Income-tax Act, 1961.
- (ii) The Income-tax (26th Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1247 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th November 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6570/2002]

(17) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of

section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:—

- (i) The Indian Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.SRC 47 in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002.
- (ii) The Bank of India Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. IL. 2001-2002 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 2002.

(18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (ii) of item No. 17 above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6571/2002]

(19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6572/2002]

(20) A copy of the Consolidated Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Public Sector Banks as on 31 March 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6573/2002]

(21) A copy each the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993:—

- (i) G.S.R. 736(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2002 notifying the change in the location of Delhi Debts Recovery Tribunal No. 3 w.e.f. 7th October, 2002.
- (ii) G.S.R. 753(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2002 notifying the change in the location of Debts Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack w.e.f. 18th October, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6574/2002]

(22) A copy of the Export-Import Bank of India General Regulations (Amendment) regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 6 in Gazette of India dated 9th February, 2002 under

sub-section (3) of section 39 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6575/2002]

- (23) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Economics, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002 together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6576/2002]

- (24) A copy of the Notification No. 36 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 2002 containing amendments to the Reserve Bank of India General Regulations, 1949 under sub-section (4) of section 58 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6577/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6578/2002]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:—

- (i) The Export of Fresh, Frozen and Processed Fish and Fishery Products (Quality Control and Inspection and Monitoring) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2002, published in Notification No. S.O. 1029(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2002.
- (ii) The Export of Dried Fish Maws (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 2002, published in Notification No. S.O. 2877(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6579/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6580/2002]

12.02 hrs.

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Friday, the 29th November, 2002 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one Member from Rajya Sabha, to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Vikram Verma who ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above Motion Shri Lalitbhai Mehta, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to the said Committee.'

- (ii) "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 11th December, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the Biological

Diversity Bill, 2002 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd December, 2002."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th November, 2002 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(iv) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th November, 2002 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.03 hrs.

[English]

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table of the following 2 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Current Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on 5th December, 2002:—

1. The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002.
2. The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

12.03 ½ hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Seventh Report

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions)

of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Fourth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Air India Limited'.

12.04 hrs.

[Translation]

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Eleventh Report

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economics Affairs—Budget Division)—Creation of New Demand for Grants for Defence Research and Development Organisation under the Ministry of Defence.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the Minister of State for Home, Shri I.D. Swami is supposed to make a statement in the House on the arrest of Anees in Dubai. You said in the House that you have considered his request; he is gathering further information and then inform the House. Today is the last day of the week and the matter was taken up on the 9th in the List of Business. We want to know when the Home Minister will make the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I will let you know.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Parliament any Affairs Minister is here. The House cannot be kept in the dark in this manner. This is an important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: He will ask the Minister and inform the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know what happened to the list of 20 terrorists sent to Pakistan....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Another notice will have to be given.

12.05 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 16th December, 2002 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper.
2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Representation of People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002 and consideration and passing of the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2002.
3. Consideration and Passing of the following Bills:—
 - (i) The Competition Bill, 2001
 - (ii) The Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 as reported by Joint Committee.
 - (iii) The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2002.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (i) Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse Amendment Bill, 2002.
 - (ii) The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2002.
5. Consideration and passing of the Representation of People (Third Amendment) Bill, 2002, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, what about the statement to be given by Shri I.D. Swami?

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: I would collect information and let you know....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is something strange. The House is always told that the Government will co-operate on cross-border terrorism. The Government came out on the 9th December list of

business that the Minister will make a statement and you gave an assurance that after ascertaining the facts, he would come before the House. Four days, the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th December, have passed. And today is the 13th December. Still, the Government cannot ascertain the facts on Anees who is one of the terrorists and is the brother of Dawood Ibrahim? What is the Government doing and what kind of machinery are they having?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister get the information and tell the House today.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: I will collect information and let you know....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you may give a direction to the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I have done. I have given him the direction to tell the House before the House adjourns today.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But Sir, they are ignoring your direction also.

MR. SPEAKER: No. They are not ignoring my direction.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Then why has the Minister not come to the House? He should have come to the House. Why were the facts not ascertained long back?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you know everything. Now, let me go to the next business.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We always say that the Committee needs further time to submit its report. The Minister should have come here saying that the Government machinery is not working and that this is the way the Ministry is functioning and I am yet to get the facts....(Interruptions) I do not mind. Sir, this kind of a Home Ministry is functioning in India. Today is 13th December, How long shall we tolerate this sort of an incompetence on the part of the Home Ministry? The Home Ministry is putting the entire nation into shame. I am sorry to say this. You cannot do anything on terrorists. You only talk... (Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (*Vaishali*): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. There is a need to discuss the situation created due to the inaction of the Government in resolving problems of the farmers and injustice being done to the sugarcane growers all over the country.
2. The need to write off outstanding debt of Bihar, to grant special status to it and to provide economic package in view of its poor economic condition so that it can get rid of flood, drought, water logging and land erosion.

[*English*]

DR. V. SAROJA (*Rasipuram*): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (i) For the benefit of employees working in IDPL units in India, there is a need to modify VRS Notification dated 20.9.2002 and to extend the Housing Scheme for EPF-Subscribers-employees of IDPL particularly in Chennai.
- (ii) There is a need to create awareness about rural godown scheme for MPs/MLAs and Panchayat *Raj* elected representatives and community participation on a priority basis in India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (*Malegaon*): Sir, the following may be included in next week's agenda:

1. Sanctioning Nasik-Pune new railway line whose survey has already been conducted.
2. Need to send a Central Committee to Maharashtra to take stock of its 26 out of 36 districts including tribal dominated Nasik district, reeling under drought and to provide them economic assistance.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (*Bilaspur*): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:

1. The need to fill up 3 vacant posts of judges in Bilaspur High Court at the earliest in view of the fact that Bilaspur High Court was set up on 1.11.2000 after creation of Chhattisgarh and 2100 (pending) cases were transferred to it from Jabalpur High Court but this number has increased to 40,000 due to shortage of judges causing inordinate delay in disposal of cases.

2. Need to set up a Central University in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh State, where Guru Ghasidas University was set up in 1983-84 as it is a tribal dominated area and as per existing laws tribal areas are given priority.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (*Satna*): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:

1. Need to complete Lalitpur-Singrauli rail line within five years in national interest.
2. Need to hold discussion on increasing incidents of dacoity, kidnapping and ransom in many parts of the country especially Satna, Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, in addition, I have point of order also.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot raise point of order in your submission and I cannot allow it.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: We raise issues through submission but hon. Minister does not cover them. Kindly instruct Ministers to present in the House. Similarly, we do not get any reply to our matters raised during Zero-Hour. Majority of Ministers should be present here.

MR. SPEAKER: Rules will have to be changed for this purpose. If you desire so, you may give it in writing.

[*English*]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (*Adoor*): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) The proposed Kottayam-Erumeli broad gauge line should be extended up to Punalur via Ranni, Pathanamthitta, Konni, Pathanapuram. A survey was conducted from Kottayam to Punalur via Erumeli. But the Railway Minister has approved only up to Erumeli. Every year lakhs of Ayyappa devotees are coming from Punalur to Sabarimala Temple. This broad gauge line has to be extended up to Punalur to make it profitable and viable.
- (2) In Kerala more than three lakh telephone applications are pending in various telephone exchanges for telephone connections. The applicants are wait listed for three/four years. The BSNL is not taking any effective steps to provide telephone connections expeditiously. As far as Kerala is concerned, there is high demand for telephone connections in all the secondary switching areas. I request the Minister of Communications to take urgent and necessary steps in this regard.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. The need to provide two minutes halt to Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express (2015/2016) at Kishangarh railway station in Ajmer to facilitate the industrialists and businessmen coming here from various parts of the country as it is a major centre of marble and powerloom industry and the population of this city is more than 1 lakh.
2. Need to ensure two minutes stoppage to superfast Ashram Express (2915/2916) at Byawar city situated on Delhi-Ahmedabad railway line. Keeping in view the interests of common people, since Byawar is a centre of Merwar area of Ajmer and surrounded by the Magra region which is an industrial city and predominantly inhabited by army people.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Thousand acres of land in district Kheri is under permanent water logging due to seepage in Sharda Project which has been continuously affecting the lives of thousands of farmers. Arrangements should be made for allocation of funds through R.I.D.F. to solve the problem of seepage.
2. Due to failure of monsoon and competitions at international level, the cost of production in agriculture sector has been increasing. Thus farmers are facing great difficulties. While reconsidering the National Crop Insurance Scheme, Union Government should make it more practicable by reducing premium on Crop Insurance and the Gram Panchayat should also be authorised to assess losses suffered due to natural calamities so that small farmers may be benefitted by that.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. The most needed category of workers whose services are utilized by all are not getting adequate attention. They are tailoring workers who have no welfare schemes or provision for help from any quarter. After becoming old or incapacitated they are

living in poverty. Lakhs of them who are in rural areas are unpaid or under-paid and have not enough work to sustain. The Government of India should start some welfare schemes for tailoring workers.

2. The plantation workers as well as farmers who are in great hardships should be saved by proper Government measures for them.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

(i) The Government of India has reportedly recommended for packaging of wheat and rice in 50 Kg. plastic bags for storage and transportation. It is dangerous even if the so-called bio-degradable plastic bag is used. The cereals like wheat and rice, if packed in such plastic bags, can finally become poisonous and not suitable for human consumption. Besides, by this decision, jute packaging would be abandoned and lakhs of jute growers and thousands of jute mill workers will be unemployed. Foodgrains should be packaged in jute bags only in the interest of the consumers as well as the jute mill workers.

(ii) The Government of India is planning to allow Foreign Direct Investment in retail trade sectors. There are lakhs of retail shops all over the country and lakhs and lakhs of retailers earn their livelihood from their business for ages. Now, the Planning Commission in its Tenth Plan document is going to recommend FDI in retail sector. This will be disastrous for our economy and this must not be allowed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, this is a very serious matter.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Rajasthan is facing severe drought problem. People have totally ruined there....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give chance to you also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Rajasthan is in the grip of severe drought. People have left their houses in search of jobs....(Interruptions) Situation is quite serious in Rajasthan....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to allow you after Shri Suresh Jadhav finishes his speech. The notice given by Rasa Singh Rawat ji is before me. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after this permission should be given to raise issue of Rajasthan...(Interruptions) People are dying in Rajasthan. Condition of Rajasthan is quite serious, so Rajasthan should be allowed first...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, condition of Rajasthan has been critical due to drought...(Interruptions) Please allow us to raise issue of Rajasthan first...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Request by Chair should be listened to by all. How can the proceedings of the House be continued in this manner. All of you are responsible members. How can you behave so? Please take your seats. Suresh Ramrao you may speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received several notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You continue to speak. Otherwise Business of the House cannot be continued. Please take your seats. Suresh Ramraoji, please continue.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 13th December is unforgettable day in he history of the country. Last year, on 13th December terrorists had attempted an unsuccessful attack on the democracy of our country. It was an unsuccessful attempt on the part of the terrorists to disgrace our country. It was an attack on our democracy. Ours is the biggest democracy of the world. The intention of the terrorists was not good. We can never forget this day. Our history can never forget it. Several youths of our watch and ward and paramilitary forces sacrificed their lives in the terrorist attack on Parliament.

Sir, through you I would like to request the Government of India to do something to immortalise the youths who sacrificed their lives in terrorists attack so

that the entire country may know them and our posterity may also come to know about their history. Their sacrifice should be the part of course books of the children and their statues should also be installed in Lok Sabha premises so that we may remember their supreme sacrifice.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, few days back the verdict of the Supreme Court was given. It is on account of the ban on the mining in Aravali hills that 65 lakh tribals, Dalits, poor minority and the people belonging to backward classes will become unemployed...(Interruptions)

Sir, everything is lying standstill there for the last three days. Thousands of people are becoming unemployed. Five thousand queys have been closed. 8000 units of marble, Granite and other stones have been closed. It will cause a revenue loss of crores of rupees to the State Government and the Central Government. Due to the absence of rainfall for last four years Rajasthan has already been facing the situation of famine and farmers are dying of hunger in the State. The closure of mining work in Aravali hills in the name of environment conservation would further deteriorate the situation. So through you I would like to request the Central Government to make efforts to protect the people of Rajasthan from unemployment and hunger death by pleading the case and deputing a solicitor General for the purpose in the Supreme Court. Immediate action should be taken to protect the people from hunger death and the protect the mining activities of the country.

Sir, it is a very important issue. Our colleagues also want to speak on this issue...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious problem so I would also like to associate myself with it.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not enough that Members express their views and these are recorded. The situation in Rajasthan is deplorable. Earlier people were dying due to famine and now people have been rendered unemployed. The development in the State has totally stalled and the people does not have option but to commit suicide. So, the Government should take it seriously...(Interruptions)

Sir, there is devastation in Rajasthan and there is no hope of its escape...(Interruptions) Neither any road nor any school nor building nor houses can be constructed there...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have two more notices on this subject. One notice has been given by hon'ble Bherulal Meena and the second has been given by hon'ble Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

...(Interruptions)

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all have to submit the same thing that something is to be done to save Rajasthan...(Interruptions) The Central Government and the Rajasthan Government together should find out some solution to it so that the problems of the people of Rajasthan may be solved...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not give notice for this? If you do not give notice and violate the rules of the House then now the business of the House will be conducted?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given notice on this subject so you please take your seat.

[English]

Only Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava is permitted by me to speak and nobody else.

[Translation]

Girdhari Lal Bhargava ji you please speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhargava do you not want to speak?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All the Members start speaking at the same time. It is not a good practice. Only those Members, who have been given permission can speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Satyavrat Chaturvedi, you are a senior Member. It is not proper. It is not proper that all Members start speaking at the same time and rules are not followed. I will allow all of you but it is not proper that all Members start speaking at the same time.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious problem.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not feel that it is a serious problem. If no one wants to listen you then how can you

say, it is a serious problem. Please take your seats, Bhargavaji, you can speak.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan has been facing drought for the fourth consecutive years. Now ban on mining activities in the State has affected 14 districts of the State and also the financial condition of people. Brick kilns have been closed and due to ban on mining of marble, construction of houses has been stopped. Prices of cement, stone and marble have increased. This issue should be discussed above party line and leaders of both the parties should be united on this issue. It has curbed all the sources of income of Rajasthan Government. A bill should be brought in this House to find some way out regarding the decision given by Supreme Court in this regard because it is question of protecting the interests of people of Rajasthan. This question does not pertain to any particular political party but pertains to protect the interests of people of Rajasthan. The ban on mining activities should be taken seriously. Mining activities have been banned in the name of environmental pollution by the Supreme Court and Rajasthan Government has closed down all the mines. It is illegal and should be started again.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that people of Rajasthan have rendered unemployed due to this and are on the verge of starvation. People of Rajasthan will be annoyed we won't discuss here how the interests of people of Rajasthan can be protected. So, the Union Government should bring forward a bill with a aim to restart the mining activities there.

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (Salumber): Mr. Speaker, Sir, labourers in Rajasthan are on the verge of starvation due to ban imposed on mining activities in Rajasthan. Lakhs of poor people were engaged in mining work there. Approximately 9800 mines like Hindustan Zink Ltd., RSMM, Soapstone, Limestone, Granite, Green Marbles have been closed down and owners of the mines have also been rendered jobless. Three lakh labourers have lost their jobs due to this decision and if their family members are included, you will find that in total 12 lakh persons have been affected by this decision of Supreme Court. I am not opposing its decision. No one has gone through the reasons stated behind this. Crores of rupees have been spent by the Department of Forest in the name of environment but even the forest existed earlier have been ruined. The boundary wall erected by Forest Department has been sold.

Mine in a small hill area does not affect environment much. Instead deforestation has caused pollution. The Government should formulate and implement some

suitable law if people are not be rendered jobless. The rules formulated by Forest Department are not appropriate. Trees are planted and maintained for five years only. Then within one year the whole forest is destroyed. If the environment is to be protected, employees of Forest Department should be dealt with strictly. They are not working efficiently, crores of rupees have been embezzled. It is not proper to deprive anyone from earning his livelihood. Earlier also court had given a judgement for withdrawal of reservation facility. Later on a Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha and the reservation facility was restored. The Court is going to give its decision on 16th of this month. It would be better if the decision is given in favour of mining. Otherwise I request the Government and all the MPs that a Bill should be brought in this House with a view to restart mining there so that lakhs of people who have been rendered jobless should get employment. Several big mines like Hindustan Zinc have been sold recently by the Union Government. What will be the impact of this decision on the people who have purchased these mines. It should be taken seriously.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to tell all the Members that I allow all the Members who give notices to raise some specific issue. It is in your interest only. This issue has drawn attention of all the MPs. I feel that it is a serious issue. I am ready to hold discussion on this issue if you want to raise it under some other rule on Monday or Tuesday. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. I will take up this issue with him. I am ready to hold discussion if it is necessary. It can be taken up under some other rule. Satyavrat Chaturvedi, you also want to speak on this issue, I will allow you at that time. Now there is no need to speak on this issue. You have not given notice in this regard.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): It is a serious issue and detailed discussion should be held on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Debate will be hold on this issue. Bishnoi, you can speak for two minutes. Then another issue will be taken up.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Supreme Court has, in its decision regarding the writ petition pending with it, set up an empowered committee. This committee has submitted its report wherein it has been mentioned clearly that illegal mining was going on in two villages. While giving judgement Supreme Court ordered to stop illegal mining and after that orders were given to stop mining activities in entire Aravali hills. Now the situation is that the mining activities have been stopped in 14 districts of Rajasthan which

has rendered 30 to 35 lakh labourers unemployed directly or indirectly. The persons who have taken loans worth crores of rupees for developing mines and have installed machines there are affected adversely as these mines have come to standstill. The State is in the grip of drought continuously for the last four years. This decision of Supreme Court is going to deteriorate law and order situation in entire Rajasthan. Hence, I request the Union Government that a Bill should be brought for reconsidering this decision of the Supreme Court or a writ petition should be filed in Supreme Court.

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA (Faridabad): Not only villages of Rajasthan but villages of Haryana are also covered under this.

MR. SPEAKER: You can have your say on this issue at the time of discussion.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, I thank you for giving this opportunity to raise an urgent and important public matter.

The unemployment problem in the country is increasing day by day, particularly among the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe educated youth because of the ban on recruitment imposed both by the Government of India and the State Governments. The situation will further deteriorate after disinvestment, globalisation and privatisation of industries, Public Sector Undertakings and financial institutions, because, in that case, they will not be under obligation to provide reservation in recruitment and promotion to the employees belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

The State Governments have also started reducing the strength of the employees due to reforms. This will, *inter alia*, affect the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees. Also, there are a number of reserved posts lying unfilled, and there is a heavy backlog of reserved posts in the Government of India, Public Sector Undertakings and banks. Hence, I request that the Government should carry out special recruitment drive for these Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees to clear the backlog.

MR. SPEAKER: In the 'Zero Hour', you have to say it in one sentence. This is only to draw the attention of the Government.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I would request the Government, if necessary, to amend the Constitution to provide reservation in the private sector industries/

undertakings, financial institutions and schools and colleges where the Government has direct or indirect participation or where the Government extends and type of financial assistance, help for modernisation, extension or in setting up further units in the private sector.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Communication and Minister of Finance through you. Government of India have given licence to Usha Company for providing mobile phone services. The company received billions of rupees from the consumers. Even I had deposited Rs. 10,000 as security deposit. A number of people in various districts of Uttar Pradesh secured its dealership. For three-four years Usha continued to provide mobile phone service and one day, all of a sudden it stopped its service. But no one is being paid back the security money they had deposited. Even the dealers at tehsil and district headquarters have not been given their securities. It means that Government are in nexus with company. Company is just sitting with billions of rupees.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is also another company named 'Hutch'. I was going on a foreign tour and with a view to stay connected to my family. I bought a card worth Rs. 10,000. But the card did not work when I was abroad. I came back and even paid the monthly rent of Rs. 1300. Now that phone is not functional and I have again received phone Bill of Rs. 5000.

MR. SPEAKER: What happened during your foreign tour.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I could not use that. I had bought the card just to stay connected to my family and friends. But the Mobile phone did not work. An MP such as I have deposited money with that company. But this fraud company is just sitting idle with the money. Companies are fleeing, they are closing their shop. I would like to know what action Government propose to take against such companies. Usha company has taken billions of rupees of the people and it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the money of the people is repaid. It should be clarified whether Government are in nexus with the company or not. Hon'ble Minister is not here but hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. I would like to ask him whether Government would make efforts to get people's money back.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam):
With Interest.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Just principal is enough. Who cares about interest. I want to know why Government are not taking any action against the company. It is okay if my money is not repaid but at least common people should get back their money. Usha company, which has been closed down, has taken money from people as security money. What action Government are taking against that company.

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (Asansol): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to Jharia coal town in Jharkhand. Its connection through railways has severed. The railway line from Pathardeeh to Jharia has been closed for the last six months. The reason for the closure is the illegal mining of coal in coal mines. Jharia is a large town as well as a major business centre and the closure of railway line is causing losses there. Therefore, my demand is that the Government should ensure that Pathardeeh-Jharia railway line is restored without further delay.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, three farmers who were on dharna in front of the gate of Mundarkha sugar mill in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh were shot dead by police. This is a tragic and shameful incident. In this connection, you have already given ruling that the farmer's issue will be discussed on 19th December, but the issue is of urgent importance as seven farmers are still in critical condition. I would like to share my information with the House about the condition of farmers who are still admitted in various hospitals. The discussion on 19th December will be on issue of payment on 19th December will be on issue of payment of arrears of sugarcane to the farmers. There is no doubt about it, but I think it is important to make you aware about the present situation. 20 farmers are still admitted in Gorakhpur Medical College Hospital. 10 farmers are in Basti Sadar Hospital. The cases of 10 farmers have been referred to Lucknow Medical College Hospital. This incident has generated a lot of resentment among the farmers throughout the country and the situation all over has become tense. I would like to know as to what action Government are taking to save the lives of farmers whose condition is very critical. Six days are still to go for 19th and whether Government wants to keep the House in dark till then...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion is scheduled for 19th. On that day you can get information about it from the 'Hon. Minister'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 19th Government would reply on payment of

arrears and support price of sugarcane to farmers. This is a very serious issue...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue at that time.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue...(*Interruptions*)

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and of hon'ble Prime Minister towards the pitiable condition of ex-soldiers. They are agitating in Rajasthan. The situation there is very bad and only good thing about it is that there was no lathi charge or firing there. Even a former Prime Minister visited there and have given assurances. Through you, I would like to submit that in the last 55 years the condition of ex-soldiers is getting worse day-by-day. Every year about 50000 soldiers are retiring from service. At present there are about 50 lakh ex-soldiers and their family members in the country. At present about 18 lakh soldiers are registered for recruitment in various States and Central Soldier Boards. Such conditions exist because soldiers are retired at the age of only 35-40 years as we need young soldiers. In such circumstances, the instructions and guidelines of the Union are not followed by the States.

Sir, the most important issue is of 'one rank one pension'. This issue has been raised for many years, but it is unfortunate that Government have not agreed to it. I am also a member of standing committee of Ministry of Defence. I had raised this issue there also, but they refused it by saying that they would try to change the conditions for other jobs.

Sir, I would like to submit through you that our service conditions are quite different from that of civilians. Prior to independence, ex-soldiers used to get more facilities. As I have already said, they serve only till the age of 35-40 years and that they are retired. They also get less leaves. I would like to quote figures that the ex—soldiers, prior to independence, used to get 70-90 percent of salary as pension. It was based on the British formula—early retirement higher compensation. Besides, the facilities that Group 'C' and 'D' employees should get from State Governments as per directions of the Union Government, are not being provided to them. I had asked about it on other occasions, too. This issue was also raised that the instructions of the Union Government to State Governments regarding providing facilities to ex-servicemen must be fully complied with. In addition, I would also like to draw your attention towards another important issue—that is, absence of Medical facilities to ex-servicemen.

The retired employees of Central Government get medical facility through CGHS. At present, they are not getting any facility. There are Army Hospitals for them. They are told to go to Army Hospital for treatment. When the soldiers who are in service are not getting full medical facilities, then what facility the retired personnel would get? For the last four years they have been requesting for a compensation package, but nothing has been provided to them. It is being said that Rs. 100 P.M. would be given...(*Interruptions*) What would they do with such a meagre amount of Rs. 100? I would like to say that it is a very serious matter.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I rise to associate with him. I am a daughter of a service man. The tragedy is that this is the largest secular force. This is the last bastion of our country where we have all castes, communities of people working together to serve the nation in wartime and in peacetime. If the Government is not sensitive to the needs of our servicemen, it will not be good to them. We are retiring them at the peak of their physical and mental fitness. The country has invested in these people and these people can be called back every time when there is a famine, flood, drought, political tension and aggression on our border. It is these people who stand as a whole to meet the situation.

Now, the recruitment is not any more lucrative. If the jawans have to retire at the height to their physical and best of their abilities, their family members are left virtually begging on the roads. So, I want that the Government should respond in this regard immediately.

[*Translation*]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: My second point is about appointments. This matter has been referred to Standing Committee. All the three Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air force have also given submission that their service period should be reduced to 6-7 years, instead of 17 years. After that they should be appointed in paramilitary forces. In this way the young soldiers will go to paramilitary forces and will remain in service till they attain the age of 58 years...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot give you any more time.

...(*Interruptions*)

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Sir, we request you to please convey our feelings about it to the hon. Prime Minister. Only he can do it.

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Under the banner of National Fish-workers Forum, fishermen from all parts of India, including my constituency Udupi in Dakshina Kannada coastal belt had converged into the capital during July, 2002 to present a charter of demands to the Centre, which *inter-alia*, sought relief through:

- (1) Speeding up implementation of Murari Committee Report in its entirety.
- (2) Cancellation of licenses issued to Joint/Lease/ Test fishing vessels plying deep seas.
- (3) Increase in supply quota of kerosene oil used by traditional and small-mechanised sector.
- (4) Enhancement of subsidy given by the Centre on High Speed Diesel Oil consumed by fishing crafts, to sustain parity with the subsidy component of today's HSD prices which works out to Rs. 2.82 per litre in comparison with the prevailing 35 paise per litre fixed in 1991.
- (5) Cancellation of all licences issued by the Ministry of Commerce to all foreign fishing vessels, which is violating of the Murari Committee recommendations and the Constitution of India.
- (6) Early enactment of Aquaculture Authority Bill.
- (7) Setting apart 25 per cent of allocations under Swarnima Yojna of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to benefit fisher-women through self-employment.

I urge the Centre to consider these just demands and grant appropriate relief to fishermen community of India.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during Zero Hour I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. A notification No. 132 dated 5.12.1985 under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 by Food Corporation of India, is pending with Bihar Government for the last 17 years. FCI have closed down its concerned depots over there. Workers employed there for the last 17 years are being exploited. Those labourers were expecting that they would be given all the facilities as per this contract. These labourers have been working there in a hope of bright future for the last 17 years. But FCI has closed down all its depots over there within the period of one year and has thus created atmosphere of

disappointment. Their future is uncertain. I request you to direct the Government to take some stringent measures to protect the interests of the workers.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue. The Government of India had enacted Forest law with the aim to conserve the forests. But the employees and officers of Forest Department who are there to conserve the forests, formed sinister alliance and ignored the forests. Therefore, deforestation took place. The backward people who used to depend on forests are living in very poor condition. The development work has been banned. The Government provides funds for the welfare of 'Adim caste', for installing telephones and for giving electricity connections. But due to delay in acquiring of land, funds are to be returned. And this delay results in escalation of cost by 10 times. The people have staged demonstration in this regard against the Union Government on 22nd. Through you, Sir, I would like to request the Government to amend this law.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for admitting the issue regarding the problems of sugarcane growers to be discussed on 19th. Just now, as my colleague, Shri Devendra said, that all the farmers of Basti district and adjoining areas are admitted in the hospital as a result of firing opened on farmers there.

Secondly, I would like to submit that a delegation of Samajwadi Party, including MP, Shri Akhileshji, visited there to know about the actual position. Even they were arrested. The Minister of State of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to discuss the matter with the State Government. I would like to ask whether nobody can visit the State to inquire into the matter. They did not went there to create unrest. The hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs can get the matter inquired to know the factual position in this regard. Please make arrangement for the release of those people. Whatever happened, has happened, Forty farmers are injured...(Interruptions) I had submitted yesterday only that the information provided by the State Government and the statement made by Shri Sharad Yadavji was not at all correct. Today the statement of the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh has been published in the newspapers that the firing has taken place. In the information given by the State Government yesterday and the statement made by the hon. Minister mentioned that no firing had taken place. It is highly controversial and the farmers are being subjected to gross injustice, Shri Gangwarji is sitting

here. He should ask the State Government about the situation prevailing. One MP and some other persons have been arrested...(Interruptions) it is a serious matter. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want your protection...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, forty farmers are injured...(Interruptions) Hon. Minister should study the situation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Hon. Mulayam Singh ji had mentioned it in the House in the beginning and the Government has taken cognizance of it. Hence there is no need to repeat it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is disruption in the proceeding of the House only when the attitude of the Government is not positive. You tell us as to what did you talk with the State Government...(Interruptions) What notice have you taken in regard to the arrested people including the MP...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Nobody has any objection on the delegation visiting there and collecting information. Hence I am of the opinion that there is no need to say anything on it again...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you take the issue to the concerned Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have given the ruling. You have taken this subject very seriously...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: When it was initially mentioned Government has taken cognizance of it but I can not give you the entire information within a week. Still I am of the view that the delegation should visit, study the situation and submit its report, there is no reason to withhold anything in this regard. The Government would take necessary steps in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, no more assurance can be given by the hon. Minister of State. Shri K.H. Muniyappa to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Arrangement for their release should be made after holding talks with the State Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, the Bharat Gold Mines Limited is situated in Kolar district, Karnataka. For the last two years its workers are suffering without salaries. Your goodself have given a proposal, a new package for VRS when you were the Minister of Heavy Industries. We have requested the Government for that but and that was not given. Now the case is pending before the High Court. The Government of India is not prepared to settle this matter. More than 20 workmen have died in the last six months.

We request the Government, through you, that they should immediately take steps to initiate action in this matter with the court and settle the matter as early as possible. The Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal for rehabilitation of these people with the Backward Classes Commission and the S.C. and S.T. Corporation and for the loans.

The Government of India, the hon. Minister, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya had sent a team to visit the place. They have also made a comprehensive programme and submitted it to the Government. I request through you, Sir, that the Government should give loans to the people employed in Bharat Goldmine Limited, who are suffering there, and settle the matter, as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Delhi is facing a grave problem of unauthorised colonies. Approximately 30-40 lakh people live in unauthorised colonies. The matter of getting these colonies regularised has been under consideration for a long time. They are not getting any civic amenities. I have been elected thrice from those constituencies but still I am not in a position to use MPLAD Funds to provide civic amenities there, despite the fact that those people have voted for us. I am very happy to learn that you have increased the amount of MPLAD fund from two crore rupee to three crore rupees after consultation with the Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It has not been done, I have made a submission to him.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: A proposal in this regard has been made and since it has been made by you we are hopeful that it would be cleared. It is a very pleasing news for me and you should pursue it. However my submission is that we have not been able to spend money from our MPLAD funds for providing amenities in those colonies from where we are elected. Through you, I would like to submit that this proposal of enhancing the MPLAD fund should be cleared because we represent 30-40 lakhs residents most of whom are our voters. People are facing problems as we are not permitted to use those funds for development purpose in these areas. I would like to submit to you that we must be given the permission to work there.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to intervene for a minute. We have come to know through newspapers that the Minister of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Shri Ananth Kumar has declared unauthorised colonies of Delhi as regularised. When Parliament is in Session, such a major policy decision concerning the national Capital should have been announced on the floor of the House and also the concurrence of, and consultation with, the State Government should have taken place. Nothing of this kind has taken place. Such a kind of political manipulation outside the House is not approved. This is very unfair.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Will you take my Notice in this regard later on?

MR. SPEAKER: I would give you time when your turn comes.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important issue. We all got elected through voter list. After the voting, which took place in Gujarat yesterday, it was found that many names were missing from the voter list. Even the name of Pravin Togadia of Vishwa Hindu Parishad was missing. I would like to say that in the country the voter list of year 2002 is being prepared...(Interruptions)

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: I would like to tell you that this is not the job of Election Commission...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I am talking about the Administration.

MR. SPEAKER: You please address the Chair.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Recently a Bye-election was held in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. There the names of all 3500 voters of a particular settlement were missing...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The settlement was there but the names were missing.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: The Election Commission has stated that the names of voters of the entire settlement were missing from the voter list. I would like to say that the Election Commission has declared that there are many mistakes in the list, which is sent to the representatives of all political parties. The district administration is also not vigilant about it. The name of every citizen, who is above 18 years, should be included in the voter list. For this purpose a request or notice should be sent to Election Commission through Lok Sabha because every citizen is a voter. As a Bill regarding compulsory voting is about to introduce in the time to come, it is essential that the names of voters should be included in the voter list.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In Maharashtra, the age limit for Shiv Sena is 14 years whereas for other people it is 18 years.

13.00 hrs.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari had raised the issue regarding unauthorised colonies of Delhi. Now, he has left. In Delhi, lakhs of people are living in unauthorised colonies and earning their livelihood. But it is being said that certain amount on basis of cost of land and period of possession would be charged from the people for regularising these unauthorised colonies. Such an unjustified decision has been taken. I would like to submit that these unauthorised colonies should be regularised and all basic facilities should be provided there. This decision has created panic and fear among the people. The people are apprehensive that the Government might take anti-people decision at any time. Slum dwellers have contributed a lot in beautification of Delhi through their hard work. Earlier when the slum dwellers were displaced from particular place then alternate arrangements were made for their rehabilitation. But now the Court has given a judgement that slums can be demolished without making any alternate arrangement for slum dwellers. Consequently, the people, who are living in slums, are in great panic. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that arrangement should be made for the safety of hard working people and all facilities be provided to them.

[English]

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN (Krishnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Minister towards the worst condition of Dharmapuri district, particularly in my Krishnagiri constituency in Tamil Nadu, due to drought. Dharmapuri district is the most drought-affected district of the State. It is facing worst drought situation for the last two consecutive years. This year, drought has affected the district most adversely as compared to the previous year. The people are facing acute shortage of drinking water and food. Irrigation is affected severely due to failure of monsoon. The strength of cattle is decreasing day by day as they have no fodder and water. Employment opportunities in agriculture section have stopped. The farmers are facing a lot of loan burden and are not in a position to repay the loans.

Sir, no relief measures have, so far, been provided this year to this district either by the Central Government or the State Government. We have made request to the State and other Central authorities to provide some relief measures, to provide more foodgrains, to waive the loans of farmers and to take effective steps to provide drinking water facilities in this district.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister concerned to take personal interest towards the condition of this district and direct the State Government and the Central authorities to take effective action immediately and also to provide some direct relief to this district.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA in the Chair]

CONTROL OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS (LAND AND TRAFFIC) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Item No. 14—Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Bill, 2002.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to provide for control of land within the National Highways, right of way and traffic moving on the National Highways and also for removal of unauthorised occupation thereon, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I wish to give a brief synopsis of the reasons for introducing this Bill. In India, today, a very massive road building operation is going on. It is not only the first time since Independence, but I think, it is the first time in the history of India, that such a massive road building programme has been taken up.

Now, we are spending almost Rs. 60,000 crore on a single programme—Prime Minister's National Highway Development Programme. In addition, we are spending Rs. 2,500 crore per year on the *Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojna*. We are also spending about Rs. 1,000 crore on State Highways and major District roads which will be given to the States in addition to, of course, what the States are spending.

In addition to this type of expenditure, 10 ports connectivity is being given which is costing around Rs. 3,000 crore to Rs. 4,000 crore. This type of activity has never been taken up before. The results of this programme are now being seen on the ground. The States are also feeling very enthusiastic and they too want to improve their roads.

However, along with this development of roads, the tendency for encroachment, unauthorised occupation and creating obstructions on these development roads has also taken place side by side, which has resulted in more accidents. Unfortunately, in our country, we are having as many as 70,000 deaths per year just because of road accidents on all roads. Similarly, the full potential of roads that have been built—4-lane roads, 6-lane roads where there should be faster traffic on them—is not taking place because the population and the unauthorised encroachment occupation are creating difficulty in movement.

Therefore, the vast amount of money that is being spent is also not being used properly. In addition, if we want to do any future expansion, it is not possible as already constructions have come up along these roads. This is creating a big problem not only for present but also for future.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Mr. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

The present position is, we have no direct Act to control encroachments on any Highway including the National Highways. At present, we can use only CrPC or IPC but they involve long drawn processes and, in fact, on ground they are not being used. With regard to Highways, we have two Acts at the moment. One is the National Highways Act which gives us the authority for conversion of State Highways into National Highways and also to maintain and develop them and the second one is, the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988, under which the National Highways Authority of India was created. Apart from these two, we do not have any other legislation. It was, therefore, felt that we should have this legislation. Not only we, cutting across Party lines, all sections of the House were of the same opinion. A number of times we have been asked as to why we are not bringing a legislation to prevent or to remove encroachment. With that end in view, we have brought this Bill.

The main feature of this Bill is that we want to establish a Highway Administration which will control, minimise and possibly eliminate unauthorised encroachments on these roads. In this Bill we have also provided for a Tribunal so that if anybody feels that he is being dealt with unfairly, he can go to the Tribunal and get justice. We have not only provided for removal of encroachments but also control to the access of these roads. We know that if anybody want as to go anywhere, he gets into the National Highway. As a result, free flow of traffic is reduced. Similarly, which vehicle should pass through it, which part of the road is required to be prevented for usage by a particularly type of vehicle, all these aspects have been included in this Bill. So, this, in brief, is the synopsis.

I request the House to give me support so that full potential of these roads is utilised. I would request the House to pass this Bill as early as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for control of land within the National Highways, right of way and traffic moving on the National Highways and also for removal of unauthorised occupation thereon, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir after many years the Government of India have brought a good bill and for this I would like to welcome hon'ble Minister. Instead of the Government I would like to welcome hon'ble Minister because he has a vast experience of military service and he has also

worked in Pune hence he knows about north east and hilly areas. Besides, he has the knowledge of developing cities. Therefore, I welcome him. I have been requesting the Government of India through all the Transport Ministers for the last four years that the Act of the Government of India is not sufficient for smooth functioning. You can see anywhere, at many places Highways do not have service lane, despite they are called highways. Many colonies have come up along sides of Highway resulting in accidents. Children come on roads to play and get hit. I have a vast experience of National Highways, specially about National Highway no. 9 and 13 which passes through my constituency. Substantial work has been done there by the Government but in this new Bill, it has been stated that an authority will be established to remove encroachments. It has been stated in the objectives and reasons of the Bill that:—

[English]

"However, these enactment do not give powers to the Central Government to prevent or remove encroachments on land under the National Highways, or to restrict access to them from the adjacent land."

[Translation]

I know about encroachment. The Government have its officers in each State who give permission for the construction of building. Where and when this job will be undertaken? I would like to put a ticklish problem before the hon'ble Minister. An Act was passed in Mumbai High Court. Now Maharashtra is a State. Bombay Highway Act, 1955 was passed there. At that time also similar direction may have been given. It is not necessary that each State will adhere to the instruction issued by Government of India. The Government enacted the law and each Chief Minister was informed through a letter. Hon'ble Minister has sent me a copy of that letter. I would like to thank him for that. How many Chief Ministers have accepted that? If they have accepted, it is because of your authority. Similar situation has cropped up this time. The Chapter-III of Bombay Highway Act, 1955, has a restriction of Ribbon development section. I would like to read that:

[English]

It has no relevance with this Act. But this will be useful to give direction to the States. It will also be useful when you will frame the sub-sections of your law. Section 9 says:

"No person shall without the previous permission in writing of Highway Authority lay upon any lane

between the highway boundary and the building lines proposed to be fixed under sub section..."

An Authority is in existence at the moment also.

[Translation]

In ribbon area leaving some space along Highways, the permission for the construction of houses is given but today no State is accepting it. I can give many examples where houses have been constructed along Highways. The Government have instructed that scope for service road should be left. Who is implementing it? Whether or not the Government have a provision to monitor it? Have you ever pondered over it?

There was a time when rural population used to increase but now urban population is increasing. I remember that it is increasing from 18 to 32-42 percent. When Urban population increases then city expands, consequently agglomeration area, corporation and municipality area increases. Whether or not the Government have any provision to monitor it. Today many cities are in bad state. We see the roads in Switzerland and Singapore. Many people have visited Malaysia and say that the roads are very good there. We say that we want to make India as good as Singapore but do we have a political will for that?

A scheme is going to be launched through this Bill. I would like to welcome hon'ble Minister. He might have put pressure to start it. You like to promote it. A sum of Rs. 60 thousand crores are being spent. If the cities are not well planned, it won't do any good. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had established Chandigarh. He has made it a beautiful city and good roads were constructed there, that city was well planned. Whether today we are pondering over to have this type of planning in the country. If we do not ponder over it then there will be no use of setting up any Authority.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for your kind information I would like to tell that since 1997 I have been agitating for my question. It is not confined to me only. I have been requesting that something should be done in this regard. They have been replying that they are helpless as they don't have any such law, it falls under the jurisdictions of State. Therefore, States should be asked in this matter. State Governments say that they can't do anything they follow the rules of the Government of India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite an example. Though the question of constituency should not be included in such a Bill but I would like to tell you that

earlier the population of Solapur Municipal Corporation area was 3 Lac. At that time it was a small area with the total area of 4-5 sq. Kilometer. Gradually the city expanded and today its population is upto 10 Lac. In 1990 the Government of Maharashtra extended it upto 20 kilometer with its extension risk so that future planning no pressure should be put on the new highways there, it should have service road and in the agglomeration area which starts after the extension area nobody will be allowed for construction within the five kilometers of that area long the Highway. I remember that the then Minister had announced in the House that if any construction had to be done in agglomeration area then the Sarpanch of rural department have the sole authority to give any permission. Nobody can object to it. The then Urban Development Minister of Maharashtra had constituted a committee and told in committee that the meeting of tehsildar, town planning officer and collector would be held and then the clearance could be given by the Committee and thereafter Sarpanch can give permission to the maps, only after that the construction in rural area can be carried out. I think it has some trouble. Once you have made it one Window then this unauthorised construction cannot be undertaken because poor Sarpanch does not know what is your ribbon area. What is your service road. He thinks that this matter is related to his village so he grants his permission and after his permission where officials of Authority call it unauthorised construction then the trouble starts. As such, the person who had done construction will have to vacate. Who is responsible for it?

Now the Authority you are establishing is only for punishment. You have to look into this matter thoroughly. We want that a comprehensive bill should be brought in this matter. There should be provision in that law that the areas having the Municipalities should be divided into five lac, ten lac and twenty lac but it should have a principle and a limit should be determined for the Highways passing through these areas. In the areas where the population is five lac, ten lac from where the ribbon area and building area will start. Different rules can not be applied for different areas on the basis of their population. Once a law is enacted, it is not reviewed later on.

I would like to give the example of Thana area of Maharashtra. One of its constituency having 40 lac. What would be achieved through that, the same old act is being given for implementation. Arrangement be made for monitoring also. It is the computer age. All the highways be processed through the computers to look out as to which highway would pass through which route and provide permission in this regard.

[Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde]

A very good work has been undertaken and the entire House would cooperate in this regard. My suggestion is that a comprehensive bill be brought in this regard and an Act should be enacted through which the entire country could be instructed and guided.

I have with me several letters including that of letter of Executive director & Chief engineer which has been addressed to the State Governments and is quite comprehensive but the implementation in States is almost negligible. It is a very important subject. An effort has been made to set up a new authority but as I have said that at certain places there are good social workers and other persons and at such places pathway for constructing the 26 metres wide road have been arranged as per the instructions but the officers nominated from your side whether they be of Housing Development Board or Urban Development Board, PWD or belonging to CPWD might not provide the 21 metres wide pathway and may narrow it down. I would like to know as to what action the Government contemplate to take in such a situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shindeji, it is a very important Bill. You are also speaking quite well but the time allotted is very limited. Reminding you of time constraint, I would like to request you to conclude.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would conclude within two to three minutes. Hon. Minister should take note of this thing and as he had been a Maj. General, he understands a lot about this. Hence I expect from him that he would get it implemented.

The 27 metre wide pathway might be given but what the hon. Minister expects to do if the permission for construction of road along 19 metre wide pathway is given in the Corporation area immediately after the extension. The 27 metre wide pathway could be made available in the city but who would be held responsible once the permission is granted to construct 19 metre wide road in the area of the extension of the city and once the permission for it is given the children of the families in the vicinity of the highway would become prone to accidents and it would increase the likelihood of truck accidents.

Sir, truck drivers work under a lot of strain because they have to drive for hours together. They have their own time constraint for reaching destination and they naturally drive at high speed on highways. They don't get full rest and are prone to commit accidents. I would like to know as to who is responsible for it?

Sir, my submission is that the same penalty which is imposed on encroachers should be imposed on those

who permit such obstruction and only such a step could stop construction along the highways. I am fully confident that the hon. Ministers would certainly take action in this regard. I cannot speak more due to time shortage, else I have a lot of material including the papers about which I wanted to apprise the hon. Minister regarding this matter. I do not want to waste the time of the House by providing the hon. Minister the information contained in these papers. I would personally meet him and would also give some suggestions in this regard as well.

I would like to tell the hon. Minister that he would get our full support because this work does not relate to a party. This work should be done rising above party-politics. We should also think seriously as how we could provide facilities to our coming generation. We often talk about Singapore and other prosperous countries and it is keeping in view the pursuit of development achieved by these countries that we have to restrain ourselves.

Sir, right now I don't want to speak on the condition of the roads in hilly areas like Manipur and Assam and also the encroachment on the roads in these States like in Nagaland where shops are constructed on every turn. How will it do like this? More alertness is required for the developing States where the population in cities is increasing. A separate comprehensive act is needed to be enacted for it. The amendment in the 1985 Act won't achieve the purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am confident that the hon. Ministers would do something in this regard and also would not give us a chance to remind him. I am confident that he would implement my suggestions and I fully support this Bill.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister that he has brought a Bill to regulate the highways. The Bill would revolutionise the handling and development of national highways in the future. I would like to say that the 6th January 1999 would go as the red letters day in Indian history on which hon. Prime Minister inaugurated the National Highway. National Highways covering the length of 13250 kilometres in the entire country would be constructed under this project which would involve an expenditure of 60 thousand crore rupees in two different phases. G.T. Road was constructed by Shershah Suri some 400-500 years ago in India. After him the credit in this field would go to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji who, by taking a leaf from the road systems in various countries of the world, took this resolve to bring this revolution in India. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for it.

I am of the view that prior to it no such law existed in the country. The old cases of national highways had been dealt under the acts of 1956 and 1988. Besides the concerned clause under CPU had also not been playing any specific role in it. Bad roads not only result in the wastage of time but also are also adversely affecting the economy of the country. The lack of proper maintenance of highways are resulting in 10 per cent more fuel consumption alongwith 25 percent more addition of time in journey. Insurance sector is also suffering loss due to increasing number of accident cases on these roads. Besides it is also adversely affecting the performance of the vehicle.

I hope that the setting up of such a tribunal or administrative authority would yield a profit of 20 thousand crore rupees in future and would also regulate the traffic. The construction of GO Highway alone would yield an annual profit of 8000 thousand crores.

[English]

It will generate 180 million mandays per year.

[Translation]

The construction of its first phase is going to revolutionise the system and the completion of its second phase would result in our dream coming true of linking Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Bombay to Guwahati.

Sometimes it really hurts. I Yesterday I was going to my constituency Ambala from Delhi. I knew that this Bill would be introduced tomorrow so I had a close look at the G.T. Road for a kilometre and witnessed the encroachments on at least at ten places whether it was by a petroleum owner or an owner of a hotel or any other shopkeeper. It is being reported in the newspapers, perceived by a visitor and also discussed in Lok Sabha that the doing away with such encroachments would save three hours between Delhi and Amritsar. It is a fact. Today people discuss that earlier it used to take 4 1/2 hours to reach Jaipur from Delhi but now condition of roads has improved and one can easily reach Jaipur in three hours only. But sometimes one's mood gets off when...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): One needs huge insurance coverage for reaching Jaipur in three hours, please take care of that. So don't haste and be patient while travelling.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Sometimes a person reach Gurgaon with high speed but in absence of proper

traffic control or due to encroachment, it takes that much time to reach to Parliament from Gurgaon as required for reaching to Gurgaon from Jaipur, it is really very sad. Constituting such an authority will be revolutionary. I would like to say that say that State Governments should cooperative with Union Government in this regard. Under the provisions of this Bill, the officers appointed from Centre as well as from State will be accorded judicial power like lodging F.I.R., giving decision and referring the matter to Tribunal. I think, such provision has been made in this Bill that after their decision.

[English]

Only High Court and Supreme Court can interfere in the decision of the Tribunal.

[Translation]

It is a good provision. This bill will ensure prosperity and security both.

I would like to say that condition of roads has improved and I appreciate that for the first time Ministry are making efforts to mobilise resources within the country and avoid loan from IMF and other foreign agencies for this project. Toll tax has been imposed at some places and I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that this should be made practical and rational otherwise while enjoying pleasure of driving, people feel pinch in paying Rs. 150 or Rs. 50 at two-three places. Arrangements for its payment should be made alongwith payment of road tax. Cess has been imposed on diesel. An arrangement should be made...(Interruptions) I have just started speaking...(Interruptions) The long queues for collection of tax creates wrong impression and cause irritation. That should be avoided. Earlier under various plans, we know that 300 or 400 kilometer long national highway was constructed every year. But now the construction of highways has increased by 12 to 15 times, which is a revolution in this field. This Bill was essential for regulating all these things. Now I would like to sum up by furnishing some figures. Since construction of these highways the number of accidents has declined. In 1999, 1,02,839 accidents took place and in 2000 the number of accidents was 1,10,508. The number of accidents has declined since construction of these national highways. In 2001 the number of accidents declined to 71 thousand. In the year 1999, 28713 persons and in the year 2000, 30,216 persons died in accidents on national highways whereas during the year 2001 only 19086 persons died in accidents on national highways. In the year 2001, 98427 persons were injured in accidents and number of which has declined to...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Katariaji, do not give details of that and come to the point. There is no need to give details of that.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: With these words I support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill, but, of course, with some reservations. Some proposals regarding National Highways pertaining to the State of West Bengal are pending with the Government of India for a long time and I would request the hon. Minister that they should be cleared quickly.

Sir, the Government is taking loan from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and is also raising money through market borrowing and from private sector to meet the expenditure on construction of National Highways in the country. In addition to that, the Government is getting money to the Central Road Fund by way of imposing a cess on petrol and diesel which comes to Rs. 20,000 crore. With all this money, the National Highways Authority is constructing four-lane National Highways in the country at the cost of Rs. Six crore per kilometre. It is a very big amount. I do not want to mean that the money spent in constructing the Golden Quadrilateral and North-South, East-West Corridors is a useless expenditure. They are, of course, useful to us. But, at the same time, if the same amount of money, that is, about Rs. 60,000 crore, is invested in railway projects, it could provide more effective transport facilities for the poor people.

Now, I would like to draw attention of the House towards some important features of the Bill. Clause 27 of the Bill deals with 'recovery of cost of removal of unauthorised occupation and fine imposed.' I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the present position regarding construction of the overhead bypass in the National Highway No. 2 connecting Panagarh Bazaar and Shaktigarh in West Bengal. The National Highways Authority of India is working on a proposal for construction of an overhead bypass between 513.15 KMP and 517 KMP to avoid alignment through main Panagarh Bazaar. This will be a seven kilometre stretch which will involve more than Rs. 42 crore, plus the cost of compensation and rehabilitation.

Over and above, large areas of cultivable land will have to be acquired, which means a serious blow to the agricultural sector. The labourers and the owners of small farms will lose their only means of earning. Whereas the business community of Paragarh Bazar have agreed to give up 150 ft. of land alongside the stretch of the road, and in Shaktigarh, only seven to ten houses would have to be demolished, but the NH Authority declined to explore the possibilities. In one way, they rewarded the rich encroachers to be on the Government road.

In the case of Galsi NH-2, which is in my constituency, the NH Authority has dismantled 145 houses

for providing a straight way for the road. Nobody has come to oppose this for betterment of the road. So, why are you rewarding the encroachers instead of punishing them? On the other hand, the Authority is going to spend more than Rs. 60 crore for the bypass of Panagarh.

The Government must not forget that every rupee for construction of this road is coming from the pockets of the general masses by imposing taxes and levies. So, every rupee should be spent in the most worthy manner.

My next point of reservation is regarding the non-construction of service roads. According to the Government guidelines, no slow-moving vehicle should cross the National Highway. It is noteworthy to mention here that most of the rural people are unaware of traffic rules. As such, in the absence of a service road, the chances of accidents will increase a lot. So, a service road is a must for the benefit of the rural people. Otherwise, controlling of different types of vehicles will be difficult.

In such a poor country, the Government is imposing a higher-speed system of transport. It is going to be introduced.

Land is a State subject. Now you are bringing forward a Bill to encroach the land owned by the State. I want to know whether the Union Government has solicited the opinion from the State Government?

We want to have decent roads. There is no doubt about it. But can you overlook the reality? Millions of people are homeless. They are making a crowd, whether on the road side or the railway side. The NDA Government has declared in their manifesto: 'Home for All'. What will happen to those homeless people?

Now, I would like to know why there is such a discrimination in my State of West Bengal. The length of NH, as on date, is only 1,951 km. From 1998 to 2002, only 245 kms were completed in West Bengal. I would like to know about the delay regarding the proposal of NH from Haldia to Moregram via Panahagarh in West Bengal. It was declared during the Ninth Plan period. It is about 300 km and has not been executed.

The other proposals for new National Highways in the State are: Raiganj to Hilly, which is a Bangladeshi corridor; Chakda to Bonga; Barasat-Bonga; Kona Expressway-Vidyasagar Setu-Kolkata-Diamond Harbour-Kulpi-Kakdwip-Namkhana-Bakkhali-133 kms; Gazole-Buniadpur-Patiram-Trimohini-Hilli-100 km; Raniganj-Pandabeswar-Dubrajpur-Suri-Moregram-141 kms; Tulin (West Bengal-Bihar border)-Puruliya-Bankura-Bishnupur-Arambagh-Bardhaman-Mogra-Iswargupta Setu-Kalyani-Haringhata-Gaighata-Petrapole (West Bengal-Bangladesh Border)-391 kms; Radhamoni (Jn. of NH-41 with SH-4) Anantpur-Panshkura-Mechogram-Ghatal-Borda-Kharar-Hazipur-Arambagh- Bardhaman-Narja-Muratipur-Nutunhat-Futisanko-Kuli-Moregram (Jn. of NH-34 with SH-7)-275 kms.

Sir, reconstruction of bridges of National Highway 60, which was originally a district road and subsequently

declared as a State Highway, should be done immediately without reconstruction of old culverts like Amarkan old bridge and some culverts from Bankura to Raniganj. Subsequently the narrow road of Gangajal Ghat should be the bypass road. After crossing the river Damodar, the link of National Highway 60 to National Highway No. 62 from Raniganj should be a bypass and should be straight.

I would like to mention that the road from which it is bifurcated after Bankura town and which is going straight to Durgapur via Beliatare to connect to Muchipara (NH2) should be considered as Highway because it will be the shortest route from South India to North-East.

Sir, it is informally learnt that the allocation has been reduced from Rs. 105 crore in 2001-2002 to Rs. 95 crore and from non-plan fund it becomes Rs. 16.20 crore to Rs. 10.30 crore in 2002-2003.

Lastly, the road NH2 in West Bengal, which the hon. Minister opened a year back, is badly damaged from DVC, Durgapur to Muchipara. This work was done by such a wonderful company! I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider giving these works to our public sector companies like HSCL, Bridge & Roof, etc.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Bill.

At the outset, I would congratulate the Minister for bringing this forward-looking Bill, as a large stretch of National Highway passes through Orissa. Around 13,250 kilometres are now being developed and about 3,301 kilometres of National Highway passes through Orissa. If we compare it with other States, this is no mean achievement. Adequate funds are also being provided, but we need more funds for the development of National Highway in Orissa. It is being very nicely utilised, unlike in other neighbouring States.

However, a very common question that was in my mind since my childhood, when I was in high school, is, what is the difference between a Highway and an Expressway. Is there actually a difference? What is the difference between a Mail Train and an Express Train? The Mail Train carries postbags but the speed of Express train and Mail Train is quite the same. So what is the basic difference between an Expressway and a Highway?

While going through the dictionary, I got their meanings. I would read it out. 'A Highway is a major road usually in rural areas, but more recently, a rural or urban road, where points of entrance and exist for traffic are limited and controlled'. This is the dictionary definition of a Highway. The dictionary definition of an Expressway is a 'major arterial-divided Highway that features two or more traffic lanes in each direction with opposing traffic separated by a median strip'. The rest is the same. It has controlled entries and exists and it has advanced designs depicting what is ahead of you. But the only difference between the two is, it has a divider, a separate median strip that divides it.

As we have the British style of traffic here, we have to take the left side. The median strip divides. This is the basic difference between a Highway and an Expressway. The Bill has propounded to have restricted entry and exists.

Now I come to the basic purpose of this Bill. What is the problem? Normally, in a Bill, certain problems are put forth and the object that the Government wants to achieve through the Bill is also explained. There are basically three problems. I would not go into the details of Rs. 60,000 crore, the Prime Minister's idea of connecting the four major metropolis and also the corridors of East-West, North-South and all that, but I would come to this Bill. I do not know how much time I have. But very briefly I would just say, as was mentioned by the Minister himself, that there are three basic problems. The first problem is to regulate traffic coming on the National Highway or to control the number of access roads joining the Highways. As the Minister has visited Orissa and seen the Bhubaneswar and Cuttack Highway, which is also being developed into a four-lane highway from Bhubaneswar towards Khurda to Banpur and connecting Cuttack towards Bhadrak, that four-lane work is continuing.

The first problem is to control the access roads joining the Highway. Not only in Orissa but also throughout the country, the Highway passes through a number of villages, especially in my constituency. This is a major problem in my constituency. When the former Minister for Surface Transport, Shri Rajnath Singh had gone there to inaugurate the four-laning of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, in that meeting also, I had mentioned this. The Highway from Bhubaneswar to Cuttack, after the four-laning has been done, passes through a number of villages. The paddy fields are on the one side but the villages are on the other side. Schools and post offices are on the one side but the hospital is on the other side. The people have to cross. Though service lanes are there and underground roads have also been made, their number is not adequate. We need more such outlets where people can go to the other side of their habitation even underneath the Highway. This is one problem which should be looked into when we are widening it into four-laning and also to six-laning. Also, at the same time, the service roads are very much essential to control the traffic. It is because now-a-days, once a Highway is developed, a number of commercial establishments are also coming up on both the sides. Godowns are coming up on both the sides and they are occupying the paddy fields. They are just making an access to the Highway. That is also creating a lot of problems and also accidents. The traffic on the Bhubaneswar and Cuttack Highway is next to Pune-Mumbai traffic. It is the second congested road. A number of accidents are taking place because of this. So that traffic should be regulated. I fully stand by this.

The second problem is to provide the National Highways Authority adequate legal authority to prevent other utility organisations from digging up or taking any other measure. That is also another problem we face everyday. Just once you side your vehicle, suddenly it turns turtle because of the loosening of the soil.

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

The third problem is to remove encroachment.

With these few problems, I would come to the purpose of the Bill. I need not explain the first point which I have already done. The purpose is to prevent unauthorised occupation of the Highway land and the removal thereof, control of access points and regulation of different types of vehicles. What would they like to do? The Government would like to appoint an officer and that officer will necessarily be from the R&B or PWD Department, as we call it, of the State Government.

15.00 hrs.

He would be looking after a particular stretch of the road. If somebody were affected by his decision, a tribunal would be appointed. The tribunal would be there to take cognisance. If somebody has any complaint against the decision, he would go to the tribunal. In that respect, ultimately, it is the local administration, on which one has to depend.

Recently, while four laning a large tract of a national highway in Orissa from Cuttack to Bhadrak via Chandikhol and Dhamnagar and from Bhadrak to Balasore, a lot of encroached buildings were demolished. At that time, the local administration was taken into confidence and they had to do it. I would say even if this Bill becomes an Act, you have to take the help of the local administration, at the same time.

The basic point, which I appreciate that the hon. Minister has brought in this Bill, is that the responsibility is fixed on that specific officer. He would be responsible if an encroachment is made. He would be responsible to oust a number of encroachers from the national highway.

The total length of our national highways is 58,112 kilometres and within these five years the Government is taking up only 13,250 kilometres. This is a beginning. I think, it is one-fourth of the total length of our national highways.

With these words, I would thank the hon. Minister and also the Government for bringing up our national highways to world standards. I support this Bill and at the same time I would say that we have to raise our national highways to world standards.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this bill and congratulate the hon'ble Minister for introducing it. Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Bill, 2002 has been introduced with a very good objective and after becoming an act, it would regulate the traffic on roads, there will be no encroachments and the roads will be more safe.

However, hon'ble Minister, I have an apprehension that with the establishment of proposed Authority, your officers may start harassing the people of adjoining villages, markets or common by-passers. Therefore, there is a need to keep a watch on it.

Hon'ble Prime Minister had raised the tax on diesel for widening the national highways. It is being constructed for the safety of the people but still large number of accidents are taking place on national highways. Approx. 1-1.5 lakh accidents have taken place this year in which 60 thousand people have lost their lives. Alongwith damage of vehicles, thousands of families have been ruined by these accidents. I would like to know the steps taken in this Bill for the welfare of the families of the deceased in these accidents. Road tax is already being taken from people.

Sometimes dead bodies or injured people remain lying on the roads but the officials of Highway Authority do not make any arrangements in this regard. Authority is already existing but we are talking about improvement in it. There should be an office of Surface Transport Ministry at a stretch of every 50-60 Kms. on national highways so that accidents and encroachments could be monitored and things remain in control of the authorities. First the concerned officials let them encroach the land—be it is for the opening of petrol pump or tea stall. They do not even inform the authorities about it. People of the country do not know as to how much land belongs to national highways. They do not know as to whom the agricultural fields on both sides of highways belong to. People are unaware about the width of road going from Banaras to Allahabad, and at what distance, a house, a shop or a Petrol pump should be constructed on it. No body is aware of it. Officials of the Ministry never display any board due to which encroachments take place. Proper hoarding should be displayed mentioning the width of highway so that public could be aware of it and shopkeepers could not encroach upon the land.

National highway no. 2 is being constructed from Allahabad to Kanpur. A by-pass from Haudia to Kokhrajpur via Kaudihar is also under construction. However, no notice was served to the farmers about the construction of road and the land of the farmers being acquired for this purpose. I belong to that area and M.P. from there but I have not been informed about that road. Farmers ask me about the amount of compensation to be paid to them and the land which would be acquired. However, no information has been given till now. At least the MP of the concerned area should be duly informed about the amount of compensation.

Accidents occur almost every day on roads. Ministry of Surface Transport or National Highway Authority should give some compensation to the families of the deceased in road accidents as is given in case of railway accident or air accident. With this request, I conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister is making declarations that he is making the Golden Quadrangle and highways and in this way making big highway roads. He has introduced law relating to land rights, in this way he would become the owner of the land despite the fact that the land belongs to State Government. He wants to become owner of highways in the name of making them. Thus he would also have control over the land and traffic. It is being

asserted that railway lines, highways and roadways are as much essential for the country, as veins and arteries are essential to circulate blood in different organs of a human body. The roads and highways have the same significance. They connect various parts of the country with one another.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Please tell whether you are supporting it or not.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: But what would he support—construction of road or acquiring of ownership rights. It is good that he is constructing roads. But he wants to become owner. As the time is very less. I will very briefly state about where does the danger lie. Emperor Shershah Suri constructed highways in his four year tenure. He connected Peshawar with Patna and Kolkata. He did this work within the period of four years. And at that time, there was neither administrative approval, nor any authority and he got these roads constructed at that time itself. Now they have everything—advanced technology, capital, but now they are saying that they would charge road-tax. Shershah did not charge any tax as such and constructed the roads within a period of four years. But how many years would they take in construction of roads, we do not know. Firstly, they say that they would make highway administration. Now see the kind of law they are introducing for having administration in highways. They will establish a body or an authority which would have one or more officers either from the Union Government or from the State Government but not from both—this is the law they wish to establish. Had the officers been from both levels of Government, we could have understood that both have a say in it. But he is introducing a complex law which says that one or more officers of State or Union Government. This is his work, but is being done in the name of the Government. But while making law, he would make use of the word State Government 'or' Union Government and thus, would appoint officers from the Union Government which means that land would be of the State Government, but he would be the owner. He is making his own authority and administration there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second danger is that no person would have the right to travel on any vehicle on the highway or to walk in a group of five or more on the highway. So there is prohibition on walking of a person alone or even a group of five or more persons. Under Section 144, to walk in a group of five or more is prohibited. But what type of law is this, all details should be seen. People are taking the construction of National Highways in good spirit. No area can develop without construction of roads. Economics and all other experts assert that traffic and communications are two major aspects of development. Commuting facilities should be there so that transportation from one part of the country to the other part could be facilitated. The second claim made by them is that they would make a law that would provide for removal of encroachment. The word 'shop' is mentioned here. 'Dhabas' have been in existence since the period of Shershah Suri and in our area they are called as lane hotels. In Punjab they are called as Dhabas

and in South India, they must be having some other name. But here they have not made any mention of dhaba, they have simply said that either any shop is constructed or anyone makes an encroachment—I would like to know how he would remove 'Hanuman ji temples'. There is no law relating to this. Hanuman ji land encroachment officers sit beside so many roads and highways—what is the remedy provided by them in this connection. I am telling the possible dangers arising out of the law introduced by him. It has been stated that they would also give the shopkeepers lease of five years. But this would lead to corruption.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief and finish your statement.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I am speaking in brief only. How much should I be? An eight hour discussion should have been held on this. All hon. Members are interested to have discussion over this issue, this issue is being deliberately discussed on Friday so that as less as possible Members could speak over it. It is well known that very few Members are present on Friday. But otherwise, it is a very important issue.

Sir, the question relates to Highways. Now the Ministry says that they would stop construction of nallahs. Water of these nallahs flow on the roads on highways that passes through areas of dense population, market areas or small townships. If the entire road is dry, the highways would look beautiful, but as you enter the market, you would find that the water of nallhas is flowing on the road. And when this water comes on the road, the road is bound to get damaged—be it a small road, or a highway, it is destined to get damaged due to the accumulation of water. And that is why when any National Highway is proposed to be constructed, it should arrange for the construction of nallhas too.

Sir what would that person do whose house is beside the highway itself. Where would he take the water from his house if he happens to live beside the highway, or the main road. Water of neighbouring places would accumulate on road and the vehicles running on such road would damage it. You, must have observed that people living beside highways, raise the level of their houses, which leads to accumulation of water on the road itself which results in damage of roads. Even where the highways pass through Qasbas or small colonies, there also in the absence of proper drainage system, the roads get damaged. I, therefore, urge the Government that there should be some arrangement for drainage of rain water as also water coming out of colonies.

Sir, the Indian Road Congress has never made any deliberation from this point of view and so roads are getting damaged everywhere. We should take due care of road safety vis-a-vis public safety. Estimates of thousands of crores of rupees would be made by virtue of this Bill, but roads would always remain in bad condition every year due to no consideration towards safety of roads. I, therefore, once again request that arrangements for nallhas should also be made for

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

drainage of rain water, water from Qasbas and markets from the highways. If a nallah is constructed beside the road, then rain water or water from other sources would either flow out or if accumulated, it would flow out within short time, and in this way the road would remain free from water and thus would be saved from getting damaged. And that is why I wish to give you this practical suggestion. I request that he may kindly ask the engineers and specialists to deliberate over my suggestions and get it examined.

Sir, the roads, constructed by Shershah Suri was actually got constructed by contractors of our country, but the present Government have done all out arrangements to give this work of construction of roads to foreign contractors. Infact some conditions in this have deliberately been laid so that the contractors of our own country may not be able to take over this work, but only foreign contractors may fit in. It has been stated that 137 companies were entrusted responsibility of this project out of which 89 were indigenous, 26 were joint enterprises and 12 were foreign companies.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Out of the 132 companies only 12 companies are foreign companies.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Only foreign companies will work and the Indian companies, unable to compete with them, will have to attach themselves to them and their status will be no more than that of second grade citizens.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Doctor Saheb, out of the 132 companies only 12 are foreign companies, 35 are joint ventures and 85 are domestic companies. Now tell me what is wrong in it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Take for example the issue of manufacturing of number plates for vehicles. The conditions have been laid for the manufacturing of specific number of plates so that no domestic company of the country may produce those things. There is one German company which alone will produce it. The Indian people want to get some share of it by attaching themselves with that company.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Doctor Saheb, the conditions about which you are talking are the conditions which are being imposed by the State Governments. The Central Government is not doing anything in this regard.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: On your behalf the Secretary of your department is organising meetings with the Secretaries of the State Governments every month and is pressurising them to implement it.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Doctor Saheb the Central Government are not doing anything in this regard. The State Governments are imposing conditions. No such conditions are being imposed by the Central Government. We have desired that no conditions reserving specified work to only foreign companies should be

stipulated. Measures should be taken to ensure that our country men may carry out such works.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, N.H. 77 extends upto Patna-Hazipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitapur Sonvarsa. There is Kataunja bridge on this highway. The people are staging fast-unto-death for that bridge. This Bill has been introduced at very opportune time. There people are doing fast-unto-death. The Sihor district of Sitamarhi remains cut off from the rest of the world for four months. The State Government has sent proposal in this regard. There is a pantoon bridge on N.H. 77 and N.H. 104 that goes to the east from Shivhar, Sitamarhi. The State Government has sent proposals regarding pantoon bridge on N.H. 104 and Kataunja bridge on N.H. 77. I had also write letter in this regard...(Interruptions) The Minister, in his reply, had told that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. My submission is that the people are dying there and there is disaster all around. I would like to know as to how long the matter will remain under consideration of the Government? Please dispose it immediately.

Similarly, the condition of the road passing through Mahatma Gandhi bridge is very bad. That road is the life line of Northern Bihar. Daily 64 thousand vehicles pass through that road. The condition of that road is very poor. No Member from North Bihar is present here. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav might be knowing this. If he happens to pass through Ganges bridge he will see for himself the poor condition of the road. The road connecting Dharbhanga, Chhapra, Siwan, Madhubani etc. districts are in bad shape. You should consider the proposal of the State Government regarding rejuvenating the National highway...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I would like to submit that the hon'ble Minister had stated it will be considered in the Tenth Five Year Plan to connect Hazipur to Vaishali, the birth place of Lord Mahavira, the place of action (Karmabhoomi) of Lord Buddha, the birth place of democracy being the site of Lichchavi republic: and Kesharia the site of the biggest stupa of the world, to Khajuria. My submission is that the condition of the larger part of the road is good, however, some parts of the road are not in good shape. Less amount of money will be required to repair the road. My submission is that they should give it the status of N.H. It will be good from the point of view of tourism also...(Interruptions) The Department of Tourism had also made a submission in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: My submission is that trees were got planted along the roads by Shershah Suri. I would like to know about the scheme regarding the plantation of trees along the highway. The trees should be planted there according to the atroclicmatic Zone in which it exists. It will not only improve the

environmental condition but will also provide shade. It will also be convenient for the people running road side Dhabas or hotels.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: You have told about the two bridges which are under consideration. The final decision has been taken in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please tell about it at the time of giving reply.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: You please keep sitting. I will tell you about both the bridges at the time of replying.

[*English*]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to give some suggestions on this Bill.

Sir, better roads mean faster progress, so the Government is removing all blocks to complete the 14,000-kilometre Highways Project in a given period of time. With an amount of Rs. 54,000 crore, the National Highways Development Authority envisages construction of 14,080-kilometre highways in a record time of less than eight years.

I rise to support this Bill with some reservations. I would like to have the clarifications on some issues. Firstly, this Bill is meant to clear the land acquisition and encroachment and, secondly, to set up the Tribunal. This very well indicates that before formulating this dream project of the hon. Prime Minister of India, the Government has not been sensitive enough to take into confidence all the State Governments in regard to acquisition of land.

15.24 hrs.

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

Sir, of the stipulated eight years time for completion of this dream project, we already have exhausted a considerable period of time without having made much progress. Is it now possible to complete this project within the given time? Secondly, the Government proposes to constitute a Tribunal. In what way would the setting up of this Tribunal help in completing this project within the given time?

Sir, I would like to quote a few sentences from an article that appeared in a magazine a few months back. It says:

"It is a boon for the nation's infrastructure. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has called it an ambitious project. Understandably, the energy on the spot is similar to that on a warfront. However, here the troops are road construction workers and the weaponry comprises road rollers and pavers. Leading the assault is retired Major General B.C. Khanduri, the dynamic Minister for Road Transport and Highways. The man in the hot seat, Khanduri, realises the difference an efficient road network makes to the far-flung farmer whose produce rots for lack of infrastructure."

Sir, I would like to make a few suggestions that could, perhaps, help the Government to achieve its goal of constructing this 14,000 odd kilometers of roads within the Budget allocation. Prof. Vasudevan of Thyagraja Engineering College in Madurai came out with a proposal of making roads with a mixture of plastic and coal tar. His Excellency, the hon. President of India had asked him as to why he did not demonstrate the quality and quantity of having roads with such a mixture. This has now been executed and this work has been appreciated by no less than His Excellency, the hon. President of India. I would like to request the hon. Minister to visit Madurai with a team of experts and have a look at the work that has been done based on the experiments of Prof. Vasudevan. Then they could even go in for a discussion with His Excellency hon. the President of India and utilise this technology for construction of roads. The details are there but for reasons of time, I would confine myself only to making my suggestions on this Bill.

Sir, delay in completion of the project indicates two things. Firstly, there was a lack of a co-operation as well as co-ordination between the State Governments and the Government of India before this project was formulated. Secondly, there was also no co-operation and co-ordination between the various Departments of the Government of India. What I mean to say is that before this project of constructing the North-South Corridor and the Golden Quadrilateral was taken up, the Government should have taken into confidence the Ministries like the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and also the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This was required to be done for having proper medical infrastructural facilities in place in case of road accidents and rehabilitation without wasting any time. In case of an accident, administering medical aid without delay is very much essential. It is a vital point. I would like to request the hon. Minister to have a discussion with these Ministries and also with the experts to have in place full-fledged hospitals with proper manpower and all medical facilities. Otherwise, this dream project would remain only a dream and would not serve any useful purpose for the people at large.

Sir, the Government proposes to raise a fund worth Rs. 6 crore by charging a cess of Re. 1/- on diesel. Is the Government aware that white kerosene is now being used by transport owners which would reduce the scope of raising the revenue that Government intends to do? In the process it would result in some kind of a derailment of this project. My suggestion is that the Government should bring on par the prices of diesel and white kerosene. It would help in overcoming this difficulty.

To mix five per cent Ethanol in the petrol, we are going to have ethanol mixing units in those States which produce more sugarcane. How is the Minister going to regulate the income generated out of this activity? Did he discuss this with the Minister of Agriculture and others concerned in order to have a coordinated approach to this issue?

[Dr. V. Saroja]

I would request the hon. Minister to make a critical evaluation of introduction of smart card. Through this, accidents can be reduced; the culprits can be found easily; and the quality of service can be improved. So, it is very essential to introduce the use of smart cards throughout the country.

The next meeting of the National Development Council is going to be held under the chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister of India on the 21st of this month. I would request the Minister to inform all the Chief Ministers the projects that are going to be taken up in the next year—if this is done, they can come prepared with their suggestions—especially in regard to removal of encroachments and acquisition of land for this novel project. The Chief Ministers will definitely cooperate with the Union Government in this regard. This can be taken as one of the points on the agenda for the NDC meeting of 21st December.

We have not thought about medical insurance. You have to go in for this. In my Constituency, from Namakkal to Mudalipatti, NH-65 from Nagappattinam to Gudalur going via Karur and Coimbatore...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now, the time is over. Now the time is to take up Private Members' business. It does not broke any more delay. You may speak on it next time. Now you please take your seat.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): When will this bill come up again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Presently we have to decide the business, but the next turn will come next week.

15.33 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: BAN ON COW SLAUGHTER

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item No. 15.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Minister may conclude his speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): During the discussion on the resolution last time, I had made my submission on behalf of the Government.

Finally, I would like to submit that we intend to call a meeting of the Animal Husbandry Ministers of State Governments wherein all issues relating to animal husbandry would be discussed. We will also discuss ways to implement the laws relating to it, how to make such laws more effective, how to protect cattle and other animals. Government of India is committed to the

protection, development and preservation and improvement of cattle and will make policies in that direction.

The report of commission on cattle has been submitted and we will constitute a task force to discuss the ways to implement the recommendations of the commission. We will take all possible measures including enacting laws, taking the House in confidence or cooperating with State Governments.

I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that the issue comes under State subject. We will take necessary steps after discussing the matter with animal husbandry ministers of the States. I would convey the sentiments of the hon'ble Member and of other Members to the meeting with State Government ministers. A consensual approach will be more effective. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Member not to press for voting on this sensitive resolution and withdraw it. His views will be taken into consideration by the Government and we will consider them.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me 10 minutes. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel would like me to speak on the ban on cow slaughter.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The reply of hon'ble Minister has concluded. He has requested the hon'ble member to withdraw his resolution. He will decide on it. Where is the scope for debate now.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: He is dilly-dallying on the subject. This is a very important matter. It affects the feelings of majority of our population...*(Interruptions)* Let me say a few words.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should have given your name earlier. Now the reply is over.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has told me that I can speak. He is prepared to give me some time.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now there is no scope. It is there in the rules that once the reply of hon'ble Minister has been given, no other Member can speak on the issue.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Nobody has given any suggestion as to what has to be done for protection of cow. They say 'stop slaughter of the cow.'

Here, I want to give some suggestions about the protection of cow.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you cannot speak again.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, whereas our party support this Resolution...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken. You can not speak twice on the same subject.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, I had spoken last week. But now, I want to give some concrete suggestions.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can give your suggestions.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, this is a very important issue.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can send that to the hon'ble Minister in writing.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Mr. Chairman Sir, I have sought your permission.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow you to speak twice on the same issue.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, I have great respect for you. You come from Patna. You talk about; we also talk about Patna...(Interruptions) I have spent four years in your Bhagalpur jail...(Interruptions) Sir, I will speak in your language also. Please give me permission.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since you are referring to Guru Govind Singh ji and Patna Sahib, I am allowing you for two minutes.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, these are the demands of the people of my Constituency. They have told me that I must speak on cow slaughter. Please give me five minutes....(Interruptions) They do not have any objection.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you can speak to the hon'ble Minister personally. Speak twice on the same issue is against rules.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: They do not have any objection.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please sit down. All of you have already spoken.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had moved a Resolution in the House on 26th July, 2002 which I want to reproduce:

"The House is of the opinion that the Government should bring an appropriate legislation for imposing ban on cow slaughter and cow progeny".

I did not say that ban be imposed, I have only said that a legislation should be brought in this regard. The Government should not have any objection on it. I am also saying the same thing which you are saying. Had I asked for imposing immediate ban, the Government would have responded by saying that it is a State subject and we would consider the matter. This resolution does not have any lacunae and the directive principles of State policy enshrined in the constitution it has been said that it is resolved to bring quantitative increase in live stock based on qualitative enhancement. Even after 55 years of independence constitutional obligation have not been fulfilled. Hence it is imperative that the House should get the resolution adopted and make it a binding on the Government to abide by the letters and spirit of the constitution which came into existence at the time of our independence. We should accept the fact that we did not make any effort to increase our livestock.

First of all, I would like to thank all the hon. Members namely Shri Bhartruhari Mahtabji, Anadi Charan Sahuji, Yogi Aditya Nathji, Shriram Chauhanji, Simranjeet Singh Manji, Munshiji, Rajo Singhji and Shri Ramdas Athawaleji who have participated in the discussion. I had wished to make it clear to Dasmunsiji when he was delivering his speech that my intention has not been so what he thinks of. However, Yogiraj ji while referring to mother cow, had said that it is not only the question of the cows it also means Nature. If we people sitting in this House do not think over it, then neither the Constitution would be honoured nor it would do nay good to the coming generation.

I would like to point out one more thing the hon. Minister has said, whether you go through the report of Animal commission or the report of the Standing Committee, all have stressed the need to think for livestock improvement. On the one hand we have Indian Council of Agricultural Research in our country and at the same time opportunity for research and development of livestock should also have been provided. Whether hon. Minister has ever thought over the fact that had a Council been set up for animal research and development during these fifty years it would have been good but this did not happen. I demand that the Government should not only consider to bring a legislation in this regard but should also consider creating proper administrative

[Shri Prahlad Singh Patel]

infrastructure for it. If we can think of agriculture research, why can not we think over the research for the development of animals? We certainly would have to consider it.

All the standing committees and commissions constituted for the animals for research and their development have recommended in their reports that research and development work should be done for the animals. My resolution is not going to affect the constitutional rights of States in any way. I have only said that a legislation should be brought in this regard. When same thing being said by the hon. Minister then why should not voting take place? Hence I would like to request the House that irrespective of the party in the Government, the Government in power should resolve to bring a legislation in next session. It is not question of any party in particular. I have not brought this resolution with a political motive. While moving this resolution I was reminded of the views of my revered guru Shri Babashri. He does not eat anything but only drinks the water of the river Narmada. He had said that there should not be any alternative to commitment. I would like to request the House that there should be consensus on this issue. All Members would agree on this issue that irrespective of their ways to think over this issue, it is imperative for them to agree that the protection of cow progeny has a very important place in the development of this country. Hence all will have to think over it.

Our Constitution makers had a deep sense of concern for our country. They had advocated that the quantitative development should be brought on the basis of qualitative development which the country failed to accomplish. I have given the figures which shows that the cattle population has drastically come down as per thousand animals. We compare our foreign exchange reserves with the developed countries if we compare the cattle population in the same way we find that while the livestock of developed countries has increased as per thousand persons and in India where we talk about spirituality and nature, the population livestock has decreased as per thousand persons. The fertility of our land has also decreased. On one hand we maintain that the area of our agricultural land is diminishing as compared to population growth and the productivity of land has also come down. These is no alternative with us except using the manure from the dung of animals which can help us in maintaining the fertility of our land. It is not related to any sectarian interest but the interest of the entire country and also of rural development. The House considers every issue. I request the House that this issue should not be opposed. We should get this resolution adopted and compel the Government to bring a legislation in consultation with the State Government, to put a ban on the slaughters of cows and cow progeny. With this I conclude and request the House to unanimously adopt this resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, would you withdraw it?

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: No.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): It should be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, you please go through it.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, as I said to him that the Government of India is in favour of the development and protection of livestock. When Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was a Minister for Animal Husbandry in the State Government, he had suggested that ICVR be set up on the pattern of ICAR.

Standing Committee and Animal commission have also given a suggestion on the same line which is under Government's consideration because it requires an infrastructure to be set up afresh. Discussion with all the officers of the Agriculture Ministry has been held and the discussion with the State Government is also going on. I said that we intend to go ahead after reaching a consensus on this issue. Hence the hon. Member woved not achieve anything by putting on this Resolution to vote. You should give an opportunity to the Government to think over it and find a solution in this regard. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Members to support the Government in this work rather then allow voting in the House to take place.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: I request the House to unanimously pass this resolution...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): He is also saying the same thing which the hon. Minister is saying, there is no difference. A resolution should be brought after consulting all, only this is the proposal...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: This is a resolution and the Members of the ruling coalition and opposition sides are agreed on it. Sir you yourself also had said...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBHANGSHI (Mangaldoi): Sir, there is no quorum in the House. How can you decide? Only 35 Members are there in the House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The quorum bell is being rung.

15.52 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since there is no quorum in the House, the House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 16th December, 2002 at 11 a.m.

16.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 16, 2002/Agrahayana 25, 1924 (Saka)

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Ninth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
